8 May 2009

Parliament of Victoria
Road Safety Committee
Parliament House Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Attn: Ms Alexandra Douglas

Dear Ms Douglas

Re: Call for submissions for the Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks

I refer to your letter dated 23 April 2009 addressed to Dr Catherine Dale, Chief Executive Officer, regarding a request for information on pedestrian safety in car parks. Your letter has been referred to me for consideration and a response.

Type and number of car parks

The City of Boroondara currently has a total of 188 off-street car parking facilities within its municipal boundaries.

Type and number of crashes that occur at each car park

The City of Boroondara does not maintain a record of the type or number of crashes that occur in each of its car parking facilities. However, where vehicle crashes do occur within car park facilities, they are typically low speed impacts which involve minor injuries and are not recorded to/by the Victoria Police.

Information regarding crashes at the access points to the car park facilities from the surrounding road network are available on the VicRoads Crashstats Database. The Crashstat Database information is readily accessible via the VicRoads website.
Measures that Council has introduced to improve safety of pedestrian at car parks

To improve pedestrian safety within some of the Council car parking facilities, the City of Boroondara has implemented the following features where appropriate:

- the inclusion of designated pedestrian walkways along car parking access aisles;
- review of the number of disabled parking bays;
- signage to advise motorists of the low speed environment and area parking restrictions;
- the installation of rubber speed humps (or similar) in certain circumstances;
- review of the design of car parks (i.e. to avoid lengthy sections of access way or aisles to discourage high speed environments); and;
- line markings such as ‘Give Way’ statutory control linemarking.

The access points to car parks are typically designed to discourage ‘rat-running’ of vehicles wishing to avoid main road intersections. Where possible, vegetation is provided to offer a pedestrian friendly and aesthetically pleasing environment, with minimal impact to motorists’ sight lines for accessing/exiting and travelling within the car park facilities.

Council suggestions to improve safety at car parks

The City of Boroondara is of the opinion that a standard 10km/h speed limit policy, within off-street car parks throughout the State of Victoria, would assist with pedestrian safety.

Furthermore, the preparation of a document (in the form of a Code of Practice or Ethics), with respect to the design and construction of new car parks or modification to existing, would assist with incorporating consistent design features (such as line marking and parking bay locations) within car parking facilities. At present, it is understood that the design of car parking facilities is undertaken in accordance with Australian Standard AS/NZS2890.1:2004, however, it is also understood that Traffic Engineers; in general, implement similar strategies.

We trust the above information is suitable for your purposes. However, should you require any further information, please contact Council’s Manager of Engineering & Traffic, Mr Evan Boloutis on 9278 4520.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Jacqui Briggs
ACTING DIRECTOR – CITY WORKS

Our Ref: Doc No: 2312313

CC: Dr Catherine Dale, CEO