



Frankston Business Chamber

Annual General Meeting

13 May 2008

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President's Report

It is with pleasure that I present to members my second Annual Report for the Frankston Business Chamber.

As I reflect on the year's activities I do so in conjunction with the goals and actions of our Strategic Plan launched last year. Developing a strategic plan for the Chamber was a tremendous achievement in itself, however implementing it has been a much bigger task, one that has required a great deal of energy and commitment. I am very pleased to report that there has been terrific progress made to date which is largely due to members' dedication and commitment through the Executive committee, their representation and those of other members on one of our many sub committee's and the attendance and growing support at all networking events.

Before I continue, I would like make special mention of our Major Sponsors, Telstra Country Wide and Principle Sponsors, Embroidme, Jeff Wignall Ford, White Cleland and Peninsula Access Support and Training. Without their support and financial contributions to the Chamber, we would not be able to fulfill our commitment to members and achieve the outcomes set. I certainly hope that we will have your continued support to in the future.

There are four key areas in the Strategic Plan that will be our focus for the next three years. The points in the left side of the table below show the focus and the right side, the progress we have made during the last twelve months.

Strategic Plan Actions	2007/08 Progress
<p><i>Governance</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve Chamber recognition and standing including the possibility of a name change 2. Maintain and improve communication to members and key stakeholders 3. To have in place a full time Executive Officer and Administrative Assistance by the end of 2008 4. Complete, review and adopt the Strategic Plan and Economic and Communications Strategy 5. To increase the opportunity for the Chamber to represent all businesses in the wider Frankston municipality 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have undertaken a survey of members regarding name change and there was little support. Regarding recognition and support, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommenced regular meetings with CEO of Frankston City Council • Been invited to provide input and feedback on government decisions/policies etc • Been invited to provide Chamber representation on external committees (e.g. SEITA) • A new larger office • Many subcommittees formed that are operating well • Provided sponsorship of students through Monash Uni awards programs • Home delivered our two magazines to every household in the municipality • Developed a Strategic Plan to provide greater clarity to the likes of Council as to our objectives and our role. 2. Regarding communication we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a Marketing Subcommittee to develop stronger communication with members – including upgrading of website, commencement of clearer sponsorship structure and Chamber Newsletter • Introduced the concept of Members Forums • Started canvassing members for input on issues 3. Not achieved

	<p>4. Strategic Plan has been adopted. Action Plan still to be completed. Communications protocols have been established and implemented. Economic Strategy has not been finalised.</p> <p>5. Regarding broader representation, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced working with Frankston City Council to improve representation in Carrum Downs Industrial Estate through the formation of a new group that will come under the auspices of the Chamber. • Held discussions with Langwarrin Chamber of Commerce to strengthen relations with them • Commenced a membership drive • Ensured broader membership representation from different sectors including Health, Community Services and Education. This means that we now have the majority of the area's largest employers as members.
<p><i>Growth of the Chamber</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To heighten awareness and appreciation of Chamber programs, activities and goals across the whole Community 2. Conduct a member drive and marketing campaign to encourage more members 3. Develop marketing opportunities for new and existing members via Chamber activities and initiatives 4. Maintain a minimum of 85% membership retention annually 5. Continue to develop and encourage broader representation through the establishment of sub committees 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Household distribution of Chamber magazine; representation on external committees 2. 2008 Membership is at a record highest level – although still capacity to grow. We are also receiving more member referrals. 3. Members Forums are being developed, survey of members being undertaken to better understand their needs. (refer Governance Point 3) 4. Achieved 5. Subcommittee structure is very effective with the following subcommittees in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Projects • Training and Technology • Governance and Finance • Commercial Precincts • Marketing • WomenConnect <p>Unfortunately the Seaford Village Traders Group has decided not to be a subcommittee of the Chamber – however the number of independent members from this group is at its highest level.</p> <p>Progress is well underway for the development of a Carrum Downs Industrial Estate Subcommittee.</p>
<p><i>Relationship building</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop and maintain a strong and positive relationship with all levels of government 2. Further develop partnerships with local institutions for member education and training opportunities 3. Develop a sponsorship program that supports the Chambers position to in carry out all its functions and responsibilities 4. Encourage members to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommended regular meetings with Frankston City Council CEO, and actively strengthening relationships with Councilors’. 2. Through the Training and Technology subcommittee there is significant activity being undertaken to strengthen the relations with Chisholm TAFE through discussions of an Associate Chamber membership. Through WomenConnect the Chamber is also funding female students from local secondary colleges to attend these functions. 3. Currently under development 4. Ongoing. Additionally the Chamber is joining with Rotary and Council to deliver a Trade Forum

