MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

17 SEPTEMBER 2025

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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 midday 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, 17 September 2025 at 6:30pm.** At their discretion, Councillors may suspend the meeting for short breaks as required.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

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13.2 Proposed Discontinuance and Sale - Part Union Place (Adjoining 154-158 Bank Street) South Melbourne ***(Deferred due to an administrative matter in accordance with provision 21 of the Governance Rules)***

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Nil

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16 URGENT BUSINESS

17 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 2 September 2025 be confirmed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

6. PETITIONS, JOINT LETTERS AND DEPUTATIONS

6.1 Petition: Bin Permit on Bridport Street, Albert Park 5

6.2 Petition: Review of Council Parking Policy - Parking Restrictions on Thistlethwaite St, South Melbourne 7

6.1 PETITION: BIN PERMIT ON BRIDPORT STREET, ALBERT PARK

A Petition containing 11 signatures, was received from residents of Bridport Street.

The Petition states the following:-

We the undersigned wish to inform Port Phillip Council of our opposition to any renewal or extension of the permit that has allowed the business on Bridport Street to permanently store their commercial rubbish bins in the laneway opposite the municipal library in Dundas Place Albert Park.

This permit was granted by exempting multiple clauses of the amenity and local laws act which is designed to protect our residential amenity.

All other residents and businesses are required to store their bins within their property after rubbish collections. The Commercial property in Bridport Street should be treated the same and this was the case for many years. Dundas Place has a heritage overlay and the bins are clearly visible from the Library and overlooked by two properties in Dundas Place.

The following Petitioners hereby request that no renewal or extension of the permit be made.

OFFICER COMMENT

The Waste Management Plan was issued to the business on Bridport Street to store two 240litre bins in a public laneway under the Community Amenity Local Law 2023 Part 6 Waste and Sanitation, Section 59. Additional Requirements Applying Commercial Premises, 7 and 8 which outline the following

(7) The owner, occupier or person in charge of commercial premises, must if required by Council, submit a Waste Management Plan (incorporating adequate waste management arrangements) to Council for approval.

(8) The owner, occupier or person in charge must comply with a Waste Management Plan approved by Council.

The current Waste Management Plan conditions in place responded to concerns from the business about fire safety access, ability to conduct their business and damages to their property brought about by storing these bins inside the business' property and exempts the business from the other clauses in Section 59.

The section of the laneway the bins are permitted to be placed in is not trafficable and the bins do not impede access to properties or off-street parking.

The application and issuing of Waste Management Plans and conditions and enforcement action in response to complaints are duties of officers authorised under the Local Law and the associated Procedures and Protocols Manual.

We have these sort of arrangement with a number of commercial properties that are constrained by space, ensuring that local access is not impacted.

Unfortunately, in a high density area such as around Bridport Street commercial, private and public facilities sometimes need to be accommodated on public land.

Officers will review the issues raised in the petition and take this into consideration during the review of the Waste Management Plan.

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 that officers will take into account the position outlined in the petition for the review of the Waste Management Plan in question and respond in writing noting the outcome of the review.

ATTACHMENTS Nil

6.2 PETITION: REVIEW OF COUNCIL PARKING POLICY - PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THISTLETHWAITE ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

A Petition containing 15 signatures, was received from residents in Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne.

The Petition states the following:-

The Petition of the following named citizens draws the attention of the Council of the complexity in parking restrictions on Thistlethwaite Street between Montague and Boundary Streets, inability for some residents who legally live in commercial properties to obtain parking permits and high financial and emotional costs to citizens.

We call on the Council to review the Council Parking Policy to address the following:

- *Seven different parking restrictions in a short street.*
- *The need to ensure parking requirements address the Capital City Zone and mixed use style developments*
- *Recognition of the addition costs borne by residents legally living above factory/shops under a commercial lease who pay all landlord costs, not just rent,*
- *The inequity of requiring businesses to potentially break parking requirements simply to conduct business when they meet with customers for five to 15 minutes,*

We estimate a combined loss to business and residents is well over $20,000 per year in a very short street. We would appreciate a 'people first' approach and some equity and fairness in the permit rules in the parking policy.

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 parking restrictions, fees and permit entitlements, balancing the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Officers understand the issues raised in the petition are predominantly linked to the following three matters:

- Review of the Parking Management Policy

  A broader request to review Council's Parking Management Policy, specifically highlighting concerns around residential parking permit eligibility for properties within Thistlethwaite Street.
- Review of Existing Parking Restrictions

  A request to review the current on-street parking restrictions in Thistlethwaite Street, between Montague Street and Boundary Street to better support existing properties and plan for the street's transition within a designated growth area.
- Consideration of Leniency in Enforcement

  A request for Council to consider leniency in enforcement activity in the area to allow businesses to continue operating effectively under current parking constraints.

Review of Parking Management Policy / Parking Permit Eligibility

Council's Parking Management Policy, adopted in 2020 and last updated in August 2024, provides the framework for managing on-street parking across the municipality. The policy was developed following extensive community consultation. The current Policy is due to expire in 2028. In the lead-up to this, Council officers will prepare a new draft Policy to replace the existing one. This process will include community engagement before the draft is presented to Council for consideration and adoption. As a comprehensive review of the Parking Management Policy is scheduled to commence within the next 12 to 24 months, officers do not recommend initiating a separate review currently.

Council's Parking Management Policy provides clear and consistent eligibility criteria for residential parking permits for all properties across the City of Port Phillip. Under the current policy, properties formally classified as commercial are not eligible for residential permits.

In relation to properties that include residential dwellings above or within shop or office, or commercial land use- To be eligible for residential parking permits, the residential dwelling must have been used solely for residential purposes, without interruption since 1 October 2002. This means that the area in question cannot have been used for any other purpose, such as commercial or industrial use, during this time period

As part of this petition, concerns were raised about the ineligibility of some properties on Thistlethwaite Street to obtain residential parking permits. However, the specific context or details regarding which properties are affected is not clearly outlined in the petition.

Parking Restrictions, Thistlethwaite Street

The modification of parking controls on any street is governed by Council's Parking Management Policy. It is acknowledged that Thistlethwaite Street, between Montague Street and Boundary Street, currently has multiple parking restrictions, likely resulting from historical decisions and the evolving nature of land uses in the street.

Given Thistlethwaite Street's location within the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend, the area is expected to undergo significant transition in both the short and long term. As part of the Fishermans Bend Program, a budget allocation has been made to support the development of an area-wide parking and kerbside management approach, which will commence in 2025/26 and be completed in 2026/27.

This initiative will involve community engagement to ensure the approach reflects local needs and priorities. Its purpose is to establish clear principles for managing the complex and competing demands on streets within Fishermans Bend during this period of transformation and transition.

Should changes to parking restrictions be considered outside of this strategic initiative, Council has a documented process for assessing parking restriction changes. This process ensures transparency and is informed by community feedback, maintaining consistency with Council's broader policy framework.

The steps, as 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).

It is noted that all signatories to the petition are from only two properties and have not specified or requested any particular changes to parking controls that would address the broader needs of Thistlethwaite Street.

Enforcement of Parking Restrictions

Consistency in enforcement is essential to maintaining fairness, road safety, and equitable access for all users. All reports of illegal parking, such as vehicles blocking driveways, double parking, or overstaying signed time limits, are assessed and acted upon, regardless of location or the parties involved.

Council cannot waive enforcement of parking restrictions for businesses that rely on breaching parking rules to operate. Enforcement must remain consistent and impartial to:

- Uphold fairness for all users
- Maintain safety and accessibility
- Ensure proper governance of public space

Allowing illegal parking to become normalised would set a dangerous precedent, pose a significant safety risk to the community and severely impact businesses who rely on customers being able to find adequate parking.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Petition.
2. Thanks, the petitioners for their petition.
3. Does not initiate a standalone review of the Parking Management Policy at this time, noting a comprehensive review of the Parking Management Policy is scheduled to commence within the next 12 to 24 months.
4. Requests that officers advise the lead petitioner of the planned area-wide parking and kerbside management approach for Fishermans Bend and keep them informed of planned community engagement.
5. Requests that officers advise the lead petitioner of Council's process for requesting changes to parking restrictions, including the need for demonstrated support from multiple properties and a clearly documented suggested parking restriction(s).

ATTACHMENTS Nil

7. PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT

Nil

8. A HEALTHY AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

8.1 Draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy 13

8.2 Engagement on Community Infrastructure Plan 112

8.3 Community Grants Program 2025-26 Recommendations..... 123

8.1 DRAFT HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

PREPARED BY: **CHRISTINE DENING, MANAGER COMMUNITY BUILDING AND INCLUSION**

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy (the Strategy) to Council and seek approval to proceed with the next stage of engagement, including public exhibition of the draft Strategy for community feedback.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The draft Strategy will guide Council decisions around its role in supporting homelessness and affordable housing contributions into the future (**Attachment 1**).

2.2 An initial round of community engagement has been conducted to develop the draft strategy, and other relevant reports, policies and strategies have been taken into consideration, for example, the Community Safety Roundtable report as well as feedback from the Plan for Port Phillip community engagement. A summary of community engagement is outlined in **Attachment 2**.

2.3 The objectives and actions in the draft Strategy outline the proposed areas of focus. These have been mapped to show how they align with other Council strategies and policies.

2.4 The draft Strategy includes several outcome measures. Achievement towards outcome measures is not the sole responsibility of Council. Conditions and environments outside of the control of Council will influence these, however the targets provide an aspirational direction to target Council resources and advocacy over the life of the strategy.

2.5 The proposed outcome measures over the life of the draft Strategy are:

2.5.1 Functional Zero: Working towards functional Zero via the Port Phillip Zero Initiative with 3 people or less sleeping rough at any one time

2.5.2 Advocacy success: Where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for social and affordable housing and for private renters are utilised to the fullest extent possible.

2.5.3 Improved perceptions of safety and pride in neighbourhoods: Achieving scores of >7.6 in community satisfaction across measures relating to safety, pride connection and enjoyment of neighbourhoods and agreement that CoPP is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

2.6 Through the Council Plan and Budget process, Council committed to continuing the previous operating budget commitments of $600K in project funding for the next four years. Historically, Council has accumulated and allocated this funding towards a capital project. Given the findings from the Community Safety Plan Roundtable, submissions made by a range of service providers to that process and as the options available to contribute Council land towards a capital project are limited at this point, it is proposed that in the shorter term this funding is used to support more immediate

responses to homelessness and housing, rather than being saved for a specific capital project, which can take a number of years to progress.

2.7 Following the consideration of submissions made through the Council Plan and Budget process and Community Safety Roundtable against the outcomes Council is seeking to achieve through the draft strategy, it is proposed that this budget is allocated in the following way:

2.7.1 St Kilda Community Housing (an additional $100K in 2025/26 to add to the $150K allocated through the 2025/26 budget process and $250K in 2026/27) to support a proactive solution to provide housing and tailored support services building on the Madden House Common Ground model, on the condition that additional funding from the State or Federal Government or other source is received to implement such a program effectively;

2.7.2 BridgeIt ($15K in 2025/26 and 2026/27) to support operational costs associated with providing young women and gender diverse people who have experienced the out-of-home-care system or homelessness with a home and community in Port Phillip.

2.8 During community consultation on the draft Strategy, it is also proposed that officers seek additional information on specific projects suggested by Ngwala, Sacred Heart and South Port Community Housing through the Community Safety Roundtable process. It is also proposed that during engagement officers work with service providers on what budget may be required to further consideration of accessible, safe daytime social spaces (hubs) with appropriate and relevant facilities for rough sleepers and vulnerable community members. Other ideas received through the community consultation period will also be considered.

2.9 The proposed phase 2 of community engagement is planned for 6 October to 2 November 2025 and seeks to test the draft Strategy with community.

2.10 Once finalised, the Strategy will be reported on annually as part of the Annual Report. Further key milestones will be tracked in CEO reports to ensure that key milestones are achieved.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Thanks all community members and service providers that have contributed to community engagement to inform the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy.

3.2 Endorses the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy (Attachment1) to enable the next phase of community engagement and authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to make minor editorial amendments that do not materially alter the intent of the draft Strategy.

3.3 Endorses the allocation of:

3.3.1 An additional $100K in 2025/26 and $250K in 2026/27 to St Kilda Community Housing to support a proactive solution to provide housing and tailored support services building on the Madden House Common Ground model, on the condition that additional funding from the State, Federal Government or other source is received to implement such a program effectively.

3.3.2 $15k in 2025/26 and 2026/27 to BridgeIt to support operational costs associated with providing young women and gender diverse people who have experienced the out-of-home-care system or homelessness with a home and community in Port Phillip.

3.4 Notes that during community consultation on the draft Strategy, additional information will be requested on specific projects suggested by Ngwala, Sacred Heart and South Port Community Housing as well as consideration of other ideas that come through the community consultation process.

3.5 Notes that during community consultation on the draft Strategy, officers will work with service providers on what budget may be required to further consideration of accessible, safe daytime social spaces (hubs) with appropriate and relevant facilities for rough sleepers and vulnerable community members.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 Safe, secure and accessible housing is a key determinate of health and fosters a socially diverse and inclusive community. Improving housing and food security is one of City of Port Phillip's five key health priorities, as identified in the Plan for Port Phillip, our overarching Council Plan.

4.2 This Strategy is the key strategic document to focus Council efforts on this priority.

4.3 Up until recently, Council has had two separate strategies, both of which have concluded. These are:

- *Think & Act - Homelessness Action Strategy 2015 - 2020.*
- *In Our Backyard - Growing Affordable Housing in Port Philip 2015 - 2025*.

4.4 The City of Port Phillip has evolved over the last several years and is facing new challenges and opportunities around homelessness and affordable housing. The needs of the local community are also continuously changing.

4.5 It is recognised that there is significant and existing commitment to delivering outcomes for social and affordable housing. The draft Strategy will support and implement the broad objectives encompassed in the current City of Port Phillip Housing Strategy 2024-2039.

4.6 The draft Strategy interacts and aligns with a number of other Council plans and strategies to strengthen our commitments, and alignment is noted in the draft proposed strategy.

Strategy Content

4.7 The draft Strategy content has been developed through a comprehensive process that included: -

4.7.1 Initial community engagement on the role Council has and could play as part of a broader service system in addressing homelessness and affordable housing;

4.7.2 Reviewing other Council and government strategies as well as insights gained from other engagement processes;

4.7.3 Incorporation of key engagement outcomes including the deliberative engagement conducted for the Plan for Port Phillip and recommendations and submissions from the Community Safety Roundtable;

4.7.4 Review of relevant documents and data such as strategies from other councils, including the City of Melbourne, the Think and Act Homelessness Strategy, the 2025 Customer Satisfaction Survey results related to community wellbeing and safety; and

4.7.5 Undertaking a gender impact assessment of the draft Strategy to ensure inclusivity and equity.

4.8 Council's proposed aspirational vision is outlined in detail in Attachment 1 but is summarised as follows:

Over the next decade, the City of Port Phillip will work toward achieving functional zero homelessness by coordinating compassionate, place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.

Recognising the broader social impact of housing, the City will collaborate across sectors and levels of government to protect and grow affordable housing, strengthen renter protections, and ensure everyone has a place to call home and the opportunity to live well.

4.9 It is proposed that Council responds to affordable housing and homelessness across five strategic pillars:

- Strengthen community responses to homelessness - Reduce homelessness in Port Phillip by coordinating, compassionate, place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.
- Enable access to social housing - Support the sustainability of social housing in Port Phillip, so that those with the greatest need have access to safe, secure, and supported homes.
- Improve access to Affordable and Key Worker Housing - Ensure that people who contribute to the vibrancy and functioning of our city—such as teachers, nurses, artists, and hospitality workers—can afford to live locally.
- Support Stability in the Private Rental Market - Promote stability, equity, and wellbeing for renters by supporting initiatives that strengthen rights and access within the private rental market.
- Strengthening Places that Support Housing Stability and Homelessness Solutions - Shape inclusive neighbourhoods and public spaces that foster housing stability, resilience, and pathways out of homelessness through thoughtful design, collaboration, and planning—ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home in Port Phillip.

4.10 The broad actions included to address these pillars are outlined in the following table:

Housing Continuum Aspect	Strategic Pillars	Broad action	Measure
Strengthen community responses to homelessness	Reduce homelessness in Port Phillip by coordinating, compassionate,	• Local Coordination & Leadership: Play a coordinating role in bringing together services, partners, and community efforts to deliver integrated, locally responsive	Functional Zero; Working towards functional Zero via the Port Phillip Zero Initiative with 3 people or less

Housing Continuum Aspect	Strategic Pillars	Broad action	Measure
	place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.	homelessness, mental health, drug and alcohol solutions. • Early Intervention & Prevention: Play a role in supporting homelessness services so that they can provide appropriate supports to prevent homelessness before it occurs, especially for those at risk. • Advocacy & Influence: Advocate for systemic change and increased investment in appropriate supported housing, homelessness services, mental health and drug and alcohol support services at state and federal levels.	sleeping rough at any one time
Enable access to social housing	Support the sustainability of social housing in Port Phillip, so that those with the greatest need have access to safe, secure, and supported homes.	• Protecting Existing Stock: Advocate for the retention and renewal of existing public and community housing assets. • Safe and Supportive Environments: Advocate for social housing dwellings and service models that are safe and include wraparound services when needed to support long-term stability and wellbeing. • Partnerships for Impact: Collaborate with community housing providers, government, and the private sector to facilitate new social housing where there is a level of community support.	Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for social housing are utilised to the fullest extent possible.
Improve access to Affordable and Key Worker Housing	Ensure that people who contribute to the vibrancy and functioning of our city—such as teachers, nurses, artists, and hospitality workers—can afford to live locally.	• Facilitating New Supply: Identify and activate opportunities for affordable and key worker housing through planning, partnerships, and advocacy where there is a level of community support. • Innovative Delivery Models: Support diverse housing models, including build-to-rent, shared equity, and community-led developments. • Address market pressures: Explore the impact on rental affordability of	Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for affordable housing are utilised to the fullest extent possible.

Housing Continuum Aspect	Strategic Pillars	Broad action	Measure
		short stay rental accommodation and whether any changes are required.	
Support Stability in the Private Rental Market	Promote stability, equity, and wellbeing for renters by supporting initiatives that strengthen rights and access within the private rental market.	• Advocacy for Reform: Champion stronger protections for renters, including longer leases, rent controls, higher levels of commonwealth rental assistance, improved dispute resolution and better data and monitoring. • Information & Support: Provide renters with access to information, advice, and local support services to help navigate the rental system. • Quality Standards: Encourage and support compliance with minimum rental standards to ensure safe and healthy living conditions.	Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for private renters are utilised to the fullest extent possible.
Strengthening Places that Support Housing Stability and Homelessness Solutions	Shape inclusive neighbourhoods and public spaces that foster housing stability, resilience, and pathways out of homelessness through thoughtful design, collaboration, and planning—ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home in Port Phillip.	• Design for Inclusion: Ensure public spaces and housing developments promote dignity, wellbeing, and connection for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and are welcoming, safe, and well-integrated into the community. • Place-Based Responses: Collaborate locally to deliver tailored housing and homelessness solutions that reflect neighbourhood needs. • Integrated Planning: Align housing with transport, services, and infrastructure to support long-term stability.	Improved perceptions of safety and pride in neighbourhoods: achieving scores of >7.6 in community satisfaction across measures relating to safety, pride connection and enjoyment of neighbourhoods and agreement that CoPP is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone

4.11 Across these five pillars, it is proposed that Council will strengthen responses in a number of areas including:

Strategic Pillar	What stays the same	What we're proposing to improve	What we are proposing is new
Homelessness	Connection of those at risk to housing options and information Support for service providers Annual Homelessness Memorial and contribution to Homelessness Prevention Week Advocacy around complex mental health needs and Victorian Mental Health Royal Commission recommendations.	Council's current homelessness service model Port Phillip Zero Partnerships and service protocols with VicPol and other key service providers Reach and impact of Trauma Aware Port Phillip Advocacy for better integration between homelessness, housing, and health systems including retention and expansion of local services.	Accessible, safe daytime social spaces ("hubs") with appropriate amenities and facilities for rough sleepers and vulnerable community members Community Gathering Place Community education and anti-stigma campaign Programs to reduce community conflict such as the Peacemaking Program Advocacy for better coordination between homelessness and justice systems
Social Housing	Council nomination rights via the Sponsorship Housing List Contribution of Council resources (cash and / or land) for projects such as Common Ground / Youth Foyers	Advocacy to State Government around the need for safe and inclusive environments in social housing and appropriate wrap around supports	Exploration of colocation of Council services or facilities with new social housing development where this could improve outcomes and amenity for community Non-statutory toolkits to support the take-up and application of emerging housing models by the private sector.
Affordable Housing	Contribution of Council resources (cash and / or	Support emerging affordable housing models, including but not limited to	Investigate innovative delivery models

	land) for affordable housing projects	affordable “Build to Rent” and affordable “Rent to Buy”, shared equity housing and Community Land Trusts Explore impact on rental affordability of short stay rental accommodation and whether any changes are required	Explore targeted incentives to support affordable housing, including innovative affordable housing models such as the fast tracking of planning permits Advocacy to investigate and establish a mechanism to administer affordable housing development contributions from property developers and landowner Support the development of a state-wide affordable housing register to record voluntary agreements (via section 173 of the P&E Act) with the private sector Explore the impact on rental affordability of short stay rental accommodation and whether any changes are required
Private Rental	Advocacy for planning reforms to introduce a mandatory requirement for affordable housing	Provision of information and supports to renters Encourage and support compliance with minimum rental standards to ensure safe and healthy living conditions	Champion stronger protections for renters, including longer leases, rent controls, higher levels of commonwealth funding support, improved dispute resolution and better data and monitoring
Place-based response	Align housing with transport, services, and infrastructure to support long-term stability	Design of public spaces for inclusion and wellbeing	Partner and deliver access to support for business/residents for

		Collaborate locally to deliver tailored housing and homelessness solutions that reflect neighbourhood needs Activate public spaces beyond 9 to 5; ensure well-lit areas for safety/security	a safe/welcoming public realm

4.12 The draft Strategy addresses 19 of the 33 recommendations from the Community Safety Roundtable (details regarding how all of these recommendations have been addressed are outlined in the Community Safety Plan Council Report 17 September 2025).

4.13 Council has committed $600K for the four years of the current budget (2025/26-2028/29) with a further commitment of $500K for the further 6 years. A ten-year strategy commitment of $5.4M. Council has also agreed to allocate $150K from year one's commitment to St Kilda Community Housing.

4.14 In the past Council has saved and used this funding for a major building project. However, based on the findings from the Community Safety Plan Roundtable and submissions made by a range of service providers, and because there are currently limited opportunities to use Council land for a capital project at this point in time, it is proposed the funding be used in the short term to support more immediate responses to homelessness and housing, rather than waiting a number of years to progress a capital project.

4.15 The Community Safety Round Table, budget and other submissions and approaches that have been received in relation to affordable housing and homelessness have been reviewed. To align with the strategy's aim of working towards achieving functional zero homelessness, the following is proposed:

4.15.1 That Council provides an additional $100K in 2025/26 to add to the $150K allocated through the 2025/26 budget process and $250K in 2026/27 to St Kilda Community Housing to support a proactive solution to provide housing and tailored support services building on the Madden House Common Ground model, on the condition that additional funding from the State or Federal Government or other source is received to implement such a program effectively.

4.15.2 That Council provides $15K in 2025/26 and 2026/27 to Bridge It to support operational costs associated with providing young women and gender diverse people who have experienced the out-of-home-care system or homelessness with a home and community in Port Phillip.

4.16 Other submissions provided to inform the Community Safety Roundtable presented ideas that were not costed or fully detailed. During community consultation on the draft Strategy, it is recommended that additional information is requested on specific

projects suggested by Ngwala, Sacred Heart and South Port Community Housing including:

4.16.1 Ngwala's Aboriginal Homelessness Entry Point: Provide bridging or ongoing funding to maintain the Entry Point service which is critical for crisis intervention and culturally appropriate intake.

4.16.2 Sacred Heart Mission – Grey Street Hub: Provide funding to extend operating hours and capacity of the Engagement Hub which supports over 1,100 new clients annually, many experiencing homelessness for the first time, but operates limited hours and is under pressure.

4.16.3 Sacred Heart Mission – Green Light Program: Advocate for or co-fund continuation of the GreenLight tenancy support program which provides tenancy support for people exiting homelessness.

4.16.4 South Port Community Housing – Intensive Tenancy Model: Provide funding to expand SPCHG's intensive tenancy support model across more properties to support intensive case management into tenancy support to address complex needs and prevent tenancy breakdowns.

4.17 Additionally, during community consultation on the draft Strategy, it is recommended that officers work with service providers on what budget may be required to further consideration of accessible, safe daytime social spaces (hubs) with appropriate and relevant facilities for rough sleepers and vulnerable community members.

4.18 In addition to the above it is important that Council ensures appropriate allocation of operating budget to services through service agreements. Council committed just under $1.2M to support those at risk of homelessness and vulnerability in the 2025/26 budget. This included funding food relief, learning programs for those experiencing homelessness, referral and case management services. A review of service agreements is due to be completed by Q3 2025/26 and will make further recommendations to Council regarding how best to provide funding support to health, housing and homelessness services.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 To identify the community's key priorities and the role that they see Council playing in this space, initial community engagement activities were conducted from 22 April to 19 May 2025.

5.2 The initial community engagement phase involved key stakeholders across the municipality as well as the wider community. The feedback from the internal and external engagement has been taken into consideration in drafting the current draft combined strategy.

Phase 1 Community Consultation

5.3 The purpose of this phase of community engagement was to understand community priorities in terms of homelessness and affordable housing support as well as what role Council should play in this area going forward. The feedback provided outlined several priority areas for the strategy. See Attachment 2 for the full phase 1 engagement report.

5.4 External community consultation on broader issues and Council role has included:

- Have Your Say Page – online survey

- Paper-based survey (long and short version)
- Direct engagement with community housing and homelessness organisation representatives as well as select developers
- Four community pop-ups across the municipality
- Interview with person with lived experience

5.5 Internal consultation on the proposed objectives and actions were conducted with:

- Strategic Planning team
- Family, Youth and Children teams
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team
- Advocacy team
- Sustainability
- Safety and amenity
- Libraries
- People, Culture and Services
- Property and assets

What we heard and how we responded in the draft strategy

5.6 The top priorities and supported actions from phase 1 community engagement are:

General community feedback (151 participants responded)	**Objectives and actions in draft strategy**
Top four priorities for Council to action were: • Advocating for planning mechanisms to require developers to contribute to provision of social housing	*3.1* ***Identify opportunities for affordable housing on Council land or strategic sites*** *in or near activity centres and undertake review of planning controls to facilitate appropriate affordable housing development.* *3.3* ***Explore targeted incentives*** *to support affordable housing, including fast-tracking planning permits.* *3.6* ***Encourage the private sector*** *and other organisations to pilot new models to provide affordable housing.* *4.1* ***Continue to advocate for planning reforms*** *to introduce a mandatory requirement for affordable housing.*
• Advocating for rights and support for renters	***Objective 4****. Support Stability in the Private Rental Market - Promote stability, equity, and wellbeing for renters by supporting initiatives that strengthen rights and access within the private rental market.*
• Provide information on local homelessness services	*1.1* ***Review and improve Council's homelessness service model*** *so it can better co-ordinate across services to deliver a more integrated, empathetic, and effective assertive outreach response.*

	1.10 ***Develop effective communication strategies*** *to reach vulnerable groups early, ensuring they can access information and services before reaching crisis points.*
• Offering cash and land contributions to community housing providers	*2.12* ***Provide cash contributions and other assistance*** *to support local community housing organisations leverage State or Commonwealth funding to develop social housing on Council land and/or air space where there is a level of community support.* *3.2* ***Identify suitable Council-owned land and/or air space for community housing projects*** *prioritising individuals with specific needs and/or connection to Port Phillip where there is a level of community support.*
Support for the continuation of the following actions are: • Supporting pathways to secure housing (Port Phillip Zero) (83% supported)	*Objective 1: Strengthen community responses to homelessness -* ***Reduce homelessness*** *in Port Phillip by coordinating, compassionate, place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.*
• Support redevelopment of ageing public housing (64% supported)	*2.1* ***Support the retention of and delivery*** *of new social and affordable housing on public land, including through the redevelopment of public housing sites where there is a level of community support.*
• Assisting benevolent private developers (77% supported)	*2.10* ***Facilitate and broker new projects with benevolent private developers*** *who are willing to develop projects that include social housing, or Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA), prioritising housing for people with connection to Port Phillip.*

5.7 Pending Council approval, phase 2 of the community consultation will take place from 6 October to 2 November. The purpose of this second phase is to seek community feedback on the draft Strategy and most specifically on the vision, strategic pillars, measures and actions.

5.8 Community engagement activities will include:

- Have Your Say Page – online survey
- Paper-based survey (long and short version)
- Direct engagement with community housing and homelessness organisation representatives as well as select developers

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no identified legal implications associated with the draft Strategy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The Strategy aims to ensure that Council's expenditure in affordable housing and homelessness is financially sustainable and achieves best public value.

7.2 If Council wish to explore use of Council land, consulting spend may be required. This can be funded from the project funding Council has allocated; however, this will reduce the amount available to be allocated to other projects.

7.3 A review of the homelessness service model is currently underway and will ensure the current use of spend (including FTEs and via service agreements) is effective and distributed for maximum impact.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 There can be an environmental impact of people sleeping rough be this bio-hazardous or harmful waste, rubbish, abandoned material aid or abandoned camps/items are left in hot-spot/high street areas and parks/open spaces. By supporting more persons into housing, this issue may be minimised.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Housing stress and homelessness have a significant effect on individuals health and wellbeing. Improving supports and housing availability can increase connectedness, social and cultural inclusion and cohesion, preventing/reducing harm, and hardship, in turn potentially preventing and reducing incidents of crime and anti-social behaviours.

9.2 The Strategy will provide Council with a clear and concise position on homelessness and affordable housing.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A gender impact assessment has been conducted on the draft strategy and recommendations have been taken into consideration in the development of the strategy.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The Affordable housing and homelessness strategy aligns to the strategic direction "*a healthy and connected community"* and the outcome *"our community have stable, safe, and affordable housing".*

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 An implementation Plan will be developed to sit alongside the Strategy.

12.1.2 If Council resolves to release the draft Strategy for community consultation at the Council meeting on 17 September 2025, the following will occur:

6 October – 2 November 2025	Draft Strategy out for community feedback
November 2025	Consideration of submissions on the draft strategy
19 November 2025	Draft engagement report and updated strategy presented at Councillor briefing for final feedback
3 December 2025	Final proposed Strategy presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council for endorsement and adoption

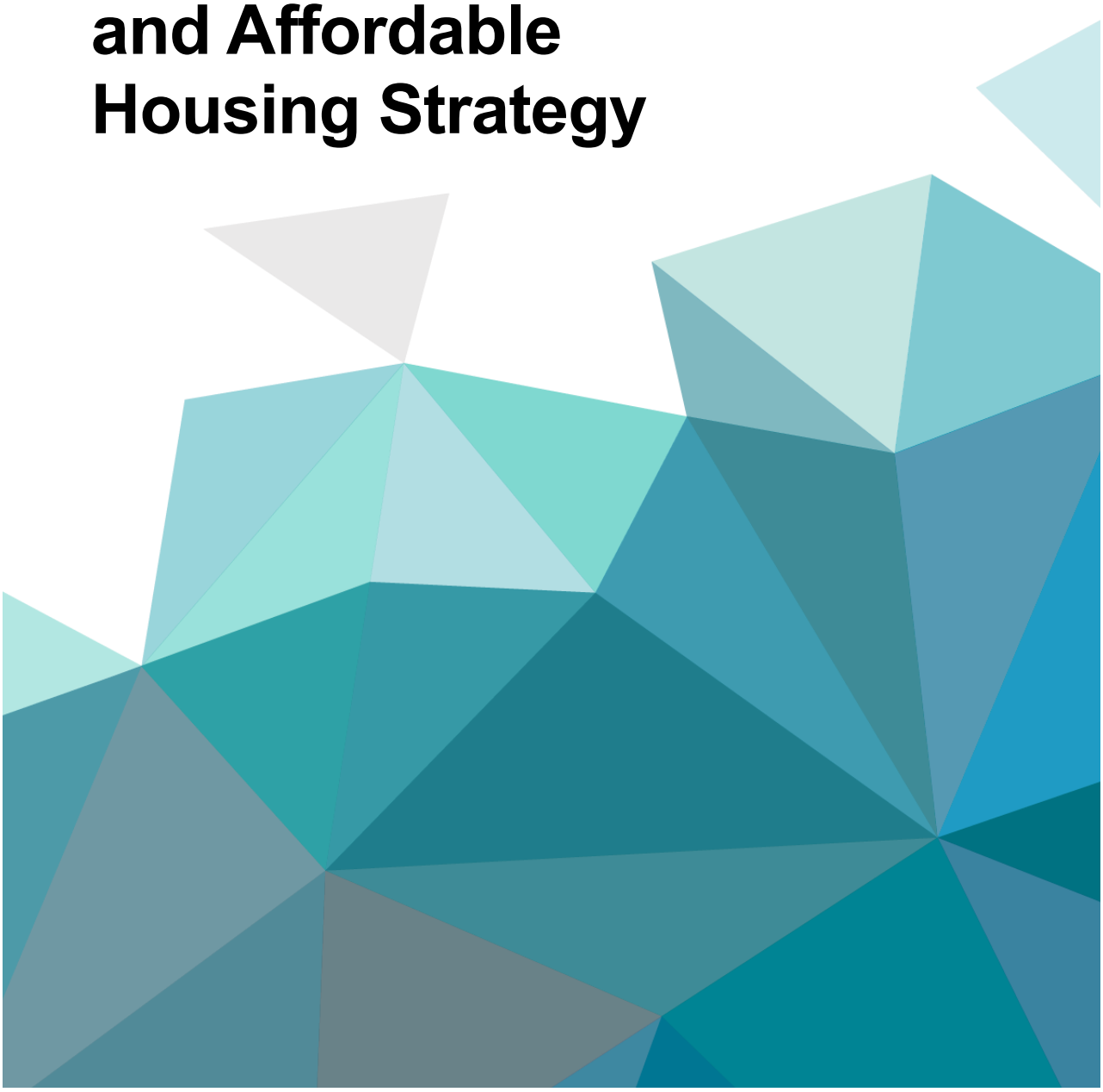
13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Proposed Draft Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy**
2. **Engagement Summary Report**

Draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy



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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 emerging.

To be added:

- Accessibility/translation services page
- Contents page
- Message from the Mayor
- Diagram showing how this strategy relates to other Council documents

Vision

Over the next decade, the City of Port Phillip will work toward achieving functional zero homelessness—where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Where those most in need have access to safe, appropriate housing and the right supports to build stability and independence.

We will champion the development of new affordable housing, seek to protect existing affordable housing stock, and advocate for greater security and affordability in the private rental market.

While homelessness and affordable housing is not traditionally a core local government responsibility, we recognise that affordable housing with appropriate supports, has a profound impact on inclusion, social cohesion, public space safety and vibrancy, and individual wellbeing. This is why we will work collaboratively with residents, community organisations, and all levels of government to deliver integrated, place-based responses.

We recognise our support and co-ordination role, which leverages our local intelligence and modest resources, is a small but integral part in supporting the efforts of the state and federal government, the homelessness, housing, and broader community services sectors who have the most levers to address this challenging and interconnected social issue.

This strategy reflects our commitment to ensuring we play our part in Port Phillip to build a welcoming, equitable city—where everyone has a place to call home and the opportunity to live well.

Progress towards this vision will be monitored through the following outcome indicators:

- Functional Zero; Working towards functional Zero via the Port Phillip Zero Initiative with 3 people or less sleeping rough at any one time.

This will be achieved through direct support and service coordination in addition to:

a. Planning levers: where eligible developments successfully deliver affordable housing units.
b. Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for affordable housing, social housing and homelessness are utilised to the fullest extent possible.
c. Improved perceptions of safety and pride in neighbourhoods: achieving scores of >7.6 in community satisfaction across measures relating to safety, pride connection and enjoyment of neighbourhoods and agreement that CoPP is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

These indicators relate to things Council influences but does not directly control as Council plays a small part in a broader service system. Progress against these indicators is dependent on a range of factors external to Council, including actions from other levels of government and the social services sector.

Outcome Measures

The strategy's actions align with five over-arching objectives. Each has separate success measures associated with it. An overview is provided below. Detailed actions associated with each objective can be found on page 23 of this document.

Housing Continuum Aspect	Goal / Objective	Broad action	Measure
Strengthen community responses to homelessness	Reduce homelessness in Port Phillip by coordinating, compassionate, place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.	• Local Coordination & Leadership: Play a coordinating role in bringing together services, partners, and community efforts to deliver integrated, locally responsive homelessness, mental health, drug and alcohol solutions. • Early Intervention & Prevention: Play a role in supporting homelessness services so that they can provide appropriate supports to prevent homelessness before it occurs, especially for those at risk. • Advocacy & Influence: Advocate for systemic change and increased investment in appropriate supported housing, homelessness services, mental health and drug and alcohol support services at state and federal levels.	Functional Zero; Working towards functional Zero via the Port Phillip Zero Initiative with 3 people or less sleeping rough at any one time
Enable access to social housing	Support the sustainability of social housing in Port Phillip, so that those with the greatest need have access to safe, secure, and supported homes.	• Protecting Existing Stock: Advocate for the retention and renewal of existing public and community housing assets. • Safe and Supportive Environments: Advocate for social housing dwellings and service models that are safe and include wraparound services when needed to support long-term stability and wellbeing. • Partnerships for Impact: Collaborate with community housing providers, government, and the private sector to facilitate new social housing where there is a level of community support.	Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for social housing are utilised to the fullest extent possible.

