

## Ferry Update

Following discussions with the Australian Greenhouse Office we have revised our ferry transport program to more accurately reflect the guidelines for the application funding process.

The emphasis is now on sustainable transport generally and the demonstrated reduction in greenhouse gasses. The ferry study is still a key component as it will be the 'flagship' that captures the attention of both the public and the media.

The proposed **Sustainable Transport On and around Port Phillip Bay (STOPpb)** project is an innovative behaviour change program that will focus on getting people who don't want or need to use their cars to utilise sustainable forms of transport including walking, cycling and public transport. A number of cost-effective strategies, including promotional events, workshops, community consultations, and judicious media releases, will be employed to significantly encourage behaviour change.

The program is aimed at the community level and as such we would like to work with all ten bay-side councils and with the Bayside Council Association. As a by-product we would expect to see positive changes within the various council organisations and within the Victorian State Government, in relation to their transport programs. In fact we expect to see significant ongoing policy changes in all levels of government

The parameters for making public transport work are well articulated but for various reasons are not fully adopted either in existing or newly developing communities. Some of the reasons for this are a perception of change being in the 'too hard basket'; a perceived market indifference; a lack of knowledge; lack of ability to implement the knowledge; intransigency; and complacency. Some of us are locked in a time frame where the private automobile still dictates the design of our cities. This program is designed to penetrate these barriers.

The key objective(s) of the **STOPpb** project are:

- Reduction in Greenhouse Gasses.
- Reduction in pollution including noise and light pollution.
- Reduction in energy usage and wastage.
- Reduction in traffic congestion and trauma.
- Establishment of protocols to help shield against the effects of Peak Oil.
- Increase in amenity.
- Increase in transport connectivity, travel

blending and social interaction.

- Improved transport options for low-income households, the disabled and the people that cannot drive or choose not to drive.
- Increase in health and wellbeing through related walking and cycling strategies.
- Improved tourism and business opportunities through improvements in public transport options.
- Improved efficiencies in light freight transport.
- Improved economic, social and environmental outcomes.

The funding application for the EOI will be delivered to the AGO tomorrow (Tuesday) when I visit their office in Canberra. In the meantime we are still seeking confirmation of matching funding to secure the Federal grant money. The in-kind support is still the same at \$5,000 per bay-side council. The requested financial contribution has been slightly increased to facilitate a range of sustainable travel programs. More details of the **STOPpb** program will be in the next newsletter.

## News

Last Wednesday evening both the Minister for Energy, Theo Theophanous and Deputy Premier and Environment Minister, John Thwaites came to our building and I had an opportunity to mention the proposed ferry study to them. As previously discussed, ferries are not on the State Government's present transport agenda but the Deputy Premier indicated that no barriers would be placed in our way. This is important as Parks Victoria comes under his portfolio. On Thursday evening I met Geoff Mabbett the Chief Executive of Sustainability Victoria and briefed him about the proposal. We believe that it is important to keep the State Government in the loop. On Thursday morning, while attending the opening of St Leonards College Sustainability Centre I had the opportunity to chat about the ferry proposal with the Mayor of City of Kingston, Topsy Petchey.

## Know Your Bay?

Is this structure in your municipality?



(Answer in the next newsletter. The picture in Newsletter #3 was taken at Docklands and shows that Melbourne already has quite a few ferries.)

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