

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

3rd JUNE 2011



This is the 5th edition of LeadWest's News Summary. In the local newspapers this past week we saw continued coverage of council budgets and a number of "good news" stories on interesting and welcome new projects and programs.

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BIG POPULATION ISN'T A PROBLEM IF WE PLAN FOR IT 21

BRIMBANK

SPREADING THE MESSAGE IN SUNSHINE

Brimbank Leader – 3rd June 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/spreading-the-message/>

Brimbank youths mingled with footy stars at Headspace in Sunshine's Visy Cares Hub last week to help spread an anti-homophobia and transphobia message.

Western Bulldogs player Robert Murphy joined Carlton's Nick Duigan and Richmond's Daniel Jackson to judge Headspace's postcard competition themed 'In my eyes, homophobia is out of bounds'.

Murphy said it was important to spread the message and buck the trend of stereotyping.

He said some of the anxiety young people dealt with struck a chord with him.

"One thing football can do is it generates a lot of light," Murphy said. "If we can push some of that light on to mental health, that's something we can do."

Headspace western Melbourne's centre manager Nick Prendergast said homophobia caused isolation and bullying, which had devastating effects on health and wellbeing.

"Those who identify themselves as being same sex attracted or gender questioning are at a much higher risk of depression and anxiety," he said. Mr Prendergast said young people facing those issues were four times more likely to suicide.

For help or information visit headspace.org.au, call kids help line on 1800 55 1800 or Lifeline on 131 114.

WE WANT YOU

Keilor, Taylors Lakes, Sydenham Star / St Albans, Deer Park, Caroline Springs Star / Sunshine, Ardeer, Albion Star – 2nd June 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/298/story/134544.html/>

Brimbank Council is campaigning to put Brimbank on the map, in a bid to lure millions of dollars worth of investment to the city.

The council has embarked on an ambitious scheme to drum up interest in the municipality through the creation of a new brochure campaign which is being distributed to State and Federal government agencies, private developers and investors.

Dubbed "Brimbank: The Key to Unlocking the Potential of the West," the brochure aims to raise awareness of the city and highlight areas ripe for development.

With a population of more than 189,000, at its closest point Brimbank is only 12 kilometres from Melbourne's CBD, a distance comparable to suburbs like Camberwell, Heidelberg, Brighton, Caulfield and Doncaster.

But despite its strategic position, Brimbank remains largely unknown. New maps commissioned by the council comparing Brimbank to the inner east reveal the latter is better connected to public transport infrastructure, including trams and smart bus routes.

The council believes that Brimbank could hold the key to managing the growth of the entire western region of Melbourne.

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Stephen Sully, the council's General Manager of City Development told Star that Brimbank was at the interface between the CBD and the West's growth areas, with available land, infrastructure and town centres waiting to be tapped into.

Mr Sully said the brochures aimed to raise the city's profile as a prime investment site, in the hopes of attracting new employment, goods, services and facilities.

"It's the second largest municipality in Melbourne and yet it's relatively unknown," Mr Sully said.

"If you tell people you're from Camberwell, everyone knows where it is but when you say Brimbank they've got a vague idea it's somewhere in the West.

"So the idea of the brochure is to get Brimbank on the map.

"It's about making sure everyone knows where Brimbank is and how significant it is, especially in the context of the future growth and development of western Melbourne.

"We are really at the interface and we would hope that there would be a big role for Brimbank to play in providing employment, goods and services to the whole of the western region."

The council has identified nine key areas in the city which it believes are ideal for development and renewal, including the Sunshine and Sydenham Town Centres, Calder Park and Derrimut.

The council believes that Sunshine has the potential to become a major business hub for the West, with more than eight hectares of vacant or underutilised land.

Neighbouring Sydenham has 27.5 hectares of vacant land, while the industrial zoned Calder Park is earmarked as a major commercial and employment precinct, with 100 hectares up for grabs.

The council has also identified the former Broadcast Australia and Solomon Heights sites as suitable locations for residential development.

Meanwhile, the former Orica factory in Deer Park could become a hive of industry and business.

Other key strategic areas include the industrial estates of Derrimut and Brooklyn.

Mr Sully said the brochures were being printed on an "as needs basis" and had begun being distributed this month.

He said the next step would involve discussions with interested investors.

"I think it's vital for the council to raise the municipality's profile because if we are going out and saying we are from Brimbank or Sunshine or St Albans or Sydenham, we need people to know exactly where these places are," Mr Sully said.

FEAR REVIEW WILL LEAD TO JOB LOSSES FOR BRIMBANK

Brimbank Leader – 2nd June 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/fear-review-will-lead-to-job-losses/>

The Australian Services Union is concerned that a review of five Brimbank Council departments could result in job losses.

But the council's governance and community relations manager Helen Morissey has said job numbers are set to grow in some departments during the next financial year.

ASU organiser Russell McGregor said union representatives were advised on May 12 that an independent consultant Votar Partners had identified the council's art, city planning, waste services, urban and parks and gardens departments for reviews in 2011 and 2012.

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Mr McGregor said he was concerned that the council had spent money to hire an external consultant rather than using their internal organisational strategy and performance department.

Mr McGregor was also worried the review signalled that the council was heading towards a path of "compulsory tendering" which could cause job cuts.

"The principals that council have adopted in relation to process appear to reflect the principals or model of compulsory competitive tendering introduced by the Kennett Government in 1992," Mr McGregor said.

He said the ASU had written to the council's chief executive Nick Foa, requesting an agreed process, transparency and no job cuts or contracting out of services.

Ms Morrissey said the Best Value program was a "rolling program of continuous improvement" to council's services.

She said the council's full-time staff numbers had grown from 599 in the 2006-07 financial year to 681 in 2010-11. "This number is expected to increase in 2011-12 with up to 14 new positions earmarked in Brimbank."

MUSEUM VICTORIA SEEKS DIVERSITY IN BRIMBANK

Brimbank Leader – 1st June 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/museum-victoria-seeks-diversity-in-brimbank/>

A travelling portable studio will be launched in Brimbank as part a Museum Victoria project aimed at promoting diversity.

