

10 September 2021

The Senate  
Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Via email: [fpa.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fpa.sen@aph.gov.au)

Attention: Sarah Redden  
Acting Committee Secretary

To the Committee

**RE: Inquiry into the administration and expenditure of funding under the Urban Congestion Fund (UCF) - Knox City Council Submission**

We appreciate the invitation of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee to provide a submission to the Inquiry with regard to the Urban Congestion Fund (UCF) and in particular the National Commuter Car Park Fund (CCPF).

Due to the limited timeframe within which to provide a submission, it has not been possible to obtain an endorsed Council position on the matter and this submission has therefore been prepared by Officers based on positions previously adopted by Council. The submission provides a response to the primary questions presented by the Inquiry, with regard to the announcement and allocation of funding by the Commonwealth Government for the expansion of commuter car parking provision at both the Boronia and Ferntree Gully train stations that are located within the Knox municipal district.

### **Transport and strategic planning frameworks**

At a local activity centre level, Council has undertaken significant work with the Boronia community to develop the Boronia Renewal Strategy over the preceding years. The Boronia Train Station Concept Plan was identified as one of the “Big Move” projects of the Boronia Renewal Strategy (2019) recently re-adopted by Council in August this year. The following actions of the Boronia Renewal Strategy are relevant:

- Action 6.7-3 - Prepare a concept plan for the Boronia Train Station that delivers a transport interchange that offers an attractive, efficient, and safe environment with convenient access to services for users.
- Action 7.7-4 - Advocate for the creation of new forecourt spaces as part of the Boronia Train Station Precinct Concept Plan Big Move Project
- Action 10.4.1 provides the background and parameters to consider in preparing the Boronia Train Station Precinct Concept Plan.

Officers subsequently undertook work in 2020 to prepare the Boronia Train Station Concept Plan which was considered by Council in August 2020 as part of a confidential report.

Council's planning and advocacy for public transport improvements has and continues to focus around major public transport improvements such as the Rowville Rail and Knox Tram projects. As an outer metropolitan municipality, Knox experiences above average levels of car dependency and Council's focus has been to target higher order transport projects to improve access to public transport modes and strengthen network options.

Council adopted its first Community Investment Plan in September 2019, representing its key advocacy platforms and priorities. This plan identifies a number of key public transport improvement and funding priorities, along with Boronia Train Station renewal opportunities. Council acknowledged the Federal Government's commitment to funding a new multi-deck commuter car parking facility, noting it as a catalyst for positive change. The Community Investment Plan 2019 is attached.

### **Consultation**

Council formally received notification of the proposals in early 2019 and engagement occurred with the local Federal member, the Federal Department of Infrastructure (DOI) and relevant state agencies. For both sites, it's worth noting the existing railway carparks are located on State Government land (managed by VicTrack and the DoT).

As part of the Boronia Train Station Concept Plan development, officers also consulted with key stakeholders including the State Department of Transport (DOT) and Level Crossing Rail Project (LXRP). There were also meetings initiated by LXRP to discuss potential options for the existing Boronia Multi-deck car park owned by VicTrack.

In the event the Committee has any further enquiries, please direct them to Matt Kelleher, Director City Strategy & Integrity via email:

Yours sincerely

**Bruce Dobson**

Chief Executive Officer

Copy      All Knox Councillors  
             Mr Matt Kelleher, Director City Strategy & Integrity

Enquiries:      Matt Kelleher  
Document ID:    D21-220307