



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Protecting the distinctive features of Blackburn since 1987

BULLETIN

www.bvrg.org

Bulletin 95

October 2018

2018 AGM.

BVRG invites members to attend the 2018 AGM to be held at the Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre, Central Road, Blackburn, Tuesday 30th October at 7:30 PM.

Nominations for Office bearers can be made on the attached form.

End of year Function.

Diary Note: Sunday 11th November, 4:30 - 7:30pm - BVRG end of year members and friends BBQ at The Blackburn Lake visitors Centre. See enclosed flyer.

Planning Scheme Changes.

On 31 July 2018, changes to the Victorian Planning Scheme were gazette under Amendment VC148. Part of the Smart Planning program it aims to simplify and modernise Victoria's planning policy and rules to make planning more efficient, accessible and transparent. There have also been changes to planning policy.

Transitional provisions will apply until Whitehorse incorporates the numerous changes. Dilution of the meaning or effect of the local policy needs to be avoided when embedding the local policy under a set of prescribed, state-initiated headings. One size does not fit all. Some of the changes that will impact Blackburn:

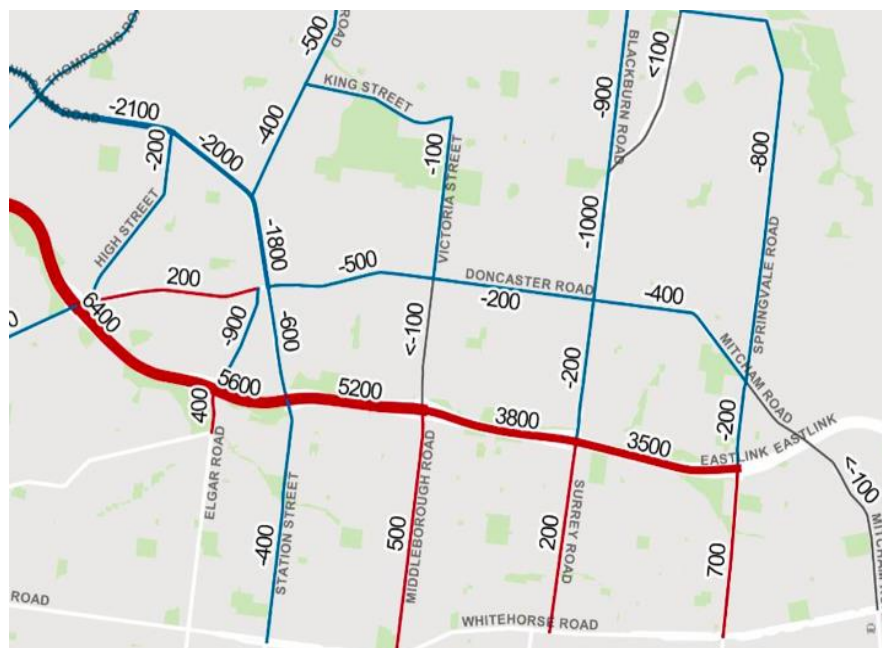
- A Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) will replace the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). We need vigilance to ensure important elements are not lost in the transition.
- VicSmart is now built into the provisions, rather than tacked on as separate clauses. VicSmart allows fast track for simple planning applications. Already the VicSmart changes have resulted in unintended consequences, where an applicant may submit multiple applications to remove single trees until there are none left.
- Reduced car parking requirements for uses in commercial areas and for land within walking distance of the principal public transport network (PPTN) – that is railway stations such as Blackburn and Laburnum. Parking is already difficult but is set to become even worse.
- Amending Clause 43.01 (Heritage Overlay) to require the schedule to the overlay to specify a statement of significance for each heritage place.

Population Pressure Ongoing.

Blackburn is not immune from the larger impacts of Melbourne’s increase in population and the resulting pressures on transport and infrastructure.

In our last Bulletin we highlighted the train of high-rise projects either approved or at planning stage in Box Hill. Planning to avoid the resulting congestion on roads, streets and public transport is absent at both local and state level.

The state Government’s recently announced North East Link project (NEL) connecting the Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway. This will result in loss of open space and parkland along the widened Eastern Freeway and will bring significantly more traffic (including trucks) onto the north/south arterial roads running through Whitehorse including Station Street, Middleborough, Surry (Blackburn) and Springvale Roads.



NEL business case - Change in daily truck volumes – 2036 with North East Link – focused on Whitehorse municipality and immediate surrounds. Red + ↑; Blue - ↓

The project business case definition of ‘over capacity’ is that hourly demand in each lane exceeds 800-900 vehicles. As suggest from their data summarised in the table below, Middleborough and Surrey Roads are already over capacity and Springvale Road and Station Street are borderline over capacity.

