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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Melbourne Town Hall,
03 June 2025, 5.30pm – Meeting No.9
Agenda Item 6.4 - Proposed Park Expansion at Miles and Dodds Reserve

As you will recall in our submission to this forum on 18 March, Southbank Residents' Association (SRA), were neither supportive or against the proposed park expansion. We expressed our strong concerns with the poor community response after we learnt it was a deliberate decision of the Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure team to not engage with us which we believe contributed to this poor response.

Southbank Residents Association has more confidence with this round of consultation than the previous two rounds now that we were engaged.

What we learnt during this engagement is that in the first two rounds neither Victoria Barracks nor the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) were consulted. Victoria Barracks borders this park, therefore should have been considered a major stakeholder, and VCA, being only 150 meters from this park, this park providing the only green space available to this school, should have also been considered a significant stakeholder. It was this round 3 consultation with the Southbank Community Association which brought these two important organisations to the attention of the team. An oversight that could have been avoided should the team decided to consult with SRA from the onset. Despite these two organisations being identified, it troubles us that this new round of consultation occurred during school holidays, which very likely limited the scope of input from VCA.

In light of the residents residing within the immediate confines of the current park concerns with the anti-social behaviour it would seem this new proposal will go some way with trying to mitigate those concerns after the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are applied. It is understood most of the respondents whom were against the park expansion were these residents.

It would seem the outcome of this third round, with 55 percent in support, almost mirrors the results of the first round, although with 243 responses gives it more confidence that this is what the community desires which SRA will support. We only wish the team engaged with SRA from the beginning and we may have had a better engagement from the onset.

Regards

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association