

Council Congratulated For The Vision It Has Shown

October 2003

The independent Panel appointed to review Amendment C33 to the Manningham Planning Scheme in relation to the Doncaster Hill Activity Centre, has congratulated Manningham Council.

The independent Panel was appointed under delegation on 3 June 2003 pursuant to Sections 153 and 155 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider and hear submissions in respect of Amendment C33 to the Manningham Planning Scheme.

The Panel have endorsed the direction Council has taken through Amendment C33 and believes that the Doncaster Hill Strategy has been developed taking appropriate account of the impact it will have on surrounding areas.

“Manningham Council has sought to address these impacts by a variety of means,” they said.

The Panel is also satisfied that sufficient research has been conducted that provides evidence to support the assumptions upon which the Doncaster Hill Strategy is based.

“It has been evidenced at the Panel that Council has actively engaged in an extensive public consultative process with all aspects of its planning work.”

Manningham Mayor, Cr John Bruce said that Council is pleased that the Panel report recognises the importance of the Doncaster Hill Strategy to this community and to metropolitan Melbourne.

“The report endorses Council’s vision for the area and its commitment to sustainability.”

“Sustainability, simply put, is doing the right thing for the future in all aspects of development for the occupant, visitor and worker and of course- the environment.”

“Sustainability and high quality urban design is paramount to all planning in Manningham,” he said.

The Panel said that in Amendment C33, Manningham is taking that commitment further by planning for Doncaster Hill to be a ‘sustainable urban village’.

“The Panel believes that Manningham City Council should be congratulated for the proactive approach it has taken towards implementing its commitment and Ecologically Sustainable Development principles.”

The report also recognises that given its size and location, the Westfield Shoppingtown site should be a critical element of the urban design framework for the hill.

“There is a real possibility for the Westfield site not only to contribute positively to the overall urban vision for the hill, but also to retain its role as the predominant structure in the area.”

The Panel has endorsed Amendment C33 with the proviso that further work needs to be done relating to matters of detail and measures concerning the implementation of the Strategy.

However the Panel recognises that as a 20-year strategy, all details have not yet been finalised.

“It is not reasonable to expect that all the details will be fully worked out in advance.”

“The key elements of the Doncaster Hill Strategy have been sufficiently resolved to be put in place.”

The panel’s report will be available for viewing during office hours from 15 October 2003 at Manningham Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, as well as at Doncaster Shoppingtown Library, Bulleen Library and the Pines Library.

It will also be available on the Doncaster Hill website at www.doncasterhill.com and on the Manningham Council website at www.manningham.vic.gov.au.

It is anticipated that Council will be considering the panel’s report at its meeting on 28 October 2003.