



MEDIA RELEASE

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Whitehorse trials invention to make local footpaths safer

The City of Whitehorse is trialling an innovative invention called 'Tripstop' designed to alleviate local footpath hazards caused by tree roots.

Whitehorse Mayor, Councillor George Droutsas, said 'Tripstop', which won an innovation design award earlier this year, would be used in several footpaths throughout the municipality in the current capital works program.

Cr Droutsas said it acted as a hinge allowing concrete to withstand the displacement caused by tree roots and soil erosion. "It looks like a joint made of fabricated plastic and it is set into position before concrete is poured," he said.

He said Whitehorse was one of many suburban councils trialling the new product and its success would be monitored over the next few years.

"Our Council officers have been aware of this product for some time as the designer is a Whitehorse resident and asked for feedback from engineering staff when preparing his concept designs," he said.

"We will use it in areas of our City that are heavily treed and where tree roots have caused damage to footpaths in the past."

Cr Droutsas said Whitehorse Council was spending \$1.5million this year on footpaths throughout the City. This includes constructing new footpaths, major rehabilitation projects and general maintenance work.

"In Whitehorse we are committed to a comprehensive footpath maintenance program. Council officers regularly inspect the 1300 kilometres of footpaths throughout the municipality for hazards," he said.

"Footpaths in high traffic areas such as major shopping centres, hospitals and schools are inspected once every six months, while those in medium traffic areas are visited every 12 months."

Cr Droutsas said it was a priority for Council to ensure that all of our footpaths were safe for people to use.

He urged local residents to report any footpath hazards by calling 9262 6333 and these would be inspected by the Council officer.