

9. COMMUNITY BOARD PLANNING STATEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to inform Community Boards of a proposal for changing the manner in which the Boards' Annual Planning Statements are received by Council. The changed proposal should enable Boards to have more direct input and comment to the Council on key issues in the community.

BACKGROUND

For a number of years Boards have prepared annual planning statements. Such statements have, historically, included a list of potential new projects for consideration by Council Units ("Project Proposals"), together with a series of more philosophical views on issues in the respective communities ("Issues"). Both the Project Proposals and the Issues have been forwarded to the Units and/or senior Council officers for comment. While the potential new projects have, generally, been well answered there has been little formal recognition of the "Issues".

For some months Community Advocates have been considering how a Board's view can be better acknowledged within the Council's annual planning process. The matter of opportunity for better acknowledgement of the Boards' views has also been discussed at the Community Boards Chairpersons' Forum where it has been agreed that the present process should be improved.

PROPOSED CHANGE

It should be noted, that the following proposal for change is subject to consideration, and adoption, at the August meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

In summary the "Key Issues" (sometimes also called "Statement of Priorities") are now proposed to be forwarded to the Council's Standing Committees for their respective consideration at the time of receipt of their annual monitoring reports. With the financial year just having finished Units are presently preparing reports on the various achievements (against earlier set performance indicators), and it is expected that the September round of Committees will receive their relevant annual monitoring reports.

The opportunity to also receive the "community's" views on standards/practices/levels of commitment could be of assistance to the Committees in their monitoring (and, later, planning) role.

While there is no defined manner for preparing a list of "Key Issues", an example is set out in the attached supplement to this report. (The make-up of this sample represents a cross section of "issues" prepared by the six Boards over recent years).

TIMING FOR PREPARATION OF 2001 PLANNING STATEMENTS

As the timing for submission of the Boards' lists of "Project Proposals" is not affected by the forthcoming Local Body Elections, Boards have until their September meetings to finalise these (remembering, of course, the Council's call for moderation in the identifying of new projects, and the need for the "substitution" process to be used for endeavouring to promote new projects in the immediate future years).

However, in the case of the preparation of "Key Issues" there is a need for these to be completed and forwarded in time for inclusion in the Standing Committee agendas. With the first of these Committees due to meet on 7 September 2001 (Resource Management Committee) it would seem appropriate for the Boards' "Key Issues" to be prepared by 24 August 2001.

Such timing may require “power to act” to be provided to appropriate Board Committees (where these exist) or for Boards to hold Special Meetings for the purpose. In the case of Special Meetings it may be appropriate for the work on “Project Proposals” to be decided at the same time.

SUMMARY

A proposed change to the process for consideration of “Key Issues”, prepared by Community Boards, provides an enhanced means of providing input to the Council’s annual planning process.

To achieve the presentation of such issues will, require the Boards to complete their consideration of these by 24 August 2001.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the proposed change for consideration of “Key Issues” prepared by Community Boards be noted.
 2. That it be noted that the proposed change is subject to endorsement by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 13 August 2001.
 3. That the Board commence planning for the preparation of “Key Issues” (and “Project Proposals”) as part of the 2002/03 annual planning process.
 4. That the Board complete the “Key Issues” component of the Planning Statement by 24 August 2001 in order to meet Standing Committee deadlines.

Chairperson’s

- Recommendation:**
1. That recommendations 1 and 2 be adopted.
 2. That the Board meet with community groups on 6 and 9 August 2001 to hear and discuss the Key Issues and Project Proposals for Burwood/Pegasus.
 3. That the Board hold a special meeting on 20 August 2001 to propose Key Issues and Project Proposals for the 2002/03 annual planning process.