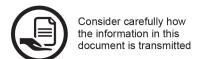


# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

**AGENDA** 

**6 AUGUST 2025** 







### Welcome

Welcome to this Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council.

Council Meetings are an important way to ensure that your democratically elected representatives are working for you in a fair and transparent way. They also allow the public to be involved in the decision-making process of Council.

### About this meeting

There are a few things to know about tonight's meeting. The first page of tonight's Agenda itemises all the different parts to the meeting. Some of the items are administrative and are required by law. In the agenda you will also find a list of all the items to be discussed this evening.

Each report is written by a Council officer outlining the purpose of the report, all relevant information and a recommendation. Council will consider the report and either accept the recommendation or make amendments to it. All decisions of Council are adopted if they receive a majority vote from the Councillors present at the meeting.

### Public Question Time and Submissions

Provision is made at the beginning of the meeting for general question time from members of the public.

All contributions from the public will be heard at the start of the meeting during the agenda item 'Public Questions and Submissions.' Members of the public have the option to either participate in person or join the meeting virtually via Teams to ask their questions live during the meeting.

If you would like to address the Council and /or ask a question on any of the items being discussed, please submit a 'Request to Speak form' by 4pm on the day of the meeting via Council's website:

Request to speak at a Council meeting - City of Port Phillip





### MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

#### **To Councillors**

Notice is hereby given that a **Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council** will be held in **St Kilda Town Hall and Virtually via Teams** on **Wednesday, 6 August 2025 at 6:30pm.** At their discretion, Councillors may suspend the meeting for short breaks as required.

### **AGENDA**

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2	2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS			
	Minut	Minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council 2 July 2025.		
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	The information contained in the following Council reports is considered to be Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020.				
	18.1	Proposed	Property Acquisition - Fishermans Bend		
		3(1)(g(ii)).	private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.	al	

**Reason:** This report contains commercial business transaction information which if released, could unreasonably expose external stakeholders.



### 1. APOLOGIES

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 2 July 2025 be confirmed.

- 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
- 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS

Nil

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Nil

6. SEALING SCHEDULE

Nil

### 7. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS



### 7.1 PETITION: SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLIC QUESTION TIME PRINCIPLE, PURPOSE AND PRACTICE

A Petition containing 341 signatures, was received from in hardcopy format.

### The Petition states the following:-

To the mayor and councillors of the Port Phillip City Council.

The petition of the following named citizens draws the attention of the Council's proposed Governance Rules released for Public Consultation on the 7th August 2025. We petitioners request you to consider and implement the following two recommendations which will adhere to the City's stated aim of "enhancing good governance and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability."

Recommendation 1: Amending the proposed rule 55. 15 as it currently reads:

#### From:

Only the lead petitioner, or their representative, will be permitted to speak to the Petition or Joint Letter at the Council meeting. No member of the public is permitted to speak to the petition when presented at a Council Meeting. Individuals may request to speak or submit a written statement in relation to the petition if a report on the item is considered by Council at a later Meeting.

### To read as follows:

55.15 Petition or Joint letter will be afforded the maximum of three individuals to speak to a Petition or Joint Letter at the Council meeting at which it is presented.

- a) Each speaker may address the Council not in excess of two minutes
- b) Individuals wishing to speak must submit a request to speak no later than 12pm on the day of the Council meeting through the procedures and e-form published on the council website.
- c) The opportunity to speak is not contingent on the Petition or Joint letter being the subject of a Council report at a future meeting.

Recommendation 2: Adopt a similar Hobson Bay City Council 2020 Governance rule 13.1.19 which would read as follows:

Council will offer a supplementary Public Question Time at the end of the agenda, before confidential matters on the agenda. The members of the public in attendance at the meeting have the opportunity to ask written questions via the chair of the Council about matters that were discussed during the meeting to which a response will be provided at the time.

These recommendations facilitate for its citizens exceptionalism in Local Government Governance.

### **OFFICER COMMENT**

The City of Port Philip are reviewing the Governance Rules to enhance the overall effectiveness of decision making and meeting procedures at the City of Port Phillip.

The draft Governance Rules are currently seeking community feedback via Council's <u>Have Your Say Page</u> from 7 July to 3 August 2025.

The City of Port Phillip is recognised for having some of the highest levels of community engagement and public involvement in Council meetings across the local government sector. This



strong participation enriches our democratic processes by ensuring decisions reflect the values and concerns of our community. However, under the current meeting rules, this high level of engagement has led to meetings frequently running overtime. This poses potential risks to the health and safety of attendees and may impact the quality of decision-making.

### Recommendation 1: Amending the proposed rule 55. 15 as it currently reads:

The rationale for permitting only the lead petitioner—or their nominated representative—to speak to a Petition or Joint Letter at a Council meeting applies solely to the initial stage, when the item is formally received and noted by Council. This approach ensures procedural efficiency while still acknowledging community input. When a full response is presented at a subsequent Council meeting, there would be no restriction on the number of public speakers permitted to address that agenda item, allowing broader community engagement.

Council officers workshopped a series of options with Councillors regarding the number of speakers allowed for Petitions and Joint Letters. It was determined that limiting the number to two or three speakers posed challenges in fairly selecting representatives, potentially excluding diverse views. The City of Port Phillip remains committed to ensuring that community feedback is inclusive and representative of the broad range of perspectives within our municipality.

This suggestion will be formally considered alongside feedback received from the community engagement process.

### Recommendation 2: Adopt a similar Hobson Bay City Council 2020 Governance rule 13.1.19 which would read as follows:

Council officers acknowledge the intent behind this recommendation and the emphasis placed on inclusivity, transparency, and public participation. This suggestion will be considered as part of the broader consultation process. All feedback received during the community engagement period will be reviewed and assessed in alignment with legislative requirements, operational feasibility, and Council's strategic objectives.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Petition.
- 2. Thanks the petitioner for their petition, acknowledging their active engagement and commitment to promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability within the City of Port Phillip.
- 3. Notes that a formal response to the Petition will be incorporated with the Governance Rules which are scheduled for Council consideration and endorsement in September 2025.

### ATTACHMENTS Nil



### 7.2 PETITION: PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR STREETS BOUND BY BAY, GRAHAM, BRIDGE AND PRINCES STREETS

A Petition containing 13 signatures, was received from a member of the public.

### The Petition states the following:-

To the Mayor and Councillors of the Port Phillip City Council,

The Petition of the following named citizens draws the attention of the Council kindly request City of Port Phillip Council to review the parking situation, including restrictions, permit zones and non-permit zones for the streets bound by Bay Street, Graham Street, Bridge Street and Princes Street. The current restrictions, permit zones and non-permit zones have not been reviewed to align with the parking permit allocation changes in YR2022 and do not correctly reflect or balance the needs of the community or visitors.

The following petitioners herby request that Permit Zones correctly reflect the areas where individual dwellings have an allocation of parking permits without the option of off street parking. That visitor parking areas be reviewed, between 08:00-18:00, also with a review of timed length of parking.

#### OFFICER COMMENT

Council's Parking Management Policy aims to ensure fair, reliable, and efficient access to parking across the municipality. The policy guides decisions on restrictions, balancing the needs of all users.

Council's process for managing requests such as this one seeking to change parking restrictions is transparent and is informed by community feedback. The steps, outlined on Council's website, are as follows:

#### 1. Requesting a Parking Change

- A request must include the type of restrictions requested and be supported by a signed letter from at least 10% of properties (or 4 properties, whichever is greater),
- A request can only be considered every 18 months
- The request must outline the reasons for the request, the type of change, and include names and addresses of signatories.

### 2. Considering a Parking Change

- Council officers assess the request using parking occupancy data and local feedback.
- If the assessment supports proceeding, a proposal is developed, and a survey may be distributed to affected properties abutting the proposed restrictions.
- For the change to be implemented:
  - A minimum response rate of 10% (or 4 properties whichever is greater) is required.
  - At least 51% of responses must support the proposed change.

### 3. Implementing a Parking Change

The residents and businesses of affected properties will then be advised of Council's decision based on the level of support for the change(s).



### **RECOMMENDATION**

### That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition.
- 2. Thanks the petitioners for their petition.
- 3. As this petition pertains to an operational matter, in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Council refers the petition to the CEO for a response.
- 4. Notes, officers will assess the request in line with Council's parking restriction change process, and Parking Management Policy. Upon completion of this assessment, officers will advise the petition organiser of the outcome and any proposed next steps.

**ATTACHMENTS** 

Nil





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9.1 MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY

**WELLBEING AND INCLUSION** 

PREPARED BY: EWA ZYSK, DIVERSITY. EQUITY & INCLUSION SENIOR ADVISOR

TENEILLE SUMMERS, COORDINATOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND

**INCLUSION** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) Annual Report for 2024/2025.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the MAC is to provide advice and feedback on all issues and opportunities that affect all multicultural communities in the City of Port Phillip.
- 2.2 The Committee was formed in October 2019 and consists of eight residents from diverse backgrounds and representatives of cultural organisations which provides a range of cultural and linguistically diverse voices and experiences. The current members' terms ended on 30 June 2025.
- 2.3 The 2024/2025 Annual Report (Attachment 1) represents the fifth year of activities of the MAC and highlights the breadth and depth of their work and achievements between January 2024 and June 2025 (18 months).
- 2.4 The annual committee report has been developed and endorsed by the MAC, with a message from the Chairperson. The MAC term and membership ended on 30 June 2025.
- 2.5 The recruitment of new members for the MAC has been paused until the Council advisory committee review is completed, in September 2025. This review aims to assess the purpose, effectiveness, and overall impact of all of Council's advisory groups, as well as identifying any gaps that might exist, to ensure advisory committees continue to support Council priorities.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee 2024/2025 Annual Report.
- 3.2 Thanks members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee for their service to the Port Phillip community.
- 3.3 Authorises the CEO or their delegate to make minor editorial amendments that do not substantially alter the content of the report.



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The 2021 Census records that 33.1 per cent of Port Phillip residents were born outside of Australia and 21 per cent speak a language other than English at home (place of usual residence). Further characteristics of Port Phillip's multicultural community include:
  - 4.1.1 The City of Port Phillip is home to people from 164 different identified birthplaces speaking 126 different languages and dialects.
  - 4.1.2 The top five languages spoken at home other than English are Greek, Mandarin, Spanish, Italian and Russian.
  - 4.1.3 The largest non-English country of birth is India with 2.1 per cent (or 2,131 people) which is similar to 2016.
  - 4.1.4 More than 35,000 people born overseas are now living in our municipality. They have brought their many cultures and faiths, stories and experiences, food, and festivals.
- 4.2 The MAC provides a valuable sounding board to Council through community consultation, programming and events, communication, and advocacy.
- 4.3 Their representation in Council's planning, policies and strategies is part of the City of Port Phillip's inclusive practice and aligned to Council's Community Engagement Policy 2021.
- 4.4 The MAC term and membership ended on 30 June 2025.
- 4.5 In 2024, Councillor Rhonda Clarke was appointed to represent Council until August 2024, followed by Councillor Libby Buckingham in 2025.
- 4.6 At the Council meeting on 21 August 2024, Council resolved to extend the terms of the Older Persons Advisory Committee, LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee and MAC to June 2025. Therefore, this report reflects activities for 2024 and the period of extension, until 30 June 2025.
- 4.7 Five members have served on the MAC since it began. Two served for four years and one for three. Their contributions have greatly supported and strengthened Port Phillip's multicultural community.
- 4.8 Highlights of the MAC achievements in 2024/2025 include:
  - 4.8.1 Input into diverse programming for Cultural Diversity Week, and Refugee Week.
  - 4.8.2 Input into a range of Council policies and plans and advocating for translation of key consultation and engagement documents.
  - 4.8.3 The creation of an anti-racism subcommittee in May 2024, as members were concerned about the rise of antisemitism and social cohesion in the municipality.
  - 4.8.4 Feedback into the Plan for Port Phillip and diversity, equity and inclusion priorities in the Plan.
  - 4.8.5 Informing a new Terms of Reference for the MAC and input into the review of Council's Advisory Committees.



- 4.9 The MAC highlighted that an increase in antisemitic incidents and graffiti in the City of Port Phillip highlighted the need for targeted interventions to combat discrimination and promote social cohesion.
- 4.10 After the terrorist attack and fire occurred in the Adass Israel Shule in Ripponlea, key committee members were instrumental in providing information and community intelligence that supported Council in its response and recovery process.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Attachment 1, 2024/2025 Annual Report outlines in more detail the contribution and advice provided to Council by the MAC, along with external parties, on issues impacting multicultural communities in the City of Port Phillip.
- 5.2 The Committee provided specific input into Council policies/plans including the following:
  - 5.2.1 Future South Melbourne South Melbourne Structural Plan
  - 5.2.2 Places to Live: Port Phillip Housing Strategy
  - 5.2.3 Council's Language Services Guidelines
  - 5.2.4 Council Plan and Budget 2024/25 (Year 4)
  - 5.2.5 Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35
  - 5.2.6 Community Safety Plan
- 5.3 General feedback provided to Council included:
  - 5.3.1 The Council must lead with a robust, community-led Multicultural strategy, developed by a specialist consultant and shaped by lived experience.
  - 5.3.2 Racism should be considered as part of the Council's efforts to deepen community and psychological safety for community members. The rise in reported incidents of racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination across Victoria demands a proactive local response.
  - 5.3.3 Community spaces are crucial for fostering inclusivity and positive social interactions within multicultural communities.
  - 5.3.4 Council communications should be inclusive and accessible to all by offering translated materials where feasible, and by ensuring that all messaging is written in plain, clear English that is effective and consistent across all platforms.
  - 5.3.5 Council's community engagement approach should be diverse in nature. A targeted approach is needed especially with community groups that have minimal trust with authorities.

### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no known legal or risk implications.

### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 Council's operational budget makes provision to support the running of the MAC, including administration and light refreshments.



#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 MAC meeting documentation is produced, circulated, and presented digitally.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The MAC provides a direct civic engagement opportunity for the Port Phillip multicultural community. It provides Council and its officers with relevant community views, knowledge, and advice, and builds on its local strengths to keep people informed and connected.
- 9.2 It addresses Council's 'A healthy and connected community and an engaged and empowered community' strategic directions. Through the Committee, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback in its decision-making process. It improves public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in the decision-making process.
- 9.3 It provides community engagement outcomes on issues impacting Council and multicultural communities.
- 9.4 The Annual Report demonstrates community engagement with issues faced by Port Phillip multicultural communities around health, education, public safety, and human rights.
- 9.5 Further to this, it shows engagement with a culturally vibrant community and works to create a sense of belonging and sharing of cultural experiences through events, arts, and storytelling.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 Gender impact assessment is not required for an annual report.

### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The Committee aligns primarily with the Council Directions of A healthy and connected community as well as an engaged and empowered community.

#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

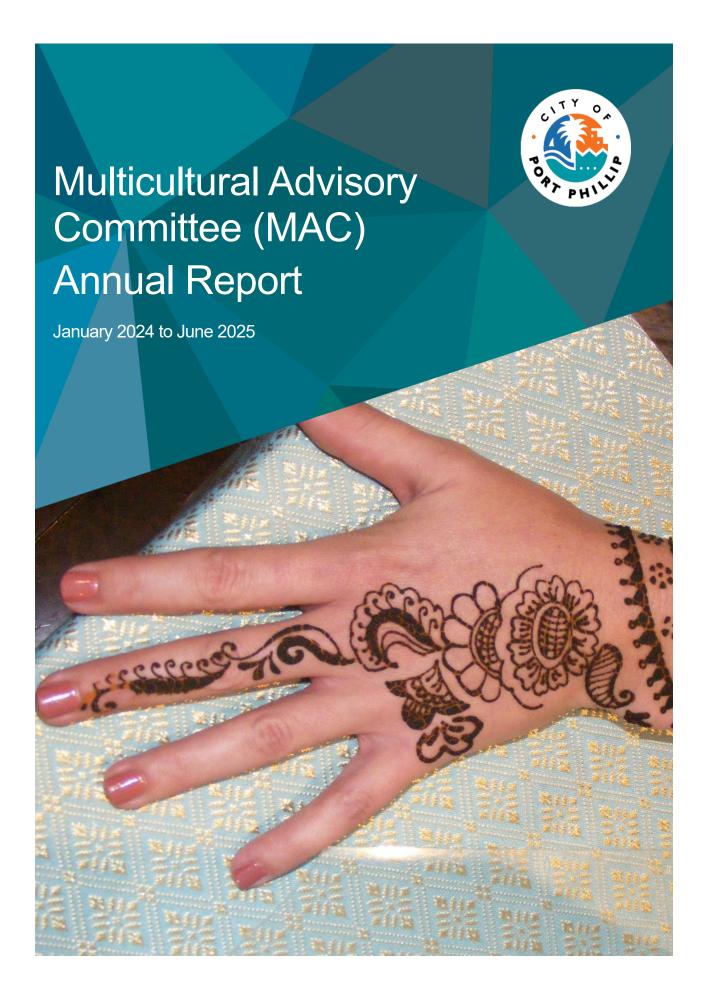
- 12.1 TIMELINE
  - 12.1.1 The MAC annual report will be presented to Council in the 6 August 2025 meeting.
- 12.2 COMMUNICATION.
  - 12.2.1 The outcome of this Council report will be communicated to the Committee and the 2024/2025 Annual Report will be published on the Council website.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. Multicultural Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024-2025 3





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Figure 1: Henna painting at St Kilda library as part of Cultural Diversity week.



### **City of Port Phillip**

99a Carlisle Street St Kilda VIC 3182

Phone: ASSIST 03 9209 6777

Email: portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact-us

Website: portphillip.vic.gov.au



#### Interpreter Services

- 廣東話 (Cantonese) 03 9679 9810
- 普通话 (Mandarin) 03 9679 9858
- Ελληνικά (Greek) 03 9679 9811
- Polski (Polish) 03 9679 9812
- Русский (Russian) 03 9679 9813

For all other languages phone 03 9679 9814



### **National Relay Service**

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can phone us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

TTY users, dial 133677, ask for 03 9209 6777.

Voice Relay users, phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 03 9209 6777.

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Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2024/2025

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### **Acknowledgement of Country**

The City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.



Figure 2: Welcome to City of Port Phillip postcards in different languages, a MAC initiative as part of Cultural Diversity Week 2023.

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# About the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC)

The MAC was appointed by the City of Port Phillip Council in 2019 to assist Council by providing advice and feedback on all issues and opportunities that affect all multicultural communities in the City of Port Phillip.



Figure 3: Members of the City of Port Phillip's Multicultural Advisory Committee as of March 2025. Top left to right: Joshua Goodman, Vasileios Tsialtas, Alex Kats, Hélène Kammoun (Deputy Chair). Bottom left to right: Alba Chliakhtine, James Seow (Chair), Tina Keen, Cr Libby Buckingham.

It also brings matters of concern within the community to the attention of the Council. This includes:

- To represent and advocate on behalf multicultural communities in City of Port Phillip.
- To advise Council on its policies, plans and services that impact our multicultural communities.
- To support the value of Council's membership to The Welcoming Cities Standard the national standard for cultural diversity, and inclusion policy and practice in Local Government.
- To consider and provide advice to Council on key government initiatives, issues, programs and reviews.

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- To assist Council to promote and celebrate the benefits of cultural diversity, social cohesion and inclusion of all residents within City of Port Phillip and beyond.
- To advise Council on its communication, engagement and consultation with multicultural communities.
- To assist Council to celebrate multiculturalism, including Harmony Week, and formally observe the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

#### **Extension of Committee term to June 2025**

This report includes the period January 2024 to June 2025. In 2024, MAC met monthly from March to August, pausing meetings during the Election Period (caretaker) from 17 September until 26 October 2024. In 2025, MAC met bi-monthly from February to June.

At Council meeting on 21 August 2024, a Notice of Motion (NoM) was passed to extend the terms of the Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC), LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee and MAC to June 2025. Therefore, this report reflects activities for 2024 and the period of extension, until 30 June 2025.

# Message from the Chair (James Seow)



Figure 4: MAC chairperson, James Seow.

As I reflect on the insights, skills and lived experience contributed by MAC members to help Council build a more diverse, inclusive and vibrant city, I feel pride in our collective

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accomplishments. This report celebrates the committee's efforts to strengthen multiculturalism, social cohesion and intercultural understanding in the last one and a half years.

From leading an internal study of Welcoming Cities standard to diagnosing local systemic causes of racial prejudice and antisemitism, MAC was diligent in ensuring that the needs and concerns of multicultural communities were heard and acknowledged in local government. Against a backdrop of geopolitical conflict and uncertainty, MAC emphasised the importance of leveraging the strengths and cultural assets of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and international students for the Port Phillip community to be resilient and to flourish.

We do not live as individuals; we live in relation to others, as parts of a larger system. Honouring the right of equal opportunity, empowering disadvantaged groups with skills and resources to uplift themselves, understanding power and privilege, and advocating for a more just and equitable society are causes MAC holds very close to the heart. These were expressed in the advice and feedback the committee offered to Council in many consultations and reviews, one being the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35.

Understanding the need for a reflexive practice, MAC engaged in learning opportunities to better understand wellbeing challenges in multicultural communities through presentations, forums and workshops. These helped members to clarify knowledge and service gaps, and accordingly finetune MAC's Action Plans.

As you read the report, I hope you are inspired to participate more actively in civic engagement to help your community, particularly those experiencing intersectionality and discrimination, find opportunities for meaningful relationships, personal agency, and fulfilment.

I want to thank all committee members, Councillors, Council staff, and program partners for their dedication and hard work. We could do what we did only because of everyone's support and trust. The pride in our achievements is shared by us all.

### Our multicultural community

The 2021 Census records that 33.1 per cent of Port Phillip's residents were born outside of Australia and 21 per cent speak a language other than English at home (place of usual residence). Further characteristics of Port Phillip's multicultural community include:

 The City of Port Phillip is home to people from 164 different birthplaces speaking 126 different languages and dialects.

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- The top five languages spoken at home other than English are Greek, Mandarin, Spanish, Italian and Russian.
- The largest non-English country of birth is India with 2.1 per cent (or 2,131 people) which is similar to 2016.
- More than 35,000 people born overseas are now living in our municipality.
- Between 2011 and 2016, the number of people residing in Port Phillip who were born overseas increased by 11.9 per cent. The largest proportion were aged between 25- and 39-years old arriving on skilled and family stream visas.
- People aged 60 years and older make up 18 per cent of the resident population of City of Port Phillip. 44 per cent of residents aged 60 years and older were born overseas.
   Excluding English, the most common languages spoken at home were Greek, Russian, Italian and Polish.
- The City of Glen Eira is home to one of the largest Jewish communities in Victoria with 25,585 people. The City of Stonnington is next with 4,523 people, followed by Port Phillip (3,408). A large percentage of the community infrastructure is in Port Phillip.
- Census data shows that City of Port Phillip is trending towards becoming more culturally diverse over the past two Census periods, 26.9 percent in 2006 and now 33.1 percent born overseas. This trend is predicted to continue.

### Policy context

MAC plays an important role in ensuring equity is upheld and that Council is meeting the diverse needs of our community in its policy and practice. Additionally, the work of the Committee is in line with best practice in terms of international, National, State and Local policies.

International	Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), UNESCO				
	<ul> <li>Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), United Nations</li> </ul>				
National	<ul> <li>Australian Human Rights Commission Act (1986), Parliament of Aus</li> </ul>				
	(Makes discrimination for reason of race unlawful)				
	Racial Discrimination Act (1975), Parliament of Australia (Enshrines				
	equity in law, regardless of race, national or ethnic background)				
	<ul> <li>The People of Australia – Australia's Multicultural Policy (2013),</li> </ul>				
	Commonwealth of Australia (Commits the Australian government to				
	respond to the needs of CALD communities).				
	<ul> <li>Multicultural Access and Equity Policy (2015), Commonwealth of</li> </ul>				
	Australia (Guides equitable access to government services)				
	National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy (2012), Australian Human				
	Rights Commission (Aims to increase awareness and improve anti-				
	racism practices)				
	Services for All: Promoting Access and Equity in Local Government				
	(undated), Australian Local Government Association (Access and equity				
	practice resource for local governments)				

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State	Multicultural Victoria Act (2011), Parliament of Victoria (A framework of authors in a principle)				
	<ul> <li>cultural diversity principles)</li> <li>Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities (2006), Parliament of Victoria (Provides a mechanism to measure actions and decisions made by an organisation)</li> <li>Racial and Religious Tolerance Act (2001), Parliament of Victoria (Make)</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>it illegal to vilify anyone on the grounds of race or religion)</li> <li>Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (2010) (Holistically protects people's rights to equal opportunities)</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>Victoria's Advantage: Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Policy (A whole of government commitment to culturally diverse communities with details on objectives and commitments)</li> </ul>				
Local	MAV Statement of Commitment to Cultural Diversity (2012), Municipal Association Victoria (Outlines the commitment and support the MAV provides to local government actions to positively influencing cultural diversity)				
	<ul> <li>Local Government Act (Outlines the role and responsibilities of Local Governments in Victoria)</li> </ul>				
City of Port Phillip	City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2021-2031 (Strategic Direction one, Inclusive Port Phillip)				
i iiiiip	<ul> <li>Health and Well-being Plan</li> <li>Child Safe Standards (Standard 5: Equity is upheld, and diverse needs</li> </ul>				
	respected in policy and practice)				

### MAC membership 2024/2025

The Committee membership aims to reflect the diversity of the City of Port Phillip, including representatives from established communities, newly emerging communities, people seeking asylum, former refugees, and older and young people. To be eligible, Committee members must work in, or be a resident of, the City of Port Phillip and need to be able to demonstrate:

- Community networks and linkages within local multicultural, refugee or asylum seeker communities.
- A good knowledge and understanding of the local issues that are of relevance to our
  multicultural communities and a commitment to multiculturalism, and the strengthening of a
  diverse community that encourages the participation and inclusion of all residents.
- An ability to represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of the community.
- An ability to facilitate, negotiate and influence outcomes and resolve conflict.

In 2024, Councillor Rhonda Clarke was appointed to represent Council until August 2024, followed by Councillor Libby Buckingham in 2025. James Seow was elected Chair in December 2023 with Hélène Kammoun as Deputy Chair throughout 2024 and 2025.

In 2024/2025, the following community members sat on the MAC:

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Current Members	Position
Alba Chliakhtine	Committee member and Chair of Welcoming Cities subcommittee
Alex Kats	Committee member
Tina Keen	Committee member
Altaf Ali Mohammed	Committee member
Vasileios Tsialtas	Committee member
Joshua Goodman	Committee member
Keir Semenov	Committee member (retiring member as of January 2024)
Naomi Sherborne	Committee member (retiring member as of January 2024)
Leonardo Pereira	Committee member (retiring member as of January 2024)
Office Bearers	Position
James Seow	Chair from December 2023
Hélène Kammoun	Deputy Chair (on leave from October 2023 to December 2024) resumed in January 2025.
Council Representative	Ward
Cr Libby Buckingham	Balaclava Ward (from December 2024)
Cr Rhonda Clark	Canal Ward (from May 2023 to August 2024)

### Membership

The MAC terms of reference states that the committee is composed of up to 13 members appointed by Council. In 2024 and 2025, there were eight members active in the committee. Recruitment did not occur in 2024, as originally the term of members was ending September 2024 aligning membership to Council term.

### **Retiring members**

Leonardo Pereira and Naomi Sherborne were on leave from MAC in 2023. In January 2024, they formally submitted their resignation. Keir Semenov submitted his resignation at the start of January 2024.

Council and MAC thank the retiring members for their commitment and the wealth of knowledge and experience they brought to the committee. The retiring members have been exceptional advocates for the needs and aspirations of City of Port Phillip's multicultural communities.

Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee 2024/25 Annual Report

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### **MAC Action Plan**

Each year, MAC develops an annual Action Plan in response to the objectives in its Terms of Reference and aligned to key outcomes in the Council Plan 2021-2031 and the Welcoming Cities Standard.

MAC met in March 2024 and March 2025 to determine its priorities for each year, which included the following:

#### **Priorities 2024**

- Provide advice on key Council policy and frameworks.
- Provide advocacy on key multicultural policies including Welcoming Cities Standard and Multicultural Statement of Commitment.
- Promote intercultural exchange and social connection.
- Build the capacity of the Committee to understand the needs of the local community, including collecting and analysing demographic data to determine the cultural, religious, and linguistic composition of the local community.
- Provide advice to Council about opportunities to increase capacity and skills to engage with a culturally diverse community and respond appropriately and effectively to their needs.

#### **Priorities 2025**

- Provide advice on key Council policy and frameworks.
- Provide advice to Council about opportunities to increase its capacity and skills to engage with a culturally diverse community and respond appropriately and effectively to their
- Promote intercultural exchange and social connections.

These priorities align with the Council Plan Directions of:

- Inclusive: A City that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.
- Vibrant: A City that has a flourishing economy, where our community and local businesses thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne's cultural and creative hubs.
- Well-Governed: A City that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place because of our collective efforts.

#### **Subcommittees and working Groups**

The following MAC working groups/subcommittees were established 2024 and 2025:

- Welcoming Cities sub-committee
- Anti-racism sub-committee

Welcoming Cities subcommittee:

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Current Members	Position
Alba Chliakhtine	Chair of Welcoming Cities subcommittee
Vasileios Tsialtas	Subcommittee member
James Seow	Subcommittee member
Joshua Goodman	Subcommittee member
Hélène Kammoun	Subcommittee member (on leave from October 2023 to December 2024)

#### Anti-racism subcommittee:

Current Members	Position
Joshua Goodman	Chair of Anti-racism subcommittee
Alex Kats	Subcommittee member
James Seow	Subcommittee member
Vasileios Tsialtas	Subcommittee member

### **Welcoming Cities Standards**

Council became a "committed" member of the Welcoming Cities network in 2022. A "committed" local council publicly states their intent to champion the principles of welcoming and inclusion.

Committed local councils join a network of like-minded peers and gain the benefit of support and experience to chart their progress and identify the next steps towards becoming a Welcoming City.

The Standard establishes the framework for local councils to:

- Benchmark their cultural diversity, inclusion policies and practices across the organisation.
- · Identify where and how further efforts could be directed.
- Evaluate progress over time.

The Standard allows Council to assess its current activity against six categories: Leadership, Social and Cultural Inclusion, Economic Development, Learning and Skills Development, Civic Development, and Places and Spaces. MAC incorporated these six categories into its Action Plan alongside the Council Plan Directions.

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# Consultation specific to Council business

Council recognises the value of community committees as noted in the Council Plan: "We will partner with our Older Persons Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee, Multi-Faith Network, LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee and establish other committees, where relevant, to ensure the diversity of our community's experience is represented in decision-making."

The Committee provided input into the following Council documents:

- Future South Melbourne South Melbourne Structural Plan
- Places to Live: Port Phillip Housing Strategy
- Council's Language Services Guidelines
- Council Plan and Budget 2024/25 (Year 4)
- Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35
- · Community Safety Plan

Below are general themes and issues raised by the committee:

- The Council must lead with a robust, community-led multicultural strategy, developed by a
  specialist consultant and shaped by lived experience. This includes in-depth consultations
  with multicultural communities across Port Phillip, ensuring input from newly arrived
  migrants, long-standing ethnic communities, and emerging diaspora groups.
- Prioritise ongoing funding cycles and partnerships to build resilience and sustainability in the multicultural arts sector. Multicultural arts serve as a vehicle for community cohesion, healing, and identity, especially for newer and underrepresented communities.
- Low-cost community spaces are important to multicultural communities especially in
  pockets of high-density housing. Community spaces are crucial for fostering inclusivity and
  positive social interactions within multicultural communities. They provide settings for
  shared experiences; help break down social barriers and allow for the celebration of diverse
  cultures while also creating spaces for interaction.
- Affordable, secure housing is foundational to community cohesion. This is particularly true
  for multicultural communities, migrants, and refugees who face additional barriers to stable
  housing. New migrants frequently take low-paying jobs, making it difficult to afford housing
  in high-demand areas. Due to affordability constraints, new migrants often live in highdensity housing, which can further exacerbate challenges with space and privacy. Public
  housing, which is designed to be affordable, often houses a large proportion of individuals
  from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Racism should be considered as part of the Council's efforts to deepen community and
  psychological safety for community members. The rise in reported incidents of racism,
  antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination across Victoria demands a
  proactive local response. Targeted education campaigns, anti-racism training, and inclusive
  programming that reaches all corners of the community, including schools, workplaces, and

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public institutions must be implemented. Investment must prioritise programs co-designed with multicultural communities that address both immediate safety concerns (e.g. hate speech and harassment) and longer-term social inclusion needs.

- Council's community engagement approach should be diverse in nature. A targeted
  approach is needed especially with community groups that have minimal trust with
  authorities. Community safety is about fostering trust, connectedness, and civic
  participation. Well-funded, locally tailored cohesion programs build neighbourhood
  resilience, strengthen social ties, and help prevent marginalisation that can lead to isolation
  or radicalisation,
- It is important that Council commits to making its communication accessible to everyone by
  providing translated materials where possible and ensuring that all external communication
  is written in simple, clear English that is impactful and consistent across different platforms.
- · Council's language services should be streamlined and accessible for the residents.
- Funding outcomes should be reviewed annually in consultation with MAC and community
  representatives to ensure desired impacts such as tangible safety outcomes (e.g. reduced
  incidents of discrimination) and positive subjective experiences (e.g., increased sense of
  belonging, trust in local institutions) are measured, reported and published.

### Welcoming Cities Subcommittee

The Welcoming Cities subcommittee supports the Council's progress towards the Welcoming Cities Standard, the national standard for cultural diversity, and inclusion policy and practice in local government to create communities where everyone can belong.

Figure 8 indicates the categories to be addressed at each level of accreditation. Council is a "committed" member. The subcommittee has been investigating opportunities for future advice to Council in working towards become an "established" member.

<b>(A)</b>		A	<b>(A)</b>	A
Committed	Established	Advanced	Excelling	Mentoring
Council signed on to	1. Leadership	1. Leadership	1. Leadership	Excelling, plus
be a member of the Welcoming Cities Network		2. Social & Cultural Inclusion	2. Social & Cultural Inclusion	approval by Advisory Committee
Network		3. Economic Development	3. Economic Development	
			4. Learning & Skills Development	
			5. Civic Development	
			6. Places & Spaces	

Figure 5: Welcoming Cities categories.

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In 2024, the subcommittee met six times and developed a "Welcoming Cities roadmap". This document provides recommendations for Council to consider in 2025 and beyond. It also contains an overview of the exploration work completed by the subcommittee. A high-level project plan was developed to illustrate how Welcoming Cities can intersect with existing Council initiatives.

Below is a summary of key recommendations for Council:

#### Initial steps for consideration:

- Understanding the Council aspirations of being a Welcoming Cities Network member, and benefits of achieving accreditation against the Welcoming Cities Standards.
- Exploring and understanding the resources required for Council to embark on this work.
- Exploring the role that MAC can play in influencing and advocating for Welcoming Cities.
- A second self-assessment against the Welcoming Cities Standards could occur, in view of the Welcoming Cities Standards update in May 2024. The Council could identify and address gaps with MAC and incorporate actions into future plans and frameworks.

In 2025, the subcommittee advocated for a Multicultural Strategy to be formed within the municipality. The subcommittee decided that this strategy would form the basis and rationale for the Welcoming Cities accreditation to be championed.

### Anti-racism Subcommittee

In May 2024, MAC members raised concerns about the rise of antisemitism and social cohesion in the municipality. An increase in antisemitic incidents and graffiti in City of Port Phillip highlighted the need for targeted interventions to combat hate crimes and promote social cohesion. MAC formed the anti-racism subcommittee to better understand the local context. The subcommittee met three times before the caretaker period.

In December 2024, a terrorist attack and fire occurred in the Adass Israel Shule in Ripponlea. Shortly after, Council unanimously passed a motion to express solidarity with the Jewish community. Key committee members were instrumental in providing information and community intelligence that supported Council in its response and recovery process.

# MAC activities, capacity building and engagement

In the 2024 and 2025, MAC members identified a need to strengthen members' capacity to understand the needs of the local community, including collecting and analysing demographic data to determine the cultural, religious, and linguistic composition of the local community

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Figure 6: MAC members with Cr Rhonda Clark at the end-of-year celebration dinner. Left to right: Joshua Goodman, Hélène Kammoun, Vasileios Tsialtas, Cr Rhonda Clark, James Seow, and Alex Kats.

### **Welcoming Cities Symposium 2024**

The Welcoming Cities Symposium occurred in Brisbane from 30 April to 2 May 2024. Alex Kats, Alba Chliakhtine, Vasileios Tsialtas and James Seow attended a live streaming on the first day of the symposium to gather insights to inform MAC's work

### Understanding the needs and challenges of Port Phillip's multicultural communities

In May and June 2024, the committee participated in discussions and a presentation to learn more about the rise of antisemitism locally. In July 2024, MAC members analysed demographic data to better understand City of Port Phillip's cultural, religious, age, gender and linguistic composition. The committee was committed to adopting a continual learning and reflective practice to identify gaps in knowledge and practice so that it could highlight to Council the needs and concerns of intersectional groups.

### Diverse Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework and Blueprint for Action (Department of Health)

In July 2024, Adriana Ridzwan (Senior Policy Officer, Diverse Communities) from Department of Health presented information on the Diverse Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework and Blueprint for Action. The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System found that the current mental health system is not responsive to the needs of Victorians from multicultural, LGBTIQ+ and disability backgrounds. The Framework is a long-term strategy for recreating a more equitable system that responds to the needs of diverse communities.

#### A Community Response to the Multicultural Framework Review

James Seow participated in this forum on 21 August 2024 organised by Polaron Connect and Myriad Kofkin Global. This event provided a much-needed opportunity for multicultural organisations, leaders and community members to share their views on the Multicultural Framework Review released by the Australian Government. There were panel discussions on multicultural and community leadership, and national languages policy. Expectations of a National Multicultural Commission, what multicultural leaders could do to strengthen diversity, and the system barriers to change were also covered in breakout discussions.

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#### Launch of the Victorian Antisemitism Report 2023

James Seow, Joshua Goodman and Alex Kats attended the launch of the 2023 Victorian Antisemitism Report on 26 August 2024. The report highlights the 364 antisemitic incidents in 2023. This was the highest recorded in a calendar year compared to 2018-2022 and surpassed the total number of incidents combined in the preceding three years.

#### **Mapping Social Cohesion Report 2024**

Vasileios Tsialtas attended the online launch of the Mapping Social Cohesion Report 2024 on 19 November 2024. This report presents findings from the latest Scanlon Mapping Social Cohesion Survey. The report builds on the knowledge gained through the sixteen earlier national surveys (2007, and 2009 to 2023).

#### Advisory Committee Engagement on the Plan for Port Phillip

Vasileios Tsialtas and Alba Chliakhtine joined a workshop on 4 December 2024 designed specifically for members of Council's Advisory Committees. Together with other participants, they were consulted on the Council's 10-year Community Vision and priorities in the coming four years. Their valuable feedback informed the development of the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2029, a crucial document in guiding the Council's strategies and actions.

#### **Victorian Multicultural Review**

Alex Kats attended a consultation at Glen Eira Council on the 28 May 2025 to provide community feedback on the Victorian Multicultural Review. The review is part of the Victorian Government's efforts to examine multicultural mechanisms that:

- · deliver their legislated/agreed functions and objectives
- address and prevent racism and discrimination
- · promote community harmony and reject division in the context of local and global events
- rebuild interfaith dialogue
- · address local issues and community crises in a timely and strategic way
- engage the broader Victorian community in matters relating to social cohesion



Figure 7: James Seow (MAC chair) with the Older Persons Advisory Committee Chair, Wendy Priddle, and LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Chair, Ange Barry.

Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2024/2025

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Figure 8: James Seow and Joshua Goodman at the launch of the Victorian Antisemitism Report 2023.

### Multicultural and events

Cultural Diversity Week (March) and Refugee Week (June) are two significant celebrations in the multicultural calendar. In 2002, the City of Port Phillip declared itself a Refugee Welcome Zone in support of the Refugee Council of Australia campaign. This declaration formed a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community.

Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities. 21 March is the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day reminds us that while celebrating multiculturalism is vital, so too is supporting and advocating on behalf of multicultural communities. The celebration of this week and the 21 March aligns with Council's Statement of Commitment to culturally, linguistically, religiously and ethnically diverse communities.

MAC provided creative ideas and helpful feedback to enhance programming. Members also actively attended events and participated as speakers or emcees.

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### **Cultural Diversity Week 2024**

James' story - connecting through food

Port Phillip resident and Chair of our Multicultural Advisory Committee, James, shares his story with us and talks about how food can bring people and communities together.



The theme for 2024, "Our Shared Stories – Celebrating Together", invites the community to reflect on individual experiences and recognise how each story has the potential to create shared connections and understanding. Council delivered five community events that were attended by 1317 residents. MAC members attended many of these events:

Figure 9: James Seow in Smartphone Stories and a Council's social media campaign for Cultural Diversity Week 2024.

- Diverse library programming which included a local author talk by George Kyriakou, and a classical Indian musical performance by Vinod and Anubrata.
- Cultural Diversity Week family event at St Kilda library, an afternoon of family-friendly
  activities celebrating our community's diverse cultures, including Cool Capoeira and craft
  activities with Space 2b.
- A community-led event, "Let's celebrate our diverse city", on 19 March 2024 in which 18 of our city's multicultural seniors groups come together to host a spectacular afternoon filled with stories, music, food, art, and movement.
- Welcome to Diversity Week Walk at Station Pier celebrated the inclusive multicultural heritage of Port Phillip and followed the immigration trail starting from Station Pier where many ancestors began their journey in Australia.

James Seow emceed the "Let's celebrate our diverse city" event. James was also featured in a video as part of Council's social media campaign promoting Cultural Diversity Week. The video was an outcome of a Smartphone Stories project that MAC had planned for in 2022. Smartphone Stories is a fun, hands-on interactive project that teaches participants to tell their stories with self-made videos.

Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee

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Figure 10: James Seow, Cr Peter Martin and Alba Chliakhtine at the "Let's celebrate our diverse city" event during Cultural Diversity Week 2024.

### **Cultural Diversity Week 2025**

The theme "Embrace the Journey, Shape Our Future" highlighted the unique and shared cultural journeys that defined our diverse communities. It encouraged us to honour our own cultural stories and those of others, and fostered understanding, belonging and connection. Council's commitment to social cohesion and an inclusive Port Phillip was reinforced during the celebration.

### Campfire Stories - Celebrating stories of our community

Council invited community to come together for an evening of storytelling at Campfire Stories at St Kilda Library on 20 March 2025. First Nations speakers and inspiring local voices shared personal journeys of migration, resilience, and belonging. More than 50 residents attended the event.

The event started with First Nations stories, acknowledging that in multicultural Australia, this is the first story that should be told. This included a welcome by Uncle Mark Brown and Kelly Lehmann from Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, a conversation with Elder Judith Jackson, and original poems by Uncle Den Fisher.

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Hosted by DJ and TV personality Miss Katalyna, the event featured Noè Harsel, CEO of the Jewish Museum of Australia; Rohini Vij, a Hindi educator and storyteller; and author George Kyriakou. James Seow joined the panel in his capacity as community leader and MAC Chair. Alba Chliakhtine, Vasileios Tsialtas and Alex Kats attended the event on behalf of MAC.



Figure 11: Campfires Stories to mark Cultural Diversity Week 2025. Left to right: James Seow, George Kyriakou, Miss Katalyna, Noè Harsel and Rohini Vij.

# Reporting racism, marking March 21, the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

To mark the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Council in partnership with MAC developed community resources on how to respond to racism and antisemitism locally. These resources are available on Council's website, with information on how

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to report to the Police, and seek legal assistance and emotional support. This information was distributed to key Council networks. This raised local community awareness of racism, human

rights, reporting pathways, and support services. This day reminded the community that while celebrating multiculturalism is vital, so too is supporting and advocating on behalf of multicultural communities.



Figure 3: Campfire Stories speakers: James Seow, Noè Harsel, Rohini Vij, Miss Katalyna, Elder Judith Jackson, Uncle Den Fisher and George Kyriakou.

### Refugee Week 2024

The 2024 Refugee Week theme was "Finding Freedom" with a focus on family. Park Towers Housing Community Hub hosted a community-led event filled with food, music, dance, and sports.t. This event was co-designed by a resident of Park Towers and supported by Space 2b Social Design and various Council departments. Highlights of the event include:

- A performance by the Russian Choir "Lotus".
- A cooking demonstration by a local resident of Park Towers showcasing Eritrean cuisine.
- Interactive family-focussed activities led by Artbus and Council's Library Children's and Youth Service.
- A basketball clinic by a local young resident who is an upcoming basketball player.

City of Port Phillip Multicultural Advisory Committee 2024/25 Annual Report

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Over 51 per cent of tenants of Park Towers are from multicultural background. Many have a refugee experience, fleeing from countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Eritrea. Alba Chliakhtine and Vasileios Tsialtas attended the event with local residents as a sign of solidarity and support.

#### Refugee Week 2025

"Finding Freedom: Diversity in community" was the theme for 2025. MAC members emphasised the need to incorporate local experience and stories into the celebration. Port Phillip libraries collaborated with Grandmothers for Refugees to host a community event, A Conversation with Grandmothers for Refugees, at St Kilda Library. A panel of grandmothers shared their experience in supporting and speaking for refugee rights.

To commemorate World Refugee Day 2025, St Kilda Town Hall was lit up in light blue from 20 to 21 June. While there is no universally recognised colour for World Refugee Day, the UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) light blue logo is widely associated with the day. To affirm Council's commitment as a Refugee Welcome Zone, Council's "Refugees Welcome Here" banners were displayed at customer service counters during the week.

## Acknowledgement

This report was prepared and endorsed by the Multicultural Advisory Committee on 10 June 2025.

James Seow

Chairperson

Multicultural Advisory Committee

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9.2 LGBTIQA+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-

2025

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY

**WELLBEING AND INCLUSION** 

PREPARED BY: KATE GREENWOOD, SOCIAL POLICY AND GENDER EQUITY

**ADVISOR** 

TENEILLE SUMMERS, COORDINATOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND

**INCLUSION** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the City of Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2024-2025.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee is to provide advice and feedback to Council on matters that affect LGBTIQA+ residents, businesses and community members who live, work and visit the City.
- 2.2 Council endorsed the establishment of an LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee in April 2021, with inaugural Committee members appointed in December 2021. The Committee provided advice to Council on the implementation of the City of Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, on policies, plans and services that impact LGBTIQA+ communities, and in relation to effective communication, engagement and consultation with LGBTIQA+ communities.
- 2.3 The 2024-2025 Annual Report (attachment 1) represents the third full financial year of activities of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, highlighting the breadth and depth of their work and achievements.
- 2.4 The Annual Report has been developed by Council Officers in consultation with the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, with the Committee's endorsement. The current LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee term and membership ended on 30 June 2025.
- 2.5 The recruitment of new members for the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committees has been paused until the Council advisory committee review is completed, in September 2025. This review aims to assess the purpose of all of Council's Advisory Committees, effectiveness, and overall impact, as well as identifying any gaps that might exist, to ensure advisory committees continue to support Council priorities.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the City of Port Phillip's LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee 2024-2025 Annual Report.
- 3.2 Thanks the LGBTIA+ Advisory Committee members for their service to the Port Phillip community.
- 3.3 Authorises the CEO or their delegate to make minor editorial amendments that do not substantially alter the content of the report.



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Council has a proud history of supporting and championing the contribution of LGBTIQA+ communities to the social, economic and cultural life of the City.
- 4.2 The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee provides a valuable pathway for engagement with LGBTIQA+ communities in Port Phillip, allowing for effective community consultation, communication and advocacy. The Committee's representation in Council's planning, policies and strategies, including in the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, is part of Council's inclusive practice and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- 4.3 In 2024-2025, there were six community members who were active on the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee all of whom joined the Committee at its inception in December 2021.
- 4.4 Councillor Robbie Nyaguy and Councillor Peter Martin were the Councillor representatives on the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee until Council elections in October 2024. Following Council elections, Councillor Serge Thomann was appointed as the new Councillor representative from December 2024.
- 4.5 The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee held three meetings in 2024-2025, in August 2024, April 2025 and June 2025.
- 4.6 The current LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee term and membership ended on 30 June 2025.
- 4.7 Key highlights of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee's achievements in 2024-2025 include:
  - 4.7.1 Input into the Community Safety Plan, Sport and Recreation Strategy and LGBTIQA+ Library programming and events.
  - 4.7.2 Ongoing feedback on Council's response to the 21 June 2023 Notice of Motion regarding the safe delivery of LGBTIQA+ events and programs.
  - 4.7.3 Feedback into the Plan for Port Phillip 2025 to 2025 and diversity, equity and inclusion priorities in the Plan.
  - 4.7.4 Informing a new Terms of Reference for the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee and input into the review of Council's Advisory Committees.
  - 4.7.5 Review and approval of City of Port Phillip's LGBTIQA+ Action Plan progress reporting and mid-term report that was provided to Council in March 2025.
  - 4.7.6 Contributions to ongoing discussions around inclusive public infrastructure, including advocacy for all-gender toilets, rainbow flag protocol and the safe delivery of LGBTIQA+ events and programs.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee was comprised of up to six community members during the year 2024 to 2025.
- 5.2 In 2024 to 2025, the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee provided specific input into the following Council policies, plans and programs:
  - 5.2.1 LGBTIQA+ Action Plan
  - 5.2.2 Community Safety Plan



- 5.2.3 Sport and Recreation Strategy
- 5.2.4 LGBTIQA+ Library programming and events
- 5.2.5 Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and Review
- 5.3 The Annual Report (in Attachment 1) has been approved by LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee members at their June 2025 meeting.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no known legal or risk implications.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 Council's operational budget makes provision to support the running of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, including administration and light refreshments.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee meeting documentation in 2024/25 was produced, circulated and presented digitally.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee provides a direct civic engagement opportunity for the Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ community. It provides Council and its officers with relevant community views, knowledge and advice, and builds on its local strengths to keep people informed and connected.
- 9.2 Through the Committee, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback in its decision-making process. It improves public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in the decision-making process.
- 9.3 It provides community engagement outcomes on issues impacting Council and LGBTIQA+ communities.
- 9.4 The Annual Report demonstrates community engagement with issues faced by our LGBTIQA+ communities around safe and inclusive events, discrimination and human rights.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 Gender impact assessment is not required for an annual report.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 The work of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee aligns primarily with Council's Strategic Direction of a Healthy and Connected Community Our City is a welcoming place that champions and embraces diversity. It also contributes to 'An Engaged and Empowered Community' Our Council actively engages the community.
- 11.2 The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee contributed to the design and development of City of Port Phillip's first LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023 to 2026 and continued to provide advice and guidance to support its implementation until the end of its term in June 2025.

#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE



12.1.1 The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee annual report will be presented to Council in the 6 August 2025 meeting.

#### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 The annual report has been shared with, discussed and approved by, the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee in June 2025. Following the Council meeting in August 2025, it will be made available to the public on Council's website, on both the LGBTIQA+ Community webpage and the Delegated and Advisory Committee's webpage.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Annual Report July 2024 to June 2025



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Figure 1: The City of Port Phillip's Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on 28 January 2025.



#### City of Port Phillip

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Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee 2024-25 Annual Report

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## **Acknowledgement of Country**

The City of Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

## About the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee was appointed by the City of Port Phillip in 2021 as part of its ongoing commitment to its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Asexual (LGBTIQA+) communities. The Committee provides advice and feedback to Council on matters that affect LGBTIQA+ residents, businesses and community members who live, work and visit the City. It steered the development of Council's first LGBTIQA+ Action Plan and continues to assist in its implementation.

The Committee's objectives include providing advice to Council:

- On the implementation of the City of Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.
- On policies, plans and services that impact LGBTIQA+ communities.
- On matters affecting the needs, interests and wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ communities, including advocacy to other levels of government.
- On matters that affect LGBTIQA+ residents, businesses, creative organisations and community groups who live, work and visit the City.
- In relation to effective communication, engagement and consultation with LGBTIQA+ communities.
- On any other matters referred to the Committee by Council.

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# Message from the Chair and Deputy Chair

It's been another transformative year for the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, one marked by purpose, partnership, and persistence. As a group of passionate community members and advocates, we've continued to hold space for diverse lived experiences — ensuring that the voices of LGBTIQA+ people across the City of Port Phillip are not just heard, but actively shape Council decision-making.

Throughout 2024–25, we've helped guide the implementation of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, offering feedback on community safety, inclusive libraries programming, and Council's engagement practices. We've advocated for inclusive design, celebrated our culture and history, and strengthened Council's awareness of the nuanced needs of queer communities — especially those at the intersections of age, ability, race, faith, and gender identity.

The Committee also played a key role in influencing emerging strategic directions, including the commitment to establish a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework and the longer-term vision for the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan beyond 2026. We were active participants in shaping inclusive public space, sport and recreation strategies, and ensuring safety and visibility were embedded into Council planning.

Importantly, we have done this while continuing to reflect on our own terms of reference and future — advocating for consistency, transparency, and community representation as part of Council's governance review.

We want to sincerely thank the Council officers and staff who continue to support our work — especially the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team — and acknowledge the commitment of Councillors who champion our inclusion efforts at every level.

As this Committee enters a new chapter, we do so with pride in what's been achieved — and clarity about what's still to come. There is more to do, but together, we are building a city that truly champions, protects and celebrates the full diversity of our communities.

Ange Barry (Chair) 2024

Felicity McIntosh (Deputy Chair) 2024-2025

Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee 2024-25 Annual Report

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### **Our LGBTIQA+ Communities**

The City of Port Phillip has a proud history of supporting and championing the contribution of LGBTIQA+ communities which enriches the life of the City. It has been the home of the annual Midsumma Pride March down Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, since it began in 1996. In the same year, Council made a Statement of Commitment to its LGBTIQ community (prior to usage of the "A+" in the acronym), to support and recognise its significant LGBTIQ populations and their significant contribution to the City's economic, cultural and social development.

In 2021, the Victorian Pride Centre opened in St Kilda, as Australia's first purpose-built LGBTIQA+ centre. The Pride Centre serves as a hub for LGBTIQA+ groups and organisations to share ideas and resources and to further their work in supporting diversity, equity and inclusion across Victoria.