Housing Continuum Aspect	Goal / Objective	Broad action	Measure
Improve access to Affordable and Key Worker Housing	Ensure that people who contribute to the vibrancy and functioning of our city—such as teachers, nurses, artists, and hospitality workers—can afford to live locally.	• Facilitating New Supply: Identify and activate opportunities for affordable and key worker housing through planning, partnerships, and advocacy where there is a level of community support. • Innovative Delivery Models: Support diverse housing models, including build-to-rent, shared equity, and community-led developments. • Address market pressures: Explore the impact on rental affordability of short stay rental accommodation and whether any changes are required.	Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for affordable housing are utilised to the fullest extent possible.
Support Stability in the Private Rental Market	Promote stability, equity, and wellbeing for renters by supporting initiatives that strengthen rights and access within the private rental market.	• Advocacy for Reform: Champion stronger protections for renters, including longer leases, rent controls, higher levels of commonwealth rental assistance, improved dispute resolution and better data and monitoring. • Information & Support: Provide renters with access to information, advice, and local support services to help navigate the rental system. • Quality Standards: Encourage and support compliance with the 14 categories of minimum rental standards as outlined by Consumer Affairs Victoria to ensure safe and healthy living conditions.	Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for private renters are utilised to the fullest extent possible.
Strengthening Places that Support Housing Stability and Homelessness Solutions	Shape inclusive neighbourhoods and public spaces that foster housing stability, resilience, and pathways out of homelessness through thoughtful	• Design for Inclusion: Ensure public spaces and housing developments promote dignity, wellbeing, and connection for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and are welcoming, safe, and well-integrated into the community. • Place-Based Responses: Collaborate locally to deliver tailored housing and homelessness solutions that reflect neighbourhood needs.	Improved perceptions of safety and pride in neighbourhoods: achieving scores of >7.6 in community satisfaction across measures relating to safety, pride

Housing Continuum Aspect	Goal / Objective	Broad action	Measure
	design, collaboration, and planning—ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home in Port Phillip.	• Integrated Planning: Align housing with transport, services, and infrastructure to support long-term stability.	connection and enjoyment of neighbourhoods and agreement that CoPP is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

Introduction

The City of Port Phillip's Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy guides the ways Council will support people experiencing housing stress and homelessness over the next 10 years.

The Strategy will contribute to achieving Port Philip's community vision of **a liveable and vibrant city that enhances community connection and wellbeing**, by working towards homelessness being rare, brief, and non-recurring, improving the supply and diversity of affordable housing and the availability of appropriate supports for people to maintain housing.

We will achieve this through five strategic pillars:

- **Strengthen community responses to homelessness**: Reduce homelessness in Port Phillip by coordinating, compassionate, place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.
- **Enable access to social housing**: Support the sustainability of social housing in Port Phillip, so that those with the greatest need have access to safe, secure, and supported homes.
- **Improve access to Affordable and Key Worker Housing**: Ensure that people who contribute to the vibrancy and functioning of our city—such as teachers, nurses, artists, and hospitality workers—can afford to live locally.
- **Support Stability in the Private Rental Market**: Promote stability, equity, and wellbeing for renters by supporting initiatives that strengthen rights and access within the private rental market.
- **Strengthening Places that Support Housing Stability and Homelessness Solutions**: Shape inclusive neighbourhoods and public spaces that foster housing stability, resilience, and pathways out of homelessness through thoughtful design, collaboration, and planning—ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home in Port Phillip.

The development of this Strategy has been informed by in-depth background research, other Council strategies, and community members (including community service and housing providers) who shared their challenges and priorities as part of the engagement process including engagement related to both this strategy and the

Community Safety Roundtable and deliberative engagement panel associated with the development of the Plan for Port Phillip including budget.

It is set out in five parts:

Part 1 Introduction

Part 2 Context

Part 3 Our role

Part 4 Objectives and actions

Part 5 Implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Why do we need a new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy?

Safe, secure, and accessible housing is a key determinate of health and fosters a socially diverse and inclusive community. Improving housing and food security is one of the City of Port Phillip's five key health priorities, as identified in the Plan for Port Phillip, our overarching Council Plan. A homelessness and affordable housing strategy is the key foundational strategic planning document that will enable Council to achieve this priority.

Council's previous affordable housing strategy – In Our Backyard – was adopted in 2015 and concluded in 2025. It achieved a significant amount, including:

- Development of Wellington St Common Ground project, which will have 26 units of community housing, built by St Kilda Community Housing, with the support of a $5.12 million cash and land contribution from Council, due for completion in September 2025.
- Delivery of Marlborough St community housing project, which has 46 units of community housing, built by HousingFirst in 2022 with the support of $5 million cash and land contribution from Council.

Prior to In Our Backyard, the following projects were delivered by Council:

- Delivery of Woodstock, Balaclava, which has 31 units of community housing, built by Council in the air space over a replacement community car park in 2006 ($5M land contribution from Council).

- Delivery of Kyme Place, Port Melbourne, which has 27 units of community housing, built by Council and HousingFirst in the air space over a replacement community car park in 2016 ($2.25M in cash and land).

Additionally, Council's homelessness strategy – Think and Act 2015-2020 –has made a significant contribution in Council's response to homelessness with achievements including:

- Supporting people with lived experience of homelessness to participate in activities which raise awareness of the challenges faced by people at risk of homelessness.
- Delivering a sponsorship program for older residents to access public housing through housing information, direct assistance and supports for outreach case work.
- Facilitating 'Port Phillip Zero' as a leading participating agency network to coordinate management of housing and support for persons experiencing homelessness.
- Enacting a funding deed between Council and Launch Housing to engage a full-time Launch staff member, dedicated to providing outreach support for people sleeping rough in the city.

In the ten years since these strategies were developed, a lot has changed. The City is facing several new challenges and opportunities, including changes in the landscape of community service providers, and in State and Federal Government policies. The needs and expectations of our community are also continuously evolving.

How this strategy was developed

This strategy has been developed through a rigorous process, including consultation with the Port Phillip community and our network of community service providers, a review of the State and Federal legislative and policy landscape, and a review of Council's previous homelessness and housing strategies, which this combined strategy replaces. Key activities included:

- August 2024 Review of Think and Act Strategy
- February 2025 Deliberative Engagement Panel for the development of the Plan for Port Phillip
- March 2025 Community safety roundtable discussion with stakeholders to understand community safety including homelessness

- April 2025 phase 1 community engagement including broad consultation with the community, and a workshop with community housing and service providers
- May 2025 Development of a Gender Impact Assessment
- May 2025 Review of all inputs including existing strategies to develop the draft actions
- May 2025 Consultation with internal stakeholders to ensure operational legitimacy of proposed actions
- June 2025 Analysis of Customer Satisfaction Survey data, focusing on feedback around financial hardship, homelessness, and safety.

What we heard from the community

Council engaged on this project in two phases. We heard from a total of 151 participants throughout the community engagement process. Respondents were from a range of different demographic areas.

In phase 1 we asked the community about their views on what role Council should be prioritising in the affordable housing and homelessness sector.

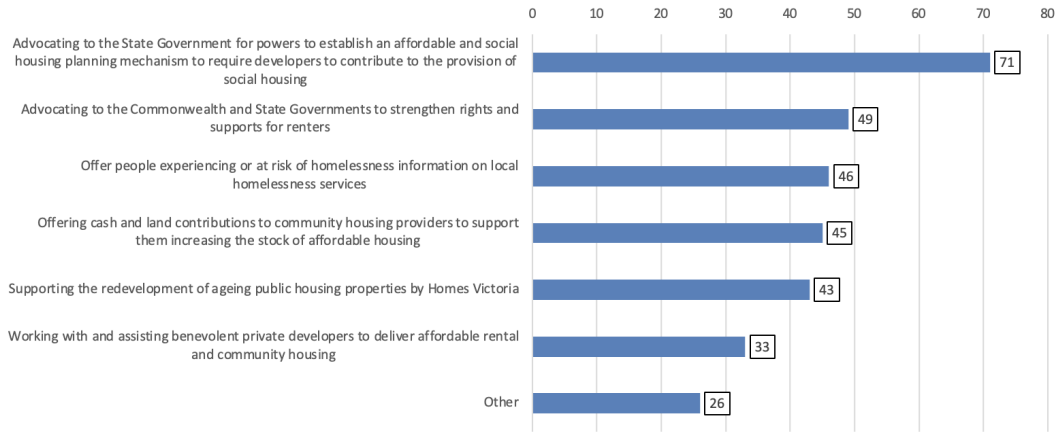

Figure 1: Council can play a role in affordable housing and homelessness in a number of ways. Select the three which you feel are most important for Council to prioritise

Other aspects, highlighted in the community feedback, included:

Theme	Number of responses	% of participants
Opposing punishing/criminalising people sleeping rough	23	25%
Working with other service providers	19	21%
Advocacy/ lobbying	19	21%
Mechanisms to increase availability of affordable housing	17	18%
Measures to increase connections/community resilience/ compassion	16	17%
Increasing availability of social housing and crisis accommodation	15	16%
Increasing funding	15	16%
Addressing/increasing support for those experiencing mental health challenges	11	12%
Addressing/increasing support for those experiencing drug addiction	9	15%
Safety/wellbeing of those in public, affordable and crisis accommodation	9	15%
Concern for wellbeing of people sleeping rough	8	9%
Destigmatising homelessness	8	9%
Adequate planning of social/public housing that considers safety/impact on community	8	9%
Helping people experiencing homelessness to feel valued/part of community	5	5%
Other	21	23%

Table: Participant responses grouped by theme - Is there anything else you think is important for Council to consider when planning this Strategy?

Further comments included for Council to ensure the strategy is accessible, inclusive, and takes a collaborative approach. Additionally highlighting the perceived need for a new definition of affordable housing, as affordable housing is still not always affordable to many community members on low income.

86 survey participants had lived experience of homelessness, accessing social (public and community) or affordable housing, housing or rental stress, or living on a very low or low income, and generously shared their experiences to better inform this strategy.

Please refer to the full community engagement report for more details of engagement and feedback.

Consideration of other strategies and plans

The following strategies and plans will interact with the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

Reconciliation Action Plan (2025-27)	The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) represents Council's continued commitment to support meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with First Peoples in Port Phillip. The RAP sets out the steps we will take to advance those things we do well and, improve how we support Port Phillip First Peoples community.	The RAP outlines a number of relevant actions relating to gathering places and supporting First Nations people. These are mirrored in the H&AH strategy. Additionally, the strategy incorporates actions related to housing and providing support to all people.
Accessibility Action Plan	A legislative requirement for all Councils, the Accessibility Action Plan outlines the steps Council will take in reducing discrimination towards people with disability. It publicly commits to change with Council playing a role as a service provider, ally, consumer, advocate and employer.	The H&AH Strategy incorporates an action considering housing needs of all people including people with disabilities.
Community Safety Plan	The Community Safety Plan outlines Council's commitment to working in partnership with the community and key stakeholders to provide a safer and more vibrant community for all. It details the City of Port Phillip's actions to making our community a safer and more resilient place to live, work and visit. It also aligns with a range of state and federal strategies that relate to crime prevention, family violence, reducing harm from alcohol and drugs, emergency response and community safety. A new Community Safety Plan is in development with the current one expiring in November 2025.	The H&AH strategy intersects with a range of community safety areas and utilises several of the same inputs (such as the Community Safety Roundtable report). The new strategies are being developed concurrently.

Plan for Port Phillip (PfPP) 2025-2035	Outlines the community vision for Port Phillip: Proudly Port Phillip: A liveable and vibrant city that enhances community connection and wellbeing.	The PfPP outlines improving housing and food security as a health priority area to be addressed through greater availability of social and affordable housing options for community members on lower incomes and more accessible pathways into secure, safe, and stable housing for community members experiencing homelessness.
Climate Emergency Plan 2023-2028	Port Phillip Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, recognising that climate change is a global issue and that everyone must play their part. The declaration responds to the critical climate situation and demonstrates Council's commitment to act.	The Climate Emergency Plan influences actions within the H&AH strategy regarding supporting our vulnerable communities when faced with climate challenges such as heat waves.
Move, Connect, Live Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028	Aims to create neighbourhoods with access to key services within a 10-minute walk. It seeks Victorian Government funding for early delivery of connections to public transport, public space and streetscapes, footpaths, and bike lanes in Fishermans Bend; and to optimise wider transport connections for both current and future residents and workers.	The H&AH strategy recognises the importance of appropriate infrastructure to support affordable, social and community housing sites and includes actions to reflect the necessity for transport to connect people to housing and to services.
Places for People Public Space Strategy 2022-2032	Sets the vision and blueprint for the future of our public spaces in Port Phillip.	The H&AH strategy acknowledged the need for public spaces to be safe and accessible and reflects actions within the strategy.
Housing Strategy 2024-2039	The Housing Strategy explores planning tools to help implement the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy.	The Housing Strategy outlines a number of actions of direct relevance to affordable housing which have been reflected in the actions.
Positive Ageing Policy 2023-26	The Positive Ageing Policy seeks to ensure that Port Phillip is an age-friendly city across three areas one of which includes: A city where all older people have opportunities to take part in community and civic life and can access the services, programs and housing that meet their changing needs as they age.	The H&AH Strategy incorporates an action considering housing needs of all people including people as they age.

Additionally, the Community Safety Roundtable (CSR) Report undertaken in March 2025, and the Deliberative Engagement Panel (DEP) undertaken in February 2025, outlined a number of recommendations for homelessness support in the City of Port Phillip.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey (June 2025) results highlighted a number of aspects of housing related financial stress, homelessness and safety. Specifically, the survey highlighted that perception of safety in public areas for City of Port Phillip was lower than the metropolitan average (6.5/10 compared to average 7.9/10) and the satisfaction with aspects of planning and housing development was slightly lower as well (7.2/10 compared to the average 7.3/10). The information provided through the survey has been taken into consideration in developing this strategy.

A gender impact assessment has also been undertaken to ensure a gender and intersectional lens has been applied to the actions.

proudly port phillip

Context

In developing this Affordable Housing and Homelessness strategy, we considered the diversity, creativity, and resilience of the Port Phillip community.

Who are we?

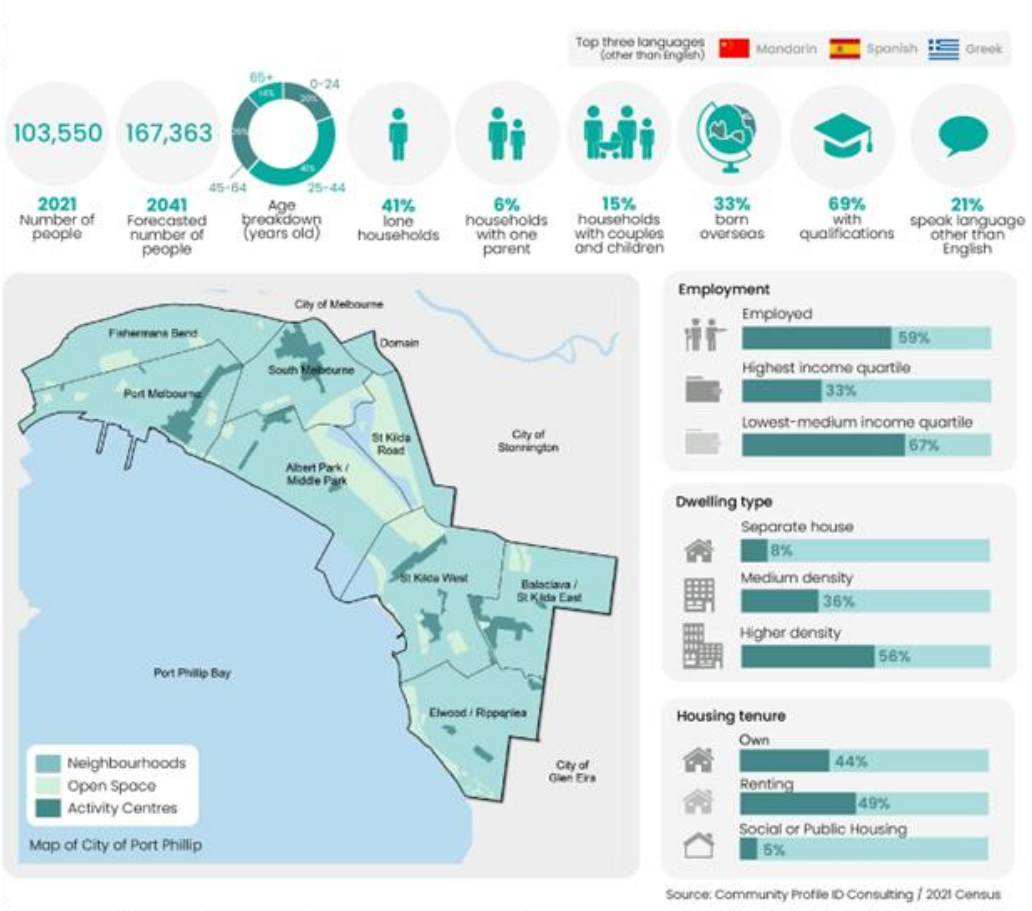

Figure 1: City of Port Phillip's current community demographics

Port Phillip has a proud history of inclusion, and everyone is welcome here.

First Peoples have and continue to care for Country in our council area for generations. We have 514 people in Port Phillip who identify as First People.

Our cultural diversity is increasing. Our residents come from over 160 different countries and speak more than 120 different languages and dialects at home. One in three of our residents were born overseas and over half (56 per cent) have at least one parent born overseas. One in five speak a language other than English at home and five per cent have difficulty speaking English.

Residents are more likely than greater Melbourne residents to be in the highest income group, educated (a high proportion are university educated) and employed (71 per cent labour force participation rate compared to 64 per cent in greater Melbourne).

However, we also have pockets of significant disadvantage and vulnerability in our community. Our people are faring worse compared to the broader Victorian Population in social capital measures relating to affordability and food security. Food service providers report a strain on their offering with an increased number of people seeking food support and decreasing donations and volunteers.

Our population is ageing. The largest proportion of our residents are between 25 and 44 years old (41 per cent) although this is offset by a slightly lower birthrate and a growing proportion of people aged 55 and over. There are more than 19,000 people aged 60 years and older living in Port Phillip, representing 19 per cent of the population. Older people are more likely to volunteer and participate actively in the community, however, they may also require greater support.

Over one in five people in Australia identify as a person with disability and the number of people with disability in Australia is increasing.

Housing in the City of Port Phillip

Australia is currently experiencing a housing and cost of living crisis, which has a significant impact on the entire community and specifically on low and very low-income earners. On any given night, approximately 25 people are estimated to be sleeping rough on the streets, in parks, or on the foreshore in Port Phillip, although this number ranges according to housing availability and in July 2025 was much higher at 45 people. Many more are reported to be sleeping in rooming houses or overcrowded dwellings.

The most recent census data shows that 44 per cent of households in Port Phillip are purchasing or fully own their home, 44 per cent are renting privately, and 4.7 per cent live in social housing (2021 ABS Census). Compared to the metropolitan Melbourne

average, fewer households in Port Phillip own or are purchasing their dwelling and more are renters.

Rental affordability is decreasing. In the year to June-2022, 1 per cent of new lettings in Port Philip were affordable to low-income households. This has decreased to 0.6 per cent of new lettings in the year to June 2024. For the March 2024 quarter, rental affordability for one-bedroom accommodation in the City of Port Phillip was 0.3 per cent compared to the greater Metropolitan rate of 0.8 per cent.

The latest Customer Satisfaction Survey results (June 2025) highlighted that 44% of mortgage owners and 37% of renters reported moderate to high level of housing related financial stress. The results were somewhat higher in areas such as St Kilda East, Balaclava and South Melbourne, compared to rest of the municipality.

Social housing stock as a proportion of total housing stock has shown a gradual decline over time, from 7.2 per cent in 2014/15 to 6.4 per cent in 2022/23. As at 30 June 2024 there are 4,238 social housing dwellings in the City of Port Phillip.

Several sites in our City have been identified for redevelopment by the State Government, to increase social and public housing. Homes Victoria, which sits within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) delivers the Big Housing Build - Social Housing Growth Fund programs and grows and manages existing social and public housing. The Emerald Hill and Barak Beacon estates in Port Melbourne are currently being redeveloped by Homes Victoria. Additionally, Park Towers, Layfield Court and Inkerman Heights have all been identified by Homes Victoria for redevelopment in the coming years. The people who currently live in these housing estates will have to move out while they are rebuilt, which will put pressure on available social and public housing stock and the ability for DFFH to reduce their current waiting list for social and public housing. Council can advocate to influence the specifics around these redevelopments and also support for tenants during what is potentially a stressful relocation while the build is in progress.

A number of community safety issues have been reported in the City of Port Phillip, particularly in St Kilda high street hotspot areas such as Fitzroy Street and Jackson Street, Woodstock Street and Dianella Lane, and Acland Street. These issues include incidents of crime and some residents reporting that they feel unsafe in their homes and when moving around their neighbourhood in parts of the municipality. Some residents feel no effective action seems to be undertaken by Council, Police, State

Government, and service providers to address rough sleeping, poor mental health, criminal behaviour and offending, and public drug and alcohol use/abuse.

While homelessness does not necessarily result in community safety issues, these and other social issues can become intertwined.

The growth area of Fishermans Bend continues to present opportunity to expand the stock of affordable and community housing. Advocacy and partnerships with State Government and benevolent partners can support us to maximise this opportunity. Forecasted population growth in Port Phillip is expected to have implications for social disadvantage, rough sleeping, and crime.

Services in the City of Port Phillip

The causes of homelessness are numerous and varied, including a critical shortage of affordable housing, family violence, unemployment, mental illness, family breakdown, and drug/alcohol abuse. The community of Port Phillip has access to a range of services and facilities to support their health and wellbeing. Council and community service providers must continually adapt to meet changing and increasing needs as a result of population growth, economic conditions and changing community demographics and expectations.

Community housing agencies operating in Port Phillip include Common Equity Housing Ltd, Community Housing (Vic), Housing Choices Australia, HousingFirst, Launch Housing Limited, South Port Community Housing Group Inc, St Kilda Community Housing and Uniting Housing (Victoria).

Additionally, several services which support those experiencing or at risk of homelessness operate in the City of Port Phillip. These include: Ngwala Willumbong, Launch Housing, Southport Community Legal, Southside Justice, Better Health Network, Sacred Heart Mission, Salvation Army, First Step, Wintringham, Port Phillip Community Group, Alfred Health, and Justice Connect.

Council partners with local organisations and the community through the project Port Phillip Zero. Port Phillip Zero aims to end rough sleeping homelessness in the City of Port Phillip by providing appropriate, secure, affordable long-term housing, and support, to all people who are living without a home. Specifically, the Port Phillip Zero model uses a 'housing first' approach that places people experiencing homelessness directly into permanent and safe housing with 'wrap around' support services to address complex needs such as mental health and alcohol and drug support. The goal of Port Phillip Zero is to achieve Functional Zero homelessness for people sleeping rough in the City of Port

Phillip which will be achieved when the number of people entering and experiencing rough sleeping homelessness within a month is less than the average six-monthly placement rate into long-term housing. The City of Port Phillip coordinates services for these individuals by keeping an up-to-date list of everyone they know to be sleeping rough, in their cars or in abandoned buildings.

City of Port Phillip is considered by some to be a national leader in local government in the provision of social and affordable housing over a nearly 40-year period. Over that time City of Port Phillip pioneered air space development over replacement car parks, established the Port Phillip Housing Trust, and has delivered over 1,190 housing units through initiatives across the municipality.

Our role

Each level of government has a role to play in relation to affordable housing and homelessness.

The housing continuum

The housing continuum outlines different types of housing and the income groups they typically serve.

The housing continuum is not linear; people can and do move backwards and forwards within it and skip multiple parts. Some will never experience either end of the continuum.

Figure 1: The Housing Continuum

Very low income	Low income	Moderate income	High income

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy	Housing Strategy

Figure 2: the housing continuum, showing the types of housing, the income cohorts these housing types target, and the approximate housing types and income cohorts that are addressed by the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy

Affordable housing is defined in the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as 'housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the needs of very-low, low, and moderate-income households. Social housing has a larger public subsidy than other types of affordable housing (e.g. private affordable housing), with rents set at no more than 30 per cent of a household's income.

'Social housing' is comprised of public housing, which is owned and managed by the State housing authority; and community housing, which is owned by the State housing authority and managed by community housing organisations, or owned and managed by community housing organisations. Typically, social housing tenants have higher financial and support needs. 'Private affordable housing' has below market rent, often set as a percentage of market rent, but not as low as social housing, and is targeted at low to moderate-income households, including key workers. It can be provided by benevolent private developers or developers accessing government grant or loan funding. Rents for this type of housing are usually set as a percentage of market rent e.g., 75 per cent of market rent or a percentage of income.

Roles of different levels of government

Most of the housing in Port Phillip is privately-owned properties, which is influenced by various geographic, regulatory, and economic factors. Local government does not control many of the drivers behind the private market. However, Council does play a role in facilitating an efficient housing market.

Local government is the only tier of government that:

- Undertakes a comprehensive review of local housing needs and demand.
- Reviews land capacity and land use trends to ensure the land supply meets the community's needs.
- Provides detailed guidance on how local housing needs and demands should be met regarding housing type, size, amenity, character, and location.

- Leads the implementation of local housing strategies, including changes to local planning policy, zones, and planning controls in the planning scheme to achieve desired housing outcomes.
- Approves the vast majority of planning applications.

Table 1 outlines the responsibilities of different levels of government in improving the supply of affordable housing and in responding to those experiencing homelessness.

Table 1: Government planning responsibilities

	Federal	State	Local
Affordable housing: roles in increasing the stock of affordable housing	Immigration Taxation Grants Social housing investment Major infrastructure funding	Public and community housing Major infrastructure provision Land release Planning policy framework Suite of planning controls Stamp duty and land tax	Local strategic land use and development planning Planning and building approvals Local infrastructure Rates Advocacy to other levels of government
Homelessness response: roles in supporting those experiencing homelessness	Welfare support and rental assistance Funds programs	Social housing allocation and maintenance Funds programs Health system	Referral, support, and direct outreach Service coordination Information provision Funds community providers through grants and service agreements Advocacy to other levels of government

Local government is legislatively responsible for land use planning and developing a health and wellbeing plan. Investment beyond this is typically a discretionary service that individual Councils choose to make to respond to local community need in line with the Local Government Act[1].

[1] Each Council takes an individual approach to their role and contributions toward Social and Affordable Housing. The MAVs *Victorian Local Government Social and Affordable Housing Survey* (2023) reported approximately 90% of the Councils surveyed hold a policy position regarding social and affordable housing (forty-one councils surveyed, 52% of

Roles played by other organisations

Alongside each level of government, the community housing sector is vital to providing affordable housing.

Registered Housing Organisations

Registered Housing Organisations are not-for-profit agencies that build and operate social and affordable housing. They are regulated by the Victorian Housing Registrar and are required to meet legislated performance standards. Funding for Registered Housing Organisations comes from the government, philanthropic donations, and rental income from their tenants. They can also take loans to finance housing. Examples in Port Phillip include HousingFirst, Southport Community Housing and St Kilda Community Housing.

Support Organisations

These are typically not-for-profit organisations that provide support services for people who are homeless or support to obtain and maintain a tenancy. Support can include financial counselling, alcohol and other drug support, mental health services, domestic violence services, or more general health and medical services. Examples in Port Phillip include Ngwala Willumbong, Alfred Health, Launch Housing, Sacred Heart Mission, Salvation Army, and Better Health Network.

all Vic councils). Of these, two thirds (27 Councils) reported involvement in social and affordable housing development outside the Big Housing Build as developers (4), partners (11) or land contributors (12).

Only 7% of Councils surveyed (3 councils) did not have a social and affordable housing policy position and did not intend to develop one in the immediate future. The majority utilise advocacy opportunities through the planning system and / or in support of social housing providers.

Objectives and actions

Objective 1. Strengthen community responses to homelessness - Reduce homelessness in Port Phillip by coordinating, compassionate, place-based responses that support people into safe, stable housing and inclusive community life.

The 'alignment' column in Table 2 shows how these actions align with other Council strategies and plans.

Table 2: Actions to support objective 1:

#	Local coordination & leadership	Alignment
1.1	**Review and improve Council's homelessness service model** so it can better co-ordinate across services to deliver a more integrated, empathetic, and effective assertive outreach response[2].	Community Safety Roundtable
1.2	**Make the Port Phillip Zero partnership stronger** by improving how we manage cases, share and use data, act on improvement opportunities and bring in other services to better respond to complex client needs to achieve pathways out of homelessness for those sleeping rough.	Community Safety Roundtable #17 Think and Act Review Plan for Port Phillip
1.3	**Coordinate housing, health, food, and homelessness support** for those experiencing chronic homelessness and ensure an integrated response in public spaces via the Protocol for Assisting People who are Sleeping Rough[3]	Accessibility Action Plan, Positive Aging Policy and Think and Act Review and Community Safety Roundtable#5[4]
1.4	**Review and implement the Sudden Rooming House Closure Protocol** to ensure a rapid and effective Council response in collaboration with Victorian Government when needed.	Think and Act Review
1.5	**Continue to invest in and publicise the work of the Trauma Aware Port Phillip** group with a view to expanding its reach and impact.	Community Safety Roundtable #29

[2] Establishing a dedicated CoPP internal outreach coordinator to ensure effective and assertive 24/7 outreach and response (CSRT#18).

[3] Partner with community agencies to help prevent homelessness or reduce time spent without a secure home, for older people facing housing stress or loss. (CoPP Positive Ageing Policy)

[4] Work closely with local services to update CoPP's Protocol for Assisting People Sleeping Rough to ensure it reflects a culturally safe, trauma-informed, human rights based non-enforcement approach. This should be developed in tandem with the formal Police/CoPP Protocol referred to above.

1.6	**Maintain and enhance existing partnership protocols** among CoPP, Victoria Police, and key service providers (e.g., Launch, Access Health, Ngwala Willumbong).	Community Safety Roundtable #12

#	Early intervention & prevention	Alignment
1.7	**Identify potential service gaps, review and strengthen funding agreements** with service providers who work with people in Port Phillip who have complex needs and face multiple barriers to securing and maintaining housing[5].	Community Safety Roundtable and Deliberative Engagement Panel Plan for Port Phillip and Community Safety Roundtable #15
1.8	**Provide targeted assistance during emergencies** to address the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness[6].	Climate Emergency Plan, Think and Act review
1.9	**Explore opportunities for programs** which will contribute to reducing community conflict (such as the Peacemaking Programs)[7].	Community Safety Roundtable #31
1.10	**Develop effective communication strategies** to reach vulnerable groups early, ensuring they can access information and services before reaching crisis points.	Think and Act Review
1.11	**Use arts, libraries and events to foster inclusion** and a sense of belonging, as one way to support people from challenges like homelessness, mental health issues and substance use.	Benchmarked strategies

	Advocacy & influence	Alignment
1.12	**Develop a community education and awareness anti-stigma campaign** targeting perceptions of people experiencing mental health, substance	Community Safety Roundtable #28

[5] Renew and clearly define service agreements between CoPP and community service agencies, outlining explicit mandates, outreach obligations, required capacities, and accountability mechanisms (CSRT#16).
Extend and formalise the partnership with Ngwala Willumbong, giving due consideration to the need for increased funding, and capacity building (CSRT#19).
Continue to support and adequately fund service providers demonstrating effectiveness, particularly those working with high-impact cohorts (individuals leaving prison, mental health, or rehabilitation facilities) (CSRT#13).
Ensure adequate provision of supports to assist individuals in maintaining long-term housing placements (CSRT#10).
Increase funding for support services (e.g. drug and alcohol, homelessness, domestic violence) (DEP P1/R1)

[6] Maintain strong partnerships as listed in the strategy (e.g. Launch Housing Services, inner South Community Health Community Connection Program) to enable targeted response during emergencies' (Staying connected, PDF p. 6)

[7] That Council consider introducing a Peacemaking Program similar to that operating in the City of Yarra to reduce community conflict. (CSRT#31)

	abuse, and homelessness issues, aiming to reduce fear, encourage understanding, and ultimately enhance community safety perceptions.	Benchmarked strategies
1.13	**Support an annual Homeless Memorial** and Homeless Prevention Week initiative	Think and Act Review
1.14	**Audit existing drop-in and support services within CoPP** to identify service gaps and opportunities for advocacy, co-location or integration ("wraparound support").	Community Safety Roundtable #23
1.15	**Advocate for better coordination between homelessness and justice systems** including early intervention/prevention for people leaving institutions	Benchmarked strategies
1.16	**Advocate for better integration between homelessness, housing, and health** systems including retention and expansion of local services	Benchmarked strategies
1.17	**Advocate to the Victorian Government and Homes Victoria** for interim housing solutions and for properly resourced and effective programs to support people experiencing homelessness to find and keep housing	Benchmarked strategies

Objective 2 – Enable access to social housing - Support the sustainability of social housing in Port Phillip, so that those with the greatest need have access to safe, secure, and supported homes.

The 'alignment' column in Table 3 shows how these actions align with other Council strategies and plans.

Table 3: Actions to support objective 2:

#	Protecting existing stock	Alignment
2.1	**Support the retention of and delivery** of new social and affordable housing on public land, including through the redevelopment of public housing sites, where there is a level of community support.	Housing Strategy
2.2	**Advocate to the Victorian Government** to support the redevelopment of ageing public housing stock and process for supporting tenants.	Community Engagement
2.3	**Advocate to support renewal of social housing assets** owned by community housing, not-for-profit organisations, or ethical investors, where this will realise an increase in supply and/or diversity and there is a level of community support.	In Our Backyard
2.4	**Explore options such as rates exemptions or reduction and concessions** for planning fees for social housing projects which house those connected to Port Phillip.	Benchmarked Strategies

#	Safe and Supportive Environments	Alignment

2.5	**Ensure housing and infrastructure plans respond** to the challenges faced by intersectional groups by including the voices of people with lived experience from the early design phase to completion.	Strategy GIA
2.6	**Partner, and deliver prevention, support, and housing for older people** through the Sponsorship Housing List	Positive Ageing Policy, Think and Act Review
2.7	**Investigate available housing and emergency accommodation** and consider options for improving or increasing, relative to Council's role[8].	Community Safety Roundtable
2.8	**Identify and advocate for new emergency and short-term accommodation options**, with culturally appropriate spaces specifically for First Nations community (CSRT#9).	Community Safety Roundtable #9

#	Partnerships for impact	Alignment
2.9	**Advocate and where appropriate support innovative housing models tailored to local needs**, such as integrated older persons housing, Common Ground for singles experiencing homelessness, Foyers for young people, Community Land Trusts and other emerging models	In Our Backyard
2.10	**Facilitate and broker new projects with benevolent private developers** who are willing to develop projects that include social housing, or Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA), prioritising housing for people with connection to Port Phillip.	In Our Backyard
2.11	**Facilitate partnerships between businesses, developers, community housing organisations,** and different levels of government to identify and explore opportunities for social housing.	Positive Ageing Policy
2.12	**Provide cash contributions and other assistance** to support local community housing organisations leverage State or Commonwealth funding to develop social housing on Council land and/or air space where there is a level of community support.	In Our Backyard

[8] Provide more accommodation for rough sleepers (for example, new investment and using empty Council buildings) (DEP P1/R2)
Identify and advocate for new emergency and short-term accommodation options, with culturally appropriate spaces specifically for First Nations community (CSRT#9).
Conduct an immediate audit of available housing and emergency accommodation along with options for transfer/use/repurposing of Council owned land for affordable housing development (CSRT#8)

Objective 3. Improve access to Affordable and Key Worker Housing - Ensure that people who contribute to the vibrancy and functioning of our city—such as teachers, nurses, artists, and hospitality workers—can afford to live locally.

The 'alignment' column in Table 4 shows how these actions align with other Council strategies and plans.

Table 4: Actions to support objective 3:

#	Facilitating New Supply	Alignment
3.1	**Identify opportunities for affordable housing on Council land or strategic sites** in or near activity centres and undertake review of planning controls to facilitate appropriate affordable housing development where there is a level of community support.	Housing Strategy
3.2	**Identify suitable Council-owned land and/or air space for community housing projects** prioritising individuals with specific needs and/or connection to Port Phillip[9] where there is a level of community support.	In Our Backyard
3.3	**Explore targeted incentives** to support affordable housing, including fast-tracking planning permits.	Housing Strategy
3.4	**Work with other local Councils through the Municipal Association Victoria** (MAV) to advocate for increased affordable housing in City of Port Phillip.	Benchmarked Strategies

#	Innovative Delivery Models	Alignment
3.5	**Support emerging affordable housing models**, including affordable Build to Rent, Rent to Buy, shared equity housing, and Community Land Trusts.	Housing Strategy
3.6	**Encourage the private sector** and other organisations to pilot new models to provide affordable housing.	Benchmarked strategies
3.7	**Investigate and if feasible establish a vehicle (e.g. Trust or agency) to administer affordable housing** development contributions from developers and landowners.	Housing Strategy

#	Address Market Pressures	Alignment
3.8	**Support the development of a state-wide affordable housing register** to record voluntary agreements with the private sector.	Housing Strategy
3.9	**Investigate the impact of short stay rental accommodation** on rental affordability and explore options for mitigating.	Community engagement

[9] Priority cohorts identified through the GIA include single people, older people, people experiencing homelessness including LGBTIQA+ persons at risk of homelessness and First Nations people

Objective 4. Support Stability in the Private Rental Market - Promote stability, equity, and wellbeing for renters by supporting initiatives that strengthen rights and access within the private rental market.

