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Phillip Storer
Chief Executive Officer
City of Boroondara
8 Inglesby Road
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Dear Mr Storer

Invitation to attend Urban Planning Delegated Committee (UPDC) Meeting and Services Delegated Committee (SDC) Meeting

Thank you for inviting Homes Victoria to attend the above two meetings on Monday 16 August: the first, a meeting of the UPDC in relation to our proposal to build social and affordable housing in Bills Street Hawthorn, and the second, a meeting of the SDC in relation to our plan to invest in constructing a public car park on council land to serve the users of Patterson Reserve sporting and recreational facilities, adjacent to the Bills Street site.

We are grateful for the invitation from officers of the City of Boroondara to attend these two meetings, however, we are unlikely to be able to provide nuanced or useful input in the three minutes of speaking time allocated to us in each meeting, and we respectfully decline the invitation.

Our team is reviewing the UPDC report produced for Council and will consider officer's comments as part of the planning application to be submitted to DELWP on a 'best efforts' basis.

We ask you to note that there have been several opportunities for Council to provide feedback on our plans for the Bills Street project, and much of this feedback has been incorporated into our plans. While a reasonable period of time was provided for Council to respond, and no response was provided by the requested date, we undertake to make every best effort to act on recommendations of the Council contained in the UPDC document. However, as previously advised, plans will soon be lodged with DELWP, and therefore calls for substantial change to the plans are unlikely to be fruitful. The timing of this project is critical given the substantial unmet demand for social and affordable housing, and the need for jobs and economic activity in the wider Victorian community.

In relation to the document for the SDC, in which that Committee will consider plans for a replacement car park on Patterson Reserve, we note that Council has identified its preferred option, together with a range of stipulations in relation to matters such as trees, fencing and pathways. We ask that Council advise on its preferred means of consulting with the local community and sporting organisations affected by this decision, so we can be assured the Council's preferred option reflects community expectations, needs and sentiment. We will then be in a position to seek formal approval of the investment by Homes Victoria in this Council infrastructure.

Once again, thank you for the invitation to attend the UPDC and SDC meetings. We look forward to an ongoing positive and productive working relationship with officers and councillors of the City of Boroondara for an outcome that delivers a great neighbourhood environment, community amenity, and most importantly, housing for Victorians in critical need.

Yours sincerely



Ben Rimmer
Associate Secretary
Chief Executive Officer, Homes Victoria
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

16 / 08 / 2021