Precise data relating to the number of LGBTIQA+ people in Port Phillip is limited by the information collected through the national Census of Population and Housing undertaken every five years. It is hoped that enhanced information will become available through the 2026 Census.

Despite the progress that has been made for LGBTIQA+ inclusion in recent decades, LGBTIQA+ communities continue to face discrimination and marginalisation, as well as barriers to accessing services. These issues contribute to LGBTIQA+ people experiencing disproportionately poorer health and wellbeing outcomes than others in the community.

The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee was established to use their lived experience, expertise, and knowledge of local diverse LGBTIQA+ communities to ensure Port Phillip continues to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for LGBTIQA+ communities, where people of all backgrounds and ages can thrive.

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Figure 2: The St Kilda Town Hall lit up in rainbow to recognise IDAHOBIT on 17 May 2025.

## **Policy Context**

#### **LGBTIQA+ Action Plan**

The City of Port Phillip's first LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023-26, steered by Council's LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, was endorsed on 19 July 2023. It identifies opportunities for Council to recognise the needs and aspirations for LGBTIQA+ people in the municipality and guides Council decisions about its role in embedding LGBTIQA+ inclusion. The Plan contains 39 actions for Council to implement that focus on its five key roles as a service provider, ally, leader, consumer and workplace. The LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee played a key role in the Action Plan's development and continues to assist in its implementation and reporting.

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**Table 1:** Relevant Policy and Legislation relating to LGBTIQA+ discrimination, inclusion and the Committee's work in pursuing best practice

Federal	<ul> <li>Disability Discrimination Act 1992, which makes it unlawful to</li> </ul>	
	discriminate against a person because of their disability.	
State	Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, which sets out	
	the basic rights, freedoms and responsibilities of all people in Victoria.	
	Equal Opportunity Act 2010, which aims to make public life free from	
	discrimination, sexual harassment and victimisation.	
	Gender Equality Act 2020, which places obligations on public sector	
	entities to plan, measure and track progress to improve gender equality.	
	<ul> <li>Local Government Act 2020, which outlines the role and responsibilities</li> </ul>	
	of local governments in Victoria.	
	<ul> <li>Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQA+ strategy 2022-32, Victoria's first</li> </ul>	
	whole-of-government LGBTIQA+ strategy that provides the vision and	
	plan to drive equality and inclusion for Victoria's diverse LGBTIQA+	
	communities within all aspects of government work over the next decade.	
	Rainbow Ready roadmap for local government – A guide for local	
	governments to become more LGBTIQA+ inclusive and deliver on their	
	commitment to drive LGBTIQA+ inclusion through Victoria's whole-of-	
	government LGBTIQA+ strategy.	
City of Port	Accessibility Action Plan 2023 to 2025	
Phillip	Gender Equality Action Plan 2022 to 2025	
	Council Plan 2021 to 2031	
	LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023 to 2026	
	Positive Ageing Policy 2023 to 2027	
	Reconciliation Action Plan 3, 2025 to 2028	
	Welcoming Cities commitment (signed in 2022)	
	, , ,	

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# LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Membership 2024-25

The Committee membership aims to reflect the diversity of LGBTIQA+ communities in Port Phillip. When recruitment occurred in 2021, the selection criteria required nominees to work, study or reside in the City of Port Phillip. As far as practicable, the composition of community members was sought to reflect the diversity within LGBTIQA+ communities.

Members were selected on the basis of their:

- · Identification as LGBTIQA+
- · Capacity to consult with the LGBTIQA+ community and represent a wide range of views
- Understanding of the needs of the LGBTIQA+ community
- Capability to analyse information and provide advice on issues affecting the LGBTIQA+ community.

Following this selection process, Council appointed eleven members to the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference allowed for up to two Councillor representatives to sit on the Committee. Councillor Martin and Councillor Copsey were the inaugural Councillor representatives. In March 2023, Councillor Nyaguy was appointed as a new Councillor representative following Councillor Copsey's election to State Parliament, and Councillor Martin was reappointed to the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, where they remained until the Council elections in October 2024. Following the Council elections, Councillor Thomann was appointed as the Councillor representative from December 2024.

The Terms of Reference also provided for a Chair and Deputy Chair to be appointed from among its members. Liam McAuliffe served as the inaugural Chair for two terms until March 2024, with Ange Barry being elected as the next Chair until her retirement in November 2024. Shaun Williams served as the inaugural Deputy Chair until retiring in December 2023, with Felicity McIntosh being elected Deputy Chair from May 2024.

Under the original Council resolution on 1 December 2021, Committee members were appointed until the end of the Council term in 2024. The last meeting of the Committee was therefore to be held in August 2024 before the start of the caretaker period. However, on 21 August 2024, Council passed a Notice of Motion extending the term of three Advisory Committees, including the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, to 30 June 2025, to enable members to take part in engagement for development of the new Council Plan and budget.

This unexpected extension to the Committee exacerbated some difficulties with declining membership and participation post August 2024, as recruitment for new members to the Committee was not to occur until after June 2025. Despite these hurdles, the Committee managed to convene, with some invited guests, for its final two meetings in April and June 2025.

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**Table 2:** Community members, officer bearers and Council representatives on the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee in 2024-25.

Member	Position
Justine Dalla Riva	Committee member from December 2021 until retirement in August 2024
James Seow	Committee member from December 2021
Liam McAuliffe	Committee member from December 2021 and Inaugural Chair
Dianne Toulson	Committee member from December 2021
Ange Barry	Committee member from December 2021 until retirement in November 2024
Felicity McIntosh	Committee member from December 2021
Office Bearers	Position
Ange Barry	Chair from March 2024 until retirement in November 2024
Felicity McIntosh	Deputy Chair from May 2024
Council Representative	Ward
Cr Peter Martin	Gateway Ward, until elections in October 2024
Cr Robbie Nyaguy	Lake Ward, until elections in October 2024
Cr Serge Thomann	St Kilda Ward, from December 2024

#### **Acknowledging Former Members and Office Bearers**

Council and the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee thank the following retired members for bringing their commitment, knowledge and experience to the Committee. Their activism and passion for supporting LGBTIQA+ communities was invaluable.

- Katie Lockett
- David Demmer
- Rebeckah Loveday
- Coco Dwyer
- Shaun Williams, former Deputy Chair

Additionally, Council and the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee would like to thank Felicity McIntosh for taking on the Deputy Chair role since March 2024. Her proactive and steady leadership has been greatly appreciated over this time.

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Figure 3: LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee members, officers and guests at the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee meeting in June 2025.

From left to right: Josh Hernandez (Guest), Felicity McIntosh (Deputy Chair), Cr Serge Thomann (Councillor), James Seow (Member), Liam McAuliffe (Member), Kate Greenwood (Officer) and Teneille Summers (Officer).

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# Consultation on Council Engagement Topics

Council recognises the value of community committees as noted in the Council Plan: "We will partner with our Older Persons Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee, Multifaith Network, LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee and establish other committees, where relevant, to ensure the diversity of our community's experience is represented in decision-making."

From July 2024 to June 2025, the Committee provided input into the following engagement topics:

- Community Safety Plan
- LGBTIQA+ Library programming and events
- Sport and Active Recreation Strategy

Table 3: General themes and issues raised by the Committee in response to engagement topics.

Community Safety Plan (pre-engagement)	<ul> <li>Considering the needs of, and safety concerns for, LGBTIQA+ people, which can include cultural safety, discrimination and harassment on the street with offensive or violent behaviour.</li> <li>Safety can be perceived differently by different people and could be distinct from feeling welcome or unwelcome.</li> <li>Consideration to be given to 'when' people feel unsafe, as well as 'where'.</li> <li>The importance of considering how young people could be engaged with this plan, e.g. through schools or online methods.</li> <li>In addition, how best to engage people from diverse backgrounds and lived experience with an intersectional lens, e.g. multicultural and faith groups.</li> </ul>
LGBTIQA+ Library programming and events	<ul> <li>Supported the planning and development of inclusive programs at Council libraries, including queer zine workshops, film screenings like <i>Ageing Fabulously</i> and future Rainbow Storytime programming.</li> <li>The Committee emphasised the need for thorough preparation and safety considerations for these events.</li> </ul>
Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	<ul> <li>Need for more organised LGBTIQA+ sporting groups in Port Phillip.</li> <li>Would like to see LGBTIQA+ people more reflected in mainstream places, clubs and venues.</li> <li>Want culture change for places to be more welcoming, rather than segregation.</li> </ul>

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	<ul> <li>May need different strategies for young LGBTIQA+ people versus older LGBTIQA+ people.</li> <li>Like to see signs and symbols of inclusion e.g. rainbow stickers, flags and signs saying there are all gender facilities.</li> <li>Importance of designing public spaces to be more inclusive – with all gender toilets and facilities, seats, lighting, creating opportunities for social connection.</li> </ul>
Community Safety Plan	<ul> <li>Pleased there had been a community safety pop up engagement held at the Pride Centre as part of phase 2 engagement.</li> <li>Suggestion to review the number of Have Your Say survey responses by people who identify as LGBTIQA+ to ensure good representation.</li> <li>Important that with any proposed changes to Local Laws, there is adequate Police capacity to match community expectation.</li> <li>Individual members encouraged to complete the full survey to provide their detailed feedback.</li> </ul>

### **Advocacy and Submissions**

The Committee has contributed strategic input and advice on several topics relevant to Council.

Table 4: Topics or issues that the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee has provided feedback on.

#### **Updating the Committee's Terms of Reference**

With the aim of greater transparency and consistency across Advisory Committees, Council's Governance team developed a standardised Terms of Reference template. The template incorporates some details that are specific to each Committee, including the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee. It was shared with the Committee for their feedback.

Key feedback from the Committee on the Terms of Reference included:

- Incorporating safety, inclusivity and foster participation in the Committee's objectives.
- Including a guiding principle for intersectionality.
- · Having a waiting list or pool for future membership.
- Potential benefits of having more than one Councillor representative.
- Understanding the process for updating the Terms of Reference in future.
- The specificity of Committee composition (e.g. one member from creative sectors/industries, one member who operates a business in the City). It was discussed that this could be limiting or restrictive for future recruitment and membership, and it may be wiser to incorporate a statement around ensuring a diversity of members with various

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lived experience and professional expertise. However, it was recommended to continue requiring a specific nominee from the Victorian Pride Centre.

Advice from the Committee was considered and used to help finalise the new LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Terms of Reference which was endorsed by Council in March 2025.

#### Delivery and reporting on the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan

The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the Progress Report for the City of Port Phillip's LGBTIQA+ Action Plan. This report captured the first year of implementation from its endorsement in July 2023 to July 2024.

In addition, the Committee reviewed and provided input into the Mid-term Report of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan which was provided to Council in March 2025. This report captured implementation from July 2023 to December 2024. The Committee provided advice and guidance around specific actions that required greater focus, including promoting LGBTIQA+ inclusion through business and trader engagement and preservation of the Rainbow Road mural near the Pride Centre.

#### **Review into Advisory Committees**

Following the review of Advisory Committee Terms of Reference documents, Council initiated a wider review of its Advisory Committees to look into the consistency, purpose, relevance and effectiveness of its Advisory Committee model and ensure it is fit for purpose. LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee members provided strategic input into this review, including via an anonymous survey. Some issues raised by committee members included the importance of embedding intersectionality, consideration of committee members who sit across different advisory committees and a focus on the transfer of knowledge between the existing advisory committees and the future-state committee model.

#### Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035 and budget

At the April 2025 meeting, the Committee were provided an update and opportunity to have their say and provide feedback into the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35 and budget, particularly on matters relating to diversity, equity and inclusion priorities, such as the multicultural strategy, community safety and social cohesion initiatives.

#### **Ongoing advocacy**

In 2024-25, the Committee contributed to ongoing discussions around inclusive public infrastructure, including advocacy for all-gender toilets, rainbow flag protocol and the safe delivery of LGBTIQA+ events and programs.

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### Other Committee Activities

**Table 5**: Other activities that LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee members have been part of in 2024/25.

#### **Community and Council events**

Committee members attended Council events including the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at St Kilda Town Hall on 28 January 2025 and Wear it Purple on 29 August 2024.

Committee members also participated in other LGBTIQA+ community events including the Midsumma Carnival on 19 January, and the Pride March in St Kilda on 2 February 2025.

#### **Joint Advisory Committee meeting**

As part of the review of Advisory Committees, LGBTIQA+ Committee members attended a joint meeting with members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee and a Governance officer in May 2025. Members provided feedback on Advisory Committee recruitment models to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer in the next term.

## Acknowledgement

This report was prepared by Council officers in consultation with the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, who endorsed the report on 30 June 2025.



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#### 10. AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY

Nil

### 11. A SAFE AND LIVEABLE CITY

11.1	Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029	60
11.2	Proposed Local Law Amendment - Storage of caravans, boats and trailers on Council land and roads	201



11.1 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: BRIAN TEE, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND

**DEVELOPMENT** 

PREPARED BY: DIRK CUMMINS, COORDINATOR LOCAL LAWS & ANIMAL

**MANAGEMENT** 

SKYE PECK, TEAM LEADER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND CITY

**AMENITY** 

**NELLIE MONTAGUE, MANAGER SAFETY AND AMENITY** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the findings from engagement on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and present the updated Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 for endorsement.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) places a statutory obligation on Councils to adopt a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years which provides a strategic approach and actions to promote responsible pet ownership, ensure the welfare of dogs and cats and protect the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats.
- 2.2 The DAMP 2026-2029 (Attachment 1) builds on the current DAMP which expires in 2025 and was informed by community consultation, research and benchmarking.
- 2.3 The DAMP aligns with but does not replicate the City of Port Phillip Dog Off Leash Strategic Guidelines 2024 (the Guidelines). The Guidelines outline Council's provision, distribution and management of dog facilities in public open spaces. It guides decisions on dog off-leash areas and parks.
- 2.4 Council endorsed the draft DAMP for community consultation at its meeting on 7 May 2025. Community consultation was conducted over four weeks. Approximately 450 people participated, with 223 completing surveys and 3 people providing written submissions. The Engagement Summary Report can be found in Attachment 3.
- 2.5 Consultation outcomes have been used to refine the DAMP including:
  - 2.5.1 Reduce the number of dogs that can be walked without a permit from six to four, to clarify the requirements and ensure commercial dog walking businesses will not be adversely affected.
  - 2.5.2 Introduce an action to develop an infographic depicting how registration fee income is allocated and make this available via registration notices, online and via other Council publications.
- 2.6 While community feedback showed support for the provision of dog waste bags, this report recommends that Council not proceed with a trial of dog waste bags, based on previous Council experience, costs and resource implications and lack of evidence that providing bags results in substantially less dog waste in public areas.



#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Acknowledges and thanks the community for their input and feedback on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).
- 3.2 Endorses the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025.
- 3.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to make final design or minor editorial changes that do not materially change the intent of the DAMP.
- 3.4 Provides the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions with a copy of the endorsed Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.
- 3.5 Does not proceed with a trial of dog waste bags.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### **Consultation Outcomes - Key Themes**

#### 4.1 Responsible pet ownership

There was strong community support for promoting responsible pet ownership, with emphasis on enhancing enforcement of existing rules, particularly dog leash laws and waste management. Many respondents advocated for increased accountability through registration and identification, and more effective education and training programs. The importance of practical and visible communication, including signage and multi-channel education, was highlighted.

To respond to community feedback, a new action has been added to the DAMP Promote and Encourage Responsible Pet Ownership section. Please see action 1.6 'Develop an infographic depicting how registration fee income is allocated and make this available to the community via registration notices, online and other Council publications'.

#### 4.2 Cat curfew and wildlife protection

Feedback revealed a strong desire for more stringent containment of cats, balancing wildlife protection with practical enforcement challenges. Suggestions included 24-hour curfews, indoor containment, and support programs for cat owners to comply with regulations.

No changes to the Promote and Encourage Responsible Pet Ownership actions have been made based on this feedback.

#### 4.3 Reducing euthanasia and overpopulation

The community expressed strong backing for proactive measures such as subsidised desexing and veterinary care for low-income households, Trap-Neuter-Release programs for feral cats, behavioural support for pets, and incentivising adoption through reduced registration fees. Concerns were raised about the Council's role and partnerships, with calls to prioritize 'no-kill' organisations and transparency in euthanasia data.

Findings supported the draft DAMP actions so no further changes to the Reducing Overpopulation and Euthanasia actions have been made based on this feedback.

#### 4.4 Management of dog attacks and dangerous dogs



Safety was a dominant concern, with calls for increased owner accountability, stronger enforcement of leash laws, and immediate action against dangerous dogs. Education and training were also seen as vital preventative tools. There were also requests from community for clear evidence-based approaches and transparent reporting.

Findings supported the draft DAMP actions so no further changes to the Dog Attacks actions have been made based on this feedback.

#### 4.5 Dog walking permits and Domestic Animal Businesses

Professional dog walkers strongly opposed the proposed reduction from six to four dogs per walker, citing economic impact and lack of justification. Feedback urged nuanced regulations considering dog size and walker experience. There was general support for regulating domestic animal businesses with clear definitions while avoiding excessive bureaucracy.

We have consulted with dog walkers and their clients to clarify the number of dogs able to be walked on and off lead, with and without a permit. The DAMP was subsequently updated to reflect their feedback.

We are also reviewing the commercial dog walking permit conditions and fee structure to respond to community concerns. We will base the conditions around ensuring basic regulation of their business activity to manage community safety and animal welfare outcomes, and providing clarity to commercial dog walkers through clearer wording. A step-by-step guide and 'concierge' program will be put in place to support these businesses through the permit process to ensure their business is supported by the permit requirement.

To align with similar permit types across Council and to ensure support for professional dog walkers it is proposed that a permit fee be established from 2026/2027 onwards.

Permit fees will be established through benchmarking against similar permits across the municipality and adjoining Councils. Based on preliminary analysis, the estimated fee range is \$150–\$250, subject to final review and endorsement through the budget process.

#### 4.6 Training for Authorised Officers

Community members emphasised the need for officers to have strong soft skills, practical enforcement training, knowledge of dog behaviour, and ethical conduct.

Findings supported the draft DAMP actions so no further changes have been made based on this feedback.

#### 4.7 Other Matters

Calls for additional and better off-leash dog areas, balancing community access, and concerns about the environmental impact of pet ownership were expressed. The importance of Council-community partnership and transparent communication was stressed.

Findings will further inform the Dog Off Leash Guidelines which governs where off-leash areas are located. Final version of the DAMP will ensure images and messaging highlight Council-community partnerships and clear communication on the website and other materials.



#### 4.8 Submissions from Key Stakeholders

Ten Dog walking professionals provided submissions outside of the consultation period that urged maintaining the six-dog limit, with concerns raised that a reduction in the number of dogs that can be walked without a permit would 'significantly impact, if not eliminate, the viability of professional dog walking and minding services' and that residents 'rely upon' these services. There was also a call for more transparent and inclusive consultation.

The Lost Dogs' Home supported cooperative efforts focused on responsible pet ownership, cat containment, and support for vulnerable pet owners.

The City of Port Phillip Dog Network advocated for positive messaging about pet ownership benefits, boosting pet registration, providing dog waste bags, regulating dog walking permits, improving signage, addressing behavioural issues, and promoting successful partnerships

#### Response to Feedback on Dog Waste Bags

- 4.9 During the Dog Off Leash Guidelines development in 2024 concerns were raised from the community about dog waste being left in dog off lead areas such as dog parks, and from customer requests we know there is concern about dog waste left on footpaths, nature strips and foreshore areas.
- 4.10 Thirteen years ago, Council ceased the provision of dog waste bags in local parks and along the foreshore due to high costs and inappropriate use of the bags. At the time, bags were left in open space, entering stormwater drains and waterways, and Animal Management Officers observed little reduction in dog waste when bags were available.
- 4.11 Neighbouring Councils that provide dog waste bags advise that there has not been a reduction in complaints about dog waste in public areas and they spend significant funds refilling dog waste bags and cleaning up bags that are left in public areas.
- 4.12 However, the feedback demonstrated strong overall community support for the provision of dog waste bags in public spaces, with over 70% of respondents indicating they were either *somewhat* or *strongly supportive* of the proposal. (Noting that the majority of respondents were dog owners).
- 4.13 However, opinions were divided on funding mechanisms, particularly regarding potential increases to dog registration fees. Nearly 50% of respondents opposed fee increases, citing concerns around personal responsibility and affordability.
- 4.14 19.73% of respondents opposed the provision of dog waste bags altogether.
- 4.15 Based on Council's previous experience, the costs and resourcing of dog bags provision and the lack of evidence of their effectiveness, a trial of dog waste bags is not recommended.
- 4.16 However, if Council wishes to gather further data through a trial, the following options could be considered:

Option	Locations See Attachment 2 for detail	Costings
1	Dog waste dispensers installed on existing waste bins at 6 activity centres.	\$46,120 • Dispensers.
	- Ormond Road, Elwood	Вюропоото.
	- Bay St, Port Melbourne	



	<ul> <li>Acland St, St Kilda</li> <li>Carlisle St, Balaclava</li> <li>Clarendon St, South Melbourne</li> <li>Bridport St, Albert Park</li> <li>(6 locations, 12 dispensers total)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>14 months of dog waste bags.</li> <li>Staff to monitor and fill stations.</li> </ul>
2	• • •	<ul> <li>\$46,120</li> <li>Dispensers.</li> <li>14 months of dog waste bags.</li> <li>Staff to monitor and fill stations.</li> </ul>
3	Dog waste dispensers installed on existing waste bins at six activity centres and in six off-leash parks Locations above, see Attachment 2 for detail.  (12 locations, 24 dispensers total)	<ul> <li>\$92,240</li> <li>Dispensers.</li> <li>14 months of dog waste bags.</li> <li>Staff FTE to monitor and fill stations where required.</li> </ul>

- 4.17 Option 1 proposes a 14-month trial involving the installation of dog waste bag dispensers in high-volume activity centres which would partially address areas where Council receives a high number of dog waste complaints. These locations include busy commercial and tourist precincts, where the visibility and impact of dog waste is more significant compared to other areas.
- 4.18 Option 2 proposes the trial include six off-leash parks. While complaint levels regarding dog waste in parks and reserves are generally low, this approach would allow resources to be directed toward the most well-used off-leash parks.
- 4.19 *Option* 3 proposes Option 1 and 2 combined providing thorough coverage across all areas.
- 4.20 The trial options provide a geographic spread of locations providing broad and equitable access across the municipality. A map is attached with proposed locations.
- 4.21 Refilling of dispensers in activity centres and off-leash dog parks would require dedicated resourcing and has been factored into the cost of the trial. While the use of volunteers was considered as a potential option for dispenser maintenance, this was deemed unsuitable due to legal implications and occupational health and safety risks.
- 4.22 Cost estimates for Options are based on benchmarking with other Councils and preliminary quotes from potential suppliers. Final costs will be determined during the initial phase of any trial, which could run from December 2025 to February 2026, covering two peak summer periods to maximise visibility and usage.



- 4.23 It will remain a Community Amenity Local Law 2023 requirement that dog owners carry bags and pick up after their dogs. Infringements can be issued for not complying with these requirements.
- 4.24 Officers will develop and deliver communication materials to support the 14-month trial, with messaging encouraging 'owner onus' and a reminder of the Local Law requirement for dog owners to carry a bag to clean up after their pet. Council-supplied dog waste bags will be promoted as a backup, intended for situations where a dog walker is unexpectedly caught without a bag.
- 4.25 Measures of success for the trial period could include the usage of bags from dispensers, the overall costs associated of installation, maintenance, and supply. Community feedback and changes in complaint volumes, noting that 83 complaints were recorded in the 2023–24 period. At the conclusion of the trial, an evaluation will be conducted, with findings and recommendations presented to Council.

#### Response to Feedback on Dog Walking Permits

- 4.26 Feedback on the proposed change to the number of dogs able to be walked by commercial dog walkers was mixed.
  - 4.26.1 21.9% (n=16) of the 73 respondents to this question support a reduction in the number of dogs per walker, with the dog breeds, walker experience and skill and walking environment raised as issues that impact the suitable number of dogs to walk at any one time.
  - 4.26.2 23.3% (n=17) oppose the reduction or prefer a higher limit for the number of dogs per walker.
- 4.27 We heard from respondents about the impact of dog walking businesses and how valuable they are for our community and in ensuring dogs get walked and socialized.
- 4.28 We also heard from commercial dog walkers who raised concerns about the impact on the viability of dog walking services, the impact on dog welfare and concerns about increased costs of services.
- 4.29 Based on the community feedback the action has been amended (wording in red) to clarify that commercial dog walking businesses with a permit, are able to walk up to eight dogs at a time.
  - Reduce the number of dogs that can be walked without a permit from six to four. With a permit, a maximum of eight dogs can be walked.
- 4.30 Permit conditions will be based around Council having records of commercial dog walking businesses, ensuring basic regulation of their business activity to manage community safety and animal welfare outcomes.
- 4.31 A step-by-step guide and 'concierge' program will support these businesses through the permit process.
- 4.32 Permit fees are proposed to be introduced from 2026/2027 to offset the administrative costs associated with DAMP.

#### Actions for Inclusion in the DAMP

4.33 Table below outlines all the actions, including revised actions for the proposed DAMP 2026-2029.



### Objective 1:

Promote responsible pet ownership through strong and simple messages, delivered through multiple channels.

multiple ch	nultiple channels.			
1	Activity	When	How we will measure	
1.1	Review and update communications and education plan targeted towards promoting responsible pet ownership.	Ongoing	Delivery of communications and education materials through multiple channels.	
1.2	Advocate to primary schools to participate in free Animal Welfare Victoria dog behaviour education program.	Annual	All Port Phillip primary schools contacted and encouraged to participate.	
1.3	Develop a new Council-specific pet ownership guide that combines all relevant information.	2026	New pet ownership guide is available for new registrations and adoptions.	
1.4	Investigate the opportunity to develop a 'Pets of Port Phillip' portal and newsletter.	2027	Investigation completed with recommendations about portal and newsletter.	
1.5	Investigate opportunities for educational activities by participating at established community events (e.g. annual Pet Fest event).	Ongoing	Work together with community associations and organisations to support and attend 4 events per year.	
1.6	Develop an infographic depicting how registration fee income is allocated and make this available to the community via registration notices, online and other Council publications.	2026	Development and roll out of infographic.	
1.7	Develop and deliver communication materials to support the 14-month trial implementation of dog waste bags, dispensers and signage at selected locations.  Messaging to focus on 'owner onus', and the Local Law requirement to carry	2026	Delivery of communication materials through multiple channels.	
	a bag to pick up after your dog. Council-supplied dog waste bags will be promoted as a backup, for where a dog walker is caught out.			





	Objective 2 Promote and encourage responsible cat ownership			
2	Activity	When	How we will measure	
2.1	Review and update communications and education resources that explain the welfare benefits of cat containment and how it can be achieved.	2026	Resources reviewed and updated.	
2.2	Investigate ways Council can support the community to build or buy cat enclosures.	2027	Council to investigate grant opportunities and apply, or support organisations to apply, where appropriate.	
2.3	Change cat curfew times to 'sunset to sunrise', to further reduce predation. Current cat curfew is 9pm to 6am.	2027	Council Order implemented.	

Objective 3 Increase Council's capacity to improve welfare of domestic animals.			
3	Activity	When	How we will measure
3.1	Continue to partner with the Lost Dogs' Home to support the Home Together program which focuses on helping owners keep their pets and minimise the number of surrenders.	Ongoing	Reduction in surrendered animals.
3.2	Facilitate pet adoption days in partnership with the Lost Dogs' Home to promote rehoming pets and reduce the number of animals in the shelter.	2026, ongoing quarterly	Quarterly adoption day held.
3.3	Investigate opportunities to reward people who adopt pets from partner shelters.	2027	Investigation completed. Reward opportunities implemented.
3.4	Partner with Pets of the Homeless to help keep vulnerable people and their pets together by alleviating the burden of providing essential pet care during times of hardship.	2026	Partnership implemented.





Objective 4 Animals are microchipped, desexed, registered and wearing tags.			
4	Activity	When	How we will measure
4.1	Review and simplify pet registration renewal process.	2027	Process efficiencies implemented
4.2	Implement staged pro rata pet registration rates.	2027	Additional staged pro rata pet registration rates Implemented.
4.3	Support discounted vet care to pet owners from low-income households through the Lost Dogs' Home mobile low-cost vet clinic.	2026 and ongoing	Program implemented.  Number of pets desexed and receiving veterinary treatment.  Customer feedback.
4.4	Work with local providers to develop subsidised or free desexing and microchipping programs.	2026 and ongoing	Concession card holders can access free or subsidised microchipping and desexing.
4.5	Continue microchip audits and audits of animals adopted.	Annual	Audits complete.
4.6	Partner with shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders to promote Council registration and updating of microchip details.	Annual	Shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders contacted.

	Objective 5 Provide a consistent approach to management of dogs in public spaces across Port Phillip.				
5	Activity	When	How we will measure		
5.1	Continue to support Council's implementation of the Dog Off-Leash Strategic Guideline 2024.	Ongoing	Work with Open Space Council team to support implementation.		
5.2	Continue to partner with local providers to promote dog training events and activities (e.g. Dogs in the Park dog training event with the Lost Dogs' Home).	Ongoing	Facilitate four events annually. Feedback from attendees.		
5.3	Trial the installation of dog waste bags, dispensers and signage at selected locations across Port Phillip.	2026 - 2027	Trial implemented.  Post trial evaluation and recommendations provided to Council.		



Objective 6 ncrease patrols, education and enforcement activities.				
6	Activity	When	How we will measure	
6.1	Review patrol schedule and activities (i.e. customer requests, registrations etc.) to ensure adequate resourcing for patrols, education and enforcement activities during peak periods.	2027	Increase focus on patrols and officer presence in the field.	
6.2	Review and improve processes for enforcement regarding animal management including barking dog nuisance, dog attacks, dogs off leash and cat containment.	Annually	Nuisance processes revised and improved.	
6.3	Continue to work with apartment buildings to help prevent nuisance by providing registration information / barking / waste / training information to residents.	Ongoing	Reduced complaint numbers regarding dogs in apartment buildings.	
6.4	Review and seek to improve the way Council collects, measures and reports on domestic animal requests (including identification of 'hotspots').	2027	Review completed and any improvements implemented.	

Objective 7 Continue to deliver best practice in management of dog attacks.				
7	Activity	When	How we will measure	
7.1	Continue to develop and improve processes in how Council manages, investigates and prosecutes dog attacks to maintain best practice.	Annually	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.	
7.2	Promote a strong reporting culture in the community regarding dog attacks (e.g. Council's Dog Attack Reporting and Prevention Guide).	2026	Delivery of communications and education materials through multiple channels (also see action 1.1).	
7.3	Provide a reporting structure for vets (i.e. dog attack form) to encourage reporting.	2026	Reporting structure for vets developed and communicated.	





7.4	Assess dogs involved in attacks to determine if a menacing or dangerous dog declaration is warranted.	Ongoing	Assessments undertaken and documented.

Objective 8 Declared dogs in Port Phillip will be identified and appropriately managed.				
8	Activity	When	How we will measure	
8.1	Conduct declared dog property inspections, ensuring compliance with the Act (e.g. security of fencing, animal housing and signage)	Annually	All declared dog property inspections undertaken annually	
8.2	Continue to identify and declare dogs dangerous and menacing where required.	Ongoing	Dogs who are involved in non-compliance are declared.	

Objective 9 Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.				
9	Activity	When	How we will measure	
9.1	Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.	Annually	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.	
9.2	Review declaration process and linkage to Court outcomes to improve efficiencies and outcomes.	2026	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.	

Objective 10  Domestic animal businesses in Port Phillip will be identified and registered.				
10	Activity	When	How we will measure	
10.1	Monitor for businesses that should be registered Domestic Animal Businesses by reviewing advertisements, social media, local	Annually	Annual monitoring completed.	



notice boards, etc. and ensure they	
•	
are compliant with legislation.	

Objective 11 Registered businesses are compliant with current legislation and relevant code of practice.				
11	Activity	When	How we will measure	
11.1	Audit Domestic Animal Businesses in Port Phillip for compliance.	Annually	Annual audits completed.	

Objective 12 Reduce community safety risks associated with walking multiple dogs at a time.				
12	Activity	When	How we will measure	
12.1	Reduce the number of dogs that can be walked without a permit from six to four, with a permit up to eight dogs can be walked, - to support dog walkers being able to have effective control of their animals in public places and improve community safety outcomes.	2027	Council Order implemented.	

Objective 13  Ensure that Animal Management Officers have the knowledge and skills to administer their role.				
13	Activity	When	How we will measure	
13.1	Support Animal Management Officers to further develop their skills as part of the annual performance development process. Including:  • Animal handling  • Animal behaviour  • Restricted breed identification  • Customer interactions	Ongoing	Training incorporated into individual employee plans.	
13.2	Partner with the Lost Dogs' Home to provide training support and real-life animal handing experience.	2026 and ongoing	Training partnership implemented.	
13.3	Animal Management Officer attendance at conferences, industry training and networking.	Ongoing	Attendance / participation at major conferences and training.	
13.4	Continue to review and update Animal Management processes.	Annually	Processes reviewed and updated.	



Objective 14 Seek funding opportunities to support domestic animal management programs.				
14	Activity	When	How we will measure	
14.1	Investigate opportunities for external funding towards the development of domestic animal management programs.	Ongoing	Grant opportunities identified and, where appropriate, applications submitted.	

Objective 15 Leverage new technology to continuously improve council services.			
15	Activity	When	How we will measure
15.1	Investigate and incorporate new technologies to provide improvements in Council's Domestic Animal Management services and communications materials.	Ongoing	Review undertaken and new technologies implemented if appropriate.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Community engagement on the draft DAMP occurred 9 May to 6 June 2025 via Council's online portal 'Have Your Say' and in person community consultation opportunities facilitated through Council's Neighbourhood Engagement Program. Hard copies of the draft DAMP and surveys were also available at Port Phillip Customer Service Centres and Libraries.
- 5.2 Emails with information about the consultation were distributed to 37 key industry stakeholders, and through Divercity Online and Have Your Say newsletters.
- 5.3 A detailed communication and engagement plan was developed to coordinate engagement activities. Messaging included FAQ's explaining key changes proposed, social media posts, website, e-newsletters, newspaper advertisements, corflute signage in parks and posters at Council buildings.
- 5.4 223 valid survey responses and 3 written submissions were received.
- 5.5 The community engaged with Council officers across 9 pop ups through the Neighbourhood Engagement Program.
- 5.6 Of the 223 survey respondents the majority were pet owners (87%).
- 5.7 Consultation feedback was collated and analysed, with a report of findings prepared. Please refer to Attachment 3 Engagement Summary Report.
- 5.8 Amendments to the draft DAMP were made with consideration of feedback received.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All Local Government authorities are required to develop a DAMP in accordance with Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Council's current DAMP expires 4 December 2025.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 6 AUGUST 2025



#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Council's Animal Management Services are funded in the Council budget.
- 7.2 A trial of dog waste bags is not included in the 2025/26 budget.
- 7.3 There are savings from the approved budget for the DAMP project of \$50,000 that could fund the Option 2 trial, otherwise additional budget would need to be allocated to the trial.
- 7.4 Depending on outcomes a further project budget request would be required if this service was to be rolled out permanently in future.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The actions in the draft DAMP are anticipated to have positive impacts on the environment by facilitating responsible pet ownership, thereby protecting the cleanliness, safety and amenity of the municipality.
- 8.2 Provision of plastic waste bags if supported would impact the environment, environmentally friendly bags would be sourced from suppliers in line with our Procurement Policy if required.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Responsible pet ownership contributes to community safety by reducing dog attacks and safe management of dangerous and restricted dog breeds.
- 9.2 Pet owners and the broader community look to Council for guidance and support to assist them by providing a balanced approach to safe, well maintained open spaces for animals to exercise, play and be trained.
- 9.3 The community expectation is that Council maintains registration systems for cats and dogs, community education, and collection of lost pets whilst balancing the needs of the greater community.
- 9.4 Animal Management Services is committed to providing high quality, responsive and effective services to meet the community's needs.
- 9.5 The draft DAMP aims to strike the right balance and seek positive social outcomes for both pet owners and non-pet owners.
- 9.6 The draft DAMP provides a sound basis and direction from which Council can plan and make future decisions over the next four years and relates back to the wider Council policy context.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A gender impact assessment has been undertaken to inform the DAMP and has resulted in some slight adjustments Action 1.1 to ensure communications are accessible for our diverse community and that data already collected by Council can help us understand demographic data and how best to support people of all genders to care for their pets appropriately.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 The DAMP is an endorsed major initiative in the City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2021, and a core strategy under the Safe and Liveable Port Phillip Strategic Direction.
- 11.2 The DAMP aligns with the City of Port Phillip Dog Off Leash Strategic Guideline 2024.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 6 AUGUST 2025



#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE – See project milestones outlined in the table below:

Milestone	Date	Status
Analysis of animal management data	Dec 2024	Complete
Targeted benchmarking activities	Jan 2025	Complete
Develop draft DAMP	Feb 2025	Complete
Council meeting to endorse draft DAMP for consultation		Complete
Community feedback on draft DAMP	9 May to 6 Jun 2025	Complete
Council meeting to adopt DAMP	Aug 2025	
Finalise document for public release	September/October 2025	
Lodgement of DAMP with State Government	4 Dec 2025	
New DAMP 2026-2029	6 Dec 2025	

#### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

- 12.2.1 A dedicated Have Your Say webpage was developed with key messages and frequently asked questions to support participation in DAMP consultation.
- 12.2.2 The updated and endorsed DAMP and consultation summary outcomes will be available on the website.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 🔠
- 2. Potential Dog Waste Bag Trial Locations Map
- 3. Engagement Summary Report



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# Plan governance

6 August 2025

Responsible Service / Department:
City Growth and Development; Safety and Amenity
Adoption authorised:
Date of adoption:
Date effective from: 4 December 2025
Content Manager folder:
Content Manager file:
Endorsed CEO or ELT member or department manager to make and approve document editorial amendments:
General Manager City Growth and Development
Manager Safety and Amenity
Annual desktop review date:
2026
Review date:
2028
Completion date:
2029
Version number:
1.0
Stakeholder review and engagement:

76

3

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Animal Management and Local Laws, Open Space Recreation and Community Resilience.

#### **Relevant Legislation:**

Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Victoria)

#### **Associated Objective:**

Liveable Port Phillip

#### **Associated instruments:**

Community Amenity Local Law 2023

Dog Off-Leash Guidelines 2025

Public Space Strategy 2022-2032

Council Plan 2021-2031

#### Supersedes:

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025

# **Acknowledgement**

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and future.

# Mayor's message

To be added prior to release on the website once the current DAMP expires.

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## Introduction

### **Purpose**

The DAMP is a four-year Plan that provides a strategic approach to promoting and encouraging responsible pet ownership, the welfare of dogs and cats and the protection of the community and environment from nuisance dogs and cats.

This document explains how Council currently manages programs and sets out actions to improve and grow the ways in which Council delivers domestic animal management programs.

These objectives and guidelines aim to create a place where pets and the community can live together, without adversely impacting on the environment or community amenity.

## Statutory requirement

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Act), every Victorian local government must prepare a Plan every four years, outlining how it will manage dogs and cats within its municipal boundaries.

Every Council must review its Plan annually and publish an evaluation of its implementation in its Annual Report. The Plan must:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and regulations.
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers.
- Outline programs, services and strategies to:
  - o Promote and encourage responsible ownership of dogs and cats.
  - Ensure that people comply with the Act, regulations and legislation.
  - $\circ\quad$  Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.
  - o Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.
  - Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats.
  - o Minimise potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.
  - Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with Act and regulations.
  - Provide for review of existing orders and Local Laws made under the Act.
  - o Provide for review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats.

## Strategic alignment

Supporting pet owners to care for their pets and be responsible pet owners enhances the safety and wellbeing of the wider community. This is an endorsed major initiative in the City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2021-31 which also incorporates the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The DAMP aligns with the City of Port Phillip Dog Off Leash Strategic Guideline 2024. This document outlines Council's position on the provision, distribution and management of dog facilities in public open spaces. It is used to guide decisions on the planning for all dog off-leash areas and parks.

#### **Process**

This new DAMP builds on the current DAMP that has successfully guided the delivery of animal management services across Port Phillip.

It was developed in consultation with Council's Animal Management Team, and informed by community consultation, research and benchmarking. It seeks to balance community and stakeholder needs, whilst ensuring compliance with requirements of the Act.

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## **Our consultation**

### How we engaged

The engagement process, conducted from **9 May to 6 June 2025**, aimed to inform and involve the community in shaping policies for responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and public safety within the municipality.

Council implemented a comprehensive engagement strategy including posters, newsletters, social media, emails, a dedicated Have Your Say page, surveys, pop-up events across nine neighbourhoods, and meetings with relevant groups.

#### Who we heard from

Approximately 450 community members participated across various engagement activities, with 223 completing detailed surveys. Engagement was strongest among residents aged 35-69 years, predominantly female, and mainly from Port Melbourne, St Kilda, Albert Park, and Elwood. Diverse voices were sought, including LGBTIQA+ individuals, people with disabilities, multicultural communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, though some barriers to participation were acknowledged.

### Key themes from the community feedback

#### Responsible pet ownership

There was strong community support for promoting responsible pet ownership, with emphasis on enhancing enforcement of existing rules, particularly dog leash laws and waste management. Many respondents advocated for stricter cat curfews (including suggestions for 24-hour containment), increased accountability through registration and identification, and more effective education and training programs. The importance of practical and visible communication, including signage and multi-channel education, was highlighted.

#### Cat curfew and wildlife protection

Feedback revealed a strong desire for more stringent containment of cats, balancing wildlife protection with practical enforcement challenges. Suggestions included 24-hour curfews, indoor containment, and support programs for cat owners to comply with regulations.

#### Dog waste management and funding

While there was broad support for providing dog waste bags in public spaces, opinions were divided on funding mechanisms such as increasing dog registration fees. Nearly half of respondents opposed fee increases, citing personal owner responsibility and cost concerns.

#### Reducing euthanasia and overpopulation

The community expressed strong backing for proactive measures such as subsidised desexing and veterinary care for low-income households, Trap-Neuter-Release programs for feral cats, behavioural support for pets, and incentivising adoption through reduced registration fees. Concerns were raised about the Council's role and partnerships, with calls to prioritize 'no-kill' organisations and transparency in euthanasia data.

#### Management of dog attacks and dangerous dogs

Safety was a dominant concern, with calls for increased owner accountability, stronger enforcement of leash laws, and immediate action against dangerous dogs. Education and training were also seen as vital preventative tools. Criticism of current Council effectiveness and demands for evidence-based approaches and transparent reporting were noted.

#### Dog walking permits and Domestic Animal Businesses

Professional dog walkers strongly opposed the proposed reduction from six to four dogs per walker, citing economic impact and lack of justification. Feedback urged nuanced regulations considering dog size and walker experience. There was general support for regulating domestic animal businesses with clear definitions and avoiding excessive bureaucracy.

#### **Training for Authorised Officers**

Community members emphasised the need for officers to have strong soft skills, practical enforcement training, knowledge of dog behaviour, and ethical conduct. Some scepticism was expressed about conference attendance and resource allocation.

#### Other matters

Calls for stricter enforcement of existing laws, more and better off-leash dog areas, balancing community access, and concerns about the environmental impact of pet ownership were expressed. The importance of Council-community partnership and transparent communication was stressed.

#### Submissions from Key Stakeholders

Dog walking professionals urged maintaining the six-dog limit and called for transparent consultation to avoid economic hardship.

The Lost Dogs' Home supported cooperative efforts focused on responsible pet ownership, cat containment, and support for vulnerable pet owners.

The City of Port Phillip Dog Network advocated for positive messaging about pet ownership benefits, boosting pet registration, providing dog waste bags, regulating dog walking permits, improving signage, addressing behavioural issues, and promoting successful partnerships

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# Port Phillip at a glance

### Community

Port Phillip is located between 2 and 8km from the Melbourne CBD and covers an area of 21km2. It has over 178 hectares of public open space available, including 11km of foreshore, 10 hectares of indigenous vegetation, 24 significant parks, 70 neighbourhood parks, 54 playgrounds and 15 sporting ovals. Open spaces are highly valued and highly utilised by pet owners and non-pet owners alike. 91% of the estimated 109,515¹ people live in medium to high density housing.

Port Phillip is home to people from over 163 birthplaces, with our residents speaking 114 different languages. While there is no typical resident, about three in five are aged 18 to 49 years. It is likely our community will continue to feature many people aged 18 to 49 years; however, the largest growth is expected to be in those aged over 60, suggesting many residents will retire and age within our community. Forty-one per cent of households belong to singles and there is a high proportion of renters.

## Dogs and cats in Port Phillip

The following table provides a snapshot of dogs and cats across Port Phillip. Further details are provided in the body of the DAMP.

Key Data	2016-17	2020-21	2023-24
Population	109,523	103,438	109,515
Complaints or requests annually	3,532	2,643	3,626
Registered dogs	6,772	7,901	8,254
Registered declared dogs	0	1	4
Dog attack or rush	100	108	160
Registered cats	2,906	3,659	4,031
Registered Domestic Animal Businesses	12	6	9
Keeping of animals / excess animals permits issued	86	49	8
Number of infringements	121	54	143
Number of successful prosecutions	2	33	13
Dogs impounded	120	69	91
Cats impounded	159	90	134

#### The future

Port Phillip's population is forecast to grow by more than 60,000 residents by 2041. Increased resident population has a flow on effect on the number of pets in Port Phillip. This impacts the number of animal registrations, dogs being walked in public open spaces, cats needing to be contained to properties, dogs potentially barking, and much more.

Our parks and waterfront will need to be welcoming to all members of the community, including pet owners, and cater for various and increased use as they become residents' 'backyards'.

6 August 2025 12

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ABS resident population 2023.

#### Attachment 1: Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

This includes responding to an increased number of domestic animals residing in the municipality and living in apartments, as well as providing a balanced approach to ensuring that our limited open spaces are well managed and shared between dog owners and non-dog owners.

Liveable environments, and sharing our lives with pets, create a foundation for good health and wellbeing for everyone. This includes well-designed places that have safe access to quality open spaces, amenities and services.

Although mandatory cat desexing and night-time curfew regulations are already in place, unowned and feral cats will continue to be both a nuisance for the community and an environmental problem without adequate management. Council will focus on continued promotion of responsible cat ownership.

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# Local laws, orders and other domestic animal controls

In addition to The Act, Council enforces the provisions of the City of Port Phillip Community Amenity Local Law 2023 and Council Orders which relate to animal management as outlined below.

### Keeping dogs and cats

The maximum number of dogs and cats allowed to be kept in houses is three dogs and two cats. However, if you live in a unit, townhouse or flat, the maximum number allowed to be kept is two dogs and two cats.

#### **Animal housing**

Owners are required to ensure that animal housing is appropriate for the number and type of animals, minimises noise and other nuisances, and does not adversely impact the amenity of the area.

#### **Animal litter**

Pet owners are required to both carry a bag and remove their animals' excrement when left in a public place.

### Dogs on / off leash

Unless designated otherwise, all public areas across Port Phillip are on-leash. There are a number of parks and beaches where dogs are permitted off leash. Some areas change at different times of the day or the year. There are also some areas where dogs are prohibited.

Dogs must also be on lead within twenty metres of an organised sporting event or training; and are prohibited within five metres of any children's playground, public barbeque or exercise equipment.

#### Commercial dog walkers

A person must not, without a permit, walk, exercise or otherwise be in control of seven or more dogs on Council land.

#### **Desexing cats**

Newly registered cats over the age of three months must be desexed. Cats exempt from desexing include:

- Cats that have been registered with Council before 14 April 2022.
- The owner is a registered breeder and meets all the requirements under the legislation.
- The owner is a current member of an applicable organisation and the animal is registered with that organisation.
- The owner of the cat has written veterinary advice that the health of that cat would be impacted if desexed.

#### Cat curfew

A Council Order is in place where cats must be confined to the owner's premises from 9pm to 6am.

# **Current programs and activities**

Our current domestic animal management programs and activities.

Program	Service Level to Community
Identification and Registration  Dog attack	<ul> <li>Annual registration renewal notices and follow up process.</li> <li>A free initial registration incentive program for owners who register their microchipped pets within 4 weeks of taking ownership.</li> <li>Refund for owners who paid full fee but have their dog or cat desexed within the first 6 months of registration.</li> <li>Free transfer of registration when moving registered animals from other Victorian municipalities.</li> <li>Lifetime registration tags.</li> <li>Online registration forms and system for both renewals and new registrations.</li> <li>Periodic cross reference of Central Animal Records (CAR) database with Council's animal registration database.</li> <li>CAR request to register letter sent to all residents who microchip a new pet.</li> <li>SMS registration reminders.</li> <li>Routine registration checks during patrols.</li> <li>Immediate response.</li> </ul>
(against people or animals)  Dangerous dog complaints  Animal Nuisance Complaints (including barking dogs)  Patrols	Response within 24 hours.  Response within 24 hours.  Online help information.  Barking Dog Management Kit.  Online system for lodging complaints.  Routine patrols of parks and foreshore areas.  Proactive patrols in focused areas as required.  Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with particular focus on foreshore areas.  Partnership with Summer Amenity Team to provide presence from 6.30am to 9.00pm. Extends to 11pm on New Year's Eve.  Recording of all patrols in online system and collection of data to determine where resources are focused, and problem areas
Pound Facilities Lost Dogs Home 2 Gracie Street North Melbourne  Education and Promotion of Responsible Pet Ownership	<ul> <li>Lost Dogs Home is open to the public from 10.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.30pm weekends (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday).</li> <li>Online 'lost dog' and 'lost cat' search facility.</li> <li>Community and animal welfare-based outcomes wherever possible –reuniting animals with owners as first priority.</li> <li>Communication plan in place, including a range of activities across the year.         <ul> <li>Regular social media campaigns.</li> <li>'Pets of Port Phillip' flyer in registration renewal notices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Program	Service Level to Community
	<ul> <li>Barking Dog Management Guide.</li> <li>Pet registration guide</li> <li>Online information on responsible cat and dog ownership through Council website</li> <li>Dog Attack Reporting and Prevention Guide.</li> <li>Promotion of 'Safe Cats, Safe Wildlife' campaign</li> <li>Website information.</li> </ul>
After hours services (Call 8290 1333)	<ul><li>24/7 emergency after hours service.</li><li>On-call Council Officer.</li></ul>
Animal welfare / cruelty matters	<ul> <li>ASAP, but no less than same day response.</li> <li>Online system for lodging complaints.</li> <li>Our Officers are not authorised under POCTAA (Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act) and as such we liaise with and report animal welfare and cruelty matters including suspected dog baiting to the RSPCA for their investigation and action.</li> </ul>
Wandering cat complaints	<ul> <li>Cat traps are available for the public to utilise, to confine nuisance, unowned or feral cats.</li> <li>Strict protocols are in place governing the use of these traps to ensure that the welfare of the confined cats is protected.</li> <li>Online system for lodging complaints.</li> </ul>
Domestic animal business inspections  Declared Dogs (dangerous / menacing or restricted breed)	<ul> <li>Annual inspections in accordance with Act legislation.</li> <li>Issue annual registration certificates.</li> <li>Respond to and investigate complaints.</li> <li>Actively seek and identify illegal domestic animal businesses and prosecute where appropriate.</li> <li>Annual inspections are undertaken in accordance with the Act legislation.</li> </ul>
Prosecutions	Council Officers prosecute breaches of the Act.
Dogs on / off-leash	<ul> <li>Orders are in place restricting dogs off-leash to designated areas and times in certain parks and foreshore areas.</li> <li>Orders are in place prohibiting dogs in certain parks and foreshore areas.</li> <li>Dogs must be on-leash within twenty metres of an organised sporting event or training.</li> <li>Dogs are prohibited within five metres of a children's playground, public barbeque or exercise equipment area.</li> </ul>

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# Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership

Healthy and happy pets can bring life and vibrancy to a family, and community. They provide companionship and improve well-being through supporting physical exercise and mental wellness. These benefits rely on responsible pet ownership. Council promotes an owner onus approach to responsible ownership of dogs and cats through a range of communication and education initiatives.

We understand the increasing demand for council services to be delivered online, and for engagement through social media and other digital means. However, we also acknowledge the power behind face-to-face interactions and that successful education and communication campaigns require a multi channelled approach.

Responsible pet ownership includes animals being trained and exercised, microchipped, desexed and registered with owners who comply with regulations and signage.

Communication and education campaigns with clear and simple messaging are delivered to support responsible pet ownership, as well as increasing awareness of cat curfew requirements and dog off-leash and dog prohibited areas. Council manages signage for dog-leash regulations in public places through the Strategic Dog Off-Leash Guideline 2024.

#### What we currently do

- Communication plan in place, including a range of activities across the year:
  - o Regular social media campaigns.
  - 'Pets of Port Phillip' flyer in registration renewal notices.
  - Registration packs for all new registrations.
  - Barking Dog Management Guide.
  - Dog Attack Reporting and Prevention Guide (online or via ASSIST).
  - o Pet registration guide provided to apartment buildings, vets and in mailed correspondence.
  - Website information.
  - o Use of QR codes on renewal notices as an information source.
- Proactive patrols of parks and foreshore areas.
- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods with particular focus on foreshore areas.
- Partnership with Summer Amenity Team to provide additional support during peak times.
- Signage in parks and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- · Education initiatives aimed at improving community awareness and reducing dog attacks.
- Information provided to promote dog off leash and dog prohibited areas including maps.
- Promotion of 'Safe Cats, Safe Wildlife' campaign to educate owners on their pet's impact on wildlife.

Attachment 1:

#### **DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-29**

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## Our Plan 2026-29

Objective 1:				
Promote responsible pet ownership through strong and simple messages, delivered through multiple channels.				
1	Activity	When	How we will measure	
1.1	Review and update communications and education plan targeted towards promoting responsible pet ownership, ensuring accessibility of information for Port Phillip's diverse community.	Ongoing	Delivery of communications and education materials through multiple channels.	
1.2	Advocate to primary schools to participate in free Animal Welfare Victoria dog behaviour education program.	Annual	All Port Phillip primary schools contacted and encouraged to participate.	
1.3	Develop a new Council-specific pet ownership guide that combines all relevant information.	2026	New pet ownership guide is available for new registrations and adoptions.	
1.4	Investigate the opportunity to develop a 'Pets of Port Phillip' portal and newsletter.	2027	Investigation completed with recommendations about portal and newsletter.	
1.5	Investigate opportunities for educational activities by participating at established community events (e.g. annual Pet Fest event).	Ongoing	Work together with community associations and organisations to support and attend 4 events per year.	
1.6	Develop an infographic depicting how registration fee income is allocated and make this available to the community via registration notices, online and other Council publications.	2026	Development and roll out of infographic.	