Arterial Road	No of Vehicles per lane per hour – during the AM peak 2017
Station Street	800
Middleborough Road	1600
Surry Road/Blackburn Road	1100
Springvale Road	800

The City of Whitehorse response to projected negative impacts on resident’s amenity through increased traffic volumes and loss of open space will be watched carefully.

CROWAG Inc. - Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group

BVRG is not the only group that has concerns of the impact of Planning decisions on amenity of residents.

Recently like-minded Whitehorse community groups have come together to form CROWAG Inc, a representative group of many residents across Whitehorse.

The purposes of the group are to —

- Advocate for appropriate and sustainable development concerning built-form, public amenity and landscape within Whitehorse to all tiers of government.
- Support Whitehorse individuals and organisations advocating for appropriate and sustainable development within Whitehorse.
- Develop and maintain open and mutually beneficial dialogue with Whitehorse Council to address any perceived disconnect between council and its constituents on planning issues.
- Lobby Whitehorse Council to maximise Council's relationship with its constituents in the areas of public accountability, public transparency, good governance, community engagement, fairness and equity.
- Advocate for balanced development within Whitehorse with the need to preserve and enhance:
 - The quality of life for residents,
 - The landscape character of Whitehorse
 - Appropriate design outcomes

Local Planning Issues.

Construction Underway.

After many years of various contentious planning proposals, 2 landmark Blackburn sites have commenced construction.

The old Caltex Service Station site on Blackburn Road will consist of 4 levels plus underground carpark with 31 residential apartments above and retail suites at street level.

Construction (Stage 1) of the retirement village development on the former Seventh Day Adventist Church Campground on Central Road has commenced, more than 3 years since approval was granted. The development includes six 3 and 4 storey aged care independent living apartment blocks.

VCAT Hearings - BVRG has recently provided support to affected residents for 2 planning applications that have been referred to VCAT - 20 Downing Street where a four storey, 19-unit residential apartment building on a single residential site was proposed (VCAT rejected the proposal on 5th October) and 310-312 Springvale Road where a Child Care Centre is proposed on 2 blocks with boundaries impacting 6 neighbours.

199 Canterbury Road, Blackburn – 2 separate proposals for a child care centres on this site have been rejected twice by VCAT - 2016 and 2018. The site has been put up for sale and a prospective purchaser has had discussions with nearby community members. This is an approach that can help potential developers understand the sensitivity of significant vegetation within the Blackburn Significant Landscape area. It also potentially saves everyone a lot of time and money.

Redevelopment of adjoining sites at 201 and 203 Canterbury Road have also been proposed. Proposals for medium density multi-unit townhouses were lodged for both sites. The application for 201 was withdrawn and Council rejected the application for 203 Canterbury Road. Community expects the SLO objectives for provision of canopy trees to be respected.

10 Eustace Street - Plans for the construction of shed and works including, including works within 4 metres of trees and removal of trees under the Significant Landscape Overlay were withdrawn ahead of a VCAT hearing earlier in the year. Recently new planning applications were submitted to Council. There were 2 separate applications, VicSmart for carport, fence and tree and another for the construction of the shed and removal of trees.

Shared Use Path Blackburn to Laburnum. – Since 24th August 2017, when VicRoads announced revised plans there has been no action. BVRG is preparing a survey of residents nearby to determine their views to help us in future discussions with Council and VicRoads. The last thing residents want is to have an imposed unsatisfactory outcome.

Do you have a planning issue in your area?

Get nearby residents active, lodge objections and encourage neighbours to join BVRG to ensure that the community retains its voice.

Committee Members

President	Mike Taafe	Ph 0409 800 422	16 Eustace Street, Blackburn
Vice President	David Morrison	Ph 9894 2531	49 Glen Ebor Ave, Blackburn
Secretary	David Morrison	Ph 9894 2531	49 Glen Ebor Ave, Blackburn
Treasurer	Peng Lee	Ph 9878 4350	5 Patterson Street, Blackburn
Committee	Anne Payne	Ph 9878 1152	81 Central Road, Blackburn
	Brad Hogan	Ph 0419 131 224	3 Lillian Street, Nunawading
	Lyn Smith	Ph 8812 2282	2 Parkside Street, Blackburn
	Peter Dickson	Ph 9877 2532	37 Fuchsia Street, Blackburn



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Email: bvrg@ymail.com

Post: PO Box 406, Blackburn. 3130

Phone: 9894 2531

Committee Nomination Form.

For Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 30th October 2018.

Nominator and nominee must be BVRG members.

I.....
(Print full name)

Of.....
(Print address and postcode)

Nominate.....
(Print full name)

For the position of:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| President | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Committee Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Signature of Nominator..... Date/...../.....

I.....
(Print full name)

Of.....
(Print address and postcode)

Accept the nomination.

Signature of Nominee..... Date/...../.....