The 'alignment' column in Table 4 shows how these actions align with other Council strategies and plans.

Table 5: Actions to support objective 4:

#	Advocacy for reform	Alignment
4.1	**Continue to advocate for planning reforms** to introduce a mandatory requirement for affordable housing.	Housing Strategy
4.2	**Develop Council's Advocacy position to better support renters** across issues of lease lengths, commonwealth funding support, short stay accommodation and dispute resolution	Community engagement

#	Information and Support	Alignment
4.3	**Provide renters with access to information, advice, and local support services** to help navigate the rental system.	Community engagement

#	Quliaty Standards	Alignment
4.4	**Encourage and support compliance with minimum rental standards**, through information and resources to renters and landlords, to ensure safe and healthy living conditions .	Community engagement

Objective 5. Strengthening Places that Support Housing Stability and Homelessness Solutions - Shape inclusive neighbourhoods and public spaces that foster housing stability, resilience, and pathways out of homelessness through thoughtful design, collaboration, and planning—ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home in Port Phillip.

The 'alignment' column in Table 45 shows how these actions align with other Council strategies and plans.

Table xx: Actions to support objective 5:

#	Design for Inclusion	Alignment
	Partner and deliver thoughtfully designed safe, accessible, and welcoming services and public spaces.	Benchmarked Strategies
	Activate public spaces beyond 9 to 5; and ensure well-lit areas for safety/security.	Benchmarked Strategies

	Partner and deliver access to support through response to enquiries, education and information for business/residents for a safe/welcoming public realm.	Benchmarked Strategies
	Identify, develop, and sustain accessible, safe daytime social spaces ("hubs") with appropriate and relevant facilities for rough sleepers and vulnerable community members.	Community Safety Roundtable
	Support the establishment of a Community Gathering Place that respects gathering as a cultural norm and practice for Aboriginal people.	Reconciliation Action Plan

#	Place based responses	Alignment
	Deliver training to support, train, and equip relevant staff to contribute to ending homelessness.	Think and Act Review
	Provide relevant staff training on the trauma of rough sleeping, response and referrals.	Think and Act Review

#	Integrated Planning	Alignment
	Advocate to relevant agencies and governments to ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to support the growth of housing.	Benchmarked Strategies
	Explore colocation of Council services or facilities with new social, affordable and community housing development where this could improve outcomes and amenity for the community.	Benchmarked Strategies

Implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Reporting

The City of Port Phillip's Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy guides the ways Council will support people experiencing housing stress and homelessness over the next 10 years. The strategy will be reviewed at year 5 to ensure alignment with current Council priorities and budget priorities and commitments.

The strategies achievements will be tracked through the organisation's quarterly "CEO Reports" reporting mechanisms. Each year of the strategy will have an annual overview in Council's annual report.

These reporting mechanisms ensure that targets are met, and milestones and achievements are being tracked consistently. This allows necessary adjustments to be made as needed if unexpected delays occur.

Implementation and monitoring

This Strategy will be delivered under Council's *homelessness and affordable housing* service, which is made up of the following sub-services:

- Homelessness support
- Affordable housing support

Each year, this service area will develop an annual service plan, which will include specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound actions against each of the activity areas identified in this Strategy.

At the end of each year, the service will review the implementation of the previous years' Service Plan, including identifying:

- which actions were successfully completed
- which actions were not successfully completed, and why
- which actions should be extended into the following years' service plan, and which should be discontinued.

This review will inform the development of the next annual Service Plan.

The following tables outline the outcome indicators and performance measures which will measure systemic changes:

- Functional Zero; Working towards functional Zero via the Port Phillip Zero Initiative with 3 people or less sleeping rough at any one time.

This will be achieved through direct support and service coordination in addition to:

  - Planning levers: where eligible developments successfully deliver affordable housing units.
  - Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for affordable housing, social housing and homelessness are utilised to the fullest extent possible.
  - Improved perceptions of safety and pride in neighbourhoods: achieving scores of >7.6 in community satisfaction across measures relating to safety, pride connection and enjoyment of neighbourhoods and agreement that CoPP is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

Measures relating to each objective are as follows:

Table x: Overall Outcome Indicators for the four overarching objectives

Outcome measures	**Target**
	2025-2035
Objective 1: Strengthen community responses to homelessness	
Work towards functional Zero via Port Phillip Zero initiative	Average capacity of housing system > existing need (proven by data)
By Name List (BNL)	Individuals on the list = 3 or less
Objective 2: Enable access to social housing	
Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for social housing and homelessness are utilised to the fullest extent possible.	Opportunities utilised
Objective 3: Improve access to affordable and key worker housing	
Planning levers: where eligible developments successfully deliver affordable housing units to the fullest extent possible.	Opportunities utilised
Objective 4: Support stability in the private rental market	

Advocacy success: where advocacy opportunities for improving outcomes for affordable housing and homelessness are utilised to the fullest extent possible.	Opportunities utilised
Objective 5: Strengthen places that support housing stability and homelessness solutions	
Uplift in Community Satisfaction Survey • I have a sense of safety and security in Port Phillip • I have a sense of safety and security in Port Phillip • I feel proud of, connected, and enjoy living in my neighbourhood The City of Port Phillip is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone including people from varied cultural and religious backgrounds, abilities, ages, genders, and sexual orientation	>7.6

Table x: Outcome indicators for a Healthy and Connected Community. Targets for the short, medium, and long term may be decreased, maintain, increase.

Outcome indicators	Past Results			Target	Forecast		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Health and wellbeing index score (new)	NA	NA	NA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Number of people experiencing homelessness on the Port Phillip By-Name List	94	53	60	<50	<30	<30	<30
Number of people actively sleeping rough	24	no data	15	<15	<15	<15	<15
Proportion of residents who agree Port Phillip is a welcoming and supportive community for everyone	77%	74%	84%	8.1	TBD	TBD	TBD
Community satisfaction with services to people experiencing disadvantage	no data	no data	no data	6.6	TBD	TBD	TBD
% of new rentals in the year that were suitable for affordable to low-income households	NA	NA	0.60%	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%

Table x: Service performance measures - affordable housing and homelessness

Performance measures	Past Results			Target			
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Number of older persons housed	NA	NA	50	>50	>50	>50	>50

Table x: Service statistics - affordable housing and homelessness. Expected trend: + increase; o no change; - decrease

Performance measures	Past Results			Target			
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Customer housing and homelessness enquiries	NA	NA	344	455	TBD	TBD	TBD

Funding approach

Council has committed budget for the next four years to support the provision of resources through staffing, service agreements with local community providers and cash contributions to support community housing providers including:

- $600k per annum for capital contributions for four years
- $500k for the further six years funded through delayed repayment of internal borrowings and reduced contributions to the municipal growth reserve

Additionally, several of the actions outlined in the strategy will explore options for air-rights/land contributions which could support community housing providers to leverage additional funding from state government for the build of new premises.

The following table outlines the funding allocations to deliver the two sub-services. Note the table outlines the current commitment to service agreements and that a review of service agreements is currently underway and will recommend how community providers are supported in Council's homelessness response in the out years.

Table x: Costs and funding

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Projection	2027/28 Projection	2028/29 Projection
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Employee Costs (2.8 FTE)[10]	560	591	621	638	663	684
Contracts, materials, and other expenses						
Service agreements with community providers **(total)**	**1048**	**1083**	**1242**	**1266**	**1292**	**1318**
Ngwala Willumbong (annual)	16	17	77	-	-	-
Launch Housing Rough Sleeper Initiative (annual)	128	132	160	-	-	-
Sacred Heart Mission volunteerism support (annual)	36	38	39	-	-	-
Port Phillip Community Group provision of support (to 26/27)	388	400	412	424	-	-
Port Phillip Community Group Share the Food (to 26/27)	81	84	87	89	-	-
Southport Community Legal (annual)	75	77	79	-	-	-
Ecocentre community gardening (28/29)	22	23	24	24	25	26
Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre (annual)	30	31	32	-	-	-
South Port Community Centre (to 26/27)	138	143	147	151	-	-
South Port Day Links (annual)	59	61	100	-	-	-
St Kilda Community Housing	-	-	150	-	-	-
Contracts and subscriptions	75	77	79	83	-	-
Cash contributions to capital	500	500	450	600	600	500
Rental subsidies (Housing Commission Victoria)	376	388	400	412	424	436
Total operating expenses	2484	2562	2713	2916	2979	2938

*Numbers are approximate based on 3% CPI

[10] This includes staffing in the affordable housing and homelessness team (excludes complimentary staff in local laws, libraries and FYC as well as leadership).

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Engaging on the new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy

Engagement Summary Report – Stage 1 Engagement

June 2025

City of Port Phillip | **Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy**

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.

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Introduction

Project background

We are developing a new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy for our City.

This strategy will set out Council's role in supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find pathways to secure housing, and in accessing affordable or social (public and community) housing.

The new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy will combine and replace two former strategies:

- Think & Act - Homelessness Action Strategy 2015 - 2020
- In Our Backyard - Growing Affordable Housing in Port Phillip 2015 - 2025.

It will also build on the findings of the review of Think & Act, called Homelessness in Port Phillip (KatLinx Consulting, Aug 2024), which identified an improved way to structure the homelessness section of a new strategy.

What we set out to achieve

During this engagement, we sought to gain an understanding of our community's priorities around the nature of Council's role in homelessness and affordable housing over the next ten-year period, to help to inform the development of the new Strategy.

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 during Stage 1 of engagement. A final report will be produced which will incorporate the findings of Stage 2 of engagement after this is undertaken later in 2025.

While this report is specific to the engagement activities undertaken for the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy, it also considers and aligns the findings to other engagement activities including the deliberative panel undertaken to inform the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-30 and the Community Safety Plan and Roundtable (Appendix 4).

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 so far.

In particular, we would like to thank those community members with lived experience of homelessness, accessing social (public and community) or affordable housing, housing or rental stress, or living on a very low or low income, who have generously shared their experiences to better inform this project.

Figure 1 A community member provides project feedback to a Council Officer, O'Donnell Gardens, Acland Street, St Kilda

What we did

Between 22 April – 19 May 2025, a range of communications and engagement activities were carried out to inform the community about this project and to seek their feedback, during Stage 1 engagement.

Communications and engagement activities

***Have Your Say* website and survey**	A project page on Council's *Have Your Say* engagement website provided information on the process, a timeline, contact details, and a survey.
Posters and paper-based surveys	Flyers notifying the community about the project and paper-based surveys were made available at ASSIST and library counters.

	Emails x 19	Emails were sent to 16 partner organisations through the Port Phillip Zero Network, as well as 3 funded organisations that Council has a service agreement with, including posters and surveys to print, notifying them about the opportunity for their clients and service users to participate in the project.
	Newsletter x 3	Information about the project and the opportunity to engage was included in the *Have Your Say* May 2025 newsletter, delivered to 3,829 subscribers, DiverCity May newsletter, delivered to 14,504 subscribers, and Community Sector News newsletter May edition, delivered to 1,270 subscribers.
	Social media posts x 4	Social media posts were used to promote the engagement, via City of Port Phillip's social media accounts: • Instagram post (28 April) reach 1,079; 9 likes, 2 comments, 2 saves, 2 shares. • Facebook post (28 April) reach 3,333; 8 reactions, 14 comments, 5 shares, 79 clicks. • Instagram post (14 May) reach 791; 5 likes, 2 saves, 5 shares. • Facebook post (14 May) reach 2,457; 6 reactions, 12 comments, 14 clicks.
	Workshop x 1	A workshop was held with local community housing organisations and homelessness and housing support agencies, on 29 April, 2025.
	Face-to-face community pop-ups x 4	Four 2hr face-to-face community pop-ups were held at: • Dundas Place Reserve, Albert Park, 10 May, 10am – 12pm (13 participants) • O'Donnell Gardens, Acland Street, St Kilda, 14 May, 3pm – 5pm (8 participants) • Carlisle Street, Balaclava (outside St Kilda Library), 15 May, 12pm - 2pm (8 participants) • Bay Street, Port Melbourne (outside Port Melbourne Library), 17 May, 2pm - 4pm (5 participants)

	Phone interviews x 6	Six phone interviews were carried out, with: • One person with lived experience to inform our understanding of homelessness and housing. • Three CEOs of community organisations to clarify view on the nature of Council contributions. • Two benevolent private developers interested in, proposing or providing affordable and social housing.

Table 1 Communications and engagement activities carried out across the project

Project reach and participation

At least 3,829 people have heard about this project to date, via the Have Your Say newsletter and Council's social media. Figure 2 showing an overview of interactions with the *Have Your Say* project page to 19 May 2025, where 452 unique visitors visited the project page. We heard from 151 participants throughout this engagement process, with 73 participants completing the online survey, 22 participants completing hard-copy paper-based surveys, 34 participants at community pop-ups, one targeted interview with a community member with lived experience, five submissions received from partner organisations and housing providers, and a further 16 emails received from community members.

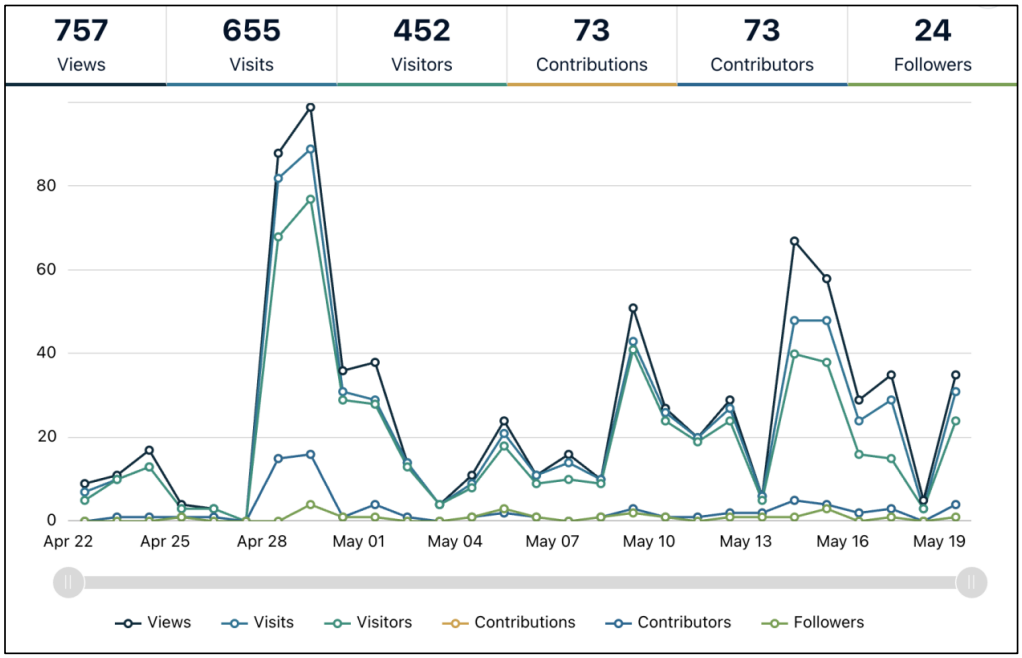


Figure 2 Project page overview, "Engaging on the new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy", Have Your Say, 19 May 2025

Who we heard from

Demographics

Gender

Participants were asked to provide some demographic information when filling out the survey, and this information was also gathered at community pop-ups, with 143 responses. As shown in Figure 3, 89 participants (62%) identified as female (woman or girl) 43 participants (30%) identified as male (man or boy), 5 participants (4%) identified as non-binary, and one participant (1%) used a different term.

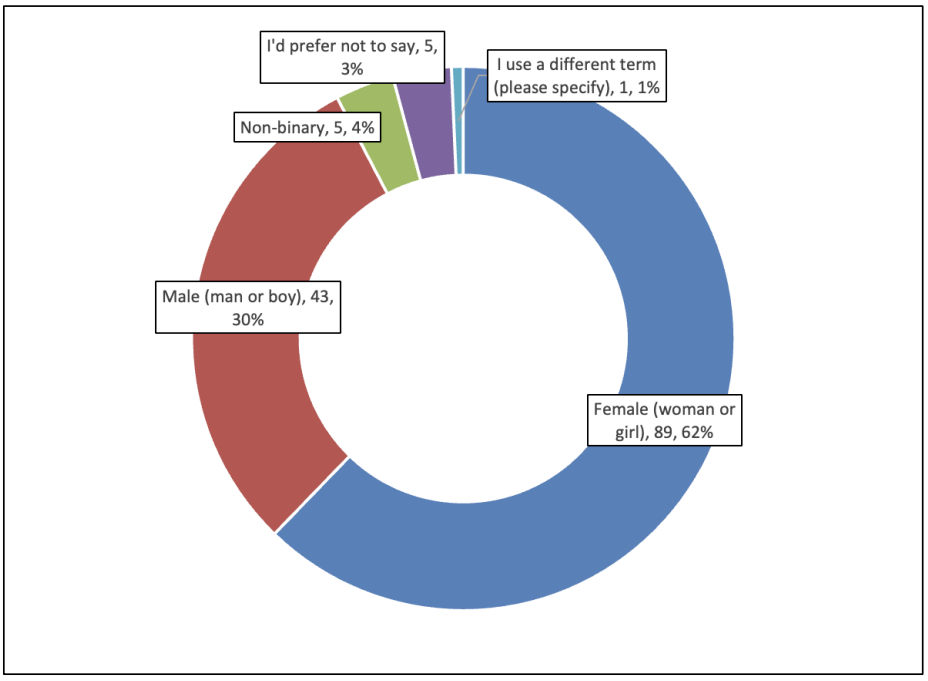


Figure 3 Participation by gender – survey and community pop-up participants

Age

Participants were asked to provide their age, with 125 responses. The age bracket that participants were most likely to select being 35– 49 years old, with 33 responses (26% of participants). The second most likely age bracket for participants to select was 25 – 34 years (30 responses, 24% of participants) 2 participants (less than 2%) were aged under 18.

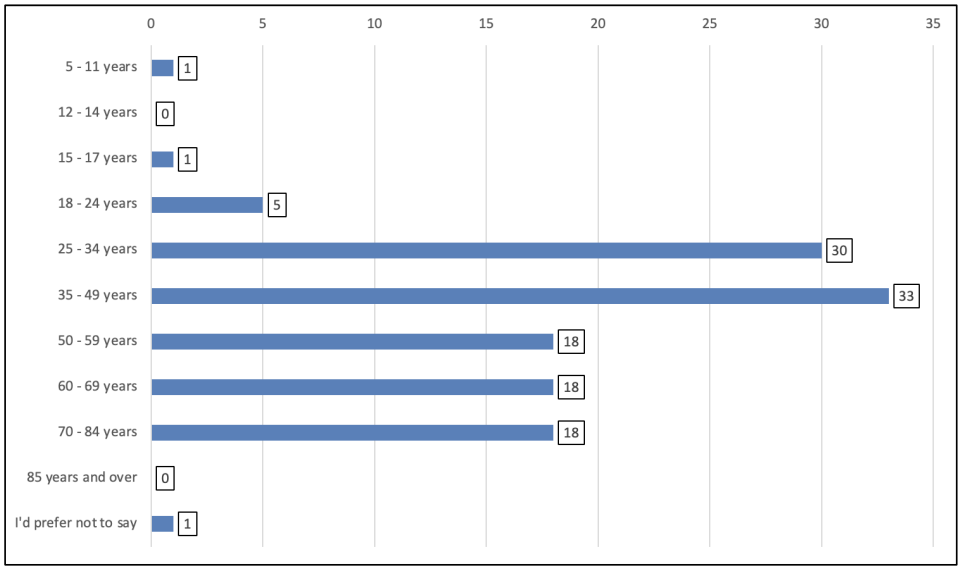


Figure 4 Participation by age - survey and community pop-up participants

Diversity statements

Participants 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. 102 responses were received. From most to least common, these were:

- "None of these apply to me" (66 responses, 65%)
- "I identify as LGBTIQA+" (25 responses, 25%)
- "I am a person with disability" (14 responses, 14%)
- "I'd prefer not to say" (12 responses, 12%)
- "I speak a language other than English at home" (8 responses, 8%)
- No participant responses selected the statement "I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background".

Suburb of residence

Participants were asked to provide their suburb of residence, with 118 responses. 25 participants (21%) said they live in St Kilda, followed by Albert Park (16 participants, 14%) and St Kilda East (12 participants, 10%). Participation by suburb can be seen in Figure 5. Other places outside the City of Port Phillip that participants identified were Beaumaris, Brunswick (2 participants), Brunswick West, Caulfield North, Chadstone, Malvern, McKinnon, Northcote, North Fitzroy, Preston, Richmond, Sydney and Thornbury.

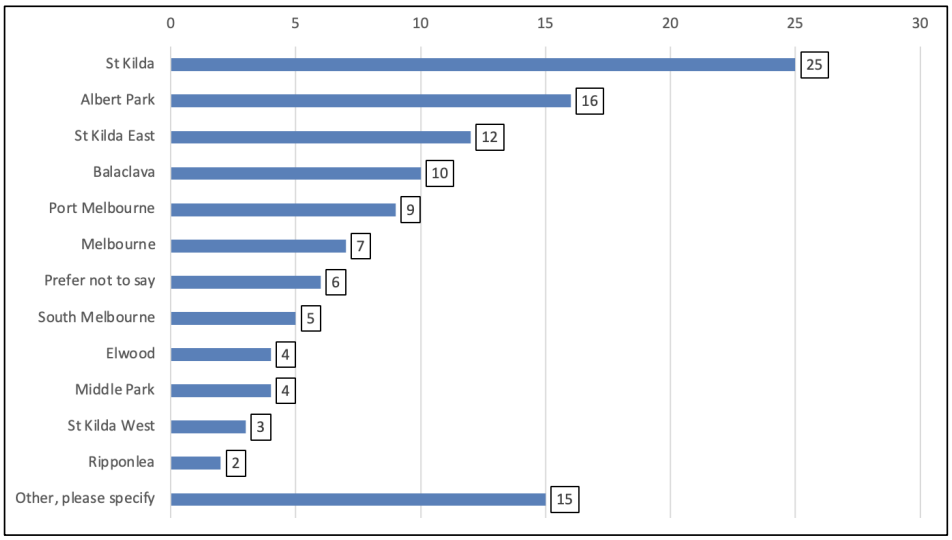


Figure 5 Participation by place of residence - survey and community pop-up participants

Prior feedback on Council projects

Participants were also asked whether they had provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months, with 118 responses. 64 participants (54%) said 'no', 30 (26%) said 'yes', and 24 (20%) were unsure, as shown in Figure 6.

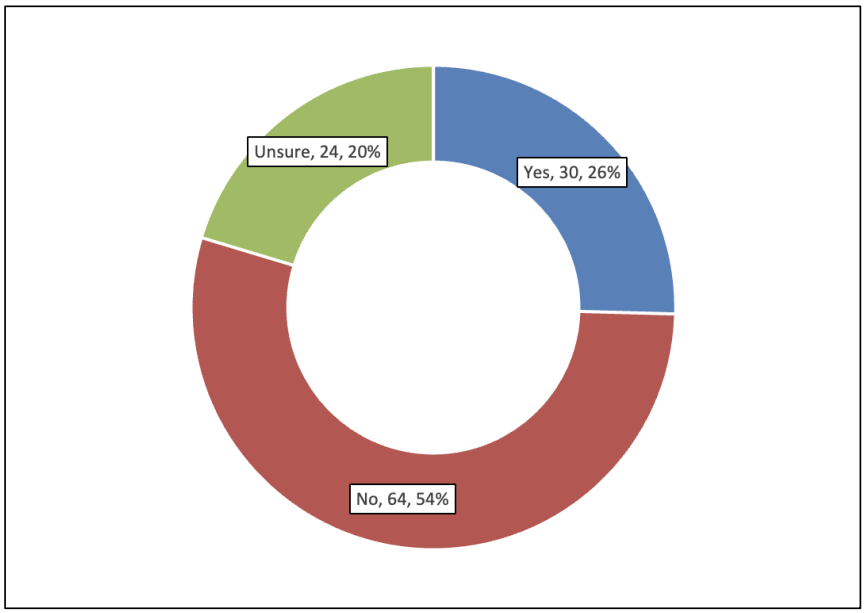


Figure 6 Participant prior feedback on other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months - survey and community pop-up participants

Connection to the City of Port Phillip

Survey and pop-up participants were asked to identify their connection to the City of Port Phillip. 115 responses have been recorded, which includes connections provided by those community members who emailed, where they have identified it. Participants were able to select as many statements as applied to them. 97 participants (84%) said they live in the City of Port Phillip at a

fixed address, and 8 participants (7%) said they live in the City of Port Phillip but don't currently have a fixed address. All responses can be seen in Table 2.

Statement	Number of responses	% of participants
I live in the City of Port Phillip at a fixed address	97	84%
I pay rates in the City of Port Phillip	33	29%
I work in the City of Port Phillip	29	25%
I access services in the City of Port Phillip	27	23%
I visit the City of Port Phillip	16	14%
I work for a homelessness service or community housing organisation which is based in/active in the City of Port Phillip	11	10%
I travel through the City of Port Phillip	10	9%
I live in the City of Port Phillip but don't currently have a fixed address	8	7%
I used to live, work, visit or travel through the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	8	7%
I own a business in the City of Port Phillip	7	6%
I am a private developer interested in/currently providing private affordable housing or social (community) housing in the City of Port Phillip	1	1%
Other	7	6%

Table 2 Participant responses - What is your connection to the City of Port Phillip? – survey and pop-up participants

Participants with lived experience

Survey participants were asked whether they had lived experience of homelessness, accessing social (public and community) or affordable housing, housing or rental stress, or living on a very low or low income, who have

generously shared their experiences to better inform this project. 86 survey participants shared that they had lived experience, with a breakdown of these responses found below in Table 3.

Lived experience	Number of responses	% of survey participants
Personal experience of living with homelessness	47	49%
Yes – I am currently homeless	7	7%
Yes – I have been homeless in the past	19	20%
Yes – someone I know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past	26	27%
Other	7	7%
Personal experience of social (public and community) housing	53	56%
Yes – I have applied for social (public or community) housing in the past	9	9%
Yes – I have lived in social (public or community) housing in the past	7	7%
Yes – I currently live in social (public or community) housing	12	13%
Yes - someone I know (family member or friend) is currently living in social (public or community) housing or has applied for or lived in social (public or community) housing in the past	36	38%
Other	5	5%
Personal experience of affordable housing	40	42%
Yes – I have applied for affordable housing in the past	8	8%
Yes – I have lived in affordable housing in the past	9	9%
Yes – I currently live in affordable housing	11	12%
Yes - someone I know (family member or friend) is currently living in affordable housing or has applied for or lived in affordable housing in the past	26	27%
Other	3	3%

18

Personal experience of housing or rental stress	59	62%
Yes – I am currently living with housing or rental stress	23	24%
Yes – I have lived with housing or rental stress in the past	41	43%
Personal experience of living on a very low or low income	76	80%
Yes – I am currently living on a very low income	21	22%
Yes – I am currently living on a low income	17	18%
Yes – I have lived on a very low income in the past	34	36%
Yes – I have lived on a low income in the past	27	28%

Table 3 Participant responses - Lived experience – survey participants

Survey participants who shared that they had lived experience of homelessness, accessing social (public and community) or affordable housing, housing or rental stress, or living on a very low or low income had key perspectives to offer into our understanding of this topic. Perspectives and priorities from these participants will be highlighted through the following sections of the report in recognition of their experience and knowledge.

Survey participants who shared that they had lived experience were asked if they were happy to be contacted by the project team about their survey responses, with 34 participants agreeing. We thank these participants, and the project team will be reaching out to these participants during Stage 2

engagement to help further inform our understanding of the issues in the development of the Strategy.

What we heard

Prioritising Council's roles in homelessness and affordable housing

Council can play a role in homelessness and affordable housing in a number of ways. Participants were presented with the following roles and were asked to select the three which they felt were most important for Council to prioritise:

- Offering cash and land contributions to community housing providers to support them increasing the stock of affordable housing
- Offer people experiencing or at risk of homelessness information on local homelessness services

- Advocating to the State Government for powers to establish an affordable and social housing planning mechanism to require developers to contribute to the provision of social housing
- Supporting the redevelopment of ageing public housing properties by Homes Victoria
- Working with and assisting benevolent private developers to deliver affordable rental and community housing
- Advocating to the Commonwealth and State Government to strengthen rights and supports for renters
- Other (please say what).

Responses can be seen in Figure 7, with the most frequently selected role being "Advocating to the State Government".

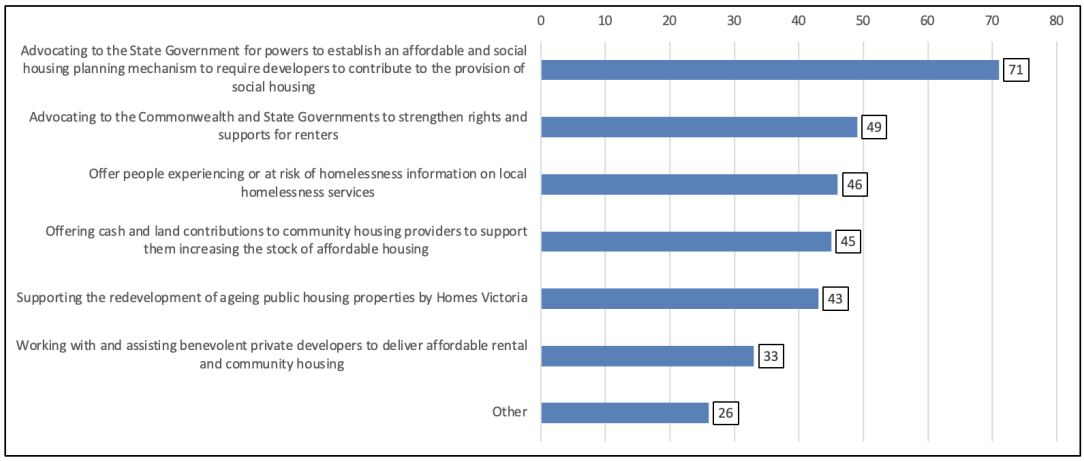


Figure 7 Council can play a role in affordable housing and homelessness in a number of ways. Select the three which you feel are most important for Council to prioritise – survey and community pop-up participants

A sample of 'Other' responses included introducing stronger financial disincentives such as vacant property tax for property owners whose property remains vacant for more than 12 months, not creating further barriers and burdens to homeless people such as fines or local law move-on orders, supporting zoning adjustments such as state government activity centre propositions to unlock land for denser development automatically, changing heritage and planning policy to create more medium density affordable housing, and increasing support and aid in obtaining housing.

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past, the most frequently selected role was the same, however 'Offering cash and land contributions to community housing providers to support them increasing the stock of affordable housing' and "Working with and assisting benevolent private developers to deliver affordable rental and community housing' were prioritised slightly higher as compared to the total participant responses, as seen in Figure 8 below.

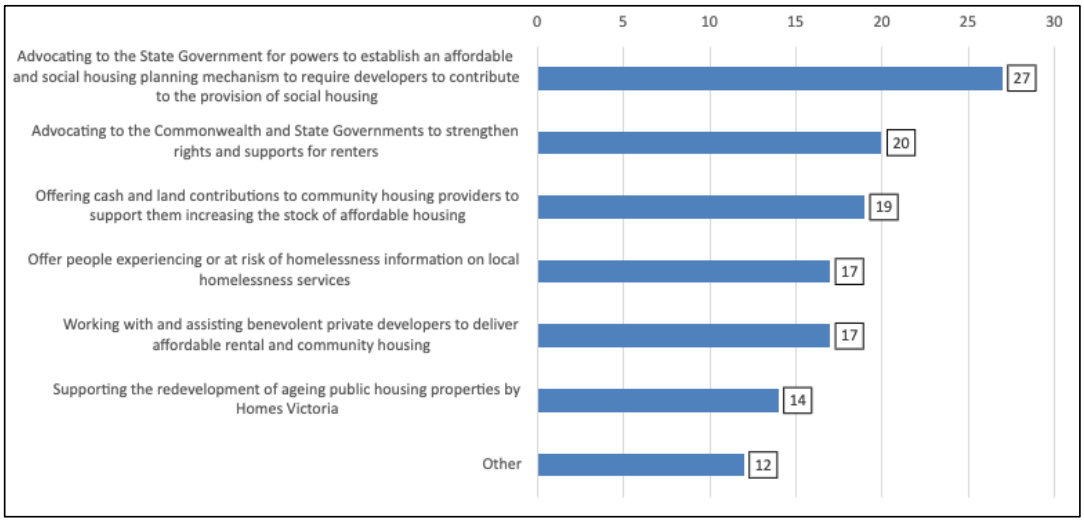


Figure 8 Council can play a role in affordable housing and homelessness in a number of ways. Select the three which you feel are most important for Council to prioritise – survey participants with lived experience of homelessness

Level of support for actions Council is currently taking

Survey participants were shown six actions that Council is currently taking, and were asked for each, 'Do you support Council continuing this approach?', with available responses ranging from 'Strongly support' to 'Strongly oppose'.

Action 1

"Council currently provides cash and land contributions for:

- *A project developing supported social housing for people who are experiencing homelessness (including rough sleeping).*

- *Community housing projects addressing affordable housing needs for other priority needs groups."*

As seen below in Figure 9, 79% of survey participants supported Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 1 (53% Strongly support, 26% Support).

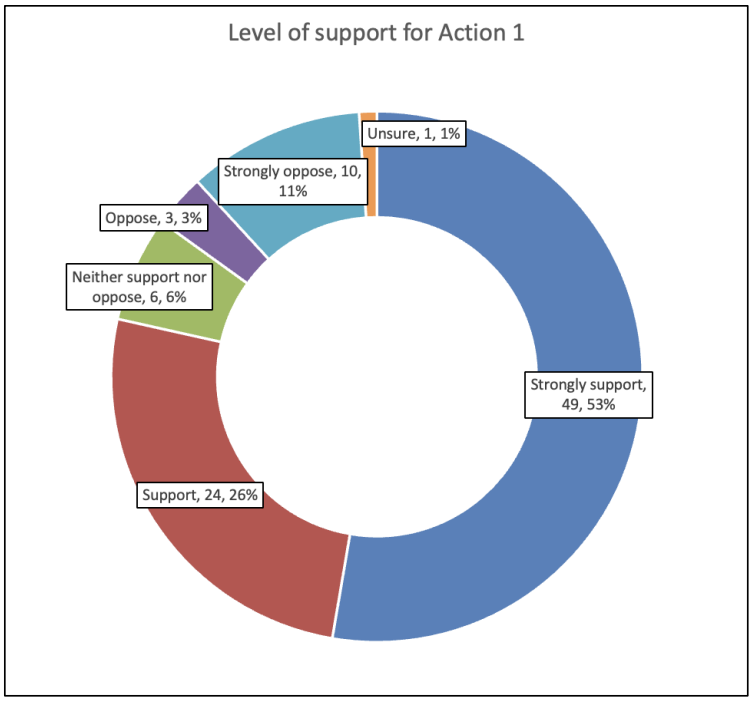


Figure 9 Do you support Council continuing this approach? - Level of support for Action 1 – survey participants

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past, the level of support for Council continuing the approach outlined in

Action 1 was similar - 77% - however, the percentage of responses of Strongly support was higher, at 62%.

When asked if there was anything further they would like to share about their response, or any different opportunities they would like to tell us about, 41 responses were received.

A sample of the responses received included a desire for a clear plan for housing estate sites to be returned as 100% genuine public housing, citing no need for sites such as Barak Beacon estate to be demolished, for Council to detail how cash contributions are used to make sure they aren't swallowed up in administrative costs, a desire for women seeking safety from domestic violence to be a prioritised group for housing support, a desire for a one-stop shop phone number if residents are concerned about the safety of a person experiencing homelessness, and a need to ensure that support goes beyond a roof as the entire community is impacted by situating people with high needs within a neighbourhood.

Action 2

"Another way Council currently supports people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find pathways to secure housing is by providing two Council staff to:

- *Coordinate local service delivery with health and homelessness services to*

support and find housing for people experiencing homelessness via the Port Phillip Zero program.

- *Nominate older persons, with at least three years residency or prior residency, to be nominated for housing in five public housing estates."*

As seen below in Figure 10, 83% of survey participants supported Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 2 (43% Strongly support, 40% Support).