Objective 2 Promote and encourage responsible cat ownership				
2	Activity	When	How we will measure	
2.1	Review and update communications and education resources that explain the welfare benefits of cat containment and how it can be achieved.	2026	Resources reviewed and updated.	
2.2	Investigate ways Council can support the community to build or buy cat enclosures.	2027	Council to investigate grant opportunities and apply, or support organisations to apply, where appropriate.	
2.3	Change cat curfew times to 'sunset to sunrise', in an effort to further reduce predation. Current cat curfew is 9pm to 6am.	2027	Council Order implemented.	

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## Reducing overpopulation and euthanasia

Impoundments occur when pets escape from their properties or are dumped or surrendered by owners. Council's priority is to achieve positive community and animal welfare outcomes and return pets to owners from the field wherever possible, without taking them to the Lost Dogs' Home animal shelter. Council has a contract with the Lost Dogs' Home to collect uncontained dogs and cats and assist them in being returned to their owner or where this is not possible - to be rehomed.

Dog and cat impoundments especially litters of cats have increased since the last DAMP was developed. This is likely a reflection of an increased number of surrendered animals – partially due to unwanted COVID 'pet purchases' in 2020-21 and increased cost of living pressures.

The Lost Dogs' Home's goal is to reunite healthy and treatable animals with their owners or adopt them into new homes. They rehome and reunite the majority of dogs and cats that come into their care. Animals are only euthanised as a last resort. "If the health condition is chronic and pain cannot be alleviated or quality of life is acutely impeded, it is considered humane to relieve an animals' suffering with compassionate euthanasia."<sup>2</sup>

Impoundments	2016-17	2020-21	2023-24
Dogs impounded	111 (1 surrendered)	69 (3 surrendered)	91 (21 surrendered)
Dogs returned to owner	106 (95.5%)	63 (91.3%)	45
Dogs rehomed	3 (2.7%)	2 (2.9%)	19
Dogs euthanised Dogs being assessed at time of report	2 (1.8%)	4 (5.8%)	18 9
Cats impounded	132 (16 surrendered)	90 (2 surrendered)	134 (34 surrendered)
Cats returned to owner	27 (20.5%)	41 (45.5%)	39
Cats rehoused	28 (21.2%)	28 (31.1%)	55
Cats euthanised Cats being assessed at time of report	77 (58.3%)	26 (28.9%)	36 4

It is Council's aim to reduce the euthanasia rates and overpopulation levels by working with the community to increase the number of desexed, microchipped and registered animals in the municipality, with a particular emphasis on cats.

'The Lost Dogs' Home has introduced the Home Together program, which provides support to pet owners seeking alternatives to surrendering their pet. In partnership with the Lost Dogs' Home, surrendering owners are now offered the opportunity to complete a thorough questionnaire to determine any other options to that their pet is appropriately rehomed.

Council does not register pets that are not microchipped and ensures animals are registered prior to releasing them once impounded. When Council becomes aware of an unregistered cat or dog (through field patrols, owner contact to Council etc), follow up is conducted and assistance provided to ensure the pet gets registered.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lost Dogs Home – Our Goals – Alleviating Suffering

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### What we currently do

- Council contracts its animal collection and pound services to The Lost Dogs' Home which is
  open to the public every day (except Christmas Day and Good Friday).
- Online 'lost dog' and 'lost cat' search facility through the Lost Dogs Home.
- Promotion of pets available for adoption through the Lost Dogs Home.
- Partner with Lost Dogs Home 'Home Together' program to provide support to owners to keep their pets and minimise surrenders; and facilitate the rehoming of pets.
- Council-loaned cat trap system to confine and impound nuisance cats.
- Liaise with and report animal welfare / cruelty matters to the RSPCA for action.
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the number of animals that can be kept on a property without a permit.
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the responsible breeding of dogs and cats.
- · Enforce Council orders governing:
  - o Mandatory desexing of newly registered cats.
  - o Requirement for all cats to be contained to owners' premises 9pm to 6am.
- · Conduct investigations in response to customer requests.
- Enforcement actions include notices to comply, official warnings, infringements and court prosecutions.

#### Our Plan 2026-29

	Objective 3 Increase Council's capacity to improve welfare of domestic animals.				
3	Activity	When	How we will measure		
3.1	Continue to partner with the Lost Dogs' Home to support the Home Together program which focuses on helping owners keep their pets and minimise the number of surrenders. The program supports pet owners to explore options to help hem keep their pets.	Ongoing	Reduction in surrendered animals.		
3.2	Facilitate pet adoption days in partnership with the Lost Dogs' Home to promote rehoming of pets and reduce the number of animals in the shelter.	2026, ongoing quarterly	Quarterly adoption day held.		
3.3	Investigate opportunities to reward people who adopt pets from partner shelters.	2027	Investigation completed. Reward opportunities implemented.		
3.4	Partner with Pets of the Homeless to help keep vulnerable people and their pets together by alleviating the burden of providing essential pet care during times of hardship.	2026	Partnership implemented.		

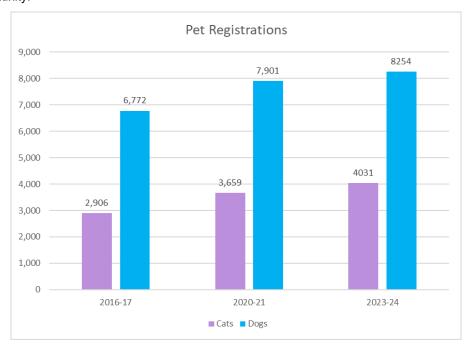
## Registration and identification

The registration and identification of dogs and cats is important in demonstrating responsible pet ownership and in caring for the welfare of animals. As well as being a legal requirement, an animal found with current registration and microchip has a much higher chance of being reunited with its owner.

All dogs and cats three months and over must be microchipped and registered with Council. Newly registered cats are also required to be desexed. Registrations must be renewed annually by 10 April.

A portion of all registration fees charged goes toward funding responsible pet ownership programs, education, supporting the safe return of pets to their owners, as well as the provision dog off leash areas. Information on 'what pet registration fees pay for' is available on Council's website and is also included with animal registration renewal notices.

There has been a steady increase in registrations, showing a possible trend towards increased pet ownership. The increase in registrations can also be attributed to increased resident population and the success of previous DAMP activities which focused on increasing pet registrations in the community.



#### What we currently do

- · Annual registration renewal notices and follow up process.
- A free initial registration incentive program for owners who register their pets within 4 weeks of taking ownership.
- Refund for owners who paid full fee but have their dog or cat desexed within the first 6 months
  of the registration year.
- Free transfer of registration when moving registered animals from other Victorian municipalities.

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- · Lifetime registration tags.
- Online registration system for both renewals and new registrations.
- · Registration packs for all new registrations.
- Periodic cross referencing of Central Animal Records (CAR) microchip database with Council's animal registration database.
- CAR request to register letter sent to all residents who microchip a new pet.
- Council microchipping days.
- Registration door knock activities.
- · Registration checks during patrols.
- Animals in the Lost Dogs' Home must be registered prior to release.
- Proactive patrols in the community, where registration is checked and followed up for all interactions officers have with members of the public.
- Partnering with vets to ensure all reunited pets through a vet are reported to Council to ensure they are currently registered.
- Enforcement activities including notices to comply, official warnings, infringements and court prosecution.

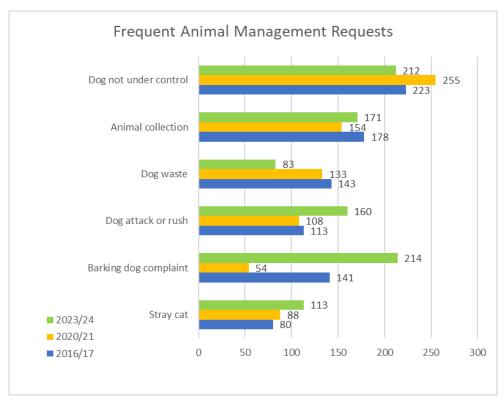
#### Our Plan 2026-29

	<b>Objective 4</b> Animals are microchipped, desexed, registered and wearing tags.				
4	Activity	When	How we will measure		
4.1	Review and simplify pet registration renewal process.	2027	Process efficiencies implemented		
4.2	Implement staged pro rata pet registration rates.	2027	Additional staged pro rata pet registration rates Implemented.		
4.3	Support discounted vet care to pet owners from low-income households through the Lost Dogs' Home mobile low-cost vet clinic.	2026 and ongoing	Program implemented. Number of pets desexed and receiving veterinary treatment. Customer feedback.		
4.4	Work with local providers to develop subsidised or free desexing and microchipping programs.	2026 and ongoing	Concession card holders can access free or subsidised microchipping and desexing.		
4.5	Continue microchip audits and audits of animals adopted.	Annual	Audits complete.		
4.6	Partner with shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders to promote Council registration and updating of microchip details.	Annual	Shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders contacted.		

## **Nuisance**

We hope to encourage people to manage their pets in a way that protects the health and welfare of the animal, maximises the companion benefits of their pet, and minimises potential for nuisance or harm to others.

In 2023-24, Animal Management Officers responded to 3,626 domestic animal requests. The most frequent animal management requests are detailed below.



Barking dogs, dogs not under control and dog attacks are the most prevalent request types and the areas of greatest concern in the community.

Dogs not under control or on lead in areas that are required to be onlead is the other leading request. Although regular and proactive patrols are undertaken, community education and voluntary compliance are critical as only a small portion of public open space areas can be patrolled at a time.

There is an opportunity to increase community awareness and level of comfort with the dog incident reporting process, including assured anonymity.

Our Officers respond to barking dog complaints by working with the dog owner in the first instance to help them identify the root cause of the barking and suggest ways to manage this. We take an educational approach before enforcing as we find dog owners are often willing to resolve the barking issue if they become aware of its impact and are provided tools to manage it. Council has several noise recorders that can be installed, and the recordings professionally assessed to determine the severity of barking dog nuisance and provide workable information to the dog owner

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of where they need to make changes. When the owner is unwilling to work with us, we take enforcement action.

Dog waste that is not cleaned up by the owner is also identified as an issue. Previous suggestions to reduce the problem included the provision of dog waste bags/bins, public education and awareness, and better enforcement by Council. This is because our research indicates that it does not effectively reduce dog waste in public places, with most waste found in local streets and on nature strips. There are also concerns about the very high costs, generation of litter, theft and vandalism, and the conflict with the principle of responsible pet ownership. Further, it has been tried before in Port Phillip without success and was discontinued.

Supporting communications will continue to focus on 'owner onus', and the Local Law requirement to carry a bag to pick up after your dog.

Stray cats also continue to be a concern. Domesticated cats are currently required to be confined to owners' premises from 9pm to 6am. Unowned and feral cats will continue to be both a nuisance for the community and a negative environmental impact without adequate management into the future. Council will focus on responsible cat ownership.

### What we currently do

- Proactive patrols of parks and foreshore areas. Reactive patrols in focused areas as required.
- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods with particular focus on foreshore areas.
- Increased patrols and attendance at events.
- Partnership with City Amenity Team to provide additional patrols.
- Partnership with the Lost Dogs' Home to run Dogs in the Park dog training events.
- Signage in parks and foreshore areas detailing dog controls
- Signage in parks and foreshore areas notifying that there's wildlife in the area, and to take care.
- Promotion of 'Safe Cats, Safe Wildlife' campaign increase education and awareness amongst
  pet owners on the potential impacts their cats and dogs can have upon wildlife.
- Cat traps available for the public to utilise to contain nuisance cats.
- Information provided to reduce nuisance and promote dog friendly spaces:
  - Dog off leash and dog prohibited area maps
  - Pets of Port Phillip flyer
  - o Barking dog management guide
  - o Dog attack reporting and prevention guide
  - Online resources
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the number of animals that can be kept on a property without a permit.
- Enforce Council orders governing:
  - Mandatory desexing of newly registered cats.
  - Requirement for all cats to be contained to owners' premises 9pm to 6am.
- Conduct investigations in response to customer requests regarding nuisance associated with dogs and cats.

• Enforcement activities including notices to comply, official warnings, infringements and court prosecution.

## Our Plan 2026-29

	Objective 5 Provide a consistent approach to management of dogs in public spaces across Port Phillip.				
5	Activity	When	How we will measure		
5.1	Continue to support Council's implementation of the Dog Off-Leash Strategic Guideline 2024.	Ongoing	Work together with Open Space Council team to support implementation.		
5.2	Continue to partner with local providers to promote dog training events and activities (e.g. Dogs in the Park dog training event with the Lost Dogs' Home).	Ongoing	Facilitate four events annually. Feedback from attendees.		

	Objective 6 Increase patrols, education and enforcement activities.				
6	Activity	When	How we will measure		
6.1	Review patrol schedule and activities (i.e. customer requests, registrations etc) to ensure adequate resourcing for patrols, education and enforcement activities during peak periods.	2027	Increase focus on patrols and officer presence in the field.		
6.2	Review and improve processes for enforcement regarding animal management including barking dog nuisance, dog attacks, dogs off leash and cat containment.	Annually	Nuisance processes revised and improved.		
6.3	Continue to work with apartment buildings to help prevent nuisance by providing registration information / barking / waste / training information to their residents.	Ongoing	Reduced complaint numbers regarding dog nuisance in apartment buildings.		
6.4	Review and seek to improve the way Council collects, measures and reports on domestic animal requests (including identification of 'hotspots', and the ability to better understand gender and demographic data on pet owners, dog walkers, animal complaints, non-compliance etc).	2027	Review completed and any improvements implemented.		

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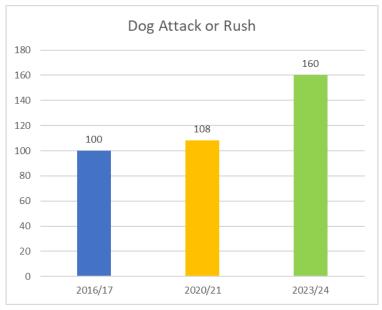
## Dog attacks

#### Context and current situation

Council continuously looks for ways to minimise dog attacks on people and animals. We do this by means of a range of proactive communication initiatives and investigation and enforcement action against offending dog owners.

There has been an increase in reports of dog attacks or rushes<sup>3</sup> over the last few years, some of this increase may be due to the ease of reporting through OneCouncil with a dedicated request category.

In 2023/24, Animal Management Officers investigated 160 reports of alleged dog attacks or dog rushes and Council successfully prosecuted 14 serious dog attacks and 5 dog rushes, equating to a 100% prosecution success rate.



Previous community consultation identified that some people witnessed a dog-related incident but had not reported it to Council. We recognise the opportunity to increase community awareness and level of comfort with the incident reporting process, including assured anonymity.

#### What we currently do

- An immediate 24/7 response to reports of dog attacks.
- Where the threat is not imminent, a response within 24 hours to reports of dangerous dogs,
- Signage in parks and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- · Proactive patrols of parks and foreshore areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> A dog attack is a bite or injury to a person, whereas a rush is where a dog has approached a person within 3 metres displaying aggressive behaviour (e.g. snarling, growling, barking, raising hackles).

- Dog Attack Reporting and Prevention Guide provides improved access to information on dog regulations and Council's investigation process.
- Information provided to reduce instances of dog aggression and promote dog friendly spaces including dog off leash and dog prohibited area maps.
- · Pets of Port Phillip flyer (information on responsible pet ownership requirements in Port Phillip).
- Conduct investigations in response to customer requests regarding dog attack, rush or aggression.
- Promote effective containment, effective control and leashing, as these simple measures have
  a significant impact on reducing the likelihood of a dog attack. Council promotes these aspects
  of responsible dog ownership through educational programs, online information, community
  engagement from our officers in the field and educational guides.
- Enforcement activities including notices to comply, official warnings, infringements and court prosecution

#### Our Plan 2026-29

	Objective 7 Continue to deliver best practice in management of dog attacks.			
7	Activity	When	How we will measure	
7.1	Continue to develop and improve processes in the way Council manages, investigates and prosecutes dog attacks to maintain best practice.	Annually	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.	
7.2	Promote a strong reporting culture in the community regarding dog attacks (e.g. Council's Dog Attack Reporting and Prevention Guide).	2026	Delivery of communications and education materials through multiple channels (also see action 1.1).	
7.3	Provide a reporting structure for vets (i.e. dog attack form) to encourage reporting.	2026	Reporting structure for vets developed and communicated.	
7.4	Assess dogs involved in attacks to determine if a menacing or dangerous dog declaration is warranted.	Ongoing	Assessments undertaken and documented.	

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## Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Council seeks to minimise the risk to the community by administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act to identify and control dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.

In 2024, Port Phillip has 4 declared dogs:

- Two declared as dangerous dogs;
- · Two declared as menacing dogs; and
- Zero restricted breed dogs.

Our pet registration forms require owners to declare if their dog is a restricted breed, has been declared menacing or is a dangerous dog.

## What we currently do

- Record all declared dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry and conduct annual audits of properties and leasing and housing requirements.
- · Conduct investigations in response to reports of declared dogs.
- Conduct Central Animal Records microchip audits to identify potential restricted breed dogs.
- · Fact sheets on website and available at Council offices.
- Enforcement activities including notices to comply, official warnings, infringements and court prosecution.

#### Our Plan 2026-29

	Objective 8 Declared dogs in Port Phillip will be identified and appropriately managed.			
8	Activity	When	How we will measure	
8.1	Conduct declared dog property inspections, ensuring compliance with the Act (e.g. security of fencing, animal housing and signage)	Annually	All declared dog property inspections undertaken annually	
8.2	Continue to identify and declare dogs dangerous and menacing where required.	Ongoing	Dogs who are involved in non- compliance are declared.	

	<b>Objective 9</b> Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.				
9	Activity	When	How we will measure		
9.1	Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.	Annually	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.		
9.2	Review declaration process and linkage to Court outcomes to improve efficiencies and outcomes.	2026	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.		

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## **Domestic animal businesses**

Council works in partnership with Domestic Animal Businesses to make sure businesses are registered and complying with relevant regulations.

Port Phillip has nine registered Domestic Animal Businesses:

- · Four boarding establishments / day care;
- Four dog training establishments.
- One pet shop (sells pet accessories only); and

Animal Management Officers inspect these facilities annually to ensure compliance with the relevant Code of Practice under the Act, prior to registration renewal.

Council has the ability to issue notices to comply, warnings, infringements, or to prosecute businesses that fail to comply with work plans and the relevant Code of Practice.

We actively seek to identify, investigate and prosecute any illegal Domestic Animal Businesses operating in Port Phillip.

#### What we currently do

- Fact sheets on website and available at Council offices.
- Provide all Domestic Animal Businesses with relevant Code of Practice.
- Conduct annual property inspections of registered Domestic Animal Businesses for compliance with legislation.
- Conduct investigations in response to complaints to ensure compliance.
- Enforcement activities including notices to comply, official warnings, infringements and court prosecution.
- · Actively seek and identify illegal domestic animal businesses and prosecute where appropriate.

#### Our Plan 2026-29

Objective 10  Domestic animal businesses in Port Phillip will be identified and registered.				
10	Activity	When	How we will measure	
10.1	Monitor for businesses that should be registered Domestic Animal Businesses by reviewing advertisements, social media, local notice boards, etc and ensure they are compliant with legislation.	Annually	Annual monitoring completed.	

Objective 11 Registered businesses are compliant with current legislation and relevant code of practice.				
11	Activity	When	How we will measure	
11.1	Audit Domestic Animal Businesses in Port Phillip for compliance.	Annually	Annual audits completed.	

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rtcuuc	e community safety risks associated witl	n waiking mu	iltiple dogs at a time.
12	Activity	When	How we will measure
12.1	Reduce the number of dogs that can be walked without a permit from six to four, with a permit up to eight dogs can be walked - to support dog walkers being able to have effective control of their animals in public places and improve community safety outcomes. *	2027	Council Order implemented.

<sup>\*</sup> Note: Alongside the regulatory changes, permit conditions and fee structure will be amended to ensure the permit requirement supports the continued operation of commercial dog walking businesses. Permit conditions will be based around Council having records of commercial dog walking businesses, ensuring basic regulation of their business activity to manage community safety and animal welfare outcomes and providing clarity to commercial dog walkers through clearer wording. A step by step guide and 'concierge' program will be put in place to support these businesses through the permit process to ensure their business is supported by the permit requirement.

# **Training of authorised officers**

Council's Animal Management Team are part of the Safety and Amenity department. The Team regularly works with key partners and stakeholders including Victoria Police and aim to build relationships with these partners and the community by providing advice, support and regulatory services.

Council employs four Animal Management Officers, who during 2023-24 responded to 3,626 requests. Animal Management services are provided 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. An emergency 24/7 after-hours telephone service operates via the Council's main telephone number. On-call rostered Animal Management Officers responds to urgent requests. Council's Summer Amenity program provides seasonal support and a presence in our parks and foreshore areas of an evening during Summer.

## What we currently do

Animal Management Officers are required to have a Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equally appropriate and applicable qualifications and experience.

New staff are required to complete specific training including a Council induction on policies and standard operating safety procedures and introduction to Council's Animal Management procedures and programs. Regular team training and refresher courses and ongoing on the job training and coaching is provided.

Staff are encouraged to represent Port Phillip on industry bodies and committees where appropriate. Internal procedures and processes are regularly reviewed and updated.

The Team maintains a training register, detailing all the qualifications and training courses completed by each team member. Performance reviews and professional development plans are also undertaken annually. Team members currently receive on average 29 hours of animal management training per year.

#### Our Plan 2026-29

	<b>Objective 13</b> Ensure that Animal Management Officers have the knowledge and skills to administer their role.				
13	Activity	When	How we will measure		
13.1	Support Animal Management Officers to further develop their skills as part of the annual performance development process. Including:  • Animal handling  • Animal behaviour  • Restricted breed identification  • Customer interactions	Ongoing	Training incorporated into individual employee plans.		
13.2	Partner with the Lost Dogs' Home to provide training support and real-life animal handing experience.	2026 and ongoing	Training partnership implemented.		
13.3	Animal Management Officer attendance at conferences, industry training and networking.	Ongoing	Attendance / participation at major conferences and training.		
13.4	Continue to review and update Animal Management processes.	Annually	Processes reviewed and updated.		

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## Other matters

Actions in this section address The Act by providing for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in Port Phillip

#### Our Plan 2026-29

	Objective 14 Seek funding opportunities to support domestic animal management programs.				
14	Activity	When	How we will measure		
14.1	Investigate opportunities for external funding towards the development of domestic animal management programs.	Ongoing	Grant opportunities identified and, where appropriate, applications submitted.		

Objective 15 Leverage new technology to continuously improve council services.				
15	Activity	When	How we will measure	
15.1	Investigate and incorporate new technologies to provide improvements in Council's Domestic Animal Management services and communications materials.	Ongoing	Review undertaken and new technologies implemented if appropriate.	

## **Review and evaluation**

Section 68A(3) of The Act requires that every Council must:

- a) review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the Plan;
- b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the plan; and
- c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the Plan in its annual report.

## Performance monitoring and evaluation process

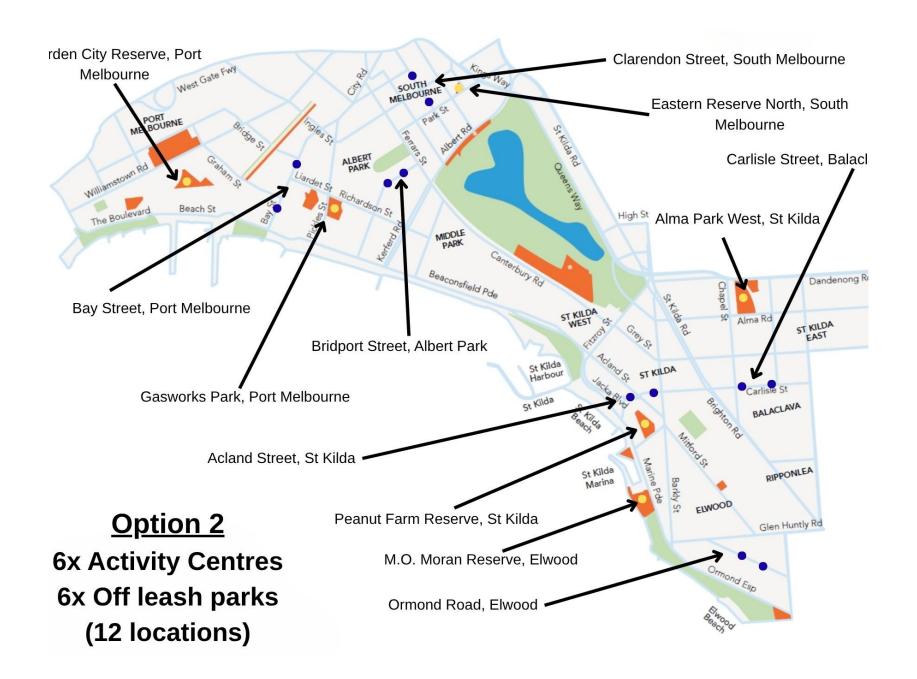
Council will monitor performance of the objectives that are detailed throughout the DAMP by reporting annually through Council's established reporting systems, in accordance with the requirements of The Act and the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

A new DAMP will be completed on or before 30 October 2029.



portphillip.vic.gov.au





Attachment 3:

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 to 2029



## **Engagement Report**





### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

#### **Postal Address**

City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3, PO St Kilda, VIC 3182

If you require a largeprint version, please contact ASSIST on 03 9209 6777.



## Language assistance

Русский (Russian): 03 9679 9813

Polski (Polish): 03 9679 9812

Ελληνικά (Greek): 03 9679 9811

廣東話 (Cantonese): 03 9679 9810

普通話 (Mandarin): 03 9679 9858

Italiano (Italian): 03 9679 9814

For other languages not listed, please phone 03 9679 9814.



If you are deaf or have a hearing or a speech impairment, you can phone us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

- TTY users dial 133677, then ask for 03 9209 6777
- Speak and listen users phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 03 9209 6777

For more information - accesshub.gov.au



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## **Executive Summary**

This Engagement Report summarises the community and stakeholder feedback on the City of Port Phillip's draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026 to 2029. The engagement process, conducted from 9 May to 6 June 2025, aimed to inform and involve the community in shaping policies for responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and public safety within our city.

#### Key objectives and approach

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, the City of Port Phillip is required to develop a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The draft plan focuses on promoting responsible pet ownership, managing nuisance animals, enforcing legislative requirements, and protecting the community and environment. To achieve these objectives, Council implemented a comprehensive engagement strategy including posters, newsletters, social media, emails, a dedicated Have Your Say page, surveys, pop-up events across nine neighbourhoods, and meetings with relevant groups such as the CoPP Dog Network and professional dog walkers.

#### Participation and demographics

Approximately 450 community members participated across various engagement activities, with 223 completing detailed surveys. Engagement was strongest among residents aged 35–69 years, predominantly female, and mainly from Port Melbourne, St Kilda, Albert Park, and Elwood. Diverse voices were sought, including LGBTIQA+ individuals, people with disabilities, multicultural communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, though some barriers to participation were acknowledged.

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#### Key themes from community feedback

#### Responsible pet ownership

There was strong community support for promoting responsible pet ownership, with emphasis on enhancing enforcement of existing rules, particularly dog leash laws and waste management. Many respondents advocated for stricter cat curfews (including suggestions for 24-hour containment), increased accountability through registration and identification, and more effective education and training programs. The importance of practical and visible communication, including signage and multi-channel education, was highlighted.

#### Cat curfew and wildlife protection

Feedback revealed a strong desire for more stringent containment of cats, balancing wildlife protection with practical enforcement challenges. Suggestions included 24-hour curfews, indoor containment, and support programs for cat owners to comply with regulations.

#### Dog waste management and funding

While there was broad support for providing dog waste bags in public spaces, opinions were divided on funding mechanisms such as increasing dog registration fees. Nearly half of respondents opposed fee increases, citing personal owner responsibility and cost concerns.

#### Reducing euthanasia and overpopulation

The community expressed strong backing for proactive measures such as subsidised desexing and veterinary care for low-income households, Trap-Neuter-Release programs for feral cats, behavioural support for pets, and incentivising adoption through reduced registration fees. Concerns were raised about the Council's role and partnerships, with calls to prioritise 'no-kill' organisations and transparency in euthanasia data.

#### Management of dog attacks and dangerous dogs

Safety was a dominant concern, with widespread calls for increased owner

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accountability, stronger enforcement of leash laws, and immediate action against dangerous dogs. Education and training were also seen as vital preventative tools. Criticism of current Council effectiveness and demands for evidence-based approaches and transparent reporting were noted.

#### Dog walking permits and Domestic Animal Businesses

Professional dog walkers strongly opposed the proposed reduction from six to four dogs per walker, citing economic impact and lack of justification. Feedback urged nuanced regulations considering dog size and walker experience. There was general support for regulating domestic animal businesses with clear definitions and avoiding excessive bureaucracy.

#### **Training for Authorised Officers**

Community members emphasised the need for officers to have strong soft skills, practical enforcement training, knowledge of dog behaviour, and ethical conduct. Some scepticism was expressed about conference attendance and resource allocation.

#### Other matters

Calls for stricter enforcement of existing laws, more and better off-leash dog areas, balancing community access, and concerns about the environmental impact of pet ownership were expressed. The importance of Council-community partnership and transparent communication was stressed.

#### **Submissions from Key Stakeholders**

Dog walking professionals urged maintaining the six-dog limit and called for transparent consultation to avoid economic hardship.

The Lost Dogs' Home supported cooperative efforts focused on responsible pet ownership, cat containment, and support for vulnerable pet owners.

The CoPP Dog Network advocated for positive messaging about pet ownership benefits, boosting pet registration, providing dog waste bags, regulating dog



walking permits, improving signage, addressing behavioural issues, and promoting successful partnerships

#### **Next Steps**

The final draft of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029, incorporating community feedback, will be presented to Council for endorsement at the Ordinary Council meeting on 6 August 2025.

This engagement process demonstrated robust community interest and provided valuable insights that will inform the finalisation of the DAMP 2026-2029, fostering a balanced approach to animal management that supports pets, owners, and the broader community in the City of Port Phillip.



## Introduction

## **Project background**

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, every Victorian local government, including the City of Port Phillip, is legally required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). This plan outlines how the Council will manage dogs and cats within its area.

The DAMP's core objectives are to:

Promote responsible pet ownership and enhance the welfare of cats and dogs.

Protect the community and environment from nuisance animals.

**Outline Council's approach to enforcing legislative requirements** and local laws related to pet ownership.

This plan focuses on key areas such as pet owner education, registration, managing dangerous and nuisance animals, promoting responsible behaviour in public spaces, microchipping, desexing, and ensuring owners pick up after their dogs. This draft plan, informed by councillors, stakeholders, and animal management officers, builds upon the success of the previous four-year plan in guiding animal management services across the city.

We're invited community input on our draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 from Friday 9 May to Friday 6 June 2025.

## What we set out to achieve

We aimed to engage with and inform the community about Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) to establish an ongoing dialogue with our community and Councillors, ensuring they are aware, informed, and engaged at key points of the plan's development. This engagement also sought to improve awareness and understanding of animal management practices. Community feedback will be used to refine and

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finalise the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026 to 2029, which will then be presented to Council for consideration in late 2025.

## **About this report**

The purpose of this report is to present the outcomes of the community engagement process for the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-29, detailing the feedback received.



### Before reading this report

The following should be considered in reading this report:

- The information in this report is based on qualitative research and does not necessarily reflect the views of a statistically representative sample of the community.
- Participants attending the community events were self-selecting. As such, the key themes of conversations at these events may reflect only a limited proportion of the local community.
- City of Port Phillip strives to include diverse voices in our engagement activities.
   We acknowledge, however, that some people are likely to have experienced barriers to participation in the activities that are outlined in this report including people with disability, multicultural communities, older people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and others.
- The word 'participants' is used to describe the total group of community
  members and stakeholders who contributed to this engagement process. The
  terms 'respondents' is used to talk about the sub-group of total participants
  who responded to a specific question or engagement activity.
- The information and views presented in this report are a summary of the
  opinions, perceptions and feedback heard from across all the engagement
  activities. The feedback has not been independently validated. As such, some
  information maybe factually incorrect, unfeasible or outside of the scope of this
  project.
- This report summarises key feedback from participants and does not preclude the project team from considering community feedback in its original format.
- The report summarises the feedback from engagement activities. While every effort is made to include the full breadth of feedback provided, not all comments, views or advice are shown in the findings of this report. Where appropriate, a mix of Respondents and metrics are used to convey community feedback. Note: Some respondents' comments touched on multiple themes, so the sum of percentages exceeds 100% in some questions.

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- We acknowledge that, while efforts are taken to manage duplication, there is
  potential for double counting where participants have attended multiple events,
  and/or completed online activities via the Have Your Say website.
- Detailed participant demographic data was not collected or mandatory across all engagement events and activities. This may affect the weight of findings about community participation. Where appropriate, response numbers for each question are displayed or acknowledged.
- This report focuses on the communication and engagement activities delivered by Council in a planned engagement process. It does not necessarily include events, meetings, surveys, petitions, or communications organised by the community or third parties.



## What we did

Between Friday 9 May until Friday 6 June 2025, we delivered a range of communications activities to let the community know about the draft DAMP 2026-29, and collected feedback through a mix of engagement activities.

## **Communications activities**

To increase awareness of the engagement process, we did the following:

**Posters** n=38



Posters about the engagement process and the opportunity to provide feedback were placed in:

Alma Park West, St Kilda East (4)

Gasworks Park, Albert Park (4)

Lagoon Reserve, Port Melbourne(4)

Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda (2)

MO Moran Park, Elwood (2)

Eastern North Reserve, South Melbourne (2)

Garden City Reserve, Port Melbourne (4)

Page, Howe, Hester & Smith Reserves (4x connected parks along the light rail), Port Melbourne (4)

Hester Reserve (2)

Carlisle St, Balaclava (2)

Bay St, Port Melbourne (2)

Acland St, St Kilda (2)

Clarendon St, South Melbourne (2)

Ormond Road, Elwood (2)







#### Emails 37

Emails were sent to key stakeholders about the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 – 2029 being open for feedback.



#### Newsletters

Project information and an invitation to engage was included in two newsletters during the engagement period: the *Have Your Say* and *DiverCity* newsletters.

Featured in May issue of Divercity

Featured in April and May Issue of Have Your Say enewsletter



#### Social media posts

Social media posts were included on both Facebook and Instagram to promote the engagement process.

1 x Instagram post

1 x Facebook <u>post</u>

2 x Instagram stories

(see below)















'Have your say' website 1,157 views Council's dedicated engagement website, 'Have your say' included a page for this project, with information on the process, a timeline, contact details, and opportunities to engage.

https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/DAMP-2025

## **Engagement activities**

To collect feedback from the community we did the following activities:



Survey
(Available online and hard copy on request)

This survey collected demographic details about participants, and asked for community feedback on:

- DAMP's proposed actions to promote responsible pet ownership.
- Communication and education resources that would be useful for dog and cat owners.



- Proposed changes to the cat curfew from 9pm to 6 am to 'sunset to sunrise', with the aim of protecting wildlife and cats.
- The provision of dog waste bags in our public spaces.
- Proposed increase in dog registration fees to assist with the costs of providing public dog waste bags.
- Proposed actions to reduce euthanasia and overpopulation.
- Proposed actions to support the registration and identification of pets.
- Proposed actions outlined to minimise nuisance caused by domestic animals.
- Proposed actions in the management of dog attacks.
- Proposed actions to identify and control dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.
- Proposed changes to dog walking permits.
- Proposed regulations for domestic animal businesses
- Thoughts on training for Training of Authorised Officers
- Any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in Port Phillip.



Neighbourhood Pop-ups 9 n=217 This project delivered a series of pop-ups in neighbourhoods around Port Phillip. These are designed to engage community members who may not otherwise participate.



#### The pop-ups were delivered in the following locations:

- Elwood: Thursday 22 May, 12 2pm
- Ripponlea: Friday 23 May, 10am to 12pm
- St Kilda/St Kilda Rd: Saturday 24 May, 10am to 12pm
- St Kilda East: Saturday 24 May, 2pm to 4pm
- St Kilda: Thursday 29 May, 10am to 12pm
- South Melbourne: Friday 30 May, 10am to 12pm
- Albert Park: Friday 30 May, 2pm to 4pm
- Fisherman's Bend: Saturday 29 May, 2pm to 4pm
- Port Melbourne: Saturday 31 May, 2pm to 4pm

Participants were invited to hear about the project, discuss with a staff member, jump online and/or complete a (paper-based) survey.







Meetings with groups
2

Members of the project team spent time with two local groups to discuss the changes to the draft DAMP and collected feedback. Staff notes from these discussions have been integrated into the findings. Groups discussions included:

- CoPP Dog Network on Friday 13 June 2025
- Dog walking professionals in the City of Port Phillip

## **Reach and participation**

## Reach through communications activities

Activity	Reach	Insights	
Social media posts	Facebook post	Facebook post reached a larger	
1 x Instagram <u>post</u>	Impressions = 1,807	number of people, and more	
l x Facebook <u>post</u>	Engagements = 148	people engaged than Instagram	
2 x Instagram stories	Engagement rate (per impression) = 8.2%  Instagram post Impressions = 1,189  Engagements = 37  Engagement rate (per impression) = 3.1%	<ul> <li>post.</li> <li>This is likely because Council has a slightly larger following on Facebook (13k) versus Instagram (10k), and our community is more vocal on Facebook.</li> </ul>	
	Instagram story Impressions = 245 Link clicks = 4 Instagram story 2 Impressions = 340 Link clicks = 7		



Newsletter(s)	2	<ul> <li>DiverCity is a monthly newsletter with more than 15,000 subscribers.</li> <li>In May and April artless were published in the Have Your Say newsletter reaching 4418 subscribers.</li> <li>There was an uptick in visits to the website immediately after each newsletter.</li> </ul>
'Have your say' website	1,157 views	<ul> <li>Most visitors came to the website either via a campaign (30.7%) or directly (69.2%).</li> <li>Nearly a quarter (22.211%) of visitors made at least one contribution.</li> </ul>



## Participation by engagement activity

#### Approximately 450 community members participated in this engagement process.

This was spread across the engagement activities below:

Activity	Number of participants	Insights
Survey	223	<ul> <li>Women aged 50+ were the most likely to complete the survey.</li> </ul>
Submissions	12	<ul> <li>We received submissions from:</li> <li>Lost Dog Home</li> <li>CoPP Dog Network</li> <li>Dog walking professionals in the City of Port Phillip</li> </ul>
Pop-ups	8	Pop-ups were successful at engaging local community members. That might not have otherwise participated in the Domestical Animal Management Plan engagement



## Who we heard from

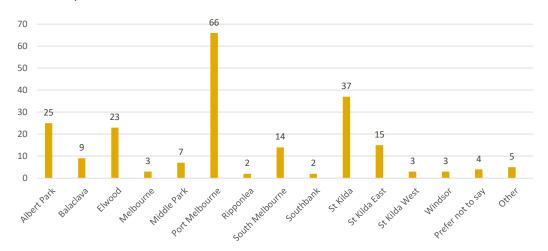
#### **Demographics**

Through our survey, we asked questions about participants' demographic details. Of the total 223 participants shared some of their demographic information with us. The following explores those demographics.

#### We asked: What is your residential suburb?

Select Box | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 218 (97.76%)

**Port Melbourne residents were the most significant contributors** to the feedback, followed by St Kilda, Albert Park, and Elwood. The distribution is as follows:



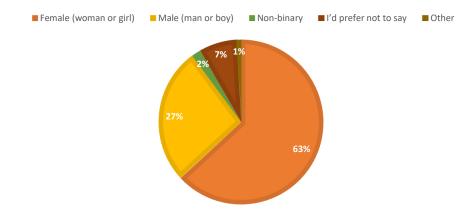


#### **Gender**

The survey data reveals the gender distribution of the 217 participants who answered the question about their gender identity:

- A significant majority, 63%, identified as Female (woman or girl).
- 27 % identified as Male (man or boy).
- 2% identified as non-binary.
- 7% preferred not to say.
- 1% identified as Other.

This breakdown indicates that the survey gained substantially more participation from individuals identifying as female compared to other gender identities.



#### **Age Group**

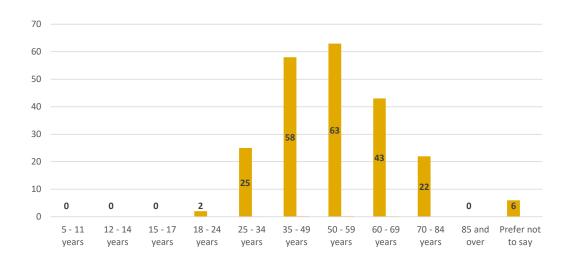
The demographic data from the survey indicates that it primarily engaged middleaged and older adults. The largest age groups represented were:

- 50-59 years old: 28.77%
- 35-49 years old: 26.48%
- 60-69 years old: 19.63%

Conversely, there was very low participation from respondents under the age of 24. This suggests that the feedback received predominantly reflects the perspectives and concerns of older residents in Port Phillip.

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#### **Diversity and inclusion**

#### We asked people if they identified with any of the following statements.

The statements included (201 responses):

'I identify as LGBTIQA+' (20 responses).

- 'I am a person with disability' (18 responses).
- 'I speak a language other than English at home' (16 responses).
- 'I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background' (5 responses).

To help us understand if we were engaging with new community members, we asked participants had provided feedback on any other Council projects in the past 12 months.

## We asked: Have you provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months?

Select Box | Skipped: 21 | Answered: 202 (90.6%)

The survey sought to understand participants' prior engagement with the City of Port Phillip on other projects. Out of 202 respondents who answered this question (90.6% of total participants), the results show a notable level of past involvement:



- **50.00%** (101 respondents) indicated they **had provided feedback** to the Council in the past 12 months.
- 30.20% (61 respondents) stated they had not provided previous feedback.
- 19.80% (40 respondents) were unsure.

This data suggests that a significant portion of individuals contributing to the Domestic Animal Management Plan feedback are already active in providing input on other Council initiatives.

## What we heard

The following should be considered in reading this section of the report:

**Counts and Percentages:** Each unique piece of feedback could contribute to multiple themes, so the sum of percentages will often exceed 100%. This reflects the total number of times an idea was mentioned across the responses to the questions, rather than mutually exclusive categories.

#### pet ownership (Cats and Dogs)

This data set shows the percentage and count of respondents' households owning cats, dogs, both, or none.

- Majority (70.85%) have dogs.
- Small percentages have only cats (6.73%) or both (5.38%).
- Some respondents do not have pets but care for a cat or dog (2.69%).
- About 12.56% have neither cats nor dogs.
   This helps understand the composition of pet ownership in the community to tailor management plans accordingly.

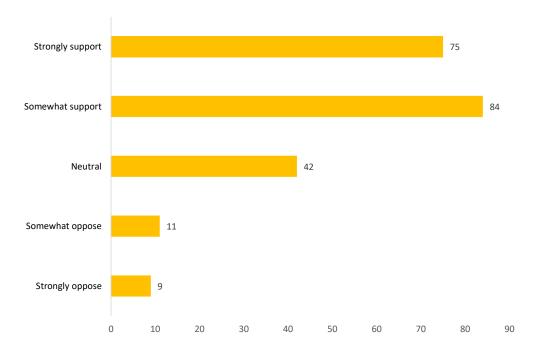


## DAMP's proposed actions to promote responsible pet ownership.

We asked: Considering the DAMP's proposed actions to promote responsible pet ownership, please rate your level of support for these proposed objectives.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 221 (99.1%)

Respondents rated their support for the objectives promoting responsible pet ownership.



- Most respondents somewhat support (38.01%) or strongly support (33.94%) these actions.
- Opposition is low (around 9%).
   This indicates general community backing for responsible ownership initiatives.



## We asked: Do you have feedback on the proposed actions to promote responsible pet ownership?

Long Text | Skipped: 120 | Answered: 103 (46.19%)

#### What we heard:

The feedback on proposed actions to promote responsible pet ownership highlights key areas for Council focus, primarily focused on **Enhancing Regulation & Accountability**, addressing **Community & Environmental Impacts**, optimising **Education & Support Programs**, and clarifying the **Council's Role & Resource Priorities**.

#### **Enhancing Regulation & Accountability**

This theme captures the dominant community demand for **more stringent and consistent enforcement of existing rules**, focusing on ensuring pet owners are held accountable for their actions and pets' behaviours. It emphasises a shift towards a more proactive and less reactive approach.

**Stronger Enforcement and Penalties (31.07%, n=32):** This is the most dominant theme, with respondents advocating for **more active and consistent enforcement of existing pet ownership rules, particularly concerning dog leash laws and waste <b>collection.** There's a strong sentiment that current measures are insufficient, leading to a lack of accountability.

'Enforcement of current dog on leash laws is non-existent. It is reactive at best, even then due to timeliness issues, it's effectively not useful. Council staff that work in this area must agree to spend x%, of their time out in the suburbs enforcing the rules.'

'I think there needs to be a stronger stance on irresponsible pet owners especially those walking dogs off leash in on leash spaces. Also, stronger reinforcement of fines for dog fouling that is not picked up by owners...'

**Cat Curfew and Containment (15.5%, n=16):** A considerable number of comments **advocate for stricter controls on cats**, primarily focusing on curfews (often suggesting 24-hour curfews) and keeping cats indoors to protect wildlife and prevent nuisance to neighbours. This is a specific regulatory measure requested by the community.



'I would like to see strict controls on cat and dog ownership... no free-range cats at ANY time.'

'I would like to see 24-hour cat curfew. Cats are natural hunters and kill birdlife in Port Phillip. It is impossible to let a cat outside and have the cat remain in the owner's yard.'

Registration and ownership obligations (7.8%, n=8): Several comments highlight the importance of pet registration as a foundational element of accountability.

Suggestions include linking registration to educational requirements, behaviour training, or even insurance, and a suggestion to limit the number of pets per household.

'The most important thing is to ensure dogs are registered! If a dog is registered council can have direct communication with dog owners via annual registration.'

'Approximately only 30%, of dogs are registered in our municipality. Why? Because dog owners do not see 'any value' for their registration.'

#### Community and environmental impacts

This theme consolidates feedback on the tangible negative effects of irresponsible pet ownership on shared public spaces, residents' quality of life, and the natural environment. It underscores the reasons *why* stricter controls and responsible behaviours are desired.

Impact on public spaces and quality of life (13.6%, n=14): Many residents express frustration over how irresponsible pet ownership, particularly dog fouling and off-leash dogs, degrades public spaces and negatively affects their ability to use and enjoy parks, footpaths, and beaches. This includes concerns about hygiene, safety, and the 'human-friendliness' of shared areas.

'I'm sick of grass areas and side paths with dog poo. Our kids and I won't picnic on public grass areas because of this.'

'Need to make parks more 'human-friendly' by curtailing off-leash hours to early mornings and evenings - some park areas such as Alma Park West are overrun by dogs on weekends, meaning the park is unusable by families and children.'



'The 2 stated objectives are heavily biased towards the wellbeing of the animals whilst completely ignoring the wellbeing of all residents who have to share their environments.'

**Environmental Impact (6.80%, n=7):** Respondents highlighted the negative environmental consequences of pet ownership, specifically focusing on pollution from dog and cat waste entering waterways and the harm to native wildlife from roaming cats. Some also questioned the Council's role in promoting pet ownership given broader environmental concerns.

'In short you are damaging the environment survival of native animals due to the overreach of dog ownership.'

'Cats are natural hunters and kill birdlife in Port Phillip.'

'pet ownership only heightens the community's environmental impact. Pets, especially dogs, have a sizeable carbon footprint and pet ownership is not something to be encouraged by council.'

#### **Education & Support Programs**

**Effectiveness of education and communication (12.62%, n=13):** While general support for educating pet owners exists, a significant sentiment suggests that current or proposed educational methods (like newsletters) are unlikely to reach 'problem owners.' There is a strong preference for education that is practical, linked to registration, or delivered through hands-on training.

'I support Council helping educate pet owners on responsible pet ownership.'

'Education for pet owners as part of registration process. Primary school is not the target audience and may influence but not decision makers. No need to spend resources on a newsletter, most people too time poor to read more information.'

'More education is needed for first dog owners adopting from shelters as the new owner is unprepared for / unaware of trauma related behaviour.'

**Promotion of dog training (5.83%, n=6):** There is a clear call for the Council to support or offer dog training programs, including puppy training and obedience



classes, to help owners manage their pets better and prevent problematic behaviours. This is seen as a key practical education and support tool.

'Agree with the proposed actions and further suggest that community dog welfare and behavioural modification courses be initiated. These could include classes held in public dog friendly parks and public halls with educational courses that should include local veterinarians, trainers and other experts.'

'Money should be spent on free training for new dog owners so that they understand dog behaviour and can make sure they don't create antisocial dogs that attack and bark all day.'

Desire for more pet-friendly infrastructure and policies (4.85%, n=5): A smaller but important theme suggests a need for more dog-friendly spaces and amenities. This includes calls for more off-leash areas, provision of dog waste bags, and allowing dogs in more public/commercial spaces, which can facilitate responsible ownership by providing appropriate outlets.

'I'd like to see more dog off lead areas in Port Phillip. I don't need council to provide events for pets, just maintain parkland and paths for pets.'

'We need more fences in off leash areas.'

#### Council's Role and strategic approach

Concerns about council spending and approach (7.8%, n=8): Some residents are wary of the Council's proposed actions, viewing them as potentially expensive, complex, or a misuse of funds, especially if they don't directly address core issues like enforcement. There is a desire for transparency and a focus on practical, cost-effective solutions.

'I think that unfortunately the suggestions are costing the Council to pay for bad behaviour of pet owners. Rather than place the financial and time burden on the pet owners.'

'The proposals are too complex and would be too expensive to implement.'



**Lack of Clarity on 'Responsible Pet Ownership':** One participant indicated a need for greater clarity from the Council on the definition of 'responsible pet ownership' itself, suggesting a foundational communication issue.

'It's not clear from the question what 'responsible pet ownership' means.'

# Communication and education resources that would be useful for dog and cat owners.

We asked: Do you have any ideas about communication and education resources that would be useful for dog and cat owners?

Long Text | Skipped: 135 | Answered: 88 (39.46%)

#### What we heard:

Suggestions on what information and education should be provided to pet owners, emphasising responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and behavioural guidance.

Many respondents 17%, (n=15) highlighted the need for **education on responsible ownership and animal welfare**. This includes a broad spectrum from basic responsibilities to understanding animal behaviours and environmental impact. As one respondent stated, 'Education for owners to realise having a pet is a big responsibility.' Others called for a better understanding that 'their friendly dog is another dog threat would be good. Likewise, that their cat is a natural born hunter when not in the house!' and that owners 'need to fulfill requirements on animal welfare, animal behavioural training and responsible pet ownership.'

Many suggestions 14%, (n=12) were made for training and behavioural programs, advocating for subsidised or free dog training, puppy training, and behavioural support for dogs with issues. One respondent suggested, 'Perhaps sponsored or subsidised puppy training programs (aka owner training program) would be more helpful than pouring money into print and digital media alone.' Another emphasised the



importance of 'Basic obedience, based on kindness, rewards and fun, should be encouraged for all dog owners.'

Finally, a strong call 19.3%, (n=17) was made for **clear and visible signage** in public spaces, detailing on-leash and off-leash areas, rules, and consequences. This is essential for communicating immediate, context-specific information to pet owners. Respondents requested 'More visible signs as to the on and off lease spaces' and 'much better, clearer signage...The graphic design of current signage is poor and difficult to quickly comprehend.' Some also wanted 'Better signage please in off leash areas and parks as to dog behaviour, rules, and dog owner responsibility.'

#### **Delivery Methods & Channels**

This theme focuses on how information and education should be disseminated to effectively reach pet owners, moving beyond traditional methods to embrace modern approaches.

There were strong calls 9%, (n=8) for multi-channel communication, including digital and social media. Respondents felt that communication should extend beyond printed materials, including social media videos, apps, podcasts, emails, and integrating information into registration processes. One respondent asserted, 'I think new pet owners should receive education in multi-media format. Printed material and email comms is insufficient.' Specific ideas included 'Social Media videos that show how ask for consent to let your dog play with another dog and what good play looks like' and using 'Technology...to warn of dangers, advise of lost or found dogs and any dog park or neighbourhood works underway.'

Other respondents 7.9%, (n=7) specifically suggested providing clear information and rules directly at registration and through mailouts to ensure owners are aware of their responsibilities from the outset. Ideas included, 'Council ought to issue a two-page outline of relevant local laws and maps of relevant areas to every new registrant and with every renewal,' and that 'Education emailed and/ or posted with registration of dogs' would be effective.



#### **Reinforcement and support**

Many comments 11.4%, (n=10) highlighted the importance of enforcement and consequences as a complement to education. This includes issuing fines, a visible presence of animal welfare officers/rangers, and follow-through on complaints. Suggestions included 'More visible signs... follow through from council on having animal welfare officers present to fine irresponsible dog owners' and a call for 'Greater presence of rangers please and council officers in both on lead public areas and off leash areas too.'

Some respondents (n=3) also suggested promotion of peer pressure and community involvement to foster a culture of responsible pet ownership. Ideas included to 'Encourage peer pressure among dog owners. Support the responsible pet owners to hold others accountable' and for 'Council workers visiting dog parks. Signs, free education sessions. Maybe council working with RSPCA and other rescue groups to promote positive/responsible dog ownership.'

Finally, a few respondents (n=4) reiterated the need for **provision of dog waste bags and facilities** (e.g., bins). While not strictly 'communication,' this practical provision directly supports the desired behaviours of cleaning up after pets and complements educational efforts. Respondents asked for 'More bags/ bins provided for dog fouling in community areas' and to 'Provide poo bag dispensers in dog off-leash open spaces and add signage.'

