Open Question FMC Meeting 12 Aug 14

The Hon Lord Mayor, Councillors.

Tony Penna – Southbank Residents Group

Firstly I would like to thank Council for the series of community organisation training sessions which have been running over the last month or so and are still scheduled to run. I have found these most beneficial.

My question.

I refer to my questions to the Lord Mayor in this meeting last Tuesday regarding the Boyd development, in particular the commencement date of the development of the remaining section of the block to allow for the planned much-needed community open space.

I mentioned that this development was supposed to have been completed at the end of 2013. While I acknowledge the Lord Mayor advised he didn’t have all the information at hand for his response at that time, the Lord Mayor advised he believed that the date of end of 2013 was for the completion of the Boyd library.

May I refer you to the Council brochure on the Boyd redevelopment, and I quote “August 2010 to March 2012 – Community facilities will be created in the former heritage School building” and further on, “An Urban Park facing City Rd will also be created”. This has indeed been completed. The brochure then states “July 2012 to December 2013 – A portion of the site will be sold for development of a 30 Storey residential complex “ and further on, “An urban park fronting onto Balston and Kavanagh St’s will be developed for the community and residents to enjoy.

Therefore this development is clearly significantly delayed, depriving the community of their much needed amenity.

I am aware of no less than two previous planned commencement dates which have come and gone during that time.

I ask the Lord Mayor if Council has any firm assurances, other than the unreliable word of the developer, whether this new proposed commencement date of Feb 2015 is locked-in or just another date that is likely to come and go?