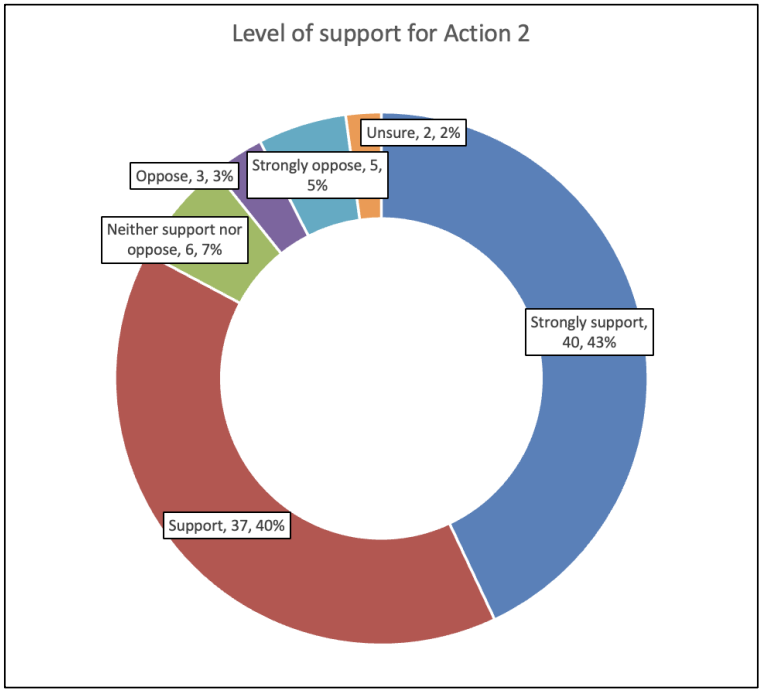


Figure 10 Do you support Council continuing this approach? - Level of support for Action 2 – survey participants

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past, the level of support for Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 1 was similar - 82% - however, the percentage of responses of Strongly support was lower, at 36%.

When asked if there was anything further they would like to share about their response, or any different opportunities they would like to tell us about, 22 responses were received.

A sample of the responses received included support for a holistic, compassionate approach that looks after the health and wellbeing of our homeless population and vulnerable older residents, making our community stronger as a whole, a perceived need for more than two Council staff, and supply of social workers and community workers to support the existing resources, a need to prioritise safety, dignity, and community wellbeing in housing, in particular women's safety, a feeling of reluctance for Council to be funding housing, and recognition that housing is a human right, not a privilege and that many long-term homeless residents have significant connections over decades to the area.

Action 3

"Council currently plays a role in supporting renters in the City of Port Phillip by advocating to the Commonwealth and State Governments to strengthen the rights and supports for renters."

As seen below in Figure 11, 85% of survey participants supported Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 3 (58% Strongly support, 27% Support). This action received the highest level of support of all six actions.

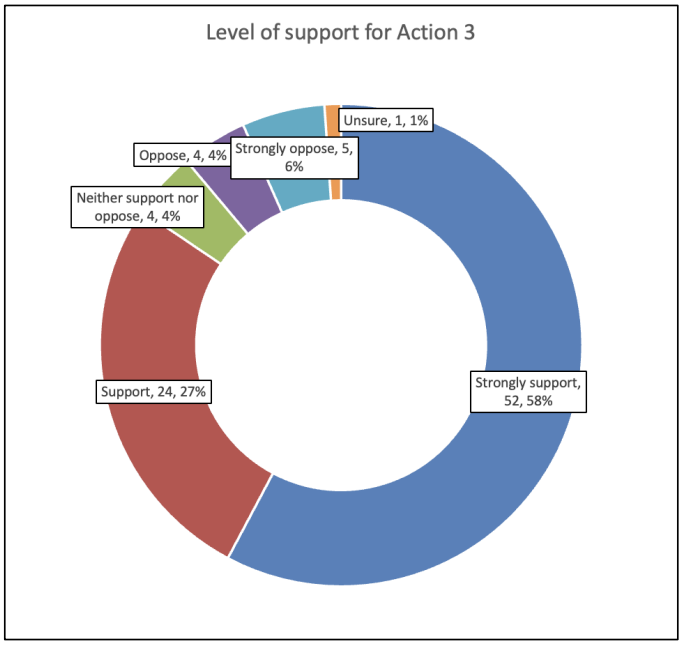


Figure 11 Do you support Council continuing this approach? - Level of support for Action 3 – survey participants

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in

the past, the level of support for Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 1 was the same - 85% - however, the percentage of responses of Strongly support was higher, at 62%.

When asked if there was anything further they would like to share about their response, or any different opportunities they would like to tell us about, 24 responses were received.

A sample of the responses received included support for measures to address rental availability such as rent caps, rent freezes, taxing empty properties and enforcing additional council fees on empty properties, support for Council continuing its advocacy on behalf of renters, the pressures of land tax increases on landlords, and clamping down on landlords who neglect the upkeep of their properties.

Action 4

"Council is currently advocating to the State Government for powers to establish an affordable and social housing planning mechanism which would encourage the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments."

As seen below in Figure 12, 78% of survey participants supported Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 4 (50% Strongly support, 28% Support).

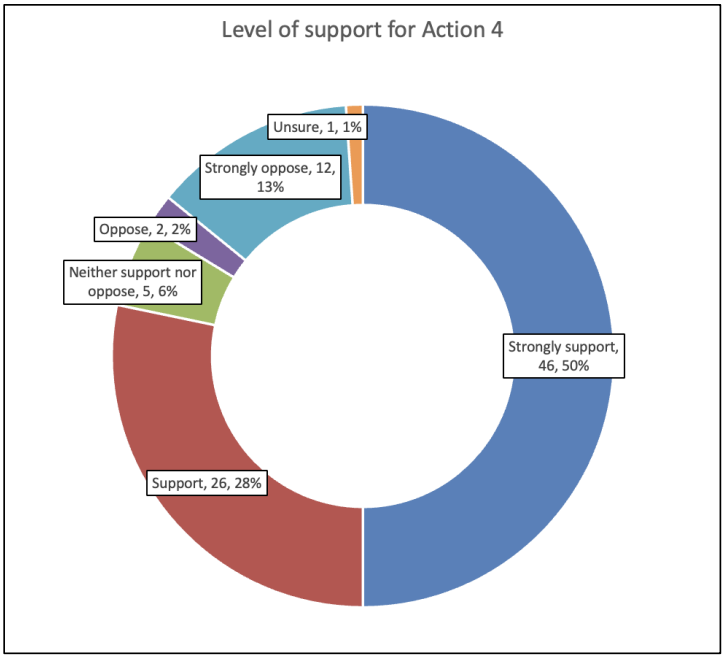


Figure 12 Do you support Council continuing this approach? - Level of support for Action 4 – survey participants

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past, the level of support for Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 1 was higher - 85% - and the percentage of responses of Strongly support was higher, at 56%.

When asked if there was anything further they would like to share about their response, or any different opportunities they would like to tell us about, 28 responses were received.

A sample of the responses received included support for public housing for those with no income, rather than social or community housing, concern that housing priced at 10 per cent below market rent is still not affordable to the community, support for inclusion of affordable and social housing to be mandated rather than just encouraged, support for Council land that is currently used for social housing to remain 100% social housing, and support for changes to laws around heritage to encourage more medium density development.

Action 5

"Council currently supports the redevelopment of ageing public housing properties by Homes Victoria which are no longer fit-for-purpose to increase social housing."

As seen below in Figure 13, 64% of survey participants supported Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 5 (39% Strongly support, 25% Support).

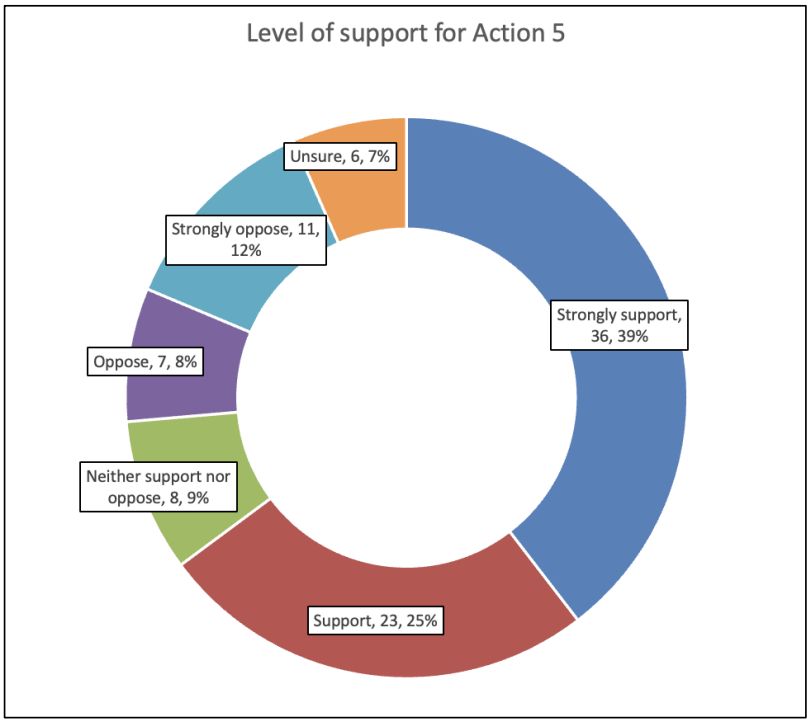


Figure 13 Do you support Council continuing this approach? - Level of support for Action 5 – survey participants

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past, the level of support for Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 1 was higher - 67% - and the percentage of responses of Strongly support was higher, at 49%.

When asked if there was anything further they would like to share about their response, or any different opportunities they would like to tell us about, 34 responses were received.

A sample of the responses received included concern around community housing perceived to be abandoned and empty where it's unclear what is happening with development, concern around what happens to residents in the interim during replacement or renovation, support for prioritising this housing for older residents, a need to increase housing stock, and a need for proper standards of safety, design and community wellbeing within these developments.

Action 6

"Council is currently working with and assisting two benevolent private developers to deliver affordable rental and community housing in Fishermans Bend and St Kilda, in partnership with community housing organisations."

As seen below in Figure 14, 77% of survey participants supported Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 6 (46% Strongly support, 31% Support).

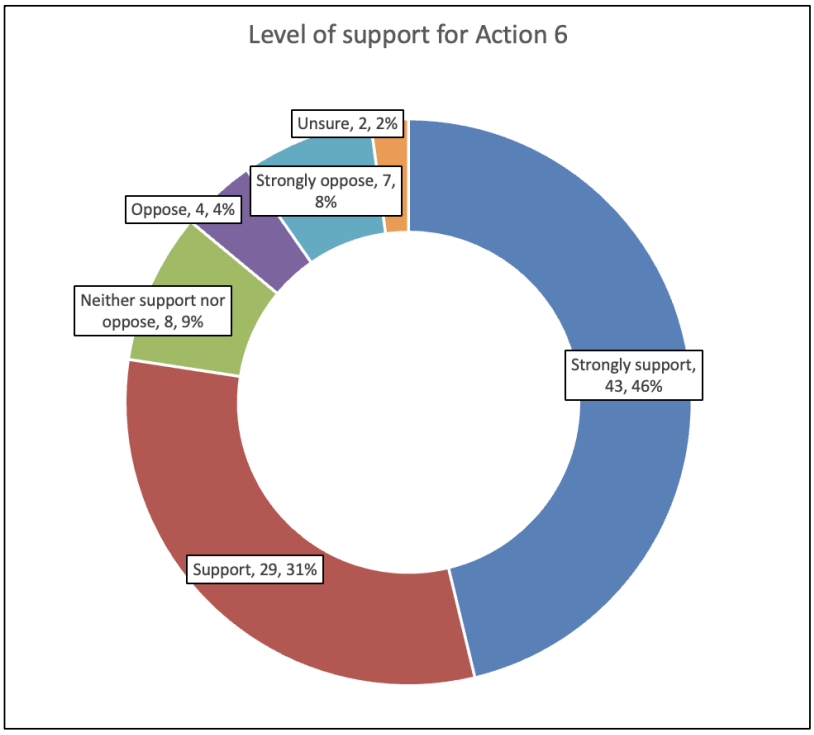


Figure 14 Do you support Council continuing this approach? - Level of support for Action 6 – survey participants

For survey participants who shared that they had the following lived experiences: currently homeless, been homeless in the past, someone they know (family member or friend) is currently homeless or has been homeless in the past, the level of support for Council continuing the approach outlined in Action 1 was higher - 82% - and the percentage of responses of Strongly support was higher, at 54%.

When asked if there was anything further they would like to share about their response, or any different opportunities they would like to tell us about, 32 responses were received.

A sample of the responses received included ensuring housing is safe, liveable and high quality and avoids poor-quality developments, concern around focusing housing supply in St Kilda, support for Council funds going to not-for-profit developers over for-profit developers, support for rigorous processes and management of these developments, prioritising development sites close to reliable public transport, and support for separating yearly funding for these organisations from the budget process due to a perception the community needs to continually fight for funding for these measures.

Other ideas on how Council could support people experiencing homelessness

When survey and pop-up participants were asked whether they had any other ideas on how Council could support people experiencing homelessness, 62 responses were received. These responses have been grouped into themes as seen in Table 4. The themes that were touched on most often in responses to this question were opposing punishing/criminalising people sleeping rough (16 responses, 26%) and working with other service providers (16 responses, 26%).

Theme	Number of responses	% of responses
Opposing punishing/ criminalising people sleeping rough	16	26%
Working with other service providers	16	26%
Advocacy/ lobbying	13	21%
Concern for wellbeing of people sleeping rough	11	18%
Incentivising owners of vacant properties, including through rates/tax	8	13%
Addressing/increasing support for those experiencing drug addiction	7	11%
Addressing/increasing support for those experiencing mental health challenges	7	11%
Increasing funding	6	10%
Destigmatising homelessness	5	8%
Assisting people living with homelessness to find employment	4	6%
Helping people experiencing homelessness to feel valued/part of community	3	5%
Measures to increase connections/community resilience/ compassion	3	5%
Other	8	13%

Table 4 Participant responses grouped by theme - Do you have any other ideas on how Council could support people experiencing homelessness? – survey and community pop-up participants

'Other' responses included giving consideration to whether land can be returned to Bunurong people to support housing for First Nations people, leaving homelessness and housing for State and Federal Government to address, and ensuring renovation of social housing being of secondary concern.

Here is a sample of some of the verbatim comments received:

- *"Destigmatise homelessness where ever possible eg. Removing or challenging comments made on councils social media correlating homelessness and crime. Challenge assumptions about homelessness through social media campaign."*

- *"I actually think there needs to be a piece around making connections with those in the community who have not experienced homeless or housing insecurity to change community attitudes that are harsh and unfair. A storytelling piece with some of the local faces maybe?"*

- *"Advocating for rental caps and making sure that houses in the councils area are actually meeting minimum rental standards.*

- *"A roving van where they could have a wash, wash their clothes, have a hair cut and info given to them about this so they don't have to mind read where and when it is. And a roving medical/dental van. Yes, do the work with developing strategies and housing but it's also the absolute on the ground stuff that I don't see happening."*

- *"Never, ever criminalise sleeping rough! It is really not ok."*

- *"Incentivising landlords to fill properties at affordable rent, within a 100m radius of my home there are 3 residential properties that have been empty for at least 2 years, one empty for 5 years!"*

- *"Connecting with mental health, addiction and family violence organisations to identify gaps from their perspective and any opportunities to better connect housing services with other social and health services."*

- *"Homelessness and housing are ultimately State responsibilities, but the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) must ensure that every person has the opportunity for safety, dignity, and hope."*

Other considerations

When survey and pop-up participants were asked whether there was anything else they thought was important for Council to consider when planning this Strategy, 76 responses were received. Feedback received via the 16 emails from community members have also been grouped into themes in this section for a total of 92 responses. These responses have been grouped into themes as seen in Table 5.

The themes that were touched on most often in responses to this question were opposing punishing/criminalising people sleeping rough (23 responses, 25%), working with other service providers (19 responses, 21%) and advocacy/lobbying (19 responses, 21%).

Theme	Number of responses	% of participants
Opposing punishing/criminalising people sleeping rough	23	25%
Working with other service providers	19	21%
Advocacy/ lobbying	19	21%
Mechanisms to increase availability of affordable housing	17	18%
Measures to increase connections/community resilience/ compassion	16	17%
Increasing availability of social housing and crisis accommodation	15	16%
Increasing funding	15	16%
Addressing/increasing support for those experiencing mental health challenges	11	12%
Addressing/increasing support for those experiencing drug addiction	9	15%
Safety/wellbeing of those in public, affordable and crisis accommodation	9	15%
Concern for wellbeing of people sleeping rough	8	9%
Destigmatising homelessness	8	9%
Adequate planning of social/public housing that considers safety/impact on community	8	9%
Helping people experiencing homelessness to feel valued/part of community	5	5%
Other	21	23%

Table 5 Participant responses grouped by theme - Is there anything else you think is important for Council to consider when planning this Strategy? – survey participants, community pop-up participants, formal submissions and emails from the community

'Other' responses included a perceived need for Council to consider how their actions are contributing to rent and mortgage stress, to consider the perspective and role of First Peoples on this issue, to consider the intertwined relationship of domestic violence and homelessness, to ensure the Strategy is

accessible, inclusive, takes a collaborative approach and includes people with lived experience and specialist homelessness services, and a perceived need for a new definition of affordable housing as affordable housing is still not affordable to many in our community.

Here is a sample of some of the verbatim comments received:

- *"Ensuring all programs and places are evaluated so that they can improve and can contribute to advocacy work."*

- *"A collaborative approach including people with lived experience of experiencing homelessness, as well as consultation with specialist homelessness services in the area to address need in a trauma informed approach."*

- *"I would encourage the council to consider how we can better support people sleeping rough with compassion and care. I want to live in a community where vulnerable people are cared for, not discarded."*

- *"People deserve dignity and safety now, not just promises. Council must stay accountable and ensure the community can see and trust the results."*

- *"Council shouldn't support developments that don't support housing the people in our community."*

- *"According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, on any given day Victorian homelessness services turn away 96 people; and the top three reasons for homelessness in Victoria are financial difficulties, family and domestic violence."*

- *"It's important to invest in support services like outreach workers, mental health support, and job readiness programs that helps people transition out of homelessness, not just survive it short-term."*

- *"Ensure that social housing is mixed through new developments and is not standalone social housing but integrated in with private dwellings."*

- *"Council may need to enhance inclusive policy and community involvement protocols, including lived-experience voices in policy. For example take a step beyond for this survey to strengthen inclusive planning. Where possible, the council might consider to run a community education campaign to help people reduce their stigma and promote more local support."*

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback during Stage 1 of this project. The engagement findings from this engagement will now be used to further inform development of the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy.

Stage 2 engagement is proposed to take place from 22 August – 18 September, where the community will have an opportunity to review the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy and provide feedback.

During Stage 2 engagement, participants with lived experience who were happy to be contacted to help further inform our understanding of the issues in the development of the Strategy, will be contacted by the project team to help further inform our understanding.

We will continue to keep the community updated on the progress of the project via the dedicated project page at www.haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/homelessness-and-affordable-housing

Appendices

Appendix 1: Workshop summary – homelessness and affordable housing agencies (29 April 2025)

The following is a brief summary of a workshop with local community housing organisations and homelessness and housing support agencies, held on 29 April, 2025.

The main points raised during this discussion were:

- Cash and land contributions were highlighted as being especially important, but all roles are important as they are all different and therefore difficult to prioritise.
- Council should play a role in destigmatising homelessness and run an education campaign on the services Council already provide.
- General support for coordination efforts such as Port Phillip Zero, though some comments suggest it is sometimes too theoretical, and hard to access hands-on case work.
- Not enough affordable housing across the City of Port Phillip. Currently, lower-cost rental stock is still priced very high and not affordable for low-income earners. This also makes it difficult to recruit staff as most community workers can't afford to live in St Kilda.
- Generally, advocating for the rights of and support for renters was not seen as a priority role, noting that other organisations fill this role, i.e. Consumer Affairs,

Tenants Victoria and the Commissioner for Residential Tenancies. However, it was emphasised that, in contrast, advocacy for social housing is supported.

- Strong support for Council advocating for State Government to establish social and affordable housing planning mechanisms to encourage inclusion of affordable housing in new developments.

Appendix 2: Interview summary – person with lived experience (15 May 2025)

The following is a brief summary of an interview with a person with lived experience, held on 15 May, 2025.

The main points raised during this interview were:

- Top priorities for Council were seen as cash and property contributions to community housing organisations, advocacy for planning mechanisms, and working with benevolent developers.
- Supports more transitional housing, dedicated long-term community housing, specific support for particular vulnerable groups, and social cohesion activities.
- Supports community education around homelessness and its causes.
- Supports frontline support for health questions, such as via a telephone service.
- Sees a need to build independent collective support networks in the community and via organisations to support renters get into home ownership, such as via cooperative or shared equity housing.

- Supports having a planning permit to include social housing in new developments.
- Sees an opportunity to promote opportunities to benevolent developers and get more onboard.
- Sees a need for more practical after-hours services and outreach.

Appendix 3: Interview summary – two benevolent private developers interested in, proposing or providing affordable and social housing (30 April 2025)

A brief discussion was held with two benevolent private developers interested in, proposing or providing affordable and social housing, on 15 May, 2025.
When asked whether they supported Council continuing the approach of working with and assisting benevolent private developers to deliver affordable rental and community housing, in partnership with community housing organisations, both said they supported this.

One developer outlined that they supported the current project facilitation support role that the Affordable Housing Program Coordinator from the City of Port Phillip provides, with the second developer agreeing that developers needed continuation of the project facilitation support role from the City of Port Phillip.

Appendix 4: Deliberative Engagement (February 2025)

In February 2025, the City of Port Phillip undertook a deliberative engagement panel to inform the Plan for Port Phillip.

The results highlighted the need to support those experiencing homelessness:

Ranking of the community panel's 4-year priorities

The community panel ranked the top seven priorities.

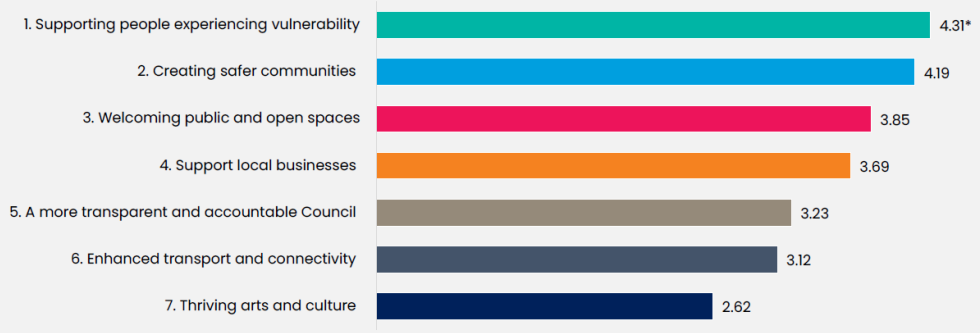
The seven priorities were developed by combining each group's final top three priorities. In some cases, broader priorities (e.g. 'Community safety') were separated into more specific issues for clarity.

To rank the priorities, panel members voted individually using the online platform Slido. They were challenged to reflect on the perspectives of others and the findings from past engagements to ensure the final ranking truly represented the broader community.

The results of the vote (shown below) provide a clear picture of the panel's collective priorities for Council action over the next four years.

Ranking of the top seven priorities by importance to the community panel

Number of voters: 26



*As panel members voted, points were given to priorities based on where they were ranked (i.e., first ranked received 7 points, second received 6 points, and so forth). This number represents the average points received by each priority.

25

They also made a number of recommendations regarding Council's top priorities (including creating safer communities and supporting people experiencing vulnerability):

Priority 1: Supporting people experiencing vulnerability

Definition

Make it easier for those in our community who need help to access support services (youth outreach, addiction support, etc.) as a critical prevention measure.

Rationale

The community panel agreed supporting vulnerable people is a key priority because access to housing, crisis support, and mental health services is essential for community wellbeing.

The panel wants Council to expand housing and support services, improve crisis response, and ensure people in distress can easily access help.

These recommendations were supported by at least **75%** of the community panel.

Recommendation 1

Increase funding for support services (e.g. drug and alcohol, homelessness, domestic violence).

Rationale

Current support services are overwhelmed and unable to meet growing community needs.

Additional funding can help achieve goals like zero homelessness and better case management.

Investing in prevention is more effective and cost-efficient than reactive measures.

Increased support can address root causes of issues like substance abuse and domestic violence.

Recommendation 2

Provide more accommodation for rough sleepers (for example, new investment and using empty Council buildings).

Rationale

Investing in housing saves the community money by reducing costs associated with homelessness.

Using empty Council buildings can provide immediate shelter solutions, despite potential additional costs. Other Councils have successfully implemented similar strategies, proving it's feasible.

Priority 2: Creating safer communities

Definition

Take a long-term and holistic approach to improving public safety by working closely with residents, other levels of government and community organisations.

Rationale

The panel prioritised community safety because well-maintained public spaces and support for vulnerable people help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

The panel wants the Council to improve public infrastructure, increase safety measures, and work with the community and government to address the causes of unsafe behaviour.

These recommendations were supported by at least **75%** of the community panel.

Recommendation 1

Invest more in understanding the root cause of unsafe areas. Identify what causes unsafety so it can be tactically addressed.

Rationale

Understanding root causes of unsafety enables targeted, proactive and effective solutions.

Poor infrastructure (e.g., inadequate lighting) can contribute to people feeling unsafe.

Collaborating with the community to address safety concerns can lead to better outcomes.

Recommendation 2

Create spaces that are safe, open and inclusive through well-designed and maintained amenities with appropriate lighting, to make sure our public spaces are activated.

Rationale

Enhancing public spaces with better lighting and amenities provides vulnerable individuals more opportunities to thrive.

Accessible health and fitness infrastructure encourage community well-being and inclusivity.

Improved, maintained and fit-for-purpose infrastructure that fosters a safer and more welcoming environment for all residents (including footpaths, walkways and toilet blocks).

8.2 ENGAGEMENT ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

PREPARED BY: **ROCHELLE FERNANDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
CHRISTINE DENING, MANAGER COMMUNITY BUILDING AND INCLUSION

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To outline the proposed delivery approach of the Community Infrastructure Plan (CIP).

1.2 To seek Council's endorsement to initiate the first stage of community engagement for the CIP.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Council plays a critical role in the planning and delivery of high-quality community infrastructure through which diverse services and programs are delivered.

2.2 The Plan for Port Phillip commits Council to the development of a CIP. A CIP outlines current and future need for development, enhancement, and management of community facilities to support community wellbeing, inclusion and resilience. The CIP will help guide the prioritisation and phasing of infrastructure projects to address identified community needs.

2.3 Several key pieces of work have already been undertaken to understand the supply and demand for community infrastructure and services across the City of Port Phillip, including: the Maternal and Child Health Service Review 2021, Port Phillip Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP), Fit for Purpose Assessments 2017 and Fishermans Bend Community Infrastructure Planning for the State Developer Contributions Plan.

2.4 In April 2025, SGS Economics and Planning were engaged to develop a Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment (CINA). The CINA provided a strategic, evidence-based analysis evaluating existing infrastructure supply against projected population growth and service participation trends. Its purpose was to develop an evidence-based assessment of the likely community infrastructure requirements of the community through to 2056.

2.5 Officers are now preparing to explore community infrastructure requirements with the community. Community input is critical for adding context to the CINA and ensuring development and phasing of future community infrastructure meets community expectations. It is also critical through this process to outline Council's financial constraints to help set realistic expectations around the capacity Council has to respond to community infrastructure needs in the short, medium and longer term.

2.6 The following report outlines the approach for developing the CIP and the proposed community engagement approach.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Approves the proposed approach to deliver the Community Infrastructure Plan including the first phase of exploratory community engagement, scheduled from 6 October to 2 November 2025.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 It is proposed that the CIP will support Council to:

- Respond to population growth and change, ensuring infrastructure meets future demand.
- Promote equity and inclusion, supporting access to safe, welcoming, and culturally appropriate spaces for all community members.
- Support community wellbeing, through the provision of facilities that help to foster social connections, deliver services, and support mental and physical health.
- Improve efficiency and coordination, through identification of gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for co-location to avoid duplication; and
- Build stronger cases to secure funding and investment, offering an evidence base to leverage for grants, developer contributions, and partnerships.

4.2 It is proposed that the CIP would initially help to inform opportunities for upgrading Council's existing property portfolio, phasing of infrastructure delivery and advocacy priorities (e.g., Fishermans Bend and other infrastructure).

4.3 The scope of the CIP will be tested with community but generally it is proposed that it includes:

- Community centres and halls.
- Libraries.
- Cultural venues (art spaces).
- Neighbourhood houses.
- Youth and senior centres.
- Multipurpose spaces for events, services, and programs including maternal and child health, toy libraries and playgroups.

4.4 Recreation and sports facilities are proposed to be out of scope in the initial testing. There will be opportunity to test their inclusion as this work runs parallel to the development of the Sport and Recreation Strategy which will be testing sport and recreation related infrastructure needs. Additionally, the CIP will be built to be flexible and adaptable allowing the incorporation of other elements over time (i.e. transport infrastructure) and allowing for adjustments to population growth or infrastructure development should the need arise (including as Fishermans Bend infrastructure comes online).

CIP Development Approach

4.5 The development of the CIP commenced in April with a comprehensive preliminary assessment in the form of a CINA. The CINA involved a desktop review of

demographic data, infrastructure provision ratios, and relevant Council and Government strategies.

4.6 It is proposed that the CINA key findings are now tested with community through exploratory engagement which will shape the guiding principles and validate identified needs. This includes workshops with service providers, a broad community survey, and pop-up events across the municipality. The feedback collected will inform an Engagement Summary Report, which will become a key input for the next phase of this work.

4.7 The third phase focuses on drafting the CIP, integrating insights from the background paper, engagement outcomes, and Council's strategic property roadmap.

4.8 In the final stages, the draft CIP is proposed to be tested with the community through follow-up interviews, additional pop-ups, and another round of surveys. Feedback will then be consolidated into a second Engagement Summary Report, which informs the finalisation of the CIP. The final plan is then presented to Council for consideration and implementation.

4.9 The full details of this approach are detailed later in this report.

CINA

4.10 The CINA is the key output for phase 1 preliminary assessment and review and forms the evidence base for testing with community through exploratory engagement. It was developed with SGS consultants and internal stakeholders and will be summarised as a high-level background paper to guide community input.

4.11 In simplest terms, a CINA is built through the assessment of community infrastructure demand (assessed based on population projections and participation trends) and supply (audit of existing infrastructure) to understand gaps and surpluses. The below summarises the scope and key findings. The findings will form the basis of a concise and high-level background paper for community engagement.

4.12 The scope of infrastructure types currently included in the CINA focuses on facilities and services where Council plays a role as provider (e.g. libraries, kindergartens), partner (e.g. shared facilities), or advocate (e.g. community health centres). Infrastructure types currently included:

- Early Years Facilities/Services: Playgroups, Kindergartens (15-hour places), Long Day Care (LDC), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) rooms, Toy Libraries.
- Young People Facilities/Services: Youth-friendly spaces and Youth centres.
- Library building and services (measured in square metres).
- Multipurpose Community Spaces: Neighbourhood House services, Multipurpose community centres, Multipurpose community spaces (nested by size: small, small-to-medium, medium, medium-to-large, large). Note: These spaces may be located within community centres, libraries, early years facilities, or other buildings. The nesting approach allows flexibility in assessing adequacy of provision by size and function[1].
- Arts and Culture Facilities/Services: Arts and cultural hubs, Experience and exhibition spaces, Arts creation spaces (e.g. studios, workshops). Note: These

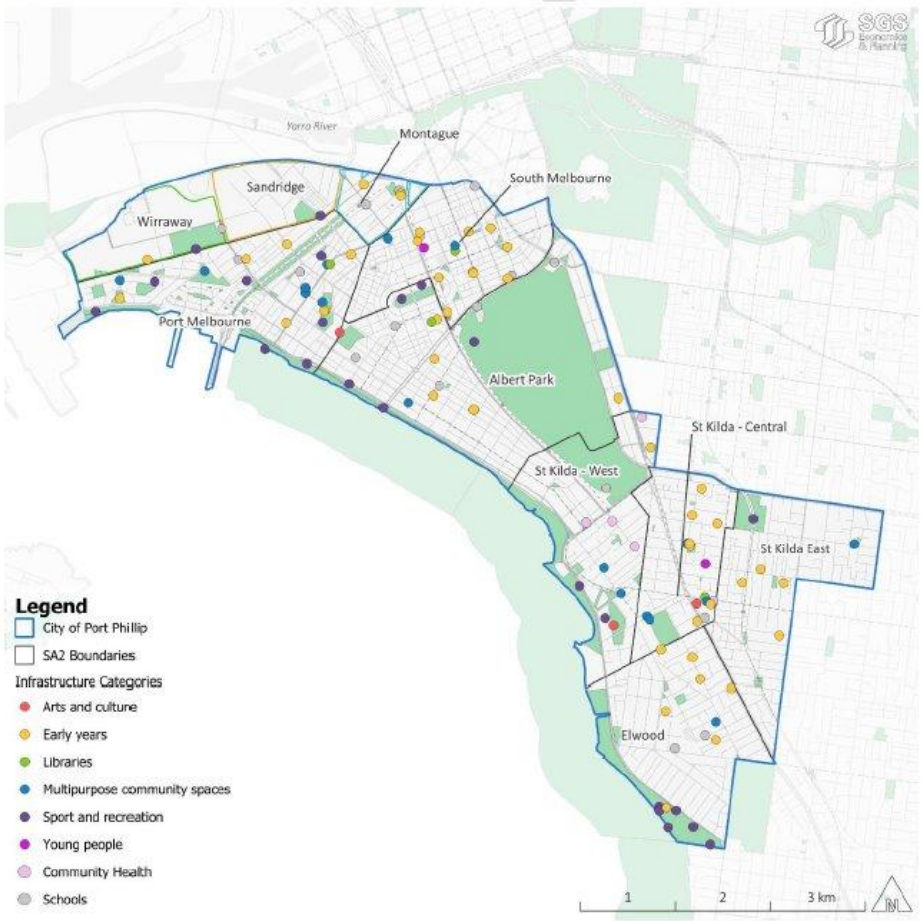
facilities vary in scale and purpose, from large hubs to smaller supporting spaces. Nesting is used to reflect different service levels.

- Community Health centres. Note: While Council does not typically own or operate these facilities, it plays a key role in coordinating and advocating for their provision.
- Excluded from Scope: Schools: Not benchmarked due to Council's limited role (advocate only) but included in maps and discussion as potential partnership opportunities. Sport and Recreation: Not included in this CINA, as a separate assessment is being undertaken as part of the Sports and Recreation Background Report 2025, which will inform a Sports and Recreation Strategy in 2025/26. However informal recreation (e.g. yoga, dance) within multipurpose spaces is currently in scope.

4.13 The CINA Covers eight local areas: Elwood, St Kilda East, St Kilda Central, St Kilda West, Albert Park, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, and Port Melbourne Industrial. It also includes the three Fishermans Bend precincts: Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway. The CINA has been established in this way as it is built around a Statistical Area Level 2 (as that is how population projections are developed), however it is proposed that community facing activities including engagement will be undertaken by neighbourhood.

[1] Definition: Nesting is used when a space or service is typically delivered within a larger facility, or when there are sub-types that indicate the appropriate scale of provision. Nesting requires Council to consider the number and size of spaces within larger facilities and to consider flexibility in planning, recognising that a medium-sized space might be made up of several small rooms or large space could be equivalent to multiple medium rooms.

Figure 6-1: Community infrastructure in Port Phillip



4.14 The CINA identifies infrastructure gaps over the next 30 years and population increases across Port Phillip's neighbourhoods and provides a strategic framework for Council to consider how to address these over time. By leveraging existing assets, activating underutilised spaces, considering facilities located in locations bordering Port Phillip and planning for future growth, Council can ensure that community infrastructure remains inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all residents.

4.15 The assessment considers the immediate (2026), medium term (2036) and longer-term (2056) infrastructure needs, informed by population forecasts, demographic trends, and service provision benchmarks.

4.16 CINA findings are summarised in the table below by SA2. Note that while results are by SA2, community feedback will be collected by neighbourhood.

Current Supply and Utilisation	Current Gaps
South Melbourne includes a mix of civic and community infrastructure: • South Melbourne Community Centre. • Sol Green Community Centre. • Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre.	• Playgroups. • Youth-friendly spaces. • Neighbourhood House service. • Arts and cultural facilities.

• Multiple early years services. • Headspace and Better Health Network services.	
Port Melbourne has a diverse infrastructure network: • Multiple early years centres and community spaces. • Port Melbourne Library and toy library. • South Port Community Centre (Neighbourhood House). • Sports and recreation facilities.	• Youth-friendly spaces. • Arts and cultural facilities. • Community health centres.
Albert Park includes: • Middle Park and Albert Park Libraries. • Mary Kehoe Community Centre (hall highly utilised; smaller rooms moderately used). • Middle Park Community Centre. • Gasworks Arts Park (arts and culture hub). • Several kindergartens and early years centres.	• Youth-friendly spaces. • Small/medium community rooms. • Long day care and kindergarten services.
St Kilda West has: • Four community health centres. • Two arts and cultural facilities. • One kindergarten. • Walkable access to services in St Kilda Central.	• Multipurpose community spaces. • Youth-friendly spaces. • Neighbourhood House service.
St Kilda Central is a civic hub: • St Kilda Library (largest in municipality). • Multiple early years centres. • Port Phillip Community Group and Uniting Engagement Hub.	• Toy library service. • Medium-to-large community spaces.
St Kilda East includes: • Alma Road Community House. • Four early years centres. • Alma Park (sport and recreation).	• Multipurpose community spaces. • Youth-friendly infrastructure. • Arts and cultural facilities.
Elwood's infrastructure is clustered around the foreshore and residential areas: • Multiple kindergartens and early years centres. • Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre (includes toy library). • Several sport and recreation facilities.	• Long day care and kindergarten places. • Medium-to-large community spaces. • Arts and cultural facilities. • Community health centres.
Fishermans Bend – Montague has limited infrastructure:	• Early years services.