And Museum Victoria is on the lookout for six young people from Brimbank to champion their Talking Difference project.

Workshops will be provided for successful participants with a focus on multimedia production and community engagement.

Immigration Museum senior programs officer David Henry said the studio, which will be launched at Sunshine Library, will provide a "space for conversation".

The interactive portable will let the public carry a virtual conversation within the enclosed booths about diversity and cultural differences through video, audio, text and art.

Mr Henry said the six champions will be producing multimedia content that will appear in the booths and rotated around Brimbank Libraries.

Content will be used online and in the Immigration Museum's Identity: Yours Mine Ours exhibition before moving to another municipality in 2012.

"Rather than doing the high-quality camera work the museum does, it's about handing the camera over," Mr Henry said.

Brimbank manager of libraries and learning Chris Kelly said location would help people open up because residents feel like the library is their own place.

"If you're in a place you feel comfortable, you're more likely to have an honest conversation," she said.

There will be five workshops, which will commence on June 9. Anyone aged 15 to 30 with an interest in the project can contact Mr Henry, via dahenry@museum.vic.gov.au, by June 6.

TESTING TIMES AHEAD FOR LANDFILL SITES IN ST ALBANS

Brimbank Leader – 1st June 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/testing-times-ahead-for-landfill-sites/>

Contractors working for Brimbank Council have started drilling bores around two former landfill sites in St Albans.

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Environmental engineering firm GHD will use the bores to test groundwater at Sunshine Energy Park and Carrington Park Reserve, which were used as rubbish tips in the 1970s and '80s.

The council is investigating the sites after it found potential risks to the surrounding environment from gas and chemicals in the landfill last year.

"There are no risks to health unless you drink or possibly have contact with the bore water, which in any case is quite salty and unfit for consumption," the council's general manager of infrastructure and environment Paul Younis said.

But polluted groundwater could be escaping to adjoining waterways and must be further investigated to protect the environment.

Mr Younis said preliminary results from the testing, likely to take two to three weeks, would be available in three to six months, but tests could continue for years if the water was contaminated.

GHD site supervisor Barry Mann said once the drilling was complete, the bores would be left to settle before testing began.

ST ALBANS RESEARCHERS HELPS BOWL OVER THE BULGE

Brimbank Leader – 30th May 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/bowl-over-the-bulge/>

If breakfast is the most important meal of the day, a Brimbank study into cereal could be about to play an essential role in the battle of the bulge.

A St Albans researcher is seeking participants for a study that will analyse whether eating cereal in the morning can have an impact on appetite and weight.

Victoria University honours student Kristina Nelson wants to find out how different types of cereals affect overweight and obese people.

During a 10-week clinical trial, she will compare the effects of two different types of cereals on volunteer participants, noting their cholesterol levels, weight and blood glucose levels.

Both cereals are healthy wholegrain types, but one will be nutritionally enhanced before it lands in bowls on kitchen tables in Brimbank.

Ms Nelson studies Biomedical Sciences and received a science degree in nutritional therapy in 2010.

"I had always been interested in food and health but when my mother battled breast cancer, I decided on a career change," she said.

Her mother lost her battle with cancer, spurring Ms Nelson to conduct a study partially funded by the Victorian Cancer Council into food supplements and cancer.

She is seeking participants for her new cereal study based at St Albans and wants to hear from people aged 30 to 60.

BIG SAMS FIRE HALTS TRADING

Brimbank Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/big-sams-fire-halts-trading/2179010.aspx>

A devastating fire at Big Sams St Albans Market has caused the iconic market to miss its first trading day in almost 40 years.

Owner-manager Nick Lopresti is working with authorities to get the market reopened to the public but is unsure when it might be able to return to trading.

The fire started just after 6pm last Tuesday in a high-voltage switchboard near the delicatessen area before spreading into the ceiling.

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Four pumpers, an aerial unit and 16 firefighters battled for almost half an hour to bring the blaze under control but were unable to stop the building suffering extensive smoke, heat and water damage. Nobody was injured.

A health inspector, who assessed the site, has ordered that all affected food be disposed of.

Mr Lopresti said no timeline on reopening would be available until builders were able to access the building and assess the damage.

YOUTH GET CHANCE TO SHARE STORIES

Brimbank Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/big-sams-fire-halts-trading/2179010.aspx>

A trailblazing project promoting diversity and cultural pride is being kicked off in Brimbank.

Museum Victoria's Talking Difference online media project is aimed at building conversations about cultural difference and letting people share their stories.

The centrepiece of the three-year project is a portable, telephone-booth-sized studio that will make its first appearance at Sunshine library before being transported across Victoria.

Participants entering the studio will be prompted to answer questions that delve into their experiences living in multicultural Brimbank.

Their responses will be recorded by a camera and become part of the ongoing project.

To get the ball rolling on the creation of film, sound, image and text content, the museum is seeking young Talking Difference 'champions' to steer the project when it arrives in Brimbank.

Anyone aged 15 to 30 interesting in becoming a 'Talking Difference champion' can register with David Henry on 9927 2740 or email dahenry@museum.vic.gov.au by Monday, June 6.

AT LAST, JUNIORS TO SEE THE LIGHT

Brimbank Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/sport/football-australian-rules/at-last-juniors-to-see-the-light/2179020.aspx>

St Albans Saints Soccer Club's juniors will no longer have to train in the dark.

The club has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from a state government program that will allow it to install lighting on the second pitch at Churchill Reserve.

Junior committee member Ljubica Colina was delighted with last week's announcement.

"Only half of our junior ground has lighting so some of the kids have trained in the dark," she said. "We will be able to attract more junior players. It's a great outcome."

Western Metropolitan Region MP Andrew Elsbury said soccer was experiencing unprecedented growth in Brimbank.

"This funding boost will help the Saints meet the growing demand as participation in soccer increases," he said. "Hopefully, we'll see more memberships, participation and home ground support, which will further establish Churchill Reserve as one of the quality sporting facilities in the district."

Local clubs can apply for state grants of up to \$100,000 through Brimbank Council.

Projects can range from the development or upgrade of pitches to construction of new change rooms or installation of floodlighting.

