

26 March 2013

NOTICE OF MOTION: CR MAYNE

MINISTERIAL PLANNING ADVICE –DISCLOSURE MOTION

Motion

1. That Council instructs management make available on the City of Melbourne website in the Planning and Building section:
 - 1.1. all formal submissions made by the City of Melbourne since 1 July 2008 (that is, whichever of the submissions made by officers or by the Future Melbourne Committee or by Council was the final version) to the Minister for Planning on planning permit applications (or planning scheme amendments to facilitate developments) which exceed 25,000 square metres, the threshold level for ministerial responsibility;
 - 1.2. link to the decisions (including permits and incorporate documents where relevant) made by the Minister for applications associated with each of the submissions referred to in paragraph 1.1;
 - 1.3. disclose whether a proposal has been commenced or completed and briefly describe any substantive material differences between each of the City of Melbourne submissions and the Ministers' decisions referred to in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2;
 - 1.4. be continually updated into the future by officers including as to whether the development has been commenced or concluded; and
 - 1.5. the structural changes to the website and information related to 2012-13 decisions be publically accessible by 31 July 2013 and the archive of past decisions back until 1 July 2008 be progressively back-filled and completed by 30 June, 2014.
2. That council officer submissions on applications and planning scheme amendments related to development proposals exceeding 25,000 square metres automatically be referred to Future Melbourne Committee for noting and debate.

Background

1. Under Victorian law, the state Planning Minister has substantial executive powers related to development applications in the City of Melbourne. After considerable disquiet from sections of the community over recent ministerial approvals for large scale developments, the proposed motion seeks to mandate public disclosure of officer submissions and council debate about the proposals.
2. By going back 5 years, the release of this information will give all stakeholders an opportunity to observe any longer term trends in the positions taken by City of Melbourne and the Minister and also enhance accountability for decisions made and positions taken as developments are completed in subsequent years.

Moved: Cr Mayne