• South Melbourne Primary School (includes kindergarten, long day care, and MCH). • City Kids Early Learning Centre. • Montague Continuing Education Centre.	• Youth-friendly spaces. • Toy library and playgroups. • Multipurpose community centre. • Arts and health services.
Fishermans Bend – Sandridge • Currently limited to North Port Oval. Significant infrastructure investment planned.	• All infrastructure categories due to rapid projected growth.
Fishermans Bend – Wirraway • Limited to JL Murphy Reserve and school sites.	• All infrastructure categories due to rapid projected growth.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Engagement on the CINA findings is planned to be held from 6 October – 2 November 2025.

5.2 The purpose of the engagement is to validate findings, understand lived experiences, gather investment priorities in the context of Council's financial position, and identify emerging needs.

5.3 A high-level background paper based on the CINA findings will be developed to guide community input around key considerations by neighbourhood.

5.4 The engagement activities are planned as follows:

- An online survey via Have Your Say, covering themes like early years, youth, libraries, arts, health, and multipurpose spaces.
- Partner roundtables with service providers, schools, and health organisations to discuss service delivery and co-location opportunities.
- Local workshops in areas like South Melbourne, Elwood, and Fishermans Bend using maps and scenarios to explore future needs.
- Paper surveys at libraries and ASSIST counters.
- Community pop-ups through the Neighbourhood Engagement Program and targeted outreach via service networks.
- Internal engagement with relevant Council teams.

5.5 Following phase 1 of engagement, a CIP will be developed. The CIP will outline the short-, medium- and long-term community infrastructure requirements based on the CINA and the community engagement findings. It will also highlight the operating context that Council operates within, particularly Council's financial position and opportunities in locations, including facilities that are nearby to Port Phillip to potentially respond to community need.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Property Roadmap Alignment: The current roadmap prioritises facilities needing repair, without factoring in future community needs as outlined through a CIP. The CIP may recommend changes to better align infrastructure investment with projected demand.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 Council allocated a budget of $60,000 through the 25/26 Council Budget. This will be used to engage a consultant to develop the CIP and deliver some of the engagement activities. This budget also includes the development of communications collateral.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 A CIP offers a number of opportunities to support environmental sustainability:

- Opportunity for Sustainable Design: New infrastructure, especially in growth areas like Fishermans Bend, presents a canvas for embedding sustainability options that reduce energy and water consumption whilst enhancing urban biodiversity.
- Promotion of Active and Public Transport: The CIP encourages co-location of services near transport hubs and walkable precincts, reducing reliance on private vehicles and associated emissions.
- Flexible, Multi Use Spaces: Multipurpose hubs reduce the need for multiple standalone buildings, consolidating services and lowering the environmental footprint.
- Supporting Climate Resilience: Infrastructure that fosters social connection and wellbeing—such as libraries, drop-in centres, and community health hubs—also contributes to climate resilience by supporting vulnerable populations during extreme weather events.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The CIP will have an impact on the wellbeing of Port Phillip residents. By identifying and addressing infrastructure gaps, the CIP helps to facilitate equitable access to essential services such as early years care, youth support, health services, and cultural spaces.

9.2 In high-density areas like Fishermans Bend, where private space is limited, public infrastructure will play a vital role in supporting liveability—offering safe, inclusive spaces for recreation, learning, and social interaction.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment will be undertaken following approval of the approach and scope and will be completed prior to the commencement of community consultation activities.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The recommendation of this report aligns with Council Plan strategic report: “A Healthy and Connected Community” as it fulfils the following:

- Supports equitable access to safe, inclusive, and culturally appropriate community facilities.
- Improves health and wellbeing by planning for infrastructure that enables delivery of services like maternal and child health, early years education, and social support.
- Fosters social connection by identifying and prioritising multipurpose spaces that bring people together and reduce isolation.

- Responds to population growth by forecasting future infrastructure needs based on demographic trends and service demand.
- Promotes financial sustainability by helping Council prioritise investments and advocate for external funding and partnerships.
- Enhances service delivery by identifying opportunities for co-location and avoiding duplication of infrastructure.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 The following table outlines the proposed approach for developing the CIP including two phases of community input (an exploratory phase and a testing phase) to ensure that the final CIP meets the needs of the community while also being technically robust and reliable offering a strong basis for advocacy, planning and phasing of community infrastructure projects.

Phase	Description	Output	Touchpoints	Timing
Preliminary Assessment and Review ***Purpose***: To establish a clear understanding of community infrastructure needs and set the strategic direction for the plan.	Desktop review of available information to develop a CINA and background material for community engagement: ▪ Review provision ratios (based on best practice), population forecasting, demographic and trend analysis ▪ Review of Council and external material: Council relevant strategies, plans and programs, Local and State Government plans, relevant legislation and guidelines, research and background material. ▪ Develop a needs assessment (by area). ▪ Review Infrastructure Assessment reports. ▪ Review property pipeline and Fishermans Bend DCP Delivery Program to understand current infrastructure works priorities	Project plan Community Needs Assessment Background paper for community engagement	Councillor briefing: Discuss approach	June – September 2025
Exploratory Engagement ***Purpose***: To engage the community and stakeholders in shaping the guiding principles and validating infrastructure needs.	Stage 1 community engagement to: ▪ Develop guiding principles for developing community infrastructure ▪ Understand Council's role as a provider, partner and advocate for community infrastructure types ▪ Test the needs assessment identified in the background paper ▪ Outline the context in which Council operates including its financial position Activities would include:	Engagement Summary Report	*Community (through community engagement)*	*October – December 2025*

	▪ Workshops with stakeholders (community service providers, multi-faith network, advisory committees, community representative, program users). ▪ Have your Say exploratory survey with the broad community and distributed via Diversity, staff networks, social media, postcards and other methods. ▪ Community pop-ups across the municipality (Neighbourhood engagement program scheduled for October)			
Draft CIP ***Purpose***: To develop a draft Community Infrastructure Plan based on engagement outcomes and strategic analysis.	Utilising the background paper, engagement summary report and Council portfolio roadmap, draft the CIP with specific focus on: ▪ Vision. ▪ Guiding principles / strategic pillars. ▪ Needs and actions for the short and long term by location.	Proposed Draft CIP	*Councillor briefing: Present draft proposed CIP and release for second stage engagement.*	*January – February 2025*
Testing of the draft strategy with community ***Purpose***: To validate the draft CIP with the community and refine it based on feedback.	Testing engagement including: ▪ Qualitative follow-up with interviews. ▪ Potentially additional pop-ups. ▪ Have your Say survey with the broad community and distributed via Diversity, staff networks, social media, postcards and other methods.	Engagement Summary Report	Community (through community engagement)	March – April 2025
Finalisation ***Purpose*:** to finalise the Community Infrastructure Plan incorporating all feedback and prepare it for implementation.	Incorporate final community feedback to the CIP.	Final CIP	Councillor briefing: Present final CIP	May 2025

12.2 An implementation strategy will be developed alongside the development of the Community Infrastructure Plan.

13. COMMUNICATION

13.1 The following key messages will be communicated as part of the engagement process for the CIP:

13.1.1 **Purpose of Engagement:** Council is developing a long-term Community Infrastructure Plan to guide future investment in facilities and services. Community input is essential to ensure the plan reflects local needs, experiences, and priorities.

13.1.2 **How to participate:** Engagement activities will include an online survey, pop-up sessions, workshops, and targeted outreach to priority groups. Community members will be invited to participate via Council channels and partner networks.

13.1.3 **What we are asking the community:**

- To validate infrastructure gaps and opportunities identified in the CINA.
- To share priorities for attention, understanding the financial context and constraints of Council.
- To share lived experiences of accessing and using community facilities.
- To identify barriers to participation and inclusion.
- To provide feedback on priorities for short-term (5–10 years) and long-term (10–30 years) infrastructure investment.
- To highlight emerging needs not captured in existing data.

14. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

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

ATTACHMENTS Nil

8.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2025-26 RECOMMENDATIONS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

PREPARED BY: **EMMA BLACKFORD, TEAM LEADER GRANTS AND FUNDING**

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Council endorsement of funding recommendations made by the Community Grants Assessment Panel for applications to the Community Grants Program 2025-26.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The Community Grants Program works with not-for-profit groups and organisations to meet identified community needs, support local networks, promote and encourage participation in community life, facilitate innovation and promote access, inclusion and acceptance of diversity.

2.2 A total of 93 applications were submitted to the Community Grants Program under three funding categories:

2.2.1 Community Strengthening received 70 applications

2.2.2 Social Inclusion Partnerships received 6 applications

2.2.3 Program Support received 17 applications.

2.3 A total of $648,425.90 was requested, with a total budget of $285,000 available.

2.4 Two applications were deemed ineligible by officers for assessment, with one application being a for-profit public company and the second being part of the state government.

2.5 Two Assessment Panels assessed 91 applications, with each panel consisting of two community members and two City of Port Phillip officers.

2.6 This report presents Council with a list of the recommended grants for 2025-26 as assessed by the combined Community Grants Assessment Panel as well as recommendations for allocation of remaining funds.

2.7 The Panel has recommended grants applications which include programs that support social connection and programs that improve health and wellbeing, provide opportunities for skills development, build capacity of community agencies and groups, and engage community to address climate change.

2.8 In total, 53 applications from 38 organisations are recommended funding of $270,835.90. The recommended allocations are detailed in Attachment 1 (confidential).

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Part 1

3.1 Thanks, all applicants for their interest in Council's Community Grants Program.

3.2 Endorses the Community Grants Assessment Panel's funding allocation recommendations for the Community Grants Program 2025-26, as detailed in confidential **Attachment 1.**

Part 2

3.3 Endorses the Community Grants Assessment Panel's funding allocation recommendations for the Community Grants Program 2025-26, as detailed in confidential **Attachment 2.**

3.4 Makes public the list of successful applications for the Community Grants Program 2025-26 on Council's website once all applicants have been advised of the outcome of their application.

3.5 Endorses reallocation of residual funds from the Community Grants Program 2025-26 for potential allocation under the Quick Response Grants Program.

3.6 Formally thanks the voluntary members of the Community Grants Assessment Panel for their valuable time and contribution to the community life of the City of Port Phillip.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 The Community Grants Program provides Council with a strategic opportunity to support initiatives that strengthen the community service sector and community groups. The program aims to promote social inclusion and community engagement by supporting projects that value the contribution and participation of the Port Phillip community.

4.2 Structure of the Community Grants Program:

4.2.1 The Community Grants Program is an annual funding round established to support and encourage community organisations to develop and deliver projects and programs that respond to the needs of the Port Phillip community.

4.2.2 There are three categories of funding: Community Strengthening, Social Inclusion Partnerships and Program Support:

- The Community Strengthening category funds local organisations to design and deliver projects that meet existing and emerging needs of residents and encourage participation, social connection and value diversity. The aim is to strengthen and leverage the capacity of the local community and/or local community sector in supporting their ongoing sustainability, contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community, address health inequities, and support environmental and circular economy. The maximum funding for each grant under the Community Strengthening category is $10,000.
- The Social Inclusion Partnership category supports community organisations and groups to partner, develop and deliver projects and activities that increase social inclusion in the community. The aim is to engage residents who, for various reasons, may not otherwise have the

opportunity to contribute to, participate in, or contribute to the broader community. The maximum funding for each grant under the Social Inclusion Partnership category is $5,000.

- The Program Support category recognises that many small groups require funding to run their activities which form an important part of people's lives and wellbeing, regardless of whether they are project based. Activities are generally social, such as group outings, or physical such as walking groups. The maximum funding for each grant under the Program Support category is $1,000.

4.2.3 Projects that have received funding previously may apply and be considered for funding in subsequent years. There is no limit to how many applications a community organisation can submit across the three categories, but each application must be for a different project or program.

4.2.4 All organisations applying for funding, including those that have been funded in previous years, undergo an eligibility check and are required to submit their organisational annual and financial reports. Project acquittals from previously funded organisations are checked to review past grant performance to ensure compliance with acquittal and evaluation requirements.

4.3 Community Grants Application Process:

4.3.1 The 2025-26 Community Grants program opened on 29 April 2025 and closed on 10 June 2025.

4.3.2 The Community Grants 2025-26 Program was advertised through Council's social media, Community Sector News, Council's website and through email to internal and external stakeholders.

4.3.3 A public information session was held for prospective applicants to assist applicants in understanding the grants selection process and the use of the online grant application process.

4.3.4 Once received, all applications were checked for eligibility by the Grants and Funding Team.

4.3.5 Staff with relevant portfolio responsibility provided feedback on strategic alignment of applications. This feedback was made available to Community Grants Assessment Panels for consideration in their deliberation.

4.4 Community Grant Application Assessment Process:

4.4.1 Council received a total of 93 applications under three funding categories: Community Strengthening received 70 applications; Social Inclusion Partnerships received 6 applications and Program Support received 17 applications.

4.4.2 A total of $648,425.90 was requested, with a total of $285,000 funding available.

4.4.3 A total of 91 eligible applications were assessed by two Assessment Panels. Each panel comprised two local community members, endorsed by Council at the Council Meeting held on 21 May, and two Council Officers from the City of Port Phillip.

4.4.4 All applications were assessed against the Community Grants 2025-26 Guidelines which are available on Council's website.

4.4.5 Recommendations include programs that:

- Support our most marginalised community members to socially connect and access programs that improve health and wellbeing.
- Provide opportunities for skills development through educational workshops.
- Address isolation through creating opportunities for people from all backgrounds to participate in community life.
- Build capacity of local community agencies and groups, including through engaging and deploying volunteers.
- Continue to engage community activity to address environmental and climate change.

4.4.6 Applications that did not score well against the selection criteria were not recommended for funding. All unsuccessful applicants are encouraged, via the notification email, to contact the Grants and Funding Team for feedback on their application. Feedback is provided through the applicant's preferred method, such as phone or email.

4.4.7 In some instances, applications have been recommended for a grant but at a lower level of contribution than sought. This has occurred mostly where some budgeted items requested to be funded were not considered aligned to the intent of the grants or allowable items. Grant applications specified where a reduced budget would still enable the program to proceed (sometimes at a reduced scale) and this was taken into consideration.

4.4.8 In total, 53 applications from 38 organisations are recommended to receive $270,835.90 in funding. The recommended allocations are detailed in Attachment 1 (confidential).

4.4.9 Successful applicants who receive funding under the Community Grants 2025-26 Program will have until 1 June 2026 to submit their project status reports and end of December 2026 to submit their acquittal reports.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Staff with relevant portfolio responsibility have provided feedback on strategic alignment of applications to Council Plan, policies and strategies. This feedback was made available to Community Grants Assessment Panels for consideration in their deliberation.

5.2 Eligible applications were assessed by two Panels. Panel A consisted of two Council Officers and two local appointed community members. Assessment Panel B consisted of two Council Officers and two local appointed community members. The four local community members were formally endorsed by Council.

5.3 Panel members assessed assigned applications individually prior to convening for group discussion and assessment over a series of meetings.

5.4 Panel members also provided feedback on the Community Grants 2025-26 Program and assessment process.

5.5 Council thanks the voluntary members of the Community Grants Assessment Panel for their valuable contribution to the community life of the City of Port Phillip.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no identified risks to Council in endorsing this recommendation.

6.2 Conflict of interest processes are embedded into the program to ensure unbiased decision making at each stage of the assessment process. All panel members are required to declare any potential conflict of interest as part of the assessment process.

6.3 Where a conflict of interest has been declared, the impacted panel member is not provided with the application, nor can they make comment or participate in the assessment process for that application.

6.4 In addition, all Councillors are required to declare any conflict of interest prior to consideration of the Council report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The Panel recommendations are to allocate funding to the value of $270,835.90. This is within the total budget of $285,000 allocated for the 2024-25 Community Grants Program.

7.2 Council could consider re-allocation of the residual community grants funding, to the Quick Response Grants Program. This program has similar objectives to the Annual Community Grants program and provides funding for community-based initiatives that arise throughout the year.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The Community Grants 2025-26 Program encourages applicants to apply for funding to deliver sustainability projects. All applications are requested to consider sustainability in their project planning and implementation.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The Community Grants 2025–26 Program promotes social inclusion and community engagement by supporting projects that encourage active participation and meaningful contributions to the Port Phillip community. It also aims to strengthen the capacity and long-term sustainability of the local community and community sector

9.2 The Community Grants Program is one way that the Council ensures social justice for all in its delivery of services, programs and projects. This is achieved through the criteria for assessment having a strong emphasis on social inclusion and equity principles.

9.3 The Community Grants Program funds local community programs and services which enables continued employment in the Non-for-Profit Sector.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 The Community Grants Panel embeds equity focus throughout its design, application and assessment process, including:

10.1.1 Inviting applications that enhance diversity, and contribute to the building of healthy, strong and inclusive communities.

10.1.2 Identifying a key objective of the program to enable access to inclusive and accessible events, programs and services. This includes sections of the

community which may be vulnerable to exclusion, including people who identify as LGBTIQA+.

10.1.3 Guidelines that encourage applicants to consider how they can ensure events are safe, welcoming and inclusive of LBGTQIA+ community.

10.1.4 Requiring applicants to demonstrate consideration for how their project is inclusive and accessible for all participants.

10.1.5 Inclusion of grant panel members drawn from and reflective of the diversity in the community, including gender diversity.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 Applications are sought for projects that enhance diversity, enable community participation and decision making, and contribute to the building of healthy, strong and inclusive communities. Projects need to contribute to the Council Plan Strategic Directions and are evaluated according to how well they meet program priorities.

11.2 The Community Grants program aligns primarily with the previous Council Plan Strategic Directions: Inclusive Port Phillip and Sustainable Port Phillip.

11.3 Council's Community Funding Policy provides a framework for the Annual Community Grants program, including through the application of policy principles that ensure strategic alignment to the Council Plan, good governance and transparency, robust program planning and design, and ensuring maximum community benefit.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 Following Council endorsement, outcome letters will be emailed to both successful and unsuccessful applicants by late-September 2025.

12.1.2 Funding will be distributed to successful applicants from October 2025.

12.1.3 Successful applicant organisations and the funded projects will be made available on the Council website in October 2025.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 All applicants will be advised of the outcomes of their application in writing by email. Unsuccessful applicants will also be encouraged to seek feedback about their application.

13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ***Confidential*- Community Grants Program 2025-2026 - Recommendations for Funding Part 1**
2. ***Confidential*- Community Grants Program 2025-2026 - Recommendations for Funding Part 2**

9. AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY

Nil

10. A SAFE AND LIVEABLE CITY

10.1 Draft "Feel Safe. Be Safe. Community Safety Plan 2025-29" 130

10.1 DRAFT "FEEL SAFE. BE SAFE. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2025-29"

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

PREPARED BY: **NELLIE MONTAGUE, MANAGER SAFETY AND AMENITY**

SANDRA KHAZAM, COMMUNITY SAFETY LEAD

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To outline the work completed to date in the development of the Community Safety Plan and to present the draft Plan for endorsement for the next phase of engagement including public exhibition to seek community feedback.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Community safety and social cohesion have been identified by Council as significant challenges and opportunities. A community safety plan is a tool through which Council can prioritise key objectives and outcomes to effect change through targeted actions.

2.2 As the current Community Safety Plan finishes at the end of 2025, a new draft Community Safety Plan has been developed.

2.3 The new draft plan - *Feel Safe. Be Safe. Community Safety Plan 2025-2029* - (Attachment 1) is based on extensive feedback in particular between 22 May and 29 June 2025 (see Engagement Report Attachment 2). Feedback has been provided from community and local service providers and received through numerous channels including consultation for the Plan for Port Phillip. It includes recommendations from the Community Safety Roundtable (see Response to Roundtable Recommendations Attachment 3), held in March 2025 and considers recommendations from a review of the current Community Safety Plan 2019-2025.

2.4 The actions presented in the new Plan will be delivered through three main pillars:

2.4.1 Pillar one - Creating safer public spaces

2.4.2 Pillar two - Improving communication and information

2.4.3 Pillar three - Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities

2.5 Each pillar has specific objectives and outcome measures which will focus on delivering local, place-based actions to address current and emerging safety needs within our municipality. These actions have been developed to respond to community engagement feedback and to test new and innovative approaches.

2.6 The next phase of community engagement is planned for 6 October to 2 November 2025 and will seek feedback from the community and key stakeholders, including service providers that took part in the Community Safety Roundtable in March 2025 on the draft Community Safety Plan.

2.7 Council officers have been progressing the Police Protocol and proposed Local Law amendment with Victoria Police. Feedback is currently being sought from Victoria Police legal channels before any further action can be taken.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Notes the work done to date on the draft Community Safety Plan.

3.2 Endorses the release of the draft Community Safety Plan for the next phase of community engagement which includes the public exhibition of the draft Plan (Attachment 1).

3.3 Notes the Community Safety Engagement Report (Attachment 2) outlining feedback received during community engagement which took place between 22 May to 29 June 2025.

3.4 Endorses all Community Safety Roundtable Recommendations (Attachment 3) noting that these actions have also been included within the draft Community Safety Plan and draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy.

3.5 Notes that the Police Protocol and proposed Local Law amendment are progressing and Council is currently waiting on legal advice from Victoria Police.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 Council's current Community Safety Plan is finishing at the end of 2025. This new Plan will outline Council's priorities and guide actions around community safety for the next four years.

4.2 Having a safe, secure and liveable environment is a key determinate of health and fosters a socially diverse and inclusive community. Improving community safety is one of City of Port Phillip's five key health priorities, as identified in the Plan for Port Phillip. The Community Safety Plan is the foundational document that will enable Council to achieve this priority.

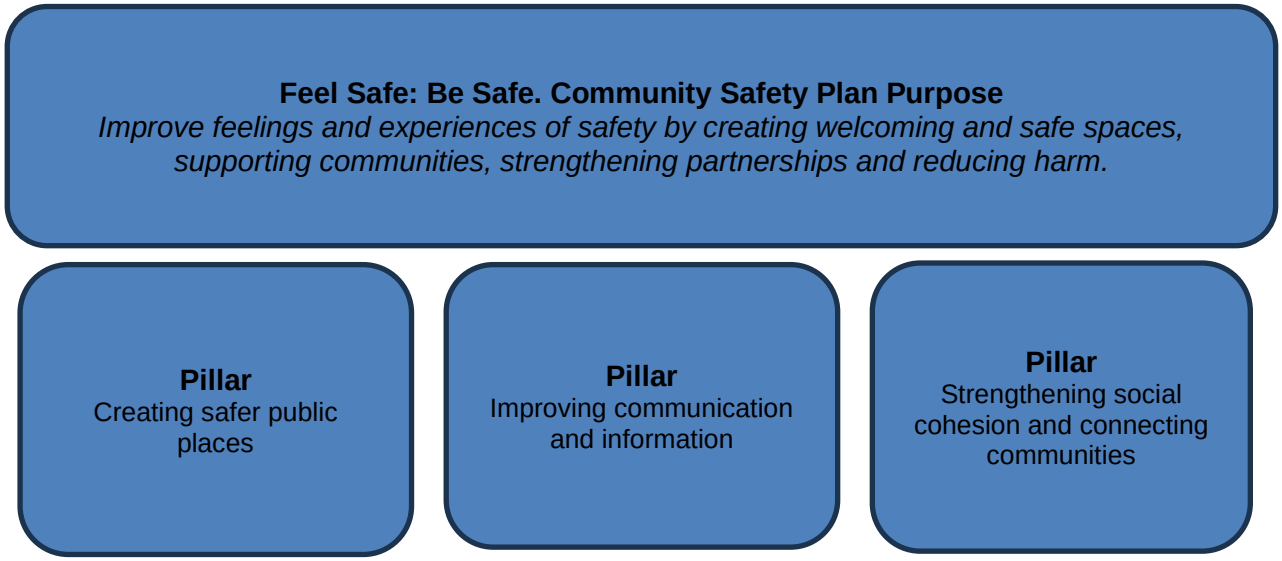
4.3 The City of Port Phillip is facing new challenges and opportunities around community safety. The needs and expectations of our local community are also continuously changing. In general, the factors that impact feeling safe and being safe can include physical infrastructure in public spaces (such as lighting), family and gendered violence, lack of secure housing, mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as rising living costs and online interactions. Social connection and cohesion, the factors that make people feel welcome and safe, and allow for civic and community participation, are also critical to positive feelings and experiences of safety.

4.4 Council, community service providers and Victoria Police must continually adapt to meet changing and increasing needs as a result of population growth, socio-economic, cultural and political conditions, and changing community demographics and expectations.

4.5 The new draft Community Safety Plan outlines Council's intention to strengthen our current approach through working with partners by improving and enhancing services and delivery, and developing new and innovative ways to address current and emerging needs.

4.6 Extensive community engagement has been conducted to develop the draft Community Safety Plan and there has been consideration of other reports, policies and strategies, such as the Community Safety Roundtable Report, and feedback from the Plan for Port Phillip community engagement.

4.7 The purpose, pillars, objectives and actions in the draft Plan outline key priority areas and align with other Council strategies and policies. The Purpose and Pillars are summarised here, with the objectives and broad actions summarised below in 4.12:



4.8 While community safety is not solely a Council responsibility, Council plays a part in creating a safer community and collaborating with local stakeholders and other tiers of government. The Plan takes a place-based approach and focuses on where Council can influence and take actions across the areas of prevention, intervention and response. A focus on upstream prevention and intervention will reduce the need for long-term investment in downstream responses.

4.9 The Plan for Port Phillip identifies two key outcome indicators related to community safety:

- Improving community perception of safety in public areas of the City of Port Phillip
- Maintaining incidents of crime per 100,000 population (City of Port Phillip).

4.10 These indicators relate to things Council influences but does not directly control. Progress against these indicators is dependent on a range of factors external to Council, including actions from other levels of government and the social services sector but will be monitored to understand progress.

4.11 How we address these indicators, and the Plan for Port Phillip safe and secure outcome priorities, is through the Community Safety Plan pillars, objectives and actions:

4.11.1 **Creating safer public spaces** - Design and maintain safe, accessible, welcoming, and resilient public spaces.

4.11.2 **Improving communication and information** - Improve communications and deliver programs which support a better-informed and engaged community.

4.11.3 **Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities** - Empower and support communities to thrive, collaborate and connect

4.12 Broad actions to address these pillars and objectives are outlined in the following table (the full list of actions is included in the draft Plan Attachment 1):

Draft Pillars	Draft Objectives	Broad actions
Creating safer public places	Design and maintain safe, accessible, welcoming, and resilient public spaces	• Maintain emergency management and develop crisis responses • Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles across capital projects • Conduct safety audits and rapid infrastructure interventions in identified hotspots • Improve lighting, signage, and accessibility in public spaces • Undertake joint patrols with Victoria Police • Maintain and upgrade public place CCTV systems • Application of Local Law related to public behaviour, amenity, and animal management • Partnered outreach with service providers • Support partners to deliver drug and alcohol, and gambling responses, to reduce harm impact • Advocate for increased Victoria Police and mental health response resources
Improving communication and information	Improve communications and deliver programs which support a better-informed and engaged community	• Establish regular community conversations on safety • Deliver campaigns on online safety, misinformation, and harm reduction • Support Neighbourhood Watch and other active citizenship and crime prevention programs • Develop communication tools to address community safety concerns for traders and business community around resources, services and responses, including 24-hour contacts
Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities	Empower and support communities to thrive, collaborate and connect	• Provide community grants for safety and social cohesion projects • Support community-led program development and delivery • Promote cultural and religious calendars to foster inclusion • Reduce isolation and strengthen community

4.13 The proposed Plan builds on previous work and proposes new actions and approaches for current and emerging issues to strengthen responses. Some of these actions are explored in greater depth below, aligned to specific concerns identified through community engagement and the Community Safety Roundtable.

4.14 The draft Plan interacts and aligns with several other Council plans and strategies to strengthen our commitments. The key Council documents that relate closely to the Community Safety Plan are the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy, Public Place Strategy and the Plan for Port Phillip. The draft Community Safety Plan

should be considered alongside these pieces of work. The Plan is also based on recommendations provided in the Community Safety Roundtable report (Attachment 3).

4.15 The Community Safety Plan also aligns with the Reconciliation Action Plan in support of investigation of a gathering place for First Nations People, and the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy work in supporting development of community hubs.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

Informing the draft Community Safety Plan

5.1 To identify our community's key priorities, engagement activities were conducted from 23 May – 29 June 2025, including surveys, workshops, Neighbourhood Pop-ups, receipt of submissions and more. The community engagement methodology involved identified stakeholders as well as the wider community, including people experiencing vulnerability such as rough sleeping homelessness and other lived experiences.

5.2 The content of the Plan was also informed by inputs including the Community Safety Roundtable recommendations, review of other Council strategies, and a desktop review of the current Community Safety Plan. The alignment to these inputs, as well as several other relevant strategies, are noted in the proposed draft Plan (Attachment 1).

5.3 Most of the Community Safety Roundtable recommendations are addressed across the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy and the draft Community Safety Plan. Specifically, 20 of the 37 recommendations from the Community Safety Roundtable are included either verbatim or as actions for extra exploration in the Community Safety Plan. Attachment 3 shows the alignment of specific Roundtable recommendations to actions across these documents.

5.4 A Gender Impact Assessment for the draft Community Safety Plan was also conducted and its recommendations have been incorporated.

5.5 Given that many of Council's existing strategies and policies already address elements of community safety, the draft Community Safety Plan primarily concentrates on introducing new or revised approaches, rather than duplicating existing initiatives. These other documents are referenced in the Plan for context.

5.6 The "*what we heard*" section of this report (below) highlights approaches outlined in the draft Community Safety Plan. All community feedback has been taken into consideration in developing the draft Community Safety Plan. The Engagement Report is summarised below, and the full report is Attachment 2.

Community Consultation 23 May – 29 June 2025

5.7 The purpose of the community engagement was to understand priorities around community safety as well as what role Council should play in this area. The feedback provided outlined several priority areas for the Plan.

5.8 Community engagement included:

- 5.8.1 8 x Neighbourhood Engagement Pop-ups (NEP)
- 5.8.2 5 x workshops (face-to-face and online) with interested community members
- 5.8.3 Have Your Say Page – online survey (long and short version)
- 5.8.4 Paper-based survey (long and short version)
- 5.8.5 Direct engagement with community service organisations

5.8.6 Flyers

5.8.7 Presentation to trader associations and Council's Advisory Committees

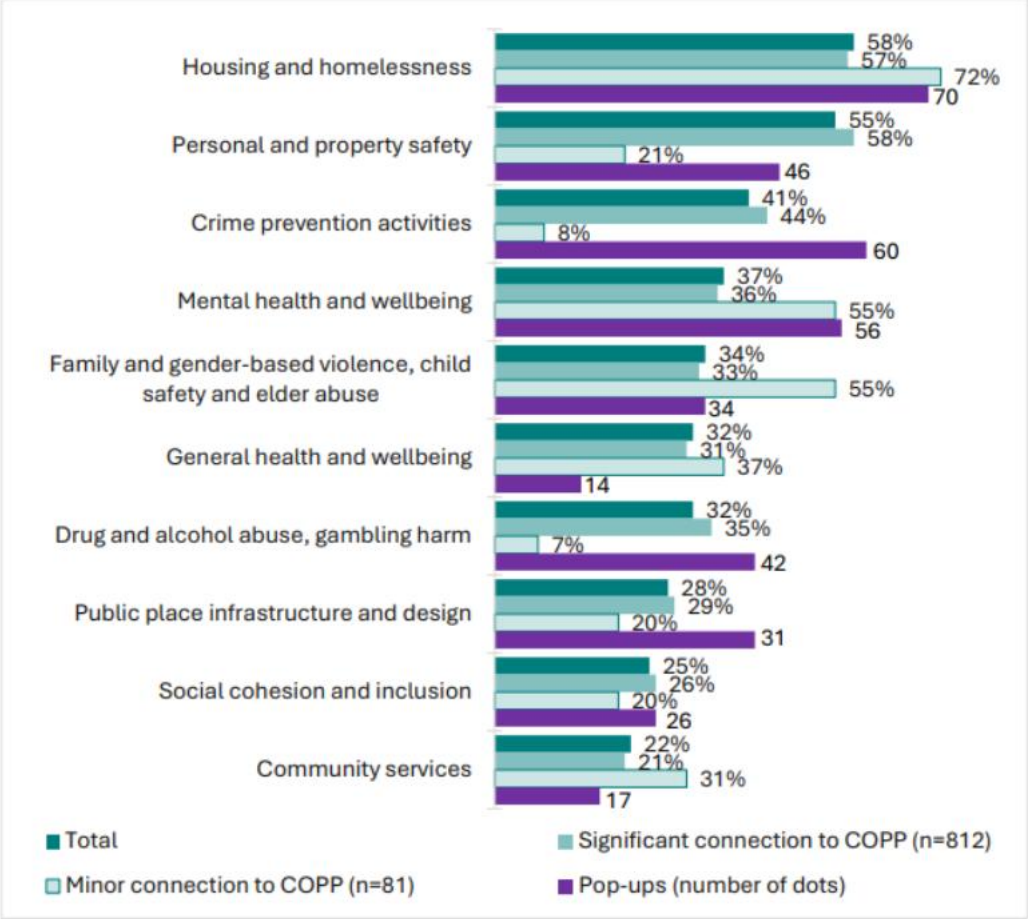
5.8.8 Receipt of submissions (formal and informal).

5.9 Internal consultation on the proposed objectives and actions was also conducted.

What we heard and how we responded

5.10 The top priorities highlighted from the community engagement were:

5.11



These have been aligned to the Roundtable recommendations and addressed in the draft Community Safety Plan as indicated below:

Top five areas identified in engagement	Addressed in the draft Community Safety Plan	Aligned Roundtable recommendations
Housing and Homelessness	• Work with relevant agencies to develop a formal partnership agreement between Victoria Police and CoPP for an effective, coordinated response to homelessness.	Recommendation 3 Recommendation 4 Recommendation 5 Recommendation 17

Top five areas identified in engagement	Addressed in the draft Community Safety Plan	Aligned Roundtable recommendations
	This topic is directly addressed in the draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy.	
Personal and Property Safety	• Work with Police and other partners to promote campaigns and strategies around personal and property safety (i.e. including Coffee with a Cop). • Develop responses to support people experiencing challenging behaviour in public places and build community resilience. • Maintain and manage the public space CCTV network in line with Council's Public Place CCTV Policy and work with Victoria Police to maximise community safety benefits. • Work with Federal government on new public place CCTV opportunities as part of the $1.5 million 2025 election commitment. • Promote, deliver, and continuously improve City of Port Phillip's syringe waste management service to ensure the appropriate and rapid disposal of syringes.	Recommendation 14 Recommendation 27 Recommendation 37
Crime Prevention Activities	• Establish regular channels for community conversation to inform proactive approaches to community safety. • Monitor crime statistics, community satisfaction survey and CRMs to identify priorities and emerging trends and concerns. • Support community-led, active citizenship programs such as Neighbourhood Watch which align with the Community Safety Plan vision. • Continue to improve public places by undertaking safety audits, reviewing and applying place-based and prosocial responses when hotspots emerge. • Review current processes and establish clear procedures enabling rapid	Recommendation 1 Recommendation 24 Recommendation 25 Recommendation 28

Top five areas identified in engagement	Addressed in the draft Community Safety Plan	Aligned Roundtable recommendations
	infrastructure interventions in public spaces contributing to unsafe conditions.	
Mental Health and Wellbeing	• Promote social cohesion via grants, events, and inclusive programming. • Tackle the service gap for responding to people experiencing acute mental health episodes in public. • Consider ways to support harm reduction in the City of Port Phillip through services, communications and partnerships. • Lead a coordinated advocacy campaign to increase the resources of PACER and HOPS and advocate for the State Govt to ensure implementation of Mental Health Royal Commission recommendations including transfer of first response to mental health emergency services calls from Police to Ambulance Victoria. • Develop and pilot a welfare-based model of joint patrols with Victoria Police, CoPP Local Laws, outreach workers, peer supports and other services to engage with rough sleepers and those with complex needs.	Recommendation 12 Recommendation 13 Recommendation 14 Recommendation 15 Recommendation 23
Family and gender-based violence, child safety and elder abuse	• Explore more cohesive approaches and partnerships to strengthen prevention and responses to family violence in Port Phillip. *This topic is addressed through Council's Children Services Policy 2020-2026 and Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025*	

Feeling safe and unsafe in Port Phillip

5.12 Community engagement workshops indicated that community members felt most safe in the following locations (for details please see Engagement Report page 41).

