

30 April 2013

NOTICE OF MOTION: CR MAYNE

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 555 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

Motion

That the Council:

1. Notes with concern the recent decision of the Minister for Planning to remove the overshadowing protection afforded to the Yarra River since 1982 (as per Attachment 1) reportedly in order to facilitate a proposal to construct a 404 metre office tower development at 555 Collins Street, Melbourne;
2. Notes that this site specific change was made without prior notification or consultation with the City of Melbourne by either the Minister or the Proponent (Stamoulis Property Group) and that the City was notified by way of letter sent to the Lord Mayor after the decision was made (as per Attachment 2);
3. Supports adherence to the Ministerial Powers Practice Note (as per Attachment 3) available on the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) website which outlines how such Planning Scheme amendments effecting councils should be handled; and
4. Therefore, calls on the Minister, DPCD officers and Stamoulis Property Group to engage with Council prior to the lodgement of a formal application to help secure a consistent planning outcome at the iconic 555 Collins Street site whilst respecting precedent issues and the amenity of neighbouring properties and the Yarra River.

Background

The action taken by the Minister for Planning in relation to the proposal is of strong concern and goes against the principles of proper consultation on matters of significance to the City's landscape.

As mentioned above, the Minister should be strongly encouraged to adhere to the Ministerial Powers Practice Notes which in part seek to ensure that council's representing affected communities have the opportunity of contributing to a debate about the form and shape of their municipality.

Moved: Cr Mayne