<p>network and develop new and ongoing relationships through networking nights, Chamber events and activities and via local trading</p>	
<p><i>Supporting members.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To study, analyze and monitor issues of interest to Frankston and its business community 2. Advocate the Chambers position on issues and communicate this viewpoint clearly and strongly to our membership, elected officials and the community at large 3. To develop and support initiatives to help create and maintain a healthy and balanced economy 4. Remain relevant and responsive to the needs of the business community 5. Provide networking opportunities for existing and prospective members 6. Further attract and improve on the marketing of member benefits and activities to both members and non-members 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A higher level of communication with members has been established (including seeking membership feedback and/or support on correspondence before it is sent). Members Forums are to be established – with the first being held with the AGM. The Chamber website is being more regularly updated to reflect current issues and actions 2. The Chamber has responded in writing and made submissions on a number of important matters during the year 3. As per above points 1 & 2 – also including household distribution of Chamber magazine. 4. As per above points 1 & 2 and actively seeking to work with similar organizations in adjoining areas 5. Networking Nights, Golf Days, Members Forums, WomenConnect functions 6. Establishment of Marketing Sub-committee

In addition to the above, two other key initiatives in the last twelve months was the establishment of Governance and Finance Sub Committees and a Marketing Sub Committee.

The Governance Sub Committee is distinct from the other Chamber Sub Committees (Major Projects, Commercial Precincts, Training and Development) in that it focuses on the internal mechanisms and running of the Chamber. It is responsible for developing systems and processes that ensure the Chamber operates within its legal responsibilities. This includes having clearly documented policies and procedures in place and ensuring that they are being followed. It also ensures that the financial responsibilities of the Chamber are being met and reviewed and when necessary make changes and recommendations to the full Committee for consideration and approval. The committee meets on a regular basis (monthly) and as required.

The development of Marketing Sub Committee is also another key initiative with the key focus of improving communication to our members, and promotion of the Chamber. The first action of this Sub Committee is to obtain a better understanding of our current and past members to determine if the activities and services that we are providing are relevant to Chamber members.

Whilst the table above highlights the progress made to date, there is still a long way to go. Much of what has been done has been 'behind the scene' and not necessarily in the public arena for all to see. The next twelve months will continue to see more 'behind the scene' work being done,

however through the implementation of member forums, we will be taking a more public stance when it comes to highlighting issues and concerns on behalf of our members.

To conclude, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their continued support of the Chamber. This year has required a significant amount more of their time and it has been very much appreciated. I would also like to thank Bob Maughan our previous Executive Officer and his replacement - Karin Hann - for all their hard work through the year. Many will not realise that the Executive Officer position is only part time, but both of these people have committed so many more hours every week into the role. On behalf of the Chamber and all of the members I thank you both.

Finally I would like to thank all the members for their continued support of the Chamber through the year. I hope that you will continue to support the good work that the Executive are doing on your behalf by encouraging others to join and be a member or find a way where you can become more involved yourself.

TERRI CARROLL
PRESIDENT – FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

Executive Officer's Report

This last year has seen the Frankston Business Chamber continue to go from strength to strength. Thanks to the hard work of Bob Maughan our Membership now stands at record levels. We had a close working relationship with the Seaford Traders Association which saw improvements to the Seaford streetscape.