**Summary:** Respondents to the question had a strong desire for a combined approach involving education, clear communication, enforcement, and community engagement to improve responsible pet.



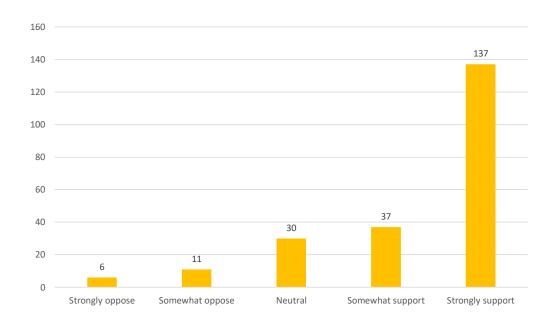
# Proposed changes to the cat curfew from 9pm to 6 am to 'sunset to sunrise', with the aim of protecting wildlife and cats.

Do you support the cat curfew changing from 9pm to 6 am to 'sunset to sunrise', with the aim of protecting wildlife and cats?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 221 (99.1%)

- Strong support from 61.99%.
- Somewhat support 16.74%.
- Opposition is low (~8%).

This reflects community agreement to extend curfew hours for wildlife protection.





## We asked: Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed changes to the cat curfew?

Long Text | Skipped: 142 | Answered: 81 (36.32%)

The feedback on the proposed cat curfew changes reveals that respondents are deeply concerned with the impact of roaming cats, leading to a strong push for more stringent containment measures. However, this demand is balanced by significant reservations regarding the practical implementation and enforcement of the new rules. The responses highlight a clear tension between hopeful goals for wildlife protection and the realities of pet ownership.

#### Demand for enhanced containment

#### The strongest message from the feedback (30.86%, n=25 respondents) is a demand

for better containment of cats. While many see the proposed sunset-to-sunrise curfew as positive, a significant number believe it doesn't go far enough. A common suggestion is for a 24-hour curfew or for cats to be confined to their property at all times (indoors or in secure enclosures), often citing dog regulations as a comparison.

'I'd prefer no cats allowed outside their registered address EVER!,'

'The cat curfew should be 24 hour,'

'Cats should be on lead/under control if they are away from premises (same as for a dog).'

#### Implementation challenges

#### **Enforcement concerns**

Enforcement is a significant concern for respondents, with a substantial number (22.22%, n=18) expressing high scepticisms about the Council's ability to enforce the curfew. They frequently point to a lack of enforcement for existing rules, asking questions like, 'How does the council plan to enforce the curfew given people are in breach already?' and state, 'There doesn't appear to be any enforcement of the curfew.'

#### **Timing practicality**



The 'sunset to sunrise' timing is widely criticised as being vague and impractical. Respondents note that these times change daily, making them difficult to remember and comply with. Concerns were especially high for cat owners who work full-time during winter, when sunset can be early 'Item 2.3 is not suitable during winter months. It's not a reasonable expectation for owners to be home by 5:30pm daily in order to comply or risk fine.' Many suggest fixed times for summer and winter '9pm to 6 am is clearer.'

#### **Wildlife protection**

Protecting native wildlife is a core driver for supporting stricter cat curfews, a sentiment echoed by 12.35%, (n=10) of respondents. Many explicitly call out cats as 'natural hunters' and express significant concern for local 'birdlife' and 'possums.' This strong ecological justification is a key reason behind the demand for enhanced cat containment, with comments like, 'Important for native wildlife and the health and safety of cats to be indoors at night' and 'Cats are natural hunters, and our wildlife needs protection from cats.' One respondent simply stated, 'Great if it saves a few critters.'

#### Opposition to stricter curfew / status quo Preference

A smaller but notable segment of respondents **7.41%**, **n=6 either believes the current curfew is sufficient or opposes the changes on the grounds that they are unrealistic or cruel to cats**. These comments reflect a belief that cats need to be outdoors for their well-being, stating, 'Cats are natural hunters and need to be allowed outside. It is cruel to keep them as indoor pets.'

#### **Owner support & education**

A significant theme emerging from the feedback 7.41%, **n**=6 is the **need for proactive support to help cat owners comply with new regulations**. Respondents are looking for practical assistance like advice and training on keeping cats indoors or on a lead. They also suggest **subsidies for outdoor enclosures** and **education for owners about the negative impacts of roaming cats**.

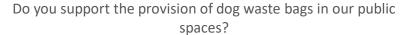
'helping people have an alternative such as an enclosure outside... A subsidy would be ideal,' 'train people how to get their cat on a lead,' 'An educational piece for cat Owners about the dangers...'

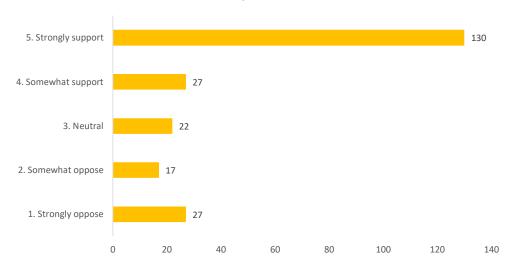


## The provision of dog waste bags in our public spaces.

### We asked: Do you support the provision of dog waste bags in our public spaces?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 223 (100%)





#### What we heard:

The feedback unequivocally demonstrates **strong overall community support** for the provision of dog waste bags in public spaces, with **over 70%**, **of respondents either somewhat or strongly supporting the proposal**. This clear mandate signals a significant willingness within the surveyed population to embrace such an initiative. Specifically:

• A significant majority 58.30%, (n=130) strongly support the provision of dog waste bags in our public spaces, indicating widespread approval.



- An additional 12.11%, somewhat support it, contributing to the substantial backing.
- Combined opposition stands at approximately 19.73%,, reflecting a clear minority with reservations or objections. Within this opposition, the 'strongly oppose' group mirrors the 'somewhat support' group at 12.11%,, suggesting a segment of committed detractors.
- Nearly 10%, of respondents remain neutral, representing an undecided or indifferent segment that could potentially be swayed with further information or trial programs.

While there's a vocal minority with objections and a neutral group, the prevailing sentiment is one of considerable support. This strong backing can inform strategic decisions, suggesting that implementing dog waste bag provision would likely be well-received by most of the community. The next question focuses on understanding the specific concerns of the opposing and neutral groups.

## We asked: Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed provision of dog waste bags?

Long Text | Skipped: 86 | Answered: 137 (61.43%)

#### What we heard

#### **Responsibility & Funding**

A significant 36%, (n=50) of respondents firmly believe dog ownership entails personal responsibility, including providing waste bags, viewing council provision as 'an unnecessary subsidy.' As one respondent put it, 'I agree owners should be responsible for provision of their own bags.' Another stated, 'All costs should be borne by dog owners.'

The cost burden is a major point of contention, with non-dog owners strongly opposing paying through general rates. 'I don't have a dog so why should I have to pay for dog waste bags?' was a common sentiment, along with, 'Waste of money. Why should non-dog owners have to subsidise the many dog owners can afford to buy their own dog waste bags.' Dog owners also expressed concern about increased



**registration fees**, especially given perceived high existing fees. 'Your question below about increasing fees to provide waste bags is outrageous!' one respondent exclaimed.

Many dog owners (8%, n=11) feel existing fees are already high and should encompass such services. They call for transparency on how fees are used and compare their council to others that provide bags with lower fees: 'We pay amongst the highest registration fees in the country, and don't seem to get much in return.' Another respondent highlighted the discrepancy: 'Moonee Valley provides bags and offers plenty of off-leash dog parks. Port Phillip does not provide bags and has practically no off-leash areas...'

#### **Effectiveness & Impact**

Conversely, 20%, (n=28) of respondents believe that providing bags serves a broader community benefit by keeping public spaces cleaner. They see it as a helpful measure, reducing overall dog waste, even if owners are primarily responsible.

As one person said, '…if public areas had bags available it would assist to clean waste for the community.' Another noted, 'Easy access to biodegradable bags will encourage those who forget their own to pick up after their dog.'

However, many respondents (8%, n=11) are sceptical about behaviour change, doubting that providing bags will significantly alter the habits of irresponsible owners. 'Some owners will never do the right thing even when you supply them with bags,' one said, and 'It has been tried before in Port Phillip and elsewhere, and it didn't/doesn't work.' Another felt, 'The people who do not usually pick up are probably germophobes or something else - they still won't use the bags.'

The positive impact on cleanliness seen in other council areas provides contrast, with 15%, (n=20) of supporters pointing to success elsewhere. 'It's been done successfully in other councils and overseas,' and 'I walk my dog in Port Phillip as well as other council zones that do provide bags. Those zones are incredibly clean... Those same areas in Port Melbourne, Albert Park and St Kilda are disgusting.'

Crucially, this theme also incorporates the strong preference for **biodegradable bags** and concerns about the **waste cycle and landfill**, highlighting the environmental



footprint of any bag provision scheme. There's a consensus that any provided bags must be biodegradable or compostable: 'Need to be biodegradable,' 'Make sure they are biodegradable,' and 'They should be 100%, biodegradable and there should be sufficient composting bins for the waste to be deposited around the City's landscape.'

Some respondents (5%, n=7) questioned the environmental impact of daily plastic bag disposal into landfill, regardless of who provides them, suggesting this contradicts council's waste reduction goals.

#### **Practical Implementation.**

Common suggestions for **dispenser location** include park entrances, dog walking hotspots, dog-friendly beaches, and near bins. Six participants emphasised that increased bag provision must be matched by an adequate number of easily accessible **bins** for disposal.

Concerns about **vandalism and monitoring** of dispensers are also vital practical considerations, with four participants raising these issues. Furthermore, **the strong call from 14%**, **(n=19) of respondents for education and enforcement campaigns** is included here, as these are critical supporting measures for any successful initiative. 'Even with bags, there's a strong call... for education campaigns on responsible pet ownership and increased enforcement/fines for non-compliance.'

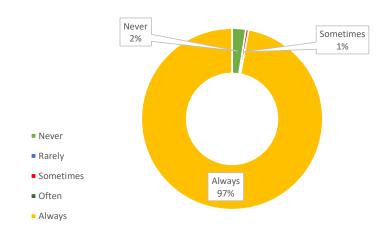
Even suggestions like improving **water facilities** for dogs or exploring waste bag vending machines, along with a trial period or better fencing at dog parks, fall under the broader umbrella of enhancing pet-friendly amenities and practical solutions.



#### We asked: Do you clean up after your dog when in public

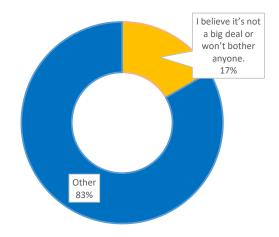
Multi Choice | Skipped: 20 | Answered: 203 (91.03%)

#### What we heard:



### We asked: You selected that you do not always clean up after your dog, why not?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 217 | Answered: 6 (2.69%)





The data strongly indicates a high level of responsible pet ownership within the surveyed group regarding dog waste cleanup in public spaces. The responses overwhelmingly show that **the vast majority of dog owners consistently clean up after their pets.** 

A striking 97.6%, (197 out of 203 respondents) reported that they 'Always clean up' after their dog in public.

Only a minimal 0.5%, (1 respondent) selected 'Sometimes clean up.'

'Rarely clean up' and 'Often clean up' received 0%, of responses, further emphasising the high compliance. A **small outlier of 2.5%, (5 respondents) stated they 'Never clean up.'** 

#### **Reasons for Non-Compliance**

Among the very **few respondents (6 out of 203)** who indicated they do not always clean up: Only 1 respondent explicitly stated the belief that 'it's not a big deal or won't bother anyone.'

Significantly, five of the six respondents who initially indicated 'Never clean up' or 'Sometimes clean up' clarified under the '*Other*' category that their reason for not cleaning up was that **they do not own a dog**. This suggests that these responses may have been misinterpretations of the initial question or from non-dog owners participating, thus reducing the actual non-compliance rate among *dog owners* even further.

Crucially, no respondents selected common reasons for non-compliance such as forgetting supplies, lacking supplies, or believing it's acceptable in natural areas.

This data paints a very positive picture of current dog waste cleanup habits among the surveyed population. The **extremely high rate of 'always clean up,' coupled with the fact that most 'non-compliance' responses came from individuals who clarified they don't own a dog, suggests that irresponsible cleanup is a negligible issue within this respondent group.** The responses revealed minimal practical reasons for not cleaning up among actual dog owners.

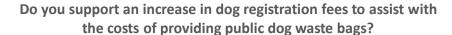


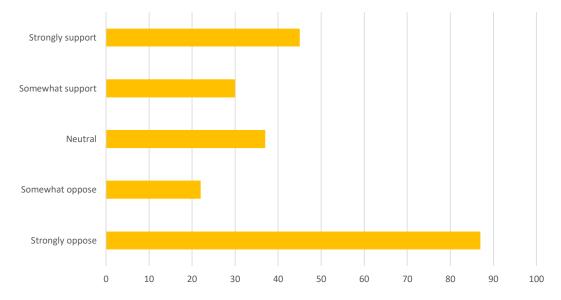
# Proposed increase in dog registration fees to assist with the costs of providing public dog waste bags.

We asked: Do you support an increase in dog registration fees to assist with the costs of providing public dog waste bags?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 221 (99.1%)

We asked this question to understand public support for raising dog registration fees to cover the costs associated with providing public dog waste bags. The responses, collected reveal a diverse range of opinions:







#### What we heard

#### Community willingness to fund dog waste bags via registration fees

The survey data reveals a **divided community regarding the funding mechanism for public dog waste bags**, specifically concerning an increase in dog registration fees. While there is a notable segment of support, a near majority expresses opposition, indicating a contentious area for policy implementation.

#### **Key divisions:**

- Significant opposition: Nearly half of all respondents, 49.32%, n=109, oppose the proposed fee increase. A substantial portion of this opposition, 39.37%, n=87, strongly oppose it. This strong resistance from almost two-fifths of participants signals a critical challenge for Council's proposal to raise fees for this purpose.
- Meaningful minority support: Approximately one-third of respondents, 34%, n=75, support the fee increase. This support is split between 20.36%, strongly supporting and 13.57%, somewhat supporting the adjustment. This indicates that a significant segment of the community does see value in this funding approach.
- Undecided Segment: A notable 16.74%, of participants remain neutral, neither
  endorsing nor opposing the increase. This group represents a potentially
  persuadable segment that might shift their stance with further information,
  alternative proposals, or clearer justification for the fee increase.

In essence, while the *need* for dog waste bags might be supported (as seen in other data), the funding mechanism through increased registration fees is a point of contention that requires careful strategic consideration.



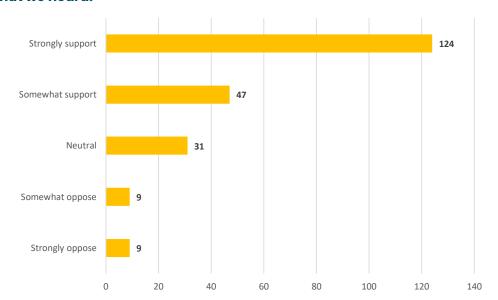
## Proposed actions to reduce euthanasia and overpopulation.

Feedback on the proposed actions to reduce pet euthanasia and overpopulation highlights a strong community desire for proactive measures. While the ultimate goals are widely supported, there are varied opinions on the specific mechanisms and the extent of Council's involvement. Key themes revolve around preventing animals from entering shelters, promoting responsible pet ownership, addressing the root causes of overpopulation, and ensuring equitable access to pet care.

We asked: Considering the DAMP's proposed actions to reduce euthanasia and overpopulation, please rate your level of support.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 220 (98.65%)

#### What we heard:





## We asked: Do you have feedback on the proposed actions to reduce euthanasia and overpopulation?

Long Text | Skipped: 142 | Answered: 81 (36.32%)

#### What we heard:

#### Preventative Measures & Responsible Ownership

A significant 25%, n=20 of respondents strongly advocate for subsidised veterinary care and desexing, especially for low-income households. Respondents argue that financial barriers directly contribute to unregistered and un-desexed pets, thus increasing overpopulation and euthanasia rates. 'Providing subsidised veterinary care to those on low incomes would be a massive help,' one respondent noted, while another emphasised, 'Mandating for cats to be desexed isn't enough. If people can't afford it, then they just won't desex them and then not register their cat.'

Some participants 5%, n=4 highlighted that a significant portion of euthanasia stems from behavioural issues. They suggested providing free or subsidised expert training and support for newly adopted pets to prevent re-surrender. 'Most dog euthanasia are due to ill health or behaviour issues. Supporting people in the community to prevent the dogs from entering the shelter is the way to go,' a respondent stated, with another adding, 'Provide free expert training for people who adopt dogs with any behavioural issues...'

For cats, 5%, n=4 of participants specifically supported Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programs for controlling feral and semi-feral cat populations. As one respondent explained, 'The high cat euthanasia rate can only be prevented through Trap Neuter Release programs. Trapping semi feral or feral cats and euthanising them only increases feral cat numbers.'

#### Finally, there's a strong call for increased owner accountability and education.

Respondents stated they'd like to see more robust education programs before people acquire pets, covering responsibilities and financial commitments. 'Education needs to happen before people acquire pets they can't afford to keep or don't understand the responsibilities involved,' a respondent suggested, alongside the need to 'ensure that people that are not looking after their pets adequately are held to account.'



This also ties into the **positive feedback 11%**, **n=9**, **and 10%**, **n=8** for initiatives like **Pets of the Homeless** and broader **social support** for vulnerable individuals, recognising the vital role pets play in wellbeing and supporting owners facing financial hardship. 'Fantastic initiatives – pets make an enormous difference to people's wellbeing, all the more for those living with hardships,' one respondent enthusiastically stated.

#### Promoting adoption & regulating supply

There is strong support (25%, n=20) for incentivising pet adoption from shelters and rescue organisations. The most popular suggestion is offering reduced or free registration fees for adopted pets, often for a multi-year period.

'Reduced registration fees for those who adopt pets' was a common suggestion.

Respondents also felt, 'We need to develop a culture of giving a dog a forever home vs buying a new dog. There must be incentives for people to rescue!"

Conversely, many respondents n=13 expressed strong views against breeders, particularly 'backyard breeders' and those producing 'designer dogs', advocating for discouraging and regulating breeding. Suggestions included stopping breeder licensing or forcing them to operate outside the area 'Stop licensing dog breeders. Force them to move into another area if they want to breed dogs.', significantly higher registration fees or 'hefty taxes' for pets from breeders 'Reduce the population by making it more difficult to purchase a cat or dog from a breeder.', and even banning online sales of certain pets. A respondent passionately stated, 'I believe 'designer dogs' should be banned. If you want a dog, then it should be a rescue dog.' One respondent did express concern about limiting 'freedom of choice' by disproportionately rewarding rescue adoptions.

#### Council's role & partnerships

A recurring theme was the questioning of **Council's remit** in these initiatives. Some participants, identifying as ratepayers, argued that managing pet overpopulation and euthanasia is not a core Council responsibility and that funding such programs constitutes an inappropriate use of ratepayer money. 'How much is this all costing? Way too much accommodating pet owners. Get back to the days of owners were responsible for their dog/cats/pets themselves and contained them in their home,' one



respondent noted, with another stating, 'This is not council's responsibility and rate payers should not be paying for this.'

While the intent to partner with animal welfare organisations is broadly supported, there is **specific concern regarding partnership with shelters**, particularly the Lost Dogs' Home. Several respondents identified it as a 'kill shelter' and urged the Council to partner with 'no-kill' organisations or local vets instead for lost pet returns. 'Do not partner with Lost Dogs Home they are a kill shelter,' was a direct instruction, alongside pleas to 'Please look beyond lost dogs homes. Go to other animal organisations that help animals get back healthy and then rehome / adopt them out.'

One respondent indicated a need for greater **transparency and data regarding specific euthanasia numbers and containment durations** to properly assess program effectiveness.

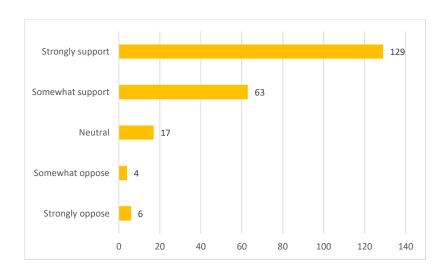
Finally, a minority view raised concerns about the **environmental impact of pet ownership**. One respondent questioned the 'Council's promotion of pet ownership in
the context of a climate crisis, suggesting advocating for a 'pet-free city' or measuring
pets' environmental footprint. 'Sounds like advocacy for more pet ownership. Aren't we
in a climate crisis?' a respondent asked, while another challenged, 'How about
advocating for a 'pet free' city - where native animals and wildlife can make a resurgency...'



## Proposed actions to support the registration and identification of pets.

We asked: Considering the DAMP's proposed actions to support the registration and identification of pets, please rate your level of support.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 4 | Answered: 219 (98.21%)



### Do you have feedback on the proposed actions on pet registration and identification?

Long Text | Skipped: 163 | Answered: 60 (26.91%)

#### What we heard:

Importance and accessibility of identification and registration

Most respondents 16.05%, n=13 expressed general support for microchipping and registration with concerns about the accuracy and accessibility of microchip data. Respondents clearly understand the fundamental role these tools play in responsible pet ownership, reunification, and overall animal management. They also highlight issues that hinder the effectiveness of these systems, such as outdated microchip details and difficult national registers.

49



#### Respondents said:

'Updating microchip details is often lost... Free microchipping is a great initiative and education, and microchip checks are a fantastic way to ensure details are accurate.'

'Most cats I see do not have tags so yes they need to be registered.'

'All pets should have to be microchipped period. Cats, dogs, birds, snakes etc.'

#### Incentives and barriers to registration (cost and process)

Respondents 12.35%, n=10 stated that the registration process itself, including fees, can either encourage or discourage compliance. Respondents suggest 'amnesty' periods to promote registration without fear of immediate penalty, and advocate for varied fee structures (e.g., lower for indoor cats, desexed pets, or concession holders) as incentives. Conversely, the perceived high cost or unfairness of fees is seen as a barrier.

#### Respondents stated:

'Maybe an amnesty/ registry day once a year to promote the registration of dogs where people have not done so or forgot to dose.in the past.'

'I feel it is unfair to have to pay a full fee to register my cat, who is microchipped and stays indoors except in secure carriers/in a harness. Having a lower registration fee for cats who are kept indoors may also help lower the rates of cats that roam.'

'There needs to be a campaign to encourage people to register WITHOUT fear of fines / questions as to why they haven't done it in the past.'
'Ridiculous how much we pay for registration.'

#### **Enforcement and accountability**

Respondents 12.35%, n=10 expressed concerns about effective policing of existing rules, the desire for stronger consequences for non-compliance, and criticisms related to council tag policies that are perceived as revenue-driven rather than welfare-driven. This indicates a desire for more robust and fair application of rules.

#### Respondents said:

'make pet registration harder and increase fines for unregistered and chipped dogs and cats.'

50



'Enforcement. All cats and dogs must be chipped. Have Officers in the suburbs checking every single dog and cat that they find.'

'Please make it affordable as quite a few people don't use the dog waste bag. So where does the money go?'

'Not sure why registration is necessary. How do registration fees directly benefit me? Is this not just revenue raising for the council?'

#### Specific policy proposals for responsible ownership

Some Respondents 16.05%, n=13 suggestions for new or modified policies aimed at fostering responsible pet ownership and managing pet populations. These include measures related to breeding, desexing, waste management (via DNA), and expanding the scope of registered animals.

#### Respondents stated:

'In order to get a dog licence, the dog's DNA should be collected. This will enable the easy fining of owners who don't pick up their dog's waste.'

'pet rabbits need to be included as domestic animals so they can be microchipped, registered and desexed.'

'You need to have provision for responsible owners who are choosing to desex once dogs are fully grown... owners should not be penalised for choosing this.'

'There needs to be much more policing of breeders and their practices, including how many litters they force dogs to produce.'

'Use increased fees on pets who have not been desexed to fund free or cheap desexing.'

#### Council's approach

General concerns were raised by some respondents **7.41%**, **n=6** about the **Council's management of pet policies**, **including perceptions of overreach**, **vague proposals**, **and inefficient use of ratepayer money**. These comments often reflect a broader scepticism about the Council's role or competence in these areas.



#### Respondents stated:

'Actions are too vague / non-specific to provide meaningful comment.'
'This proposal whilst altruistic just adds to Council costs. If you have an

animal, look after it.'

'This is again council over-reach and not a good use of ratepayer money. The registration process is easy.'

'Please provide specifics. Cost analysis of programs currently and future costings allow for greater feedback.'

#### Miscellaneous / General support / No comment

Other respondents 13.58%, n=11 provided general expressions of support, simple 'No' responses, or comments that are either too brief to categorise meaningfully or fall outside the immediate scope of registration and identification (e.g., specific operational suggestions like dog training courses, or comments related to shelter partnerships discussed in previous questions).

## Proposed actions outlined to minimise nuisance caused by domestic animals.

#### Proposed actions to reduce pet euthanasia and overpopulation

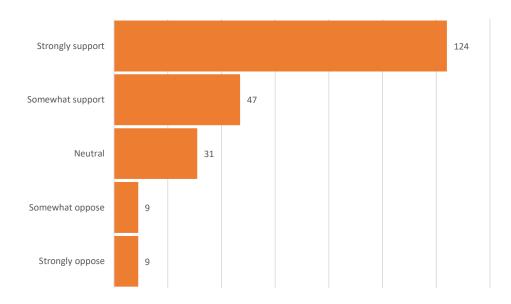
#### **Overview**

Feedback on the proposed actions to reduce pet euthanasia and overpopulation highlights a strong community desire for proactive measures. While the ultimate goals are widely supported, there are varied opinions on the specific mechanisms and the extent of Council's involvement. Key themes revolve around preventing animals from entering shelters, promoting responsible pet ownership, addressing the root causes of overpopulation, and ensuring equitable access to pet care.



## We asked: Considering the DAMP's proposed actions to reduce euthanasia and overpopulation, please rate your level of support.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 220 (98.65%)



## We asked: Do you have feedback on the proposed actions to reduce euthanasia and overpopulation?

Long Text | Skipped: 142 | Answered: 81 (36.32%)

#### What we heard:

#### Prioritising prevention and reducing shelter intake

#### Subsidised veterinary care and desexing

Several respondents 25%, (n.20) advocate for increased access to affordable veterinary care, especially desexing, for low-income households. The argument is that financial barriers lead to unregistered and un-desexed pets, contributing directly to overpopulation and euthanasia rates. Many believe this is a more effective long-term solution than solely managing animals once they enter shelters.



'Providing subsidised veterinary care to those on low incomes would be a massive help.', 'Subsidised cat desexing for lower income households is fantastic and needs to be supported more...', 'Mandating for cats to be desexed isn't enough. If people can't afford it, then they just won't desex them and then not register their cat.'

#### Trap-neuter-release programs for cats (TNR)

Some participants 5%, n.4 specifically highlight TNR programs as essential for controlling feral and semi-feral cat populations, arguing that trapping and euthanising exacerbates the problem.

'The high cat euthanasia rate can only be prevented through Trap Neuter Release programs. Trapping semi feral or feral cats and euthanising them only increases feral cat numbers.'

#### **Addressing behavioural issues**

Participants 5%, n.4 suggested that a significant portion of euthanasia is due to behavioural issues. Providing free or subsidised expert training and support for newly adopted pets, especially those with pre-existing behavioural challenges, is seen as crucial to successful adoptions and preventing re-surrender.

'Most dog euthanasia are because of I'll health or behaviour issues. Supporting people in the community to prevent the dogs from entering the shelter is the way to go.', 'Provide free expert training for people who adopt dogs with any behavioural issues...'

## Encouraging adoption and discouraging irresponsible breeding Incentivising pet adoption

There is strong support 25%, n.20 for promoting pet adoption from shelters and rescue organisations. The most popular suggestion is to offer reduced or free



registration fees for adopted pets, often for a multi-year period. More frequent adoption days are also requested.

'Reduced registration fees for those who adopt pets', 'We need to develop a culture of giving a dog a forever home vs buying a new dog. There must be incentives for people to rescue!'

#### Discouraging and regulating breeding

Many respondents n.13, expressed strong views against dog and cat breeders, particularly 'backyard breeders' and those producing 'designer dogs.'

Suggestions include:

- Stopping the licensing of breeders or forcing them to operate outside the area.
- Significantly higher registration fees or a 'hefty tax' for pets purchased from breeders.
- Banning the online sale of certain pets (e.g., rabbits).

'Stop licensing dog breeders. Force them to move into another area if they want to breed dogs.', 'I believe 'designer dogs' should be banned. If you want a dog then it should be a rescue dog.', 'Reduce the population by making it more difficult to purchase a cat or dog from a breeder.'

Conversely, a minority view expressed concern about limiting 'freedom of choice' by disproportionately rewarding rescue adoptions over breeder purchases.

#### Council's role and responsibilities

#### Council's remit

A theme was the questioning of Council's role in these initiatives. Some respondents identified as ratepayers, **argue that managing pet overpopulation and euthanasia is not a core Council responsibility and that funding such programs constitutes an inappropriate use of ratepayer money**. They suggest Council should primarily focus on enforcing existing laws.

'How much is this all costing? Way too much accommodating pet owners. Get back to the days of owners were responsible for their dig/cats/pets themselves



and contained them in their home.', 'This is not council's responsibility and rate payers should not be paying for this.'

#### Partnership with shelters

While the intent to partner with animal welfare organisations is broadly supported, there is specific concern regarding the Lost Dogs' Home, with several respondents identifying it as a 'kill shelter' and urging the Council to partner with 'no-kill' organisations or local vets instead, for lost pet returns.

#### Respondents said:

'Do not partner with Lost Dogs Home they are a kill shelter.', 'Please look beyond lost dogs homes. Go to other animal organisations that help animals get back healthy and then rehome / adopt them out.'

#### Transparency and data

One participant **indicated a need for greater transparency regarding specific euthanasia numbers** and containment durations to properly assess the effectiveness of programs.

#### Supporting vulnerable pet owners

#### Pets of the homeless

Proposed partnership with **Pets of the Homeless received positive feedback 11%, (n.9). Respondents recognised the vital role pets play in the well-being of vulnerable** and homeless individuals, strongly supporting efforts to keep these companions together and ensure their welfare.

'Fantastic initiatives - pets make an enormous difference to people's wellbeing, all the more for those living with hardships.', 'Strongly support providing support to people who are homeless and socially isolated to retain their pets if possible.'



#### **Broader social support**

**Beyond homelessness, 10%, (n.8) of respondents suggested extending support** (e.g., vet/food bills, pet visits for those on low incomes) to individuals with mental health issues who benefit from pet companionship but may face financial barriers.

#### **Broader environmental and societal considerations**

#### **Environmental Impact of Pet Ownership**

One respondent **questioned the Council's promotion of pet ownership in the context of a climate crisis** and other respondents raised the impact of pets (particularly dogs and cats) on the environment and native wildlife. They suggested advocating for a 'pet-free city' or measuring the environmental footprint of pets.

'Sounds like advocacy for more pet ownership. Aren't we in a climate crisis?', 'Does council care that there are already so many dogs/pets that the streets are covered with their 'litter'?', 'How about advocating for a 'pet free' city - where native animals and wildlife can make a re-surgency...'

#### Owner accountability and education

There's a call for increased accountability for irresponsible and more robust education programs before people acquire pets, covering responsibilities and financial commitments.

'Education needs to happen before people acquire pets they can't afford to keep or don't understand the responsibilities involved.', 'Need to ensure that people that are not looking after their pets adequately are held to account.'

Respondents generally supports the Council's goals of reducing pet euthanasia and overpopulation, viewing these as worthy objectives. However, there is a clear mandate for Council to prioritise preventative measures, particularly through accessible desexing and behavioural support. The strong desire to encourage adoption by incentivising it and simultaneously discouraging irresponsible breeding is evident. Critical feedback on Council's perceived role, the necessity of strong



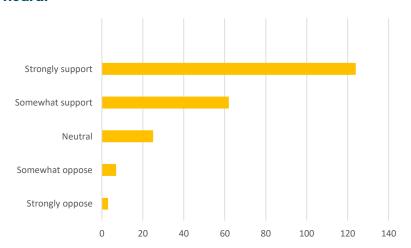
enforcement, and the choice of partner **organisations** (**especially 'kill shelters'**) highlights areas **where further clarity, justification, and potentially revisions to the DAMP** may be required. The **widespread support for initiatives assisting vulnerable pet owners** underscores a significant community value.

## Proposed actions in the management of dog attacks.

We asked: Considering the DAMP's proposed actions in the management of dog attacks, please rate your level of support.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 221 (99.1%)

#### What we heard:



## We asked: Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed actions to minimise dog attacks?

Long Text | Skipped: 149 | Answered: 74 (33.18%)

#### What we heard:

The feedback on proposed actions regarding dog attacks and menacing dogs reveals that respondents (n=74) are deeply concerned about safety and compliance, with a



strong consensus that **owner accountability and effective enforcement** are paramount. While the **goal of preventing attacks is widely supported**, respondents **offer views on methods, highlighting both the importance of education and the need for decisive action against irresponsible owners and dangerous animals**.

Critiques of the Council's current effectiveness and calls for data-driven approaches underscore a desire for more transparent and impactful strategies.

#### Enhance owner accountability & enforcement of leash laws

This is by far the most dominant theme, with **43.2%**, **n=32 of** respondents consistently emphasising that **irresponsible owners**, **not dogs**, **are the primary cause of attacks and nuisances**. There is a widespread demand for stricter enforcement of existing leash laws, increased patrols, and significant fines for non-compliance. Many feel that the **onus must be squarely on owners to control their dogs** and face serious repercussions for failures.

'The dogs who attack are rarely at fault it is the owners lack of responsibility that contributes to attacks by ignoring rules and holding the misbelief that their dog is friendly in all situations and scenarios.'

'Offending dogs and their owners must be identified and fined appropriately. If this leads to dog removal, then so be it.'

'Increased patrols and fines for non-compliance of leash rules.'

'More officers to enforce the laws in on leash areas like the regular streets in the neighbourhood.'

#### Managing dangerous dogs and attack incidents

A considerable number of respondents 29.7%, n=22 express strong views on how declared dangerous dogs and actual attack incidents should be handled. This includes calls for immediate and stringent consequences for offending dogs (e.g., removal, euthanasia, muzzling, permanent leash requirements) and their owners. There's also a discussion about the definition of an 'attack' and the need for fair but firm assessment of incidents, often rejecting a focus solely on breed.



'A dog that had bitten a human even a single time needs to be removed.'
'Dog owners who have a dog that is anti-social and may attack another dog
should ALWAYS have their dog on leash, muzzled...'

'Dangerous dogs aren't any particular breed so focussing on that, rather than animal behaviour, isn't very useful.'

#### **Proactive education and training**

Many respondents 24.3%, n=18 see education as a crucial preventative tool. This includes educating dog owners on canine behaviours, training for dogs with reactive tendencies, and teaching the general public (including children) how to safely interact with dogs. Some suggest making training compulsory or readily available.

'Educating owners on dog behaviour. Only putting in punishments will not encourage people... Free dog training and educational sessions are important.' 'Providing education and training for children and adults in how to interact with dogs.'

'Education needs to happen before people acquire pets they can't afford to keep or don't understand the responsibilities involved.'

#### Critique of council strategy and effectiveness

A notable portion of feedback 10.8%, n=8 expresses scepticism or disappointment with the Council's current or proposed approach. Concerns include vague action plans, bureaucratic processes, perceived ineffectiveness of reporting systems, and a sentiment that the Council's actions may be 'too weak' or a form of 'nanny state authoritarianism.'

'Seem a little vague in actioning and managing dog attacks or menacing dogs.' Reporting is a waste of time with your officers. I always strongly urge people to call the state managed service as all your officers do is waste our time with paperwork in a time of crises.'

'This seems very bureaucratic and expensive.'

#### Data and transparency (evidence-based approach)



Respondents 10.8%, n=8 call for greater transparency and an evidence-based approach from the Council. This includes requests for data on dog attacks, clear reporting mechanisms (including accessible online tools or apps), and follow-up on reported incidents to ensure accountability and track effectiveness.

'Is there data about dog attacks? I would like to see evidence of attacks and disturbances in the area.'

'How do the public report incidences... Difficult to enforce!'

'I'd like to see these measures far more targeted focusing on specific issues and collecting data to demonstrate the issue has been solved.'

#### Infrastructure and environmental measures for prevention

Suggestions within this theme focus on **physical spaces and broader environmental considerations to prevent dog incidents**. Ideas **8.1%**, **n=6** include adjusting off-leash hours, **providing more designated dog-friendly spaces** (especially fenced areas for small dogs), and even broader discussions about pet population density.

'reducing 'off leash' hours to windows in the morning and evening would reduce the probability of interactions between humans and dogs.'

'We need fenced off areas for small dogs only.'

'Alma park is HEAVILY over populated by dogs. Even if your dog is on lead, it's hard to get space between other dogs...'

#### Rescue Dog behaviour and disclosure

A specific concern **2.7%**, **n=2** raised is **the transparency of rescue organisations regarding the behavioural issues of adopted dogs**. Respondents suggest shelters need to be upfront to ensure successful adoptions and prevent re-surrenders due to undisclosed problems.

'Don't adopt troubled rescue dogs to people who can't invest the time needed. Shelters need to be up front about a dog's issues.'

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# Proposed actions to identify and control dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.

#### What we heard:

#### Owner accountability & enforcement of leash laws

This is the most dominant and consistently emphasised theme. Respondents 45.7%, n=32 overwhelmingly believe that **irresponsible owners**, **not dogs themselves**, **are the primary cause of dog attacks and general nuisances**. There is a strong demand for stricter enforcement of existing leash laws, increased patrols in on-leash areas (like streets), and the implementation of significant fines for non-compliance. **Respondents feel the onus must be squarely on owners to control their dogs, and that penalties for failures should be clear and consistent**.

'The dogs who attack are rarely at fault it is the owners lack of responsibility that contributes to attacks by ignoring rules and holding the misbelief that their dog is friendly in all situations and scenarios.'

'Offending dogs and their owners must be identified and fined appropriately. If this leads to dog removal, then so be it.'

'Increased patrols and fines for non-compliance of leash rules.'

'More officers to enforce the laws in on leash areas like the regular streets in the neighbourhood.'

#### **Managing Dangerous Dogs & Attack Incidents**

Respondents 31.4%, n=22, expressed strong concern about how genuinely dangerous dogs and actual attack incidents are handled. Feedback includes calls for immediate and stringent consequences for offending dogs (e.g., removal, euthanasia, muzzling, permanent leash requirements) and their owners. There's also discussion about defining 'attack' and the need for fair but firm assessment of incidents, with many comments rejecting a sole focus on specific breeds, arguing that 'any dog can be aggressive.'



'Dog owners who have a dog that is anti-social and may attack another dog should ALWAYS have their dog on leash, muzzled and walk these dogs in off leash dog areas for the safety and well-being of friendly social dogs.' 'Dangerous dogs aren't any particular breed so focussing on that, rather than animal behaviour, isn't very useful.'

'I'd like to see restricted breed dogs banned from Port Phillip.'

#### **Proactive education & training** (Count: 18, Percentage: 25.7%)

A significant portion of respondents 25.7%. n=18 view **education as a critical preventative measure.** This includes educating dog owners on canine behaviours, providing training for dogs with reactive tendencies, and **teaching the public** (including children) how to safely interact with dogs. Some suggest making training compulsory or readily available, including free sessions.

'Educating owners on dog behaviour. Only putting in punishments will not encourage people who are already not responsible in controlling their dogs bad behaviour. Free dog training and educational sessions are important.' 'Providing education and training for children and adults in how to interact with dogs.'

'Most dog attacks are from reactive or fearful dogs. Education on recognising and handling these dogs is important for all dogs owners.'

#### Critique of council strategy & effectiveness/timelines

A substantial number 18.6%, n=13 of comments express scepticism, **frustration**, **or disappointment with the Council's current or proposed approach**. This includes concerns about **vague action plans**, **overly bureaucratic processes**, **perceived ineffectiveness of current reporting systems**, and a sentiment that Council actions are 'too weak' or unnecessarily controlling ('nanny state authoritarianism'). There's also criticism regarding the proposed timelines for implementing actions, with many calling for quicker changes.

'Seem a little vague in actioning and managing dog attacks or menacing dogs. Need more inspections to ensure compliance.'

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'Reporting is a waste of time with your officers. I always strongly urge people to call the state managed service as all your officers do is waste our time with paperwork in a time of crises.'

'Actions should be completed quicker than what is specified - why wait until 2027 to implement Activity 12.1.'

'This seems very bureaucratic and expensive.'

#### Regulation & impact on professional dog walkers

This theme is highly contentious, 17.1%, n. 12 respondents primarily focusing on Objective 12.1 (reducing the number of dogs a walker can handle from six to four). The overwhelming sentiment is one of strong opposition due to:

- **Economic impact:** Concerns about negative financial effects on small businesses and increased costs for dog owners.
- **Impact on dog welfare:** Reduced access to exercise and socialisation for dogs due to higher costs.
- Lack of justification: Respondents question the necessity of the reduction, asking for evidence of safety issues with current numbers.
- Call for nuance: Strong arguments that a blanket rule is unfair, advocating for differentiation based on dog size (more small dogs, fewer large dogs) and walker experience/demonstrated control. A minority supports (n=2) the reduction for safety or cleanup reasons.

'Why in the world have you conflated dog-walking (Objective 12) with the regulation of dangerous dogs? This is stupid. Your proposed measure of reducing the number of dogs from six to four is going to have a major impact on a number of local small-business owners...' 'Disagree with 12.1 as depends on size of dogs. Dog walker of small dogs... could easily care for and walk 6 dogs but large dogs should be restricted to 4.'

'Dog walkers provide an essential service for dog owners and their dogs. These small businesses should be encouraged and supported. Restricting the numbers will only make walks more expensive...'



#### Data and transparency (evidence-based approach)

Respondents 11.4%, n=8, call for greater transparency and an evidence-based approach from Council. This includes explicit requests for data on dog attacks, clear and easy-to-use reporting mechanisms (e.g., app-based solutions), and reliable follow-up on reported incidents to ensure accountability and track effectiveness.

'Is there data about dog attacks? I would like to see evidence of attacks and disturbances in the area.'

'How do the public report incidences. To whom? The police will not attend to a dog related incident. How is the dog recognised and the owner? Photos? Difficult to enforce!'

'I'd like to see these measures far more targeted focusing on specific issues and collecting data to demonstrate the issue has been solved.'

#### Infrastructure and environmental measures for prevention

Respondents 8.6%, n=6, suggested Council focus on physical spaces and broader environmental considerations to prevent dog incidents. Ideas include adjusting off-leash hours, providing more designated dog-friendly spaces (especially fenced areas for small dogs), and addressing concerns about pet overpopulation in unsuitable environments.

'reducing 'off leash' hours to windows in the morning and evening would reduce the probability of interactions between humans and dogs.'

'We need fenced off areas for small dogs only.'

'again the problem is an over population of domestic animals in unsuitable environments.'

#### Rescue dog behaviour

A specific concern raised is the transparency of rescue organisations regarding the behavioural issues of adopted dogs. Respondents suggest shelters need to be upfront about a dog's issues to ensure successful adoptions and prevent re-surrenders (2.9%, n=2).

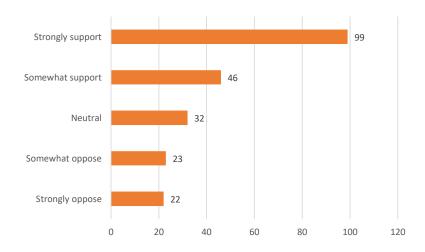


'Don't adopt troubled rescue dogs to people who can't invest the time needed. Shelters need to be up front about a dogs issues.'

## Proposed changes to dog walking permits.

We asked: Currently a person must not, without a permit, walk, exercise or otherwise be in control of seven (7) or more dogs. Do you support the limit of the number of dogs, that can be walked by one person being reduced from seven dogs to four dogs?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 222 (99.55%)





## We asked: Do you have any other thoughts on proposed changes to dog walking permits?

Long Text | Skipped: 150 | Answered: 73 (32.74%)

#### What we heard:

#### Number of dogs per walker

Support for reduction (7 to 4 or lower)

(16 respondents / 21.9% of 73 responses)

**Respondents:** 21.9% (n=16) of the 73 respondents support a reduction in the number of dogs per walker.

#### **Support: breakdown of Preferences:**

- A specific preference for **four** dogs per walker was highlighted by n=7 respondents.
- A preference for three or two dogs per walker was expressed by n=3 respondents.
- There was a general agreement among n=6 respondents that seven dogs per walker is too many, without specifying a preferred lower number.

'7 dogs would be impossible to effectively control. 4 are possibly manageable. Less would be better.'

'It would be nearly impossible to control 7 dogs being walked at once no matter the size of the dog. Limiting the number of dogs to 4 is consistent with other council areas.'

'How on earth does someone manage 7 dogs? How can they have 7 leashes and still manage to pick up waste? How do you manage 7 dogs in an off leash area? Not much fun for the dogs either = ludicrous!!'

#### Opposition to reduction / preference for higher limit (5, 6, or retaining 7)

**Respondents:** 23.3% (n=17) oppose the reduction or prefer a higher limit for the number of dogs per walker.



#### Opposition; breakdown of preferences:

- A specific preference for **five** dogs was stated by n=5 respondents.
- A preference for **five or six** dogs was mentioned by n=1 respondent.
- A specific preference for six dogs was noted by n=2 respondents.
- A desire to retain the current limit of seven dogs was expressed by n=2 respondents.
- Four respondents were generally against any reduction or preferred to leave the current rules as they are.
- Three respondents shared the general sentiment that four dogs is too low a limit.

'I think 7 is too many to handle but 4 is too low. 5 would be better.'
'Given the number of dogs in the neighbourhood and the number of responsible dog walkers and handlers providing an essential service to the community in exercising the dogs, the number of dogs to be walked by one person should be pegged at 5 without a permit, or 6 with a permit.'

'7 to 4 is a big drop for dog walking services... my understanding is that 5 dogs makes it viable 4 makes it not'

#### Contextual/conditional limits (based on dog size, walker experience, etc.)

**Respondents:** 20.5%, n=15 of respondents believe the number of dogs per walker should be conditional rather than a fixed limit.

#### **Breakdown of conditions:**

- Dog Size/Breed dependence was mentioned by n=9 respondents.
- Walker Experience/Skill dependence was highlighted by n=5 respondents.
- Dog Temperament/Training dependence was noted by n=2 respondents.
- Walking Environment dependence (e.g., crowded vs. quiet areas) was mentioned by n=2 respondents.

'My objection is to activity 12.1... it is quite different walking six Maltese poodles to walking six Alsatians and there should be some allowance for walking a larger number of small dogs.'



'I support a reduction in the number of dogs that can be walked without a permit. However, I know one walker who regularly walks 6 or 7 small dogs... I've also witnessed a walker with 4 large, energetic dogs... Don't know what the solution is ... larger dogs needing lots of exercise should ideally be walked in small numbers, while small dogs can feasibly be walked in larger numbers.'

'This is difficult as there are many factors other than no of dogs that should be considered by dogs walkers including dog size and dog temperament. 7 calm small dogs are not an issue but 2 very large excitable dogs could be.'

#### Impact on professional dog walking businesses

Financial viability / increased costs: 9.6%, 7 respondents

'Please do not make access to a permit costly or requiring red tape as this will discourage people seeking a permit and reduce the quality controls around this.'

'By reducing to four dogs per professional dog walkers we can not survive!!. With insurances and Workcover you risk losing those professionals from the community...'

'I think this will simply push the cost of dog walkers up and will result in fewer dogs being properly exercised which will create even greater problems.'

#### Quality of service / risk of inexperienced walkers: 5.5%, 4 respondents

'4 is too low a number for a dog walking business to be sustainable... This reduction would result in either a lack of appropriate dog services, or increase the number of inexperienced people walking dogs.'
'...you risk losing those professionals from the community to people who are untrained and willing to work for less without the necessary

insurances and this creates more risk and safety issues to the community than you currently have.'

1 would rather see one responsible and skilled dog walker managing 7 dogs than have 3 at home barking or have an unskilled person walking 4

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dogs. Fewer skilled people is safer than more unskilled people walking fewer dogs.'

#### Essential service provided: 4.1%, 3 respondents

'I think dog exercising is a great support for dogs and people with limited time/ access'

'Given the number of dogs in the neighbourhood and the number of responsible dog walkers and handlers providing an essential service to the community in exercising the dogs...'

'Are we restricting dog walkers who do a great job assisting animals where their owners can't due to mobility issues, work commitments, other?'

#### Permit system and regulation

Concerns about bureaucracy/cost of permits: (2.7%,2 respondents)

'Please do not make access to a permit costly or requiring red tape as this will discourage people seeking a permit and reduce the quality controls around this.'

#### Effectiveness/necessity of permits/audits: (2.7%, 2 respondents)

'I doubt the dog walking operations are likely major offenders of bad behaviour. Annual audits will increase cost and be of little value.' 'Annual isn't frequent enough.'

#### Concerns about control/waste pickup: (8.2% of 6 respondents)

'Dogs need to be able to interact with the person who is in control of them, who also needs to be able to observe and collect all their poo.' 'A dog walker with more than four dogs has no hope of controlling the dogs and it is not a pleasant experience for the dogs.'

'7 dogs is way too hard to keep track off (poo, attack etc)'

Consistency with other councils (supporting 4 limit): (1.4%,1 respondents)

Positive observation of dog walkers' control: 1.4%,1 respondents)



'From what I've seen our local dog walkers can control 7 dogs'

#### General sentiment & other specific points

**Negative/frustrated tone:** 6.8% (n=5) of responses conveyed strong frustration or labelled the proposals as unnecessary 'nanny state intervention.'

'stupid idea, helps no one. there's no problem here, and you're going to hurt a lot of business owners with this idiocy. pull your heads in.' 'more nanny state intervention in commerce.'

**Indifference/no opinion:** 5.5% (n=4) stated they had no additional thoughts or explicitly said 'none.'

**General support for proposal:** 1.4% (n=1) expressed general support for the changes.

**Other points:** 4.1% (n=3) raised miscellaneous points like cafes allowing dogs inside, training requirements for walkers, and distinguishing professional walkers from casual dog minders.

#### Additional submissions from professional dog walkers via Councillors

After the consultation period had concluded, an additional 9 submissions were received by Councillors. Below is a summary of key themes and how many times they are mentioned as concerns:

#### Impact on viability of dog walking services / reliance on services

This theme, highlighting that the change will 'significantly impact, if not eliminate, the viability of professional dog walking and minding services' and that residents 'rely upon' these services, is present in every single submission (9 times).

#### Lack of consultation process / unawareness of decision



The concern about being 'unaware of the consultation process that preceded this decision' and requesting 'clarification on how and when it was conducted, as no one in our local network appears to have been informed or engaged' is also present in **every single submission** (9 times).

#### Impact on Dog welfare/socialisation/wellbeing

The sentiment that the changes will negatively affect the dog's 'wellbeing,' 'socialisation,' or 'mental health' is mentioned in **7 out of 9 submissions**. This is expressed through phrases like 'cannot imagine leaving her alone all day without even a walk,' 'detrimental to the dog's welfare,' 'losing the opportunity to socialise with his walking buddies,' and 'struggle to maintain our pet's wellbeing.'

#### Distress and upset caused by proposed changes

The proposed changes causing 'considerable distress' or being 'very upsetting' is explicitly stated in **5 out of 9 submissions**.

#### Support for dog walking businesses and request for meeting

The community members consistently express 'full support for the concerns raised by the local dog walking businesses' and 'respectfully request that Council meet with the affected parties.' This is present in **every single submission** (9 times).

#### **Increased Costs and unaffordability**

The potential for a 'price increase (to) makes this valued service unaffordable' is mentioned in **2 out of 9 submissions**.

#### Impact on owners' wellbeing/routine (e.g. working parents, single person household

The reliance on dog walkers due to work schedules, being a single parent, or for mental health support is highlighted in **4 out of 9 submissions**.

#### Quality of Service provided by specific dog walkers

The high regard for specific dog walking businesses and their professionalism (e.g., Happy Hounds, Paws on the Bay, Dogs Day Out) is a strong sub-theme, appearing in **7 out of 9 submissions**.



#### Dog seen as cherished family member

The deep emotional connection to the dog, referring to them as a 'cherished member of our family,' is present in **4 out of 9 submissions**.

#### Lack of logical explanation for changes

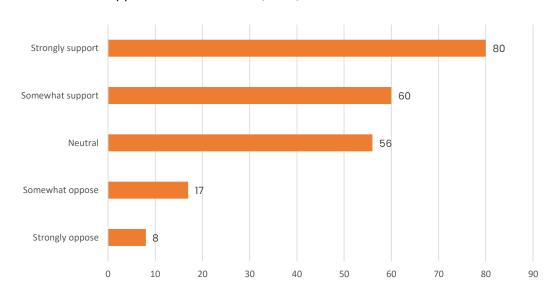
One submission explicitly states that the changes 'do not seem to have a logical explanation' and 'do not fit with the materiality of the other items that Council should be focused on.' This is mentioned in **2 out of 9 submissions**.



# Proposed regulations for domestic animal businesses

We asked: Considering the DAMP's proposed actions for domestic animal businesses, please rate your level of support.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 221 (99.1%)



### Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed regulations for domestic animal businesses?

Long Text | Skipped: 180 | Answered: 43 (19.28%)

### General Support for regulation & oversight of domestic animal businesses Support for regulation/permits/monitoring

Many respondents 30.2%, n=13 **generally support permits, registration, and ongoing monitoring of domestic animal businesses**, to ensure quality practices, animal health, and public safety.

'Ensuring the safety of public and care and attention to the animals.'

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'This is a good idea to ensure quality care for animals.'

'A series of standards and compliance measures insures better safety and control of animals which is in everybody's best interest in the community. I support this proposal.'

#### Clarity and practicality of domestic animal business regulations

A significant concern revolved around the definition of 'Domestic Animal Business' and the practical implementation of regulations, particularly regarding red tape and monitoring.

#### Need clear definition for domestic animal business

Some respondents 11.6%, n=5 explicitly requested a clearer definition of what constitutes a 'domestic animal businesses to avoid ambiguity.

