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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Council Meeting Room, Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building
17 May 2016, 5.30pm – Meeting No.81
Agenda Item 6. Submission to the Central City Built Form Review – Amendment C270

Amendment C270 is a most important amendment to the planning scheme that will have a very real and significant impact on Southbank. Generally speaking, it is well received by the community and we concur with the Council Officer's assessment and recommendations; particularly with respect to increasing the threshold of the Responsible Authority and passing more control to the City of Melbourne.

Of specific concern to SRA is the Minister's ability to apply Ministerial discretion on developments of 'state significance'. Our concern lies with the impact some of these 'state significant' developments might have on the immediate built form environment, infrastructure and overall social fabric. There is a great degree of trust that the Minister's Office will ensure community needs are adequately compensated with any such compromise to the scheme, but the community remains sceptical given past experiences with the Planning Department; and understandably so.

In addition to these concerns, we note the City of Melbourne held a developer forum on the 12th May 2016 to discuss Amendment C270. Did it occur to Council that Amendment C270 is equally as important to residents as it is to developers? We are disappointed CoM didn't extend an invitation to resident groups or create a forum for other interest groups impacted by the Amendment.

After years of pro-active engagement with CoM, this lack of resident and resident group consultation doesn't fit with Council's position on caring about what the community has to say with regard an issue as important as this one.

Southbank Residents Association fully supports Council with their continued engagement with the Planning Minister's Department on this important amendment.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association