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YOU'LL BE DRIVING ON GLASS IN DEER PARK

Brimbank Leader – 31st May 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/youll-be-driving-on-glass-but-dont-fret-youll-pass/>

The last glass bottle you threw in a recycling bin could have ended up as part of Quinn St in Deer Park.

The construction of a 285m stretch of road, including 155 tonnes of recycled crushed glass, was completed in Brimbank last week.

While most glass containers can be recycled, 30 per cent of those collected each year can't because of contamination and breakage.

An alternative is mixing crushed glass in asphalt to be used in road construction.

Brimbank City Council, the Australian Food and Grocery Council's Packaging Stewardship Forum and the Municipal Association of Victoria demonstrated the use of crushed glass in Deer Park last week. It is the second time glass has been used in roads in Brimbank after 22 tonnes were put into a 90m bicycle path in 2010.

DRAFT BUDGET STRIKES 'RIGHT BALANCE'

Brimbank Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/draft-budget-strikes-right-balance/2179006.aspx>

Brimbank Council's draft 2011-15 plan and 2010-11 budget have been given a tick of approval by the community.

Residents have welcomed the budget's \$47.1 million to be spent on new infrastructure and a commitment to improving parks and open spaces.

Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association president Darlene Reilly said the budget and its 4 per cent residential rate rise appeared to have the right balance.

"No rate rise is good, but we can see they have tried to keep it to a minimum," she said.

Residents were happy with the accelerated parks program and the 20 per cent boost to spending on open space and parks maintenance.

"There are some great initiatives and things in there that are good," Ms Reilly said.

"Overall, it's one of the first [budgets] in a long time that has been fair."

As well as municipality-wide spending programs, each of the five districts receives funds for specific projects.

Key focus areas of the budget include accessibility, cleanliness, safety, prosperity and connection. The draft budget includes \$16 million for projects specifically for Sunshine, \$9.2 million for Sydenham, \$7.4 million for Keilor, \$6.2 million for Sydenham, and \$5.1 million for Deer Park.

Ms Reilly said the budget spending appeared to be evenly spread across the municipality rather than being used to curry favour with particular clubs or groups.

"We've been through a lot of pain with previous councils. With the administrators we've got a more even-handed result."

Submissions on the drafts can be made until June 15.

COUNCIL LAYS OUT 'LIVEABILITY' NEEDS

Brimbank Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/council-lays-out-liveability-needs/2179014.aspx>

Brimbank Council has revealed its priorities for keeping the area 'liveable'.

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In a submission to a State Parliament inquiry into liveability in outer-suburban Melbourne, the council outlines the importance of the area to Melbourne's future growth.

The submission, by city strategy manager Stuart Menzies, argued for the expansion of facilities and infrastructure in Brimbank to help meet the region's needs.

"Strategic investment in the existing facilities within Brimbank offers an effective and efficient solution to meeting the needs of growth-area communities," it stated.

The submission singled out regional retail, employment, education, health, cultural and commercial facilities in Sunshine, St Albans, Sydenham and Deer Park as key focus areas.

Improved transport to major facilities such as Sunshine Hospital and Victoria University campuses in Sunshine and St Albans was also crucial.

"As industry, commercial development and residential development occurs to the west of Brimbank there is a continual need to expand or extend pipes, powerlines, telecommunications towers, sewers and roads within the established areas of Brimbank," the report stated.

The inquiry's final report is due to be tabled by next February.

MARIBRYNONG

PARENTS CALL ON TWEDDLE PROGRAM

Maribyrnong Leader – 2nd June 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/parents-call-on-tweddle-program/>

A Vietnamese parenting program is going from strength to strength, supporting Maribyrnong mothers with free weekly sessions.

The Tweddle day-stay program is weekly on Thursday in Kings Park to support Vietnamese parents who may be struggling with parenthood. Worker and translator Tam Vu counsels struggling parents, giving them tips on sleep, nutrition and any other issues they may encounter as a parent.

"It's helping the Vietnamese community understand about sleep and settling issues, they learn new techniques," Ms Vu said. Families are also introduced to other services like playgroups and libraries.

"The feedback is good, we are very supportive," Ms Vu said.

The program caters for six families each week and was initially introduced for pregnant mums.

POLICE KNOW FOOTSCRAY SHOOTER

The Age – 2nd June 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/police-know-footscray-shooter-20110602-1fht0.html>

Police have warned the public not to approach a man believed to be linked to the shooting of a 24-year-old man in Footscray on Tuesday night.

The Armed Crime Task Force is investigating the shooting of a Collingwood man in the hip during a confrontation at the shopping mall at the intersection of Barkly and Droop streets about 9pm.

Detectives are keen to talk to 30-year-old Daniel Warrick, of Footscray, who they believe could be armed.

Detective Inspector Adrian Dalzotto said there were a number of witnesses to the shooting who had been interviewed.



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"Sometime after Mr Warrick arrived the shooting occurred," he said.

"There is a possibility that Mr Warrick might be armed and should not be approached."

Detective Inspector Dalzotto said Mr Warrick had a criminal history.

"Daniel needs to be spoken to ... we need to be mindful, somebody is out there with a firearm," he said.

Mr Warrick was described as having a solid build and short crew cut blonde hair.

The shooting victim was taken to the Royal Melbourne Hospital after losing a lot of blood and is in a critical condition.

The mall where the man was shot is notorious for drug dealers but Detective Inspector Dalzotto said there was no evidence that drugs were a motive.

A local resident told The Age that it did not matter what time of day it was, there were always dealers and addicts in the area.

Anyone with information on Mr Warrick's whereabouts has been asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or go to www.crimestoppers.com.au

SHOOTING VICTIM FOUND DYING IN MALL

The Age – 1st June 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/shooting-victim-found-dying-in-mall-20110601-1ff7c.html>

A young man with a gunshot wound almost bled to death in Footscray's main shopping precinct last night.

The 24-year-old was unconscious and losing blood rapidly from a hip wound when an ambulance crew began treating him in the Nicholson Street mall, near the intersection of Droop and Barkly streets, about 9pm.