'What's a domestic animal business? Vets? Dog walkers? Service animals' assistance centres, education assistance such as schools?'

'Would be good to understand what this term actually means.'

'I don't fully understand the innovations of this. What are the qualifications etc?'

#### Concerns about 'red tape' / council over-reach

Some respondents 7.0%, n=3 cautioned against overly administrative processes or regulations that could be perceived as excessive intervention by the council.

'Again, the regulation should not be bogged down with red tape which will discourage registrations.'

'It is not clear to me what 'domestic animal businesses' is meant to cover. There should not be council over-reach in dog walking businesses.'



#### Focus on dog breeders and overpopulation

A distinct concern 14.0%, n=6 is the impact of irresponsible dog and cat breeding, with calls for stricter controls to address animal welfare and overpopulation.

'Dog and cat breeders are the main source of over population, stop allowing them in Port Phillip.'

'There are still too many dodgy 'breeders'. Fines given to those who are not responsible breeders are not strong enough as the amount they sell their puppies and kittens for are so much more than the fine they might get.'

#### Impact on professional dog walking services

Feedback highlights **dog walking as an essential service for animal welfare** and owner needs. Some respondents **11.6%**, **n=5** urging that regulations should support rather than hinder their financial viability.

'There should be some regulations of course but these businesses offer an essential service and make for happier, healthier and better socialised dogs... they should be encouraged and supported not restricted...'

'7 to 4 is a big drop for dog walking services... my understanding is that 5 dogs make it viable 4 makes it not.'

#### Broader enforcement and public pet conduct

Beyond Domestic Animal Businesses, some respondents 11.6%, n=5 called for stronger enforcement of existing bylaws and addressed concerns about public pet owner behaviours.

'Stronger enforcement, clearer consequences for. 1) roaming cats, 2) off-leash dogs, 3) dangerous dogs.'

'No dog should be off lead or at least without the control of their handlers or owners.'



**Miscellaneous feedback:** This category includes diverse, less frequent, or general points.

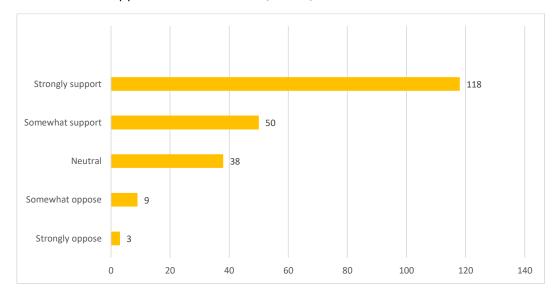
'More appropriate parking restrictions near vets so they are not taken up by e.g. employees of other local businesses...'

'How about you spend less time policing everything to do with dogs in Port Phillip, and just concentrate on providing more quality off-lead spaces.'

#### Thoughts on training for Training of Authorised Officers

We asked: Considering the DAMP's actions to ensure Animal Management Officers have the knowledge and skills to administer their role, please rate your level of support.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 218 (97.76%)





#### Do you have any other thoughts on training for Training of Authorised Officers

Long Text | Skipped: 167 | Answered: 56 (25.11%)

**Analysis of Feedback: Training for Authorised Officers** 

### We asked: Do you have any other thoughts on training for Training of Authorised Officers?

#### What we heard:

#### Importance of 'soft skills' (communication, judgment, de-escalation)

Soft Skill was a prominent theme with 17.9% n=10 respondents, emphasising the need for officers to possess strong interpersonal skills when dealing with the public, particularly in potentially confrontational situations.

'There can be a lot of defensive owners and these roles as direct to public roles need the high levels of communication, judgment and negotiation skills.'

'Also consider Customer Service Skills when approaching dog owners, especially those in the wrong, not just for issuing infringements but for their own safety too.'

#### Focus on practicality, presence, and enforcement effectiveness

Respondents 17.9 n=10 expressed a desire for more visible presence of officers, effective enforcement, and training that is practical and supports their active role in the community.

'Training makes sense as long as it does not reduce active hours that Animal Management Officers have available to deal with community issues.'

'We need more trained authorised officers out on patrol... A presence in off-leash parks (and on the beach) during peak times would be welcomed by responsible dog owners...' 'Council Officers should only be entitled to additional training if they agree to spend more than 50% of their time undertaking enforcement activities in the community. What's the point of additional training for those who spend most of their time behind a desk?'

#### Specific knowledge, consistency, and dog behaviour/training



Other respondents 16.1% n=9, called for officers to have deep, consistent knowledge of bylaws, and crucially, an understanding of dog behaviours and training methods.

'I'd like to see officers tied in with reputable dog trainers. DOGS of VIC for example has an arrangement with Parks VIC to use Albert Park lake for dog training...'

'Positive, kind reward based training.'

'It is very important that Animal Management officers are properly trained. They need to be caring as well as enforcing the law.'

#### Concerns about conference attendance and costs

Some respondents 12.5% n=7, questioned the value and cost-effectiveness of officers attending conferences, particularly if funded by ratepayers.

'I support additional training for officers but attendances at conferences is questionable. What value does this bring to ratepayers and it appears to be another excuse to up the fees.'

'I don't support attendance at conferences... unless they pay for it themselves.'
'Attendance at conferences and training dependent on location and cost (eg wouldn't expect international or even interstate travel for this).'



#### Accountability, ethics, and discretion

Respondents 7.1%, n=4 highlighted **the importance of ethical behaviours**, and the appropriate use of discretion by officers.

'Support animal management offices must be appropriately trained. It's also important that members of the community have a feedback mechanism to report undesirable behaviour or inappropriate conduct by these individuals in interactions with the community...'

'Policing is a tough gig... But sometimes the AOs should be allowed discretion. If a small dog is off lead somewhere where it shouldn't be but is manifestly under control and is no threat or worry to anyone, it may be appropriate to waive penalties etc.'

#### Redirection of funds / alternative solutions

Some respondents 7.1% n=4, suggested that funds allocated for officer training could be better spent elsewhere or that the council's focus is misdirected.

'Funds spent by council on more Animal Management Officers would be better spent in providing free poo bags, better education for the public in signage and dog off lead areas.'

'It's mainly about revenue and not chasing bad appetite owners, just easy targets.'

#### Miscellaneous / other comments

This includes suggestions, observations, or general sentiments that don't fit into the more dominant themes. 21% n=12 (This includes 3 'No' responses, 1 'None', 1 'Agree', and 1 'As above/See above' that were not clearly tied to another theme, alongside specific points).

'A major part of training should be dealing with the many owners who do not clean up after their dogs, but it isn't even mentioned in the training plan.'

(Specific training need)' 'All interactions I've had with animal control officers have been fantastic. It's the COPP call centre staff that need training.'



'They need more resources and powers to take action. Otherwise, they are a waste of time and so are these actions.'

'Yes. We have had several incidences on the beach where very young officers chase residents and their dogs down the beach at high speeds endangering the lives of dogs and people... Not riding a motor vehicle on the beach.'

# Any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in Port Phillip.

We asked: Are there any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in Port Phillip that you'd like to provide feedback on?

Long Text | Skipped: 132 | Answered: 91

#### What we heard:

#### Responsible ownership & enforcement

There was widespread call 42.9% n=39, for **stricter enforcement of existing pet regulations** and addresses concerns about **irresponsible pet owner behaviours**. Key issues include dog waste, dogs off-leash in on-leash areas, nuisance barking, and the need for more council resources and clearer communication to ensure compliance. The broader sentiment is **that pet owners must take responsibility for their animals' impact on the community**.

'Get more officers on board to crack down on irresponsible ownership at this point in time you don't have enough manpower to enforce anything.'

'There is way too much dog mess on public paths. I think the cause is laziness, but also dogs off leash with owners not noticing. I think increasing education is great but also increasing council workers giving out fines for not picking up after dogs, having dogs off leash is really needed.'



'Please enforce the dogs on the beach at South Melbourne beach. I have seen so many children knocked over or licked on the face by owners with dogs off lead who just laugh and say, it's ok he's friendly. Not okay.'

#### Dog Off-Leash Spaces & Amenities (33 mentions / 36.3%)

A strong demand 36.9% n=33 for **more and better-designed off-leash areas** for dogs, including secure, fenced spaces and areas that cater to different dog sizes. We aso heard request for **improved amenities** within these spaces, like water facilities and lighting, to enhance usability for both dogs and owners.

'I would like to see all off-leash dog parks close to roads and traffic fenced off to minimise risk to dogs and drivers.'

'We need more secure off-leash areas in St Kilda.'

'More lighting in dog off leash areas e.g. Howe and Walter reserves, almost impossible to take dog there after work in winter as it's too dark.'

#### Balancing community needs and access (11 mentions / 12.1%)

**Some respondents 12.1% n=11 identified a** tension between the needs of pet owners and other community members. Concerns from those with **allergies** or who seek **dog-free public spaces**, particularly parks and beaches, and calls for a re-evaluation of how public areas are shared.

'Limit the number of animals in the area is polluting the bay and making it impossible for people with allergies to just walk in a park!'

'Parks such as Alma Park West are currently unusable by families and children on a weekend due to sheer number of dogs in 'off-leash' mode.'

'The one space with no dogs is the protected dune area. Even people are not allowed there. sigh...there is nowhere for people like me to be free of them...'

#### Cat management and welfare (8 mentions / 8.8%)

Some respondents 8.8% n=8 raised concerns about **roaming cats** and calls for stricter containment, similar to regulations for dogs. It also includes feedback on broader pet welfare, such as addressing abandoned animals (like rabbits) and the mental health benefits of pet ownership.



'CATS should NOT be allowed to roam the streets period. Dogs are not allowed to roam free so why should cats.'

'I strongly feel that Cats need to be restrained permanently. Other councils/suburbs actually ban cats.'

'Encouraging pet ownership for assistance for mental health. More education. How many lives can be saved due to having a pet? And for the elderly? Children?'

#### Council engagement and policy

Some feedback 12.1% n=11 received was regarding the **overall council-community relationship concerning pet management**. It includes sentiments about the council being **overly restrictive**, **not listening to pet owners**, and the need for **better communication and transparency** in policy-making, including how registration fees are utilised.

'Every time I hear this Council is proposing anything to do with dogs, I wince. The Council demonstrates over and over its distaste for dogs and dog owners.'

'Port Phillip has amongst the highest rates of dog ownership in Australia, so it's ironic that we've ended up with a council that constantly wants to restrict what responsible dog owners are allowed to do with our dogs.

Read the room people, you're not making any friends here.'

'It's important that Council is seen as a partner to the community not a dictator.

#### Environmental Impact (2 mentions / 2.2%)

Other respondents 2.2% n=2, raised concerns about the environmental footprint of pet ownership, specifically relating to waste management and carbon emissions associated with pet food and products.

'Pet ownership adds both to the community's carbon footprint and waste stream.'



'Council should not be encouraging the use of more plastic bags, and it definitely should not be subsidising their use by providing them free of charge to dog owners.'

'As a council who are acting on climate change, it is also vital that the community is educated about the impacts of pets on carbon emissions.'

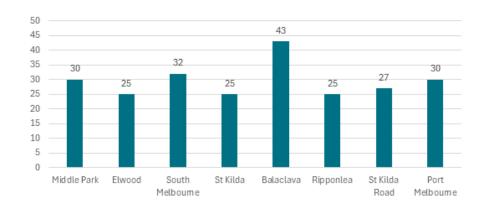
### Neighbourhood Engagement

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) project was a key feature of the Council's May 2025 Neighbourhood Conversations program, which holds popup community events across nine neighbourhoods throughout the year. These events proved to be an effective platform for community engagement on the DAMP.

Balaclava showed the highest level of engagement with 43 participants, closely followed by South Melbourne with 32 participants. Both Middle Park and Port Melbourne also demonstrated significant community interest, each recording 30 interactions. Moderate participation was observed in Elwood, Ripponlea, and St Kilda, each with 25 interactions.

This strong participation across multiple neighbourhoods indicates a healthy community interest in the management of domestic animals within the City of Port Phillip.



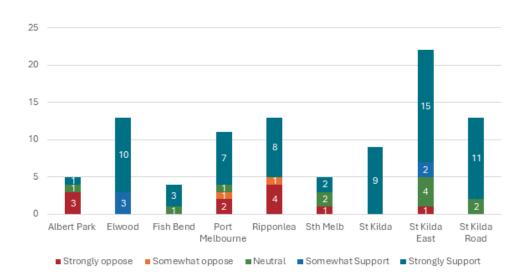


Participants at pop-up events were asked for their feedback on adjusting the existing cat curfew. The proposed change would shift the curfew from the current 9 PM to 6 AM to a 'sunset to sunrise' timeframe, with the dual aim of protecting local wildlife and ensuring the safety of cats.

Across all locations, the sentiment among participants leaned heavily towards

Strongly Supporting this proposed change. This indicates a general community understanding and endorsement of measures designed to mitigate the impact of roaming cats. However, it's worth noting that some residents in Albert Park expressed Strong Opposition to the change, highlighting a nuanced perspective within that specific community.

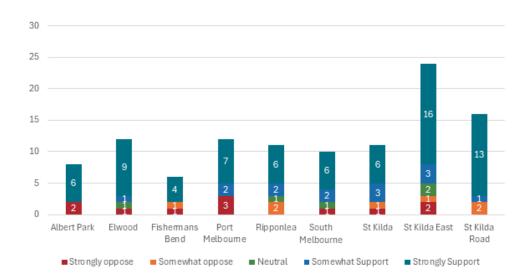




The community has shown overwhelming support for the provision of **dog waste bags in public spaces**. Across all locations participating in the Neighbourhood Conversations program, many respondents indicated they **Strongly Support** this initiative.

Specifically, **St Kilda East** recorded the highest number of individuals who Strongly Supported the provision, with 16 respondents. This was closely followed by **St Kilda Road**, demonstrating a broad consensus that readily available dog waste bags are a valued amenity for responsible pet ownership in public areas.

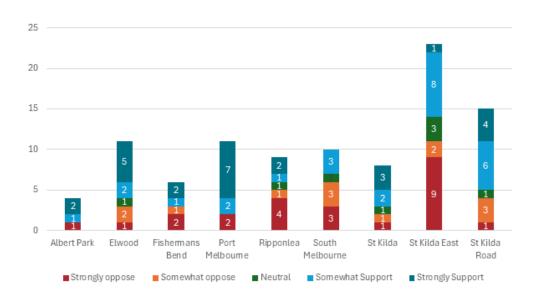




While there's strong overall support for providing dog waste bags in public spaces, the idea of increasing **dog registration fees** to cover these costs received a more mixed reaction from the community.

Support for an increase in fees was more prevalent among respondents from **St Kilda East, St Kilda Road, Port Melbourne, and Elwood**, indicating a willingness
in these areas to contribute financially. However, residents in **Ripponlea and South Melbourne** largely opposed the idea, suggesting a potential preference
for alternative funding methods or concerns about the financial burden of
increased fees





### **Submissions**

#### Submitter: Dog walking professionals in the City of Port Phillip

**What we heard:** Professional dog walkers oppose the proposed reduction of the walking limit from six to four dogs, especially given the recent permit system for six dogs.

- Lack of direct, meaningful consultation with affected businesses and residents.
- Business and livelihood threat: Significant negative impact on business viability, increased costs, reduced affordability, and potential closures for essential small businesses
- Resident and dog welfare: Higher service costs for residents, increased park congestion, and potential behavioural issues for dogs due to inadequate exercise.
- Unjustified change: No clear evidence or complaints warrant this reduction, despite increased post-pandemic dog ownership and reliance on services.



We urge the Council to: Maintain the current six-dog limit; Consult directly and transparently with stakeholders; Collaborate on fair, evidence-based regulations.

'Objective 12, as currently proposed, risks causing unnecessary hardship to local businesses and residents, without clear justification or benefit. The existing sixdog limit, supported by a permit system, represents a responsible and effective compromise.'

#### Submitter: The Lost Dogs' Home

What we heard: The Lost Dogs' wants to work cooperatively with Council with the aims to promote animal welfare, reduce shelter admissions, and support pet owners facing financial and housing challenges.

#### Responsible pet ownership

- Promoting responsible pet ownership through information on desexing,
   microchipping, registration, vaccination, vet care, and appropriate pet food.
- Providing education programs to address pet behaviour issues, including lowcost dog and cat training programs to reduce behaviour problems and surrender risks.

#### Cat management

- Offering incentives for cat owners, especially from low-income households, to maintain ownership via free desexing, microchipping, and registration.
- Encouraging semi-owners of cats to become full owners by providing similar incentives.
- Promoting cat containment to protect wildlife and improve cat welfare, including support for free or discounted cat enclosures for vulnerable groups like low-income households, older residents, and people with disabilities.

#### Support for Pet owners facing financial hardship

- Addressing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on pet owners' ability to afford veterinary care and pet maintenance.
- Supporting discounted veterinary care through a Mobile Low-Cost Vet Clinic.

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 Supporting the Home Together Program to assist pet owners experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity to stay united with their pets

'Responsible pet ownership involves changing attitudes towards the welfare of domestic animals. This includes strengthening the human animal bond, which is the relationship that pets have with their owners. This bond can have mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits for pets and their owners.'

#### **Submitter: CoPP Dog Network**

**What we heard:** Foster a community where pets and people thrive together, recognising the vital role companion animals play in well-being and social connection.

**Positive framing:** Reframe 'These objectives and guidelines aim to create a place where pets and the community can live together.' to highlight the benefits of pet ownership upfront, emphasising the positive impact animals have on mental and physical health, and community building.

#### **Boost pet registration:**

- Implement a **3-month moratorium on fees for first-time dog and cat** registrations to encourage compliance. Promote this widely.
- Transparently show how registration fees are spent on pet services to address owner concerns.
- Continue current incentives for new pet owners and desexing refunds.

#### Effective animal litter management:

- Provide poo bag dispensers in public spaces, refilled by waste contractors, as a backup for owners.
- Install clear signage to guide use and prevent hoarding (e.g. limiting bags taken).



#### Responsible commercial dog walkers:

 Reduce the maximum number of dogs allowed per walker from seven to four without a permit, aligning with best practices and enhancing safety for all.

#### Clearer signage and communication:

- **Update and improve visibility of leash-regulation signage**, clearly delineating on- and off-leash areas with positive messaging.
- Re-evaluate practical challenges of leash rules in specific dog parks.

#### Address "covid dog" behavioural issues:

 Develop and promote low-cost or free training programs to help owners manage behavioural issues, especially in dogs that lacked early socialisation during the pandemic.

#### **Highlight successes:**

 Actively promote existing successful partnerships with organisations like The Lost Dogs' Home (e.g. 'Home Together' program, adoption services) on social media to build trust and show positive impact.

> 'Dog owners want to know where their registration fees are spent and there is a perception problem by dog owners that their registration fees are not being spend on dogs management and support.'



### **Next steps**

A final draft of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 will be presented to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting on **Wednesday 6 August 2025** for proposed endorsement.

The final draft of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 incorporates community and key stakeholder feedback received during the engagement period from Friday 9 May 2025 until Friday 6 June 2025.



11.2 PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDMENT - STORAGE OF

CARAVANS, BOATS AND TRAILERS ON COUNCIL LAND

AND ROADS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: BRIAN TEE, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND

**DEVELOPMENT** 

PREPARED BY: RICHARD SCARFF, COORDINATOR PARKING SERVICES

**DIRK CUMMINS, COORDINATOR LOCAL LAWS & ANIMAL** 

**MANAGEMENT** 

**NELLIE MONTAGUE, MANAGER SAFETY AND AMENITY** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To recommend the release for public engagement a proposed new Community Amenity Local Law 2023 clause to regulate the parking of registered caravans, boats and trailers on Council land and public roads in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020.* 

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 21 August 2024, Council at its Ordinary Meeting resolved that Council:
  - Commences the statutory process to introduce a municipal wide Local Law to effectively manage the long-term parking of caravans, trailers, and boats as part of the 2025/26 budget process, and report back to the Council with the next steps.
- 2.2 Long-term storage of caravans, boats and trailers on-street can negatively impact the local area amenity and parking availability. There has been a considerable increase in community complaints regarding caravan, boat, and trailer parking in the City of Port Phillip in recent years, including multiple petitions to Council regarding this issue.
- 2.3 A Local Law would enable Council to take action on registered caravans, boats and trailers parked long-term in unrestricted built-up areas with an aim to encourage people to store these vehicles on their own property or at a commercial storage facility.
- 2.4 Based on benchmarking of other like Councils and feedback from community complaints, Officers recommend consideration of the following Local Law:
  - 2.4.1 A person must not store or park on a Council road or Council land a:
    - i) boat;
    - ii) trailer; or
    - iii) caravan

for more than 14 days (within a 60-day period)

- 2.5 Feedback from Councils that currently have the Local Law is that it can be challenging to implement as once the owners of the caravans, boats or trailers are contacted most live within a few blocks and have a strong desire to store their vehicles on-street near their properties. We will ensure engagement targets owners of these vehicles as well as those that do not to understand the impacts on different sections of our community.
- 2.6 Given the relatively straight forward nature of this change, which is already in place in numerous other municipalities, a 4-week engagement is proposed for the end of 2025.



#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Receives the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2023 amendment:

A person must not store or park on a Council road or Council land a:

- i) Boat;
- ii) Trailer; or
- iii) Caravan

For more than 14 days (within a 60-day period)

- 3.2 Authorises commencement of the statutory process for the making of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2023 (Amended) in accordance with the Local Government Act 202, by
  - A) Giving public notice in a local newspaper and on Council's website of its intention to make Community Amenity Local Law 2023 (Amended);
  - B) Stating the objectives and intended effect of the proposed local law amendments: and
  - C) Making the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2023 (Amended) available at the City of Port Phillip Town Halls and Libraries and on council websites.
  - D) Undertaking community engagement to obtain feedback on the amendment for a period of a minimum of four weeks.
- 3.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2023 (Amended) before community engagement commences, where these are insubstantial but required for correctness, clarity, formatting or the like.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 Current parking rules for vehicles are outlined in Table 1 below

Type of Vehicle	Rules around parking	
Vehicles required to be towed		
Registered caravans, boats and trailers – subject of this Paper	Must follow all parking restrictions.	
	Can legally park on a public street if the vehicle is under 7.5 metres in length and weighs less than 4.5 tonnes. *	
	If it has not moved for more than 2 months, investigation takes place to determine if it has been abandoned.	
Vehicles able to be driven		
Registered campervans and motorhomes	Must follow all parking restrictions.	



	Can legally park on a public street if the vehicle is under 7.5 metres in length and weighs less than 4.5 tonnes. *	
	If it has not moved for more than 2 months, investigation takes place to determine if it has been abandoned.	
Registered cars	Must follow all parking restrictions.	
	If it has not moved for more than 2 months, investigation takes place to determine if it has been abandoned.	
Unregistered Vehicles		
Unregistered caravans, boats, trailers, campervans and cars	Cannot be parked on the road under Road Safety Act and Local Government Act Schedule 11.	
	Current Local Law Clause 32. Parking offences Sub-clause 4 and 5 confirms Council's ability to impound unregistered vehicles and trailers in line with the Local Government Act.	

Table 1. Current parking rules for vehicles

- \*Greater that these dimensions can only park for 1 hour in built up areas.
- 4.2 Council has no mechanism to manage the long-term parking of registered caravans, boats and trailers under 7.5 metres where no parking controls are in place.
- 4.3 The introduction of parking restrictions on targeted streets has been considered as an option to address this issue where high parking occupancy rates are evident. However, this option would likely shift the long-term parking of recreational vehicles to other areas and would not address the cause of the problem.
- 4.4 Implementing parking restrictions to address this issue is not always appropriate due to the inconvenience caused to other residents who may have to incur the cost of parking permits, noting that some residents are not eligible for parking permits and must comply with the parking restrictions.
- 4.5 Several Councils have implemented Local Laws to manage the long-term parking of caravans, boats and trailers. These Local Laws vary between municipalities, reflecting the unique local context, community needs, and challenges each area faces. Factors such as population density, availability of on-street parking and resident concerns can influence the development and enforcement of these regulations.
- 4.6 Introduction of a Local Law would enable a consistent, equitable and transparent approach to addressing the underlying issue across the municipality. A Local Law would enable the tracking and issuing of infringements for caravans, boats and trailers parked long-term in unrestricted built-up areas with the aim of encouraging storage on private property, or at a commercial storage facility.
- 4.7 Benchmarking of selected Victorian Councils (Attachment 1: Benchmarking Summary) demonstrates two distinct approaches to regulating the storage of a caravan, boat or trailer on a road or Council land:
  - Approach 1. Only allowed with a permit.
  - Approach 2. Allowed for a specified number of days



4.8 The recommended new Community Amenity Local Law clause aligns with Approach 2, providing a specific number of days these vehicles are permitted to park on street.

#### **Proposed Amendment to Community Amenity Local Law 2023**

4.9 Following benchmarking activities, the following amendment is proposed:

Intent	Suggested wording
Allows parking for a specified number of days	A person must not store or park on a Council road or Council land a:
	i) boat;
	ii) trailer; or
	iii) caravan
	for more than 14 days (within a 60-day period)

Table 2. Suggested Local Law wording to regulate caravans, boats and trailers on public land

4.10 The intent of this amendment is to stop vehicles taking up parking spaces for long periods. If supported, the amendment will apply in all on-road parking locations and would not require changes to parking restrictions.

#### **Infringement Amount**

- 4.11 The proposed on the spot infringement is 2 penalty units.
- 4.12 Penalty units are indexed annually. At 1 July 2025, the value of a penalty unit \$203.51.
- 4.13 Benchmarking activities demonstrate alignment with penalty units applied at Darebin and Bayside City Councils. A Hobsons Bay draft local law proposes 1 penalty unit. Public exhibition consultation and adoption is due later in 2025.

#### **Tradesperson Trailers**

- 4.14 Benchmarking has not identified local law exemptions for tradespersons' trailers. However, complaints about large trader vehicles or trailers parked long term in unrestricted areas is limited as they are used for work purposes and will mostly be moved within the proposed 14-day limit.
- 4.15 The City of Port Phillip provides tradesperson parking permits so that a tradesperson can park near the residential property they are working on. Permits can for a limited time (1 to 4 weeks), with a maximum of 2 permits at any site. Permits currently cost \$75.00 per week. This is similar to Councils like Bayside and Hobsons Bay, who provide weekly permits at a cost of \$50.00 and \$79.50 per week respectively.

#### Coffee, food and dog washing trailers

- 4.16 These types of trailers would not meet the thresholds for the new clause unless they were left in the same place, not connected to a vehicle for 14 days out of 60.
- 4.17 The regular use of these commercial trailers and therefore movements in parking areas reduces their amenity impact.

#### **Enforcement – Registered Vehicles**

4.18 Enforcement of the Local Law where the vehicle is registered:



- <u>Step 1</u>: Once complaint received from community, contact is made with the owner to explain the Local Law, outline storage options and issue an initial warning.
- Step 2: Monitor and record the vehicle's presence through onsite inspections.
- In administering the Local Law, an Authorised Officer will regard a caravan, boat or trailer as continuing to occupy a Council road or Council land and to be stored there notwithstanding that the caravan, boat or trailer has been moved a short distance along the same Council road or Council land.
- Step 3: If breach detected contact the owner and issue a notice to comply in accordance with the provisions of Community Amenity Local Law 2023 clause 75 Notice to Comply, and the accompanying Procedures and Protocols Manual.
- <u>Step 4</u>: Continue to monitor and record the vehicle's presence through onsite inspections.
- <u>Step 5</u>: If non-compliance continues, Council may issue an infringement. If further non-compliance continued prosecution under the Local Law may occur.

#### **Enforcement – Abandoned and Unregistered Vehicles**

- 4.19 Enforcement where the vehicle is not registered:
  - The standard unregistered/abandoned vehicle process would apply.
  - If a vehicle is not moved within a given time period, the vehicle may be towed and impounded and costs recouped by selling at public auction if not collected.
  - Council only has power under the Local Government Act 2020 to remove and then sell unregistered or abandoned vehicles. Registered vehicles cannot be impounded.

#### **Local Law Review Process and Engagement**

- 4.20 Before a council makes or substantially alters a Local Law it must comply with the following Local Government Act 2020 procedure.
  - The Local Law must be made in accordance with Council's community engagement policy – this requires at least 28 days of consultation to ensure time for our community to understand and give feedback on any proposed changes.
  - Publish a notice on the Council website regarding the objectives, intended effect, where copies of the draft Local Law are available and the community engagement process that applies.
  - Once community consultation has occurred a certificate must be obtained from a lawyer with a minimum of 5 years admittance stating that the proposed Local Law is consistent with Local Law requirements, including that it is not inconsistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 or regulations and does not duplicate or is inconsistent with any other Act or Scheme.
  - The certificate must be tabled at the Council meeting with the proposed Local Law following engagement.
  - A notice must then be published in the Government Gazette and Council website.
     Any substantial changes to the wording of a Local Law changes after engagement requires recommencing the process.



 Due to the nature of the proposed Local Law and the fact it has been in place in other Local Governments for a number of years it is proposed that a one phase engagement approach is appropriate. This is scheduled for September 2025 with results presented back to Council in December 2025.

#### **Benchmarking summary**

- 4.21 A summary of the varied Local Law approaches pertaining to storage of caravans, boats and trailers on Council land and roads is provided for the following 16 Victorian Councils (Attachment 1: Benchmarking Summary):
  - Darebin City
  - Hobsons Bay City
  - Maribyrnong City
  - City of Melbourne
  - Merri-bek City
  - Moonee Valley City
  - City of Stonnington
  - Yarra City
  - Bayside City
  - City of Kingston
  - Hume City
  - Frankston City
  - Mornington Shire
  - Baw Baw Shire
  - Bass Coast Shire
  - South Gippsland Shire
- 4.22 Other M9 (inner City) Councils are considering a Local Law around caravans, boats and trailers. Darebin has recently endorsed a similar amendment and Hobsons Bay has undertaken initial community consultation on a draft local law, public exhibition and potential adoption are due later in 2025. No other M9 Councils have a Law around parking of these items.
- 4.23 Eight of the remaining Councils from outer Melbourne had a Local Law around caravan, boat and trailer parking enacted in their Local Law in the last five years.
- 4.24 Of these, Bayside has also developed processes to support enforcement of the Local Law, through the accompanying Local Law Guidelines incorporated document.
- 4.25 Feedback from Councils that currently have the Local Law is that it can be challenging to implement as once the owners of the caravans, boats or trailers are contacted detailed discussions are required to explain the Local Law and work through storage options. Anecdotally most owners of these vehicles live within a few blocks and have a strong desire to store their vehicles on-street near their properties.



#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 A communication and engagement plan will be developed to support the engagement on the Local Law and is in progress.
- 5.2 It is envisaged that the statutory process, including community engagement may occur in September 2025.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Government Act (2020) sets out the procedure for Council to follow in the review of its Local Law. The Department of Planning and Community Development Guidelines for Local Laws Manual sets out these procedures in further detail.
- 6.2 These provisions restrict what Council can include in its Local Law. For example a Local Law must not overlap, duplicate, conflict with or be inconsistent with existing legislative provisions or Planning Schemes.
- 6.3 Legal advice has been obtained on the proposed wording for the amendment and is supported. Following consultation and any changes to the wording legal advice must be sought again prior to endorsement.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 \$60,000 has been included in the 2025/2026 budget to support the required legal review and engagement required to amend a Local Law.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The proposed change would have a minimal environmental impact.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Local law controls contribute towards the protection of the environment and amenity within the City of Port Phillip to minimise negative impacts on the community.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A gender impact assessment, which will also apply a diversity and inclusion lens, will be applied to the engagement process, and will also be undertaken in developing Local Law amendments.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The Local Law development and enforcement aligns with the Safe and Liveable Strategic Direction.

#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE – See project milestones below.

Activity	Date
Council meeting to authorise commencement of the statutory process for the making of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2023 (Amended)	6 August 2025



Proposed Local Law released for public submissions.	September to October 2025
Consideration of submissions / amendments to and external legal review of proposed Local Law.	October to November 2025
Council meeting to adopt Community Amenity Local Law 2023 (Amended)	December 2025
Gazettal activities – notice published in Victorian Government Gazette.	December 2025/early 2026

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. Caravans Local Law Benchmarking 2025 2025

Attachment 1:

### Storage of Caravans, Trailers and Boats on Council Roads - Benchmarking June 2025

M9 Councils	Year of Local Law	Clauses regulating caravans, boats and trailers on Council roads or land
Port Phillip	2023	Nil
Darebin	2025	43. Storage of Vehicles on Council Land
	(proposed)	A person must not, without a permit, store or allow to be stored a boat, caravan,
	2005 (1.6)	or trailer in or on Council land.
Hobsons Bay	2025 (draft, round 1	Current Loal Law
	consultation	The current local law contains no provisions relating to boats, personal watercraft, caravans and trailers on roads and related areas.
	complete, round 2 public exhibition and	caravans and traiters on roads and retated areas.
	adoption due later in	Proposed clause 6.4(2) - Repair and Storage of Vehicles
	2025)	A person must not, without a permit, on a road, road related area, or Council land, store, keep or allow to be placed, a vessel, caravan or trailer for longer than 28 consecutive days in any 12 month period.
		Proposed on the spot infringement is 1 penalty unit, maximum court penalty is 5 units (Local Law will be made under the LGA 2020, with penalty units indexed annually. As of 1 July 2025, the value of a penalty unit in Victoria is \$203.51).
		Permit conditions, costs and enforcement processes not yet developed.
		<u>Tradesperson parking permit</u> There's <b>no specific exemption</b> for longer term storage of tradespeople's trailers.
		However, tradesperson's parking permits are available for tradespeople conducting works in either residential or commercial zones.
		Applications must be in writing and provide proof of the work being undertaken.
		The permits cost \$50.00 per week, per vehicle (2025/26 budget schedule of fees).
		Motorhomes and campervans

June 2025

		Occupied camper vans, caravans and other temporary dwellings covered by proposed clause 10.3 camping on public property.  Derelict, abandoned and unregistered vehicles Abandoned, derelict and unregistered vehicles are covered by clause 6.3.
Maribyrnong	2025 (draft)	Nil
Melbourne	2024	Nil
Merri-bek	2018	Nil
Moonee Valley	2018 (amended 2020)	Nil
Stonnington	2018	Nil
Yarra	2016 (amended 2021)	Nil
Other Selected Councils	Year of Local Law	Clauses regulating caravans, boats and trailers on Council roads or land
Bayside	2021 (local law to be reviewed in 2025-26)	A person must not without a permit:  (1) Keep or store any heavy vehicle or long vehicle upon any road or on any other property (whether private property or Council Land); or  (2) occupy any road or Council Land by storing on it any boat, trailer or caravan for a continuous period of 28 days or more or for more than 56 days in a period of three consecutive months.  Infringement amount  On the spot infringement is 2 penalty units, maximum court penalty is 5 units.  (Local Law was made under the LGA 1989, with penalty units fixed at \$100).  Permit requirements and cost:  Permit fee is \$165.14 and valid for up to 3 months (2025/26 budget schedule of fees).  Applicants need to demonstrate exceptional circumstance for any storage of boats, trailers or caravans and cannot store them in excess of three months.

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Permits apply only to registered vehicles at a Bayside address, not exceeding 7.5 m, excluding unregistered vehicles, permanent storage, unit complexes, or streets with existing restrictions.

In determining whether to grant a permit, Council will consider:

- What exceptional circumstances apply
- Impacts on amenity, safety and parking in the area
- The proximity to adjoining properties
- The effect on adjoining owners/occupiers
- The duration of time requested
- Any other reasonable matters that the authorised officer believes to be relevant

#### Permits will not be issued for:

- Unregistered vehicles
- Permanent storage of boats, trailers or caravans
- If the applicant lives in a unit complex or activity centre (e.g. top shop dwelling)
- If the vehicle is 7.5 metres or longer in length
- Permits will not be issued for streets with existing parking restriction.

#### Residential tradesperson parking permit

There's **no specific exemption** for longer term storage of tradespeople's trailers.

However, a residential tradesperson parking permit can be provided in the short term. For residential parking locations, permits can be issued for a maximum of 3 weeks at any one time and for a maximum of 3 vehicles.

The permits cost \$79.50 per week, per vehicle (2025/26 budget schedule of fees).

#### Motorhomes and campervans

The rules apply equally to **motorhomes and campervans**. If *unoccupied*, the permit covers storage; if *occupied*, it's considered camping and subject to clause 69 camping prohibited on Council land.

Derelict, abandoned and unregistered vehicles

Regulated specifically through clause 33.

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Hume	2023	18 Storage of Vehicles
Tiuliie	2023	(1) Without a permit, a person must not place or store, or allow to be placed or
		stored a caravan, boat or trailer in or on a road or municipal place.
Frankston	2020	2.20 Storage of Vehicles
FIGURATION	2020	(a) A person must not without a permit store or park on a road or in a municipal
		place a:
		i) boat;
		ii) trailer; or
		iii) caravan
		for more than 7 days
Mornington	2022	53 Storage of Vehicles on Council Land
Monnington	2022	A person must not, without a permit, store or allow to be stored a boat, caravan,
		or trailer in or on Council land.
Baw Baw	2024	51 Storage of Vehicles on Council Land
Daw Daw	2024	A person must not, without a permit, store or allow to be stored a boat, caravan,
		or trailer in or on Council land.
Bass Coast	2022	47 Parking of Vehicles in a Municipal Place
Dass Coast	2022	Without a permit, a person must not use, or allow to remain, any vehicle or
		caravan in a municipal place, unless set aside for vehicle or caravan parking.
South Gippsland	2024	20 Storage of Vehicles on Roads
South Sippstand	2024	(1) Without a permit, a person must not park, place or store, or allow to be
		parked, placed or stored a vehicle:
		(a) longer than 7.5 metres (including trailer and fittings); or
		(b) with a GVM in excess of 4.5 tonnes on a road in a residential area.
		(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply in relation to a vehicle which is parked, placed
		or stored for less than one hour
Kingston	2022 (amended)	Clauses 63 to 67 refer to the Parking Management Policy (incorporated document) and
Kingston	2022 (amenaea)	requirement for permits in certain circumstances.
		requirement for permits in certain encumstances.
		Section 7.7 of the Parking Management Policy states:
		Under the Victorian Road Safety Rules 2017, boats, caravans, and trailers are permitted
		to park on local roads within the City of Kingston if they:

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		<ul> <li>are less than 7.5m in length;</li> <li>have a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of 4.5t or less.</li> <li>Beyond these requirements, they are also subject to the following conditions:</li> <li>Council does not consider the boat, trailer, or caravan to be abandoned;</li> <li>A resident permit cannot be used on the boat, trailer, or caravan to exempt these vehicles from an area subject to a resident parking scheme (except Inner Harbour Drive, which contains purpose-built trailer parking).</li> </ul>
Glen Eira	2019	Nil
Boroondara	2019	Nil

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#### 12. A VIBRANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

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12.1 FOOTPATH TRADING FEE POLICY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: BRIAN TEE, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND

**DEVELOPMENT** 

PREPARED BY: MARC JAY, COORDINATOR CITY PERMITS

ANGELA DE MEL, TEAM LEADER FOOTPATH TRADING

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the draft Footpath Trading Fee Policy 2025 and seek Council approval for the release of the draft Policy for community consultation.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The footpath trading fee policy provides the methodology and formula to set the annual fees for businesses to use footpath areas for outdoor dining, displays of goods and advertising boards. A separate fee policy sets the fees for outdoor dining in road related areas for business parklets.
- 2.2 The current footpath trading fee policy has been reviewed so it is simpler to understand and administer, clear how rates are determined and compatible with operating systems. The policy must also support traders, vibrancy and continue to support precincts where special measures are required (ie. discounts where high retail vacancies occur).
- 2.3 The current fee policy provides 22 tailored rates and 70 fees across 15 areas. There is an opportunity to provide:
  - A fee structure that is easier to understand and allows businesses to self-quote.
  - Reduced fees for many traders, supporting and incentivising businesses to set-up, remain and thrive in our city.
  - Compatibility with Council's operating systems, maximizing efficiencies through automation.
- 2.4 Two options have been modelled and recommended changes include:
  - Reducing the current 22 rates and 70 fees, to two rates and 9 fees.
  - Setting a charge per square metre, instead of the current method of charging by quantities of furniture, (tables, chairs, café screens etc).
  - Reducing rates of charge for fixed glass screens
- 2.5 The recommended Option 2 (see 4.20 for details) proposes a Standard rate for the main precincts of \$75/square metre for the 26/27 financial year, currently known as Primary and Secondary areas, and a Discount rate of \$55/square metre for 26/27 for other areas. The Discount rate would also be suitable to use as a 'Revitalisation' rate, consistent with the current Policy.
- 2.6 Both options are informed using rates across like Local Government areas, and the latest ground floor vacancy rates in each precinct.
- 2.7 Option 2 is recommended, as it achieves the guiding principles including ease of understanding, in turn helping traders to self-quote, charging appropriate fees for the



commercial use of public space, supporting local businesses and encouraging businesses to establish and remain in the City, while also easing administration.

- 2.8 If this change is implemented,
  - 2.8.1 332 (81%) of traders would pay between \$3 to \$1,357 less in fees.
  - 2.8.2 79 (19%) of traders would pay more than their current fees, ranging from \$4 increase to a \$1,061 increase.

For more detail refer to Table 1.

- 2.9 Those that would pay more under Option 2 would be contacted to reassess their trading areas to:
  - 2.9.1 ensure their needs are being met, and
  - 2.9.2 the available area is being used effectively, and
  - 2.9.3 provide clear communication and support over the transition period.
- 2.10 After reassessment, any remaining traders with a fee increase greater than 10% would be offered a phased approach to implementing their new fees over 3 years.
- 2.11 Under the current Policy, the projected income in 26/27 of the current 411 permits would be \$702,079. If Option 2 was implemented, the projected income would be reduced by \$207,429 to \$494,649 but would still cover the cost of service.
- 2.12 The forecast income reduction would be mitigated by:
  - 2.12.1 Proactive permitting audits to ensure permit compliance.
  - 2.12.2 Annual benchmarking and fee reviews to ensure they remain appropriate.
- 2.13 If endorsed, community and stakeholder feedback will be obtained. This will include targeted engagement with traders including those that currently hold permits.
- 2.14 Consultation outcomes will be presented to Council in December 2025 and, if endorsed, the new Footpath Trading Fee Policy will apply from the 2026/27 financial year.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Endorses the draft Footpath Trading Fee Policy (2025) for community consultation.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### **Background**

- 4.1 Footpath trading includes the placement of items and equipment on the footpath used by a business. This Policy review considers charging for outdoor dining, including tables, chairs, removable screens, umbrellas, planter boxes, gas heaters and affects 411 local businesses with current outdoor dining permits.
- 4.2 The current fee policy was endorsed by Council in 2018 and comprises a 22-tier precinct-based fee structure. Traders are charged a rate of 20% of average retail rents, and a rate of 30% for the use of fixed glass screens. Fees are charged for each table, chair and other item placed on the footpath. The 22 tiers charge as much as \$123 per/m² in commercial areas, and as low as \$58 per/m² in neighbourhood areas.



- 4.3 The rates informs a "Revitalisation rate" for areas with high vacancy rates (greater than 20%). Council may apply this rate to other areas. In 25/26, the Revitalisation rate was applied to Acland Street, Carlisle Street and Fitzroy Street Primary areas.
- 4.4 Local businesses are supported by instalment payment options to enable them to pay permit fees over time, and discounts for businesses disrupted by major building works. These parts of the Policy are not proposed to change.
- 4.5 The proposed changes to the Policy have been informed by benchmarking, feedback from the community including traders.
- 4.6 The current method of setting fees is complex, requiring the availability of retail rent data that is rarely available in time for Council to review the fees and charges for annual budgets. The proposed approach would not rely on this data and would instead be reviewed each year as part of the annual budget fees and charges review.
- 4.7 The proposed approach would achieve operating efficiencies by maximising the automation capabilities of Council's operating systems, in-turn delivering timely annual renewal notices and permits.

#### **Guiding Principles**

- 4.8 In developing an updated Policy, the following principles were used.
  - Ease of understanding by traders and the community.
  - Support the local economy by encouraging businesses to establish and remain in the City.
  - Appropriate fees charged for the commercial use of public space.
  - Ease of administration.

#### **Benchmarking**

- 4.9 Officers have reviewed neighbouring Councils' methods of setting rates. For comparison purposes in modelling Policy options, officers have determined the average rates charged by each neighbouring Councils, per/m².
- 4.10 The City of Yarra method is similar to our current Policy. They charge fees based on different furniture sizes, and a higher rate for licenced venues. (Average charge per/m² in 25/26 is \$37.75).
- 4.11 The City of Melbourne has a two-tier system, with a flat rate, per square metre in the central business district, and a cheaper rate for other areas. (Average charge per/m² in 2025/26 is \$76.40) The City of Melbourne method of charging is compatible with our City's geographic make-up, with an opportunity to strike a rate for our main precincts, with a cheaper rate for other areas. This is explored in Option 2.
- 4.12 The City of Stonnington charges outdoor dining by linear metre using a two-tier system, charging a higher rate for main precincts and a lower rate for other areas. (Average charge per/m² in 25/26 is \$172.50). The Stonnington method of charging (per/linear metre) does not translate to our City, as our footpath widths vary greatly, which impacts the usable space and patron numbers.

#### **Modelling Options**

- 4.13 To model future policy and analysis of options, assumptions include:
  - 4.13.1 A 3.15% CPI increase in 2025/26 and 2026/27 to benchmarked Council's fees



- 4.13.2 A 2% annual increase in the costs of this service provision, currently estimated at \$282,882 per year.
- 4.13.3 Under the current Policy, the projected income in 2026/27 of the current 411 permits is \$702,079
- 4.14 Officers modelled a range of options and shortlisted two that are included in this Report.
- 4.15 Option 1) One rate of charge
  - 4.15.1 A single rate of charge, per square metre at \$55 per m<sup>2</sup> to be applied to all areas
  - 4.15.2 This would result in 87% of traders paying less than they do currently.
  - 4.15.3 Estimated annual income: \$406,122.
- 4.16 Option 2) Two-rates of charge
  - 4.16.1 A Standard Rate, modelled on \$75 per m², to apply to outdoor dining in the existing areas rated Primary and Secondary, and
  - 4.16.2 A Discounted Rate for all other areas, modelled on \$55 per m<sup>2</sup>.
  - 4.16.3 This would result in 81% of traders paying less than they do currently.
  - 4.16.4 Estimated income: \$494,649.

Table 1: Increase/decrease in fees compared to current fee policy

% fees change	Option 2 - Recommended Two rates - charging per square metre		
70 1000 onango	# outdoor dining permit holders	% outdoor dining permit holders	
Reduced fees	332	81%	
1% - 10% increase	14	3.4%	
11% - 20% increase	16	3.9%	
21% - 30% increase	15	3.6%	
31% - 40% increase	5	1.2%	
41% - 50% increase	7	1.7%	
51% - 60% increase	7	1.5%	
61% - 70% increase	1	0.2%	
71% - 80% increase	0	0.0%	
81% - 90% increase	1	0.2%	
91% - >100% increase	13	3.2%	

4.17 Based on current data, Option 2 would result in fee increases of more than 10%, to 65 (16%) of current permit holders compared to 41 (10%) under Option 1.



- 4.18 Under Option 2 traders would see increases of between **\$4 and \$1,061**. The average fee increase would be **\$428**.
- 4.19 If Option 2 was progressed, officers would liaise with the businesses that would be impacted by increases and work with them to amend their permitted area to match their desired patron capacities or offer payment plans to support transition.
- 4.20 For example, Trader X operates a takeaway business in a Standard rated area, with a 6-metre-wide footpath. Their current outdoor dining permit provides them with an area of 56.35m², but they choose to operate with only 10 tables and 20 chairs on the footpath, equivalent to 20m². After reassessment, the permitted area could be reduced to the area that the trader chooses to use, being 20m², mitigating fee increases as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Example trader x with fee increase, before and after reassessment

Current Policy Charge per item of furniture	Option 2 - Recommended Two rates - charging per square metre	Difference \$
10x tables @ \$32.88 = \$328.80 20x chairs @ \$50.49 = \$1,009.80 Renewal Fee \$78.39	<b>Before reassessment:</b> 56.35m <sup>2</sup> x \$55 = <b>Total: \$3,099.25</b>	\$1,682.26 (+ 118%)
Total: \$1,416.99	After reassessment: 20m² x \$55 = Total: \$800	\$(616.99) (- 43%)

Table 3 - Comparison scenarios of outdoor dining

Currently	Option 2 - Recommended Two rates - charging per square metre
"Business A" A restaurant in Port Melbourne in a 'Neighbourhood' area. With 9 tables and 18 chairs, occupying 32m², and currently pays \$2,448	\$1,797 (Fees reduce by 27%)
"Business B"	\$675
An ice-cream store in Albert Park in a 'Primary' area.	(Fees reduce by 18%)
With 9 seats, occupying 13.53m <sup>2</sup> located, currently paying <b>\$819</b>	
"Business C"	\$2,748
A bar in St Kilda in a 'Primary' area, charged at the Revitalization rate.	(Fees reduce by 33%)
With 11 tables + 44 chairs occupying 36.64m² located, currently paying \$4,129	



**Table 4 - Guiding Principles Review** 

Principle	Option 2 - Recommended
	Two rates Charging per square metre
Ease of understanding	Achieved
	Method of charging can be easily explained.
Support local businesses and	Achieved
economy to thrive, and encourage businesses	Recognises the benefits of increased visitation in our main precincts with a higher rate of charge
to establish and remain in the City	Supports business in all other areas where visitation is lower, with a cheaper rate.
	Strikes a cheaper 'Revitalisation rate for areas experiencing challenges, including anti-social behaviour and high retail vacancy challenges.
Appropriate fees	Achieved
charged for the commercial use of public space.	Provides an equitable method of charging, between main precincts and other areas.
Ease of administration.	Achieved
	Compatible with operating systems with high level of automation.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Subject to Council approval, engagement on the draft Policy would occur between 11 August and 8 September 2025.
- 5.2 An engagement plan has been developed and includes mailouts to the 411 outdoor dining permit holders, asking for their feedback via a dedicated email address.
- 5.3 Face to face meetings would be offered to traders, prioritising those identified with increases greater than 10%, to discuss their individual situations.
- 5.4 Officers would attend business and trader association meetings and Council's Business Advisory Group, and include an article in the Business Network newsletter.
- 5.5 Consultation will be supported with a detailed communications plan to coordinate messaging including FAQs explaining the key changes proposed, boosted social media posts, website and e-newsletters.
- 5.6 The results of the consultation will inform the final Policy, for Council to consider in December 2025.
- 5.7 Council's Digital and Technology Services (DTS), have considered the options to ensure compatibility with operating systems. Implementation of future DTS change has been tentatively programmed for early 2026.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Risk Assessments and a Gender Impact Assessment are underway.



#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Under the current Policy, the projected income in 2026/27 from the current 411 permits would be \$702,079.
- 7.2 Option 1 would provide an estimated income of \$406,122 (2026/27 forecast).
- 7.3 Option 2 (recommended) would provide an estimated income of \$494,649 (2026/27 forecast). This would reduce income by \$207,429.
- 7.4 Both options would cover the estimated cost of the footpath trading permitting services of \$282.882 (2026/27 forecast).
- 7.5 A streamlined fee policy could afford staff additional time to dedicate towards trader liaison and proactive outdoor dining inspections, improving compliance and accessibility.

#### 8. ECONOMIC IMPACT

- 8.1 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy would support businesses by charging appropriate rates for the commercial use of public land and providing incentives for new and existing businesses to trial outdoor dining, including the retention of the Revitalisation rate for areas experiencing high retail vacancies.
- 8.2 Modelling of Option 2 shows the following economic impacts
  - 332 (81%) traders paying less fees and
  - 79 (19%) traders paying more.
- 8.3 For traders that may pay more, officers will consult with each and reassess current permitted areas, ensuring they achieve value for money and patron numbers, amending these permitted areas, if required.
- 8.4 After reassessment any traders identified with increases greater than 10% could see new fees phased incrementally over the three financial years of 2026/27 until fully implemented in 2028/29.

#### 9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 The Policy supports well managed economic recovery and development through regulating the use of public space for activities that generate economic benefits such as footpath trading.
- 9.2 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy is anticipated to have positive impacts on the environment, through the appropriate and desirable activation of public land.
- 9.3 The Policy supports greening opportunities, with no charge for planter boxes to encourage use.

#### 10. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 10.1 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy aims to support the creation of a liveable, safer and healthier city by regulating footpath trading activities that may impact on urban character, local amenity and the fair enjoyment or safety of others.
- 10.2 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy and Footpath Trading Guidelines, enables the community to support local traders with opportunities for outdoor commercial activity.
- 10.3 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy is designed to support local traders in maximising their patron capacities and increasing visitation to our City.



10.4 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy is designed to support access to high quality dining experiences, and healthy, vibrant shopping precincts for our community.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 The Footpath Trading Fee Policy aligns with the Vibrant and Thriving Port Phillip Strategic Direction.
- 11.2 The Outdoor Trading (Dining) Policy (November 2022) sets the strategic intent in relation to Outdoor Dining. The Footpath Trading Fee Policy provides specific details on the charging of all permits, considered under The Footpath Trading Guidelines (2024).

