



News from the Committee

Melbourne 2030 Seminar

We looked at running a seminar or forum on Melbourne 2030, in particular the transport – land use relationship. However, the overseas expert we invited was unavailable at the time we wanted him, so this project has had to be shelved for the time being.

Education Win

As a consequence of the TCPA's distribution of up-to-date information landing on fertile ground, the National Charter of Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning has been included in the 2005 final year and post graduate notes for students at the University of Melbourne.

Toxic Waste

The planned toxic waste storage facility adjacent to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is, in our view, a bad planning decision. It will entail up to 15 trucks per day being driven mainly from Melbourne up the Calder Highway to north-western Victoria, laden with toxic chemicals, to be stored in tanks. Local fruit growers are concerned that waste material could seep into the water table and poison their water supplies and the Murray River. There is also a risk of collision between a truck and another vehicle resulting in spillage. Ironically, the site is adjacent to a railway line, but there is no intention to transport the waste by rail.

We believe the waste should be stored much closer to its origin, preferably at the manufacturer's site. The United Nations Environment Program requires that manufacturers of toxic waste deal with it at its point of production. This may mean processing it to create a harmless material, or it may mean changing the production process to avoid the production of toxic waste in the first place.

Dr. Fritz Balkau, ex-deputy director of the UNEP office in Paris, and a specialist in toxic waste, is willing to participate pro bono in a half-day

TCPA event on Friday 7 Oct.

Port and Freight Infrastructure

We are planning to prepare a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services inquiry into the role of the arterial road and rail networks in the national freight transport task, their coordination and connectivity to ports, and measures to achieve greater efficiency. This will touch upon several planning issues in Melbourne, including:

- rail access to Webb Dock
- buffer zones around the Port of Melbourne
- separation of freight and passenger trains on Melbourne's rail network
- the dredging of Port Phillip Bay
- the future viability of the Port of Melbourne
- alternatives to the current port location.

Terry Lau, a student at Melbourne University, will review submissions to the inquiry as the basis for our own submission.

New TCPA Website

We have created a new website at www.tcpa.org.au. The content at present is unchanged from the old site but we plan to use the new site to collect information from the public.

Smith Street

TCPA is continuing its involvement in the proposed Banco development in Smith Street, Collingwood. For more details of the proposal and opinions on it see:

http://www.smithstreet.org/cag/proposed_development/

Ray Walford