Police could not say if the man was shot where he fell, but several triple-0 calls were made from local phones about the same time an unidentified person, whom The Age believes is a friend of the victim, flagged down a police car in Droop Street.

Armed crime taskforce detectives have taped off the mall, and early today were searching the area for a weapon.

While some restaurants and other businesses were open at the time, it is believed there were not many people in the open-air mall at the time of the shooting.

A Victoria Police spokesman said the circumstances of the shooting were unknown. He said there had been no arrests, and could not say if the victim's friend was helping the investigation, or if any suspects had been questioned.

A Royal Melbourne Hospital spokeswoman said the shot man remained in a stable but critical condition on this morning.

Intensive care paramedic Andrew McKenzie said he got to the scene to find the victim unconscious and in a large pool of blood.

"Time was crucial. We had to try and control the bleeding, get the man into the ambulance and transport quickly while performing CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation)," he said.

"En route to the Royal Melbourne Hospital we put a drip in and used that to give him fluids to help stabilise his condition while continuing CPR.

"The man had lost a lot of blood so the fluid was aimed at helping his circulation.

"It was very difficult to get that massive bleeding under control.

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"We were doing all of this in a moving vehicle so treatment was kept to a minimum. Our main concern with this patient was getting him to hospital in the shortest possible timeframe."

Anyone with information about the shooting has been urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit www.crimestoppers.com.au

HELPING MIGRANT PARENTS IN MARIBYRNONG

Maribyrnong Leader – 1st June 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/helping-migrant-parents-in-maribyrnong/>

How do you help your children with their schoolwork if you're not confident with English?

There's now an answer to that challenge for Braybrook parents.

The Braybrook Learning Support Program brings together children from prep to Year 12 and, with their parents, they learn strategies and tips from volunteers and language agencies.

Running for the past three weeks on a Thursday afternoon, the program at Braybrook Community Centre helps more than 50 students a week.

Dinjerra Primary School welfare co-ordinator Kathleen McInnes said parents told her they wanted to be involved in their children's education but didn't know how.

Planning for the program began last year and Maribyrnong Council, AMES Footscray and the Centre for Multicultural Youth were happy to jump on board.

"It was a lot of work to get it together, but there was a gap and a need, and our families are really happy that they raised an issue and their voices have been heard," Ms McInnes said.

"If children can see their parents engaging with their education it's a huge boost and the children love it when their parents attend."

Program co-ordinator Natalie Thomas, from Maribyrnong Learning and Employment Network, said four local primary and secondary schools participate.

Among the broad range of topics covered are interpretation of school reports and VCE tips.

"I don't think a model like this one has been tried anywhere before, but this approach I think will also produce boundless opportunities," Ms Thomas said.

Crucial to the program's success are volunteers.

Students from a local secondary college are involved as part of a community participation component within their studies, while another has VCAL students working as tutors.

A school teacher on maternity leave, De Hillis, decided to get involved so she could utilise her skills and help make learning a fun and family activity.

"These days it's even harder for families to find time together and this often brings two totally separate worlds of home and school together for (migrant children)," she said.

Volunteers must have a working with children check and will receive tutor training from the Centre for Multicultural Youth's Learning Beyond the Bell program.

For more information or to donate books or early learning games, and to tutor (any age group) phone Braybrook Community Centre on 9334 6638.

MARIBYRNONG MAN HELPING AT-RISK BOYS

Maribyrnong Leader – 31st May 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/maribyrnong-man-helping-at-risk-boys/>

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Like the unpredictable bounce of a footy, a young person's life can go in all directions.

Former Carlton draftee and Maribyrnong resident Clinton Benjamin is using his AFL experiences to help young people get on the straight and narrow by mentoring with not-for-profit group Whitelion.

From a small town in WA and in his early 20s, Benjamin has much in common with those he visits at Melbourne's custodial centre.

"We hang out and we use sport as something they want to do and then if they want to talk they can," he said.

"The boys don't get many visitors, especially those from the country, and it's easy to relate to them.

"I've got to know them since I started in 2007, some have been there the whole time I have, and I've seen them grow. I help them set goals and let them know they can do anything, because many have probably been told they can't.

"We don't ask them what they've done, they're just boys, they're still people."

After finishing university, he hopes to be a social worker and is enjoying the time he can donate to Whitelion since leaving Carlton.

As well as mentors, Whitelion provides training and home care systems for youth at risk.

The group held its fund-raiser Bail Out last week which finished with the infamous Parole Party at Old Melbourne Gaol.

To get involved in Whitelion, phone 9389 4420.

RETAIL SECTOR DONS A NEW SHADE OF GREEN

The Age – 30th May 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/business/property/retail-sector-dons-a-new-shade-of-green-20110529-1fauk.html>

WHILE there has been a lot of focus on green building in the office sector, the retail market has also been making its mark.

Angus Gordon, development manager, sustainability & operation at GPT Group, said retail property was often compared to the office sector but differed in its approach to sustainability.

"In the retail sector, you tend to be dealing with a smaller number of assets - there's fewer big shopping centres around than there are offices, so you don't get that same level of movement across those different buildings," he said.

Mr Gordon said retail was more focused on business efficiency and providing better community space. "You're not dealing with tenants who are always comparing your building to another building that they're trying to choose between," he said.

"We face very different drivers in the retail market, as opposed to the office market, where some of those drivers are a bit more black and white - and easier to sell."

Mr Gordon said GPT's approach to sustainability focused on social sustainability - engaging with the community - as well as the environmental aspects.

GPT recently began the \$300 million redevelopment of Highpoint Shopping Centre in Maribyrnong, under which the centre will grow by about 30,000 square metres.

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Mr Gordon said features included energy-efficient fittings and fixtures, particularly with lighting, detailed energy and water metering, as well as natural ventilation and rainwater harvesting.

"We're working with Sustainability Victoria to improve the sustainability performance of Highpoint overall - not just the expansion," he said.

Although a sustainable approach was a key driver in retail development, he said, there were challenges.

At Charlestown Square in New South Wales, GPT had installed a co-generation plant and solar thermal cooling plant.

