
Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Carolyn Vimpani

Organisation: REAL Inc

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1: North_East_Link.pdf

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: The attached document is a follow up to communication in April 2019 with Tallis Richmond who help the position Senior Stakeholder advisor North East Link

REAL INC

Re Framework Plan and associated Planning Scheme Amendment in the Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct.

Rights Employment Accommodation Leisure Inc 25 September 2020

About REAL Inc

REAL was founded in Manningham 25 years ago with the purpose of providing the continuing involvement in the Manningham community of men and women exiting the two Special Schools in the area. One of the focus areas is Accommodation and we have for a number of years been working towards obtaining access to unused or repurposed Council or Government land for the purpose of a home; 'Project Independence'

The construction of the North East Link is seen as an opportunity to gain access to such land.

Project Independence

Project Independence is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered community housing provider which is based around a financial model which offers ownership to residents and also operate as a social business. The model provides a place of safety where residents could grow their independence financially and socially.

Currently there are few accommodation options which enable Manningham residents living with an intellectual disability to have any choice in their housing. Options such as nursing homes give little control over life decisions. Group homes, no surety of being able to stay in the property. Supported accommodation can take up to 75% rent and no surety of being able to stay. Home share, sometimes, depending on where it is, can be prohibitive because of cost.

In the PI model Residents build equity, giving choice and control over future accommodation options, residents are encouraged to learn new skills and live an ordinary life, whether it be in the Project Independence house, or beyond. And when or if they decide they want to leave, they sell and move into independent living.

Who would benefit from being in a Project Independence house? A person with a mild intellectual disability, aged between 18 and 60, not requiring assistance with toileting and hygiene, being able to travel independently or have the want and desire to learn.

PI homes are built to gold class standard There is a coordinator's unit, a guest suite, five open spaces, three communal areas, a shared dining area. PI is not distinguishable in the landscape.

The leading resident assistant helps with community access. All the units have a bedroom and ensuite, and private clothes-drying areas. It is not a group home model.

PI does not claim to solve the current accommodation crisis for people with disability in Manningham – it is just one cog in the wheel of solutions. However, it is a portable financial model which assists people who can afford to pay for their own housing to have choice and control over their accommodation, freeing up public housing for those who need it.



REAL Inc

Rights Employment Accommodation Leisure

We ask that consideration be given to such a model within the North East Link project as . It is an innovative way to include affordable housing in the mix of housing being proposed.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Vimpani
Secretary

REAL is supported by: Manningham Council Community Grants, DHHS Self Help Grant, ILC Grant & Templestowe Rotary Club

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