

PURPOSE

1. To provide an update on the Palmers Road corridor planning study.

BACKGROUND

2. The Palmers Road Corridor is a 25 kilometre north-south route passing through the municipalities of Wyndham, Melton and Brimbank. The corridor consists of Palmers Road, Robinsons Road, Westwood Drive and Calder Park Drive and extends from Dunnings Road in Point Cook to the Calder Freeway in Calder Park (refer Attachment A). The Road corridor is currently discontinuous as sections are not yet constructed through Williams Landing in Laverton and north of Kororoit Creek in Caroline Springs.
3. The Outer Western Suburbs Transport Strategy (OWSTS) released by the State Government in 2001, identified the Palmers Road corridor as a key route connecting the Calder Freeway, Melton Highway, Western Highway, Deer Park Bypass and the Princes Freeway and nominated it as a future Major Transport Corridor.
4. One of the key strategic objectives of the OWSTS was the identification and protection of land for longer term transport needs, to provide high quality links and enhanced accessibility to arterial road and rail infrastructure and the region's activity centres.
5. The Palmers Road corridor is currently a local road corridor for which the three respective Councils are responsible. The corridor is shown as an Arterial Road in the Wyndham and Melton-Caroline Springs Growth Area Framework Plans. The sections north of Princes Freeway are currently local roads. Arrangements are currently being made for the initial declaration of Palmers Road from Boundary Road to Sayers Road. The remainder of the corridor will be progressively declared as development proceeds.

CURRENT STATUS

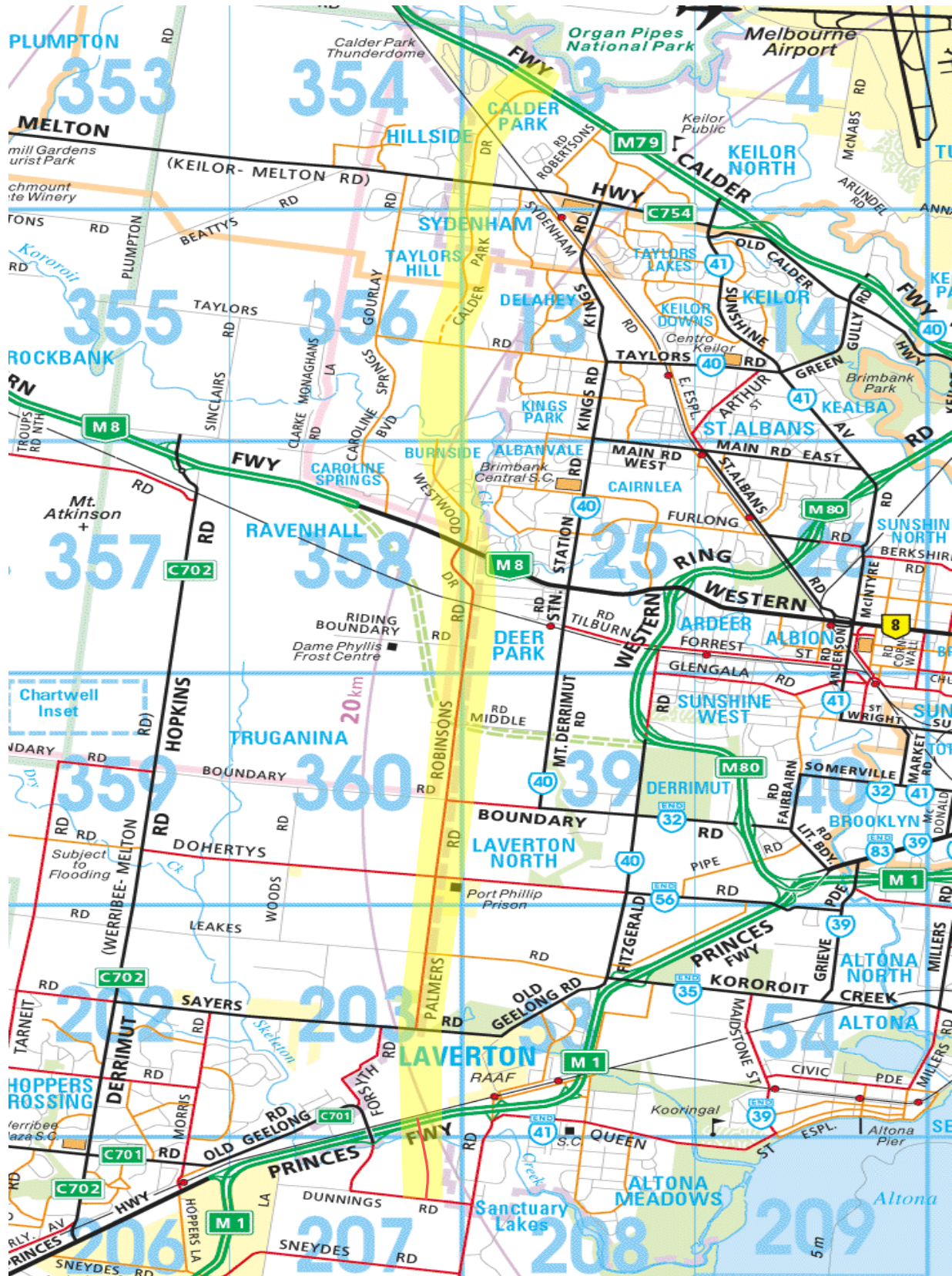
6. The Palmers Road Corridor planning study intends to identify and reserve land for the future duplication of this transport corridor. The study is primarily focused on a 21km section of the corridor from Sayers Road to the Calder Freeway. The design for the duplication will cater for a four-lane divided road initially, allowing for an additional transit lane in each direction, when required. Water Sensitive Urban Design and 3m wide shared paths are also included in the design.
7. To date the planning study, which commenced in 2005/06, has determined an appropriate alignment and cross section design along the length and has included assessments for flora, fauna and cultural heritage and key stakeholder consultation. VicRoads is currently proceeding with additional investigations and preparing for more extensive community consultation.
8. It has been identified that insufficient road reservation is in place for sections along the corridor. It is proposed that a Public Acquisition Overlay be implemented through Planning Scheme Amendments (PSA) in the Melton, Brimbank and Wyndham Planning Schemes to reserve the required reservation width for sections along this transport corridor. It may be noted that at other locations along this corridor, such as through Williams Landing and Melton East, land has been set aside through Council Structure Planning and Developer Contributions (refer Attachment B).
9. VicRoads is currently undertaking the necessary environmental assessments along the corridor in order to support the PSA documentation. It is envisaged that the amendments will be exhibited in late 2009 for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. If required, the PSA will be presented before an independent panel and would be expected to take a period of two to three months for a report to be finalised. This would allow for the

submission of a PSA recommendation to the Minister for Planning in mid 2010. This process will ensure that the required land is set aside for future construction.

10. It is envisaged that the duplication of the corridor will be progressively required in the medium to long term as the employment base and population grow and traffic volumes increase along the corridor.

Attachment A

Palmers Road Corridor



Attachment B

Palmers Road Corridor

- Proposed Public Acquisition Overlay Areas where additional land is required
- Areas where sufficient road reservation has been provided through Council Structure Planning and Developer Contributions