"When you're doing something different, you need to demonstrate to [tenants] that you're not putting them in a worse-off position," he said.

"Tenants have got a lot of drivers that go into determining which shopping centre they will go to and it's not necessarily going to come down to ticking a box on sustainability."

Being able to demonstrate and prove operational efficiency was an important part of engaging tenants.

For instance, Mr Gordon said, GPT's Rouse Hill Town Centre in NSW had operational savings of \$3.8 million per year, compared with a similarly sized NSW shopping centre.

"When you can start to put those sorts of numbers on the table for the asset, then you start to be able to sell the benefit to the tenants," he said.

"Sustainability is about smart, clever, innovative design, and if on delivering that successfully we deliver a centre that ... is a better place for tenants to be, then they appreciate the benefits that can come with that."

Victorian Property Council executive director Jennifer Cunich said new buildings accounted for only 3 per cent of the building stock. "The Property Council's main game is to transform existing buildings," she said.

Combined with an emissions trading scheme, Ms Cunich said, the Property Council advocated for complementary measures such as gross feed-in tariffs for the residential and commercial sectors, and public-private partnerships for buildings.

YARRAVILLE SCHOOL RISING UP

Maribyrnong Leader – 29th May 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/yarraville-school-rising-up/>

Students at the rapidly growing Yarraville West Primary School are moving up in the world after being allocated a new two-storey demountable building.

Education Minister Martin Dixon made the announcement at the school last week, after Liberal MP Bernie Finn called for the special building at the start of the year.

"Yarraville West Primary has a very high enrolment and its outdoor play space is at a premium," Mr Dixon said.

"The whole community has been involved in the redesign of the school yard and every nook and cranny has been transformed into a functional space for students and teachers."

Mr Dixon said an agreement with council for the school to use the neighbouring oval for extra play space was "not unachievable".

Acting Principal Judy Webster said the building was expected to be on site mid-June and take six to eight weeks to fit out. "It's a great thing, the site is so crowded and this will provide four classrooms in the space of two," she said.

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Ms Webster said the booming enrolment was likely to continue for the short term as Yarraville continued to attract young families.

The Government's acknowledgment of Yarraville's student boom has not yet extended to the provision of a high school for the Seddon, Kingsville, Yarraville suburbs.

Mr Dixon said while a need had been established, the report into school options was still being composed.

He would not be drawn on when the new school should be operational or whether he would take up any offers of local land from "a number of developers".

SKY High Working Group will meet with Mr Dixon next month, and had hoped to see the options report before then.

MELTON

\$300K IN STIMULUS FUNDING WENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS THAT SHUT

The Australian – 3rd June 2011

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/k-in-stimulus-funding-went-to-private-schools-that-shut/story-e6frg6nf-1226068255173>

The federal government gave almost \$300,000 worth of BER funding to private schools that rented their buildings, but went broke and were forced to close.

The Victorian Department of Education is now trying to recover \$285,326 of schools building stimulus program money from two private schools that were operated in the state by Independent Colleges Australia.

The colleges in Melton and Casey, connected to the bankrupt ABC Learning childcare group, went into voluntary administration last November after it could not pay its landlord.

The landlord has since sold the Casey site to a nearby Christian school and the Melton site to another company, which is working with parents to reopen the Melton school in July under another name.

The schools were originally entitled to almost \$3 million of school building program funding, but the remaining unspent money is being kept by the Victorian Independent Schools Block Grant Authority to return to the commonwealth. But questions have arisen over how the federal government will get the \$285,326 back from ICA Colleges, since it is unclear whether the funding was spent upgrading facilities owned by the landlord and whether the project got off the ground.

A spokesman for Skills Minister Chris Evans said the recovery action was a longstanding practice of governments, which meant taxpayers got a share of any profit made by a landlord who sold a school that had received taxpayer-funded capital works.

Australian Education Union president Angelo Gavrielatos said the collapse of the schools highlighted the risks and costs associated with funding private schools.

Federal MP Brendan O'Connor, who is now Home Affairs Minister, warned four years ago that children should not be the guinea pigs for Independent Colleges Australia, which had never run a school.

Staff and parents of Melton College, in Caroline Springs 30km northwest of Melbourne, were shocked when the company that owned the school went into administration last November.

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After a six-month battle to find an investor and get government approvals, Melton is now preparing to reopen to students next term as Southern Cross Grammar.

Parent Mick Daly remembers seeing plans in the school foyer for new classrooms to be constructed under the Building the Education Revolution program.

Mr Daly, who is now chairman of the Southern Cross Grammar board, thinks that's as far as it went, but is hopeful of getting the unspent BER funding. "We'll take any gift from anyone that's willing to donate to the school so we can increase our infrastructure."

DRAIN ON LIVELIHOOD

Melton Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/drain-on-livelihood/2180252.aspx>

A horse trainer says she would like to leave Melton Shire because obstructed drains damaged her livelihood and continue to pose a threat to her health and property.

More than two years after she first complained about silt which was blocking a drain outside her Coburns Road property, Anne McCormick says water continues to pool on her driveway and takes days to drain away.

She claimed the blockages were caused by roadworks carried out in 2009 and said flooding had washed away a track used to train her horses.

"Mud pours through my fence like thick soup," she said.

"It caused me to slip and I was taken to hospital with a punctured lung and shattered ribs."

Increased rainfall has led to the drains surrounding her property becoming clogged with rubbish, sand and rocks. She said conditions worsened following a hail storm in May last year.

Ms McCormick, who has lived in the area for 38 years, said countless calls to the council had failed to achieve a result.

Calling for the drains to be cleared and better maintained, she said she was saddened about the impact on her livelihood.

Council's acting general manager of planning and development, Les Stokes, said it had investigated the area and determined that previous works were not the cause of the flooding.

"Council has also undertaken a review of the drainage within the Coburns Road reserve and identified some further improvement works, including the installation of culverts, the clearing of existing private culverts and the clearing of table drain in some locations," he said.

The works will be completed by June 30 providing weather conditions do not cause disruptions.