We have Committee members who sit on various committees such as Major Projects and CAD to ensure our Members views are heard and taken into account. Through the Chambers continued involvement, we are recognized as the Peak Business Body in the Greater Frankston Area helping to ensure that your voice is heard where it counts.

We are continuing to explore ways of improving communication with our members as this is one of the key goals in our Strategic Plan. To this end the Chamber is developing strategies for 2008 that will see a greater focus on the sharing and exchanging of information with members.

In 2007 we had 2 very successful Golf days which were held at Centenary Park and Sandhurst Golf Club. These are excellent days for our members to bring their clients or staff to excellent local venues for a fun day out. Our 2 Golf days for 2008 should continue the tradition of a fun day out for all.

With our increase in memberships , 2008 will see the Chamber move to bright new premises. Allison and I look forward to our members dropping in to see us.

The Executive Committee would like to thank our sponsors

- Telstra Country Wide
- Jeff Wignall Group
- EmbroidMe
- White Clelland
- P.A.S.T
- Frankston City Council

Without their continued support the running of the Chamber to the standard that you deserve and we want to provide would be impossible.

Thank you to Allison, all the Executive Committee and members who have contributed to this years achievements.

KARIN HANN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER – FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for the year 1st January, 2007 to 31st December, 2007.

<u>Bank Account</u>	Balance	\$32712
<u>Debtors</u>	Balance	\$ 1,250
<u>Liabilities</u>	Accounts Payable	0
	PAYG	\$866.00
	Superannuation	\$615.55

Summary of Suplus and Deficit

Total income for the year to date exceeds the budgeted income by	\$ 12,681.99
Total costs for the year to date are less than budget by	\$ 5,329.01
Net income for the year to date exceeds the budget by	\$ 18,011.00

Membership and Sponsorship

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>No of Members</u>	169	160	Increase 9
<u>Membership Fees</u>	\$27,050	\$28,000	Decrease \$950
<u>Sponsorship</u>	\$21,500	\$18,000	Increase \$3,500

2008 Membership

As at 31st December, 2007 45 renewal membership subscriptions had been received and banked. These renewals are included in the bank balance figure listed above.

By the end of January, 2008 membership subscription renewals totalled 103 members which total \$18,025 in fees.

The target membership for 2008 is 225 members.

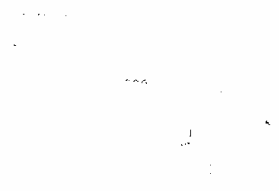
CHERYL BARNETT
TREASURER – FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

Audited Report



FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2007**



FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Frankston Business Chamber for the financial year ended 31 December 2007.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

President: Terri Carroll

Executive Officer: Karin Hann

Treasurer: Cheryl Barnett

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were Business Development.

Significant Changes

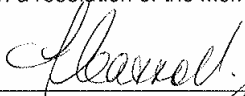
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus amounted to \$13,821.

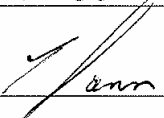
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

President:



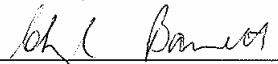
Terri Carroll

Executive Officer:



Karin Hann

Treasurer:



Cheryl Barnett

Dated this day of

FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007**

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions - current year	27,050	21,250
Donations Received	1,310	750
Major Sponsorship	21,500	9,000
Golf Day	19,355	8,450
Women Connect	10,365	4,385
Advertising	3,162	120
	<u>82,742</u>	<u>43,955</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>82,742</u>	<u>43,955</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Audit fees	750	750
Administration & Secretarial Expenses	-	12,173
Advertising & Promotions	296	950
Awards	300	300
Bank Charges	443	302
Bulk Magazine Subscription	900	900
Constitution Costs	-	990
Consultancy Fees	9,000	-
Depreciation	229	418
Donations	530	119
Filing Fees	38	95
Golf Day Expenses	8,925	2,793
Insurance	2,325	2,390
Meeting costs	894	279
Networking Events costs	3,561	805
On Line Fees	-	600
Post Office Box	65	60
Postage	2,224	1,491
Photography	-	321
Printing, Stationery, Newsletter & Photocopying	1,947	3,371
Office Rental	7,992	4,662
Subscriptions	110	178
Superannuation Contributions	1,210	-
Telephone	829	-
Website	396	1,841
Women's Connect	10,402	4,391
Wages	15,254	-
Workcover	301	-
	<u>68,921</u>	<u>40,179</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
SURPLUS	<u>13,821</u>	<u>3,776</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007**

