



**Public Statements
Ordinary Council Meeting
19 May 2020**

Note: Statements will be read in the order they were received as per table below.

Statements

Item C4 - COVID-19 – Fast Tracking of Capital Works Projects

Genevieve Binnie, 2 Duke Street, Subiaco

Statement – Genevieve Binnie, 2 Duke Street, Subiaco

Item C4 - COVID-19 – Fast Tracking of Capital Works Projects

As a long-term Subiaco small business owner, I feel the direct impacts of COVID 19 and readily empathise with all business owners who have also been and continue to be impacted by these unfortunate circumstances. Everyone, including Council, is doing their best to help navigate businesses through. Fast tracking of some projects to help stimulate and support business, in principle and judiciously costed and considered, seems to make sense at the moment.

However, I am concerned that Item 2 on the table before you relating to the **Rokeby Road South Streetscape Master Plan Stages 1 and 2** is ill-suited to this initiative and flies in the face of a previous council resolution.

At the 24 July 2018 OCM, the Council resolved to endorse the Draft Rokeby Road South Streetscape Master Plan for the purposes of public advertising concurrently with the advertising for the Draft Precinct Planning for Rokeby Road South. This decision was in response to requests from community that both plans be released concurrently for public advertising to allow the public to comment on the area holistically. This decision will help ensure a coherent approach to streetscape upgrades and future redevelopment in the area. Whilst the draft precinct planning has commenced, it is not yet ready to be released for public advertising.

Supporting this resolution, on page 37 of the minutes for that OCM in the officer's comment (Manager for Planning), it states that: ***“While the streetscape masterplan specifically focuses on the City funded upgrades to the road, footpaths and intersections, this project (precinct planning) provides an opportunity to undertake further investigation and community engagement to establish a clear and concise vision for future development that is consistent with the vision set out in the streetscape master plan. This may provide key insights into future development and identify potential improvements to the streetscape master plan prior to its finalisation.”***

This is a prudent and common-sense approach to development and improvements in the area and it is the approach that the community supports. The streetscape is an integral part of the overall Rokeby Road South precinct, it is more than just cosmetic enhancements and as such, should be considered together with the three other facets the precinct plan will encompass, namely:

1. A built form study;
2. A future development vision; and
3. A local development plan.

The Streetscape plan was designed without the benefit of knowing what its future context will be, so it is inherently, albeit unintentionally, shortsighted. How can the public comment on it in an informed way when it too doesn't know what the potential context for the area will be? A valid argument or justifiable benefit to change course now and push ahead with this plan out of context is not apparent as the area continues to be one of the more vibrant parts of the City. On the contrary, it seems more important than ever, and in the face of LPS5, that we do this properly. There are many other

projects such as some of those before you in the table that can be fast tracked that do not require as much consideration and input from the community, staff, or Council in order to achieve the best outcome.

Rokeby Road South is an important economic hub and much loved area of Subiaco and worthy of proper and holistic consideration, not a premature, piece-meal approach.

As such, I respectfully ask **Item 2 be removed from the table** to allow an orderly planning process to be carried out for Rokeby Road South, with the Draft Precinct Plan and Draft Streetscape Masterplan released for public comment at the same time, as has already been resolved.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
Genevieve Binni