#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### **Timeline**

- 12.1 Key dates for introduction of the Footpath Trading Fee Policy are:
  - 11 August to 8 September 2025 Community consultation.
  - September October 2025 Consideration of feedback and final drafting.
  - December 2025 Council report to approve Footpath Trading Fee Policy.
  - January to March 2026 Implementation activities.
- 12.2 Implementation activities will include:
  - updates to Council's website and other communication streams
  - building and testing Council's operating systems, for implementation and increased automation of charging from 1 July 2026.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Draft Footpath Trading Fees 2026/27 and Draft Footpath Trading Fee Policy (2025)
- 2. Current 2025-26 FT Fees and Fee Policy



### **Draft Footpath Trading Fee Structure 2026/27**

Applications		Fee
New application, ame	ndment, and transfer of ownership	\$136.00
Application for fixed i	tems including glass screens, retractable awnings, fixed heaters,	\$283.50
and planters		
Renewal administration	on fee	\$79.00
Area		Discounted rate
*Acland Street	Primary	
*Carlisle Street	Primary	\$55.00 per m <sup>2</sup>
*Fitzroy Street	Primary	\$55.00 per III
Neighbourhood areas		
		Standard rate
Acland Street	Secondary	
Armstrong Street	Primary	
Barkly Street	Primary and Secondary	
Bay Street	Primary and Secondary	
Bridport Street	Primary and Secondary	
Carlisle Street	Secondary	
Clarendon Street	Primary and Secondary	\$75.00 per m²
Coventry Street	Primary	
Fitzroy Street	Secondary	
Glen Eira Road	Primary	
Glenhuntly Road	Primary	
Ormond Road	Primary	
Tennyson Street	Primary	
Victoria Avenue	Primary	

<sup>\*</sup>Revitalisation rate applies

To view a map of outdoor dining areas, visit: Outdoor dining - City of Port Phillip

Other fees	Fee
Delineation marker installation, per marker	\$48.50
Advertising board, per board	\$370.60
Display of goods, per display	\$393.00
Outdoor cooking station	\$495.00

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### **DRAFT Footpath Trading Fee Policy (2025)**

Outdoor dining is charged per square metre of the areas occupied, at a Standard or Discounted rate. This outdoor dining furniture including tables, chairs, screens, umbrellas and gas heaters.

### Supporting the seasonal cash flow challenges of our hospitality industry

Interest-free, monthly, part-payment plans are available.

#### **Supporting greening opportunities**

Planter boxes are now free. This means you only pay the application fee and a renewal fee in subsequent years of having a permit for your planter box.

#### Supporting business affected by major construction works

Discounts are provided to businesses affected by major building works including streetscape upgrades. The amount of the discount is based upon the duration of works and determined on a case-by-case basis.

#### Supporting precincts undergoing change

A 'revitalisation' rate charges equivalent to the cheapest Neighbourhood rate. The revitalisation rate is used where there is a 20% (or greater) vacancy rate of ground floor tenancies, or for other social and economic reasons.

#### Supporting new outdoor dining opportunities

- For any business in a 'revitalisation' rated area where outdoor dining has not previously occurred, or for an existing business which has not provided outdoor dining for two years, outdoor dining fees are discounted by 100%. This means a business would only pay the application fee, for the first year.
- For any other business where outdoor dining has not previously occurred, or for an existing business which has not provided outdoor dining for two years, outdoor dining fees will be discounted by 50%, for the first year.

#### **Income from footpath trading activities**

The income Council receives from footpath trading fees helps to fund a range of Council services, including the provision of permitting services, street cleaning and the maintenance of our public spaces.



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### **Footpath Trading Fees 2025-2026**

This fee structure features a tailored rate for the location of each business.

To view a map of each area visit: portphillip.vic.gov.au

Applications					Fee
New application, amendment	, and transfer of owr	ership			\$132.00
Application for fixed items in	cluding glass screens,	retractable awnings, fixed h	eaters, and pla	inters	\$275.00
Renewal administration fee					\$76.00
Outdoor Dining Precinct	Area	Table	Chair	Table with glass screens	Chair with glass screens
*Acland Street	Primary			Bidds sereems	Pigga act cons
*Carlisle Street	Primary				
*Fitzroy Street	Primary	\$32.88	\$50.49	\$49.32	\$75.74
Fitzroy Street	Secondary				
Neighbourhood areas	-				
Glen Eira Road	Primary	\$34.61	\$53.15	\$51.91	\$79.72
Carlisle Street	Secondary	\$38.86	\$59.68	\$58.29	\$89.52
Barkly Street	Secondary	\$39.20	\$60.20	\$58.80	\$90.30
Tennyson Street	Primary	\$43.26	\$66.44	\$64.89	\$99.65
Bay Street	Secondary	\$47.83	\$73.45	\$71.74	\$110.18
Clarendon Street	Secondary	\$49.03	\$75.29	\$73.54	\$112.94
Victoria Avenue	Primary	\$51.91	\$79.72	\$77.87	\$119.58
Acland Street	Secondary	\$53.20	\$81.70	\$79.80	\$122.55
Glenhuntly Road	Primary	\$55.14	\$84.68	\$82.71	\$127.02
Bridport Street	Secondary	\$56.00	\$86.00	\$84.00	\$129.00
Barkly Street	Primary	ĆE0.04	Ć00 14	ć07.07	Ć122.71
Coventry Street	Primary	<del></del> \$58.04	\$89.14	\$87.07	\$133.71
Armstrong Street	Primary	\$58.80	\$90.30	\$88.20	\$135.45
Bay Street	Primary	\$59.79	\$91.81	\$88.38	\$135.73
Ormond Road	Primary	\$60.56	\$93.01	\$90.85	\$139.51
Clarendon Street	Primary	\$62.78	\$96.41	\$94.16	\$144.61
Bridport Street	Primary	\$69.22	\$103.60	\$103.82	\$159.44
*Revitalisation rate					
Other fees		Charge			Fee
Removable screens		per business			\$198.00
Misc items eg. menu board, w	vaiter's station	per item			\$180.00
Removable outdoor heater		per item			\$131.00
Delineation marker installation	n	per marker			\$46.00
Advertising board		per board			\$356.00
Display of goods		per display			\$381.00
Outdoor cooking station		per station			\$494.00
Mobile food vehicle application	on/renewal fee	up to three locations			\$299.00
Mobile food vehicle permit fe	e	per business			\$2,785.75

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### **Footpath Trading Fee Policy**

The use of public land for outdoor dining is charged at a rate of 20% of the average retail rents of each area, and 30% for businesses that have glass screens. The data that informs these rates is collected annually.

#### How the table and chair fees are calculated

The rates that are charged for tables and chairs are based on one patron occupying one square metre.

A standard setting of 1x table + 4x chairs occupies approximately 4m<sup>2</sup>. A table is charged at 14% and a chair is charged at 21.5% of the total cost of a setting. For example:

If the average retail rent is \$200 per m2 per year, at a rate of 20% the charge is \$280 per setting.

#### Formula:

1 table \$39.20 4 chairs (4 x \$60.20) \$240.80 \$280.00 Total cost of a setting

#### Supporting the seasonal cash flow challenges of our hospitality industry Interest-free, monthly, part-payment plans are available.

#### Supporting greening opportunities

Planter boxes are now free. This means you only pay the application fee and a renewal fee in subsequent years of having a permit for your planter box.

#### Supporting business affected by major construction works

Discounts are provided to businesses affected by major building works including streetscape upgrades. The amount of the discount is based upon the duration of works and determined on a case-by-case basis.

#### Supporting precincts undergoing change

A 'revitalisation' rate charges equivalent to the cheapest Neighbourhood rate. The revitalisation rate is used where there is:

- A reduction in the average retail rents of businesses informed by the valuation data obtained by council and
- A 20% (or greater) vacancy rate of g4round floor tenancies

#### Supporting new outdoor dining opportunities

- For any business in a 'revitalisation' rated area where outdoor dining has not previously occurred, or for an existing business which has not provided outdoor dining for two years, outdoor dining fees are discounted by 100%. This means a business would only pay the application fee, for the first year.
- For any other business where outdoor dining has not previously occurred, or for an existing business which has not provided outdoor dining for two years, outdoor dining fees will be discounted by 50%, for the first year.

#### Income from footpath trading activities

The income that Council receives from charging for the use of public land, helps to fund a range of council services including the administration of these permits, street cleaning and the maintenance of our public spaces.

#### City of Port Phillip ASSIST



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12.2 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND KEY ORGANISATIONS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: BRIAN TEE, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND

**DEVELOPMENT** 

PREPARED BY: OSKAR REVESZ. PARTNERSHIPS AND INDUSTRY

**DEVELOPMENT LEAD** 

LAURA POHLENZ, COORDINATOR EVENTS PARTNERSHIPS &

**INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present recommendations for 2025/26 Cultural Development Fund – Key Arts Organisations funding program for Council's endorsement.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations is a competitive multi-year grant stream that provides support to cultural and creative community organisations within the City of Port Phillip
- 2.2 Currently seven arts organisations receive multi-year funding through 2023 2025 Cultural Development Fund – Key Organisations agreements, which are due to expire on 31 December 2025
- 2.3 In order to allow for criteria and eligibility for the fund to be reviewed in alignment with development of Council's new cultural and creative strategy, a 12-month extension to all existing funding agreements, pending KPI review, is proposed
- 2.4 A 12-month funding extension to existing agreements equates to a maximum repeat funding of \$165,000 in the 2025/26 financial year
- 2.5 As part of the 2025/26 budget process, Council endorsed a funding increase to current Cultural Development Fund Key Arts Organisations of \$15,000 each
- 2.6 A one-off grant was also approved for The National Theatre for 2025/26 to the value of \$25,000
- 2.7 Ahead of the 2026/27 budget process, Council's existing cultural strategy will be reviewed, and the next iteration developed. Currently known as the Creative and Prosperous City Strategy, the Cultural Development Fund framework is directed by this strategy.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the extension of funding arrangements for *Cultural Development Fund: Key Organisations* for a period of 12 months from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2026.
- 3.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to conduct reviews of each *Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations* recipient to determine funding amounts (up to a maximum of funding received in 2025) and allocate accordingly.



3.3 Notes that a review of all streams of the Cultural Development Fund will be considered as part of development of Council's new Cultural and Creative Strategy, which will include extensive community and stakeholder engagement periods.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The City of Port Phillip is home to a vibrant range of arts and cultural organisations making a valuable contribution to visitation, economic uplift and support to the local community including artists within the city's creative ecosystem.
- 4.2 The purpose of this funding is to retain arts and cultural organisations in the City of Port Phillip, ensuring Port Phillip remains a place where art is made and strengthen their capacity to attract additional funding. Recipients have a strong record of producing high quality works, supporting independent artists, and engaging with the local community in a significant manner.
- 4.3 Since its inception in 2019, the program has achieved the realisation of a range of creative programs, provided enhanced production outcomes, built capability within organisations and leveraged additional investment.
- 4.4 The program supports organisations to build sustainable professional practices and employment, and to increase the availability of diverse creative experiences, products, and services to the City of Port Phillip community.
- 4.5 There are currently 7 organisations receiving multi-year funding through the 2023 2025 Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations initiative.

ORGANISATION	PER ANNUM
Australian Tapestry Workshop	\$15,000
Jewish Museum of Australia	\$20,000
Philip Adams Ballet Lab (Temperance Hall)	\$26,000
Space2b	\$26,000
Rawcus Theatre Company	\$26,000
Red Stitch Actors Theatre	\$26,000
Theatre Works	\$26,000

- 4.6 Recipients of the current round have so far reported:
  - Over 200,000 in audience attendance
  - Employment of 40.1 FTE
  - Employment of 1,926 artistic practitioners
- 4.7 Funding pressures continue to challenge all arts organisations within the City of Port Phillip as economic instability, cost of living pressures, and increasing production costs significantly impact sustainable investment streams.



- 4.8 Council is due to review its existing cultural strategy the Creative and Prosperous City Strategy ahead of development of the next iteration to commence from 2026/27
- 4.9 The review and new strategy development present an opportunity to evaluate current programs and outputs, and to consider funding streams to ensure the criteria, eligibility and funding amounts align to Council direction and provide meaningful support to grant recipients
- 4.10 The 12-month extension will also allow Council to review criteria and eligibility for the program alongside development of the new creative strategy in the context of the broader arts and cultural sector
- 4.11 Aligning the review of funding programs to strategy development will also allow for extensive stakeholder and community consultation periods to inform Council's consideration

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Broad consultation on the Cultural Development Fund will be held as part of development of the new creative & cultural strategy in early 2026
- 5.2 Feedback from Key Organisations is regularly received via annual KPI reporting and correspondence with the sector through a range of channels.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No legal or risk implications have been identified.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The additional funding support to existing funding agreements will total \$105,000 in 2025/26 with an additional \$25,000 for The National Theatre, which is to be sourced from savings made to the St Kilda Festival
- 7.2 Extension of existing funding agreements will incur maximum costs of \$165,000 in 2025/26 (pending KPI reviews of each recipient), which was already accounted for as part of the annual budget
- 7.3 Creative practice is recognised as making a valuable contribution to City of Port Phillip's economy.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The program uses SmartyGrants (an online grants application system): a paperless application, reporting and acquittal system. In addition, communication is managed online through cultural sector electronic distributions and on Council's website.
- 8.2 Applicants are asked to demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices. Some examples from those include:
  - 8.2.1 Materials are recycled or sourced from local businesses.
  - 8.2.2 Hire rather than purchase disposable single-use items.
  - 8.2.3 Recyclable, multi-use, and paperless ticketing systems.
  - 8.2.4 Encouragement of audiences and participants to use public transport.
  - 8.2.5 Predominately online promotion and use of recycled paper, environmentally friendly inks where necessary.



- 8.2.6 Use of energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
- 8.2.7 Adoption of new plans based on CoPP's Act and Adapt Strategy.
- 8.2.8 Commitment to the development and sharing of knowledge and strategies.
- 8.2.9 Changes in daily practice to alleviate energy and waste.
- 8.2.10 Using the artform to promote messages of sustainability.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The arts are an essential and highly valued sector in the City of Port Phillip providing significant positive community impact from cultural activities that build social cohesion, and support improved health and wellbeing outcomes, education and the local economy.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 GIA for the Cultural Development Fund is included as part of the Community Funding Policy GIA.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 Funding under the Cultural Development Fund delivers on the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35, specifically the Strategic Direction 4: A vibrant and thriving community:

Our City has thriving arts, culture, live music, and creative communities.

We actively support and celebrate arts, music, performing arts and First Nations culture.

Our neighbourhoods' unique local identities are strengthened through events, festivals, and creative industries that bring us together, engage residents, and attract visitors to experience our vibrant culture.

Creative Spaces are connected, offering artists, entrepreneurs, and innovators the chance to collaborate, grow, and share their ideas.

Our city continues to evolve as a place for innovations and new ideas, ensuring that our cultural and economic landscape remains dynamic and adaptable.

- 11.2 The proposed recommendation is aligned with the City of Port Phillip Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2023-26 through Outcome 3: A City where arts, culture and creative expression are part of everyday life.
- 11.3 Criteria for all Cultural Development Fund competitive grant streams will be considered as part of forthcoming conversations in developing the new cultural and creative strategy, including how we assess benefit and measure value.

#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### 12.1 TIMELINE

- 12.1.1 Following Council's decision, KPI reviews and Deeds of Extension for existing organisations will be issued covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2026.
- 12.1.2 A future Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations funding round will open for applications in 2026.

#### 12.2 COMMUNICATION



- 12.2.1 Existing Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations will be notified of Council's decision regarding the extension of current funding.
- 12.2.2 Public communications will be updated reflecting the timeline for the Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations future funding round.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS Nil



12.3 PANEL CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY

**WELLBEING AND INCLUSION** 

PREPARED BY: ADAM COOPER, HEAD OF LIBRARIES

ROHAN BOND, HEAD OF ACCESS AND INCLUSION RANDALL PAXTON, ACTING HEAD OF LIBRARIES

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Council endorsement to opt-in and utilise suppliers listed in the Procurement Australia Head Agreement 2706/0848 Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements Contract.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The current contract 002010 Panel for Library Collections, Furniture and Equipment expired on June 30, 2025.
- 2.2 This report is being presented to Council to enable a range of vendors to be used as suppliers of digital and physical collection items to libraries under a new contract.
- 2.3 The Procurement Australia Head Agreement term is two (2) years commencing 1 July 2025 with two further one-year options to extend the Contract.
- 2.4 If Council, resolves to do so at its meeting on 6 August 2025, City of Port Phillip Libraries would commence accessing the contract as of 7 August 2025, with a total contract value of \$4,033,700 including GST over the life of the potential four-year agreement.
- 2.5 Procurement Australia is a leading procurement services company that negotiates and facilitates contracts for clients in both private and public sectors.
- 2.6 The Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment and Associated Requirements contract through Procurement Australia offers the broadest available options of certified and recognised suppliers of any library contract Australia-wide.
- 2.7 The previous Port Phillip contract was established through Procurement Australia to access aggregate pricing and provide value for the community.
- 2.8 In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) and Council's Procurement Policy, a public procurement process was conducted for the proposed service by Procurement Australia.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the tender process undertaken by Procurement Australia and that the tender evaluation panel (TEP) comprised of library subject matter experts assessed the Procurement Australia contract and identified this as best value.
- 3.2 Endorses the City of Port Phillip Libraries to access the Procurement Australia Head Agreement 2706/0848 Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements specifically for the suppliers Aussie Global Books Pty Ltd, Bolinda Publishing Pty Ltd, CAVAL Limited, Digital Education services Pty Ltd trading as



- Digitales, James Bennett Pty Limited, MDM Entertainment Pty Ltd, OverDrive Australia Pty Ltd and Prenax Pty Ltd for the initial term of 2 Years for \$1,958,000.
- 3.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to execute the Contract Document on behalf of Council, including the two one-year extension options outlined in Confidential Attachment 1, which details an estimated total contract value of \$4,033,700 (inclusive of GST) over a four-year term

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### 4.1 Summary of the Procurement Australia Tender Process

- 4.1.1 Procurement Australia is a leading procurement services company that negotiates and facilitates contracts for clients in both private and public sectors.
- 4.1.2 The Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment and Associated Requirements contract from Procurement Australia offers the broadest available certified and recognised suppliers of any library contract Australia-wide.
- 4.1.3 Procurement Australia offer aggregate pricing to secure the best possible value for our community.
- 4.1.4 It is standard industry practice to use Procurement Australia contracts for a range of library solutions, under the contract 2306/0843 Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements.
- 4.1.5 In October 2024, Procurement Australia conducted an industry briefing session to commence the retender of contract 2306/0843 – Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements which expired on 30 June 2025.
- 4.1.6 The Procurement Australia tender advised vendors that submissions would be assessed against a set of evaluation criteria and weightings that Procurement Australia had established across 13 categories.
- 4.1.7 The tender was advertised in the Herald Sun on 20 November 2024. The tender closed four weeks after the advertised date at 3.00pm AEDT on 18 December 2024.
- 4.1.8 The tender award process for Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements was significantly delayed by Procurement Australia.
- 4.1.9 Procurement Australia awarded the Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements contract 2706/0848 on 26 May 2025.
- 4.1.10 Procurement Australia nominated a total of 42 vendors across 13 categories.
- 4.1.11 Vendors were ranked according to criteria set out in the Procurement Australia tender process across each of the 13 categories.
- 4.1.12 A tender evaluation panel (TEP) comprising library subject matter experts assessed the Procurement Australia contract and identified this as best value.



Composition of the Port Phillip Library Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP)		
Name	Title	
Adam Cooper	Head of Libraries, (TEP Chairperson)	
Brandt McCook	Collections Team Leader, (TEP member)	
Gabrielle Ryan	Library Engagement and Experience Lead, (TEP member)	
Randal Paxton	ITSM Support Analyst - Libraries, (TEP member)	

#### 4.2 Proposed Scope

- 4.2.1 The proposed participation in the panel contract is for a two-year term with two one-year extension options, commencing on 7 August 2025 (subject to Council approval). The total contract value to the City of Port Phillip is estimated at \$4,033,700 including GST over four years.
- 4.2.2 Procurement Australia issued an invitation to tender for the establishment of a panel of providers for Library industry specialists to supply and deliver products and services relevant to their nominated tender category/categories as follows:
  - Category 1 Printed Material English.
  - Category 2 Printed Material Community Languages.
  - Category 3 Printed Magazines and Newspapers English & Community Languages.
  - Category 4 Digital Collections English & Community Languages.
  - Category 5 Audio-Visual Materials English & Community Languages.
  - Category 6 Full Shelf Ready Services, Unbundled Cataloguing Services and/or Processing Services (a) Cataloguing.
  - Category 6 Full Shelf Ready Services, Unbundled Cataloguing Services and/or Processing Services (b) Processing.
  - Category 6 Full Shelf Ready Services, Unbundled Cataloguing Services and/or Processing Services (c) Consumables – Processing Service Consumables.
  - Category 7 Physical Collection Support Services.
  - Category 8 Physical Collection Support Services.
  - Category 9 Library Management Systems.
  - Category 10 RFID & Unstaffed Library Access Systems.
  - Category 11 Library Furniture and Shelving.
  - Category 12 Non-Traditional Library Collection Deliverables.
  - Category 13 Library Removalists.



From the above categories only Category 1 to Category 6 (c) are relevant to the supply of library collection items considered in the panel contract for the Port Phillip library collection.

#### 4.3 Relevant Background

- 4.3.1 The current Council contract 002010 Panel for Library Collections, Furniture and Equipment expired on June 30, 2025.
- 4.3.2 The previous Port Phillip contract was established with Procurement Australia to take advantage of the aggregate pricing to provide increased value for the community.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Relevant Council departments including procurement, finance and governance were consulted in the preparation of the specifications, procurement plan, and the TEP's evaluation plan.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

#### 6.1 Collaboration

- 6.1.1 This procurement complies with Council's Procurement Policy and opportunities for collaboration with other Council or public bodies.
- 6.1.2 Procurement Australia engaged numerous library professionals across Australia in the development and evaluation of 2706-0848 Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment & Associated Requirements.

#### 6.2 Other legal and Risk Implications

- 6.2.1 Procurement Australia ensure compliance and probity and engage the services of a probity auditor.
- 6.2.2 Council officers have assessed this contract as efficient, effective and value for money.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 A projected total contract spend was calculated from a schedule of rates provided by each tenderer for the life of the contract for provision of services, including all administration, management, supervision, and labour.

Financial Year	Annual Contract \$
2025-2026	
Approved Budget	964,700
Library Books. 001669.90160	
Financial Year 2026-2027	
Foreshadowed Budget	993,300
Library Books. 001669.90160	
Financial Year 2027-2028	
Foreshadowed Budget	1,023,000
Library Books. 001669.90160	
Financial Year 2028-2029	1,052,700



Foreshadowed Budget		
Library Books. 001669.90160		
Total Available Budget	4,033,700	
<u> </u>		
Anticipated Contract Price – First Year	964,700	

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Council is committed to maximising positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes through procurement. Each vendor has policies to minimise environmental impact and has provided information on Corporate Social Responsibility.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Availability of high-quality library materials in a range of different formats, has a significant impact on the lives of communities.

#### 10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Vendors have provided goods and services that allow the library to support the following initiative of the Council Plan:
  - High-quality library spaces and collection services that provide opportunities for people to connect and learn and deliver on key actions outlined in the Library Action Plan
  - Build a high-quality and contemporary hardcopy and digital library collection that responds to diverse and emerging community needs.

#### 11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### 11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 The contract will commence immediately once approval has been provided.
- 11.1.2 Procurement Australia will provide a letter of engagement with each of the vendors.
- 11.1.3 There is no transition period as Procurement Australia are currently and satisfactorily providing this service to Port Phillip Libraries.

#### 11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 Officers will communicate with Procurement Australia following the Council decision.

#### 12. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Confidential-Tender Evaluation Report



### 13. AN ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

13.1	Carlisle Street Proposed Sale of Land - Reporting Feedback from Co	
13.2	City of Port Phillip Advocacy Strategy - Annual Report 2025	
13.3	Councillor Expenses Monthly Reporting - June 2025	323



13.1 CARLISLE STREET PROPOSED SALE OF LAND -

REPORTING FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LACHLAN JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER, OPERATIONS AND

**INFRASTRUCTURE** 

PREPARED BY: VICKI TUCHTAN, MANAGER PROPERTY AND ASSETS

ANTHONY SAVENKOV, HEAD OF REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO

(DEVELOPMENT & TRANSACTIONS)

JAMES ACKROYD, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To report the submissions received on Council's Carlisle Street Car Parks Intention to Sell consultation.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 At its Ordinary Meeting on 21 August 2024, Council resolved to commence the statutory procedures for discontinuing and selling land and laneways adjacent to Coles supermarket in Balaclava (bounded by Carlisle, Camden, Alfred and Nelson Street, Balaclava, (the Precinct).
- 2.2 The purpose of the proposed transaction is to enable a future mixed-use redevelopment of the site, including a full-line supermarket, residential development, improved public realm, underground parking, and new public toilets.
- 2.3 Statutory community consultation was conducted from 7 May to 15 June 2025. Community feedback was sought via an online survey, written submissions, Q&A, and a public forum. The purpose of this report is to summarise that feedback.
- 2.4 Feedback revealed a diverse range of views:
  - 39% supported the proposed sale
  - 27.9% supported with conditions
  - 33.1% opposed
- 2.5 Supporters welcomed the opportunity for revitalisation that the proposed transaction would bring. Conditional supporters emphasised the need for clear safeguards. Those opposed cited concerns about loss of public land, overreach by Coles, lack of transparency and impacts to local character.
- 2.6 Key themes emerging from the consultation are summarised below and detailed in the Engagement Summary Report at Attachment 1.
- 2.7 No decision is sought through this report. A recommendation on whether to proceed will be considered at a future Council Meeting.



#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

- 3.1 Thanks community members who provided feedback on the Intention to Sell land and Intention to discontinue and sell Roads.
- 3.2 Notes the Engagement Summary Report as contained in Attachment 1.
- 3.3 Notes that a recommendation on whether to proceed with the proposed sale of land and roads will be considered at a future Council meeting.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 At its Ordinary Meeting on 21 August 2024, Council resolved to commence statutory procedures under sections 207a and 223 of clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic).
- 4.2 The matter was Council's proposal to discontinue certain roads and sell both the roads and adjoining Council-owned land to Coles Group Property Developments Ltd, subject to public consultation and for no less than market value.
- 4.3 The proposal encompasses approximately 2,240 sqm of land and laneways in Balaclava bounded by Carlisle, Camden, Alfred and Nelson Streets.
- 4.4 The proposal seeks to deliver, via a Section 173 (S173) Agreement binding the owner (whether Coles or any future owner of the affected land in the Precinct) of the following commitments, forming part of the community benefit obligations:
  - Contemporary full-line supermarket.
  - Residential component to the future development.
  - Replacement of the current at-grade car parks with the same number of spaces (144) within a new purpose-built public parking basement.
  - Public toilet (male, female and all accessible).
  - Public open space (minimum 250sqm).
  - Retention of laneway access to the rear of Carlisle Street shops.
- 4.5 Council officers are also negotiating further commitments via draft S173 Agreement covering aspects including:
  - Solar access/setback/overshadowing measures.
  - Active frontages pedestrian links.
  - Potential adaptive reuse of heritage features
  - Residential diversity.
- 4.6 Statutory consultation took place between 7 May and 15 June 2025. Community feedback was gathered via multiple channels including an online survey, submissions, a community forum, direct questions, and broad promotional outreach.
- 4.7 The engagement achieved wide reach across the community and was designed to capture diverse perspectives.



- 4.8 Council officers have also been in active negotiation with Coles regarding a draft S173 Agreement to ensure the delivery of public benefit obligations including underground parking, new toilets, open space, and laneway access.
- 4.9 Additional elements under negotiation include solar access, heritage integration, housing mix, and active street frontages.
- 4.10 Community views were mixed. A majority of survey participants supported the sale (39%) or supported it with conditions (27.9%), while 33.1% opposed the sale outright.
- 4.11 Many respondents highlighted the importance of precinct-wide planning, design quality, and protecting the character and local economy of Balaclava.
- 4.12 This report presents a summary of consultation outcomes. No decision on the sale is being sought at this time.
- 4.13 A separate officer report with a recommendation will be brought to a future Council meeting.
- 4.14 A summary of community sentiment received is below:

#### **Community Sentiment Table (quantitative summary)**

Sentiment Category	% of Survey Respondents	Notes
Support the sale	39%	Varied reasons including revitalisation, supermarket, improved amenity
Support with changes	27.9%	Typically conditioned on affordable housing, design quality, planning certainty
Oppose the sale	33.1%	Concerns include loss of public land, overdevelopment, retail consolidation

4.15 A summary of engagement activity responses is shown below:

#### **Engagement Activity Summary**

Engagement Activity	Volume / Reach	Notes
Survey (online + paper)	206 participants responded via Council's Have Your Say platform	Represented a range of demographics and viewpoints
Written submissions	50 written submissions received via email and the engagement website	Detailed feedback from individuals and groups
Community forum	Held on 29 May 2025 at St Kilda Town Hall – 122 attended, with 45 providing feedback	Mixed views; broad support for renewal with design safeguards



Social media	Posts on Facebook and Instagram reached over 13,000 people	Comments both for and against; themes mirrored survey data
Q & A Portal	24 questions submitted and publicly answered via the Have Your Say online tool	Empowered users to reach out and engage with the project and allowed Council to answer questions directly
Council Newsletters	Featured in Have Your Say newsletter in May and June (4,161 subscribers)	1204 unique visitors to Have Your Say Project Page
Flyer Distribution	9,800 flyers delivered to owners, occupiers and traders across Balaclava	Generated interest and feedback via Have Your Say and attendance at the community forum

- 4.16 Across the consultation, many community members emphasised the importance of ensuring high-quality, locally responsive design outcomes.
- 4.17 While some acknowledged that redevelopment could improve the precinct, others expressed concern that without strong design controls the resulting development could negatively impact the character of Carlisle Street and its surrounds.
- 4.18 A number of submissions, including that of the Better Balaclava community group, advocated for a public design competition and/or community co-design process or Development Agreement (sometimes referred to as a Heads of Agreement) to guide in more detail the future redevelopment of the site.
- 4.19 These responses were framed as a way to ensure that the community had a voice in shaping the built form, street interface, and public realm outcomes, rather than relying solely on private-led design proposals and to seek more certainty on matters both within the scope of a S173 Agreement, and outside it.
- 4.20 A small number of individual submissions as well as Better Balaclava's submission included a request that any agreement with the applicant include mechanisms to embed design excellence, such as through a panel of independent experts, a multistage design review process, or formal design review triggers.
- 4.21 The public forum held at St Kilda Town Hall on 29 May 2025 was well attended, with more than 120 participants, including residents, traders and local groups.
- 4.22 The event provided an opportunity for direct dialogue between community members, officers, and ward councillors. A wide range of perspectives were shared.
- 4.23 Some participants expressed cautious support for precinct revitalisation, provided that strong design and planning controls were in place.
- 4.24 Others voiced concerns about development scale, loss of public land, and the need for a broader strategic framework.
- 4.25 Feedback in relation to the need for ongoing, transparent engagement, potential codesign/public design process were also raised.



- 4.26 In summary, the consultation process revealed a broad spectrum of views within the community. Whilst many respondents expressed support for revitalisation and improved amenity, some supportive responses were often qualified by concerns about development scale.
- 4.27 In total, 206 surveys were completed, and 40 written submissions were received.
- 4.28 Office also logged over 45 in person interactions through pop-up engagement, and the consultation webpage received more than 3,700 views.
- 4.29 The responses highlighted a range of views and priorities.
- 4.30 Whilst concerns featured prominently in feedback, a substantial proportion of respondents also expressed positive or hopeful views about the proposal. The most commonly mentioned positive themes in order of prevalence, were:
  - 1. Support for precinct revitalisation, particularly the opportunity to improve the look feel and function of the area.
  - 2. Desire for a modernised supermarket, with many respondents expressing strong support for replacing the existing Coles with a larger, upgraded store.
  - 3. Public realm and amenity upgrades including better laneways, landscaping and open space, lighting and pedestrian access.
  - 4. Improved safety and vibrancy, with a number of respondents noting that redevelopment could deter anti-social behaviour and improve passive surveillance.
  - 5. Housing supply, where support was expressed for additional housing, with some support for affordable or diverse options.
  - 6. Efficient use of underutilised land including support for a higher value land use in a well-connected location.
  - 7. Environmental opportunities including contributions requesting.
- 4.31 The most frequently raised concerns across all feedback channels were, in order of prevalence:
  - 1. Scale of development (height, overshadowing, visual impact).
  - 2. Loss of Council-owned land.
  - 3. Retail consolidation and Coles expanded ownership.
  - 4. Impact on public access and laneways.
  - 5. Parking availability.
  - 6. Design quality and interface with Carlisle Street.
  - 7. Transparency of process and community involvement.
  - 8. Environmental, including flooding concerns.
- 4.32 These themes were reflected across both structured responses and free-form commentary, and they provide a clear indication of the issues which will require careful consideration in any future Council decision.



#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Council undertook a public consultation process from May to June 2025 to inform the community and gather feedback on a possible sale of Council land associated with the Balaclava Coles site, including the Carlisle Street car parks and laneways.
- 5.2 This consultation was undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) and Council's *Community Engagement Policy*, which aligns with Section 56 of the Act and outlines principles for deliberative engagement, transparency, and early community input. Specifically, Section 55 of the Act requires community engagement on any proposed sale or exchange of land.
- 5.3 In parallel, statutory consultation processes relating to *the proposed discontinuance of three laneways* have been initiated separately under Section 206 and Clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic). These processes relate to Council's powers to discontinue roads and are subject to a formal notice, submission, and hearing process.
- 5.4 Engagement also considered principles of good practice under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic) and, where relevant to built form and planning outcomes, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic).
- 5.5 The engagement approach included an online survey, in-person pop-ups at Carlisle Street and Balaclava Station, a dedicated webpage, the ability to make written submissions, and a public forum held at St Kilda Town Hall on 29 May 2025.
- 5.6 325 individuals participated across the various engagement formats, including 212 online/paper surveys, over 50 written submissions, and 120+ attendees at the public forum.
- 5.7 Stakeholders include local residents, traders, landowners, community groups, planning professionals, Coles Group, and the broader Port Phillip community.
- 5.8 The engagement was promoted via Council's Have Your Say portal, social media, direct notifications, and on-site signage, with a total of over 3,700 unique page visits.
- 5.9 A detailed Engagement Summary Report is attached to this report.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No decision to sell the land is being made through this report. However, community concerns raised about transparency, governance, and land use control have implications for potential future risk.
- 6.2 Sale of Council land must comply with the *Local Government Act* 2020 (Vic), including requirements for community engagement and financial prudence.
- 6.3 Ongoing consultation and clear communication about the scope and limits of Council's role in the planning process will be key to managing reputational and strategic risks in formulating a recommendation on a future decision whether to sell the land.
- 6.4 Council will also need to consider how risks related to future built form, housing mix, and public realm quality are addressed through planning controls, agreements, or conditions of sale. This will be the subject of a decision at a future Council meeting.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 No immediate financial impact results from this report, as no decision to sell land is being made.



- 7.2 Should Council proceed to undertake a land sale, potential financial impacts would include land transaction proceeds, costs associated with further planning, legal, or probity processes, and possible reinvestment in local infrastructure or public benefit outcomes.
- 7.3 Some respondents raised concerns about the long-term financial trade-offs of selling public land, while others supported potential revitalisation and activation outcomes.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There is no direct environmental impact from this report.
- 8.2 Environmental impacts may arise from a future decision to sell the land and subsequent redevelopment and would be assessed through both Contract of Sale documentation, including a S173 Agreement, and future statutory planning processes, including provisions relating to environmentally sustainable design (ESD), stormwater management, and heat mitigation.
- 8.3 Several community submissions encouraged Council to pursue best-practice sustainability outcomes in any future development scenario.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 This report responds to strong community interest in the future of a significant precinct in Balaclava. 325 people participated across consultation activities.
- 9.2 Community views were diverse. Many supported revitalisation, better public realm, and new services such as an improved supermarket or housing options, while others expressed concern about losing public land or changing the local character.
- 9.3 The consultation has generated valuable feedback to inform any future Council decision-making process. If Council progresses further, ongoing community engagement will be critical in shaping future outcomes.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A formal Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has not been undertaken at this stage as no policy, program, or service is being proposed or amended by this report.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 This consultation aligns with strategic directions in *Council Plan 2025–2035* principally:
  - "An engaged and empowered community".
  - "A trusted and high-preforming organisation".

#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### 12.1 TIMELINE

- 12.1.1 No decision on whether to sell the land is sought at this time.
- 12.1.2 A decision on whether to proceed with the sale is scheduled for 17 September 2025.

#### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

- 12.2.1 Community engagement was undertaken in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy, using a mix of digital, written, and face-to-face methods.
- 12.2.2 Key themes are summarised in the attached Engagement Summary Report.



12.2.3 If Council proceeds further, the findings from this process would assist design of future community involvement.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. Engagement Summary Report 4



Carlisle Street Carparks and Laneways





#### City of Port Phillip | Carlisle Street Carparks and Laneways

### Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

#### **Postal Address**

City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3, PO St Kilda, VIC 3182

If you require a large-print version, please contact ASSIST on 03 9209 6777.



### Language assistance

Русский (Russian): 03 9679 9813

Polski (Polish): 03 9679 9812

Ελληνικά (Greek): 03 9679 9811

廣東話 (Cantonese): 03 9679 9810 普通話 (Mandarin): 03 9679 9858

Italiano (Italian): 03 9679 9814

For other languages not listed, please phone 03 9679 9814.



### City of Port Phillip | Engagement Summary Report - June 2025

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City of Port Phillip | Carlisle Street Carparks and Laneways

### **Executive Summary**

In total, 325 community members shared their opinions on the proposed sale of land in the Carlisle Street area via surveys, a Balaclava community forum, submissions, and online Q&A. The key insights are summarised below:

#### KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE SURVEY AND BALACLAVA COMMUNITY FORUM (251)

- Of the 251 responses that were received, opinions were fairly evenly split regarding
  the sale of land and laneways. When posed with the question, 'Do you support
  Council's proposed plan to sell laneways and land?' 39% said 'Yes' to the sale, 33.1%
  said 'No', and 27.9% chose 'Yes, with changes'.
- When sharing their thoughts, many people who said "yes" (20 comments) also mentioned they support the sale only if certain changes are made. For example, if Council is to supply social housing, restrict the building heights and there are independent shops cafes and/or restaurants maintained on site. The feedback shows that even those who support the sale often want adjustments to the condition of the sale.

#### **KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE SUBMISSIONS (50)**

- Most submissions are against selling the land in its current form but identified that
  they would support developing the area if clearer controls and protections are put
  in place. Submitters want Council to make sure that the development benefits the
  community, keeps the neighbourhood's character, and supports local shops.
- Most submitters are concerned about Coles dominating the area and impacting small business (20 comments), as well as does not including enough conditions to protect the community's interests (15 comments).

#### **KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE Q&A (24)**

People want to make sure that any new development on Carlisle Street keeps the
area friendly and open, with parks and community spaces, instead of turning it into
a big shopping centre. They are worried about big companies taking over, losing



City of Port Phillip | Engagement Summary Report - June 2025

small shops, and the environment. They want to be involved in the plans and make sure the community benefits, with things like affordable housing and good roads.

Overall, they want the area to stay a nice place where people feel welcome.

### Introduction

### Project background

Council is proposing to sell some land and laneways in the Carlisle Street area of Balaclava. The land is part of the carpark behind Carlisle Street, next to Coles. The goal is to sell these parcels of land to Coles with the plan to develop a mixed-used space, which will include a larger supermarket, shops, parking and public open space (see figure 1 below).

This project is important because it aims to improve the Carlisle Street area. By ensuring the land is developed effectively, Council aims to renew and upgrade the neighbourhood, making it a more attractive and functional place for people to enjoy. It aligns with the plan made back in 2009 to enhance this area for the community.



Figure 1: Land parcels discussed for sale



#### City of Port Phillip | Carlisle Street Carparks and Laneways

If Coles buys the land and laneways from Council, these are the main conditions, according to the Section 173.

- Price: Coles will pay at least market value for the land, which will be higher because it is now part of a bigger area. The price will also include any extra costs Coles needs to pay as part of the deal.
- Supermarket: Coles will build a brand new, full-size supermarket to replace the smaller one that is there now.
- Car Parking: Coles will build a new underground car park. All the current parking spaces on the surface will be moved underground. Parking will still be free and you won't have to shop at Coles to use it.
- Residential Area: The new development will include new homes or apartments.
- Public Toilets: Coles will provide new, accessible toilets (male, female, and unisex) to replace the current public toilets on the site.
- Public Open Space: Coles will create a new public open area at the northeast corner of the development

### What we set out to achieve

During this engagement, we sought to gain an understanding from our community about their view of the sale of land, to help inform future decision-making around the sale. This was carried out using a mix of online and face-to-face engagement methods.

### About this report

This report outlines how Council has engaged to date on this project and summarises what we have heard from the community.



City of Port Phillip | Engagement Summary Report - June 2025

### Before reading this report

The following should be considered in reading this report:

- The information in this report is based on qualitative research and does not necessarily reflect the views of a statistically representative sample of the community.
- City of Port Phillip strives to include diverse voices in our engagement activities.
   We acknowledge, however, that some people are likely to have experienced barriers to participation in the activities that are outlined in this report including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, multicultural communities, older people, and others.
- The information and views presented in this report are a summary of the
  opinions and feedback heard from across the engagement activities. The
  feedback has not been independently validated. As such, some information may
  be factually incorrect, unfeasible or outside of the scope of this project.
- This report summarises key feedback from participants and does not preclude the project team from considering community feedback in its original format.

### Acknowledgement and thanks

We would like to acknowledge and thank the community members who contributed feedback on this project.



## What we did

Between 8 May and 15 June 2025, a range of communications and engagement activities were carried out to inform the community about this project and to seek their feedback.

## Communications & engagement activities



website and survey

Have Your Say A project page on Council's Have Your Say engagement website provided information on the process, background information about the proposal, a timeline, contact details, a survey, opportunities to ask questions about the proposal, and an option to upload a submission



**Information** flyers x 9,800 Flyers notifying the community about the project and the opportunity to attend the Balaclava Community Forum. Flyers were sent to owners, occupiers and traders of Balaclava.



**Newsletter x 2** 

Information about the project and the opportunity to engage was included in the Have Your Say newsletter in May and June 2025, delivered to 4,161 subscribers.



Social media posts x 4

Social media posts were used to promote engagement via the City of Port Phillip's social media accounts:

- Instagram post (8 May, 20 May, 26 May and 30 May) reach 6,593; 290 reactions, 13 comments, 54 share.
- Facebook post (8 May, 20 May, 26 May and 30 May) reach 7,876; 32 reactions, 25 comments, 13 share.
- Instagram story (21 May and 29 May) 623 views.
- Facebook story (21 May and 29 May) 757 views.





## Face-to-face activities x 1

One face-to-face activity was held that aimed to provide participants with information to so that they could provide informed feedback.

- 2-hour Balaclava community forum at St Kilda Townhall, Balaclava, Thursday 29 May 2025, 6-8pm.
- 122 people attended the forum, with approximately 100 people taking part in facilitated table conversations about the proposal.
- 45 participants provided feedback on this project at the event.

## Participation by engagement activity

In total, 327 community members participated in this engagement process. This was spread across the engagement activities below:

Activity	Number of participants	Insights
Survey	206	This online survey collected demographic details about participants and asked for feedback on Smith Street.
Submissions	50	Submissions on this project were collected via email and Councils Have Your Say website.
Balaclava Balaclava community forum	45	100 Participants joined one of four 20-minute workshops with our expert team to ask questions and share their thoughts on the proposal. 45 of those provided written feedback on the night.
Q&A	24	Q&A is a tool on Have Your Say that allows users to ask detailed questions and receive official answers.  It empowers users to reach out and engage with the project and allows Council to answer.



## Project reach and participation

More than 1,200 people heard about this project during the engagement period, via the Have Your Say newsletter and Council's social media. Figure 2 shows an overview of interactions with the *Have Your Say* project page to 15 June 2025, where 1,204 unique visitors visited the project page. We heard from 327 participants throughout this engagement process, with 206 participants via the survey 52 submissions, 24 via the online Q&A and a further 45 participants at face-to-face activities.



Figure 2 Project page overview, "Carlisle Street Carparks and Laneways" (Have Your Say, 15 June 2025)



## Who we heard from

## Participant demographics

#### Gender

Participants were asked to provide some demographic information when filling out the survey, and this information was also gathered at the Balaclava Community Forum where people completed a feedback form. As shown in Figure 3, 120 participants (48.8%) identified as female (woman or girl) 115 participants (46.7%) identified as male (man or boy), 2 participants (0.8%) identified as non-binary and a further 3 participants (3.7%) said they preferred not to say. Information about gender identity was not obtained by those who provided submissions and some Balaclava Community Forum participants did not answer this question.

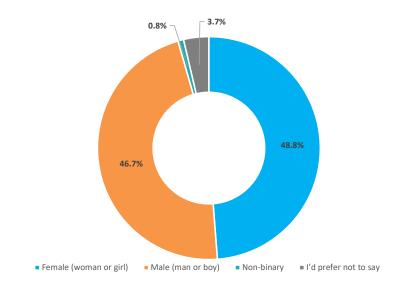


Figure 3 Participation by gender – survey and Balaclava community forum participants

#### Age

Participants who completed the survey or provided feedback at the Balaclava Community Forum were asked to provide their age. The age bracket that participants were most likely to select was 35–49 years old, with 88 responses (36.8% of participants). The second most likely age bracket for participants to choose was 50–59 years (47 responses, 19.7% of participants).

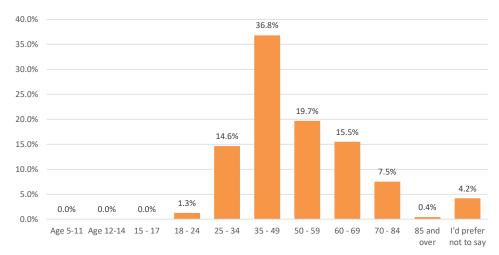


Figure 4 Participation by age - survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants

## Diversity statements

Survey and Balaclava Community Forum respondents were asked to indicate if they identified with a series of statements to understand participant diversity and were able to select as many statements as applied to them. Information about diversity was not obtained by those who provided submissions, and some Balaclava community forum participants did not answer this question. From most to least common, these were:

- "None of these apply to me" (150 responses, 57.5%)
- "I identify as LGBTIQA+" (48 responses, 18.4%)
- "I speak a language other than English at home" (24 responses, 9.2%)



- "I'd prefer not to say" (23 responses, 8.8%)
- "I am a person with disability" (12 responses, 4.6%)
- "I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background" (4 response, 1.5%).

## Suburb of residence

Survey and Balaclava community forum respondents were asked to provide their suburb of residence, with 113 participants (46.3%) saying they live in Balaclava. Participation from other suburbs can be seen in Figure 5. Information about suburb was not obtained by those who provided submissions and some Balaclava community forum participants did not answer this question.

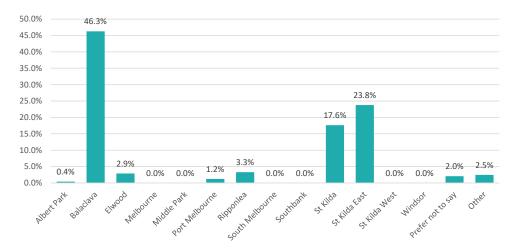


Figure 5 Participation by place of residence – survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants



## Prior feedback on Council projects

Survey and Balaclava community forum respondents were also asked whether they had provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months. 114 participants (46.3%) said 'yes', 105 (42.7%) said 'no', and 27 (11%) were unsure, as shown in Figure 6. Information about prior feedback was not obtained by those who provided submissions and some Balaclava community forum participants did not answer this question.

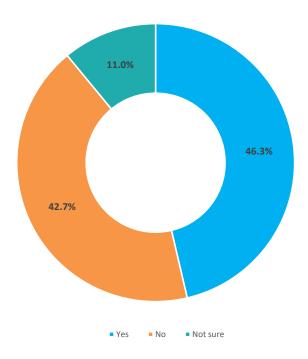


Figure 6 Participant prior feedback on other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months - survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants



## What we heard

# Do you support Council's proposed plan to sell laneways and land?

Those that provided feedback via the survey and at the Balaclava community forum were ask whether they support the Council's proposed plan to sell laneways and land in and around Coles carpark.

251 responses were received, with opinions fairly evenly split: 39% said 'Yes' to the sale, 33.1% said 'No', and 27.9% chose 'Yes, with changes' (see Figure 8).

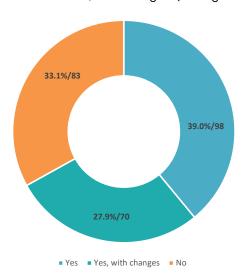


Figure 8. Do you support Council's proposed plan to sell laneways and land? – survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants



#### Support responses broken down by suburb

When the votes were broken down by participants' suburb of residence, sentiment was again fairly evenly split. Most people in Balaclava (43), St Kilda East (26) and St Kilda (19) supported the sale, however the margins were very close in all three suburbs. Lower response rates were received from residents of other suburbs, with opinions of those participants were more mixed. See Figure 9 below.

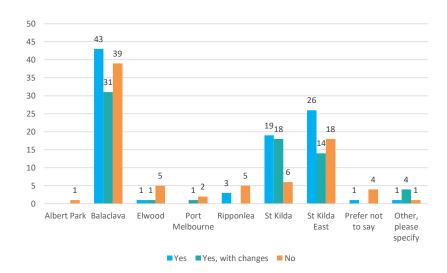


Figure 9 Do you support Council's proposed plan to sell laneways and land? (By suburb)survey and Balaclava community forum participants



# What comments would you like to share with us about the proposed sale?

Survey and Balaclava community forum participants were asked what comments they would like to share with us about the proposed sale; 234 responses were received. These responses have been grouped into 'Yes', 'Yes with changes' and 'No' with themes as seen in figures 10, 11 and 12.

#### **'YES' COMMENTS:**

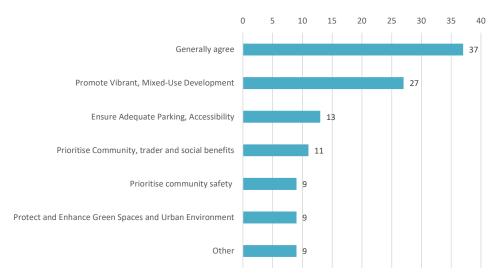


Figure 10. What comments would you like to share with us about the proposed sale? - (Yes comments themes) survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants

Of the 83 'Yes' received the **'Generally agree'** theme made up the most comments (37 comments), with comments largely agreed with the proposal, many indicating that they wanted the development to happen quickly.

'I agree with the proposed sale. The area needs a bigger supermarket than the small Coles and Woolworths than are currently there.' (Balaclava resident)



'Please do it quickly. The delay in Coles and the impacts to traders is significant and uncertain. It's extremely detrimental to Carlisle St.' (St Kilda resident)

**'Promote Vibrant, Mixed-Use Development'** was the second most common theme (27 comments). Comments largely related to the condition to the sale having multiple uses like open space, bar and restaurant, housing and parking etc.

Please sell and redevelop the Coles and Woolworths precinct asap. Undercover carparking, green spaces, non-vacant shops, indoor children's play equipment'. (Balaclava resident)

'Consideration of multiple storey development with basement car park in Coles development to maximise land use (St Kilda East resident)'.

**'Ensure Adequate Parking, Accessibility'** ranked third with 13 comments. Most comments focused on maintaining at least the current number of carparking spaces, as well as preserving access via the laneway behind the shops along Carlisle Street.

'I support sale providing that ample car parking spaces are created. There would need to be more car parking spaces than current as parking is a big issue in the area'. (St Kilda resident)

'Providing Coles commit to a substantial redevelopment and providing more car parks for locals to use'. (Balaclava resident)

**'Prioritise community, trader and social benefits'** had 11 comments, mostly referring to the condition of the sale, providing housing, social housing and opportunities for small traders with street frontage.

'With the way the housing crisis is. this will be perfect for more housing in the area'. (Balaclava resident)

'As long as you can keep the street front with a variety of businesses it just needs to be done'. (Ripponlea resident)



## 'Prioritise community safety' and 'protect and enhance green spaces and urban environment' were the fifth equal most common themes (9 comments).

'Carlisle Street is currently unsafe, uninviting and becoming more vacant by the day'. (Balaclava resident)

'The Coles carpark and public toilets are a disgrace. I've had to carefully walk past drug addicts, or try to push past vagrants and drug dealers to use the bathroom'. (St Kilda resident)

'If there are plans for green spaces'. (St Kilda East resident)

'Development is long overdue. The s173 should ensure a publicly accessible open space at the grade level'. (Balaclava resident)

#### **'YES, WITH CHANGES' COMMENTS:**

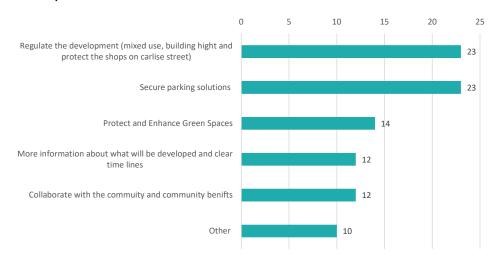


Figure 11 What comments would you like to share with us about the proposed sale?- (Yes, with changes, comments themes) survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants

23 comments were received from the 70 participants that voted 'Yes, with changes'. The primary concern of this cohort was concerning the desire to 'Regulate the development'. These comments related to the desire for mixed uses, controls on building height and the need to protect the shops on Carlisle Street.



23 comments related to the desire for **'Secure parking solutions'**, with most advocating for the number of parking spaces to stay the same or for more to be provided.

'Make the sale binding to more specific restrictions, i.e building height, min + max resident & visitor carparks'. (St Kilda resident)

'Should have as many conditions as possible with the sale. Conditions that meet the community's requirements'. (St Kilda East resident)

'I just need to be confident the development will result in more, not fewer, car parking spaces'. (St Kilda East resident)

'Protect and Enhance Green Spaces' was the third most common theme (14 comments). Comments largely related to the condition of the sale, having more open space and retain the trees.

'Increase the size of open/green space Coles requires (double it).' (Balaclava resident)

'This is an ideal opportunity to upgrade the Coles and put in an underground carpark under the current carpark. Create a village green above it which shops around the edge look onto.' (St Kilda resident)

'More information about what will be developed and clear timeline's was next, with 12 comments. Most comments were related to more information about what will be developed on site if it's sold to Coles.

'Please explain exactly what Coles have planned for the land they would like to purchase and how that plan will benefit the community and community use of the space? (St Kilda East resident)'.

'How are we meant to judge the sale of this public asset without any clear plans for development being given? (St Kilda resident)'.

'Collaborate with the community and community benefits' had 12 comments, mostly talking about making space for the community and providing social housing.

'Make sure that the proposed land for sale is a space for the community, not just for Coles (St Kilda resident)'.



'The sale should be subject to requirements for public open space to be provided and for the inclusion of social housing in the redevelopment (Balaclava resident)'.

