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Submission to Participate Melbourne

Draft budget 2024-25 and Draft Annual Plan 2024-25

Our committee has reviewed the City of Melbourne Draft Budget 2024-25 and the Draft Annual Plan 2024-25 and would like to make the following submission.

2024-25 Budget

City Road Masterplan

The lack of progress on the City Road Masterplan continues to disappoint. CoM will remember that the City Road Masterplan was a 7-year plan and implementation was supposed to commence in 2016. It's now 2023, and instead of nearing completion, we have barely started. Why has it taken so long and why are we only now talking about committing to a City Road Delivery Plan in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24?

SRA certainly welcomes the development of a City Road Delivery Plan, and the intention to use it to progress advocacy with the Victorian Government. We ask that there be no further delays in the process, as upgrades to City Road East and West are long overdue.

Southbank Promenade

SRA notes an allocation of \$250,000 for Southbank Promenade beyond stage 1. There was also \$250,000 allocated in 2023-24 budget. Does this mean there will now be \$500,000 in the fund for these planning works? Why didn't the planning for beyond stage 1 commence in FY 2023-24 as per the 2023-24 budget and annual plan?

We note stage 1 is still yet to be completed, as per the masterplan. If there are no further funds to complete stage 1, then we request additional funds be allocated for the completion of stage 1. We also request a timeline of when stage 1 will be completed.

Public Open Space

SRA supports plans by City of Melbourne to deliver 1.1ha of new public open space in Southbank and increase the proportion of residents that reside within 300m of public open space. This would go a significant way to providing the much-needed open space in our heavily populated suburb.

However we **strongly** propose the already allocated \$25 million for the acquisition of new open space remain in the fund for exactly that purpose. We have been advised at Future Melbourne Committee in May that there are still ongoing negotiations for possible



acquisition/s. In light of council removing the City Link deck from the Southbank Structure Plan these funds are necessary for the continued search for open space opportunities in Southbank. If these funds were intended to be allocated to the Normanby reserve development then we request funds from the Open Space reserve be used for that purpose. There is significant funds from developer contributions in this reserve attributed to Southbank developments and they should be spent in Southbank.

Southbank Boulevard

SRA notes the allocation of \$250,000 for Southbank Boulevard Stage 6 works. There was also \$250,000 allocated in 2023-24 budget. Does this mean there will now be \$500,000 in the fund for Southbank Boulevard Stage 6? Why didn't the Stage 6 initiation works get completed, or started, in FY 2023-24 as per the budget and annual plan?

Queensbridge Square

SRA notes the allocation of \$500,000 for Queensbridge Square. Considering last year there was \$250,000 allocated in 2023-24 budget for initiation and planning works. Does this mean those works were completed and this \$500,000 will now be the start of works as per those proposed plans from 2023-24 annual plan? What exactly is this \$500,000 going to provide Southbank?

Business Precinct Program

Finally, SRA was thrilled to see a commitment of up to \$120,000 in annual funding as part of the Business Precinct Program to the Yarra River Business Association Inc (YRBA) for business support and activation initiatives. SRA has an ongoing relationship with the YRBA, and understands the value of this commitment to these Southbank business owners. We commend this budget allocation.

Princes Bridge

We note there is an allocation of \$5.1 million for Princes Bridge and Bluestone Repair works. We would like council to note that Princes Bridge is not located within Southbank as the annual plan is indicating and request this be reallocated to its correct budget/plan.

Boyd fit-out and refurbishment

Please provide further details of what the \$119,500 for this fit-out and refurbishment is.

We note in 2023-24 Budget and Plan there was \$270,000 for the Boyd Redevelopment project. Was that different to this? If so, what was the 'redevelopment project'? And if it is the same, does this mean there is an additional \$270,000 allocated for this project?



2024-25 Annual Plan

Major Initiative 47: City Road Masterplan

Key achievements in Q1-Q3 of 2023-24

We are advised the pedestrian crossing project is delayed until 2025 due to various constraints and the inability to accommodate a bike path around Boyd Park. SRA would like further elaboration on these points, in particular what those particular constraints were and why there is an inability to accommodate a bike path when this bike path was clearly articulated in the City Road Masterplan.

Activities for 2024-25 will include:

We note there is proposed advocacy to the Victorian Government for the removal of placarded loads from City Road. We are dismayed livestock trucks are missing from this statement. Livestock also account for a significant number of trucks using City Road. All trucks, including livestock (which are also prohibited in Burnley tunnel) should be removed from City Road. This lobbying should also include measures modify livestock truck with roofing allowing them to utilize the tunnel and also lobby to disallow trucks which are able to use Burnley tunnel but choose to use City Road, most likely to avoid tunnel tolls.



We note an 'Outcome' is recorded as improving safety and amenity for all users of City Road East and West, yet what is being proposed for the period is merely planning and advocacy, therefore we fail to see how this planning will produce the tangible outcomes as being proposed.

Major Initiative 51: Rapid Response Clean Team

Key achievements in Q1-Q3 of 2023-24

We are advised that anti-graffiti coatings have been applied to various locations in Southbank. Can you please inform SRA which locations these are.

In conclusion, it is disappointing much of the proposed works for 2023-24 have yet to commence. We are hopeful this will not be the case for 2024-25.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna", written over a horizontal line.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association

3 June 2024