

His Worship the Mayor
Councillors
CITY OF MARION



**NOTICE OF
SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1999 that a Special General Council meeting will be held

Monday, 9 November 2015

**Public Briefing for City of Marion
and City of Mitcham
to commence at 5.45 pm**

**City of Mitcham Civic Centre
Council Chambers (1st Floor)
131 Belair Road, Torrens Park
South Australia, 5062**

**Followed by Special General Council Meeting:
City of Mitcham 6.10 pm
City of Marion 6.20 pm**

A copy of the Agenda for the City of Marion meeting is attached in accordance with Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and interested members of this community are welcome to attend. Access to the Council Chamber is via the main entrance to the Administration building on Sturt Road, Sturt.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Skull", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Adrian Skull
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
4 November 2015

**CITY OF MARION
SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA
FOR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2015
COMMENCING AT 6.20PM**



1. OPEN MEETING

2. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to begin by acknowledging the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land.

3. ELECTED MEMBER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST (if any)

4. Darlington Upgrade Project
SGC091115R013

5. MEETING CLOSURE

**CITY OF MARION
SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
9 NOVEMBER 2015**

Originating Officer: Adrian Skull, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Darlington Upgrade Project
Report Reference: GC091115R01

REPORT OBJECTIVES:

To review the current design proposals for the Darlington Upgrade project as released by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), summarise the City of Marion's ongoing concerns with this proposal and seek Council endorsement of a resolution authorising the Mayor to communicate with the State and Federal Governments regarding these concerns.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Australian and South Australian Governments have committed to a joint funding package of \$620 million to upgrade the road corridor between the northern end of the Southern Expressway and Ayliffes Road. A design concept for this project was released in March 2015 which the City of Marion responded to and highlighted concerns particularly with regard to east-west connectivity, public transport, walking/cycling links and a lack of focus on economic and urban development outcomes.

Since responding to the DPTI alternative concept, there have been few changes made to the design and the City of Marion's concerns have not been addressed particularly around connectivity and economic development across the precinct. These concerns are shared by the City of Mitcham. An alternative concept design, prepared by international design consultants, Perkins and Wills and commissioned by Flinders University, concludes that there are potential alternative approaches that can be pursued which will address our concerns while still improving north-south traffic flows.

The City of Marion is keen to work with both the State and Federal Governments to develop a design for the upgrade project that addresses our concerns and will deliver infrastructure that will help build economic prosperity, deliver jobs and create a place for the community to thrive.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council pass the attached resolutions. The City of Mitcham is also holding a General Council Meeting on 9 November 2015 to consider passing similar resolutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

DUE DATES

Council resolves that:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The City of Marion supports the upgrade of South Road at Darlington | 9 November 2015 |
| 2. The Mayor, in conjunction with the Mayor of Mitcham, is to communicate to the State and Federal Government that our | 9 November 2015 |

Councils are willing to work with other levels of Government to achieve the following objectives for the upgrade of South Road at Darlington:

- a. Improve the provision for local traffic movements and improve the local amenity, to address concerns raised by residents;**
- b. Enhance transit between Flinders University and Flinders Medical Centre, on the one hand, and Tonsley and the City of Marion on the other hand, to drive jobs growth in the Southern region;**
- c. Promote non-car transportation, including increased public transport and cycling, sufficient to address existing car parking problems in the surrounding precinct and to improve access from one side of South Road to the other;**
- d. Minimise the loss of trees in construction of the Upgrade;**
- e. Maximise the opportunities and employment for local businesses and residents.**

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, the Australian and South Australian Governments committed to a joint funding package of \$620 million to upgrade the road corridor between the northern end of the Southern Expressway and Ayliffes Road. An initial design concept was released in mid-2014 and in March 2015, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) released an alternative concept scheme for the Project which envisages:

- A lowered non-stop motorway passing underneath Flinders Drive and Sturt Road
- At grade service roads either side of the motorway providing local connections
- A full free flow interchange at the Southern Expressway/Main South Road junction with dedicated ramps

This scheme would create a road corridor which at its widest point would be 12 lanes wide with only two crossing points at the very busy Sturt Road and Flinders Drive intersections. The City of Marion has worked with other key stakeholders including the City of Mitcham, Flinders University and Renewal SA (the developers of Tonsley) to create a report entitled 'Connecting Communities' to inform and assist project design considerations.

