



2 September 2021

Sarah Redden  
Acting Committee Secretary

Lodged via the online submission system

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Cardinia Shire Council submission to Urban Congestion Fund (UCF) Inquiry

Cardinia Shire Council received an email from the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee dated 20 August 2021 in relation to the administration and expenditure of funding under the Urban Congestion Fund (UCF).

The committee requests specific information in relation to commitments and/or funding under received by Cardinia Shire Council under the Urban Congestion Fund, with specific reference to the National Commuter Car Parking Fund (CCPF). Council officers provide the below information in relation to Beaconsfield and Pakenham Railway Stations commuter car parking upgrades, both of which have (completed) or are expected to (planning phase) benefit from funding allocated from the CCPF.

**Where in your LGA transport and strategic planning frameworks were commuter car parks identified as priority infrastructure, and any documents which detail the priority given?**

Whilst the planning framework doesn't seek a particular outcome in relation to commuter car parking, Council's strategic documents, *the Beaconsfield Structure Plan (December 2013)* and *the Pakenham Major Activity Centre Structure Plan (February 2021)* make reference to and support the following advocacy items:

Beaconsfield Structure Plan (December 2013)

- To the east of the existing railway station *any development in this area should preserve the existing capacity for station car parking* (page 11).
- *Bicycle storage and parking is required at Beaconsfield Railway Station* (page 17).
- *There is an ongoing need for additional car parking to be provided at Beaconsfield Railway Station. Although some additional spaces have been recently constructed, these will be quickly filled, and additional spaces still required* (page 18).
- *Continue to advocate for improvements at Beaconsfield Railway Station* (page 19).

Pakenham Major Activity Centre Structure Plan (February 2021)

- Acknowledges that *the level rail crossings located on Main Street, McGregor Road and Racecourse Road are significant barriers to the centre and cause disruption to drivers, pedestrian and cyclists. The structure plan also states that the Victorian Government is planning for the removal of these three level crossings and that the removal should be completed in 2024* (page 16).
- *Provide bicycle parking facilities at key locations such as the edge of the shopping strip, shopping centres, the Pakenham Railway Station, open spaces and community facilities sites* (page 18).

- *The Victorian Government has brought forward their major infrastructure project to remove the level rail crossings at Main Street, McGregor Road and Racecourse Road, along with a major redevelopment of the rail station and associated carparking, an elevated rail line through this portion of the rail corridor, and new pedestrian crossings and public open spaces under and around the elevated rail line (page 20).*

In the past Council has previously advocated to the State Government in writing for a number of upgrades to both railway stations including but not limited to the construction of additional car parking, additional disabled parking, secure bicycle parking and additional pedestrian connections.

**Whether any carparks nominated for your LGA under the CCPF were inconsistent with or conflicted with your strategic planning frameworks?**

The upgrades that have been undertaken to the commuter car parking at Beaconsfield Railway Station and those proposed at Pakenham Railway Station do not go against and are not in conflict with Council's strategic intentions for these sites. Council's strategic documents, the *Beaconsfield Structure Plan (December 2013)*, the *Pakenham Major Activity Centre Structure Plan (February 2021)* and the Cardinia Planning Scheme as a whole, simply advocates for the delivery of upgrades to the Beaconsfield and Pakenham Railway Stations and their associated carparks. Council purposefully did not include reference to the delivery of specific works pertaining to these railway stations, acknowledging that Council is not the landowner and play an advocacy role only in lobbying for upgrades to the stations.

**Whether consultation was undertaken with your Council prior to any announcements of commitments under the CCPF?**

No formal consultation was undertaken with Council prior to the announcement of commitments under the CCPF. For both Beaconsfield and Pakenham Railway Stations Council was informed by the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) that the upgrades were to occur. Council did not have input in the planning, design, or delivery stage for the upgrade at Beaconsfield Railway Station and has to date not yet been involved in the planning and design of the Pakenham Railway Station upgrades.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact me on \_\_\_\_\_ or via email

Yours faithfully

**Anita Ransom**

Coordinator Planning Strategy and Urban Design