MELTON 'HOTSPOT' WARNING

Melton Leader – 27th May 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-hotspot-warning/>

Melton Shire's position as one of Australia's top building and population "hotspots" should serve as a wake-up call to the state and federal governments, mayor Justin Mammarella said.

He said the Housing Industry Association's Population and Residential Building Hotspots report provided a snapshot of Australia's top 20 fastest growing

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metropolitan and regional areas in the 2008/09 financial year, and included Melton Shire.

Hotspots are defined as regions where the population growth exceeds the national rate and residential building work approvals total more than \$100 million.

Cr Mammarella said as the second-fastest growing local government area in Australia, there was an urgent need for increased infrastructure investment in the municipality.

"We need increased funding to ensure we can continue to provide the necessary services and infrastructure for our community," he said.

Melton council approved more than \$502 million worth of residential building work and experienced a population growth rate of 7 per cent in 2009/10.

Other Victorian areas included in the top 20 were Whittlesea and Wyndham.

Of the top 20 regions declared to be hotspots, 15 formed part of the National Growth Areas Alliance.

The alliance represents 24 of Australia's fastest growing municipalities.

LIBRARY WILL BE MELTON'S ``GREATEST ASSET''

Melton Leader – 31st May 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/library-booked/>

Melton's long-awaited library redevelopment will be the township's "greatest asset", deputy mayor Broden Borg says.

Cr Borg has described indicative plans for the library, which council viewed this month, as "mind blowing".

He said the layout and structure of the facility was exciting and allowed more participation, as well as shared learning spaces.

"It looks tremendous," Cr Borg said. "All the hard work is paying off and the architects have done a tremendous job."

While the plans are yet to be put on public display, Cr Borg said the redevelopment would include some stand-out features.

"It will be quite different to a traditional library setting," he said.

"It will be a double-storey building with more open spaces, including a cafe, and there will be a lot of services and meeting rooms available for the whole community."

Cr Borg said the facility would become a "beacon for all other councils looking to build a new library. The technology available will be fantastic and in terms of environmental sustainability the library will be five star," he said.

"It is my strong belief that this new building will usher in a new chapter for the township and introduce a new style of infrastructure to the town."

He said while he had not been given any indication as to when the tenders will go out for the development, the plans had been submitted so obvious progress would be to move the current library service to Victoria University and then demolish the existing building in coming months. "I'm hoping this won't take too long so we can meet community expectations."

Melton council's acting general manager community services Adam Boyle said the project was at full conceptual design phase, with an interactive community consultation program to occur in June.

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MOONEE VALLEY

RACECOURSE UNVEILS CONTENTIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

774 ABC Melbourne – 1st June 2011

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/01/3232460.htm?site=melbourne>

The Moonee Valley racetrack is set for a major overhaul.

The track will be reconfigured and 2,500 townhouses and apartments built on the site.

But the racing club will have to overcome objections from Moonee Ponds residents before the development can proceed.

Club chairman Bob Scarborough says the plan is to rebuild the track with a new home straight 300 metres long and grandstands on the northern boundary of the property.

"It was a substantial decision for the committee. After all, there's an awful lot of history here with it's current configuration," he said.

"But we felt it was a decision that needed to be made for the future of the club."

Moonee Valley chief executive officer Michael Browell says reconfiguring the track will allow the club to sell off the existing car parks, grandstands and stables.

"We'd like to think that after the 2012 Cox Plate, we'd be able to start the first stage of the development," he said.

The development is expected to take four years. The grandstands will be demolished and replaced with 25-storey apartment blocks.

But some local residents, like Rob Slade, are not happy.

"The roads don't handle the traffic too well now. So adding 6,000 people into the area will be a nightmare," he said.

"So I'm sure there'll be plenty of objections."

MOONEE VALLEY RACING CLUB PLANS REVEALED

Moonee Valley Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/a-wetland-wonderland-in-afton-street/2179499.aspx>

A draft master plan for the development of the Moonee Valley Racing Club's 40-hectare site in the heart of Moonee Ponds is expected to be released today.

The master plan is being touted as the blueprint for development at the site for the next 20-years.

The plans include relocating the grandstand to the site's northern boundary to overlook a reconfigured track with a longer home straight. To fund this, eight hectares of the site would be redeveloped for residential and commercial use, transforming the car park into 2500 townhouse dwellings.

MVRC chairman Bob Scarborough said the residential development was vital to raise funds to reconfigure the racetrack and update the club's facilities to ensure world-class thoroughbred racing stayed at Moonee Valley.

MVRC chief executive Michael Browell said the club, its architects and town planning consultants had worked with the council for more than 12 months on the draft.

He said the plan was in line with the intent of Victorian state planning policy to concentrate density and height in designated activity centres near existing infrastructure and public amenities.

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TAKE A BREAK UNDER THREAT

Moonee Valley Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/take-a-break-under-threat/2179492.aspx>

Moonee Valley Neighbourhood Houses and community centres are fighting for funds to keep a vital childcare service running.

State funding for the Take A Break Occasional Child Care program will be scrapped at the end of the year, but centre managers are looking elsewhere to fill the gap.

They are already lobbying federal representatives to fill the void or risk losing the service.

"We have a waiting list of 25 and have every position filled every day, and we offer 14 places a day, four days a week," Kensington Neighbourhood House manager Carolyn Webster said.

"It's a very important service for a lot of people."

Ms Webster said the centre had not decided what to do when funding ran out on December 31.

"We are now reviewing costs and the ongoing feasibility of the program and haven't made a decision on whether we can still offer the program next year."

Ascot Vale's Wingate Community centre is also running its occasional care program at capacity and has a waiting list.

The Flemington Neighbourhood House stopped its service at the start of the year because of rising administrative costs.

Ms Webster said many parents who used neighbourhood centres for educational programs and classes did so because they could rely on the centres to care for their children at the same time.

Children and Early Childhood Development Minister Wendy Lovell confirmed the program would be scrapped by the end of the year.

She said the program should be funded by the federal government.

"We are going to work with the providers and see if there are other options available."

The program was supported by the federal government until 2010 when it was taken on by the then state government.

When elected, the new state government said it would review the program but has since announced funding will be stopped.