- Albert Park and Middle Park, due to limited anti-social behaviour and it not being too crowded
- St Kilda / St Kilda West, due to it being busy
- Balaclava
- Elwood, due to sense of community
- South Melbourne market, due to security

- Port Melbourne & Fisherman's Bend during the day
- Beachfront paths due to there being lots of people, with good visibility and well patrolled.

5.13 The feedback also indicated that people felt less safe in:

- St Kilda, due to antisocial behaviour
- Port Melbourne, at nighttime
- Balaclava, due to antisocial behaviour
- Elwood, due to flooding
- Tram stops and intersections, due to lack of lighting

5.14 Understanding when and why people changed their behaviour in public has also contributed to the development of the draft Plan, addressing concerns around situational awareness, behaviour, lighting, welcoming spaces and activities.

5.15 Community members provided a range of suggestions for enhancing safety in Port Phillip. These have all been addressed in the draft Community Safety Plan (for more information see Engagement Report pages 5-6).

5.16 These areas and feedback have also been addressed in detail through the actions outlined below and in the draft Community Safety Plan (Attachment 1).

Strengthening our current response

5.17 The Community Safety Plan engagement has outlined a range of service improvements that will be further explored and delivered through the Plan's implementation. This work builds on previous actions and propose new programs and projects for emerging or escalating issues. These areas are referenced specifically in the draft Community Safety Plan actions (see Attachment 1).

5.18 Some key highlights from the Plan's actions are:

Strategic pillars	New targeted actions	Identified need
Creating safer public spaces Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities	**Develop and pilot a welfare-based model**: Council will develop and pilot a welfare-oriented model of joint patrols in collaboration with Victoria Police, City of Port Phillip Local Laws officers, outreach workers, peer support personnel, and relevant service providers. Building on the Port Phillip Zero (PPZ) framework, the model will expand to include non-housing services, establishing shared protocols, integrated care plans, clear lines of accountability, and streamlined communication pathways to improve outcomes for vulnerable community members.	This initiative aims to enhance engagement with individuals experiencing homelessness and those with complex needs by fostering coordinated responses across housing, health, social support, and Council services.

Strategic pillars	New targeted actions	Identified need
Improving communication and information Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities	**Establish regular channels for community conversation:** To support proactive and inclusive approaches to community safety, Council will establish regular and accessible channels for community dialogue.	Engagement activities have highlighted a lack of awareness among residents regarding the roles and initiatives of various stakeholders in the community safety space. This action will focus on enhancing the visibility and accessibility of information, programs, and services related to community safety across the municipality, ensuring that residents are informed, connected, and empowered to participate in shaping safer neighbourhoods.
Creating safer public spaces	**Tackle the service gap:** Council will advocate for and support the development of targeted responses to address the service gap for individuals experiencing acute mental health episodes in public spaces.	This action recognises the urgent need for more responsive, inclusive, and trauma-informed mental health interventions that are accessible in real time and tailored to the diverse needs of the community.
Creating safer public spaces	**Continue to improve public places:** Council will continue to improve the safety and amenity of public spaces through regular safety audits and the application of place-based, prosocial design responses. When safety concerns or hotspots are identified, Council will implement targeted interventions guided by principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).	Community feedback has underscored the importance of enhancing safety during night-time hours, prompting a stronger focus on lighting, visibility, and activation strategies that contribute to a welcoming and secure public realm for all.

Proposed next phase of community consultation

5.19 Engagement on the draft Community Safety Plan is scheduled from 6 October to 2 November 2025. It will include the public exhibition of the draft Plan to invite community feedback. The engagement activities are planned as follows:

- *Have Your Say* page with online survey and paper-based option. The *Have Your Say* page will be specifically promoted to key stakeholders, past participants, traders and business associations, vulnerable community members, and service providers.
- Targeted engagement/interviews with up to three community members with lived experience of homelessness rough sleeping to specifically get feedback on the new actions outlined in the Plan.

- A second Community Safety Roundtable workshop held with key stakeholder organisations including community health, housing and legal services, and Victoria Police, to provide feedback on this Plan and in conjunction with the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy engagement, to round back with services that provided input to the Roundtable Report in March 2025.

Reporting on the Community Safety Plan

5.20 Tracking of actions in the Plan will be incorporated into the organisational monthly and quarterly reporting cycle and the Annual Report.

5.21 Regular reporting allows for a clear overview of actions taken and achieved, as well as to highlight any lessons learned through the implementation of the Plan

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no identified legal implications associated with the draft Community Safety Plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The Plan aims to ensure that Council's expenditure in its community safety response is financially sustainable.

7.2 The total budget for Council's direct community safety response in 2025/26 is $550,000. This includes the following allocations:

- 154k in employee costs (1 FTE staff in Community Building and Inclusion).
- $250k per year (over the next four years) to support delivery of community safety programs including:
  - $32k Launch Housing service agreement uplift
  - $60k Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Housing service agreement
  - $158k for delivery of the Community Safety Roundtable and Community Safety Plan actions
- $100k in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) projects
- $46k in various contracts, materials, and other operating expenses

7.3 The remaining $158k will be allocated to priority projects identified through the Roundtable and Community Safety Plan actions that can be delivered with speed and impact. This may include:

- A component of the funding required to pilot community connector programs; or
- Building on the Trauma Aware Port Phillip toolkit; and/or
- Addressing identified street infrastructure concerns that affect positive precinct activation.

7.4 An annual implementation approach will be developed each year of the life of the Plan to guide annual budget spends on actions.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 An unsafe or unsupported community may see an environmental impact such as increase in waste, rubbish, abandoned items or an increase in graffiti.

8.2 By supporting all members of our community, the general environment, health and wellbeing will be improved.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Experiences and feelings of safety have a significant effect on the health and wellbeing of individuals and their sense of belonging and community connection.

9.2 Improving community safety can increase connectedness, social and cultural inclusion and cohesion and prevent or reduce harm, trauma, stigma and hardship. This can have positive impact on reducing incidents of crime and supporting prosocial activity.

9.3 The draft Community Safety Plan will provide Council with clear and achievable directions and actions to improve community safety.

9.4 Community safety has a profound social impact, as it directly influences the wellbeing, cohesion, and resilience of communities.

9.5 When people feel safe in their environments—whether in public spaces, at home, or online—they are more likely to engage in civic life, build trust with neighbours, and access services without fear.

9.6 Effective community safety initiatives can reduce crime, antisocial behaviour, and social isolation, while also addressing underlying issues such as inequality, mental health, and substance use. Ultimately, a strong focus on community safety fosters inclusive, vibrant communities where individuals and families can thrive

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A gender impact assessment has been conducted on the draft Plan and recommendations have been taken into consideration in the development of the Plan.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The Community Safety Plan aligns to the Council strategic direction of A safe and liveable City.

11.2 It delivers on the priority of “Review and implement a new Community Safety Plan to enhance the safety and resilience of our community”. The Plan also supports the health priorities outlined in the Plan for Port Phillip.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 If Council resolves to release the draft Plan for community consultation at the Council meeting on 17 September 2025, the following will occur:

6 Oct – 2 November 2025	Draft Plan out for four weeks of community feedback to determine what changes can be made to the draft Community Safety Plan prior to going to Council for adoption.
November 2025	Consideration of feedback and submissions on the draft Plan.

10 December 2025	Updated Plan presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council for endorsement and adoption Engagement Report presented to Council for public release.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 Engagement on the draft Community Safety Plan is scheduled from 6 October to 2 November 2025. It will include the public exhibition of the draft Plan to invite community feedback. The engagement activities are planned as follows:

- Have Your Say page with online survey and paper-based option. The Have Your Say page will be specifically promoted to key stakeholders, past participants, traders and business associations, vulnerable community members, and service providers.
- Targeted engagement/interviews with up to three community members with lived experience of homelessness rough sleeping to specifically get feedback on the new actions outlined in the Plan.
- A second Community Safety Roundtable workshop held with key stakeholder organisations including community health, housing and legal services, and Victoria Police, to provide feedback on this Plan and in conjunction with the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy engagement, to round back with services that provided input to the Roundtable Report in March 2025.
- General communication will be through Divercity, social media, distribution of flyers to libraries and community centres.

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 "Feel Safe. Be Safe. Community Safety Plan 2025-29"**
2. **Community Safety Engagement Report 2025**
3. **Response to Community Safety Roundtable 2025 recommendations**

Draft Community Safety Plan 2025-2029

Feel Safe. Be Safe.

portphillip.vic.gov.au

Front matter

To be inserted:

Accessibility/translation services page (standard - to be included in final version)

- Acknowledgement of country:
  Wominjeka. 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 emerging.

- Contents page

- Message from the Mayor

- Diagram showing how this strategy relates to other Council documents

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Vision and structure

Port Phillip aspires to be a thriving, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone feels safe, connected, and empowered to live their fullest lives.

Our vision for community safety is grounded in equity, prevention, and collaboration—where public spaces are welcoming and accessible, and safety is co-created through strong partnerships with residents, Victoria Police, and service providers.

We take a public health approach to address the root causes of harm: prioritising early intervention, harm reduction, and trauma-informed care.

Guided by data, lived experience, and innovation, we continuously adapt to emerging challenges while ensuring that all voices—especially those of our most vulnerable—are heard and valued.

Together, we are building a future where community safety is built on wellbeing, dignity, and inclusion for all.

The Community Safety Plan sits alongside the Homelessness & Affordable Housing Strategy and key Council documents to deliver on this commitment.

The Community Safety Plan structure is:

Outcome indicators and measures

The Community Safety Plan's actions will be delivered through three over-arching pillars with the aim of addressing the outcome indicators identified in the Plan for Port Phillip safety around community safety:

- Improving community perception of safety in public areas of the City of Port Phillip
- Maintaining incidents of crime per 100,000 population (City of Port Phillip)

These indicators relate to things Council influences but does not directly control. Progress against these indicators is dependent on a range of factors external to Council, including actions from other levels of government and the social services sector but will be monitored to understand progress

This Community Safety Plan will also aim for:

- an uplift in Customer Satisfaction Survey >7.6/10 across measures related to perception of safety in public areas
- a reduction in incidents of safety related complaints to Council.

Objectives and outcome measures are outlined below and demonstrate the identified benefits for our community. Detailed actions associated with each pillar and objective can be found on page 31 in this document.

These pillars and objectives are designed to provide immediate, medium- and long-term benefit, tangible results and accountability, improve communication and visibility, and address chronic and complex challenges to improve feelings and experiences of safety.

The following table outlines the outcome measures under each objective. Through these Council will monitor tracking against each objective.

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Pillar 1: Creating safer public places outcome measures	Target 2025-2029
Support Police law enforcement and crime prevention through renewal of current Public Place CCTV system	Completion of renewal project
Lead the definition and execution of new CCTV project/s in line with Federal Government funding guidelines.	Delivery of additional projects through Federal funding
% of public space upgrades incorporating CPTED and inclusive design principles	Applied across >80% in Council planning and design processes
Daily City Amenity Patrols	>90%
Number of joint patrols with Police and collaboration initiatives with partners (e.g. Police, health and housing services)	Maintain joint and partner patrols and referrals
Monitoring of reported CSA criminal incidents per 100,000	Tracking of reported incidents

Pillar 2: Improving communication and information	Target 2025-2029
Level of community engagement with Council's communication and access to community safety information	Tracking of hits on articles in Divercity and updates to Community Safety Webpage
Uplift in Community Satisfaction Survey • Perception of safety in public areas • I feel proud of, connected, and enjoy living in my neighbourhood The City of Port Phillip is a welcoming and supportive place for everyone including people from varied cultural and religious backgrounds, ages, genders, and sexual orientation.	>7.6/10
Community Safety Plan actions on track.	>80%
Trauma Aware Port Phillip community engagement and programs implemented.	Track engagement numbers
Incidence of safety-related complaints or CRM reports in public spaces addressed.	Decrease in annual reporting of key community safety concerns and how they have been addressed

Pillar 3: Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities	Target 2025-2029
# of community grants delivered that successfully contribute to improving Community Safety.	# of community strengthening grants delivered successfully
# of community grants delivered that successfully contribute to improving Social Cohesion.	# of community strengthening grants delivered successfully
Collaborate on trader and business community safety activities.	Increase in community safety satisfaction from trader/business communities in annual survey
Number of advocacy actions identified and targeted engagement commenced.	80 % of identified actions

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Purpose of the Plan

To improve feelings and experiences of safety by creating welcoming and safe spaces, supporting communities, strengthening partnerships and reducing harm

Council respects and supports the right of all members of our community to feel safe and be safe. We acknowledge the diversity of lived experiences and the impacts that different circumstances can have on people's lives.

Community safety is a priority for the City of Port Phillip. A safer city contributes to positive health, social and economic outcomes for our community. Feeling and being safe influences how people use and interact with each other and with the built environment, local amenities, parks, and community facilities.

"In reflecting the trust people have in one another, cohesive communities also provide a sense of safety, allowing people to live in their communities to their fullest and without fear of becoming the victim of violence and crime. A cohesive society is therefore one that supports people to be happy, safe, and connected."[1]

The City of Port Phillip's Community Safety Plan will guide the ways Council will contribute to, and support, community safety across our municipality over the next four years.

The Plan will contribute to achieving Port Philip's strategic direction of **a safe and liveable City**, by enhancing the safety and resilience of our community and ensuring the municipality remains a place where everyone feels welcome and has a sense of belonging.

The development of this Plan has been informed by in-depth background research, other Council strategies and plans, community members and organisations who shared their concerns and priorities as part of the engagement process for this plan and the Deliberative Engagement Panel associated with the development of the Plan for Port Phillip including budget, the Community Safety Roundtable Report, and benchmarking across other councils.

Council recognises that creating a safer community is a shared responsibility. Over the next four years, we will continue to work in partnership with residents, community

[1] https://scanloninstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Mapping-Social-Cohesion-2024-Report.pdf p 80

organisations, Victoria Police, and state and federal governments to deliver coordinated, trauma-aware, and inclusive approaches to safety—ensuring Port Phillip remains a place where everyone belongs.

Through this plan Council aims to build a safe, resilient, and connected community, and a City that is welcoming for all to live, work and visit.

The plan is set out in five parts:

Part 1 Introduction

Part 2 Context

Part 3 Our roles

Part 4 Objectives and actions

Part 5 Implementation, monitoring and reporting

DRAFT

Part 1 Introduction

Why do we need a new Community Safety Plan

"Community health and wellbeing is … supported by feeling safe and having ample opportunities for participation."

Plan for Port Phillip (Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan)

Council is committed to ensuring that all our community feels welcome and safe in the City of Port Phillip.

The Community Safety Plan demonstrates Council's commitment and contribution to working in partnership with community and key stakeholders to provide a safer and more vibrant community for everyone. It focuses on making our community a safer and more resilient place to live, work and visit.

The key findings from the 2025 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey for the City of Port Phillip highlight that community safety is a significant concern for local residents with 21% of respondents identifying safety, policing, and crime as top issues needing attention—substantially higher than the metropolitan average of 7%.

Perceptions of safety in public areas were notably lower than regional benchmarks, especially at night (6.5/10), which was 8% below the metropolitan average. Daytime safety was rated more positively at 8.3/10, but still slightly below average. Specific areas of concern included local activity centres and the foreshore, with respondents citing drugs, alcohol, crime, and lack of visible policing as key reasons for feeling unsafe.

Concerns around safety were closely linked to overall satisfaction with Council. Respondents who raised safety, homelessness, or drug-related issues were 2–4% less satisfied with Council's performance. These issues also intersected with broader social challenges, such as homelessness (8%) and drug and alcohol use (4%), which were more frequently raised in Port Phillip than in other municipalities. The survey highlighted a need for more coordinated, welfare-based responses to vulnerable populations and culturally appropriate mental health support, particularly for Aboriginal residents.

The Crime Statistics Agency reported that criminal incidents (multiple offences that are recorded on a single date and location) in Port Phillip had risen by 23.1% compared to

the previous year (this data reflects year ending March 2025). Total offences recorded (illegal activity) in Port Phillip rose by 20.7% and family violence rose by 20.3%. The Community Safety Plan aligns with state and federal strategies that relate to crime prevention, family violence, reducing harm from substance abuse, emergency response and community safety. It also aligns with the new Plan for Port Philip and the Municipal Health and Wellbeing priorities, and other relevant Council strategies, plans, and policies.

Community safety is determined by a range of complex environmental, social and economic factors and is best achieved by working together across community, government, and organisations. No one entity alone can create a safe community – it is the responsibility of everyone together.

Council's previous Community Safety Plan was adopted in 2019 and concluded in 2025 after an extension by Council of two years following the impact of Covid-19 which delayed delivery of some actions. Its focus was on creating safe spaces, building resilience, and living healthy. All its actions were achieved.

How was this new Plan developed

This Plan has been developed through extensive engagement with the Port Phillip community and our network of community service providers, a review of other council's community safety approaches, consideration of the State and Federal legislative and policy landscape, a Community Safety Roundtable, review of Council engagement reports across a range of related topics over the last two years, and a review of Council's previous Community Safety Plan.

The information gathered shaped the objectives and identified actions, advocacy and partnerships. It also helped develop new and innovative responses, integrate successful models from elsewhere, and create opportunity for more active participation and beneficial outcomes.

Key engagement activities included:

- Aug – Dec 2024 Phase One pre-engagement with key stakeholders to test our engagement approach
- March 2025 Community safety roundtable discussion with stakeholders to understand community safety including homelessness

- May-June 2025 Phase Two community engagement on priorities for new plan including broad engagement through surveys, workshops, and targeted conversations
- July 2025 Consultation with internal stakeholders to ensure operational capacity of proposed actions
- July 2025 Analysis of Customer Satisfaction Survey data, focusing on feedback around homelessness and safety
- August 2025 Development of a Gender Impact Assessment
- October – November 2025 Phase Three community feedback on draft Plan

What we heard from the community

Council engaged on this project in three phases as noted in the timeline above. Phase One was pre-engagement with key stakeholders to test the engagement approach. Phase Two set out to identify and prioritise community's needs and was conducted from 22 May to 29 June 2025. We heard from a total of 1,316 participants throughout the community engagement process. A full engagement report is available on the Council website.

Engagement included:

- Online and paper-based survey
- Pop-ups and community activities
- Community workshops
- Engagement at Committees and meetings
- Submissions and Emails
- Review of relevant recent Council engagement activities (e.g. Plan for Port Phillip)

Respondents were from a range of different demographic areas.

The most selected important areas when thinking about community safety were housing and homelessness, personal and property safety (particularly for survey respondents with a *significant connection* to COPP and *pop-up* participants) and crime prevention activities (particularly for survey respondents with a *significant connection* to COPP and *pop-up* participants), followed by mental health and wellbeing and family and gender-based violence.

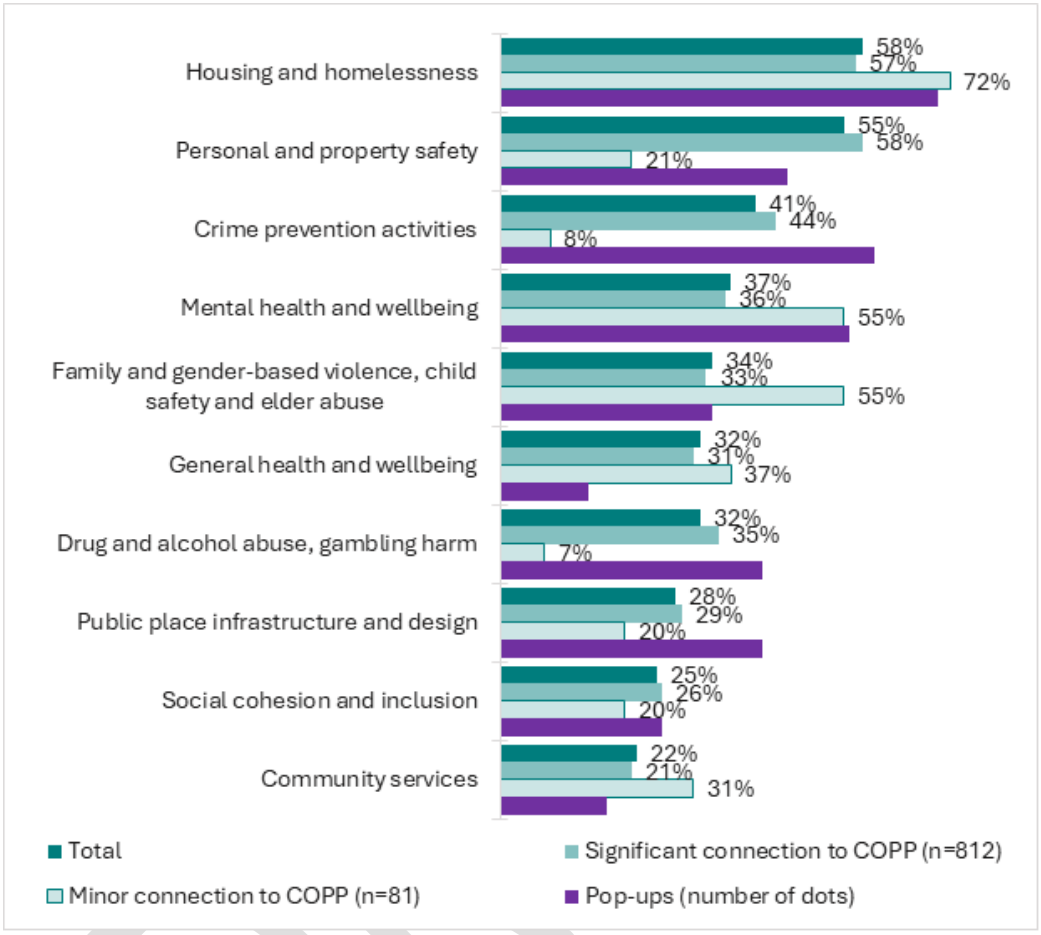

Figure 1: Most important areas when thinking about community safety

Throughout engagement, community members expressed strong concern for housing and homelessness, emphasising the need for safe shelter and support for those marginalised. Safety in public spaces was a recurring theme, with personal experiences highlighting issues such as drug use, mental health challenges, and crime, and underscoring the importance of feeling free from violence and fear. These concerns were often linked to broader systemic issues, including the need for improved public infrastructure, community services, and social cohesion.

Underlying factors like mental health, general wellbeing, and substance abuse were seen as foundational to community safety. Respondents also stressed the importance of protecting vulnerable groups—such as children, elderly, and victim survivors of family violence—and called for inclusive, supportive environments. Overall, the feedback

reflects a desire for holistic approaches that address both immediate safety concerns and the broader social determinants of wellbeing.

Please refer to the full community engagement report for more details of engagement and more detailed feedback.

Consideration of other strategies, plans, and policies

Council adopts a holistic and integrated approach to enhancing community safety. A range of actions contributing to community safety are already being implemented through existing Council strategies, plans, and policies, as outlined in the table below. While these actions align with the priorities of the Community Safety Plan, they are not duplicated within the Plan itself, as they are sufficiently addressed elsewhere.

Actions associated with each of these documents are publicly reported to Council.

Additionally, the Community Safety Roundtable Report undertaken in March 2025, and the Deliberative Engagement Panel undertaken in February 2025, outlined several recommendations for community safety in the City of Port Phillip.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey results (June 2025) highlighted aspects of community safety which has also been considered in developing this plan.

A gender impact assessment has also been undertaken to ensure a gender and intersectional lens has been applied to the actions.

Other documents which informed the development of this plan have been included in the reference section at the end of this document.

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Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
Draft Homeless and Affordable Housing Strategy 2025-2035 *(strong correlation with CSP)*	The Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy seeks to achieve Council's vision to be a liveable and vibrant city that enhances community connection and wellbeing. Homelessness and affordable housing are recognised as significant health priorities with secure, safe, and stable places to live being considered essential building block of health and fundamental for Council achieving its vision. Through this strategy Council aims to improve the supply and diversity of affordable housing and ensure appropriate supports are available for people to maintain housing.	• Explore new partnerships to support people experiencing poverty with food relief and rental support. • Formalise service agreements with clear mandates and accountability for outreach and support. • Develop an anti-stigma campaign targeting perceptions of mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness to enhance safety perceptions. • Invest in and expand the Trauma Aware Port Phillip group. • Explore peacemaking programs to reduce community conflict (e.g., City of Yarra model).
Public Space Strategy 2022-2032 *(strong correlation with CSP)*	Sets the vision and blueprint for the future of our public spaces in Port Phillip. The Community Safety Plan acknowledges the need for public spaces to be safe and accessible and reflects actions within the strategy.	• Cobden Street Pocket Park and Palais Theatre precinct to improve pedestrian safety and reduce vehicle intrusion. • Enhance pedestrian safety between Donovans and Marina Reserve. • Enhance safe access between Port Melbourne and Fishermans Bend. • Ensure appropriate amenities in public spaces: Include shaded seating, lighting, and wayfinding to improve safety and comfort. • Ensure safe walking access without crossing major roads or barriers. • Improve safety and accessibility for children (upgrade adventure playgrounds). • Improve safety through environmental design principles. • Increase greening and seating to enhance safety and comfort. • Repurpose underused areas for public use. • Trial closures (e.g., Blessington Street) to link parks and improve pedestrian safety. • Trial road closures and removal of car parking for playstreets and parklets.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
Plan for Port Philip *(strong correlation with CSP)*	The Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035 guides how Council will serve the community. The Plan defines the services and projects Council will deliver for the people who live, work and play in City of Port Phillip.	• Advocate for funding and policy changes to support community safety infrastructure. • Comply with new legislation, including swimming pool audits and site contamination reporting. • Combat discrimination, racism, and antisemitism through community-led programs and education. • Promote social cohesion via grants, events, and inclusive programming. • Support multicultural and LGBTIQA+ communities through targeted action plans and inclusive services. • Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in public space projects. • Deliver public space upgrades that reduce crime and increase safety. • Implement summer management strategies to ensure safe public spaces during peak visitation. • Improve lighting and visibility in public areas to enhance perceptions of safety. • Install bollards and other protective infrastructure in high-risk public areas. • Maintain amenity and safety through consistent enforcement of local laws and animal management. • Provide rapid response services and local law amenity patrols. • Update the Graffiti Management Plan to improve effectiveness of graffiti removal. • Address terrorism-related risks with proactive capital investments in safety infrastructure. • Deliver a Graffiti Removal Program, prioritising offensive content.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
		• Facilitate community leadership in emergency preparedness and resilience. • Renew public place CCTV systems across four precincts to ensure functionality and maintenance. • Review and implement a new Community Safety Plan to enhance safety and resilience. • Review and implement the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and subplans. • Train staff and develop procedures for emergency response and recovery. • Update Council's Local Law to ensure proportionate legal mechanisms for community safety.
Accessibility Action Plan 2023-2025	Local government has an important role to play in local service, program provision and advocacy to ensure equitable opportunities in social, economic, and civic life for all community members. This Accessibility Action Plan sets out the actions we will take to ensure that the City of Port Phillip is a community where people with disability are valued, included and feel a sense of belonging.	• Apply universal design principles to improve safety and accessibility of public spaces.
Act and Adapt Strategy 2023-2028	The strategy sets out City of Port Phillip's long-term commitment to environmental sustainability for the organisation and the wider community. It establishes a pathway to transition Port Phillip into a greener, cooler, more liveable city with lower carbon emissions; a water sensitive city adapting and resilient to climate change and with a sustained reduction in waste.	• Assess climate hazards and vulnerabilities across Council assets and services. • Develop a plan to address sea level rise and inundation risks. • Support community groups to prepare for flooding, heatwaves, and other climate impacts. • Update flood and heatwave emergency response plans.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
City of Port Phillip Events Strategy 2023-2026	The City of Port Phillip aims to plan, attract and direct events to ensure our city is welcoming, healthy, safe and vibrant for all. It is commonly recognised and accepted that events bring a wealth of benefits to a community, from the health and wellbeing of residents through to economic development for local businesses, cultural vibrancy and social engagement.	• Collaborate with Victoria Police, EPA, VCGLR, and transport providers to minimise amenity impacts and maximise cooperation. • Activate areas requiring support based on visitation, public behaviour, or perceptions of safety.
Climate Emergency Action Plan 2023-2028	Port Phillip Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, recognising that climate change is a global and that everyone must play their part. The declaration responds to the critical climate situation and demonstrates Council's commitment to act. The Climate Emergency Plan influences actions within this plan with regard maintaining community resilience.	• Support community-led climate adaptation plans and establish partnerships to improve resilience.
Community Amenity Local Law 2023	The purpose of this Local Law is to provide for the peace, order, and good governance of the City of Port Phillip in a way that is complementary to Council's Plan by: • Managing the uses and activities on roads and Council land • Managing, regulating and controlling uses that interfere with a healthy and safe environment	• Prohibits harassment, nuisance, and unsafe conduct. • Enforces compliance with signage and officer directions. • Permit required for walking 7+ dogs. • Enforcement of animal litter removal. • Prohibits camping on Council land unless homeless or in need. • Designated zones with enforcement around smoking. • Permit required to remove or damage significant trees. • Owners must maintain safety and appearance of their land. • Permit required for fireworks and open-air burning. • Permit required for road occupation and vehicle crossings. • Enforcement of parking and vehicle repair rules. • Authorised officers can issue notices, impound items, and act in urgent circumstances.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2023-2026	The Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2023-26 outlines Council's deep commitment to create a thriving social, cultural and economic future for the City of Port Phillip and a continued focus on economic development and tourism, festivals, events, live music, our screen industry (including film and gaming) and arts, culture and heritage. It outlines the actions Council will take in close collaboration with community, business, entertainment venues and our creative organisations.	• Support for cultural expression and inclusion. Celebrate First Peoples content and inclusive festivals. • Truth-telling and storytelling programs. Support cultural safety and healing through arts and events. • Public space activation with safety focus. Enhance prosperity while maintaining safety and quality of life for residents.
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025	The Plan provides Council with an approach towards promotion of responsible pet ownership, the welfare of dogs and cats in the community and the protection of the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats. The Plan also outlines how Council will enforce all legislative requirements and compliance with our local laws.	• Partner with Australia Post to identify problem dogs. • Education campaigns and signage/stencils. • Promote wildlife protection from pets. • Mandatory desexing of newly registered cats. • Increased patrols in parks and hotspots. • Introduce a 9pm–6am cat curfew. • Develop a dog attack reporting kit. • Conduct investigations and enforcement. • Annual inspections of declared dogs • Microchip audits to identify restricted breeds • Clear processes for declaring dangerous dogs. • Permit required for walking more than 6 dogs. All dogs on leash under these conditions
Every Child Our Future: Children's Services Policy 2020-2026	This policy describes Council's role in children's services and what we will do to support the wellbeing and development of children and families in our community. The City of Port Phillip has developed the Children's Services Policy to guide how we support, deliver and invest in children's services.	• Assertive outreach for vulnerable children. Targeted support to access childcare and early education. • Child Safe Organisation Commitment. Zero tolerance for child abuse; all staff responsible for detecting and reporting. • Monitoring outcomes for vulnerable children. Use data to track development and wellbeing.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
		• Support for families experiencing vulnerability. Build capability in services to respond to family violence, neglect, and mental health. • Training for Child Safe Standards. Education and capacity building across children's services.
Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025	As a defined entity under the Gender Equality Act 2020, the City of Port Phillip has an obligation to promote workplace gender equality through gender auditing and action planning, and to consider gender equality in our community facing policies, programs and services. Importantly this plan is a key mechanism to achieving the Council Plan commitment to provide 'action that addresses the drivers of family violence and all forms of violence against women by tackling gender inequality in our community and organisation'.	• Complaint Procedures Review. Ensuring victim-centric processes for reporting inappropriate behaviour. • Family Violence Leave and Support. Review and promotion of leave policies for staff experiencing family violence. • Inclusive Workplace Design. Consideration of all-gender toilets, prayer rooms, and breastfeeding facilities. • Training on Responding to Family Violence. Specific training for HR and managers on disclosures and support. • Zero Tolerance for Sexual Harassment. Annual communication and mandatory training for staff and councillors.
Graffiti Management Plan 2019-2024	The Graffiti Management Plan for the City of Port Phillip has an annual graffiti removal budget. The graffiti removal is carried out via contractors with specialist mobile services.	• Collaborative Graffiti Mitigation Projects. Partnerships with utilities and transport providers to improve graffiti removal. • Community Correctional Programs. Investigating use of offender programs for graffiti removal. • Precinct-Based Graffiti Removal. Coordinated removal in high-traffic areas like Acland Street, Bay Street, Clarendon Street, etc. • Rapid Removal of Offensive Graffiti. Offensive and obscene graffiti will be removed within four hours of notification. • Weekly Patrols of Public Toilets. Dedicated patrols to monitor and remove graffiti weekly from public toilets.
LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023-2026	This LGBTIQA+ Action Plan identifies the needs and aspirations for LGBTIQA+ communities in our municipality and is a key part of our commitment to an LGBTIQA+ inclusive Port Phillip. This plan will guide how	• Embed safety into Council's Risk Management Framework. Embed assessing risks to the inclusion and safety of diverse communities, including LGBTIQA+ communities.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
	we embed LGBTIQA+ inclusion into our roles as a service provider, leader, ally, consumer and in our workplace.	• Provide gender-affirming facilities. Consider options to provide all-gender bathroom and changeroom options in Council facilities. • Publicly respond to incidents of discrimination. Take preventative steps to enhance safety. • Update Community Safety Plan to enhance safety for LGBTIQA+ communities.
Library Action Plan 2021-2026	The Library Action Plan ensures that CoPP libraries stay responsive to community needs and make Port Phillip a creative, liveable, prosperous and socially connected city for everyone.	• Our Libraries will focus more services and programs on supporting the most vulnerable members of our community, for example the homeless, the economically disadvantaged, older people and children at risk • Port Phillip libraries will provide education and public forums on topics of climate change and will plan crisis responses to support and relieve our residents during extreme heat days, smoke pollution and flooding events. • The libraries will prioritise services and programs for disadvantaged individuals and groups and create safe, welcoming spaces where people can read, relax, study, work and take part in social activities. • Establish libraries as climate emergency relief centres and host public education, discussions and forums on climate change and sustainability • Build partnerships and explore co-location opportunities with organisations such as public and non-profit agencies, community groups, schools and businesses to increase outreach activities that take the library into the community, with a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable communities and individuals. • Deliver technology support and digital literacy programs for people who lack skills and confidence in using technology devices, tools and platforms • Create safe, welcoming spaces where people can read, relax, study, work and take part in social activities.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
Move, Connect, Live: Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028	Aims to create neighbourhoods with access to key services within a 10-minute walk. It seeks Victorian Government funding for early delivery of connections to public transport, public space and streetscapes, footpaths, and bike lanes in Fishermans Bend; and to optimise wider transport connections for both current and future residents and workers.	• Partnering to improve reliability and accessibility. Tram stop upgrades and Metro Tunnel integration. • Partner with Parks Victoria for Shrine to Sea boulevard: Deliver safety and streetscape improvements for walking and bike riding. • Partner with VicRoads for St Kilda Road improvements: Enhance pedestrian and bike rider safety. • Deliver Healthy Tracks to School infrastructure: Improve walking routes to schools for child safety. • Improve pedestrian facilities and crossings: Widen footpaths, reduce crossing barriers, and improve safety. • Deliver blackspot safety improvements. • Support electric vehicle infrastructure: Reduce emissions and improve safety through quieter, cleaner transport.
Positive Ageing Policy 2023-2027	The Positive Ageing Policy seeks to ensure that Port Phillip is an age-friendly city across three areas one of which includes: A city where all older people have opportunities to take part in community and civic life and can access the services, programs and housing that meet their changing needs as they age.	• Community Transport Services. Free, accessible transport to libraries, markets, and medical services. • Neighbourhood Engagement Program. Pop-up events to share Council priorities and gather input. • Port Phillip Zero Project. Coordinated support for older people experiencing homelessness. • Seniors Register. Emergency contact list shared with police for vulnerable older residents.
Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2027	The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Represents Council's continued commitment to support meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with First Peoples in Port Phillip. The RAP sets out the steps we will take to advance those things we do well and, improve how we support our First Peoples community.	• Anti-discrimination strategies. Review HR policies, educate leaders, and embed inclusiveness. • Cultural safety training. Ensure services respect identities and experiences of Aboriginal children. • Deliver programs addressing at-risk individuals. Includes reconciliation initiatives, amenity, and local area response. • Support culturally appropriate housing and services. Partner with Aboriginal service providers to ensure safe housing.

Strategy / Plan	Overview of content	Actions that relate to this Community Safety Plan
		• Support for Sorry Business. Assist with ceremonial aspects and access to Council-managed spaces. • Truth-telling and storytelling programs. Led by First Nations people to foster understanding and healing.

Part 2 Context

In developing the new Community Safety Plan, we considered the demographic diversity, creativity, and resilience of the Port Phillip community.

Who are we?