## The 'Ensure Community & Social Wellbeing' and 'Add Green Spaces & Environment' themes made up the rest of the comments (9 comments), with comments such as:

'The proposed sale does not need to be with Coles and the Council alone. As per similar projects for other Councils, Council can involve other partners to form a consortium to ensure best practice community outcomes (Balaclava resident)'.

'We should only agree to a sale once we have a legally binding agreement to tightly bind reasonable community outcomes, in terms of improved public amenity and a reasonable project completion timeline (Balaclava resident)'.

#### **'NO' COMMENTS:**

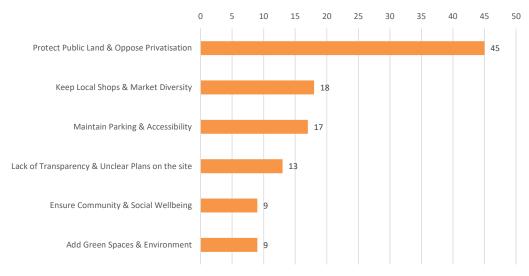


Figure 12 What comments would you like to share with us about the proposed sale?- (No, comments themes) survey and Balaclava community forum workshop participants



Of the 83 'No' votes opposing the sale of land, most comments could be categorised under the theme of 'Protect Public Land & Oppose Privatisation' (45 comments), with comments largely saying Council land should be kept with the community.

'I do not think council assets should be sold. They belong to the community (Balaclava resident)'.

'Public land should not be privatised as it will then go towards increasing income for the buyer rather than caring for our community and its users (Balaclava resident)'.

**'Keep Local Shops & Market Diversity'** was the second most common theme (18 comments). Comments largely related to respondents worrying that Carlisle Street precinct small business will suffer and not wanting private ownership of the land.

'We don't want any more larger corporations buying land. We want thriving small business, safer and cleaner streets and less plaza shopping centre. (St Kilda resident)'.

I'm not in favour of Coles having ownership of so much land. Their presence on Carlisle street has already driven away several small businesses, making it too difficult for them to afford rent (Balaclava resident)'.

**'Maintain Parking & Accessibility'** came third with 17 comments. Comments, mostly talking about the fear of loss of parking making sure it has accessible parking or not wanting the parking to be private.

'There are already insufficient car parking spaces for residents, and removing more and putting parking in the hands of a private enterprise will mean even less free and available parking for residents (Balaclava resident)'.

Land in this area is a premium and many car parks and access will be lost forever (Participant preferred not to say suburb of residence).



**'Lack of Transparency & Unclear Plans on the site'** was next, with 12 comments, mostly reporting that they can't make a decision on the sale of the land until they have more understanding about the controls listed within the Section 173, believing that what is currently being presented is insufficient, or until they know what will be exactly developed.

'The information provided regarding the sale of this land is insufficient. The Council's flyer mentions creating a "more vibrant, functional space for the community" but fails to explain how privatizing this land will achieve that goal or what Coles plans are for the land (Balaclava resident)'.

'Without knowing the scale, scope and design of the proposed development it is impossible to make an informed decision regarding the land sale (St Kilda East resident)'.

#### Submissions

We received 50 submissions via Have Your Say and email. Below is a summary of all submissions received. See Appendix 1 for all submissions.

#### Submissions summary:

Most comments are against selling the land in the proposal's current form, but most people support developing the area if certain controls and protections are put in place. They want Council to make sure that the development benefits the community, keeps the neighbourhood's character, and supports local shops. People are worried that if the land is sold without proper planning, it might turn into a boring, corporate space and hurt the local shops and the feel of Balaclava. Overall, the majority want to see changes that make sure the development helps everyone and keeps the neighbourhood special.

#### Concerns about Coles and Commercial Development (20 comments)

Many submissions focus on fears that Coles will dominate the site, reduce competition, and turn Carlisle Street into a bland, corporate area. Community members are worried about losing the neighbourhood's charm, the impact on small local shops, and the quality of street life. They also raise issues about Coles' ownership of the land, unclear intentions, and the risk of poor development that doesn't reflect community character.



#### Concerns about Safeguards and Community Benefits (15 comments)

Many residents feel that the current proposal doesn't include enough conditions to protect the community's interests. They want clear agreements that guarantee local shops, active street fronts, public spaces, and Balaclava's character before any sale is approved.

#### Planning and Development Process (12 comments)

Submitters suggest establishing a transparent, collaborative planning process involving Council, landowners, and residents. They want to set clear rules for future development, including affordable housing, good design, and preserving trees. Many are worried that if the land is sold without a proper process, the development might not align with local needs and could harm the neighbourhood's identity.

#### Protection of Local Character and Streetscape (10 comments)

Many submitters want to keep Balaclava's unique feel and prevent the area from becoming overly commercial or uniform. They call for preserving shopfronts and maintaining public spaces. The importance of lively, interactive streets during the day is also emphasized.

#### Transparency and Sale Conditions (8 comments)

Submitters are concerned about the lack of clarity regarding the sale process, including the sale price, more specific details of the Section 173 and Coles' future plans. They want the Council to include strict conditions in the sale agreement to prevent excessive building heights, and ensure the development aligns with community needs.

#### Opposition to Private Treaty Sale (4 comments)

Some submitters oppose the sale altogether, arguing it might lead to a domination by Coles and damage the local economy. They believe the sale process should be more open and competitive to ensure the land is sold at fair value and benefits the community rather than just a large corporation.



## Have your say Question & Answer (Q&A)

We received 24 questions during the engagement period via *Have Your Say*. The Q&A tool allows users to ask detailed questions and receive official answers publicly via the website. It empowers users to reach out and engage more deeply with the project. Questions and answers are displayed as a list on *Have Your Say* for everyone to see. Below is a summary of all questions received.

#### Questions summary:

Many people who asked questions were concerned about what the future development of Carlisle Street will look like and how it will affect the community. They want to see plans for open spaces and community areas, and they're worried that big businesses like Coles might take over too much of the land, turning the area into a large shopping centre instead of a friendly, local village. Residents also want to know how much land Coles owns, what parts of it might be developed, and whether there will be housing included in the new buildings. Some people are worried that the sale of land will benefit big companies more than the local community, especially since many small shops and grocers have already closed. They want to make sure that any new development keeps the local character, preserves trees, and includes open spaces and community-focused features.

Others asked about the details of the sale process and what rules will be in place to protect the community's interests. They wanted to know if the land will be sold through a fair process, how the community can be involved in planning, and what restrictions Council might put on the development. Many are also concerned about parking, traffic, and the environmental impact, like the loss of trees and open space. There's interest in making sure that new buildings include affordable housing and that the community benefits from the sale, with some suggesting that the money from selling the land should be used for local improvements. Overall, people want to see a balanced approach that revitalises the area while keeping its friendly, community feel.



## **Next steps**

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback on the Carlisle Street Carparks and Laneways. The engagement findings from this engagement will now be used to further inform Council decision-making on this project.

We will continue to keep the community updated on the progress of the project via the dedicated project page:

 $\underline{https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/laneways-balaclava.}$ 



13.2 CITY OF PORT PHILLIP ADVOCACY STRATEGY - ANNUAL

REPORT 2025

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ROBYN BORLEY, DIRECTOR, GOVERNANCE AND

**ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE** 

PREPARED BY: ELIZABETH COWIN, COORDINATOR ADVOCACY, GRANTS &

**PARTNERSHIP** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To report to Council the outcomes of the 2024/25 advocacy program and seek Council endorsement of the recommended forward plan for advocacy for the 2025/26 financial year.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 As per the City of Port Phillip Advocacy Framework 2024-28, the Advocacy Annual Report 2025 aims to provide an overview of the City of Port Phillip's advocacy activities and outcomes for the 2024/25 financial year, as well as recommendations for the 2025/26 advocacy agenda.
  - 2.1.1 Part 1 Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 (attachment 1) provides an Advocacy Annual Report for 2024/25 highlighting advocacy actions and achievements, funding secured through grants, strategic memberships, and systemic improvements aligned with the Advocacy Strategy 2024–28.
  - 2.1.2 Part 2 Forward Advocacy Plan 2025/26 (attachment 2) makes recommendations for the 2025/26 advocacy agenda using the eligibility criteria, prioritisation methodology, and tiered system.
- 2.2 The report seeks Council's endorsement for the design and publication of the Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 (Part 1), and approval of the proposed 2025/26 advocacy priorities as outlined in Part 2, and actions.
- 2.3 The endorsement of Part 2 provides strategic direction for the allocation of Council's advocacy resources, however, may be subject to change as new issues/opportunities arise and advocacy priorities are achieved.
- 2.4 A progress report will be provided to councillors via a councillor briefing mid-way the cycle.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the contents, design and publication of the Part 1 Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 (attachment 1).
- 3.2 Endorses the advocacy forward plan outlined in Part 2 Forward Advocacy Plan 2025/26 (attachment 2).
- 3.3 Notes that the forward advocacy plan may be subject to change, as issues, opportunities or new/urgent items arise throughout the year.
- 3.4 Authorises the CEO, or their delegate, to make amendments to either 'Part' as necessary, provided such changes do not materially alter the purpose or intent of Part 1 Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 (attachment 1) and Part 2 Forward Advocacy Plan 2025/26 (attachment 2).



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Advocacy is the process of engaging with key decision makers to influence change that benefits the community. It is an important function of Council used to raise awareness of various issues and opportunities that impact our residents and businesses.
- 4.2 The City of City of Port Phillip actively advocates to both the Victorian and Australian Governments for projects, funding, services, policy reforms, and infrastructure that enhances community wellbeing. This advocacy effort often addresses matters that extend beyond Council's direct delivery capacity.
- 4.3 Effective advocacy depends on establishing strong partnerships and relationships, supported by robust evidence, community backing, and a clear political rationale.
- 4.4 Guided by the City of Port Phillip Advocacy Strategy 2024–28, the program adopts a tiered prioritisation model to ensure alignment with Council's strategic objectives and community needs. This report reflects the first full year of implementation under the new strategy, showcasing a considered approach to advocacy and grants.
- 4.5 The report is broken in two parts, a retrospect summary of Councils advocacy efforts in 2024/25 and a forward-looking plan for 25/26.

#### Part 1 - Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25

- 4.6 Part 1 (attachment 1) of the Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 provides a summary of Council's advocacy and external competitive grants program for the financial year. As per the Advocacy Strategy and Framework, the report breaks down advocacy items into a tiered system. This is the first advocacy report of its kind for City of Port Phillip, and includes:
  - An overview of Tier 1 priority advocacy actions
  - A table summary of Tier 2 and Tier 3 advocacy actions
  - A summary of competitive grants awarded to Council
  - An overview of strategic membership activities
  - Ministerial visits to the municipality
  - Public policy submissions that Council has made to State and Federal Governments
  - Strategic systems and process enhancements made to uplift programming.
- 4.7 Highlights from the report include:
  - \$8m+ in external competitive grants secured
  - Advocacy on 35+ issues
  - Renewal of Advocacy website, and establishment of 'news' page
  - Federal Election advocacy campaign, resulting in funding commitments to council and other key local priorities
  - 13 public policy submissions
- 4.8 Once approved and endorsed by Council, it is proposed this report be designed to align with the Advocacy Strategy format and published online as a record of Council's



advocacy for the financial year. This aligns with a commitment to better communicate Council's advocacy program to the community.

#### Part 2 - Forward Advocacy Plan 2025/26

- 4.9 Part 2 (attachment 2) makes recommendations for Council's 2025/26 advocacy agenda.
- 4.10 The development of the proposed 2025/26 advocacy priorities followed a structured prioritisation process whereby potential advocacy items were passed through a thorough assessment. This methodology was endorsed via the Advocacy Strategy 2024-28.
  - 4.10.1 The advocacy assessment considers whether the item would benefit from advocacy, and if so, categorises them into a Tier. Tiering is based on a combination of factors such as cost/savings; feasibility; benefit to community; need for State and Federal Government support; number of people impacted; and alignment with Plan for Port Phillip etc.
- 4.11 The process also considers whether City of Port Phillip are best to lead the advocacy, or work via our strategic memberships. This is determined by whether the item either exclusively or disproportionately impacts residents within out municipality, or whether the issue is broader.
- 4.12 Through this process 147 items were considered, with 48 items assessed to be "advocacy items" and the rest being assessed to be either operational matters or suited for grants. The tiering system (Tier 1, Strategic Memberships, Tier 2 and Tier 3) is used to provide Council with a plan on how to allocate advocacy resources.
- 4.13 Tier 1 items are as follows:
  - 4.13.1 Community safety & social cohesion
  - 4.13.2 Fishermans Bend infrastructure
  - 4.13.3 Improved sporting & open space precincts
  - 4.13.4 Coastal health
- 4.14 Priority items for Strategic Membership priorities include:
  - 4.14.1 Fair housing & planning policies
  - 4.14.2 Coastal & water management
  - 4.14.3 Cost shifting onto councils
  - 4.14.4 Greater State investment in active and public transport
- 4.15 A full list of Tier 1, Strategic Membership, Tier 2, and Tier 3 items can be reviewed in Part 2 Forward Advocacy Plan 2025/26 (attachment 2).
- 4.16 New advocacy items may be considered as they arise throughout the year.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Advocacy items addressed in Part 1 and Part 2 of the Advocacy Annual Report have been shaped by the Plan for Port Phillip and Council's advocacy, which have been informed through broad community sector consultation. Council officers have also worked with key external stakeholders, including neighbouring Councils and strategic memberships to refine the proposed 2025/26 program.



5.2 Advocacy items are often complex, and their resolution often does not sit exclusively with the City of Port Phillip. Collaboration with other levels of Government, community organisations, strategic memberships, neighbouring Councils, political stakeholders, and other services are essential. Subject to endorsement, Council will work with key local partners and broader stakeholders to action advocacy program.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal or risk implications associated with the publication of the Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The Annual Advocacy Report shows that the Council have successfully applied for over \$8 million in competitive grants to new and existing projects.
- 7.2 There may be some minor costs associated with design of Advocacy Report 2024/25 which are accounted in existing in business as usual (BAU) advocacy budget.
- 7.3 There may be some costs planned to support the development of communications plans and collateral for Tier 1 advocacy priorities, which are accounted in existing in BAU advocacy budget.
- 7.4 The advocacy and grants functions will continue to seek financial avenues for Council and will report back on outcomes at the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Several advocacy priorities, if successfully delivered, would have beneficial impacts on the environment within the municipality.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The Advocacy Annual Report Part 1 communicated to community the breadth and strength of Council's advocacy agenda.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this report relates to internal-facing workflow.
- 10.2 It is noted that projects or advocacy items referred to in the Advocacy Annual Report Part 2 will be assessed on an as-needed basis, independently from this report.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 The Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 is an action from the City of Port Phillip Advocacy Framework 2024-28. This is the first iteration of its kind after the first year of implementation.
- 11.2 This report relates to Plan for Port Phillip's strategic direction: *An engaged and empowered community.*
- 11.3 The retrospective report at Part 1 and the proposed advocacy agenda at Part 2 are aligned to the helping deliver the priorities outlined in the Plan for Port Phillip.E



#### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### 12.1 TIMELINE

- 12.1.1 Subject to Council's endorsement of the Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 Part 1 (attachment 1), a visually-appealing designed version will be produced and published online in the coming months.
- 12.1.2 Officers will implement the recommended advocacy and grants improvements outlined in Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 Part 2 (attachment 2) as soon as appropriate and throughout the financial year.
- 12.1.3 Officers will seek to action the advocacy items in line with recommendations of this report, as per the Advocacy Strategy 2024-28.
- 12.1.4 Officers will circulate relevant advocacy priorities to strategic memberships and local political stakeholders.

#### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

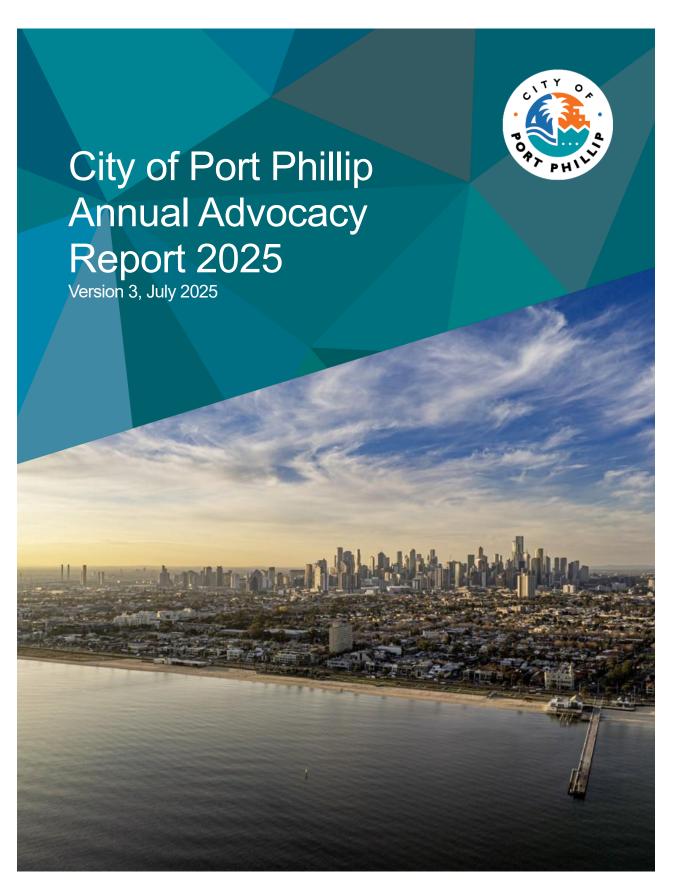
- 12.2.1 Subject to Council's endorsement of the Advocacy Annual Report 2024/25 Part 1 (attachment 1), a visually-appealing designed version will be published online for community to engage with.
- 12.2.2 Each Tier 1 priority will be accompanied by a strategic advocacy and communications plan, including the development of communication collateral.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Part 1 Advocacy Annual Report 2024-25 4
- 2. Part 2 Forward Advocacy Plan 2025-26 4



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City of Port Phillip Annual Advocacy Report 2025

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#### **National Relay Service**

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TTY users, dial 133677, ask for 03 9209 6777

Voice Relay users, phone 1300 555 727,

then ask for 03 9209 6777.

relayservice.gov.au



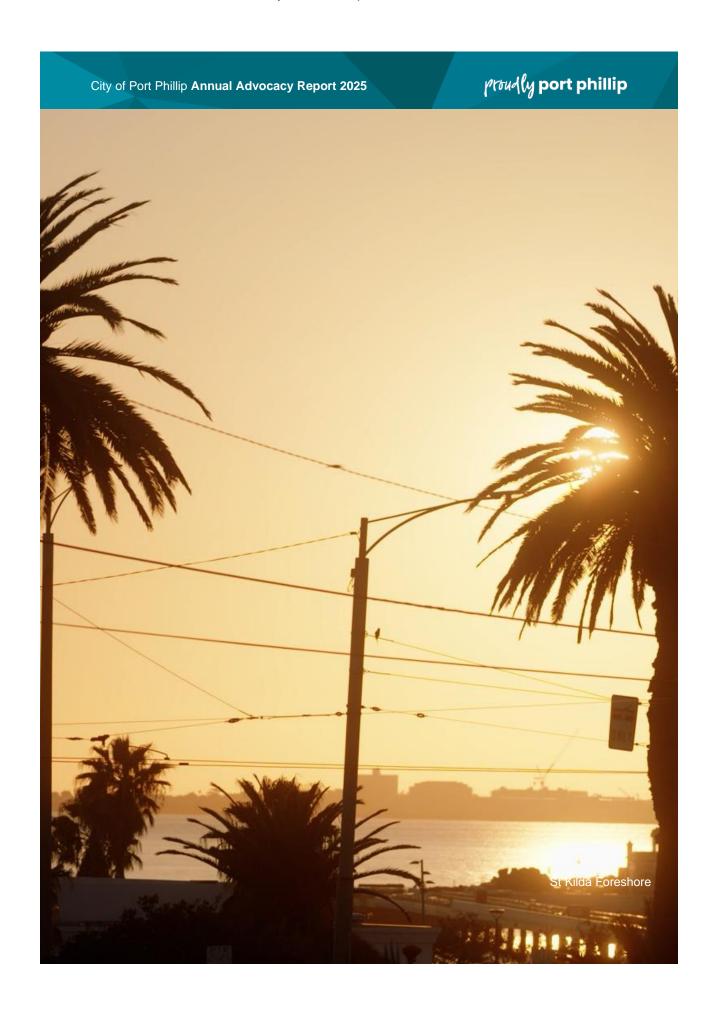
Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip 2025 Advocacy Annual Report

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City of Port Phillip 2025 Advocacy Annual Report

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## Introduction

City of Port Phillip's Advocacy and Grants Program is designed to support the community by securing funding and influencing policy changes that benefit residents, businesses, and the local environment. Through strategic partnerships and targeted advocacy efforts, the program aims to address key issues such as infrastructure development, social services, and environmental sustainability. By leveraging grants and other funding opportunities, Council can enhance its service delivery and achieve its strategic priorities.

### **Advocacy Strategy 2024-28**

The Advocacy Strategy 2024-28 outlines a comprehensive and coordinated approach to advocacy, emphasising evidence-based, community-driven, and realistic priorities. It details how Council identifies and prioritises issues, develops effective advocacy plans, and collaborates with various stakeholders, including government bodies and local organisations. Serving as a roadmap, the strategy provides a clear framework for action, ensuring all advocacy activities align with Council's strategic priorities and are conducted transparently and effectively. By following this strategy, Council aims to maximise its chances of securing support and funding for critical projects, ultimately achieving its advocacy goals and delivering meaningful outcomes for the community.



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### **Key Achievements**

Over the past year, City of Port Phillip has made significant strides in its advocacy efforts. Key achievements include:

100	<b>35+ advocacy items actioned</b> Over Tiers 1, 2 and 3
9	52,700+ impressions on election campaign social media posts, and 3,300+ unique viewers visited Council's 2025 Federal Election Website  Showing an engaged community
	\$1.5 million in funding for CCTV treatments through the 2025 Federal Election campaign To address community safety in Port Phillip
*##	<b>32 competitive grants applied for</b> Leading to 23 successful applications
	\$8+ million in funding through competitive grants For projects and capital across Council
*	<b>9 Ministerial visits to the municipality</b> Building relationships and presenting the City's great assets to the nation's decision makers
	13 Submissions to Government Influencing policy and sharing learnings
	Councillor advocacy briefing/orientation Inducting the new Council into City of Port Phillip's advocacy agenda and processes
<u></u>	Successful internal systems uplifts, including a webpage, intranet help page, and processes development for grants and advocacy  Resulting in a more efficient operation

City of Port Phillip 2025 Advocacy Annual Report

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## **Advocacy Priorities Summary**

To ensure our advocacy efforts are strategic, impactful, and aligned with community needs, City of Port Phillip uses a tiered system to prioritise advocacy initiatives, as per the Advocacy Strategy. This structured approach allows Council to allocate resources effectively by categorising advocacy items into three tiers based on their urgency, potential impact, and alignment with Council's strategic objectives. Tier 1 priorities receive the most intensive advocacy efforts, including comprehensive campaigns and high-level engagement, while Tier 2 and Tier 3 priorities are pursued with proportionate levels of support. This system ensures transparency and enables Council to prioritise resources, whilst remain responsive to emerging opportunities and challenges.

### **Tier 1 Advocacy Items**

#### **Community Safety & Social Cohesion**

The community and traders are becoming increasingly concerned about safety and cohesion in the municipality. City of Port Phillip is undertaking an advocacy campaign that supports a collaboration between Victoria Police, local Members of Parliament, community groups, traders, and Council to address ongoing disruptive and antisocial behaviours, antisemitism, and promote social cohesion.

#### **Advocacy Actions and Highlights:**

- Facilitated a Community Safety Roundtable with service providers and police, leading to a report and recommendations (currently under consideration and some items are underway)
- Raised several mitigation and prevention options as a part of Council's Prahran byelection advocacy campaign
- Raised several mitigation and prevention options as a part of Council's federal election advocacy campaign
- Successfully secured funding commitments from federal election candidates for Macnamara of up for \$1.5 million for CCTV treatments
- · Working with Environmental Protection Agency on an acoustic camera trial project
- Wrote letters to the Minister for Police and to the Chief Commissioner of Police
- Frequent and recurring meetings with representatives of Victoria Police and social service providers
- Wrote letters to local Members of Parliament
- Item raised in meetings with local Members of Parliament at both State and Federal levels of government
- Hosted a round table with Victoria Police, local Members of Parliament, trader representatives and Council representatives
- Participated in a Mayoral campaign with neighbouring councils
- Released statements from the Mayor to give updates on progress in this space
- Advocacy to Federal Government for support to rebuild Adass Israel Synagogue and public realm works

City of Port Phillip Annual Advocacy Report 2025

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#### Children's Centre infrastructure funding

City of Port Phillip is undertaking a redevelopment of 6 childcare centres between 2026 and 2029. The Victorian Government has committed funding through the Victorian School Building Authority grants process. Council has also committed significant funding for this project, however an additional amount is required and unbudgeted. Council continues to seek a funding contribution from the Federal Government.

#### **Advocacy Actions and Highlights:**

- Inclusion of the item in Council's Prahran by-election advocacy campaign
- Inclusion of the item in Council's federal election advocacy campaign
- Secured additional funding through the Victorian School Building Association's Building Blocks funding program
- Raised item in meetings with State and Federal representatives of Parliament
- Assessed the item against grant opportunities as they arose

#### **Live Music & Events**

From the iconic St Kilda Festival to a variety of microfestivals, City of Port Phillip is a hub for cultural expression and community engagement. There are several unique opportunities for State and Federal Governments to partner with Council to showcase local talent, attract visitors, and foster a thriving arts scene to benefit the local community and visitors alike.

#### **Advocacy Actions and Highlights:**

- Successful grant application through the Federal Government's *Revive Live* grants program, a first time the Federal Government has contributed to the St Kilda Festival
- Successful grant funding through the State Government for First Peoples talent and activations at the St Kilda Festival
- Secured letters of endorsement from local Members of Parliament for the St Kilda Festival
- Attendance of multiple Members of Parliament at the St Kilda Festival and St Kilda Film Festival, including hosting speaking roles for some
- Worked with local Members of Parliament and the offices of relevant Ministers to seek the approval of the Live Music Precinct Planning Amendment
- Successful grant application to commission a statue of Louisa Briggs through the McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery's Victorian Women's Public Art Program
- Progressed renaming streets to honour key local musicians within the municipality

City of Port Phillip 2025 Advocacy Annual Report

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#### Fishermans Bend

The advocacy around Fishermans Bend is extensive and cross-organisational, focusing on community infrastructure and shared spaces (parks, recreation areas, schools, hospital), public transport accessibility and investment (Melbourne Metro 2, bus improvements, pedestrian and bike upgrades), and housing policies to provide for all community members. A key issue is the lack of high-capacity public transport and poor active transport provision. In 2018, a study by PWC highlighted that the delivery of a tram is crucial for the precinct's success. Council has been advocating to State and Federal Governments to address this.

#### **Advocacy Actions and Highlights:**

- Submitted a response to the Australian Government's Draft National Urban Policy using Fishermans Bend as a prime example
- Contribution to the Municipal Association of Victoria's federal election campaign through their Mayoral delegation, using Fishermans Bend as a example of need for contributions to community infrastructure
- Frequent meetings with the Department of Transport and Planning's Fishermans Bend Taskforce
- Planning initiatives for the Sandridge Recreation Precinct, including advocacy through Council's federal election campaign, as well as meetings with local Members of Parliament
- Mayor and CEO met with VSBA to confirm arrangements for the new Primary School
- Ongoing issues and items, including for transport solutions, raised with local Members of Parliament
- Implemented pedestrian & active transport treatments, including securing funding for a much need bike link.
- Contributed to the Metropolitan Transport Forum submission to Infrastructure Victoria's 30 Year Plan

#### Elwood Foreshore Master Plan

City of Port Phillip is proactively planning for this renewal in a staged process over several years to ensure the foreshore remains a high-quality public and natural place. Through the redevelopment, Council is seeking to replace aged infrastructure, improve compliance and accessibility issues, and address risks of climate change. Council is advocating to the Victorian and Australian Governments to partner with Council on the Elwood Foreshore Redevelopment to co-fund the project.

#### **Advocacy Actions and Highlights:**

- Inclusion of the item in Council's federal election advocacy campaign
- Raised item in meetings with State and Federal representatives of Parliament

City of Port Phillip Annual Advocacy Report 2025

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#### **Future Proofing South Melbourne Market**

The South Melbourne Market is a 154-year-old asset built on Crown Land and owned and run by City of Port Phillip. It is a significant community hub and retail centre and is an important attraction for interstate and international visitors. The Market has some significant long-term challenges including capacity, compliance with updated building regulations, and traffic and pedestrian congestion.

#### **Advocacy Actions and Highlights:**

- Raised funding pathways for upgrades as a part of Council's federal election advocacy campaign
- Facilitated a Ministerial visit with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry & Minister for Small Business on 30 October 2024



City of Port Phillip 2025 Advocacy Annual Report

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## 2025 Federal Election Advocacy Campaign

In the lead-up to the 2025 Federal Election, the Advocacy Team, CEO, and Mayor of City of Port Phillip actively engaged with all candidates for the seat of Macnamara to promote Council's priorities related to the Federal Government. Advocacy activities included:

- Publication and circulation of the Federal Election Priority Projects Opportunity document
- Hosting meetings and correspondence with candidates
- Providing information to candidates to support commitments that aligned with Council priorities
- Producing an advocacy website, election commitment tracker and social media campaign

#### **Campaign Outcomes**

Major parties committed an unprecedented amount of funding to several projects within the City of Port Phillip, for both Council assets and community facilities.

Labor – Josh Burns	Liberal – Benson Saulo	Greens – Sonya
		Semmens
<ul> <li>\$31M for Adass Israel Synagogue (funding already committed in budget)</li> <li>\$400,000 to Port Phillip EcoCentre</li> <li>\$250,000 for JOY Media</li> <li>\$60,000 for the See Yup Temple</li> <li>\$12.5M for ANAM at South Melbourne Town Hall</li> <li>\$2.6M for Side Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>\$35M for Adass Israel Synagogue</li> <li>\$520,000 for CCTV</li> <li>\$1.4M for North Port Oval</li> <li>\$ Towards upgrades to Elwood Park Pavilion</li> <li>\$150,000 for anti- hooning cameras on Beach Rd</li> <li>TOTAL: \$37 MILLION+</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>\$10M for St Kilda Primary School</li> <li>\$400,000 to Port Phillip EcoCentre</li> <li>\$10M for Albert Park Lake</li> <li>\$12.5M for ANAM at South Melbourne Town Hall</li> <li>6 new free local healthcare clinics</li> <li>Litter Trap at Elwood Canal</li> <li>TOTAL: \$32.9</li> </ul>
Medic		MILLION+
\$1.5M for CCTV		
TOTAL: \$48.3 MILLION		

Elwood Par

City of Port Phillip Annual Advocacy Report 2025

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#### **Election Communications Campaign**

To promote advocacy efforts directly to community, a broad communications campaign was launched. This campaign included regular Social Media posts via Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, and through a series of more detailed advocacy articles to keep the community informed about advocacy efforts and the commitments secured.



**4,356 views** of the 2025 Federal Election – City of Port Phillip webpage from 3,376 unique users.



**11 social media posts** across Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, resulting in:

- 52,767 total views/impressions
- 951 interactions (likes, shares, comments)
- 645 clicks directing users to Council advocacy pages and articles.



**456 views** across the 9 Advocacy Articles published during the campaign, with the most popular articles being:

- North Port Oval Funding Commitment (86 views)
- Adass Israel funding commitments (68 views)
- Federal Election Advocacy summary (60 views)

#### **Next Steps**

Council will continue working with the elected representative to ensure these commitments are delivered as they align to the Council Plan. The Mayor and Advocacy team are actively engaging with the successful candidate on pathways to ensure election commitments are fulfilled.

Fitzroy St, St Kilda

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### Tier 2 & 3 Advocacy Items

Advocacy Item	Action	Outcomes			
Community and Child	Community and Child Care				
HACC PYP Flexible Service Response	State Government funding changes impacted food relief services for 700+ vulnerable clients. Council launched a	The Mayor met with department representatives, leading to consideration of a transition plan.			
	campaign for a transition period, engaged MPs, and supported organisations in advocacy efforts via facilitating a letter campaign.				
Multicultural Seniors Groups Funding	Lack of funding certainty beyond 2024-25 threatened group operations. Council partnered with MAV to advocate for multi-year funding.	Additional funding confirmed for 2025-26 in the State Budget.			
St Kilda Primary School Hall	School campaigned for a new Sport and Community Hub. Council supported the initiative, engaged MPs, and supported election advocacy.	Council aligned with community- led advocacy, strengthening its case with State Government.			
South African War	Memorial reinstated after Metro	Council secured funding,			
Memorial	Tunnel works; Victorian Boer War	provided preparation, and hosted			
Rededication	Memorial Committee sought support for rededication event. Council collaborated with the committee to deliver the event.	a successful community event.			
Arts, Music and Even	ts				
St Kilda Triangle	Council sought State and Federal co- funding for a feasibility study to transform the space into a live music venue. Advocacy efforts included meetings with ministers, interactions with ministerial advisers, inclusion in budget bids, and incorporation into the Federal Election Campaign.	Council continues to explore advocacy avenues.			
Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix	Council engaged the State Government and Grand Prix Association to mitigate local impacts, secure funding for precinct activations, improve transport accessibility, and address egress issues. Trader associations were supported in advocacy efforts.	Secured funding to support local activations in St Kilda and South Melbourne.			
Captain Cook Statue	Council pursued State support for	Council raised community			
Vandalism	restoration and culturally sensitive	concerns with the State.			

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	alamana hut an acustana difunciba	
	signage but encountered funding	
La ta Dia Con	barriers.	
Louisa Briggs Statue	Council coordinated endorsements	Council received grant funding
Funding	from key political and first nations	through the Victorian Women's
	stakeholders to secure funding for a	Public Art Program.
	statue honouring Louisa Briggs.	
Climate and Environm		
Elster Creek	Council advocated for a coordinated	Finalised \$1.7 million in Federal
	approach to revitalisation of Elster	grant funding, committed in 2022
	Creek engaged multiple stakeholders,	election.
	and facilitated a Ministerial site visit.	
Container Deposit	Council conveyed community	Raised awareness among key
Scheme Challenges	concerns about noise pollution from	decision-makers.
	Reverse Vending Machines to State	
	and Federal stakeholders via letters,	
	meetings, and calls.	
Coastal Asset	Council engaged the State	Increased awareness, and
Management &	Government and regional forums to	secured State funding for Middle
Erosion	highlight the risks of foreshore	Park Beach renourishment.
	erosion, with formal advocacy from	
	the Mayor.	
Port Phillip EcoCentre	Council backed EcoCentre for	Secured \$400,000 through
	additional funding to fit out the new	federal election commitment
	facility.	
Little Penguins at St	Council advocated for local group	Conveyed community support to
Kilda Pier	Earthcare to retain management	the State Government.
	responsibilities, engaging MPs and	
	ministerial advisers.	
Kerbside Waste	Council led M9 colleagues to request	A letter was sent to the State
Standards	the State Government release the	Government and Council awaits
	Kerbside Waste Standards which	an outcome.
	were promised in early 2025, in order	
	for Council to implement the policy	
	successfully and efficiently.	
Planning & Transport		
Station Pier	Council engaged State Government,	Prompted further discussions
	Ports Victoria, cruise industry	and conveyed community
	representatives, and tourism bodies to	concerns.
	advocate for investment and	
	revitalisation of the area.	
State Government's	Council worked with M9, DTP, and	Conveyed concerns about
Planning Control	key officials to address concerns	operational and community
Reform	about the lack of consultation on	impacts.
	planning and housing reforms.	
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109 Tram Duplication	Council raised the need for track	Conveyed the need for increased
Works	duplication with MPs and DTP,	tram services to support growth
	respecting planning considerations in	in the area.
	Beach Street.	
Park St Tram Link	Council advocated for project	Conveyed the need for the tram
	confirmation, engaging MPs and DTP,	link to support Metro Tunnel
	and incorporated planning works at	connectivity.
	Park Street.	
Flood Risk	Council collaborated with regional	Integrated flood controls into
Management	alliances, MPs, and water authorities	planning requirements and
	to address development in flood-	strengthened government
	prone areas.	partnerships.
Planning Scheme	Council raised concerns with M9,	Conveyed concerns about delays
Amendment Delays	MPs, ministerial advisers, and DTP	affecting Council operations.
7 tineriament belays	about delays impacting developments.	directing Council operations.
Pedestrian Safety	Council continued to advocate for	Council secured grant funding for
i edesirian Salety	funding for pedestrian safety and bike	bike path in Port Melbourne
		bike patif in Fort Melbourne
0	upgrades Council worked with a	Talatas a la desil de la colo
Communications		Telstra undertook review of
Assets at Fishermans	telecommunications provider and	assets in question.
Bend & Port	raised issues with MPs and the	
Melbourne	Fishermans Bend taskforce, regarding	
	issues with Telstra infrastructure.	
Sandringham Rail	Council initiated discussions with	Set progress in motion for
Corridor	VicTrack, Metro Trains, and DTP for	enhanced public spaces and
	greening and biodiversity	vegetation outcomes.
	improvements.	
Cost Shifting		
Cost Shifting for	Council joined MAV's advocacy	Conveyed concerns about cost
Immunisation	campaign urging full State funding for	shifting to the State Government.
Programs	immunisation services and the CIRV	
	platform. The Mayor wrote to the	
	Minister for Health requesting a	
	reconsideration of the co-funding	
	model.	
Emergency Services	Council opposed levy changes,	The issue was raised in
and Volunteers Fund	launched an advocacy campaign,	Parliament with specific
Levy Changes	engaged MPs, and called for rebates	reference to City of Port Phillip
Levy Changes	and a simplified funding model.	and received media coverage.
Electrical Line	Council raised concerns with the State	Communicated financial
Clearance	about cost shifting affecting urban	implications for councils to State
Implications	forestry, engaged MAV's campaign,	Government.
	and met with MPs.	

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Sport and Recreation				
Albert Park sports	Council engaged sporting clubs,	Conveyed community concerns		
clubs and asset	Parks Victoria, and the Australian	and the need for facility		
condition	Grand Prix Association to advocate	upgrades.		
	for investment in sport and recreation			
	assets and environmental			
	remediation. The Mayor raised			
	concerns with State and Federal MPs,			
	and the Minister for Environment.			
Port Melbourne Life	Council collaborated with the club and	Ensured funding was allocated to		
Saving Club	Life Saving Victoria to determine the	meet community needs.		
	best use of \$250,000 in State Budget			
	funding for accessibility			
	improvements.			
Safety at St Kilda Pier	Council worked with Life Saving	Conveyed community safety		
	Victoria to advocate for the	concerns to the State		
	implementation of safety measures at	Government.		
	St Kilda Pier to address increased			
	popularity and associated safety risks.			



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#### **Australia Post Parcel Locker Installation in Acland Court**

Following the closure of the St Kilda South Post Office, Council rallied with the local community to ensure continued postal services in St Kilda. Recognising the importance of these services, Council coordinated a considered advocacy campaign. Advocacy activities included:

- Writing to Australia Post and the Minister for Communications
- Releasing a joint statement with the Acland Street Village Business Association and the Older Persons Advisory Committee
- Working with Members of Parliament from the State and Federal levels of Government
- Coordinating a media release, that was picked up in print media and TV
- Working with Australia Post to find a suitable solution

These efforts highlighted the significance of the closure and demonstrated strong alignment between Council, State and Federal governments, and the community.

In response to the community's needs, Council successfully negotiated with Australia Post to install new parcel lockers at Acland Court. Following consultations, Council installed a dedicated mail zone parking bay outside Acland Court. The parcel lockers were installed during the week commencing 23 December 2024. On 17 December, the Mayor and Cr Thomann, along with Josh Burns MP and David Fried, owner of Acland Court, officially announced the upcoming installation of the new parcel lockers.

While these lockers do not fully replace the services of the Post Office, they help mitigate some inconveniences by providing a convenient, secure, and flexible option for parcel collection. This campaign achieved alignment across all levels of government and the community, leading to a successful outcome.



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### **Grants Awarded**

Port Phillip City Council has been awarded \$8,069,573 in competitive grants in the 2024-25 financial year after submitting 32 applications. Of these, 23 were successful applications, ten of which were submitted to the Federal Government, ten applications were submitted to the State Government, and three were submitted to Non-Government and Not-for-Profit entities. Council was awarded twelve capital grants, and eleven operational grants.

Highlights of grants awarded includes \$2,606,458 for the St Kilda Foreshore (landside) project, \$1,026,237 for the St Kilda Adventure Playground project; \$1,700,000 for the Elster Creek Water Quality Improvements project; and \$1,728,910 for a variety of road and traffic initiatives.

At the time of writing, Council is awaiting \$2,841,900 for seven grant application outcomes and has several applications in progress.



Attachment 1:

City of Port Phillip 2025 Advocacy Annual Report

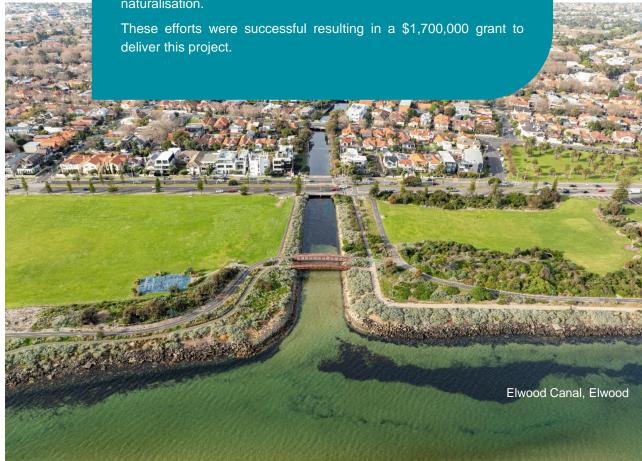
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# Elster Creek Water Quality Improvements (Urban Rivers and Catchment Grant)

Council successfully advocated for funding to support delivery of the Elster Creek Water Quality Improvements Project.

The Urban Rivers and Catchment Program (URCP) focuses on restoring the health of urban waterways for native plants, animals and local communities.

An internal Council team was assembled to produce a strong application that outlined the key aspects of the project, benefits to the community, and how this initiative aligns with the grant assessment criteria. The grant application established that the funding would be used to improve water quality within Elster Creek by reducing flows through stormwater harvesting and plantings to enhance naturalisation.



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### Successful competitive grant applications

Funder	Grant Program	City of Port Philip Project	Community Benefit
Urban Rivers and Catchment Program	Enhancing Port Phillip's Foreshore Revegetation and Biodiversity Conservation	Elster Creek Project	Improve local biodiversity and natural habitat restoration of Elster Creek. This project will enhance the ecological health of the area and provide a greener environment for the community.
Commonwealth Office for the Arts	Revive Live	St Kilda Festival	Enhance cultural engagement and community entertainment. The free festival brought people together and supported Australian artists.
Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts	Housing Support Program	Housing Support Program	Increase housing stability and support for vulnerable populations. This funding will help provide essential services and secure housing for those in need.
Victorian Department of Transport & Planning	IP43 Safe System Pedestrian Infrastructure Program	Rouse St & Esplanade East	Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility; the project aims to reduce accidents and make walking routes safer for everyone.
Victorian Department of Transport & Planning	School Safety Improvement Program	Dank St & Withers St	Enhance safety for school children and reduced traffic risks. This initiative will create a safer environment for students commuting to and from school.
Safe & Equal	Safe & Equal Grant	16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign	Raise awareness and prevented gender-based violence.
Australia Day Community Events Fund	Australia Day	Community Event	Foster community spirit and national pride. The event brought residents together to celebrate and strengthened community bonds.
Department of Government Services	Premiers' Reading Challenge Fund	Premiers' Reading Challenge	Promote literacy and a love for reading among children. This program encouraged young readers to develop their skills and enjoy books.
TAC	Local Government Grant	Richardson Street Corridor Road User Analysis	Improve road safety through informed future safety measures and infrastructure improvements.
TAC	Local Government Grant	CoPP Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan	Develop comprehensive strategies to enhance road safety. This plan addressed key issues and implemented effective solutions to reduce accidents.
Department of Justice and Community Safety	Port Melbourne Life Saving Club	Port Melbourne Life Saving Club	Improve amenities at the club facilities. Funding will promote a safer and more inclusive environment.
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Thriving Suburbs	St Kilda Adventure Playground	Provide a safe and engaging play area for children. This playground will offer recreational opportunities and promote physical activity.

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Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Thriving Suburbs	St Kilda Foreshore (land side)	Enhance recreational spaces and community amenities. The project will improve the foreshore area, making it more enjoyable for residents and visitors.
Office for Youth (DFFH)	Engage!	Engage!	Empower youth through engagement and development programs. These initiatives provide young people with skills and opportunities for personal growth.
Screen Vic	Screen Culture	St Kilda Film Festival	Support local film culture and creative industries. The funding will help showcase local talent and promote cultural diversity.
Creative Vic		St Kilda Festival First Peoples Outcomes	Celebrate and promoted First Peoples' cultural contributions at the St Kilda Festival. This ensured the event remained free and culturally accessible for the community.
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Active Transport Fund	Beacon Road Project	Encourage active transport and reduced traffic congestion. The project will create safer and more accessible pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.
Community Support Fund	Women's Public Art Program	Louisa Briggs Statue	Honour a prominent and important First Nations women through a public art piece. The statue will serve as a lasting tribute to Lousia Briggs' achievements and inspire future generations of locals and visitors.
Department of Health & Aged Care	Support At Home and new Aged Care Act Transition Support 2024-2025	Transition Support	Assist elderly residents with transition in support services. This funding will help seniors navigate changes in care and maintain their independence.
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Blackspots Program	Mary Street, St Kilda West	Reduce traffic accidents and improved road safety. The project will address hazardous areas and enhance overall traffic management.
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Blackspots Program	Landridge & Patterson Streets	Enhance road safety and reduced accident risks. This initiative will implement critical safety improvements in this high-risk area.
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	Change Our Game	Women in Sport Network	Continued implementation of the Fair Access in Sport Policy and Action Plan.
Office for Youth (DFFH)	Youth Fest	Next Gen Live: The Espy Showcase	All ages showcase for young bands, aiming to provide young people with the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents in a safe and inclusive environment, provide practical experience and employment pathways for them in the creative industries, as well as recognise and celebrate young people in our community.

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St Kilda Adventure Playground Upgrade (Thriving Suburbs Grant)

decision was made to apply for a Federal Government grant through the Thriving Suburbs program in 2024.

The Thriving Suburbs program awarded projects that deliver place-based benefits by

After Council approved the St Kilda Adventure Playground Upgrade project in 2021, the

The Thriving Suburbs program awarded projects that deliver place-based benefits by investing in community-focused infrastructure which creates and enhances amenity, liveability and social cohesion throughout urban, suburban and peri-urban communities in Australia.

An internal Council team was assembled to produce a strong application that outlined the key aspects of the project, benefits to the community, and how this initiative aligns with the grant assessment criteria. The application explained funding will be used to replace end-of-life equipment, buildings, and ground surfaces, ensuring the playground continues to support childhood development for generations to come.

The application was approved resulting in a \$1,026,237 grant for this project.

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### Collaboration & Engagement

Collaboration and engagement are central to City of Port Phillip's advocacy efforts, with strategic memberships playing a pivotal role. By partnering with key regional and state-level organisations, Council can amplify its voice, access broader resources, and present a united front on critical issues. These methods enable Council to more effectively influence policy, secure funding, and achieve its advocacy goals, ultimately delivering meaningful outcomes for the community.

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### **Strategic Memberships**

Organisation	Advocacy Highlights
	<ul> <li>50th Anniversary Celebration: Hosted an in-person member meeting and anniversary event on 4 September, featuring AGM proceedings, a strategic workshop on ABM's future, and guest speakers including Zoe Daniel MP and former President Cr Jonathon Marsden.</li> </ul>
Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM)	<ul> <li>Leadership Elections: Held an online meeting on 13 February to elect a new President, Vice President, and Executive Committee, supported by a pre-distributed briefing paper.</li> <li>Governance Review: Engaged an independent consultant to lead a strategic governance review and develop a new four-year strategic plan (process ongoing).</li> <li>Strategic Planning Engagement: Convened a workshop on 2 May at Bayside City Council to gather member feedback on draft governance proposals.</li> <li>Member Communication: Shared a summary of insights from the strategic workshop with members to inform ongoing planning and reform efforts.</li> </ul>
Committee for Melbourne (Merged with VCCI)	<ul> <li>Federal election campaign: Advocated for federal investment to boost economic growth and strengthen business support across the region.</li> <li>Annual business survey: Conducted a yearly survey to capture business sentiment, challenges, and opportunities for local economic development.</li> <li>Merged with Committee for Melbourne: Successfully merged with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to enhance collaboration and regional advocacy.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Lead council for the Planning &amp; Housing working group: Hosted meetings with officers from acr to determine advocacy priorities, organise responses to policy changes, and facilitate information sh</li> <li>Secured \$2 million in joint funding: Funding secured from the Disaster Ready Fund and launched collaborative projects like the M9 Circular Economy and FOGO procurement.</li> <li>Strengthened advocacy and engagement: Held over 20 stakeholder meetings, 5 inquiry submissi high-profile parliamentary event with key political figures.</li> <li>Held extensive meetings: Held across leadership and focus areas, including 4 Mayors and CEOs in CEO meetings, and 25 working group sessions.</li> </ul>	

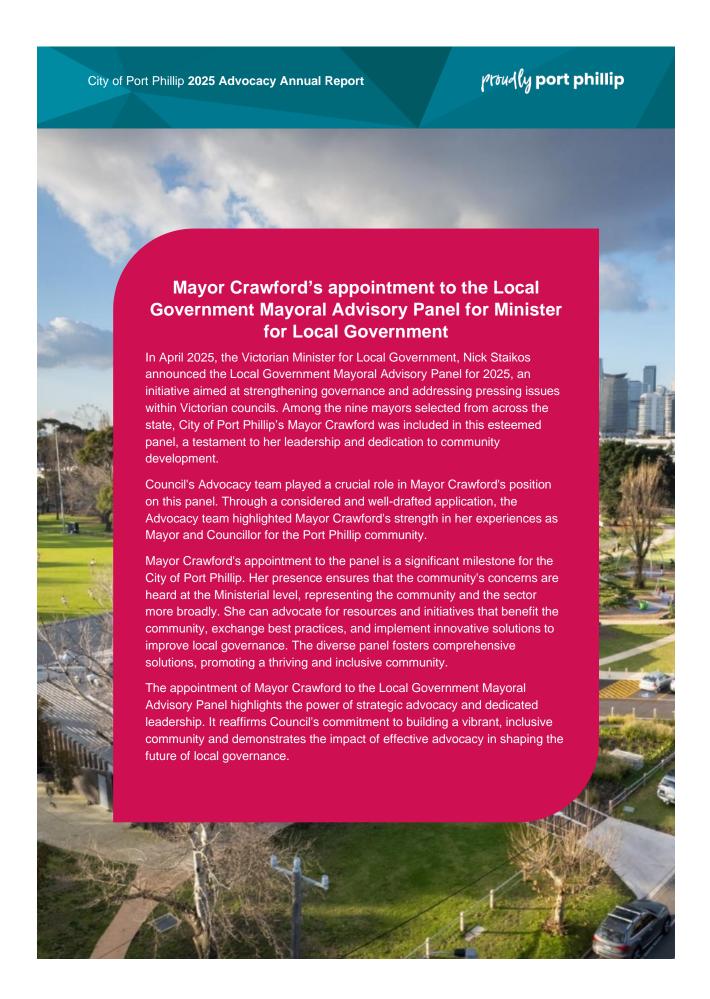
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	<ul> <li>Updated strategic direction: Identifying four key priorities, assigning lead councils, and forming officer-lev working groups.</li> </ul>	
	Maintained strong governance and partnerships: Active involvement through joint parliamentary	
	representations and with state agencies and sector bodies.	
Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF)	<ul> <li>State Budget Advocacy: MTF's submission to the State Budget called for an Integrated Transport Plan aligned with housing, improved bus services, better community engagement, enhanced integration, increased active transport funding, and urgent accessibility upgrades—especially relevant for Port Phillip.</li> <li>Ministerial Engagement: MTF met with Minister Shing to raise concerns, particularly around the need for more meaningful engagement in transport infrastructure planning.</li> <li>Strategic Planning: A review of the MTF 2025–26 Strategy was initiated to guide future advocacy, with Port Phillip councillors and officers contributing to its development despite a quieter year due to election-related gaps in representation.</li> </ul>	
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	<ul> <li>Leadership and Engagement: Launched the first Citizen to Councillor and Active Citizen guides, and ran the Make Good Happen federal election campaign to promote local leadership.</li> <li>Professional Development: Established The Mayors Institute and expanded councillor training with new courses, coaching programs, and a reimagined development convention.</li> <li>Advocacy and Influence: Led key submissions on planning, housing, and financial sustainability, and influenced state policy including the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.</li> <li>Innovation and Support: Introduced MAVlab to help councils tackle complex challenges and supported officer communities of practice across various service areas.</li> <li>Partnership with Port Phillip: Collaborated closely with Mayor Cr Louise Crawford on advocacy campaigns, while Port Phillip staff actively engaged in MAV-led professional development and gender equality initiatives. The CEO also participated in the MAV 'Future of Local Government CEO Taskforce'.</li> </ul>	
South East Council's Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)	<ul> <li>Collaborative Advocacy: SECCCA undertook a mix of independent and joint advocacy efforts with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances (VGA) throughout 2024–25.</li> <li>Written Submissions (Jul-Dec 2024): Contributed to key consultations on rental standards, national urban policy, net zero transport, public lighting, and climate policy directions.</li> <li>Written Submissions (Jan-Apr 2025): Provided input on energy upgrades, building electrification, climate strategy, and infrastructure planning through VGA-led submissions.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul> <li>Government Engagement: Participated in strategic meetings and hearings, including presentations to REMPC and discussions with federal and state climate authorities on net zero planning.</li> <li>Policy Impact: These efforts reflect SECCCA's commitment to shaping climate policy, enhancing resilience, and securing support for impactful local government climate initiatives.</li> </ul>
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)	<ul> <li>Professional development opportunities: Delivered targeted training and learning programs to support councillor skills and leadership growth.</li> <li>Victorian Councillor Census: Conducted the first-ever statewide census capturing detailed insights into councillor demographics and experiences.</li> <li>Development of a model policy for councillor development: Created a standardised policy framework to guide consistent and effective councillor development across councils.</li> </ul>





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#### Ministerial visits to City of Port Phillip

Throughout the year, City of Port Phillip has welcomed several ministers to the municipality, fostering important discussions on key local priorities and strengthening partnerships with government representatives to support community needs.

