

Briefing on Dandenong saleyards

RETAILERS will be briefed on the Dandenong Saleyards development at the next meeting of the Dandenong Retail Traders Association.

VicUrban project director Phil Hanna will discuss *Metro 3175* at the September 7 meeting, starting at 6pm.

Traders' association chairman Roy Aspinall said the briefing would provide "a timely opportunity to see where the project is at, what's involved in undertaking such a venture and,

importantly, details on what opportunities this project can bring to central Dandenong".

Mr Aspinall said the association believed the development would have a considerable impact on retail trade.

"This project is a major element in the rejuvenation of central Dandenong and I encourage retailers to attend this important meeting," he said. The meeting will be held in the president's room at the Club Grand, Thomas St, Dandenong. Phone 9793 3487 for details.

CAN anyone tell me just what the Dandenong Development Board is doing, apart from occupying office space in Thomas St and carrying out studies of pedestrian movements?

The first of its type in Victoria, the board was set up after the passing of the special Dandenong Development Board Act 2003 in May last year.

Its functions include "to encourage the development of housing diversity within Dandenong".

The act also says: "The board has power to do all things necessary and convenient to be done for or in connection with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions."

To me that seems pretty straightforward.

Just down the road from its office, on the other side of the tracks, is the former saleyards site that is planned to become a 1300-home of "housing diversity" in a joint project between the state government's VicUrban and Greater Dandenong Council.

But everything is on hold because the council and VicRoads can't agree over the planned realignment of Cheltenham Rd. The \$250 million project has been deadlocked for more than six months (see page 1).

You would think the Dandenong Development Board, which includes the mayor and the CEO of the council as members, and which has a budget of \$1 million a year, would be trying to have the issue sorted out.

But no, it hasn't even come up on the agenda.

I get back to my question: what is the Dandenong Development Board doing? It has been there a year and doesn't seem to have achieved anything concrete at all.



THE SNOOT

Chief to talk on Metro

THE project manager of the Dandenong stockyards redevelopment, Phil Hann, will be the guest speaker at next month's meeting of the Dandenong Retailers' Association.

Known as the Metro 3175 project, the stockyards redevelopment is one of the biggest in the city's history.

Association chairman Roy Aspinall said Mr Mann would members up to date on how the project was progressing. It is due to start at the end of the year.

Mr Aspinall said the briefing would provide retailers with the chance to see where the project was at, what's involved and, more importantly, hear about what the opportunities were for central Dandenong.

"The project is a major element in the rejuvenation of central Dandenong."

The meeting will be held at the Club Grand in Thomas Street, Dandenong, on Tuesday, September 7, starting at 6pm.

Details: 9793 3487 or 9584 5157.