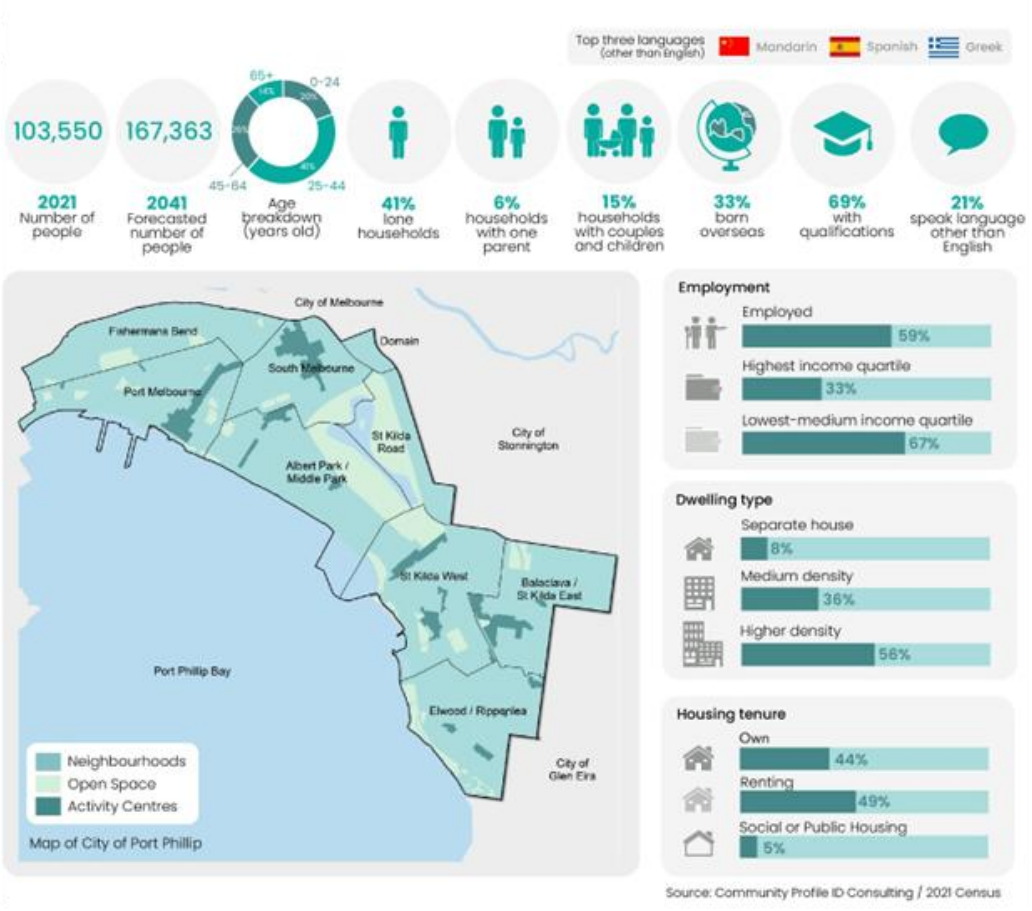

Figure 2: City of Port Phillip's current demographics

Port Phillip has a proud tradition of inclusion, and we warmly welcome everyone. We celebrate our rich diversity and acknowledge the unique experiences of groups at risk of exclusion, including First Nations people, children and young people, LGBTIQA+ communities, newly arrived migrants, people experiencing homelessness, people with disability, older residents, and women and girls.

First Peoples have cared for Country across our municipality for generations, and their ongoing connection remains central to our community identity.

Our cultural diversity continues to grow—residents come from over 160 countries, speaking more than 120 languages and dialects. One in three were born overseas, and over half have at least one parent born overseas. While many residents are affluent, educated, and employed, we also see pockets of disadvantage, particularly in areas of housing affordability and food security. Local food services are under pressure, with rising demand and fewer donations and volunteers.

Our population is ageing, with over 19,000 residents aged 60 and above. Older people contribute significantly through volunteering and community participation, though they may also need additional support.

Almost one in five people in Australia identify as a person with disability and the number of people with disability in Australia is increasing.

Businesses and traders play a vital role in shaping an inclusive and vibrant Port Phillip. Through employment, local initiatives, and partnerships, they help foster social connection and economic opportunity for all.

As we grow and change, we remain committed to building a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported.

Wellbeing and safety

Creating safe, welcoming spaces is essential to the health and wellbeing of the Port Phillip community. When people feel safe, they're more likely to connect with others, build trust, and enjoy a stronger sense of belonging. [2] [3].

A person's sense of safety can be shaped by their surroundings—things like poor lighting, graffiti, damaged property, or a lack of visibility can all have an impact[4]. Social behaviours also play a role, such as public alcohol or drug use, dogs off-leash, or unsafe road and bike use.

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[2] Baum, FE, Ziersch, AM, Zhang, G & Osborne, K 2009, 'Do perceived neighbourhood cohesion and safety contribute to neighbourhood differences in health?', Health & Place, vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 925–34.

[3] FINAL_ Social Cohesion and Pro-Social Responses to Perceptions of Crime.pdf

[4] Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2010, Australian social trends: Who's afraid? Feelings of personal safety, ABS cat. no. 4102.0, ABS, Canberra

Personal experiences matter too. People who have experienced crime, trauma, or live with mental health conditions may feel less safe, even in familiar environments.

When individuals feel secure in their neighbourhoods, they're more likely to engage with their community, reducing isolation and strengthening social ties.

Feelings and perceptions of safety

The latest results from the community satisfaction survey 2024 show that residents' perception of safety has dropped.

The survey results indicate varied perceptions of safety across public spaces within the City of Port Phillip. Public areas during daylight hours received the highest safety rating (8.3 out of 10), with only 3% of respondents reporting feeling unsafe. The beach and foreshore followed closely (7.9, 2% unsafe), while the local shopping district scored slightly lower (7.6, 4% unsafe). Notably, perceptions of safety declined significantly in public areas at night, with a rating of 6.5 and 14% of respondents indicating they felt unsafe.

When benchmarked against metropolitan and inner eastern region councils, Port Phillip's safety ratings were consistently lower, particularly at night—8% below the metropolitan average and 10% below the inner eastern region average. These findings are reflected in the proportion of respondents who identified safety, policing, and crime (21%) as key concerns, alongside issues such as homelessness (8%), activity centre management (4%), and drug and alcohol-related concerns (4%).

Qualitative feedback further highlighted the reasons behind these perceptions. The most frequently cited concerns included drug and alcohol use (43 comments), discomfort around certain groups of people (39), perceived lack of policing and general crime concerns (32), and direct experiences with crime and break-ins (30). These insights underscore the importance of targeted strategies to enhance public safety and address the underlying social factors contributing to community unease.

Community sentiment and safety

Recent community engagement highlights a strong sense of belonging and pride among Port Phillip residents. Respondents reported high levels of agreement that the city is welcoming, vibrant, and inclusive, with average scores ranging from 7.1 to 8.1 out of 10 across key indicators of community connection. Notably, only 1% of respondents disagreed that Port Phillip is a welcoming place for people from diverse backgrounds, and 8 out of 10 felt proud and connected to their neighbourhood.

Despite these positive sentiments, safety remains a key concern. Issues such as crime, policing, homelessness, and drug and alcohol use were identified by residents as significant challenges. Perceptions of safety in public spaces—particularly at night and around activity centres—were consistently lower than the metropolitan average. These concerns align with the top safety priorities identified in Victoria Police's 2024 Community Sentiment Survey, including public safety, property protection, and the impact of drugs and alcohol.

We know that online media also plays a part in community sentiment and can have a powerful influence on how people perceive safety in their communities. The constant flow of news and social content can heighten awareness of risks, but it can also amplify fear—especially when stories are sensationalised or lack context. Concerns around online scams and the rise of Artificial Intelligence-created content have also been raised. At the same time, digital platforms offer valuable opportunities to share accurate information, highlight positive initiatives, and build trust. When used thoughtfully, online media can support safer, more informed communities.

Crime statistics in City of Port Phillip

Victoria Police are responsible for responding to incidents of crime and upholding law and order. The City of Port Phillip works closely with Victoria Police and other agencies to contribute resources (such as Local Laws and City Amenity officers) and support responses to crime where appropriate.

Council monitors crime trends in our local government area. Overall, Port Phillip residents' sense of safety and security is comparable with the Victorian average. However, Port Phillip has a persistently higher number of criminal incidents per capita than the state average. The Crime Statistics Agency, crimestatistics.vic.gov.au, reported in 2024 the criminal incident rate per 100,000 population for Port Phillip was 10,375.5, compared with the Victorian rate of 6,550.6. The total number of recorded criminal incidents in Port Phillip was 11,735; up 19.3 per cent from 2023.

Port Phillip's incidence of family violence is below the state average. In 2024, the incidence of family violence per 100,000 population in Port Phillip was 1,308, compared with a Victorian rate of 1,503. It is estimated that only 25 per cent of family violence incidents are reported to the police.

As at March 2025, the top five locations with the highest incidents of crime were St Kilda, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Elwood, and Balaclava. Also at this time, the top five principal offence subgroups were stealing from a motor vehicle, theft, criminal damage, motor vehicle theft, residential non-aggravated burglary.

Services in the City of Port Phillip

City of Port Phillip is fortunate to have many great community service providers across our municipality, who support those most vulnerable in the City.

Community providers provide critical support to our residents through the provision of social support, social inclusion, health, housing, legal, education and training services. They are an important network of services which improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for our residents. Council also partners with local organisations and the community through the project Port Phillip Zero and Trauma Aware Port Phillip.

Port Phillip Zero aims to end rough sleeping homelessness in the City of Port Phillip by providing appropriate, secure, affordable long-term housing, and support, to all people who are living without a home. Council's Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy outlines Port Phillip Zero in greater detail.

Trauma Aware Port Phillip (TAPP) is a community-led, evidence-informed project to strengthen resilience and reduce the impact of trauma and shame in the Port Phillip community. This project is coordinated through the TAPP Working Group, a network of individuals, organisations and service providers in Port Phillip who are collaborating to empower sectors and community to enhance connection and capacity, reduce trauma and shame in everyday interactions, build inclusion, and share knowledge.

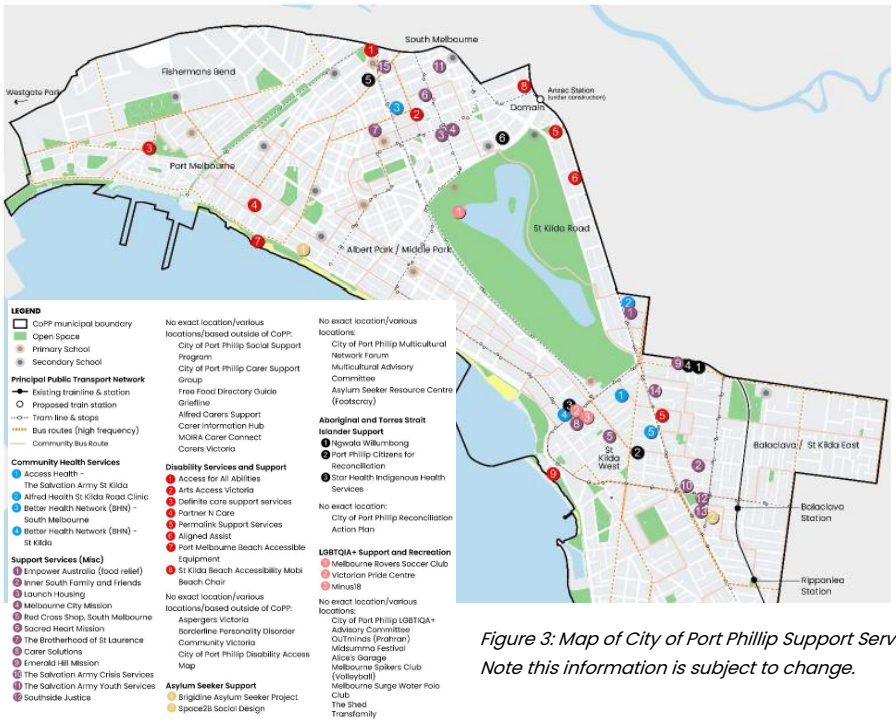


Figure 3: Map of City of Port Phillip Support Services (May 2024). Note this information is subject to change.

Part 3 Council's role

We know that community safety requires a partnership approach. This is why we work collaboratively with our communities, support and service organisations, Victoria Police and State Government.

The safety of our community is shaped by a range of factors—including government policies, economic conditions, and broader social influences—many of which are beyond the direct control of the City of Port Phillip.

That's why we work closely with our partners—community members, government agencies, service organisations, universities, local businesses, and traders—to share responsibility, identify solutions, and pool resources. Together, we're committed to creating a safer, more connected community for everyone.

We deeply value the skills, experience, and knowledge our partners bring to this shared effort. Their contributions are essential to building a community where everyone feels safe, supported, and included.

Roles of different levels of government

Local government plays several roles in community safety including:

- activating public spaces through community grants and funding
- activating and revitalising our high streets
- fostering diversity, inclusion, and social connection
- fostering strong partnerships with emergency services, local traders, and community groups
- maintaining and upgrading public amenities and addressing identified traffic and transport issues
- providing supports for those experiencing hardship and insecure housing
- developing regulations to promote and maintain safety
- physical design of public places through new works and through planning approvals
- maintaining safer public spaces through CCTV, Local Laws, and joint patrols.

The State government is responsible for law and order, public housing, public health, transport and infrastructure, and emergency management, and leads on responses to these issues in the City.

The Federal government focuses on national matters such as Medicare and social security, defence, immigration, and foreign policy.

Community Safety

Federal	State	Local
Taxation	Police and Crime Prevention	Local infrastructure
Grants	Hospitals and health	Rates
Social security	Public transport	Referral, support, and direct outreach
Major infrastructure funding	Roads	Service coordination
Defence	Emergency management	Information provision
	Public and community housing	Funds community providers through grants and service agreements
	Major infrastructure provision	Maintenance of local amenity
	Taxation	

Table 1: responsibilities of different levels of government in relation to community safety. Note tables to be replaced with infographics

Roles of other organisations

Many organisations play a part in contributing to community safety. This includes not-for-profit and community organisations that provide health and housing support services, legal support, cultural, social, and sporting activities. Examples in Port Phillip include Launch Housing, Sacred Heart Mission, Salvation Army, Better Health Network, Southside Justice, Port Phillip Community Group, Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation, Victorian Pride Centre, Neighbourhood Watch.

Businesses and traders are critical partners who contribute to economic and social wellbeing through provision of goods and services, engagement with shoppers and passers-by, and for their formal or informal physical presences. This includes high street traders and markets, neighbourhood stores and services.

Arts, cultural and religious institutions, sporting organisations, and schools help build community connection, improve health and wellbeing, and serve play a significant role in community safety.

Creating and maintaining a safe community is a shared responsibility. Council and community service providers must continually adapt to meet changing and increasing needs as a result of population growth, economic conditions and changing community demographics and expectations to meet community health and wellbeing needs.

Creating a safe and connected community together

Our residents and visitors play a vital role in bringing valuable insights and expertise in addressing the issues that matter most to our community.

There are many simple ways individuals can contribute to a safer environment—by respecting public spaces, disposing of waste responsibly, managing pets with care, showing courtesy to others, and reporting any criminal activity.

Residents and community groups actively work to strengthen social connections through neighbourhood contact, community gardens, volunteering, and more.

We encourage everyone who can to be proactive in strengthening community connections, speaking up or reporting issues, and looking out for each other. Together, we can foster a welcoming and secure community for all.

Communities' roles in community safety include:	Partner organisations in community safety include:	Agencies responsible for intervention and enforcement include:
• Being a good neighbour, such as taking the bins in or collecting mail when a household is away • Helping to keep neighbourhoods clean and tidy • Reporting of littering, graffiti, and concerns to Council or other authorities • Being welcoming.	• Better Health Network • Launch Housing • Salvation Army • Sacred Heart Mission • Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation • Southside Justice • SouthPort Community Legal Service • Launch Housing • First Step • St Kilda Gatehouse • Windana	• Victoria Police • Department of Justice and Community Safety • Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) • Crime Stoppers • Victims of Crime Helpline

Table 2: Indication of community safety roles and partners. Note tables to be replaced with infographics

Part 4 Objectives and actions

Pillar 1: Creating safer public places

The objective is to design and maintain safe, accessible, welcoming, and resilient public spaces.

The 'alignment' column shows how these actions align with the Roundtable recommendations.

#	Actions that relate to creating safer public places	Alignment
	What stays the same	
1.1	Deliver a renewal program for public place CCTV to ensure the system functions appropriately and is well maintained. Review the current placement of CCTV cameras to ensure their ongoing value and efficacy to community safety efforts in the CoPP).	Community Safety Roundtable 27
1.2	Maintain and manage the public space CCTV network in line with Council's Public Place CCTV Policy and work with Victoria Police to maximise community safety benefits.	
1.3	Ensure the positive look and feel of public spaces through ongoing cleansing, graffiti removal, amenity patrols and maintenance of lighting and signage.	
1.4	Promote, deliver, and continuously improve City of Port Phillip's syringe waste management service to ensure the appropriate and rapid disposal of syringes	
	What we're improving	
1.5	Confirm adequacy of current by laws, emphasising the need for effective implementation and coordination rather than legislative change.	Community Safety Roundtable 6
1.6	Maintain and enhance existing partnership protocols among CoPP, Victoria Police, and key service providers (e.g., Launch, Access Health, Ngwala Willumbong).	Community Safety Roundtable 12
1.7	Tackle the service gap for responding to people experiencing acute mental health episodes in public places, particularly the gap in culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal people	Community Safety Roundtable 15
1.8	Urgently review and modify problematic public spaces applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.	Community Safety Roundtable 24
1.9	Review current processes and establish clear procedures enabling rapid infrastructure interventions in public spaces contributing to unsafe conditions.	Community Safety Roundtable 25
1.10	Elevate consideration of CPTED principles in planning decisions for key developments within CoPP and mandate their use for Council capital design projects	Community Safety Roundtable 26
1.11	Continue to invest in and publicise the work of the Trauma Aware Port Phillip group with a view to expanding its reach and impact.	Community Safety Roundtable 29

#	Actions that relate to creating safer public places	Alignment
1.12	Continue to improve public places by undertaking safety audits, reviewing and applying place-based and prosocial responses.	
1.13	Explore partnerships with utilities and transport providers to improve graffiti removal services	
	What is new	
1.14	Advocate for an increase in resources by Victoria Police to the Neighbourhood Policing model in the Port Phillip Police Service Area with an increase in foot patrols, local engagement and problem solving, particularly in identified community safety 'hotspots'.	Community Safety Roundtable 1
1.15	Advocate for an ACLO role specific to the Port Phillip Police Service Area.	Community Safety Roundtable 2
1.16	Develop and pilot a welfare-based model of joint patrols with Victoria Police, CoPP Local Laws, outreach workers, peer supports and other services to engage with rough sleepers and those with complex needs.	Community Safety Roundtable 3
1.17	Work with relevant agencies to develop a formal protocol partnership agreement between Victoria Police and CoPP for an effective, coordinated response to homelessness taking guidance from the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police's Homelessness Operating Protocol /Policy Operating Statement.	Community Safety Roundtable 4
1.18	CoPP and Victoria Police protocols guiding the frontline role of Victoria Police engaged in homelessness response should emphasise rapid social and therapeutic intervention (problem solving) as the primary goal, with enforcement actions being secondary, or a last resort.	Community Safety Roundtable 7
1.19	Facilitate partnerships in support of Council's establishment of a Community Gathering place that respects gathering as a cultural norm and practice for Aboriginal people.	Community Safety Roundtable 21
1.20	Work with Federal government on new public place CCTV opportunities as part of the $1.5 million 2025 election commitment	
1.21	Work with traders, business community and government agencies to address identified street infrastructure concerns that affect positive precinct activation.	
1.22	Explore alternative designs and approaches beyond minimum standards in response to identified needs when appropriate	
1.23	Explore ways to increase accessible and safe 'third places' where people can regularly gather, socialise, and support community.	
1.24	Consider nighttime experiences and environment in the design of new public spaces.	
1.25	Work with major developers in key precincts to minimise disruptions and improve activation of high streets during design and construction phases.	
1.26	Undertake a review of lighting infrastructure in identified priority areas across the municipality to improve safety and visibility in public spaces	
1.27	Explore alternative street-based and harm reduction support models.	

Pillar 2: Improving communication and information

Improve communication and deliver programs which support a better-informed and engaged community

The 'alignment' column shows how these actions align with the Roundtable recommendations.

#	Actions that relate to improving communication and information	Alignment
	What stays the same	
2.1	Participation in Community Safety month and other state, federal and global community safety campaigns and events.	
2.2	Monitor crime statistics, community satisfaction survey and CRMs to identify priorities and emerging trends and concerns	
	What we're improving	
2.3	Establish regular channels for community conversation to inform proactive approaches to community safety	
2.4	Consider ways to support harm reduction and improve wellbeing in the City of Port Phillip through services, communications and partnerships.	
2.5	Support community-led, active citizenship programs such as Neighbourhood Watch	
2.6	Work with Police, community and other partners to promote campaigns and strategies around personal and property safety (i.e. including Coffee with a Cop).	
	What is new	
2.7	Work to address needs of young people, such as online safety, and ensure their voices are considered in community safety program delivery.	
2.8	Develop communication tools to address community safety concerns for traders and business community around resources, services and responses, including 24-hour contacts.	
2.9	Consider how languages other than English can be used for Council programs to indicate safe and welcoming spaces for culturally diverse individuals and groups.	
2.10	Consider ways to build awareness to address misinformation and disinformation in public conversations (including online safety and cyber safety).	
2.11	Consider communication and service needs for 'turnover' cohorts such as visitors, tourists and renters	

Pillar 3: Strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities

The objective is to empower and support communities to thrive, collaborate and connect.

The 'alignment' column shows how these actions align with the Roundtable recommendations.

#	Actions that relate to strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities	Alignment
	What stays the same	
3.1	Continue to support and adequately fund service providers demonstrating effectiveness, particularly those working with high-impact cohorts (individuals leaving prison, mental health, or rehabilitation facilities).	Community Safety Roundtable 13
3.2	Support diverse, marginalised and vulnerable communities through targeted action plans and inclusive services.	
3.3	Continue to provide funding to groups and organisations that support local networks, encourage community participation and support access and inclusion	
3.4	Work with Linking Neighbours and other seniors' programs to support participation, wellbeing, and safety in public places.	
	What we're improving	
3.5	Increase community connection by delivering on Council's commitment to a cultural and religious calendar of significant dates to acknowledge our diverse community.	
3.6	Explore more cohesive approaches and partnerships to strengthen prevention and responses to family violence in Port Phillip	
3.7	Develop an advocacy plan for community safety and social cohesion topics with State and Federal government and community	
	What is new	
3.8	Ensure the development of hubs or gathering places is undertaken utilising strong community development and engagement principles.	Community Safety Roundtable 22
3.9	Lead discussions for the establishment of an ongoing alliance that will continue the work of the Community Safety Roundtable	Community Safety Roundtable 30
3.10	Explore trader and business association-led program for community safety activities.	
3.11	Explore alternative ways to support transition to housing	
3.12	Explore ways to reduce social isolation and increase social connection	
3.13	Build an understanding of social cohesion gaps and opportunities, identifying outcomes and actions for community benefit	
3.14	Develop responses to support people experiencing challenging behaviour in public places and build community resilience.	

#	Actions that relate to strengthening social cohesion and connecting communities	Alignment
3.15	Develop crisis responses alongside maintaining emergency management	
3.16	Explore co-design and funding of a program of community-led activities such as 7 Day Makeover | Creativecommunities.	

Part 5 Implementation, monitoring and reporting

Reporting

The City of Port Phillip's Community Safety Plan guides the ways Council will contribute and support the local community in creating a safer Port Phillip.

The Plan's achievements will be tracked through the organisation's monthly community safety webpage updates as well as the quarterly "CEO Reports" reporting mechanisms. Each year of the Plan will have an annual overview in Council's annual report.

These reporting mechanisms ensure that targets are met, and milestones and achievements are being tracked consistently. This allows necessary adjustments to be made as needed if anything unexpected occurs or community's priorities have shifted.

Implementation and monitoring

The Community Safety Plan will be delivered through a number of Council teams.

Each year, an annual Operational Implementation Plan will be developed and delivered for the Community Safety Plan, which will include specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound actions against each of the objectives identified in this document.

At the end of each year, the service will review the implementation of the previous years' Operational Implementation Plan, including identifying:

- which actions were successfully completed
- which actions were not successfully completed, and why
- which actions should be extended into the following years' operational implementation plan, and which should be discontinued.

This review will inform the development of the next annual Implementation Plan.

The following tables outline the outcome measures under each objective. These will highlight and monitor how well Council is tracking against each objective.

Funding approach

Council has committed budget for the next four years to support the provision of resources through staffing, service agreements, and program delivery.

Council has further committed an additional budget of $250,000 over the next four years to support the delivery of community safety programs including:

- $32,000 Launch Housing service agreement uplift
- $60,000 Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Housing service agreement
- $158,000* for delivery on Community Safety Roundtable and Community Safety Plan actions

	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Projection	2027/28 Projection	2028/29 Projection	2029-30 Projection
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Employee Costs (1 FTE)[5]	154				
Contracts, materials, and other operational expenses	46				
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design	100				
Community Safety Roundtable and Community Safety actions: • $32k Launch Housing service agreement uplift • $60k Ngwala Willumbong service agreement • $158k for delivery of the Community Safety Roundtable and Community Safety Plan actions	250				
Total operating expenses	550				

5 Community Safety Lead (excludes complementary staff in Local Laws as well as leadership).

References

State Government legislation

Victorian Crimes Act 1958 | legislation.vic.gov.au

Summary Offences Act 1966 | legislation.vic.gov.au

Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 | health.vic.gov.au

Local Government Act 2020

Crime Prevention Strategy | Community Crime Prevention Victoria

Family Violence Protection Act 2008 | legislation.vic.gov.au

Statistics and data

2024 Community Sentiment Survey results released! | Annual Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey – 2024 | Engage Victoria

Homepage | Crime Statistics Agency Victoria

People | Australian Bureau of Statistics

Victorian alcohol and drug statistics - AODstats

Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes dashboard | health.vic.gov.au

Literature

Lee, M and Wickes, R., et al., 2020. Social Cohesion and Pro-Social Responses to Perceptions of Crime: Victorian Report https://doi.org/10.25910/5e65ab40054f5

Mapping-Social-Cohesion-2024-Report.pdf

XYX Lab – Gender + Place - Art, Design and Architecture

YourGround

Fact sheet: Designing better lighting | Community Crime Prevention Victoria

portphillip.vic.gov.au

Feel Safe. Be Safe.

Community Safety Plan Engagement Summary

August 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

ASDF Research recognises and values the Bunurong, Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the original inhabitants of the land that makes up City of Port Phillip, and the Boandik peoples as the original inhabitants of the land on which this report was written. We recognise that this land was never ceded.

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.

Statement of Inclusion

City of Port Phillip fosters a safe, inclusive, and respectful community and workplace where everyone feels valued. They recognise and celebrate the diverse population and are dedicated to building a fair and equitable Port Phillip.

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared with careful attention to accuracy and is based on the data provided. ASDF Research did not have any input into the data collection design (survey questions), the distribution of engagement materials, nor recording of data. The analysis herein is provided on the understanding that the reader may undertake an interpretation of the findings based on their personal and professional experience with the subject matter. ASDF Research cannot be held liable for any loss or damages that may result from actions taken based on the findings contained herein.

In line with research ethics, any submitted comments that have the potential to cause harm have been reviewed as part of the over-arching analysis, but not included verbatim in the content of this report.

Before reading this report

The following should be considered in reading this report:

- The information in this report includes findings from a survey that was openly available for anyone to complete and was distributed through Council and community channels. The survey included a Local Law question that likely prompted participation by those with strong views on the proposed amendment. The survey did not use a representative sampling methodology. The survey findings show the views of those who participated.
- This report summarises key feedback from engagement activities and does not preclude the Council project team from considering community feedback in its original format.

Executive Summary

From 22 May to 29 June 2025 City of Port Phillip ('Council', CoPP) undertook a range of engagement activities to help understand community safety needs and perspectives amongst the community and stakeholders, as well as collect feedback on a proposed local laws amendment.

This report summarises the key findings from these community engagement activities, alongside relevant insights from other research conducted by Council in 2024 and 2025.

Activities	Community survey	16 pop-ups & community activities	6 Committees & meetings	5 Community workshops	Submissions and emails	Petition signatures
Participants	893	307	38	34	44	255

These activities were promoted through Council and community channels, and therefore reached people who were interested in the topic and knew about the chance to have their say. This report gives helpful insight into what matters to those who took part, but it may not show what the whole community thinks.

During the engagement period there were widespread discussions in the community regarding the proposed 'no encampment' amendment to local laws, which drew attention to this survey and likely shaped the tone of some survey responses and submissions.

Who participated

Within the community survey:

- 80% were **current residents**, of whom:
  - 58% were 50+ years old (compared to 37% 2021 Census).
  - 59% were female (compared to 51% 2021 Census), 34% were male (compared to 49% 2021 Census), and 2% were non-binary.
  - 31% lived in St Kilda (compared to 19% 2021 Census).
  - 9% said they speak a language other than English (compared to 21% 2021 Census), 1% were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 10% said they had a disability and 14% identified as LGBTIQA+.
- 20% were **not residents**, of whom:
  - 71% were under 50 years old.
  - 60% were female, 21% were male and 11% were non-binary.
  - 7% said they speak a language other than English, 6% were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 22% said they had a disability and 34% identified as LGBTIQA+.
- 13 had **lived experience** of street-based living

Pop-up participants who provided their demographic information (57 people) were primarily residents (96%), 60-84 year olds (60%) and females (65%).

Through the meetings and workshops, there were contributions from representatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, older adults, LGBTIQA+, youth, and people from multicultural backgrounds.

What safety means to you

In the survey and pop-ups, when asked to select the top 5 most important areas when thinking about community safety (from a list of 23 items), the most often selected were as follows (% from survey, description from written comments in survey and pop-ups).

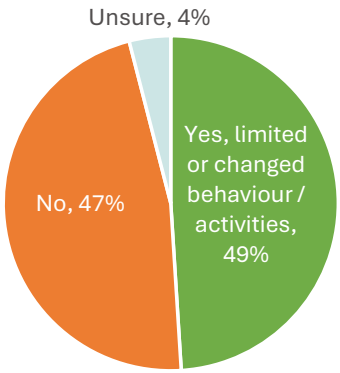
58%	**Housing and homelessness**	Lack of housing availability leads to street-based living, which leads to some members of the public feeling unsafe when they see this, as well as reduced safety for the person experiencing homelessness.
55%	**Personal and property safety**	Specific to the need to feel safe when in public spaces and at home, free from intimidation, violence or theft.
41%	**Crime prevention**	This is considered a foundation to safety.
37%	**Mental health and wellbeing**	Mental health issues in others is perceived to sometimes contribute to reduced safety for the community.
34%	**Family and gender based violence, child safety and elder abuse**	This is considered a foundation to safety.
32%	**General health and wellbeing**	This is considered a foundation to safety.
32%	**Drug and alcohol abuse, and gambling harm**	Drug and alcohol abuse in others is perceived to sometimes contribute to reduced safety for the community.

Being safe was perceived by survey respondents and pop-up participants as being without fear, with the ability to be in a home and move around public spaces free from intimidation or violence. Safe environments were perceived as being free from crime, with infrastructure design that is clean, attractive, and enables safe travel. Respondents indicated that they feel safe when there are community connections and social cohesion, with supports for people to get help for drug, alcohol, mental health and housing challenges. Police presence can help with perceptions of safety for some, provided it is timely and effective, although for others police presence can reduce perceptions of safety.

Where you feel more or less safe

Survey respondents were asked to enter map points where they feel safe and unsafe. Hundreds of points were placed across the area, with locations perceived as safe due to sense of community and familiarity, being quiet and open space. Areas pin-pointed as unsafe were primarily related to the behaviour of members of the public in those spaces, as well as crime and lack of lighting.

Most survey respondents who completed the question asking for safety ratings for their local neighbourhood said that they feel safe with others during the day (86%) and/or alone during the day (75%). However, more than four in ten (42%) said they don't feel safe alone at night, and around a quarter said they don't feel safe with others at night, in and around local shops, and/or using local parks, reserves and playgrounds.



Almost half of survey respondents said they had limited or changed their behaviour in CoPP in the previous year due to safety concerns.

Behaviour changes include avoiding particular areas that are perceived as unsafe, not going out at night time, and/or increased situational awareness.

There were a range of suggestions put forth by respondents for making CoPP more safe for women, girls and gender diverse people, with the most common being more public space lighting, increased police presence with more effective outcomes to reduce re-offending, community education, better interventions to address individuals in public spaces who contribute to feelings of being unsafe, and/or more support services to assist those experiencing homelessness or with drug, alcohol, or mental health issues.

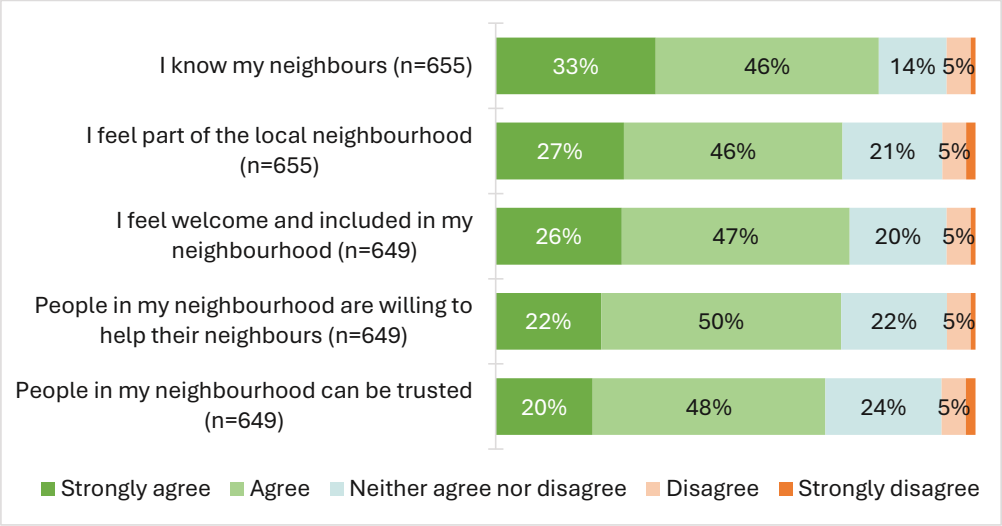
In terms of transport, survey respondents who completed the transport related questions (n=130-151) more often indicated feeling safe walking in school zones (64%) and along local/residential streets (59%), whilst more than half felt unsafe riding along main roads (63%) and/or along shopping / dining streets (63%). Feeling unsafe when walking, riding or driving was primarily attributed to aggressive drivers (70%), speeding drivers (66%) and/or bike or scooter riders disobeying road rules (62%).

Fostering safety

Survey responses and pop-up participants suggest that CoPPs strengths in terms of fostering safety primarily lie in the following (most respondents answered in terms of what *would* make them feel more safe, rather than what *currently* makes them feel more safe):

- sense of community, through knowing neighbours and feeling like people are looking out for each other (147 comments)
- police presence (102 comments)
- public lighting (72 comments)
- support services (70 comments)
- housing and homelessness (66 comments, 40 of whom mentioned wanting people experiencing homelessness to be supported)
- populated areas (63 comments), and
- transport infrastructure (footpaths and bike lanes, 53 comments).

Amongst those who participated in the social cohesion questions in the survey, sense of community was strong, and respondents generally agreed that they are welcome and supported in their local neighbourhood. Three quarters (64%) of these survey respondents felt that this type of connection helps them feel more safe in their neighbourhood.



In terms of community connection and participation, survey respondents (who completed this section of the survey) broadly indicated that they like to help out and meet new people from different backgrounds, but there were some who didn't think they could move around CoPP easily and/or know about community activities.

The main suggestions put forth by survey respondents for how they could feel more safe and/or welcome were:

- Enhance community connection, potentially through programs and activities (55 comments).
- Increase police presence (51 comments).
- Increase support for people experiencing homelessness (47 comments), drug or alcohol abuse issues, and/or mental health issues (45 comments) to reduce antisocial behaviour in public spaces.
- Reducing crime (31 comments).

Feeling less safe

When asked what makes them feel less safe in CoPP, survey respondents and pop-up participants raised some key safety challenges for CoPP:

Drug and/or alcohol abuse (225 comments) – specific to confronting behaviours by those under the influence, as well as paraphernalia in public spaces. 83% of survey respondents who answered the question about safety experiences said they had seen or experienced alcohol and/or drug debris, 71% said they had seen or experienced street drinking or intoxication and 61% said they had seen or experienced drug use or dealing.

People experiencing street-based living (192 comments) – both in terms of perceptions of being unsafe around those experiencing street-based living, as well as lack of safety and support for the individuals experiencing this type of living arrangement.

Intimidating behaviour (173 comments) – often linked to other factors such as people experiencing homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse, or mental health issues, many respondents mentioned they feel unsafe due to the behaviour of others in public spaces. 75% of survey respondents who answered the question

about safety experiences said they had seen or experienced noisy, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, 69% said they had seen or experienced unsafe or hostile behaviour in the street, and 68% had seen or experienced intimidating or threatening behaviour.

Crime (170 comments) – ranging from bicycle and car theft through to home invasion. 77% of survey respondents who answered the question about safety experiences said they had seen or experienced speeding traffic or hoon driving, 59% said they had seen or experienced vandalism or property damage and 45% said they had seen or experienced violence in public places.

