



Media Release: Monday 23rd June 2008

Community Input Sought for Mersey Bluff

The Devonport community will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions on the recently completed Mersey Bluff Precinct DRAFT Urban Design Framework at a community consultation session on Thursday 10th July at the East Devonport Recreation Centre from 7pm.

The community consultation session will be facilitated by Hansen, Urban Designers of Melbourne, who will welcome residents of the Devonport community to have their say about the future of this iconic site in our City.

"The DRAFT Urban Design Framework is an ideas document, designed to excite the imagination and give the community ownership of the foreshore," Devonport Mayor Lynn Laycock said.

Council wishes to highlight that the UDF is only a draft concept plan that is open for public and community involvement, and it is by no means final.

The Mersey Bluff Precinct aims to create an integrated area that offers something for everyone. While it already has a strong cultural focus, it should also encourage people to participate in a wide range of recreational activities.

"It's so important to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and the precinct offers people a great place to do this. The Bluff is one of the most beautiful settings in the State, if not the country", said Mayor Laycock.

It has always been a meeting place for Devonport and Council intends to ensure that it remains a meeting place. It is the place to be!

"Council is fully committed to this precinct. We believe it is a unique place where people, our cultures and our histories can come together in the true spirit of community," Mayor Laycock said.

This precinct will benefit greatly from the Federal Government's \$1 million election commitment ably supported by Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom.



The State Government's decision to hand back parcels of hinterland south of Bluff Road as part of the Crown Land Assessment & Classification (CLAC) process, has also complemented Council's desire to improve the functionality of this precinct, all the while preserving the foreshore. Council will continue to work co-operatively with the State Government to achieve this vision.

Devonport is fortunate to have a unique stretch of green space that runs to the ocean edge; a rare occurrence, and something that Council believes is worth preserving.

Community involvement from the very on-set is vital for the success of this project. A similar process proved to be very successful for the Devonport Eastern Shore Project, where the Eastern Shore community took ownership of their area.

"The DRAFT Urban Design Framework is the culmination of many months of exciting work. I encourage everyone in Devonport to become involved and put forward your own ideas as this is your one chance to speak up. Council wants to ensure that the final plan meets the community needs and expectations and this can't be achieved without your input," she said.

Copies of the DRAFT Urban Design Framework will be placed at the Devonport Surf Club, the Maritime Museum, Visitors Information Centre, Council Reception, the Devonport Library and the Imaginarium.

Those wishing to attend the community consultation at the East Devonport Recreation Centre, Caroline St, Devonport East on Thursday 10th July at 7pm are encouraged to RSVP to Council on 6424 0511 by Monday 8th July, to assist with catering.

The community is encouraged to provide written feedback regarding the DRAFT Urban Design Framework, with feedback forms available at Council reception.

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For more information please contact Mayor Lynn Laycock on 0400 193 724.