

OFFICERS' ADVICE**BROWNS ROAD CYCLING PATH CONSULTATION**

Submitting Councillor: Cr T Zographos

MOTION

That Council:

Instruct officers to ask local residents regarding use of the public open space in the nature strip along Browns Road adjacent to Fregon Reserve Clayton if this should be used to construct more car spaces or the proposed cycling path and to report back to Council by September this year.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The shared path along the Fregon Reserve frontage onto Browns Road is a key link in the State Government's Safer Pedestrian and Cycling Project from Syndal to Clayton Railway Stations. The proposed shared path is 3 m in width and has been designed to be typically 3 m from the back of kerb to avoid significant trees within the Reserve. The Motion, if passed, may have financial implications to Council with the key concern being the potential loss of approximately \$3-4 million worth of VicRoads funding for delivery of the project if the Browns Road leg doesn't proceed. This project includes four sets of pedestrian signals (Waverley Road, Forster Road, Dandenong Road and Carinish Road), an off-road shared path along higher order roads, such as Forster Road, Gardiner Road and Browns Road with traffic calming treatments to improve safety on lower order roads. Future Council budget implications include the design and delivery of the proposed parking spaces (if supported by residents), loss of existing trees along the Fregon Reserve frontage to Browns Road.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

The Motion, if passed, will have a minor impact on internal resources to undertake consultation with residents and report to Council.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The motion relates to the Council Plan in relation to consultation with residents on the proposed provision of parking and relates to the Strategic Objective of Responsive and Efficient Services with people at the centre of Council's decisions. The Council Plan also identifies a Strategic Objective to provide a liveable and sustainable city. The plan acknowledges that parking in residential streets can be harder with more dwellings and increased congestion, and indicates that encouraging sustainable transport options, including walking and cycling, will be required in order to address these pressures. Improving public infrastructure with inclusive, safe environments which enable our community to be healthy and stay connected are also key objectives of the plan.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The Motion relates to a significant level of detailed design and project management work on the Pedestrian and Cycling Project that has already been undertaken by Council officers as well as a commensurate level of work undertaken by VicRoads officers over the past 9 months. Council and VicRoads have also undertaken extensive community engagement and recent advice has been provided to residents via a local letter drop, and to the wider community via the Council bulletin and Council website.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Parallel parking is currently available along the Fregon Reserve frontage of Browns Road. Changes to this parking with indented 90° parking bays is unlikely to significantly increase the level of parking currently available; however, it will mean the loss of naturestrip and the potential to provide additional street trees. A street tree planting program is planned for Browns Road for mid next year.

VicRoads has recently withdrawn funding for the Nunawading Station to Syndal Station leg of the Safer Pedestrian and Cycling project along the Melbourne Water pipe track as it determined that the loss of the off-road concrete shared path would not satisfy their safety objectives. The withdrawal of Council support for the Browns Road section of off-road shared path would likely jeopardise VicRoads funding for the remaining Syndal Station to Clayton Station section as a safer environment for people of all ages walking and cycling along Browns Road cannot be delivered. The design of the Monash University to Clayton Station section has been designed and consultation undertaken with nearby residents.