	2007 \$	2006 \$
MEMBERS FUNDS		
MEMBERS FUNDS	20,011	6,189
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	<u>20,011</u>	<u>6,189</u>
Represented by:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Commonwealth Bank a/c 1065 0153	31,507	8,617
Undeposited Funds	1,205	-
Accounts Receivable	1,250	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>33,962</u>	<u>8,617</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed Assets		
Computer Equipment	729	729
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(348)	(119)
	<u>381</u>	<u>610</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>381</u>	<u>610</u>
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>381</u>	<u>610</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>34,343</u>	<u>9,227</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	4,800	2,963
Superannuation Creditor	616	-
Amounts Withheld	866	-
Income in Advance - 2005 Subscriptions	8,050	75
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>14,332</u>	<u>3,038</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>14,332</u>	<u>3,038</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>20,011</u>	<u>6,189</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose report prepared for use by the members of the association. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 110:	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 116:	Property, Plant and Equipment
AASB 1031:	Materiality

No other Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost, independent or committee's valuation. All assets, excluding freehold land and buildings, are depreciated over their useful lives to the Association.

FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Frankston Business Chamber as at 31 December 2007 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Frankston Business Chamber will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

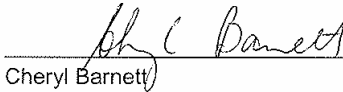
This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President:



Terri Carroll

Treasurer:



Cheryl Barnett

Dated this 14th day of March 2008



FLINDERS
PARTNERS
GROUP

REPRESENTING MARRIOTT PERCEVAL WILLIAMS AND JCW CONSULTING

Michael J Carley FIA, MAICD
Gregory J Waterland CA

FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of Frankston Business Chamber set out in the accompanying Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement for the year ended 31st December 2007.

The Committee is responsible for the financial statements. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in the report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements present fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of Frankston Business Chamber as at 31st December 2007, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

Dated this 9th Day of May 2008

MICHAEL J CARLEY
JCW CONSULTING PTY LTD
A.C.N. 006 982 654
(A Member of Flinders Partners Group)

(JCW CONSULTING PTY LTD T/A JCW CONSULTING ABN 56 006 982 654)

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NUMBER ONE IN NUMBERS

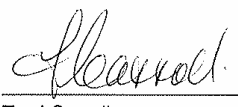


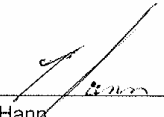
FRANKSTON BUSINESS CHAMBER

CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I, Terri Carroll and I, Karin Hann of certify that:

- (a) We are members of the committee of Frankston Business Chamber.
- (b) We attended the annual general meeting of the association.
- (c) We are authorised by the attached resolution of the committee to sign this certificate.
- (d) This annual statement was submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Committee Member: 
Terri Carroll

Committee Member: 
Karin Hann

Dated this 13th day of May 2008

Sub-Committee Report - Major Projects

Due to commitments there have been no formal Major Project Meetings. The issues facing the Chamber and this Committee are listed below for discussion and resolution.

1.0 CURRENT MAYOR

It would appear that the current Mayor does not support the Chamber or the business community in principle. This primarily results from our support for the proposed Frankston Marina and the Mayor's anti marina election platform. It would also appear that there are other agendas regarding the environment and business, however details of these issues are unclear.

There have now been at least several examples where the Chamber/Chamber Major Projects Committee has not been invited to contribute or participate due to this attitude.

