

## Ferry Update

We are pleased to announce that so far, two bay-side councils – City of Port Phillip & Mornington Peninsula Shire - have made the full financial commitment to the Ferry Scoping Study.

The status at the time of writing is:

City of Melbourne	Pending
City of Port Phillip	Yes
Bayside City Council	Pending
City of Kingston	Pending
City of Frankston	Pending
Mornington Peninsula Shire	Yes
Hobsons Bay City Council	Pending
Wyndham City Council	Pending
City of Greater Geelong	Pending
Borough of Queenscliffe	Pending

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Please note that we are not seeking money straight away but rather a commitment and demonstration of resolve from all the bay-side councils that we can take to both the state and federal governments.

Also note that, if preferred, the allocation could come out of your 07/08 budget as we are not expecting the final draft to be completed until mid next year although progress reports will be provided through the forum of this newsletter.

Several councils have asked why, given their very limited budgets, they should be funding such a transport study. The reasons are that we believe that:

- ◆ It is essential to have an inclusive process that starts with the local councils.
- ◆ To make a ferry strategy work there will be many matters that fall within the jurisdiction of councils from related transit issues (eg TravelSmart, commuter and cycling access and local landscaping around the ferry terminals).
- ◆ It is important to demonstrate to state and federal governments that councils are serious about pursuing this proposal.

At the end of the day, we are only really asking for \$5,000 but the co-operation from all the bay-side councils will give us the leverage to seek matching funds from the Federal Government. This will give us sufficient resources to produce a quality report.

I am meeting up with Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) transport staff in Canberra on

August 8 and also attending a parliamentary function on August 9. The function is being organised by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) and will give me a chance to chat to some of the more interested politicians.

So far the response from Canberra concerning the ferry study has been positive, but I really need to get the commitment of support - both financial and practical - from all the bay-side councils so I can prepare the application to the AGO.

We have also started the contact process with the State Government. Initial discussions with Parks Victoria have also been positive. On Wednesday August 2, I will mention the proposal to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment, John Thwaites. Parks Victoria comes under his portfolio.

I understand that the last serious study into the viability of ferries on Port Phillip Bay was conducted in the year 2000. Given the dramatic changes in demographics, the forecast changes over the next ten years, the advances in marine craft technology, the cost of fuel, and the fact that we have probably past the point of Peak Oil; we are certainly well overdue for the need validate, or otherwise, the viability of ferries.

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## Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the assistance received on transport/urban renewal issues from Ian Winter and Trudy Gould, Design Branch, Design & Culture Division, City of Melbourne.

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## Know Your Bay?



Is this structure in your municipality?  
(Answer in the next newsletter. The picture in Newsletter #2 was taken at Frankston.)

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