27 May 2009

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

Dear Ms Douglas

Submission for the Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks

Please accept the following as the Shire of Yarra Range’s submission towards the above inquiry.

1. Car Parks within Yarra Ranges Council area.

There are approximately 40 public and 55 private car parks within the Yarra Ranges Council area varying in size from over 600 spaces (Chirnside Park Shopping Centre) to less than 20 spaces at most Shire owned facilities. The largest Shire owned car parks are in Lilydale, Mooroolbark and Healesville and are up to 200 spaces each.

Car parks vary in standard of construction from unconstructed gravel to fully constructed. Generally the larger the car park the more likely it is to be constructed.

If a list is required detailing size, location and standard of construction this can be supplied, though due to time constraints this has not been included within this submission.

2. Type and Nature of crashes occurring at these car parks.

As car parks are generally low speed environments the predominant, though infrequent crash type is expected to be minor property damage with even rarer pedestrian accidents. It is however noted that vehicles driving along the access lanes can be intimidating to a pedestrian trying to juggle shopping bags, trolley and/or young children and as a result every attempt is being made to make all car parking areas within the Shire safe for all users.

The Australian Standard does not allow for pedestrian only access throughout car parks and it has been found that where this has been
provided, pedestrians have commented very favourably. Most Council car parks are small (10-30 spaces) making it difficult to incorporate safe pedestrian features into new works.

Larger car parks are generally privately owned and associated with medium to large shopping centre developments, e.g. Mooroolbark, Lilydale Market Place and Healesville Walk. The only significant Shire owned fully constructed car parks are located in Belgrave, Upwey, Lilydale, Healesville and Yarra Glen, while larger unconstructed Shire car parking areas exist in Yarra Junction.

3. Measures introduced by Council to improve pedestrian safety in car parks.

Pedestrian safety was acknowledged as an issue with the Alexander's Shire carpark in Belgrave and significant effort was undertaken to resolve these as part of a re-construction project in 2003. Unfortunately to resolve the issues raised meant that over 20 spaces were lost as part of the upgrade project. The nature of these works included:
- Larger "end treatments" to provide safe pedestrian refuges.
- "Walking Legs" pedestrian crossings at regular intervals throughout the car park.
- Raised pavement/speed humps at regular intervals to control speed of traffic.
- Better and larger signage to advise/inform pedestrians and drivers.
- Better and logical footpath connections to car parks from external network.

4. Suggestions to improve safety within car parks.

All of the above "dot points" as these have been used for some time now and are accepted as a significant step to provide better pedestrian safety within car parks.

Listen to the community and local traders. The existing users are always prepared to comment if improvements are proposed.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact myself on 9294 6747.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Geoff Davis
Executive Officer Developments and Traffic