The most recent example relates to the Frankston By-Pass. The Friends of the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve have asked to make a presentation to Council's Major Project Committee meeting in May, however we have not been extended the same invitation despite requesting the opportunity. I understand that the Mayor does not want the Chamber to make a presentation. The Council has stated that it wants public participation but will not hear from the peak business body on this important issue. Cr. Hampton is pursuing this with Council on behalf of the Chamber.

This trend is of concern and needs addressing as a matter of priority.

Resolution

That Chamber Representatives meet with the Mayor and Councilors to express concern regarding recent events seeking to improve relations and build a trusting relationship.

2.0 FRANKSTON MARINA

This project is making progress and Peter Mackenzie and Perry Eckert made a presentation to the Planning Minister's Priority Development Panel regarding the Chambers strong support for this project.

The release by Council of the March Quarter Information Bulletin is a significant step in the right direction. This Bulletin clearly details the current status of this project. I am sure that this Bulletin will not be accepted well by some Councilors and local associations.

The Priority Development panel process resulted in the preparation of design guidelines and a detailed development plan which incorporates the elements of Council's Preferred Development Model.

The decision by the Planning Minister is critical at this stage. Council has decided that there would be no further expenditure on the project pending the Ministers decision due in the second quarter of 2008.

Some Councilor's have also expressed the desire to recover all expenditure on this project to date from the successful developer if the project proceeds. This short sighted thinking is typical of Frankston Council.

According to the Ernst Young Cost Benefit Study, the project stands to provide net economic benefits to Frankston of "conservatively" between \$43.06 and \$108.01 million. The net benefit to Victoria was estimated between \$86.5 and \$170.52 million.

Council Officers have stated that Council has probably spent less than \$1 million on the project to date. If business could invest less than 1% to return 100% it would be called a fantastic opportunity!

In reality Frankston Council and the State and Federal Governments should be prepared to contribute \$10 or \$20 million to seed this project and ensure its success.

The economic and employment opportunities of the project, not to mention the social and safety costs are so significant, that it would be irresponsible to ignore the potential benefits.

Resolution

That the FBC write to Council and local papers expressing its concern regarding the short sighted attitude of the Council regarding cost recovery, considering the enormous potential economic, social and safety benefits of the project as detailed in the Ernst Young Cost Benefit Study.

3.0 FRANKSTON BY PASS

Bob Maughan is the Chambers representative on SEITA's Community Consultative Committee. Bob has reported back to the Major Projects Committee regarding the By Pass and proposed routes.

The Chamber has expressed its support for the By-Pass on a number of occasions and the Major Project Committee considered the route of the By- Pass in 2006. The existing Zoned route through the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve has been shown on the Planning Scheme for more than 30 years.

There are several issues regarding the route of the proposed By-Pass;

1. The Friends of the Pines do not support the location of the By-Pass which dissects the Reserve. The adjoining Centenary Golf Course does not want to lose any land or have the By Pass nearer than 100 metres at its closest point.
2. The southern route of the By Pass is opposed by adjacent Moorooduc property owners for various socio-economic reasons.

The Chamber's position is that the Frankston Freeway/Cranbourne-Frankston Road intersection will become gridlocked with the opening of East Link in June and the expanded Bulky Goods development later this year.

The By Pass is seen as critical to the efficient flow of traffic in Frankston at this key intersection which will only get busier in future.

The reservation of the land in the Planning Scheme was completed many years ago with foresight and this should now allow construction of the By Pass in a timely and economically manner. If the reserve is relocated, there will be no planning certainty and the economic cost and potential for additional delays will be considerable.

The EES process, which has been commenced with Government funding, will no doubt identify any strategic environmental issues regarding the Reserve and these can then be addressed.

If the By Pass is abandoned the cost in terms of congestion, delays and added pollution will haunt Frankston for the next 50 years.