The Take a Break Occasional Child Care program is provided at more than 220 neighbourhood houses and community centres across Victoria.

A WETLAND WONDERLAND IN AFTON STREET

Moonee Valley Weekly – 31st May 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/a-wetland-wonderland-in-afton-street/2179499.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council will celebrate the opening of a new wetland at Essendon's Afton Street Conservation Park with a free community event and planting day on Sunday.

The opening will coincide with World Environment Day and will include guided tours of the wetland, interactive displays to take a closer look at the animals living there, and the chance to plant an indigenous plant.

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Mayor John Sipek encouraged residents to attend the opening and learn more about how the wetland worked.

"The wetland was constructed in 2010 as part of council's commitment to protecting and improving the quality of the stormwater entering our local waterways, in this case the Maribyrnong River."

The Wetland launch will be from noon to 2pm on Sunday.

Community tree planting days will be held at Steele Creek on June 26, National Tree Day is July 31. Details: 92438888.

WYNDHAM

DERRIMUT HUB'S THE PLACE FOR LEARNING, SOCIALISING

Wyndham Weekly – 1st June 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/derrimut-hubs-the-place-for-learning-socialising/2181995.aspx>

A new community centre on Wyndham's fringe is bringing Derrimut residents together, giving them the chance to learn new skills and have a social outlet.

Derrimut Community Centre, on the corner of Stirling Drive and Lennon Parkway, serves one of Melbourne's fastest-growing communities, offering a range of programs and activities.

An open night last Wednesday showcased some of the options available to residents since the centre opened in February.

Co-ordinator Rick Morris said many people who attended the event expressed an interest in finding a program that offered them skills renewal or a chance to socialise.

"The centre is one of the first places to offer such diverse programs.

"Having this place here allows people to better integrate into the local community."

Mr Morris added: "Something like this enriches the lives of the local community because it gives them a sense of where they can belong.

"Often when people move to a new area, they find it really hard to meet people and this place offers that close interaction.

"People can use the facility to form friendships, arrange catch-ups, and share mutual interests."

Residents can look forward to group fitness classes, training courses in CPR and first aid, education courses, a playgroup, church groups, circus workshops, and African drumming classes.

"We hope people start to see this place as a home away from home where they can feel some ownership of the facility and start to interact with different groups involved in the programs." More details: 93074700.

UPGRADE FOR DEADLY TARNEIT INTERSECTION

Wyndham Leader – 1st June 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/upgrade-for-deadly-tarneit-intersection/>

A fatal Tarneit intersection will get a major upgrade under Wyndham Council's draft Budget for 2011-12.

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It includes \$1.2 million for a roundabout at the corner of Tarneit and Dohertys roads, where three people were killed a year ago this month.

The roundabout will cost \$1.9 million.

The council, responsible for the intersection, will get federal funding of \$714,000 towards the project.

The upgrades are to happen over the next two financial years.

The intersection now has warning signs and rumble strips.

The council set aside \$50,000 in its 2010-11 Budget to design the roundabout. It said a detailed design should be completed this August or September.

A man, 27, and his parents were killed in the collision at the corner in May last year.

The man's baby son suffered critical injuries.

The baby's mother and drivers of a truck and ute, also involved, were not badly injured.

No charges were laid.

The council proposes spending a total \$33.4 million on roads and pavements in 2011-12, with other major projects including duplicating Sneydes Rd in Point Cook from Hackets Rd to Point Cook Rd and Tarneit Rd in Tarneit from Sayers Rd to the Good News Lutheran School.

DIVVY VAN DIVISION IN WYNDHAM

Wyndham Leader – 31st May 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/divvy-van-division-in-wyndham/>

Victoria Police has refuted claims that Wyndham's 160,000-plus residents are often served by a single police van.

But Cr Kim McAliney, who made the comments at a public meeting last week, is standing by them, and she was backed by Mayor John Menegazzo, who told the Leader: "I've been out on the beat with police on a Friday night and we were the only van driving around".

However, North West Metro region Assistant Commissioner Tim Cartwright said Wyndham was covered by various units from local and surrounding stations.

"It is not true that Wyndham is sometimes covered by a single divisional van," Mr Cartwright said.

Police Association assistant secretary Bruce McKenzie said: "It is very disappointing for the Wyndham community if the fastest-growing municipality in the state has, even from time to time, just the one first-response patrol vehicle actively patrolling on a Friday night. This should simply never be allowed to happen."

Wyndham has one police officer for every 1200 residents, compared with the state average of one for every 400.

Assaults in Wyndham jumped 30 per cent from 2009-10, house burglaries 25 per cent and overall crime 5 per cent.

Cr McAliney told last week's meeting the council had tried to meet police command over police shortages, but had been "snobbed off" back to regional level.

As a last resort, she said the council would go to Police Minister Peter Ryan.

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Mr Ryan said police command decided where police went, based on factors including population and crime rates, and he would raise the council's concerns with the command if asked.

He said the Coalition would provide 1700 extra frontline police officers in its first term and Wyndham would get eight of the first 450.

Mr Cartwright said local police numbers had increased 27 per cent since 2007 - largely due to the opening of a station at Tarneit last year - and should grow over the next three years.

FINES POSSIBLE FOR WYNDHAM OPEN AREA SMOKERS

Wyndham Leader – 31st May 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/fine-plan-for-wyndham-open-area-smokers/>

WYNDHAM smokers might be asked to butt out in public open areas.

Wyndham Council's 2011-12 draft Budget includes \$20,000 to develop a smoke-free policy covering playgrounds, parks and beaches.

Residents would be consulted before any new local laws were introduced, the council said.

The idea is now being considered by neighbouring Hobsons Bay Council, which is seeking public feedback on plans to fine smokers \$239 for lighting up at local beaches and playgrounds.

Other items in the proposed budget include the construction of a dog park at Presidents Park in Wyndham Vale, costing \$79,000; a book and website on the history of the area, \$90,000; and a kiosk at the new Wedge St piazza in Werribee's CBD, \$157,000.

The council said the dog park would be a fenced-off area and might have equipment as well as a water trough.

