

Graceville SCIP Scuttled

Despite Lord Mayor Campbell Newman's promise, the proposed Graceville Suburban Centre Improvement Project (SCIP) will not proceed.

Liberal Independent Councillor for Tennyson Ward, Nicole Johnston, today called on Lord Mayor to honour his commitment in the *Westside News* (Wed 5 May p5) to upgrade the Graceville Fiveways.

Councillor Amanda Cooper, Chairman of Council's Neighbourhood Planning and Development Assessment Committee, personally handled consultation with local business owners and failed to garner their support for the project, Councillor Johnston said.

As a result of Councillor Cooper's failure to convince property owners of the benefits of the SCIP for their business tenants and the community, this important project has now been scuttled by Council. •

This is an incredibly sad outcome for businesses and residents alike as the Graceville Fiveways upgrade was a key community proposal from public consultation on the Sherwood Graceville Neighbourhood Plan.

Of the 22 property owners eligible to vote only 9 yes votes were received failing to meet the 50% support level required.

The \$2.25 million project was likely to have included new footpaths and pedestrian links, seating, trees and garden beds, public spaces, bins, public artwork and more. \$359,000 or 16% of the total project cost was to be funded by local property/business owners via their rates and the balance by Council.

Councillor Johnston said she had been lobbying for Budget funding for the past two years in her local ward submissions and she was today calling on the Lord Mayor to honour his commitment and inject Council's budgeted funding of \$1.8 million into the Fiveways upgrade.

For further information please call Nicole Johnston 3403 8605