

Submission by Alex Swain

East West Link
Project Assessment Committee

Debneys Park



Open Space?



Loss of space in Debneys park

- Claimed to only be 0.02 Ha
- ie 200 m^2 , or $\frac{3}{4}$ tennis court
- But:



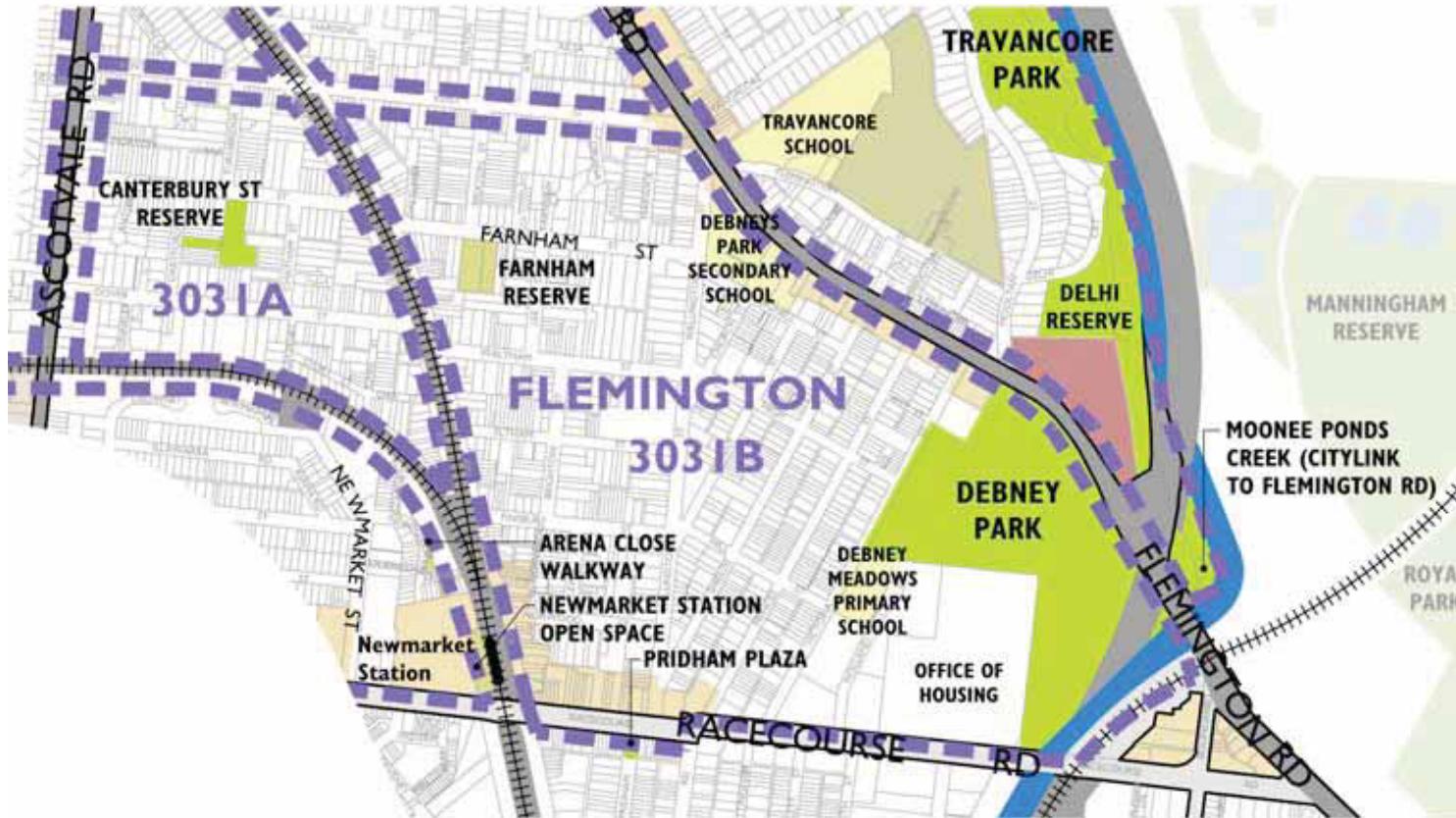
Open space under freeway?



Open space in Flemington

- Average for Melbourne:
- 6.6 Ha per 1000 people¹
- Flemington:
- 2.6 Ha per 1000 people²
- There is only 10.7 Ha open space in Flem²

Debneys Park- MVCC²



Debneys Park

- Only large, substantial park in Flemington
- Has an oval, informal spaces, community centre and garden, and an adventure playground
- The latter three are threatened

Benefits of Green Space

- Physical activity can help prevent many medical conditions such as diabetes³
- People in urban areas who live near green space suffer less depression⁴
- There is a direct relationship between amount of green space and perceived wellbeing⁵
- Obvious lifestyle and amenity benefits

What are the costs to society of this loss of open space?

- Healthcare costs for a single person with diabetes over 30 years: \$140,000³
- 330 children in Flemington
- If 10% became diabetic- lifetime cost of \$ 4.6 million
- Is this valid? Has anyone checked?

What about Royal park? Loss of 1.36 Ha realistic?



Loss of bicycle routes

- Napier St route
- Elliot Ave/ Macarthur Rd route
- Route beside Tram route 55
- Capital City trail
- Moonee Ponds Creek trail



NB recommendation by Coroner Spooner to provide off-road bicycle routes⁶

Conclusions

- Loss of open green space is greater than stated and highly significant
- Space under a freeway is not open space
- What are the health/ social/ mental health costs of this loss of green space?
- Bicycle route impacts

REFERENCES:

1. VEAC. Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation, August 2011
2. MVCC. Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy, August 2009.
Section 17
3. Diabetes Australia. Diabetes: the silent pandemic and its impact on Australia. 2012
4. Alcock et al. Longitudinal effects on mental health of moving to greener and less green urban areas. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 2014;48(2): 1247-1255
5. Maas et al. Green space, urbanity, and health: how strong is the relation? *J Epidemiol Community Health*, 2006;60: 587-592
6. Coroner Heather Spooner, Inquest findings, Coroners Court of Victoria, 10/11/2011