

STREAMLINING PLANNING PROCESSES: CUTTING RED TAPE

The Minister for Planning has established a Review Committee headed by Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Elaine Carbines to identify and implement opportunities to streamline Victoria's planning permit processes.

The aim of the review is to:

- reduce the number of matters that require a planning permit; and
- tailor assessment processes to suit the size and complexity of proposals.

The Government hopes that this will deliver:

- more timely planning permit decisions; and
- better use of local government resources.

The review involves consultation with councils, the development industry / stakeholders and the community. Submissions have been called for by 17 February and Collie is preparing a submission addressing a number of processes that should be improved and streamlined.

Based on the information and informal advice Collie has been given, it appears that this review seeks principally to 'tinker at the edges' of the planning system rather than contemplate extensive changes that would require modifications to planning legislation and planning schemes. As an example, the Minister's announcement talks of removing the need for planning permits for shade sails, cubby houses, certain types of fences and garden sheds. We believe that this represents the 'tip of the iceberg' for our clients and that a range of other changes needs to be considered if there is to be any significant improvements in planning process and cutting of 'red tape'.

For further details regarding the review or to provide us with any suggestions for our submission, please call Peter Doyle or email him on pjd@colliepl.com.au.

A WORLD FIRST FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES

The Collie designed Boardwalk Park playground at Point Cook is now complete. The Park caters for users of all ages and abilities. Along the central ramp are a series of play opportunities which are physically challenging and provide sensory stimulation. Light emitting diodes (LED) lighting displays have been built-in to the playground canopies with pre-programmed displays that children can interact with using a series of push buttons. The playground is believed to be the world's first outdoor, interactive playground



Material selection was a key design consideration. Shade structures are constructed of steel and timber in response to strong winds on the site. Steel has been used for durability and resistance to vandalism. Radial sawn hardwood has been used for its environmental qualities and durability.

The project included extensive community consultation and Collie used mailouts, questionnaires and workshops with the local resident association and students from the local primary school, to involve the local community. The consultation process has fostered community ownership of the project.

For more information contact Nichole Zaro at ntz@colliepl.com.au.

SUSTAINABILITY MESSAGE



CERES (Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies) Park in Brunswick is a local community initiative promoting environmental sustainability. The Park educates visitors and promotes environmental awareness by displaying working environmental solutions.

Collie worked with the local community to prepare earthworks and planting plans for large sections of the Park. The works included a wetland system, planting, fencing and paths. The site is a former quarry filled by tipping of waste and therefore, special attention was required to contamination issues. Collie engaged an environmental consultant and administered the civil works contract.

For more information contact Mark Frisby at mbf@colliepl.com.au.

MS 24-HOUR MEGA SWIM

For the third consecutive year, the 'Collie Dugongs' will participate in the MS 24-Hour Mega Swim on 17 - 18 February. The event raises money for multiple sclerosis and the Dugongs have been very active with their fundraising, hosting movie nights and organising wine sales. While there is a minor clash with another sporting event over that weekend for some Dugongs (the rowers amongst us), the team of fifteen swimmers is committed and inspired, though a bit too late for Commonwealth Games selection. The Dugongs will be at the Fitzroy pool on Alexandra Parade from 6.00 pm on Friday 17 February and welcome any support you can give.

For information about the Mega Swim or donating to a good cause, contact Angela Fetterplace at apf@colliepl.com.au.



ROXBURGH PARK FAREWELL

The planning and design of the then new suburb of Roxburgh Park began in 1989 with Collie as a key member of the project team. The work is now largely complete and was marked recently with departure of client staff from and sale of, the Land Sales and Information Centre. Over the fifteen years period, Roxburgh Park has seen a 'who's who' of the land development industry having been involved in the project team. Congratulations to all on the completion of a landmark Victorian project.

For information contact Michael Collie at mjsc@colliepl.com.au.

9 February 2006 Collie Pty Ltd

coll-e-bulletin QUIZ: WHERE IS IT?



An iconic Melbourne site presents unique landscape opportunities... Where is it?

Find out in the next coll-e-bulletin.

The two staff members enjoying Christmas in last month's edition were Peter Doyle and Fiona Munn.



The coll-e bulletin provides a summary only of the subject matter covered. It is neither intended to be nor should it be relied upon as a substitution for professional advice. You should seek professional advice before taking action based on its content.