

# Altona Bay & Altona Green Residents' Association

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Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~abagra/>



8 June 2007

Mr Glenn O'Sullivan  
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PO Box 21  
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## 2007/08 COUNCIL BUDGET SUBMISSION

Having had the opportunity to review the Proposed 2007/2008 Budget, and having listened to the issues raised by our community at a public meeting in April, ABAGRA, on behalf of the 2,500 households that it represents, wishes to make a formal verbal submission at the upcoming public meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 7.00pm.

ABAGRA's submission to the Council will be based on the following;

1. That the Council continue the implementation of the local park and play grounds improvement and replacement program, ensuring that at least one, and preferably two of the following reserves are included in each of the next few years capital works program to address the renewal of playground equipment, replacement of park furniture, renewal of fencing and the installation of landscape planting;
  - RK Richards Reserve, South Avenue
  - JE O'Brien Reserve, Batman Street
  - HE Hubble Reserve, Sommers Drive
  - AW Knight Reserve, Victoria Street
  - GF Sterling Reserve, Victoria Street
  - CW Carlsson Reserve, Rebecca Crescent
  - D Grieve Reserve, near Roach Road
  - Unnamed Reserve behind Lady Nelson Court

*Unfortunately from the information contained within the budget we are unable to decipher which playgrounds or reserves are to be renewed in the forthcoming year. The only reference is that 'Playgrounds' have an allocation of \$285,000, 'Minor Reserves' and 'Parks Upgrades' \$102,000 and 'Park Furniture Upgrades' \$60,000.*

*It would have been much easier and more transparent if the Council had prepared an Appendix to highlight exactly which parks/reserves are to be renewed, similar to the way the 'roads' were listed in Appendix F. Therefore at this stage we are not sure if any, or how these parks/playgrounds are to be improved.*

2. That significant improvement is made to the major community reserve at Tatman Drive, including the installation of a shelter, improved park furniture and the addition of substantial landscape treatment throughout the park.

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This is the primary local park and picnic area for the whole of this part of our community. The lack of a shelter and windbreak discourages its more regular use. ABAGRA are requesting that this park be completed to the same standards as has been done at other primary local parks such as the one at Skeleton Creek in Carinza Avenue and at the park at Craig Street, Newport

3. That appropriate funding be allocated within the operational budget to adequately address the ongoing and increasing problem associated with petrol driven motor cross motorcycles entering Skeleton Creek, the internationally designated Cheetham Wetlands and Truganina Parklands. And that they be directed to the motor cross track located at North Laverton. They should be informed that it is nothing personal. It is unfortunate that there is no facility closer by and it is after all a bird sanctuary.

*The issue of illegal petrol driven motor cross motor cycles is on going issue. We understand that this matter was raised through last year's budget submission process (requesting increased surveillance/petrol, as well as new fencing), but we are unaware of any action that has taken place to address the concerns.*

*ABAGRA would also like to see the Council employ a dedicated parks officer to manage this Regional Parklands, in a similar manner we understand is done at the Williamstown Botanical Gardens and Cherry Lake.*

4. That the Council reassure the community that it is fully committed to the implementation of the Council adopted Truganina Parklands Masterplan, a plan that was adopted almost 10 years ago. The works includes the land shaping and plantings around 100 Steps, the installation of much needed public amenities (given that there are absolutely no public toilets on this side of the shared trail after Apex Park in Altona) and construction of the Regional playground; the centre piece of this whole park. Appreciating that all these works can not be completed within a single year, so long as the project continues to be allocated sufficient annual funding within the Council capital works program.