### Middle Park Library Announcement with Minister Horne

In July 2024, Victorian Local Government Minister Melissa Horne attended a special storytime at Middle Park Library to unveil the latest Living Libraries Infrastructure Program (LLIP) recipients.

Council will provide \$200,000 to complement the Victorian Government's \$200,000 LLIP grant for the Middle Park Library. The \$400,000 will be used to redesign the library space in collaboration with our community, focusing on meeting the needs of young people during the day.



#### Maternal Child Health Inform Session with Minister Blandthorn

In August 2024, the Advocacy team facilitated a conversation between the Minister for Children, the Local Member of Parliament, a nurse practitioner, and Council's Maternal Child Health Team Leader to understand the current challenges and opportunities for the sector. This was held at the Middle Park Maternal Child Health Centre.

#### Community Roundtable with LGBTIQA+ Parents for Minister Blandthorn

The roundtable discussion, led by Minister Blandthorn and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in August 2024, provided a valuable platform for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by families in Victoria. The meeting included input from the Departments of Education and Health and brought together parents, carers, and family service providers to delve into issues surrounding the support of diverse family structures.



### St Kilda West Beach Boardwalk Accessibility Connection Opening

In August 2024, Josh Burns represented federal Ministers King and McBain at the opening of the St Kilda West Beach Boardwalk Accessibility Connection, which received funding through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program supported by the Federal Government.

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### Elster Creek funding announcement with Minister Plibersek

Federal Minister for Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, and Local Member of Parliament Josh Burns attended a site visit of Elster Creek in October 2024 with Council representatives to announce the successful grant funding of \$1.7 million for Elster Creek through the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.

### South Melbourne Market Visit from Minister Collins

In October 2024, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry & Minister for Small Business, along with local member Josh Burns, visited the South Melbourne Market to meet and greet stallholders and tour the facility. Officers shared Council's aspirations for renovations, compliance works, public realm expansion, and funding for community engagement programs at the Market.





### Launch of NABERS for schools rating tool at Elwood Primary School with Minister Wilson

In December 2024, Federal Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy Josh Wilson joined Josh Burns, Nina Taylor and Mayor Crawford at Elwood Primary School to launch the new National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) for schools program, a system that rates the energy and water efficiency of buildings. The Minister also celebrated the sustainability achievements of Elwood Primary School.

### St Kilda Pier Foreshore Upgrade grant announcement with Minister King

In December 2024, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King and Josh Burns MP joined Mayor Louise Crawford to announce the Thriving Suburbs successful grant recipients, including Council's grant to upgrade St Kilda Pier Foreshore.



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### **Beacon Road Active Transport announcement** with Minister King

In February 2025, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King and Josh Burns MP joined Mayor Louise Crawford and ward councillor Heather Cunsolo to announce the successful grant funding secured for Beacon Rd Active transport Safety Upgrades through the Active Transport Program.



### **Submissions**

Making submissions allow Council to formally present its positions on key issues to influence government decisions and policy development. Notably, there have been several changes to the Victorian Government's housing and planning policy within this financial year. Council has used this opportunity to ensure our priorities in this space are heard.

#### Victorian State Budget 2025/26

Council's Advocacy team worked with the local Members of Parliament with electoral boundaries in the City of Port Phillip on a range of items for consideration for submission to the 2025/26 State Budget process. The local Member of Parliament for Albert Park progressed with submitting budget requests for financial support for the St Kilda Festival; for Electric Vehicle chargers at the South Melbourne Market; and for an Acoustic Camera trial. The Victorian State Budget announced funding for an expansion to South Melbourne Primary School, upgrades to Luna Park, \$407 million for increased housing support programs, \$1.6 billion to enhance justice and community safety, prevent crime, and reduce repeat offending.

#### Commonwealth Federal budget 2025/26

City of Port Phillip's Advocacy team worked with the local Member of Parliament for Macnamara and with Senators with regional responsibility for Victoria on a range of items to be presented for consideration as part of the 2025/26 Federal Budget Process. Advocacy items included Sandridge Precinct redevelopment, Elwood Foreshore redevelopment; various sport and recreation upgrades; and for community safety treatments. City of Port Phillip community received \$31.4 million for the restoration of the Adass Israel Synagogue and community centre in Ripponlea.

Further outcomes for the local government sector include:

- Roads to Recovery Program will receive \$821 million in 2025-26, rising to \$1 billion per year by 2033-34.
- Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program will continue with at least \$200 million available in 2025-26.
- \$15 million will be available in 2025-26 for the Active Transport Fund.
- Black Spots Program will receive \$150 million in funding in 2025-26.
- \$50 million will be spent on the Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program.

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### Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly motion

In collaboration with Glen Eira City Council, City of Port Phillip submitted a motion to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 2025 National General Assembly National General Assembly calling on the Australian Government to strengthen and invest in community services that address community safety and social cohesion. This motion was deliberated upon and subsequently approved by the National General Assembly in June 2025. The submission of motions to the ALGA National General Assembly aligns with Council's established practice of advocacy through formalised partnerships and memberships.

#### Municipal Association of Victoria 2025 State Conference motion

City of Port Phillip, in collaboration with the City of Stonnington, Bayside City Council, and Glen Eira City Council, submitted a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) 2025 State Conference on *Fostering safety and social cohesion*, calling on MAV to assume a more prominent role in advocating for community safety measures to support local communities. This motion was approved by the State Conference on 16 May 2025. The submission of motions to the MAV State Council aligns with Council's established practice of advocacy through formalised memberships. This initiative exemplifies effective cross-council collaboration and strategic partnerships aimed at achieving shared community outcomes.

#### Australian Government's Draft National Urban Policy

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Draft National Urban Policy calls for stronger collaboration across all levels of government to address urban growth challenges. It highlights the urgent need for infrastructure investment in areas like Fishermans Bend and identifies a \$600 million local funding gap, urging evidence-based investment to support sustainable, liveable development. The submission calls for strengthened partnerships to support place-based outcomes.

#### Infrastructure Victoria's Draft 30-Year Plan

City of Port Phillip's submission to Victoria's Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy requests a targeted investment to support growth in areas like Fishermans Bend. The submission prioritises the enhancement of transport systems, including new tram routes and the Melbourne Metro 2 project, the expansion of social and affordable housing, and the improvement of climate resilience through flood prevention and energy efficiency initiatives. It calls for a streamlined infrastructure contribution framework and underscores the importance of integrated water management, increased green spaces, and advanced traffic control technologies. The submission stresses the need for cross-government collaboration to deliver sustainable outcomes.

#### Prahran by-election submission to candidates

In preparation for the Prahran By-Election on 8 February, Council's Advocacy team make a submission of funding requests to candidates. A Priority Project Opportunities booklet was developed, highlighting key projects such as Children's Centre Infrastructure, St Kilda Primary School Hall/Community Hub, Community Safety, Active Transport and Pedestrian Safety, St Kilda Library Redevelopment, and Sustainability and Climate Action.

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#### Multicultural Framework Review

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Victorian State Government's Multicultural Framework Review emphasises the importance of a state-level multicultural framework to guide local councils in promoting cultural diversity and social cohesion. Key issues highlighted include rising antisemitism, the need for infrastructure support for places of worship, funding for interfaith networks, and support for skilled and family visa migrants. The submission recommends making local governments eligible for funding to complement these initiatives, and to implement place-based, community-led initiatives.

### Parliamentary Inquiry into the Redevelopment of Melbourne's Public Housing Towers

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Inquiry into the Redevelopment of Melbourne's Public Housing Towers advocates for a collaborative, community-led approach that preserves or increases social housing. It calls for design excellence, sustainability, and integration with local infrastructure, while warning against displacement without proper planning. The submission also urges stronger local government involvement and equitable housing standards.

#### Plan for Victoria

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Plan for Victoria included strong calls for integrated planning across housing, transport, infrastructure, and employment; mandatory affordable housing provisions; protection and enhancement of employment land and creative industries; and climate resilience through updated flood mapping, urban greening, and elevated environmentally sustainable development (ESD) standards. The submission emphasised the need for local government involvement in setting housing targets, investment in public transport and open space, and policy reforms to address the unique challenges of inner-city municipalities like Port Phillip. Council reaffirms its commitment to partnering with the Victorian Government to shape a Plan that delivers equitable growth and improved quality of life for all Victorians.

#### Parliamentary Enquiry into VC Planning Provision Amendments

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267, and VC274 expressed significant concerns about the impact of recent planning reforms on local planning outcomes, liveability, and sustainability. While supporting increased housing supply, Council criticised the lack of consultation, removal of third-party appeal rights, and weakening of local policy influence, especially regarding neighbourhood character, environmental sustainability, and affordable housing. The submission also highlighted risks of poor design outcomes, legal uncertainty, and reduced community trust, and called for reinstating local ESD policies, strengthening affordable housing provisions, and integrating flood risk and infrastructure planning into strategic decision-making.

#### Victorian Government's Household Waste and Recycling Standard 2024

City of Port Phillip's submission emphasises a collaborative approach to enforcement, calls for clear guidelines and public education of the Proposed Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Regulations 2024, and highlights financial and operational challenges for councils. The

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submission supports most service arrangements outlined in the Household Waste and Recycling Standard policy, but raises concerns about opt-out provisions for FOGO, the exclusion of compostable liners, and the need for accessibility and innovation in recycling standards. Council favoured a 2027 start with kerbside services where practicable, especially given spatial constraints in urban areas like Port Phillip.

#### Port of Melbourne's 2055 Port Development Strategy officer submission

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Draft 2055 Port Development Strategy emphasises the need for integrated planning between the Port of Melbourne and surrounding urban areas, particularly Fishermans Bend. The document supports the Port's growth but stresses minimising environmental, traffic, and amenity impacts on local communities. Key recommendations include enhancing rail freight infrastructure, protecting public and active transport routes, safeguarding biodiversity and open spaces, and ensuring transparent engagement with local councils, local stakeholders, and the local community. The submission advocates for strategic alignment with urban renewal plans, environmental resilience, and community access to waterfronts, aiming for sustainable and inclusive development.



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### Strategic enhancements

City of Port Phillip has implemented several enhancements to strengthen its support mechanisms for advocacy and grants. These include new processes, tools, and resources to better support grant applications and advocacy efforts. With the endorsement of the Advocacy Strategy 2024-28, Council now has a structured approach to its advocacy initiatives, ensuring alignment with its strategic objectives. Key personnel appointments, such as the Grants & Partnerships Advisor and the Coordinator Advocacy & Partnerships, have refined and strengthened these processes, contributing to a more efficient system for managing grants and advocacy.

#### **External Grants Uplifts**

A new Grants Advisor role has been created to develop leading-practice grants processes throughout the grant lifecycle. The two-stage uplift program aims to build awareness of the grant lifecycle, enhance efficiency, reduce risk, and build Council's skills and capability to plan, deliver, and acquit grants effectively.

- **Stage 1: Building:** Establishing governance, process mapping, and tracking. Includes a Grants Steering Committee, intranet webpage, grants tracker, and newsletter.
- Stage 2: Consolidating and Strengthening: Embedding grant systems and processes, driving continuous improvement, and leveraging technology.

100% of Stage 1 uplift actions are complete and ongoing, and 100% of Stage 2 uplift actions are in progress, completed, or ongoing.

#### **Advocacy Uplifts**

To support the Advocacy Framework and Strategy, an intranet resource hub has been developed, providing tools and tips for officers. The toolkit covers key areas such as advocacy priorities, strategic memberships, engaging elected officials, submissions, and supporting the Mayor and CEO in meetings and at formal events.

In addition, officers have built a community-facing advocacy webpage on Council's website to raise awareness of the City of Port Phillip's advocacy strategy and campaigns. This includes a page on what advocacy means at the City of Port Phillip; pages on Council's existing advocacy priorities; a page on Council's 2025 Federal Election campaign; and a series of advocacy news articles and updates.

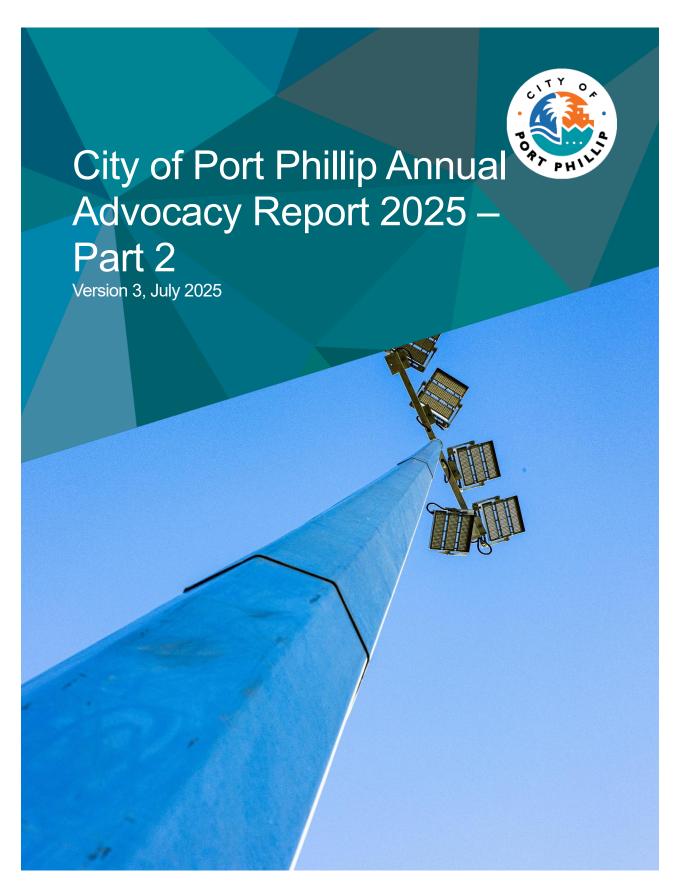
#### **Impact**

These system and process enhancements have significantly improved operations and outcomes, leading to increased efficiency and effectiveness in grant applications and advocacy efforts. Improved systems and strategies will strengthen Council's ability to secure funding and support for critical projects. The structured approach ensures alignment with strategic objectives, promoting transparency and community involvement. Overall, these uplifts are expected to deliver lasting benefits to the City of Port Phillip and its residents.



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TTY users, dial 133677, ask for 03 9209 6777

Voice Relay users, phone 1300 555 727,

then ask for 03 9209 6777.

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# Advocacy Priorities Recommendations 2025/26

#### Methodology

In alignment with City of Port Phillip's Advocacy Strategy 2024–28, the development of the 2025/26 advocacy priorities followed a structured and transparent prioritisation process. The process follows the steps outlined in the table below. Councillors and executive leadership were also engaged in outcomes. New items will be processed as they arise throughout the year.

Step	Action	Comment	
1	Identify	Advocacy priorities are reviewed based on existing focus areas and	
	potential	emerging issues identified through various channels, including	
	advocacy	Councillors, community forums, strategic partnerships, and policy shifts at	
	options	state and federal levels. This ensures a comprehensive assessment of	
		advocacy opportunities.	
2	Assess if	Proposed advocacy items are evaluated against Council's advocacy	
	advocacy	definitions and principles to determine suitability. If an issue is better	
	best option	addressed through other pathways, such as grant applications or policy	
		development, it is redirected accordingly.	
3	Prioritise	Items are assessed using the Council's advocacy assessment matrix (see	
	and	Attachment 1), categorising them into three tiers. To enhance strategic	
	categorise	focus, some Tier 1 priorities are grouped under thematic headings,	
	advocacy	allowing for consolidation of related issues and better alignment with	
	items	Council policies.	
4	Identify	Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 priorities reflect issues uniquely impacting the	
	strategic	City of Port Phillip and requiring direct Council advocacy. Sector-wide	
	partnership	issues or those benefiting from broader influence are advanced through	
	opportunities	strategic partnerships, such as M9, the Municipal Association of Victoria,	
		and the South-East Councils Climate Change Alliance, to optimise	
		effectiveness and resource allocation.	

Through this process 147 items were considered, with 48 items considered to be 'advocacy items' and the rest being assessed to be addressed as either operational matters or better suited for grants.

#### **Tiering**

- 17 Tier 1 items (distilled into 4 categories as per below)
- 12 Tier 2 items (distilled into 7 categories as per below)
- 8 Tier 3 items
- 10 Strategic Membership led (distilled into 4 categories as per below)
   Note some items fall under both categories

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#### **Tier 1 Advocacy Priorities**

Tier 1 advocacy priorities represent the highest level of strategic importance for City of Port Phillip. These are reserved for the most significant issues either due to their individual prominence and substantial community, political, or economic impact, or because they align with broader strategic themes. Where possible, officers have grouped Tier 1 into themes, and as such, brought forward relevant Tier 2 items into the category.

These priorities receive the most focused and comprehensive advocacy efforts, including detailed action plans, dedicated web content, professionally designed collateral, and coordinated media engagement. Council's approach to Tier 1 items is highly visible and sustained, involving direct engagement with senior government officials and public campaigns to build broad support. By limiting the number of Tier 1 priorities, Council ensures a focused allocation of resources, increasing the likelihood of securing funding, policy change, or other meaningful outcomes.

#### Community safety & social cohesion

Aligns with strategic directions: A safe and liveable city; A healthy and connected community

- Increased services and resources to the Port Phillip area
- Proactive collaboration and engagement with key stakeholders
- Implementation of CCTV treatments, in line with Federal Election commitment
- Acoustic camera trial
- Measures to address racism and specifically antisemitism
- · Funding for graffiti mitigation and cleaning
- Support for public realm works in Ripponlea
- As per the Community Safety Roundtable recommendations

Council is seeking urgent intervention from the Federal and State Governments to address community safety concerns and actively promote social cohesion across the community. This initiative aligns with the Community Safety Roundtable recommendations and aims to tackle several pressing issues that impact the amenity, safety, and appeal of high streets and other areas. All levels of government have an opportunity to enhance public safety, reduce crime, and foster a more inclusive society. Key actions will be based on the Roundtables recommendations, and will involve treatments for crime associated with drug and alcohol abuse, perceptions of safety, homelessness, mental health, and a rise in antisemitism.

#### Fishermans Bend infrastructure

Aligns with strategic directions: A healthy and connected community; A safe and liveable city; A vibrant and thriving community;

- Public and active transport
- Finalisation of strategic planning docs including DCP, and precinct planning
- Community facilities (e.g. arts hub)

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Funding and delivery strategy beyond DCP

Advocacy for Fishermans Bend will focus on creating a vibrant, inclusive, and well-connected community through strategic planning and investment for the rapidly growing community. Council is calling for urgent support from State and Federal Governments to finalise key planning documents, including the Development Contributions Plan (DCP) and precinct strategies, while also ensuring a robust funding and delivery framework beyond the DCP. Priorities include enhancing public and active transport, delivering vital community infrastructure such as an arts hub, and fostering proactive engagement with stakeholders.

#### Improved sporting & open space precincts

Aligns with strategic directions: An environmentally sustainable and resilient city; A vibrant and thriving community; A safe and liveable city

- Elwood Foreshore Masterplan
- Albert Park
- Sandridge Precinct

Advocacy for improved sporting & open space precincts surrounds enhancing public spaces and delivering long-term community benefits through thoughtful planning and investment. Council is seeking support to implement the Elwood Foreshore Masterplan, which aims to improve coastal accessibility, environmental resilience, and recreational opportunities. In Albert Park, advocacy focuses on preserving and upgrading open space and sporting facilities to meet growing community needs. For the Sandridge Precinct, priorities include unlocking development potential through infrastructure investment, public realm improvements, and integrated transport solutions. These initiatives reflect Council's commitment to sustainable growth, community wellbeing, and high-quality urban environments.

#### Coastal health

Aligns with strategic directions: An environmentally sustainable and resilient city; A safe and liveable city; A trusted and high-performing organisation

- St Kilda and Elwood Coastal Erosion
- · Dilapidated state coastal asset renewal and upgrades

Council is advocating for urgent action to address coastal erosion, particularly at St Kilda and Elwood beaches, where rising sea levels and storm surges are threatening public safety and infrastructure. Alongside this, there is a critical need for ongoing maintenance and renewal of coastal assets to ensure long-term resilience and usability of these valued public spaces. Investment in both areas will help protect the coastline and support community access to safe, sustainable foreshore environments.

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#### **Priority Items for Strategic Memberships**

#### Fair housing & planning policies

Aligns with strategic direction: A trusted and high performing organisation; A safe and livable city

- · Housing to address homelessness
- Inclusionary Zoning and Build to Rent
- Canopy Cover on Private Land
- · Addressing delays in planning amendments

Advocacy for fair housing and planning policies focuses on ensuring that everyone has access to safe, affordable, and equitable housing and gathering spaces. Council's Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy is currently under review, with options and funding models to be presented to the Council later in 2025. To complement this process, the advocacy team will seek to work with strategic partnerships to bridge the funding gaps and look for opportunities for collaboration with the State and Federal Governments. By actively engaging in these efforts, Council can help ensure that all residents have access to safe, affordable, and equitable housing and gathering spaces, thereby fostering more inclusive and thriving communities. Delays in planning amendments are also impacting delivery timelines, and streamlining these processes is essential. Additionally, greater attention is needed to protect and expand tree canopy cover on private land to support urban cooling and environmental resilience.

#### Coastal & water management

Aligns with strategic direction: An environmentally sustainable and resilient city

- · Coastal Asset maintenance and renewal
- Flood management & insurance

Effective coastal, flood, and water management is a critical priority for local governments due to the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related events. This advocacy item will address the impacts of flooding, erosion, and water scarcity. By prioritising this item, Council can work towards sustainable development, enhance resilience against natural disasters, safeguard infrastructure and natural ecosystems, and preserving public health and safety. Proactive water management supports economic stability by protecting local businesses and tourism.

#### **Cost Shifting onto Councils**

Aligns with strategic direction: A trusted and high performing organisation

- Immunisations
- Streetlight pricing review
- Canopy retention around power lines

Council is increasingly impacted by the shifting of responsibilities and associated costs from other levels of government, placing significant pressure on local resources and limiting the capacity to deliver core community services. Council will advocate for fairer funding models that recognise the

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true cost of service delivery and ensures that responsibilities are matched with appropriate resources, pushing for systemic reform. By addressing cost shifting, Council can better protect its financial sustainability and continue to deliver high-quality services that meet the needs of the community.

#### **Greater State Investment in Active and Public Transport**

Aligns with strategic direction: A safe and liveable city

Council will work with strategic membership networks to advocate for greater State investment in active and public transport to support sustainable growth, reduce congestion, and improve community access across the City. Funding is needed to plan for and deliver integrated transport networks that prioritise walking, cycling, and reliable public transport options. These improvements will help connect residents to jobs, services, and recreational spaces while supporting climate resilience and reducing car dependency.

#### Tier 2 and 3 Advocacy Items

Tier 2 advocacy priorities are important issues that align with Council's strategic goals but may not carry the same urgency or scale as Tier 1 items. These priorities still receive targeted advocacy, including correspondence with Ministers, discussions in meetings with local MPs, and ongoing engagement with government agencies. These items are actively progressed through relationship-building and integration into broader advocacy conversations.

Tier 3 advocacy priorities focus on emerging or lower-impact issues that require modest resources but still merit Council's attention. These are typically addressed through foundational advocacy such as written submissions, inclusion in meeting agendas, or mentions in broader policy discussions. Tier 3 items may evolve into higher priorities over time, allowing Council to remain responsive to community concerns while concentrating its main efforts on more pressing issues.

Note: some Tier 2 and Tier 3 items have been re-categorised to Tier 1 based on thematic alliance.

#### Tier 2

#### Tier 2 Items

South Melbourne Market Future proofing

Station Pier Masterplan

- Finalisation of Masterplan
- Funding for public domain
- · Activation of Freight yards

Port Phillip as a Creative Hub

- Live Music & Festivals (including cultural events, markets, food events)
- Support for arts organisation and artists

Improved Tram Infrastructure

Park Street Tram Link project delivery

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• 109 Tram Duplication

Pedestrian and Active transport Safety

- · Localised pedestrian and active transport safety treatments
- Micro-mobility
- Hoon mitigation
- Station Pier carpark road resurfacing

Youth initiatives, infrastructure and activations

• Increased funding for youth activations

Canopy retention around power lines

#### Tier 3

#### Tier 3 Items

Alma Park Revitalisation

Aged Care Access

Seeking support for entry-level care access which is currently at capacity

St Kilda Library Renewal

• Funding to support renewal

Formula 1 Grand Prix

• Increase economic impact in precincts and mitigate and impact on sports clubs

Children's Centre Renewal

AEC pricing review & LED street lighting project

Activated beachfront and foreshore

• To support economic development and tourism on the foreshore

Social Housing asset management

· Safe and cleaner

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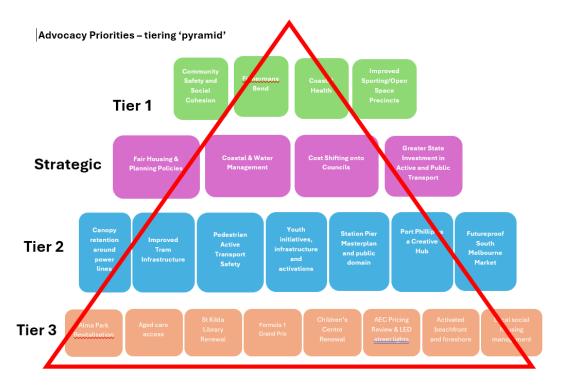


Figure 1: Advocacy Priorities – tiering 'pyramid'

#### **Advocacy Priorities - by location**

Tier	Project	Location/Ward
Tier 1	Community Safety and Social Cohesion	Whole Municipality
	Fishermans Bend infrastructure	Port Melbourne,
		Montague
	Coastal Health	Port Melbourne, Albert Park, St Kilda, Elwood
	Improved Sporting/Open Space Precincts	Lakeside, Elwood, Montague
Strategic Memberships	Fair Housing & Planning Policies	Whole Municipality
	Coastal & Water Management	7
	Cost Shifting onto Councils	7
	Greater State Investment in Active and Public	
	Transport	
Tier 2	Canopy retention around power lines	Whole Municipality
	Pedestrian and Active transport Safety	
	Youth initiatives, infrastructure and activations	
	Improved Tram Infrastructure	Port Melbourne, Montague, South Melbourne
	Station Pier Masterplan	Port Melbourne
	Port Phillip as a Creative Hub	Whole Municipality
		South Melbourne
Tier 3	South Melbourne Market Futureproofing  Alma Park Revitalisation	Alma
Her 3	Aged Care Access	Whole Municipality
	St Kilda Library Renewal	Ralaclava
	Formula 1 Grand Prix	Datastara
	Formula 1 Grand Prix	Albert Park, St Kilda, South Melbourne,
	Children's Centre Renewal	Middle Park
		Whole Municipality
	AEC pricing review & LED street lighting project	Whole Municipality
	Activated beachfront and foreshore	Port Melbourne, Albert Park, St Kilda, Elwood
	Social Housing asset management	Whole Municipality

Figure 2: Advocacy priorities – by location



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# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 6 AUGUST 2025



13.3 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES MONTHLY REPORTING - JUNE

2025

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ROBYN BORLEY, DIRECTOR, GOVERNANCE AND

**ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE** 

PREPARED BY: MITCHELL GILLETT, COORDINATOR COUNCILLOR AND

**EXECUTIVE SUPPORT** 

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To report on the expenses incurred by Councillors during June 2025 in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees. Council endorsed its Councillor Expenses and Support Policy at the Council Meeting held on 19 June 2024.
- 2.2 The policy requires a monthly report on Councillor allowances and expenses to be tabled at a Council meeting in addition to publishing the monthly report on Council's website.
- 2.3 The report outlines the total amount of expenses and support provided to Councillors and is detailed by category of support. Any reimbursements made by Councillors are also included in this report.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the monthly Councillor expenses report for June 2025 (attachment 1) and that this will be made available on Council's website.
- 3.2 Accepts Cr Heather Cunsolo's childcare reimbursement claim from March 2025.
- 3.3 Notes the Councillor Expense and Support Annual Report FY24/25 will be tabled at the September Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) provides that councillors and members of delegated committees are entitled to be reimbursed for bona fide out-of-pocket expenses that have been reasonably incurred while performing their role, and that are reasonably necessary to perform their role.
- 4.2 The management of expenses is governed by the updated Councillor Expenses and Support Policy (the Policy), developed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and adopted by Council on 19 June 2024.
- 4.3 The Policy sets out the process for submitting requests for support and/or reimbursement. All requests are required to be assessed by officers prior to processing.
- 4.4 All requests for reimbursement must be lodged with officers for processing no later than 30 days from the end of the calendar month, except for the month of June where

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 6 AUGUST 2025



- claims must be submitted within 7 days. Claims for reimbursement lodged outside this timeline will not be processed unless resolved by Council.
- 4.5 To accurately capture expenses, monthly reports are prepared no earlier than 30 days following the end of the month and generally reported at the next available Council meeting cycle. This means that reports are generally presented in a 2-3 month rolling cycle.
- 4.6 Cr Heather Cunsolo is claiming \$80 for childcare expenses relating to official council business from March 2025. As this claim was not made within 30 days following the end of the month of the expense being incurred, Council is required to resolve to accept the expense claim in-line with the Councillor Expense and Support Policy.
- 4.7 Notes the variations in *Information and Communication Technology* charges is due to the number of devices requested by those Councillors, such as the use of an iPad as well as a mobile phone.
- 4.8 Notes the *Conferences and Training* charges attributed to certain councillors in June is for attendance at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra.
- 4.9 Notes the *Travel* charges attributed to certain councillors in June are for flights and accommodation to travel to Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 No community consultation is required for the purposes of this report.
- 5.2 A copy of Councillor expense reports will be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The provision of expenses and support to Councillors is governed by the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Council's adopted policy.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 Provision of support and expenses for Councillors is managed within Council's approved operational budgets.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 There are no direct environmental impacts as a result of this report.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 This report provides to the community transparency and accountability by publicly disclosing expenses and support accessed by Councillors.

#### 10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

10.1 Reporting on Councillor expenses delivers on Strategic Direction 5 – An Engaged and Empowered Community.

#### 11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 11.1 Council reports to the community monthly on the expenses and reimbursements provided to Councillors.
- 11.2 Officers will publish monthly expense reports to Council's website once adopted.



### 12. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. Declaration of Councillor Expenses - June 3

# Declaration of Councillor Expenses – June 2025

## **Councillor Allowances and Expenses**

The following pages set out the expenses incurred by each Councillor in the following categories:

Councillor Allowance includes statutory allowances for the Mayor and Councillors, inclusive of a provision paid in recognition of the fact that Councillors do not receive superannuation.

Conference and Training includes any registration fees, accommodation and meal costs associated with attendance or participation in conferences, training or professional development programs.

Travel includes cabcharge / taxi fares, Mayoral vehicle at standard charge out rate, public transport / myki costs, airfares, rail and bicycle reimbursements associated with Council business related travel.

Car Mileage includes reimbursement to Councillors for kilometres travelled in their private vehicles associated with Council business related travel.

Child and Family Care include payments for necessary childcare arrangements incurred to attend: Council and Special Council Meetings, Council Briefings, ceremonial functions, events and occasions agreed by the Chief Executive Officer or resolution of Council.

Information and Communication Technology includes the monthly fees and usage costs associated with mobile telephones, tablets and internet charges.

#### **Councillor Attendances**

In addition to regular Council Meetings and Councillor briefings, Councillors attend meetings as Councillor appointed representatives of delegated, advisory and external boards and committees.

Details of Councillor Representative appointments is available here.

Note: All expenses are exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST) where applicable.

1

# Cr Libby Buckingham incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	\$82.82
Travel	\$818.10
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$44.00
TOTAL	\$5,709.52

# Cr Louise Crawford (Mayor) incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$16,186.92
Conferences and Training	\$1,053.64
Travel (including provision of a Mayoral vehicle charged at \$11,500 annum pro rata to cover operating costs)	\$2,083.42
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$44.00
TOTAL	\$19,367.98

### Cr Heather Cunsolo

incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	
Travel	
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care (includes \$80 claim from March 2025)	\$255.00
Information and Communication Technology	\$44.00
TOTAL	\$5,063.60

# Cr Justin Halliday incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	
Travel	
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$44.00
TOTAL	\$4,808.60

Cr Rod Hardy incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	\$971.82
Travel	\$1,526.65
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$59.00
TOTAL	\$7,322.07

Cr Beti Jay incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	\$890.00
Travel	
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$44.00
TOTAL	\$5,698.60

### Cr Alex Makin

incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	\$971.82
Travel	\$1,418.42
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$59.00
TOTAL	\$7,213.84

# Cr Bryan Mears (Deputy Mayor) incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$8,093.32
Conferences and Training	\$250.00
Travel	
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$59.00
TOTAL	\$8,402.32

# Cr Serge Thomann incurred the following expenses during the month June:

Expense	Value
Councillor Allowance	\$4,764.60
Conferences and Training	
Travel	
Car Mileage	
Child and Family Care	
Information and Communication Technology	\$59.00
TOTAL	\$4,823.60



14.	A TF	A TRUSTED AND HIGH PERFORMING ORGANISATION			
	14.1	15 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood - Intention to Lease33			
	14.2	Proposed Discontinuance and Sale of Laneways R3317 AND R3319, 60-66 Clakre Street, Southbank			



14.1 15 ELWOOD FORESHORE, ELWOOD - INTENTION TO

**LEASE** 

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LACHLAN JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER, OPERATIONS AND

**INFRASTRUCTURE** 

PREPARED BY: VICKI TUCHTAN, MANAGER PROPERTY AND ASSETS

ANTHONY SAVENKOV, HEAD OF REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO

(DEVELOPMENT & TRANSACTIONS)

JAMES ACKROYD, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report seeks Council approval to undertake the statutory processes required under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic), relating to the potential lease of 15 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood to PWI Hospitality Group Pty Ltd (trading as Elwood Bathers), including the hearing and considering of public submissions.



#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The site at 15 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood is a prominent, well patronised restaurant trading as "Elwood Bathers".
- 2.2 It is operated by PWI Hospitality Group Pty Ltd, whose lease expires on 30 September 2025.
- 2.3 It is proposed that Council enter into a new lease with the current tenant.
- 2.4 Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (the "Act"), Council must undertake community engagement in respect of the proposal making a final decision on whether to enter into a lease or not.
- 2.5 In accordance with its *Property Policy*, Council may negotiate directly with a tenant for a lease.
- 2.6 The term of the prosed lease is 3 years, and the commencing rent is \$262,080 + GST.
- 2.7 The duration aligns with planned redevelopment of the site under the Elwood Masterplan program.



#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the intention to lease 15 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood (the "Site") to PWI Hospitality Group Pty Ltd.
- 3.2 Resolves to commence and carry out the statutory process under Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) regarding its intention to lease the Site, including giving public notice of this intention, inviting submissions for 28 days.
- 3.3 If no submissions are received in response to the publication of the Notice, authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to undertake the necessary procedural steps to complete a lease, including execution of relevant documentation.
- 3.4 Notes that in the event that submissions are received in response to the Notice, a further report will be presented to Council to enable consideration of the submission(s).

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

### **Background**

- 4.1 The subject site is Crown land, reserved for public recreation.
- 4.2 It is managed by Council as Committee of Management.
- 4.3 It is improved as a hospitality venue specifically a restaurant, with integrated bar and function room.
- 4.4 The current lease is to PWI Hospitality Group Pty Ltd, operating as "Elwood Bathers".
- 4.5 The commercial rent is \$262,080 (exclusive of GST).
- 4.6 The lease commenced on 1 October 2004 and ends on 30 September 2025, with no further options.
- 4.7 The site is earmarked for redevelopment in coming years as part of the Elwood Masterplan program, and it is anticipated the opportunity for a long-term lease of a new hospitality venue would be offered by Council through a competitive, open market process in future years.
- 4.8 In the meantime, however, officers propose a short-term lease arising through direct negotiation with the current tenant.
- 4.9 Direct negotiation (as opposed to open market leasing) is appropriate in the circumstances. This is due to the short-term duration of the lease offered, the tenant specific fitout, the performance of the existing tenant, and the current level of rent, a market offering is on balance, not likely being a compellingly opportunity to present to an open market, especially given the cost and time involved.

### Key terms of proposed lease

- 4.10 Under the proposed lease:
  - the term is three (3) years; and
  - annual rent is \$262,080 + GST, subject to annual CPI increase.



#### Immediate works

- 4.11 The property requires immediate repair and maintenance work to ensure it can be occupied for the next few years and a scope of works is currently being procured and conducted. The work comprises:
  - replacement of a corroded roof purlin;
  - replacement of the northern and southern box gutters and sumps with compliant aluminium systems and overflow devices;
  - installation of aerial downpipes and overflow ducts to ensure code compliance and reduce flood risk; and
  - ceiling and membrane repairs to make good.
- 4.12 Officers have negotiated access with the current tenant to carry out the works. It will be undertaken outside peak trading months to minimise business disruption, with the tenant receiving rent relief during the works, which are expected to last around six weeks and during which time, the premises will remain partially open for business.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Community consultation will occur via a Notice of Intention to Lease, including a 28-day submission period and hearing opportunity.
- 5.2 Officers intend to publish a Notice on Council's webpage, and in *The Age* newspaper.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As the Property is Crown land, this falls under the purview of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Any new lease or licence is subject to the approval by the responsible Minister (or their delegate).
- 6.2 For any lease longer than the prescribed term, or above a prescribed value, or leases requiring building or improvement, Council is required to comply with Section 115 of the Act, which requires Council to give public notice of its intention to enter a lease and to consider any submissions received prior to resolving whether to enter into a lease or not.
- 6.3 As a change of use or development of the site is not being considered under this short-term lease, it will not require consent under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* (Vic).
- 6.1 The tenant's current lease does not have any renewal options.
- 6.2 The tenant's current lease ends on 30 September 2025 and can go into overholding for a short period if required.
- 6.3 For the tenant to continue to occupy the premises beyond the end of the current lease or any short period of overholding, a new lease is required.

### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The recommendation, if adopted, will provide a stable annual revenue of \$262,080 (exclusive of GST) with CPI indexation.
- 7.2 Council funded roof and drainage works (tender in progress) are planned. The work is designed only to keep the building safe and functional during the interim lease, not to extend its lifespan substantially beyond the Masterplan horizon.



7.3 Rent abatement periods during partial closure will slightly reduce revenue in the short term but preserve longer term value.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The recommendations of this report are not considered to raise significant environmental impacts.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The proposed Intention to Lease process and recommendation to proceed with finalising a new short-term lease to Elwood Bathers retains a long-standing hospitality venue and local employment during the new lease term.
- 9.2 The recommendation seeks to balance continuity of current amenity and optionality with progression towards the Elwood Masterplan vision.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) is not required due to the proposed continuing nature of Elwood Bathers occupation of the property.
- 10.2 A GIA will be considered for future redevelopment.

#### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 This report and its recommendations align with strategic directions in *Council Plan* 2025-2025, principally:
  - "A trusted and high-performing organisation".

### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### **TIMELINE**

- 12.1.1 Subject to Council adopting the recommendations of this report, officers intend to publish a Notice of Intention to Lease in August 2025.
- 12.1.2 If community feedback is received in response to the Notice, officers anticipate reporting it to a September 2025 meeting of Council.

#### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

- 12.2.1 Council actively manages its property portfolio, including its commercial leases.
- 12.2.2 When doing it so it observes the relevant statutory obligations, including to consult the community on leases above specified duration and rent thresholds.

#### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### ATTACHMENTS Nil



14.2 PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE AND SALE OF LANEWAYS

R3317 AND R3319, 60-66 CLAKRE STREET, SOUTHBANK

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LACHLAN JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER, OPERATIONS AND

**INFRASTRUCTURE** 

PREPARED BY: VICKI TUCHTAN, MANAGER PROPERTY AND ASSETS

MICHAEL MAJOR, TEAM LEADER PROPERTY OPERATIONS

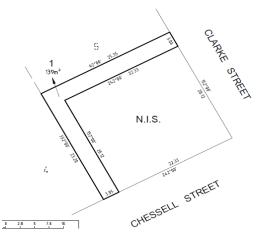
#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 For Council to consider whether Laneways R3317 and R3319 (adjoining 60-66 Clarke Street, Southbank, Victoria 3006), described in Plan of Crown Allotment OP125086 shaded green in the image below) ("the Roads"), should be discontinued pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989 (Vic) ("the Act") and sold to an adjoining property owner.



#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Laneways R3317 and 3319 are commercially zoned allotments, with a combined land area of 139 square metres. When combined, they form an "L" configuration, as shown in the image below.





- 2.2 The property at 60-66 Clake Street, Southbank (noted as N.I.S on the image above) adjoins both Roads and is an island allotment with additional street frontage to Chessell Street.
- 2.3 The Roads are considered no longer reasonably required for general public use, as they are not used for vehicular or pedestrian access by the public to access adjoining properties.
- 2.4 The owner of 60-66 Clarke Street, South Melbourne has requested that Council discontinues and sells both Roads to them ("the Proposal").
- 2.5 At an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 December 2024, Council resolved to:
  - 2.5.1 Remove Roads R3317 and 3319 from the Public Road Register; and
  - 2.5.2 Commence the statutory procedures and give notice pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act of its intention to discontinue and sell the Road to the Owner for market value.
- 2.6 On Thursday 6 March 2025, Council gave public notice by publication in *The Age* newspaper and on Council's website. Council did not receive any submissions in response to the public notice.
- 2.7 Council is now able to consider whether to discontinue and sell the Roads to the Owner.
- 2.8 Officers recommend that Council discontinues and sells the land to the Owner for market value, being \$573,000 (plus GST) plus reimbursement of Council's costs to facilitate this transaction. The proceeds of the sale will be held in Council's Strategic Property Reserves to support the acquisition and development of the property portfolio.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Having considered that there were no submissions received in response to the public notice regarding Council's proposal to discontinue Roads R3317 and R3319 being the land contained within Plan of Crown Allotment OP125086:

- 3.1 Resolves to discontinue the Roads as it considers that the Roads are not reasonably required for public use for the following reason:
  - 3.1.1 The Roads are not used for vehicular or pedestrian access by the public to access adjoining properties and benefit only the applicant and adjoining owner.
- 3.2 Resolves to sell the discontinued Roads for market value (estimated at \$573,000 (ex GST)) plus reimbursement of Council's costs to facilitate this transaction to the adjoining owner of 60-66 Clarke Street, Southbank Victoria 3006 (Owner);
- 3.3 Notes that proceeds from the sale will go into Council's Strategic Property Reserves used to support the acquisition and development of the property portfolio;
- 3.4 Directs that a notice pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 is published in the Victorian Government Gazette;
- 3.5 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to negotiate, approve, and enter into such documentation to complete the discontinuance, sale, and transfer of the Road as described;



- 3.6 Directs that the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate signs an authorisation allowing Council's solicitors to execute transfer documents and any other documents required to be signed on Council's behalf in connection with the transfer of the discontinued Road to the Owner:
- 3.7 Directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any public authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road:
- 3.8 Directs that the Owner be required to consolidate the title to the discontinued Roads with the title to the Owner's land (or such part of it approved by Council) within 12 months of the date of the transfer of the discontinued Roads; and
- 3.9 Notes the applicant will be required to pay Council an additional sum of \$55,044 plus GST for bluestone pavers currently in situ (139 sqm of bluestone pavers @ \$396 per square metre).

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Roads are described in Plan of Crown Allotment OP125086 (Attachment 1).
- 4.2 R3317 and R3319 have a combined land area of 139 square metres (approx.) and form an "L" configuration around the privately owned property situated at 60-66 Clarke Street, Southbank.
- 4.3 The Owner of 60-66 Clarke Street, Southbank has requested that Council discontinues and sells R3317 and R319 to them ("the Proposal").
- 4.4 The subject land currently serves as a Right of Way and benefits both the applicant's property situated at 60-66 Clarke Street and the adjoining property situated at 30 Chessell Street. Southbank.
- 4.5 The applicant has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Roads, (including the value of the bluestone pavers in-situ), together with the market value for its transfer of the discontinued Roads.
- 4.6 At an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 December 2024, Council resolved to:
  - 4.6.1 Remove Roads R3317 and 3319 from the Public Road Register; and
  - 4.6.2 Commence the statutory procedures and give notice pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act of its intention to discontinue and sell the Road to the Owner for market value plus legal fees.
- 4.7 On Thursday 6 March 2025, Council gave public notice by publication in *The Age* newspaper and on Council's website.
- 4.8 Council did not receive any submissions in response to the public notice.
- 4.9 Council is now able to consider whether to discontinue and sell the Roads to the adjoining Owner.

### **ADJOINING PROPERTIES**

4.10 The adjoining property owner of 30 Chessell Street, Southbank has provided the applicant with formal written notice (30 December 2023) approving the proposed acquisition of the laneways subject to the following conditions:



- 4.10.1 The owner of the laneway is restricted from building over the land contained in R3317 following the completion of the acquisition; and
- 4.10.2 Both the owner of the Chessell Street property and the owner of the Clarke Street property may agree in writing in the future to remove the restriction, but neither party is obliged to do so.
- 4.11 In addition, the adjoining property owner met with Council Officers on 7 May 2024 and verbally advised that he had no objection to the Proposal made by the applicant to purchase the said land.
- 4.12 The adjoining property owner expressed his concern about the possible reduction in natural light should the said land be incorporated into a high-density redevelopment in the future. Officers advised the adjoining owner that he would reserve his right to formally object to any future planning application via the appropriate planning channels should an application be lodged.

#### **PROPOSAL**

- 4.13 The Owner has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Road, together with the market value for the transfer of the discontinued Road to the Owner.
- 4.14 If the Roads are discontinued and sold to the adjoining Owner, Council will require the adjoining Owner to consolidate the title to the discontinued Roads within the title to the Owner's Property within 12 months of the date of transfer, at the Owner's expense.
- 4.15 The indicated land value of \$573,000 (\$4,122 per square metre) is based on a revised valuation undertaken by Westlink Consulting dated 16 April 2025.

#### **ANALYSIS**

- 4.16 It is considered that the Roads in question are no longer reasonably required for general public use as they:
  - 4.16.1 are laneways located between two privately owned commercial properties; and
  - 4.16.2 do not form part of a thoroughfare for pedestrian or vehicular traffic to any other public road.

### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The following statutory authorities have been advised of the proposed discontinuance of the Roads and were requested to respond to the question of whether they have any existing assets in the Roads, which should be saved under section 207C of the Act:
  - 5.1.1 City of Port Phillip;
  - 5.1.2 Citipower;
  - 5.1.3 APA Group Gas Networks:
  - 5.1.4 Melbourne Water;
  - 5.1.5 Multinet Gas;
  - 5.1.6 South East Water Corporation;
  - 5.1.7 NBN Co VICTAS;
  - 5.1.8 Telstra VICTAS;



- 5.1.9 Nextgen (VIC); and
- 5.1.10 TPG Telecom (VIC).
- 5.2 Council's Asset Management Department has advised that the City of Port Phillip has no direct assets in or above the Road and have no objection to the Proposal. In addition, the following internal stakeholders have formally responded in writing that they have no objection to the Proposal:
  - 5.2.1 City Planning & Sustainability.
  - 5.2.2 City Development.
  - 5.2.3 Property and Assets (Real Estate Portfolio Development & Transactions).
- 5.3 A Before You Dig application was undertaken on 2 October 2024 with email replies received from all stated service authorities. The information received, save for South East Water, indicated that the subject Roads do not appear to be affected by any adverse encumbrances.
- 5.4 Citipower advised on 14 March 2025 that it does not currently, nor plan to have any electrical assets in the described area surrounding 60-66 Clarke Street, Southbank and have no objection to the proposed discontinuance.
- 5.5 Melbourne Water advised on 11 March 2025 that they do not manage assets in this location.
- 5.6 South East Water advised on 28 March 2025 that an existing 150 and 100 mm diameter VC sewer main is located within the area. South East Water have indicated that they have no objection to the discontinuance of the roads and the transfer of land, however note that upon consolidation of the land, the certified Plan of Consolidation / Subdivision should show sewerage easements over all existing South East Water sewer mains located within the land, to be in favour of South East Water.
- 5.7 Officers did not receive responses from all service providers contacted. Council will proceed on the basis that the respective providers do not have any right, power, or interest which it wishes to be saved under section 207C of the Act.
- 5.8 Council notified the community of the Proposal via a public notice published in *The Age* newspaper and on Council's website inviting submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
- 5.9 The deadline for submissions was Saturday 5 April 2025.
- 5.10 No submissions were received by Council in response to the public notice.

### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, a Council has the power to discontinue roads located within its municipality and sell the land from that road or retain the land. Council must first give notice in accordance with sections 207A and 223 of that Act.
- 6.2 Under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) ("the 2020 Act"), a Council must comply with that section if it sells or exchanges land. Section 114 requires that (unless section 116 applies) before selling or exchanging land, a Council must at least four (4) weeks prior to the sale or exchange, publish notice of its intention to do so on Council's website and in any other prescribed manner, undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its *Community Engagement Policy* (February 2021), and obtain a valuation from a person qualified under section 13DA(2) of the



- Valuation of Land Act 1960 (Vic) made not less than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.
- 6.3 Council has a *Road Discontinuance and Sale of Roads Policy* (March 2022) that enables roads that are no longer required for public access to be discontinued and sold to the adjoining owner(s).

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The Owner has agreed to acquire the Land for its market value (plus GST). If Council proposes to transfer the Roads, it will require a current valuation of the Road in accordance with the 2020 Act. This accords with Council's Road Discontinuance and Sale of Roads Policy.
- 7.2 The Owner has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Roads.
- 7.3 An independent valuation of the land undertaken by Westlink Consulting, dated 16 April 2025 determined the market value to be \$573,000 (ex GST). In accordance with Council's *Road Discontinuance and Sale of Roads Policy*, the value attributed to the land in the Roads is based on the following assumptions:
  - 7.3.1 The Road is valued on a "before and after" methodology which assesses the value of the subject land's worth that it contributes to the adjoining land (value uplift), taking into consideration restrictions due to the shape and location of the site, and the limited width of the site restricts potential redevelopment of the site in isolation without consolidation with adjoining property; and
  - 7.3.2 No discount is applicable to the full land value due to the limited purchasing market for the Roads.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The Proposal is not considered to have or contribute to any detrimental environmental implications.

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Council will facilitate the discontinuance and sale of roads where appropriate consultation has occurred, legislative requirements have been met, and it is considered that road discontinuance and sale is in the best interest of the wider community.
- 9.2 The proposed discontinuance and sale of the Roads will enable the land in the Roads to be re-purposed.
- 9.3 If Council resolves to discontinue and sell the Roads, proceeds from the sale will go into Council's Strategic Property Reserves used to support the acquisition and development of the property portfolio.

#### 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 The proposal is not considered to have any detrimental gender implications.

### 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The proposal aligns with the Strategic Direction 6 –in the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35: A trusted and high-performing organisation, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.



### 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

#### 12.1 TIMELINE

If the Proposal is approved:

- a notice will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette to formally discontinue the Roads; and
- a contract of sale for the discontinued Roads and transfer of the discontinued Roads pursuant to section 207D of the Act will be prepared by Council's solicitors.

### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

The public notification process has provided the community with the opportunity to make submissions in respect of the Proposal. Having considered that no submissions were received, Council may now determine whether to discontinue and sell the Roads. The Owner will be advised of the final Council decision and the reasons for it within five (5) days of the Council meeting

### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. Title Plan - Chessell / Clarke Street

Location of Land  Parish: CITY OF SOUTH MELBOURNE PARISH OF MELBOURNE SOUTH  Section: G  Crown Aldrion: -  Title References CIT VOL 0345 FOL 962 CITY OF LOSA FOL 962 CITY OF LOS						
Purpose  Easement   Control South MeLBOURNE   Postal Address: 6 (PART)   Crown Potrion: -  Title References: TP922143X   Postal Address: 50.86 CLARKE STREET   Forting of supervision: SOUTHBANK 3006   MAG Accordinates: 6 (PART)   Crown Potrion: -  Title References: TP922143X   Postal Address: 50.86 CLARKE STREET   Forting of supervision: SOUTHBANK 3006   MAG Accordinates: 6 (PART)   Crown Potrion: -  Title References: TP922143X   Postal Address: 50.86 CLARKE STREET   Forting of supervision: SOUTHBANK 3006   MAG Accordinates: 6 (PART)   Crown Potrion: -  Title References: TP922143X   Postal Address: 50.86 CLARKE STREET   Title Reference    Easement Information    LEGIND: Appurtmant Fassencer   E-Finanthoring Jassencer   Magnetic Reference    Purpose   Magnet	TITLE	: PLAN		EDITION 1		
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Crown Allotment: 6 (PART) Crown Portion: -  Title References CT VOL 0345 FOL 952 Last Plan Reference: TP922143X  Postal Address: 60.496 CLARKE STREET (at less of authorison) SOUTHBANK 3006 SOUTHBANK 3006 SOUTHBANK 3006 SOUTHBANK 3006 SOUTHBANK 3006 SOUTHBANK 3006 Sourcey: This plan is not based on survey. This survey has been connected to permanent marks No(s) in Proclamation Survey Area no  Easement Information  LEGEND: Appurtment Easement E - Enounbaring Easement (Road)  Easement (Most)  LEGEND: Appurtment Easement E - Enounbaring Easement R - Enounbaring Easement (Road)  FOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF TITLE  SOUTHBANK 3006  N.I.S.  SOURCE J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J						
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Nil

### 16. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR DELEGATES

### 17. URGENT BUSINESS

### 18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves to move into confidential to deal with the following matters pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

### 18.1 Proposed Property Acquisition - Fishermans Bend

3(1)(g(ii)). private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

**Reason:** This report contains commercial business transaction information which if released, could unreasonably expose external stakeholders.