

4 June 2013

## NOTICE OF MOTION, CR LEPPERT: ARDEN MACAULAY OPEN SPACE

**Motion**

That the Future Melbourne Committee:

1. Requests management to discuss the Open Space Strategy with owners of properties of strategic importance within the Arden Macaulay area (including those areas generally identified in the Arden Macaulay Structure Plan as well as any other sites of significance identified by management) with a view to planning for the acquisition of land for future public open space;
2. Requests management to report to the Future Melbourne Committee of 6 August 2013 the outcomes of the discussions described above as well as potential barriers to land acquisition, and present options as to how to advance land acquisition for public open space in the Arden Macaulay area;
3. Notes the intention of the Council as per its draft 2013-14 Annual Plan to create and seek public feedback on a Council 10 Year Financial Strategy, and declares an intention to build into that strategy the staged acquisition of public open space in urban renewal areas; and
4. Supports the Council allocating significant funds from the Public Open Space Reserve, which is anticipated to stand at \$5.23 million in financial year 2013-14, to provide for the purchase of first available land in the Arden Macaulay area so as to guarantee future public open space.

**Background**

The acquisition of public open space in the City of Melbourne is discussed in the [Open Space Strategy](#) (pdf), and is proposed to be funded in part by the provisions of a planning scheme amendment arising from that strategy, [C209 Public Open Space Contributions](#).

Whilst C209 is planned to provide greater revenue to help fund the cost of acquiring public open space in urban renewal areas (the process for planning scheme amendment C209 is not completed yet), and whilst the Open Space Strategy and Structure Plans associated with each of the City's declared urban renewal areas identify areas in need of public open space and sites for new public open spaces, none of these policies or proposals disclose in detail the means by which the City of Melbourne will acquire parcels of land for public open space.

This does not necessarily undermine the efficacy of the City's policies or proposed planning scheme amendments, however the lack of a specific plan for acquiring sites for new open space in the Arden Macaulay area in particular (which has been identified as an area of the municipality which has the greatest need for more public open space) has understandably given rise to great concern among the Kensington and North Melbourne communities.

Indeed, open space was the single biggest item of community concern arising from the exhibition of [C190 Arden Macaulay](#), as evidenced in submissions 8, 9, 15, 25, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 58, 63, 65, 66, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 84, 85, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 119, 120, 121, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 131, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 143, 144, 147, 150, 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 161, 165, 170, 174, 175 and 176 (all of which are summarised in the report from management associated with item 6.2 of the 4 June 2013 Future Melbourne Committee meeting).

A strong theme of the submissions is the argument that Council has not yet adequately demonstrated to the community in and around the Arden Macaulay area a *specific plan* for acquiring public open space, but is nevertheless proceeding with planning scheme amendments which will greatly increase the population density in the area.

Another theme of the submissions is the argument that the existing Robertson Street Park, which is currently privately owned and is in an Industrial Zone, could be redeveloped at any time which would result in a net loss of public open space, and that Council has not specifically stated what it intends to do about this.

In response to these concerns, and in the interests of acquiring public open space in an area of high priority in a predictable and managed process, this motion seeks to commission a report of the options available to Council to guarantee future public open space in the Arden Macaulay area. It also clearly states that the next significant allocation of funds from the Public Open Space Reserve should go to the purchase of land in the Arden Macaulay area.

Much excellent work has begun to facilitate this, and officers have begun discussions with owners of properties of strategic significance. This motion will formalise those discussions and disclose to the community the realities and options facing Council in seeking more open space in Arden Macaulay.

In the context of recent unprecedentedly large expenditure on community infrastructure in other suburbs, and in line with the Open Space Strategy's identification of Arden Macaulay as being in particular need of more public open space to cater for the existing population as well as future growth, it is appropriate in this instance that Arden Macaulay is singled out as a priority.

**Moved:** Cr Leppert