

6.2 GRAFFITI AND POOR MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE CONTROLLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

OFFICER'S REPORT

Submitting Councillor: Tina Samardzija

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Hon. Ben Carroll MP regarding the poor standard of maintenance of main roads and associated infrastructure under the control of the Department of Transport (DoT) highlighting the impacts on:
 - a. road condition, including safety of cyclists due to lack of street sweeping;
 - b. local flooding and safety of roads during storms due to a lack of drainage pit maintenance; and
 - c. community pride, amenity and safety perceptions due to poor graffiti response and overgrown and poorly maintained central medians and freeway surrounds.*
2. *Supports creating an advocacy group of Monash and other councils with the Municipal Association of Victoria to improve the DoT maintenance standards across the region.*
3. *Requests the Minister to review and increase budgets as appropriate.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Transport is responsible for the maintenance and operation of main roads throughout Monash. This Motion requires Council to advocate for increased maintenance standards by the Department of Transport which will require the allocation of more state funding.

A number of Councils have in response to community concerns taken on the maintenance responsibilities but this comes at great cost to Council and our ratepayers and would be considered cost shifting.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

Council currently does some street sweeping on main roads due to community concerns which comes at a cost to Council. These resources would be freed up for Council purposes if the Department of Transport were to provide this service.

Council also receives a large number of complaints about the poor maintenance on main roads and has to pass on these complaints and respond and update constituents.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Road Management Act specifies responsibilities in regards to operational and maintenance responsibilities of roads within the Municipality and these clearly lie with the Department of Transport.

Poor maintenance standards affects the perceptions of safety and amenity of residents.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS COMMITTEES

Council officers meet regularly with the Department of Transport and have highlighted concerns on a number of occasions of the maintenance and presentation on main roads including lack of attention and responsibility to address graffiti, lack of street sweeping, lack of drainage pit cleaning, more mowing and maintenance of central medians and poor condition of signs. There has also been discussions with other Councils who have expressed similar views. The Department clearly has insufficient budget to provide the level of service required.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Discussions are ongoing with other councils and there is a growing support for an advocacy program with the MAV.