Known problems associated with traffic congestion include; stress, increased risk of death and injury, respiratory illness due to increased pollutions, increased noise and vibration, higher costs associated with wasted travel times, greater potential for additional delays,

If the By Pass is not constructed this will not reduce the number of cars using our roads. The population of the Peninsula is still growing and more people will use roads in the absence of adequate public transport to access the City and suburbs north of Frankston. One Pines resident suggested that the level of CO² would increase due to the By Pass. The reality is that the By Pass will have little impact on the

number of vehicles traveling through Frankston and that congestion produces higher levels of pollution than freely moving traffic. Given the disjointed nature of residential development on the Peninsula, I can not envisage ever having an efficient cost effective public transport network.

I think that is important that the Chamber sticks to facts rather than making claims that it cannot sustain or defend regarding the environmental value of the Reserve or By Pass reservation.

It is relevant to point out that much of the Reserve is not virgin bush, with areas having been quarried, cleared and used for a pine plantation in the past. The area has also seen significant fires regularly over many years. The fact that it has not been subjected to development over the past 30 years is obvious, but this does not on its own out weight the significance of more than 30 years of planning for this By Pass. It is claimed that the Reserve contains the Southern Brown Bandicoot, however very recent scientific studies had failed to find any traces of this animal in the reserve. The reserve is also a potential habitat for the endangered New Holland Mouse however this has also not been confirmed.

Doubtless the environmental significance of any area of remnant vegetation is important and warrants thorough investigation. The EES process provides a safety net for this process. Clearly not everyone can be satisfied when a large road is constructed, however the planning process which has been underway for more than 30 years needs to satisfy the concerns of the wider population, not just those residents adjacent to the roadway or the environmentalists with specific local concerns.

Of more significance to the Business Chamber should be the issue of tolls and the location of on and off ramps. The absence of on ramps to the Frankston Freeway at the junction of East Link and the Frankston Freeway is an example of poor design and lack of foresight. For purely economic reasons these ramps have been ignored to the inconvenience and economic burden of future generations in Frankston.

Resolution

That the Chamber adopts the following;

1. The FBC strongly supports the construction of the Frankston By Pass based on the SEITA Option One as close as possible to the existing zoned road reservation through the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve maintaining a minimum distance of 100 metres from the boundary of the Centenary Park Golf Course.
2. That the By Pass is urgently required and that utilisation of the existing Moorooduc Hwy is totally inadequate given the East Link and Bulky Goods developments.
3. The FBC strongly opposes the introduction of tolls for this roadway which would be a significant economic burden for Frankston and Peninsula residents.
4. That the construction of the By Pass should make provision for;
 - 4.1. A north and south on ramp to the Frankston Freeway at the East Link intersection.
 - 4.2. Appropriate on and off ramps at strategic intersection such as Frankston-Dandenong Road, Cranbourne Road and Golf Links Roads for example to assist reducing local traffic congestion

PERRY ECKERT
CHAIR – MAJOR PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE

Sub-Committee Report – WomenConnect

WomenConnect Frankston is continuing with significant growth in attendance and popularity of events. This can largely be attributed to a change of format adopted during 2007 – specifically:

- Rotation of the events around local venues – increases profile of local facilities and increases curiosity to come to an event in a venue that you may not have visited; and
- Rather than business training and advice topics – the events are either networking, or presentation from successful business women prepared to share their story and experiences.

This change in structure has doubled attendances over 2006 levels – with 175 people attending the five functions in 2006 (an average of 35 people per function), and 349 attending 2007 functions (an average of 70 people per function).

The events held in 2007 were:

Event	Venue	Income	Expenses	Focus	Attendees
March	Café Burdett	\$ 2,005	\$ 1,150	International Women’s Day	67
May	Peninsula Country Golf Club	\$ 2,395	\$ 2,310	Gillian Franklin (Heat Group)	80
August	McClelland Gallery	\$ 1,865	\$ 1,770	Networking	59
September	Frankston Arts Centre	\$ 1,975	\$ 2 271	Diana Williams (Fernwood Fitness)	71
December	Frankston Surf Lifesaving Club	\$ 2,125	\$ 2,343	Euro Linguistic Programming (Lorna Westley)	72
2007 Total		\$10,365	\$ 10,402¹		

WomenConnect essentially made a slight profit for 2007, however, due to early payment of a \$500 deposit for a 2008 function – an overall loss of \$37 is recorded.