*ABAGRA is extremely disappointed to see that the Council has not allocated any monies towards the ongoing implementation of the Truganina Parklands Masterplan.*

*This land has been touted as the jewel of Hobsons Bay's open space network and a future Regional Parkland, yet the Council has not provided the funds to ensure its' completion.*

*We realise that Council has in the past made significant progress with the installation of the wetlands and the more recent (yet unfinished) new entrance, however ABAGRA does not see why the Council has decided to discontinue with the implementation of the Masterplan, especially the installation of the Regional*

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*Playground and the much needed toilet facilities. We request that you not delay these works and that sufficient funding be allocated to provide for this important Council wide project.*

*Again, before commencing other projects (Logan Reserve, Williamstown Botanical Gardens, Cresser Reserve, Newport Lakes and McCormack Park, all of which have all been provided monies in the 2007/2008 capital program), we expect you to finish off Trafalgar Parkland properly.*

5. Ensure that as part of the Councils street tree planting program, a significant portion of the program continues to be directed to the Altona Meadows community, given its lack of street trees. More specifically, ABAGRA would like to see a planting program for the high profile arterial roads such as Merton, Victoria, Everingham, South, Featherby and Sommers are given priority.

*Again, as mentioned in a previous part of our submission, we are unable to determine from the budget exactly where the \$150,000 is to be used. An appendix highlighting the main streets would have been useful. We want to know specifically how our monies have been allocated to improve our area.*

*As you know, this part of the municipality is crying out for street trees, and as a start, we would like Council to focus on the main and secondary roads, roads which are used by all of the residents. We hope that you will be able to commit a significant proportion of the planed plantings over the next few years specifically to the areas that we have mentioned.*

6. That funding be allocated to the active recreational park and facilities located in HD Graham Reserve; another Regional Park that is used by residents from across Altona, Altona Meadows, Seabrook and Laverton. It is understood that a submission was made last year in relation to the much needed improvements to the 'free to public' tennis courts and we see that some money (although not the whole amount required) has been provided for in the proposed budget. In addition, we would like to see the Skate Park and BMX track properly finished off; including the necessary landscaping and shelters, to a standard that Council has been able to achieve at its Newport facility.

*Unfortunately as clearly shown in the attached photos, the standard of works across the municipality varies dramatically. The HD Graham skate park, although partially completed well before the Newport Park facility was ever started, was never really finished off. The BMX track still requires hydro seeding around the mounding, and the skate park is without shade shelters and landscaping. Before the Council starts yet another skate park, ABAGRA requests and expects that the Council go back and finish this one off properly. These same sentiments apply to the unfinished work to the gravel car park that supports the tennis facilities, the skate park and the BMX track. The community is not asking for the installation of a paved and formalised car park at this stage, but as you can see from the attached photos. Such a standard would not be tolerated in other parts of the municipality and the same should apply in Altona Meadows. It would only take a few truckloads of gravel to make these areas instantly more accessible.*

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7. On a more strategic note, consideration should be given to a comprehensive review of the road network within Altona Meadows. Consideration being given to an additional north south connector via Victoria Street, improved east west connectivity via the continuation of Civic Parade, the duplication of Queen Street and the improved turning movements at Queen and Maidstone.

*We would request that as part of Council strategic planning program for its road network, that funding be provided within the operation budget to begin investigations into these necessary studies, so that capital improvements can be made in future years.*

8. That a grant and consideration be given to the construction of a local garden where produce can be grown. This could lead to producing enough organic food to provide for many. Perhaps some space at the old vehicle testing station could be put to good use as an Eco Centre and used to encourage locals and those environmentally conscious to learn about recycling and the storage of water in the home, energy use reduction, as well as grow produce and learn about cultivation, the preservation of nature, etc. This was discussed and put forward at the various Environmental Strategy Meetings held in the past.
9. We would also like consideration be given to a grant to establish a Parks Revenue Fund for the improvement of local parks in our area. We want to raise money from the collection and sale of aluminium cans (later to include standard plastic bottle collection). We need to buy some sort of storage to store cans in the home before we pick them up. I must say that we have been collecting cans for this purpose for over a year without council and would like to roll it out into the entire area. It keeps our neck of the woods cleaner and adds value to our community and this municipality.

ABAGRA hopes and expects you will take into serious consideration the items that we are bringing to your attention, and wants to see Councils commitment toward the equitable enhancement of assets across the whole of the municipality, focusing on the completion of the many projects that remain unfinished within the Altona Bay and Altona Green area.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Robinson**  
**President**

Cc; Carl Marsich  
Altona Meadows Ward Councillor