

Ferry Update

Our application for funding from the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) through the LETA program was not successful. LETA is a very good Federal Government program that will make some positive contributions to a more sustainable society. Unfortunately, with 170 applications of which less than 25 are likely to receive funding, the program is too popular. The AGO staff have been very helpful and we have a planned review of our application next week.

The good news is that the ferry study process is starting to generate public interest. We have also been approached by one of the leading environmental organisations to seek funding and engage in a joint ferry study – more on this soon. Preliminary discussions with a light freight organisation have indicated some initial interest in using ferries to carry parcels across the bay.

Keep sending through ferry related information. This is a collaborative project so we are relying on your support. One person in Sydney is keeping us up to date with press clippings on Sydney Ferries.

2006 Melbourne Award

On 30 September I was successful in winning the 2006 Melbourne Award (Contribution to Environment – Individual Division).

Spreading the Message

Apart from those people familiar with Hong Kong or Sydney ferries, the initial mention of using commuter ferries on Port Phillip Bay usually elicits an expression of confusion, simply because the subject is completely off the radar. Slowly we are spreading the word that ferries make good environmental, social and economic sense. Recently the topic has been mentioned to:

- ◆ **John So**, Mayor of Melbourne
- ◆ **Fiona Snedden**, Councilor (Melbourne)
- ◆ **Catherine Ng**, Councilor (Melbourne)
- ◆ **Janet Bolitho**, Mayor of Port Phillip
- ◆ **Anthony Albanese**, Federal Shadow Minister for the Environment
- ◆ Senator **Christine Milne**.

In September I attended a forum in Canberra which included **Greg Hunt**, MP (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment); **Anthony Albanese**, MP; Senator **Lyn Allison**; and Senator **Christine Milne**. There was general consensus that Federal funds should be used to fund public transport infrastructure through a sustainable cities program.

US / Canada Trip

The planning for my trip in November to study sustainable transport in Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and San Francisco is going well. Already I have three presentations lined up and offers from them to show me around a range of transport modes and ideas from ferries to a thing called 'Skytour' a 'first in the world' initiative connected to the Vancouver Skytrain.

Transport Visioning Process

The Peak Oil forums and workshops held in Melbourne this week again focus attention on the capability of transport infrastructure to cope with the pending crisis. There is a strong school of thought that the existing transport budget should be spent where it is most needed – in fringe areas. While I don't disagree with this, it's also clear that at times our central core services are at capacity and these need to improve dramatically. So I maintain that it should not be one or the other but in fact additional funds must be provided to do both. Where should we spend the money? There are number of ways to tackle this question and one answer is through visioning exercises. These do not provide all the solutions but rather start to encourage the debate of what is possible and what is desirable. Without a vision we tend to lock ourselves into outmoded thinking and to repeat our mistakes. There is no need to be frightened of the visioning process but rather it should be encouraged as a tool of exploration. The commuter ferries are one exercise while another is the investigation of the transport corridors that will be required to link to the ferry wharfs. This then allows the opportunity to explore transport systems and urban renewal projects.

Know Your Bay?



Is this structure in your municipality?
(Answer in the next newsletter. The picture in Newsletter #5 was of some public art at Port Melbourne.)

To receive or discontinue receiving this newsletter please send an email to the address below.