As reported last week at thewyndhamleader.com.au, the draft Budget includes an overall 5.5 per cent rates rise for the coming year.

The council said the rise was needed to help fund the city's largest ever capital works program of \$106.22 million, almost as much as Melbourne Council's proposed record capital works budget of \$107.3 million.

Big ticket items include new sports complexes with ovals, pavilions and car parks at Wyndham Vale on Haines Drive, on the corner of McGrath and Black Forest roads, Point Cook on Point Cook Rd, and Tarneit on Goddard St.

The council will host a public meeting on the proposed budget including taking questions from residents this Thursday at 7pm, at the civic centre, Princes Highway, Werribee.

ACROSS THE REGION

AUTISM SCHOOL BACKFLIP FEARS

Hobsons Bay Leader – 31st May 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/have-your-say-autism-school-backflip-fears/>

Worried parents say they are concerned the Baillieu Government may backflip on its promise to build a P-12 autism-specific school in the west.

Last month's State Budget contained a \$4 million allocation for a P-12 expansion of the Western Autistic School, but the government is now in talks with parents about "other options" for the western suburbs.

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Western Metropolitan Liberal MP Bernie Finn, a strong proponent for the expansion before the election, admitted there was not a “one-size fits all solution” and that some parents ultimately would be disappointed.

But as the father of an autistic child, Mr Finn said he was keen to get the best possible education system in place.

“At the very least, we have the money for a stage one of a P-12 school,” he said. “There are other options that people are being consulted on, (which) are before the (Education) Minister. I’m hopeful we’ll get this sorted out soon.”

Altona Meadows father Mark Websdale, from Autism Schools Action Group, has two children with autism. Mr Websdale said he still believed the western suburbs needed a P-12 autism school and that any new programs could be established as an alternative for parents.

Action for Autism Education’s Danny Sorbello, whose son attends the Western Autistic School, said parents wanted the P-12 school and the government’s “constantly shifting” messages were concerning.

The Education Minister’s office did not respond to Leader’s queries before deadline.

BIG POPULATION ISN'T A PROBLEM IF WE PLAN FOR IT

The Age – 31st May 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/big-population-isnt-a-problem-if-we-plan-for-it-20110530-1fcpb.html>

Melbourne can handle many more people and still be a liveable city.

Melbourne's population growth is likely to slow from an average 1.65 per cent over the past 50 years to 1.4 per cent over the next 50 years. Despite this slowing growth, it will still give Melbourne a population of about 8 million people in or

around the year 2060. What will the city be like? Will it be liveable, or will it be congested and unliveable?

Recent public debate has seen high-profile commentators, such as Dick Smith on this page yesterday, arguing that population rates should be controlled. They say even 1.4 per cent is too fast, even though we have grown successfully at that rate for 150 years! We can risk economic growth, they argue, as we need to slow population growth to reduce congestion and pollution.

But is population growth the problem, or is it planning for the population that is the problem?

Consider this: a small village can be dirty and congested if it is planned and administered poorly. Likewise, a large city can be clean and uncongested if planned and administered well.

The truth is that population is not the problem — the problem is planning and administration for the likely population size.

The Committee for Melbourne believes a focus on population size is dangerous, as it is distracting the community from debating how we plan, fund and build the right infrastructure for a growing city.

We need a 50-year plan for Melbourne and a new planning and implementation mechanism that includes deep community consultation and engagement.

We need to reinstate long-range planning in our city. The Hoddle grid was laid out with 30-metre-wide streets as the planners of Melbourne believed in a long-term view for our city.

They bequeathed us main streets up to 50 per cent wider than Sydney's. Consequently, we have more light and more amenity in our streets.

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Likewise, the old Melway used to have road, rail and development reservations dotted through it, as the old Board of Works gave Melbourne long-term planning options. Open a Melway today and where are the reservation options? Mostly gone, as has our long-term planning.

The new Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, is starting to talk openly about long-term planning — and his ideas about an urban renewal authority are good. But it is time that we, the general community, stepped up and engaged in the debate on planning and funding our future, not falling for populist lines on population control.

We want freedom of movement between the states. We want the freedom to choose our family sizes. We need skilled migration at least until the superannuation changes are implemented in full in 2025, and we need to take our fair share of humanitarian arrivals. Our population will grow. We need to get over it and make some effective plans for the future of the city.

While some infrastructure categories appear to have received attention, it is difficult to find information on long-term plans for fundamental infrastructure such as roads, passenger rail, freight rail and intermittent/renewable energy.

Do we as a community know or agree on our port options, rail and road options, and storm water harvesting and electricity generation? Have you seen a vision for our future and commented on it?

The cost of dealing with the current infrastructure backlog, in the short term, is likely to be of the order of \$100 billion. Public sector funding alone will not be sufficient. We need \$17 billion just to remove level crossings. If we don't move level crossings, we can't put more trains on the network.

More trains means level crossings stay closed — then the traffic on suburban roads would become impossible.

We need to mobilise the investment resources of individuals and the private sector if we are to fix these problems — but the private sector needs long-term plans and project pipelines.

We don't have long-term pipelines, so our superannuation funds invest in projects offshore where there are long-term pipelines. We build other people's infrastructure, not ours!

Victoria is highly regarded for its expertise in private funding of infrastructure. Infrastructure bonds were used to fund the initial CityLink project, and major health projects have been delivered using private-public partnerships.

A clear and flexible long-term plan for urban infrastructure would be a great and memorable legacy for the current state government. Good planning will save hundreds of millions, or even billions, of dollars in the medium to long term. Corridors for new transport routes need to be set aside now.

The Committee for Melbourne believes that a Victorian infrastructure commission should be established as a permanent statutory body reporting to Parliament as part of a new planning and implementation mechanism for greater Melbourne. The commission would examine the condition and performance of Victoria's infrastructure and review long-term planning for future needs.

Melbourne is world renowned as a well-planned city. The high standard of living that we enjoy today is the direct result of the meticulous foresight and planning of our predecessors. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children and future generations can enjoy a city that achieves global recognition for its quality of life.

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Time to reject the populism of the population debate, and start demanding open dialogue on long-term infrastructure planning.

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