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MEDIA RELEASE

UNDERSTANDING ON SMART ENERGY ZONE

Manningham Council and United Energy will join forces to explore options for developing the Doncaster Hill Principal Activity Centre into a Smart Energy Zone.

Manningham Council's Acting Chief Executive Paul Molan and Chief Executive of United Energy, Hugh Gleeson will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the 30th August 2011 Council meeting.

Manningham Mayor Cr Geoff Gough said the Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone MOU between Council and United Energy is an important milestone for both organisations and the Doncaster Hill Precinct.

"The Smart Energy Zone MOU is a significant step forward in finding alternatives to traditional energy infrastructure solutions in respect of electrical demand and supply that can be offered to:

- significantly reduce greenhouse emissions;
- increase the physical resilience of infrastructure; and
- reduce the environmental footprint of energy generation and consumption.

A Smart Energy Zone could include:

- Local energy generation, including tri-generation and small scale renewables;
- Micro-grids for distributing electricity, heating and cooling;
- Energy efficiency measures;
- Smart meters;
- Energy storage; and
- Innovative electricity tariffs.

Cr Gough said the construction of the new community hub, now named Manningham City Square (MC²) and the redevelopment of the Civic Precinct was identified as a priority project in progressing the vision for Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone.

The Civic Precinct incorporates trigeneration; a microgrid between the Civic Offices and MC² for shared power and heating; and the new MC² building designed to Five Star GreenStar standard.

The decision by Council to redevelop the Civic Precinct as a Smart Energy Zone was a critical contributing factor in attracting \$2,000,000 of funding:

- \$500,000 Smart Energy Zone Fund (Sustainability Victoria);
- \$1,500,000 Green Precincts Fund (the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities).

Cr Gough said the Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone MOU will build on the earlier success of the Water MOU signed in 2008 by Manningham Council, Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water to progress integrated water management on Doncaster Hill.

“Following substantial research and modelling an agreement to implement a Third Pipe and mini-treatment plant for the Hill was reached. This is the first time in Australia, if not internationally, that water infrastructure of this type has been retrofitted into an existing developed precinct.”

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