The City of Marion formally responded to the DPTI concept in May 2015 including a copy of the Connecting Communities document and made the following key comments:

- Although generally supportive of the aims and objectives of the scheme, this was on the understanding that the improvement of local amenity, access and environment is just as important as arterial traffic flows
- Future public transport options needed to be accommodated including the possible extension of the Tonsley rail line to Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University
- Opportunities to increase ease and safety of walking and cycling should be maximised and that best practice walking and cycling links and connections to adjacent greenways must be provided
- There needed to be a stronger recognition that the project should reinforce the area as a major destination in its own right with the potential to create a significant number of jobs, create vibrancy and amenity for both residential and economic populations

Since responding to the DPTI alternative concept, there have been a few minor changes to the design including an acknowledgement by DPTI of the importance of providing high standard bicycle connections with the existing cycle network. DPTI have advised that they

are making improvements to this element of the design. However, most of the City of Marion's concerns have not been addressed

Both Marion and Mitcham Councils believe that there are alternative approaches that can be pursued which address community concerns while still catering for north-south traffic flows. An example of an alternative concept has been developed by international design consultants Perkins and Will, at the request of Flinders University. This work has been based on upgrading the corridor while viewing the project area as an important destination in its own right. The Cities of Marion and Mitcham were both consulted during the preparation of this work. This approach seeks to design a solution that focuses on place and enhancing connections between various key elements such as Tonsley, Flinders Medical Centre, the main Flinders University Campus, Science Park and the surrounding community. Perkins and Will have concluded that this alternative concept design will meet DPTI's traffic performance criteria and can be constructed within the original DPTI timeframe and budget.

The key elements of the Perkins and Will concept design are:

- Minimising the severance caused by the motorway
- Allowing for multiple crossing points to be developed over time improving connectivity across the corridor
- Also over time, capping the motorway greatly reducing community separation and creating further development opportunities above the corridor
- Facilitating additional transit options across the corridor and throughout the precinct
- Higher density development can occur including above the road corridor
- Pedestrian and cycle access is improved
- An increase in useable open space and parks

ANALYSIS:

The project goals for the Darlington Upgrade Project as stated by DPTI are to:

1. Provide non-stop access between the Southern Expressway and Ayliffes Road/Shepherd's Hill Road intersection
2. Maintain local access to the area
3. Improve traffic efficiency and safety
4. Encourage and enhance walking, cycling and public transport options
5. Enhance local access for the community
6. Provide opportunities for urban, landscape and environmental improvements
7. Compliment the culture and unique character of the Darlington precinct.

The City of Marion has raised concerns that the concept designs proposed by DPTI do not adequately address all of these goals particularly goals 4-7 and that the importance of the area as a major destination and driver of economic prosperity is not recognised.

The work undertaken by Perkins and Will indicates that there are potential alternative approaches that can be pursued which will meet all the project goals, not just some.

CONCLUSION:

Whilst recognising the importance of an efficient north-south road corridor for the economic and social development of the wider Adelaide metropolitan region, the area through which the road corridor traverses is also vitally important for the future of the local and regional community. Treating Tonsley, Flinders University, Flinders Medical Centre, Science Park and the surrounding areas as one integrated precinct offers great opportunities to generate substantial increases in employment and residential outcomes. The existing South Road corridor is already a barrier between communities both residential and economic and works against this integrated approach.

The existing DPTI design focuses almost entirely on the improvement of north-south traffic flows and largely ignores local connectivity issues, enhancements to the area's amenity, improvements to public transport and future development opportunities.

The City of Marion is keen to work with both the State and Federal Governments to develop a design for the upgrade project that addresses our concerns and will deliver infrastructure that will help build economic prosperity, deliver jobs and create a place for the community to thrive.

A key request for the State Government will be that the appointment of a preferred contractor be delayed to enable both consortia time to consider alternative options (including the Perkins and Will proposal) before concluding the tender phase.

A key request for the Federal Government will be that they provide additional time for the State Government to explore possible alternative designs (including the Perkins and Will proposal) to ensure that the significant investment in the Darlington Upgrade Project provides the greatest opportunity for economic development through the creation of an innovation precinct based on connectivity between Tonsley, Flinders University and the Flinders Medical Centre.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council pass the attached resolutions. The City of Mitcham is also holding a General Council Meeting on 9 November 2015 to consider passing similar resolutions.