

Ferry Update

The application to the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) for funding Sustainable Transport initiatives on and around Port Phillip Bay was delivered earlier this month. It is one of 168 submissions received by the AGO, and short-listed applicants will be advised by Sept 30.

The emphasis of our submission was 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.

Whilst I was in Canberra, I took the opportunity to visit Parliament House and meet with a number of parliamentarians. In particular, nine separate meetings were organised with backbenchers, senators, parliamentary secretaries and a ministerial advisor. I also had the opportunity to meet up with several other MPs at various receptions and dinners.

The Federal Government is keen to support Local Government in sustainable initiatives. A further indication that the Federal Government might fund sustainable transport infrastructure can be found in the following extract:

"Liberal MP Malcolm Turnbull has said that the Federal Government must consider funding urban public transport, in the same way it funds roads.

Mr Turnbull, parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, told a Melbourne transport planning forum last week that urban transport was becoming increasingly vital as cities spread and congestion grew. New ways to fund 'mass transit' were needed.

'It is starting to dawn on the community generally, and in particular on government, that there has to be serious engagement with and investment in mass transit in our cities,' he said.'

Extract from *Call for Investment in Urban Transport* by Simon Kidd, Emerald Hill Weekly, July 19, 2006

News

In November, I'm travelling to the US (Portland, Seattle, Sacramento and San Francisco) and Canada (Vancouver) to investigate sustainable planning and transport systems. Whilst I'm there, I would be happy to talk to government and

community organisations about some of our ESD projects.

If you have any contacts there – people I should speak to, or people who might be interested to hear of our achievements – then I would appreciate if you could supply some names and/or forward my name onto them.

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Last Thursday, I had lunch with Jim Betts, the Director of Public Transport in Victoria. This gave me the opportunity to mention the ferry study and a number of other transport initiatives. I believe that to get sustainable transport on the agenda, it is important to engage in an inclusive process. Apart from those people within the ten bay-side councils, the following people have been advised of the proposed Ferry Transport Study:

- **John Thwaites**, Deputy Premier and Environment Minister;
- **Theo Theophanus**, Minister for Energy
- **Jim Betts**, Director of Public Transport, Department of Infrastructure;
- **Paul Dartnell**, Manager Maritime Strategy, Parks Victoria;
- **Bill Renehan**, Manager, Investment and Infrastructure Projects, Tourism Victoria;
- **Geoff Mabbett**, CEO, Sustainability Victoria;
- **Mick Bourke**, Chairman, EPA (Victoria);
- **Malcolm Turnbull**, MP, (Wentworth, NSW), Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister;
- **Greg Hunt**, MP, (Flinders, Victoria), Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage;
- Senator **Mitch Fifield** (Victoria);
- Senator **Michael Ronaldson** (Victoria);
- Senator **Kim Carr** (Victoria), Shadow Minister for Housing, Urban Development, Local Government and Territories;
- Senator **Lyn Allison** (Victoria), Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Democrats.

## Know Your Bay?

Is this structure in your municipality?



(Answer in the next newsletter. The picture of the pier in Newsletter #4 was taken at Altona.

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