

The Place for an Urban Village

June 2003

The urban village vision for Doncaster Hill has taken yet another step forward with the endorsement of the Urban Masterplan, Public Art Masterplan and the Pedestrian and Cycling Plan.

The plans endorsed by Council will ensure Doncaster Hill becomes a high quality and sustainable development that encourages social interaction and healthy lifestyles.

Manningham Mayor, Cr John Bruce said open space, community and recreation works, streetscape, transport and public art will be developed through the introduction of a development contribution levy and from Council funding.

“Plans endorsed at the 24 June Council meeting include works valued at \$42 million.

“This will be funded over 20 years primarily from a Development Contribution Plan (DCP) levy and open space contributions. Council will contribute approximately \$9.6 million between 2003 and 2021.

“The levy will ensure that developers make a fair contribution to the provision of infrastructure in Doncaster Hill,” he said.

An amendment to formally incorporate a DCP into the planning scheme will be on exhibition from July 2003 for public comment.

Securing land for open space and road works will also form part of the amendment.

Cr Bruce said the DCP will provide transparency and certainty to the role of developers.

“Importantly it will result in a fairer distribution of costs,” he said.

The provision of neighborhood services such as childcare and youth facilities, as well as access to schools and learning centers, shops, workplaces and public transport, all within walking distance of residential areas form a major part of the vision of Doncaster Hill.

The Urban Masterplan for Doncaster Hill details public open space improvements that will provide opportunities for outdoor interaction and encourage a healthy and sustainable community.

Cr Bruce said the integration of public space with the built environment will provide for a balanced, mix-use urban village that encourages greater pedestrian and cycling use.

“The proposed Civic Precinct for example, will provide a focal point for community activities including an amphitheatre where major outdoor events could be staged.”

“It is hoped that it will become the heart of the municipality – like a piazza,” he said.

“Given its central locality, the Doncaster Hill area will provide for an inviting, informal meeting place for locals.

“Viewing platforms will be put in place to capitalize on the unique views to Melbourne City, the Dandenongs and Kinglake Ranges,” he said.

The Public Art Masterplan will reflect Council's traditional support of the arts.

The plan sets out public art opportunities that will create a sense of identity and the development of local character.

Cr Bruce said: "The Public Art Masterplan will celebrate the contemporary nature of the urban redevelopment by creating a cultural benchmark and capitalizing on the intrinsic landform."

The Pedestrian and Cycling Plan will set the provision of transport infrastructure for Doncaster Hill.

Highlights of the plan include the development of shared paths, additional traffic signals, road extensions to ensure safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians in Doncaster Hill.

The endorsed plans are readily available to the public from the Council. They are also available online at Doncaster Hill's website: www.doncasterhill.com

Cr Bruce said: "The exhibition process will hopefully encourage community input and feedback. Information sessions will be provided for residents directly affected by the plans."