The second half of 2007 also marked the opening of WomenConnect to female students from Frankston City secondary colleges. This was believed to be an important linkage to increase the awareness of local career opportunities, increase the profile and community-mindedness of the Chamber, and potentially open doorways for mentoring relationships between students and the attendees. To date two schools have sent students. The cost for this is borne by the Chamber, which slightly reduces profit.

Five events are planned for 2008 – including the inaugural partnering with the Mornington Peninsula Shire’s women’s networking forum – Women in the Workplace – to celebrate International Women’s Day.

2008 marks a change in the pricing structure for WomenConnect – with a greater discrepancy between member and non-member prices. (NB/ no member discount is available at the joint event).

The administration of WomenConnect continues to be provided through sponsorship - a partnership between White Cleland and Frankston City Council.

The role of the WomenConnect sub-committee is likely to be reviewed during 2008.

¹ Additional funds expended during 2007 \$57.45 for White Cleland expenses & \$500 deposit for a 2008 event

Sub-Committee Report – Commercial Precinct

The past 12 months have been extremely challenging for the committee although it is apparent that as the year progressed we saw a greater connection between the relevant businesses within our sector and the committee. The businesses located within the CAD precinct have been constantly frustrated at the length of time it takes to achieve an outcome when dealing with government bodies. We as a group, believe we are making good progress with local council by means of a closer working relationship and look forward to higher achievements in the coming year.

Some of the issues we have been involved in are as follows:

- Heightened awareness with Council and Police regarding trader concerns anti social behaviour in the CAD (we await responses from both following correspondence sent them last month) We are also represented on the Community Safety Management Team.
- Provided comment on the Kanannook Creek Boulevard plans.
- Provided regular feedback to Council on the Ambassador program
- Requested feedback on the Trader Watch pads (re accountability)
- Provided input into expanded distribution of Trader Safety Kits – now to involve the total CAD – not just the Bayside Centre (currently in print)
- Seeking greater responsibility from building owners for maintenance of vacant commercial premises
- Representation on the Beautification Committee
- Participation in Transit City reference groups.
- In conjunction with Frankston Alive we worked on a cigarette butt litter awareness campaign, commenced development of a Welcome Kit for traders and participated in the organizing of the Sandsational Treasure Hunt – this was to improve the linkages between the CAD and the Frankston waterfront

There are many challenges ahead of us and we require greater participation by all business owners to address the issues we are facing both as individuals and the CAD as a whole. We optimistically look forward to the coming year.

PETER MACKENZIE
CHAIR – COMMERCIAL PRECINCTS COMMITTEE

Sub-Committee Report - Technology & Training

Frankston City will soon have its own group of high tech businesses, with the establishment of a formal network intended to be active before the end of 2008.

The Frankston Business Chamber is calling for all businesses that have a competitive advantage in technology or systems to become part of a technology network. These businesses will become a central pool for local organisations to source niche goods and services from. The network may also eventually be marketed to other regions and countries. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please send your business and contact details to business@frankston.vic.gov.au or phone 9784 1889.

The Frankston Business Chamber's Technology and Training Subcommittee is pioneering the project. Several high tech businesses including media, information technology (IT) and telecommunications sit on the subcommittee and are providing the framework for this scheme.

Rather than sourcing from other regions or wasting time looking for niche products or services, this project will allow other local business to look for such products or services in one location. For the average business, this could be anything from building a web site, installing telecommunications devices to possible joint ventures in niche markets - like manufacturing. The opportunities for such a scheme are endless.

The network is likely to commence early in the new financial year, with an event dedicated to businesses that believe they have a competitive advantage in technology or systems. All businesses that pass on their details will be invited to the first function and be kept informed about the development of the technology network.

TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING SUBCOMITTEE