When reporting unsafe situations, survey respondents mostly do so to Victoria Police (64% of those who had made a report) and/or Council (55% of those who had made a report). Amongst survey respondents, barriers to reporting include previous bad experiences (13% of those who didn't report an issue they had seen), and not understanding how to make a report (11% of those who didn't report and issue they had seen).

When in a situation where they feel less safe, 36% of survey respondents who answered the safety action questions said that in the past they had discussed or solved a problem with neighbours, and 26% said they had sought advice from police. Almost half (46%) said they were extremely confident or confident they would know who to contact or what to do if feeling less safe in CoPP, whilst 26% said they were not confident at all.

A Safer City of Port Philip

Through the survey responses, committee meetings, community workshops and submissions, a range of suggestions were put forth for enhancing safety in CoPP.

The key things put forth for Council to do were as follows. Often comments covered multiple topics:

Reduce homelessness (146 comments)

- Advocate for / build more affordable and public/social housing.
- Increase support for services (funding, assertive outreach, partnerships).
- Relocate people experiencing homelessness into housing.

More police patrols and enforcement (134 comments)

- Advocate for an increase in police patrols.
- Increase in local laws visibility and activities.
- Stronger enforcement of laws to prevent re-offending.

Action on drug / alcohol use / mental health issues (132 comments)

- More support services.
- Increase law enforcement.

More community support services (103 comments)

- Housing.
- Drugs and alcohol.
- Mental health.
- Inter-agency coordination.

Infrastructure

- Improve public lighting (68 comments).
- Road infrastructure – bike lanes and pedestrian crossing (43 comments).
- Cleaning / maintenance (41 comments).
- Facilities (toilets, libraries, etc.) (38 comments).
- CCTV (34 comments).

Actions relating to people experiencing homelessness

- Move on people experiencing homelessness, remove encampments and/or support the proposed local law change (50 comments).
- Against the proposed local law change, don't move on people experiencing homelessness, don't criminalise vulnerable people (31 comments).

Social cohesion (33 comments)

- Events and activities.
- Build community connections.

Advocacy (31 comments)

- Increased public housing
- More funding for support services

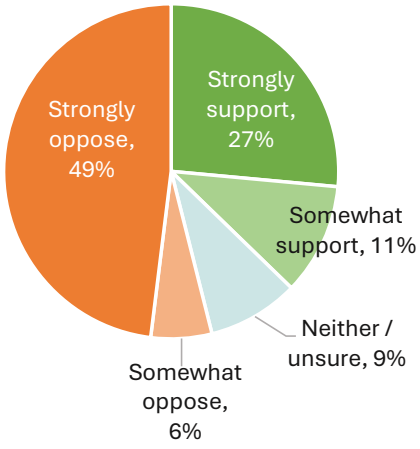
Community safety roundtable report

There was widespread general support for the roundtable recommendations across the survey responses (111 comments) and submissions (19 submissions), although there were some concerns raised:

- Lack of inclusion of community voice in the roundtable process (11 mentions across surveys and submissions). Some felt that it was too service provider focussed, and didn't adequately take into account the experiences and needs of residents and traders.
- Concern that increased police presence may result in vulnerable people being targeted (7 submissions).

Local law proposed amendment

Just over half (55%) of survey respondents opposed the proposed local laws amendment to allow Council to designate a temporary 'no encampment' area, and 38% supported it. The strength of opposition was more pronounced (strongly 49%) than that of support (strongly 27%).



When filtering the findings by respondents with a connection to CoPP (live, work, pay rates or own a business) 51% oppose (45% strongly) and 41% support (29% strongly). Amongst just CoPP resident respondents, 46% oppose (40% strongly) and 44% support (31% strongly).

There were 6 submissions supporting the proposed amendments and 27 opposing, including a petition with 255 signatures opposing it, calling for a focus on the roundtable recommendations instead.

In the follow-up comments and submissions it was evident that there were some misconceptions about the scope of the proposed local law change that may have influenced ratings. Specifically, some supporters perceived that it would be coupled with an increase in support (that is, the people experiencing homelessness would be placed in housing), whilst opposition may have been influenced by a perception that fines would be issued.

Those who opposed the proposed amendment wrote in comments covering the following topics:

- Need for more support services for people experiencing homelessness (including outreach and early intervention), as well as support for mental health issues and drug and alcohol issues (143 survey comments, 23 submissions).
- Contravenes human rights (107 survey comments, 7 submissions).
- Doesn't fix the problem or solve anything, and don't think it will improve safety (96 survey comments, 11 submissions).
- Criminalising homelessness and victimising vulnerable people (74 survey comments, 18 submissions).
- Potential for harm to the individual (53 survey comments, 6 submissions).
- Concern about where they will go (42 survey comments).
- 8 of those opposing said this was because they wanted it to go further (cover the whole of CoPP permanently).

Those who supported the proposed amendment wrote in comments covering the following topics:

- Support for removal of encampments (61 comments), including suggestion that it brings CoPP laws in line with other Councils.
- Suggestion that it needs to go further (22 comments – 8 rated as oppose), covering the whole of CoPP permanently.
- Perception that it will improve safety for the community (21 comments).

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Report prepared by ASDF Research.
This report presents an independent summary of data and information collected by City of Port Phillip. ASDF Research did not contribute to the design nor distribution of research materials.

August 2025.

1 Background and introduction

1.1 Project background

Community safety touches all parts of our lives and is essential to our health and wellbeing. It includes:

- increasing community wellbeing and cohesion, and social and cultural inclusion
- increasing opportunities for social and physical activity
- improving public amenities
- preventing and reducing hardship and insecure housing
- preventing and reducing incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour

Community safety is a broad concept that involves a wide range of issues—some of which fall under the Council's direct responsibility, others under its influence, and some outside its control but still affecting our community locally. The Council contributes to community safety through:

- fostering diversity, inclusion and social connection
- activating public spaces through community grants and funding
- providing supports for those experiencing hardship and insecure housing
- maintaining and upgrading public amenities and addressing identified traffic blackspot issues
- fostering strong partnerships with police and other emergency services, local traders and community groups
- activating and revitalising our high streets
- developing regulations to promote and maintain safety
- maintaining safe public places through CCTV, Local Laws and joint patrols with Police, and partnerships with service providers

To strengthen its commitment to a safer, more vibrant city, the City of Port Phillip is developing a new Community Safety Plan. The plan will outline Council's role in making Port Phillip a safer, more resilient place to live, work and visit. It will align with relevant state and federal strategies related to crime prevention, family violence, harm reduction from alcohol and drugs, emergency response and broader community safety. As part of the plan's development, Council engaged with community members to better understand their experiences and priorities related to safety.

Stakeholder Pre-engagement
In late 2024, Council conducted pre-engagement with internal staff and several Council Advisory Committees. These sessions helped shape the engagement approach—determining who we needed to speak with and what questions we needed to ask.

Community Safety Roundtable
In March 2025, a Community Safety Roundtable was held in response to ongoing safety concerns across the municipality. Convened by Council, the Roundtable was one of several key inputs into the new Community Safety Plan.

The Roundtable brought together participants who play a vital role in supporting those experiencing homelessness and in maintaining safety and amenity in the City.

Led by Chair Ian Gray, attendees were asked what more Council could do to improve community safety and how collaboration could be strengthened. Discussions focused on identifying actions, partnerships, service gaps and opportunities to enhance safety for everyone in Port Phillip.

Councillors attended the final session to hear these ideas directly. The insights gathered informed a report prepared by Ian Gray AM, which was presented at the 21 May 2025 Council Meeting.

The **Community Safety Roundtable Report** is available to read at https://portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/community-safety/

1.2 Engagement purpose and scope

The purpose of this engagement phase is to:

- seek an understanding of current community sentiment in relation to community safety
- seek an understanding of community and stakeholder needs and priorities in relation to community safety
- seek feedback on a proposed local law amendment (see preamble before Q3 in Appendix 1 – Survey Questions)

Insights from this engagement will directly inform the draft Community Safety Plan.

1.3 How to read this document

This document uses charts to show the findings from the survey and pop-ups, followed by an analysis of notable survey variations by demographics (see section 1.3.2). Where written answers were provided, these have been grouped into themes (see section 1.3.1), with the analysis showing the number of comments under each theme, a summary of what people were saying, and quotes. If the percentages in a chart don't add up to 100% this could be due to rounding, or because people could choose more than one answer. Analysis of key findings from the workshops, committee meetings, submissions and other relevant research has been included in each relevant section.

1.3.1 Thematic analysis

For the questions collecting a written answer, responses have been grouped into meaningful themes to assist with analysis. Where relevant, individual comments have been assigned to multiple themes

1.3.2 Statistical significance testing

Results have been tested for statistical significance using the Bonferroni method at 95% confidence level and takes into account the effective base for improved accuracy. Where a statistically significant variation has been identified in the analysis, this has been included in a written comment. To ensure relevance and usefulness of this report, cross analysis of variables which do not yield any statistically significant insights have not been included in the written analysis.

All findings have had significance testing conducted based on:

- Gender;
- Age;
- Speak a language other than English;
- Person with a disability;
- LGBTIQA+ (identify as LGBTIQA+ and/or non-binary gender); and
- Region;
- Connection (Significant (live, work, pay rates or own a business) or Minor (only visit, travel through or used to have a connection)); and
- Resident or non-resident.

1.3.3 Glossary

CoPP	City of Port Phillip
n=	The number of respondents who contributed to the reported percentages (base number)
NEP	Neighbourhood Engagement Program
Respondent	Those who participated in the survey.
Sample size	The number of people who provided an answer to the question.
Statistically significant	Highlights a phenomenon / variation in the data that one can be confident is reflective of the entire target population. For more information see previous section.
Thematic analysis	Grouping of written comments into themes to assist in analysis. See previous section.

1.4 Communication and engagement activities delivered

Between 22 May and 29 June 2025 a range of engagement activities were carried out to seek feedback from the community. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity.

Council-led

Community Survey	A project page on Council's Have Your Say engagement website provided information on the process, a timeline, contact details and an online survey (with a short and a long version). Paper-based surveys were made available at ASSIST, library counters, through community organisations, as well as on request.	893
Pop-ups and community activities x 16	Pop-ups were held as follows (NEP stands for Neighbourhood Engagement Program): • Elwood (NEP) 22 May • Ripponlea (NEP) 23 May • St Kilda Rd (NEP) 24 May • St Kilda East (NEP) 24 May • St Kilda (NEP) 29 May • Balaclava Community Forum 29 May • Albert Park (NEP) 30 May • South Melbourne (NEP) 30 May • Port Melbourne (NEP) 31 May • Fisherman's Bend (NEP) 31 May • Pride Centre 1 June • Multifaith Network 16 June • Multicultural Network Forum 18 June • Linking Neighbours (Elwood) 24 June • Port Phillip Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meeting 24 June • Linking Neighbours (Port Melbourne) 26 June	307
Engagement at committees and meetings x 6	This included targeted discussions with the following groups: • First Nations community members and representatives. • Older Persons Advisory Committee. • LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee. • Youth Advisory Committee. • Multicultural Advisory Committee.	38
Community workshops x 5	Community workshops were held as follows: • 14 June South Melbourne Community Centre • 15 June St Kilda Library • 17 June Online • 19 June Liardet Community Centre Hall • 25 June St Kilda Library	34

Additional community input

Submissions and emails	A total of 44 submissions were received. One submission included a petition with 255 signatures.	44
	Total	**1,316**

Community workshops were analysed in a separate report, with key findings included throughout this document.

This report also includes relevant findings from a range of other Council-led community engagement activities from the previous 12 months:

- **Homelessness and affordable housing engagement, June 2025**: 73 participants completing the online survey, 22 participants completing hard-copy paper-based surveys, 34 participants at community pop-ups, one targeted interview with a community member with lived experience, five submissions received from partner organisations and housing providers, and a further 16 emails received from community members.
- **Community Safety Roundtable, March 2025**, report by Ian Gray AM: details consultations and observations focussed on community safety and amenity in the City of Port Phillip (CoPP), including a collaborative Roundtable on 19 March 2025, attended by 20 stakeholders from the social services sector and Victoria Police.
- **Balaclava Community Forum report:** Findings from an expo-style event at St Kilda Town Hall on Thursday, 29 May 2025, with 122 attendees. Six groups displayed their work: Port Phillip Community Group, Better Balaclava, Carlisle Street Traders Association, Uniting, PECAN, and Space 2B.
- **Health & Wellbeing in Port Phillip Engagement summary, October 2024 and Plan for Port Phillip phase two engagement report, January 2025** Presenting key finding from a range of activities from 29 July to 24 August 2024, including a survey (online and printed, n=152) and youth summit (n=70).
- **Plan for Port Phillip: Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Workshop Report, February 2025:** Key findings from a stakeholder workshop with 27 stakeholders representing a range of organisations.
- **Panel recommendations to Council for the Plan for Port Phillip, March 2025:** advice from the Community Panel that was developed to help inform the new Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2029. The panel used a deliberative engagement technique with 40 members representing the community.
- **2025 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey:** A door-to-door survey with 901 households across the municipality, run from 16 March to 17 April 2025.
- **Youth Soundcheck engagement, October 2024:** From 29 July to 16 September feedback was collected feedback from 12-25 year olds through an online and printed survey (n=286), a youth summit (70 attendees) and 2 focus groups (30 participants).
- **Sport and Active Recreation Strategy Community Engagement, July 2025:** This included 8 pop-up events across the municipality (810 participants), 7 workshops, a broader community survey (358 responses) and three topic-specific surveys (sports clubs, active recreation providers and schools, 55 respondents).

2 Methodology

2.1 Engagement questions

For a full listing of survey questions, see Appendix 1 – Survey Questions.

2.2 Barriers to participation

A variety of engagement opportunities were offered, including online, face-to-face and outreach options. This helped ensure a broad and diverse range of voices were heard in recognition that some members of our community face barriers to participation.

It was raised in one submission that the survey length and format may make it inaccessible to people experiencing homelessness or have complex needs such as 'acquired brain injury, intellectual disability, low literacy, limited internet access and psychosocial ability'

2.3 Participation overview

2.3.1 Community Survey

Most responses were residents. Respondents could choose more than one answer.

	Total	
	N=	%
I live in the City of Port Phillip at a fixed address	717	80%
I live in the City of Port Phillip but don't currently have a fixed address	11	1%
I work in the City of Port Phillip	183	20%
I pay rates in the City of Port Phillip	330	37%
I own a business in the City of Port Phillip	55	6%
I visit the City of Port Phillip	104	12%
I travel through the City of Port Phillip	72	8%
I used to live in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	43	5%
I used to work in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	15	2%
I used to visit the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	1	0%
I used to travel through the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore	1	0%

Through the other comment box it was also evident that there were 2 respondents who used to sleep rough in CoPP and 2 responses from people who work with those experiencing homelessness in the area. Overall, the survey reached 13 people currently or previously experiencing homelessness in City of Port Phillip.

35% Of survey respondents said they had provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months.

The distribution of the community survey was not designed to cover a representative sample of residents, instead it gave those with an interest in the topic the opportunity to have their say.

In the following charts, resident sample groups showing a notable under-representation when compared to 2021 City of Port Phillip Census data have been shaded in orange, and those with a notable over-representation have been shaded in green.

The distribution of resident survey respondents was skewed towards 50-84 year olds, with an under-representation of residents aged under 35.

The non-resident sample was dominated by younger people aged 25-49. It should be noted that any observed variations in the data amongst 18-34 year olds can likely be attributed to 41% of respondents in this age group being non-residents, who generally show different preferences and experiences (as compared to the 35-59 age group where only 19% were non-residents and 60+ where only 1% were non-residents).

	Total		Residents		2021 Census	Non-residents	
	N=	%	N=	%	% of 18+	N=	%
Under 18	1	0%	1	0%		0	0%
18 - 24	31	3%	18	3%	8%	13	7%
25 - 34	146	16%	86	12%	26%	60	34%
35 - 49	224	25%	174	24%	29%	50	29%
50 - 59	182	20%	155	22%	15%	27	16%
60 - 69	150	17%	136	19%	11%	14	8%
70 - 84	123	14%	115	16%	9%	8	5%
85 and over	11	1%	11	2%	2%	0	0%
I'd prefer not to say	22	2%	20	3%		2	1%

More females than males completed the survey. This is usually the case for surveys distributed in this way.

	Total		Residents		2021 Census	Non-residents	
	N=	%	N=	%	%	N=	%
Female (woman or girl)	525	59%	421	59%	51%	104	60%
Male (man or boy)	281	32%	245	34%	49%	36	21%
Non-binary	32	4%	13	2%		19	11%
I'd prefer not to say	50	6%	35	5%		15	9%

Within the survey sample there was an under-representation of residents from Elwood and Melbourne, and an over-representation from St Kilda.

	Total		Residents		2021 Census
	N=	%	N=	%	%
Albert Park	52	6%	51	7%	6%
Balaclava	43	5%	37	5%	5%
Elwood	66	7%	63	9%	15%
Melbourne	26	3%	13	2%	9%
Middle Park	33	4%	33	5%	4%
Port Melbourne	113	13%	108	15%	17%
Ripponlea	7	1%	7	1%	2%
South Melbourne	67	8%	64	9%	11%
Southbank	4	0%	2	0%	0%
St Kilda	252	28%	222	31%	19%
St Kilda East	66	7%	59	8%	8%
St Kilda West	42	5%	42	6%	3%
Windsor	9	1%	5	1%	1%
Prefer not to say	55	6%	7	1%	-
Other	55	6%	2	0%	-

For cross-analysis, suburb has been grouped into regions as follows.

	Total	
	N=	%
Port Melbourne	113	13%
Albert Park and Middle Park	85	10%
South Melbourne	67	8%
St Kilda Road (Melbourne, Windsor and Southbank)	39	4%
St Kilda and St Kilda West	294	33%
Elwood and Ripponlea	73	8%
Balaclava and St Kilda East	109	12%
Outside CoPP / Prefer not to say	110	12%

The survey included large enough sample sizes for cross-analysis by respondents who said they speak a language other than English at home, have a disability, and/or identify as LGBTIQA+. Cross-analysis has not been undertaken by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to ensure anonymity of respondents can be maintained.

	Total		Residents		2021 Census	Non-residents	
	N=	%	N=	%	%	N=	%
I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	21	2%	10	1%	0.5%	11	6%
I speak a language other than English at home	75	8%	62	9%	21%	13	7%
I am a person with disability	112	13%	74	10%	13%*	38	22%
I identify as LGBTIQA+	162	18%	103	14%	-	59	34%

** 2023 VPHS survey*

2.3.2 Pop-ups

Findings from the pop-ups can't be analysed by demographics, however this information can illustrate the coverage of the community through these activities. Not all pop-up participants provided their demographics. Of the 57 pop-up participants who shared their demographics, almost all were residents (55, 96%), 37% said they were ratepayers and 12% said they were volunteers. There were 2 business owners and 5 workers. 55% said they had provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the previous 12 months.

Pop-up participants were predominantly aged 60-69 years.

Age	Total		2021 Census
	N=	%	% of 18+
Under 18	0	-	-
18 - 24	0	-	8%
25 - 34	7	12%	26%
35 - 49	9	16%	29%
50 - 59	5	9%	15%
60 - 69	26	46%	11%
70 - 84	8	14%	9%
85 and over	2	4%	2%
I'd prefer not to say	0	-	-

More females than males participated in the pop-ups.

Gender	Total N=	Total %	2021 Census %
Female (woman or girl)	37	65%	51%
Male (man or boy)	19	33%	49%
Non-binary	1	2%	-
I'd prefer not to say	-	-	-

The suburb of residence for pop-up participants was closely aligned to the location of the pop-ups.

Suburb	Total N=	Total %	2021 Census % of 18+
Albert Park	0	0%	6%
Balaclava	2	4%	5%
Elwood	9	16%	15%
Melbourne	10	18%	9%
Middle Park	2	4%	4%
Port Melbourne	8	14%	17%
Ripponlea	9	16%	2%
South Melbourne	0	0%	11%
Southbank	0	0%	0%
St Kilda	13	23%	19%
St Kilda East	3	5%	8%
St Kilda West	0	0%	3%
Windsor	0	0%	1%
Prefer not to say	0	0%	-
Other	0	0%	-

There were small numbers of representation from diverse groups in the pop-ups.

Diversity	Total N=	Total %	2021 Census %
I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	1	2%	0.5%
I speak a language other than English at home	6	11%	21%
I am a person with disability	2	4%	13%*
I identify as LGBTIQA+	4	7%	-

** 2023 VPHS survey*

3 Key findings

The following section shows a summary of the key findings across all of the engagement activities, as well as inclusion of findings from previous community engagement and research activities conducted by Council.

3.1 What safety means to you

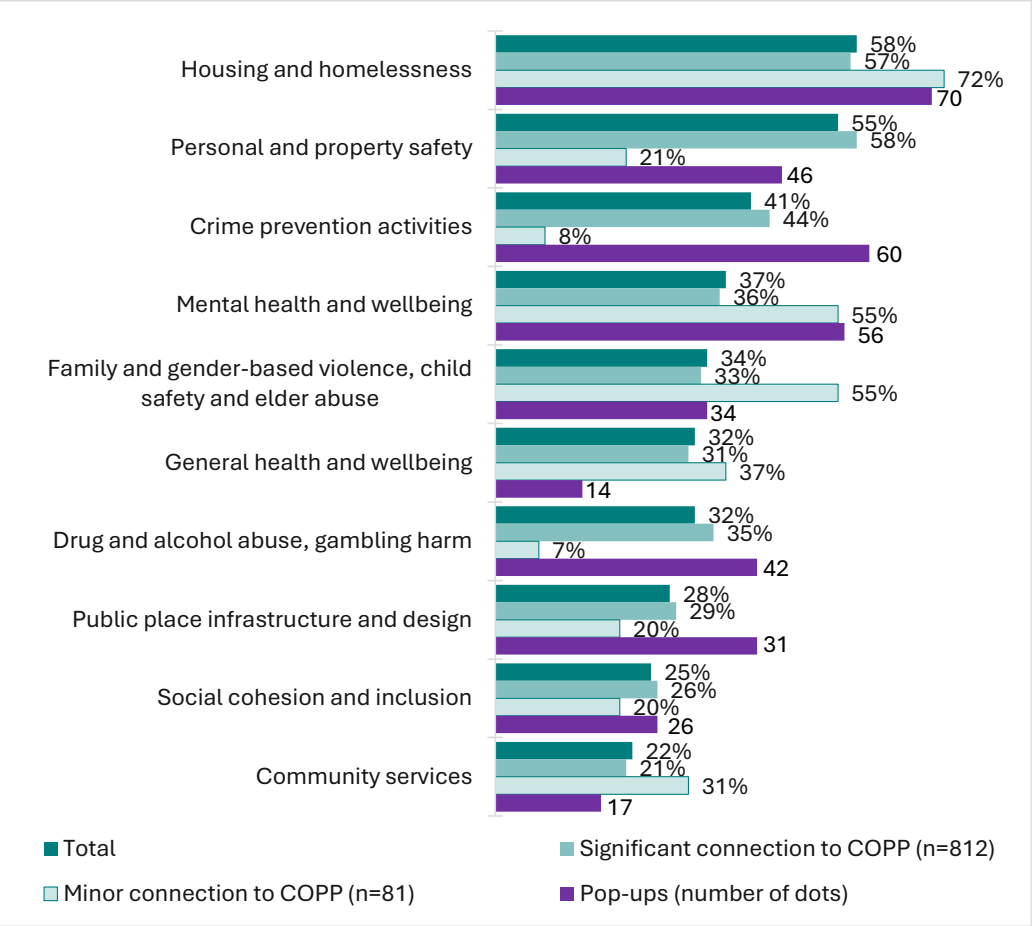
Question:	Q2. When we consider community safety, we can think about all the following areas. Tick the FIVE that are the most important to you. Q3. If you would like to share why these are important to you, you can tell us here. Pop-up board - Which 5 community safety areas are the most important to you?
Sources:	Q2. Community survey (n=874) Q3. Community survey (n=489 comments) Pop-ups (number of people who contributed to poster boards is unknown), and other targeted engagements. (661 dots placed)
Notes:	This report starts at Q2, as Q1 was connection to City of Port Phillip (see 2.3.1) Respondents were asked to select up to 5 answers from a list of 23, with an 'other specify' box. The answer options weren't randomised (appeared in the same order for each respondent) so there may be some order bias in the findings (that is, options at the start of the list are likely to be selected more often than those at the end of the list). There was a notable amount of online discourse about the survey in relation to the local laws question on homelessness, which may have led to a high incidence of people visiting the survey to voice their opinions on that topic. Given the distribution methodology, it is not possible to identify if homelessness is indeed the number one issue for the broader community or whether this has been skewed. Note that drug and alcohol abuse was grouped with gambling harm, so it is not possible to identify whether people may have only been thinking about one part of this (e.g. just drug abuse) when answering this item. For Q3 answers were typed/written in by respondents and then analysed by selected answers in Q2 to provide further insights. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. A poster board was presented at 9 locations where pop-up visitors could place a dot on the top 5 community safety areas. It is not possible to identify whether each contributor placed exactly 5 dots (some may have placed more, while some may have placed less, or two in the same area).

For the analysis of this question, responses from those who have a *significant connection* to City of Port Phillip (live, work, pay rates or own a business in the area) were analysed separately to those with a *minor connection* (who only visit, travel through or used to have a connection) to demonstrate the variations in priorities.

The most commonly selected important areas when thinking about community safety were **housing and homelessness, personal and property safety** (particularly for survey respondents with a *significant connection* to CoPP and *pop-up* participants) and **crime prevention activities** (particularly for survey respondents with a *significant connection* to CoPP and *pop-up* participants).

Mental health and wellbeing was commonly selected in the top 5 amongst *minor connection* survey respondents and *pop-up* participants.

Figure 3.1.1 Most important areas when thinking about community safety – proportion selected in the top 5 by connection to CoPP (top 10 responses)



Many of the comments choosing topics relating to housing, mental health, crime prevention, drug and alcohol abuse, and family and gender based violence indicated that these are the primary areas that need attention to improve safety and/or are the building blocks to safety.

The five topics chosen above are most important to me... they are the primary areas that require attention, support, advocacy, funding, and care for our most vulnerable community members. Promoting safety in these areas will, undoubtedly inform increased safety for the broader community. [Male, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]

Hard to pick as all of these are important, but I consider these ones to have the most serious consequences when not addressed adequately. [25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

We are facing many difficulties now as a community and these are structural, relating to the increasing divisions between the haves and the have-nots. Many people face housing insecurity because of mental health, addiction, relationship breakdown, job loss and more. We must choose compassion and wisdom in finding the best solutions. [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

Gender	Male respondents more often selected *personal and property safety* (63%, compared to 55% females) and/or *local laws and city amenity* (18%, compared to 11% females) in their top 5. Female respondents more often selected a number of items in their top 5: • *Food security* (14%, compared to 8% males). • *Public place infrastructure and design* (31%, compared to 24% males). • *Community services* (24%, compared to 16% males).
Age	Respondents aged 18-34 more often selected many of the options in their top 5, including *housing and homelessness* (73%, compared to 55% 35+ year olds), *family and gender based violence* (54%, compared to 26% 60+ year olds), and/or *community services* (31%, compared to 19% 35+ year olds). Respondents aged 35-59 more often selected *drug and alcohol abuse and gambling related harm in their top 5* (38%, compared to 24% 18-34 year olds). Respondents aged 35+ more often selected in their top 5 *personal and property safety* (62%, compared to 25% 18-34 year olds) and *crime prevention activities* (46%, compared to 15% 18-39 year olds). Respondents aged under 60 years more often selected *mental health and wellbeing* in their top 5 (48% 18-34 year olds and 40% 35-59 year olds, compared to 28% 60+ year olds). Respondents aged 60 years or over more often selected in their top 5 *social cohesion and inclusion* (35%, compared to 17% 18-34 year olds and 23% 35-59 year olds), and/or *Road safety* (24%, compared to 14% 18-34 year olds).
Diversity	There were many variations across the diverse experiences of respondents: • **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** respondents more often selected in their top 5 *cultural safety* 39%, compared to 16% not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) and/or *council facilities and community centres* (22%, compared to 8% not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander). • Respondents who said they speak a **language other than English** at home more often selected in their top 5 *general health and wellbeing* (42%, compared to 31% English-only), and/or *racism, antisemitism and islamophobia* (26%, compared to 15% English-only). • **Respondents with a disability** more often selected in their top 5 *mental health and wellbeing* (55%), *family and gender based violence* (52%), *community services* (37%), and *cultural safety* (30%). • Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA more often selected in their top 5 *housing and homelessness* (70%), *family and gender-based violence* (51%), *mental health and wellbeing* (50%), *community services* (33%), and many others.
Region	Resident respondents more often selected in their top 5: • *personal and property safety* (62%), particularly in **Port Melbourne** (78%), **Albert Park and Middle Park** (78%) and **South Melbourne** (68%). • *crime prevention activities* (47%), particularly in **Port Melbourne** (63%), **Albert Park and Middle Park** (67%) and **South Melbourne** (55%). • *drug and alcohol abuse and gambling harm* (36%). • public place infrastructure and design (30%). Respondents who said they live in the **St Kilda Road** region more often selected in their top 5 *housing and homelessness* (84%), *mental health and wellbeing* (55%), *food security* (37%), and/or *racism, antisemitism and islamophobia* (29%).

	Respondents who said they live in **Elwood and Ripponlea** more often selected in their top 5 *environment, sustainability and climate* (40%) and/or *social cohesion and inclusion* (37%). Respondents who said they live in **Balaclava and St Kilda East** more often selected in their top 5 *racism, antisemitism and islamophobia* (27%). Respondents who live **outside of City of Port Phillip** more often selected in their top 5 *housing and homelessness* (79%), *mental health and wellbeing* (55%), *family and gender-based violence* (53%), *cultural safety* (34%), *and/or community services (30%).*
Lived experience	Those with a lived experience of street-based living (current or past) more often selected in their top 5: • General health and wellbeing (69%). • Mental health and wellbeing (69%). • Social isolation (46%). • Cultural safety (38%). • Food security (31%).

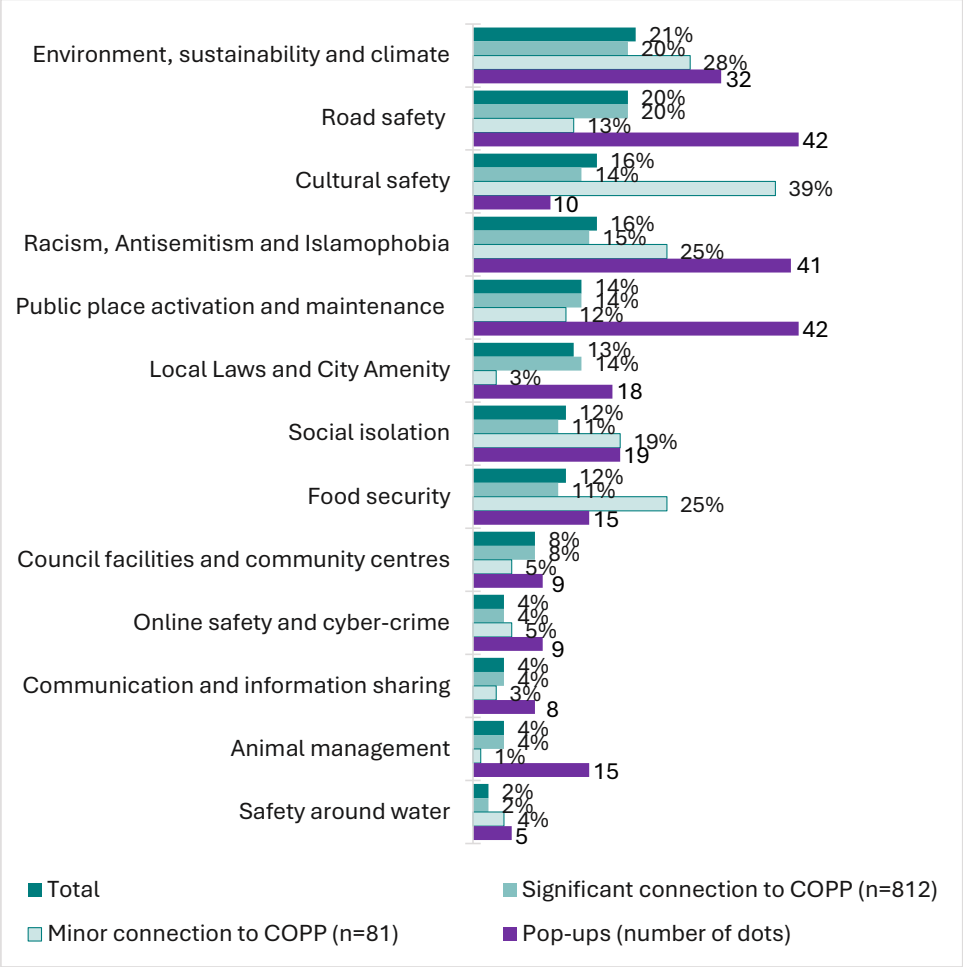
An open ended follow-up question gave survey respondents and pop-up participants the change to write in further information about their answer. Some of the insights relating to these topic areas are as follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Housing and homelessness	This was important to people because they live near rough sleepers, they feel that people should have a safe place to live, and they were concerned about the welfare of those who have nowhere to live. It was felt that there is a duty of care to look after those who are marginalised through lack of housing.	*"That those in my community, especially the people who've been written off, like homeless people who just want to survive the night, are cared for as well. A community needs to keep all its members safe, especially those who are disadvantaged by the system that keeps us unsafe." [25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Personal and property safety	There were a range of topics mentioned regarding personal safety, mostly in reference to walking around local streets. This was often linked with drug use and mental health, but also bike/scooter riders and theft.	*"…These and other ongoing incidents have left me feeling unsafe in my own neighbourhood. I no longer feel comfortable walking my dog before work, especially during the darker winter mornings, and have had to hire a dog walker" [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
Crime prevention activities	In the comments relating to this item, people were sharing personal experiences with crime,	*This is a very basic definition of safety, but I feel our spaces have become less physically safe over the years and that we need to focus more effort on crime prevention and ensuring that public spaces are safe for all residents all of the time [Female, 60 - 69 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Mental health and wellbeing	This was considered one of the underlying factors contributing to reduced safety in public spaces, and was often correlated with other factors such as crime and personal safety.	*General and mental health and wellbeing are foundational. I work in mental and addiction health, and while there are some homeless people, they are often are at the lowest points of their lives with no other option. Adequate social housing must be prioritised. Only then can they feel like they're part of the community, and strive to improve the area with us. [Male, 25 - 34 years, South Melbourne]* *"As a woman personal and property safety are obviously important. Safety isn't always felt in my position and it needs a lot of work. Mental health goes with this as does general health." [Female, 35-59 years, lived experience]*
Family and gender based violence, child safety and elder abuse	Those who chose this option see it as foundational to ensuring safety for all members of the community.	*Our homes must be a safe place, this the lowest bar at the very least to be even remotely considered a safe community that we have to jump over. [Male, 35 - 49 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
General health and wellbeing	Those who selected general health and wellbeing commented that they did so due to it being foundational to other aspects of safety.	*"General health and wellbeing covers a lot of ground in terms of safety (like the other options listed)" [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda Road]*
Drug and alcohol abuse, gambling harm	Drug abuse was commonly mentioned in comments, specific to paraphernalia in the streets and people who are affected by drugs and alcohol making others feel unsafe. Gambling was seldom mentioned.	*"I don't want to be afraid to walk through the park, scared of violent attacks or drug related harassment. I want to meditate under the coroberee tree but I don't want to disturb the homeless camp or sit on waste."[Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda Road]*
Public place infrastructure and design	It was felt that public infrastructure plays an important role in enabling people to feel safe when in their local neighbourhood. Some raised this as particularly important for women.	*Social isolation and lack of facilities (toilets, libraries, community spaces) cause people to not seek help / not get the help and care they need. That leads to all sorts of complexities also - without facilities around people are more visible on the street, which residents don't like / forced to deal with complexities in public / no where to go. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Social cohesion and inclusion	The comments suggest that this was perceived as knowing their neighbours, looking out for each other and caring for / supporting those who are vulnerable.	*"Feeling safe in my neighbourhood happens when people are connected, and able to build networks of mutual care. For example, I feel safe in my neighbourhood because I know lots of people of similar and different backgrounds to me" [Female, 18 - 24 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Community services	Community services were frequently referred to as being needed to support those experiencing issues across the other main categories, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and housing. They were also important for people to have the opportunity for social connection and health support.	*"As an older resident with chronic health conditions and restricted mobility, I used to feel safe and supported until CoPP closed down their excellent aged care services. Now I feel unsafe and isolated from the community" [Male, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Figure 3.1.2 Most important areas when thinking about community safety – proportion selected in the top 5 by connection to CoPP – community survey (bottom 13 responses)



1) abuse of our climate, environment & lack of sustainability are my primarily causes of feeling unsafe. Addressing these is non negotiable for some kind of decent future for our young. 2) I ride a bike everywhere I can. I feel utterly unsafe on many of my routes in Port Phillip. Road safety means BIKE LANES. Why don't you even include this in road safety? Research shows that separate cyclist infrastructure benefits both cyclist AND driver safety. Addressing social isolation will lead to many of the other areas in your list. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

I believe our shared communal spaces that are universally and equally accessible to all are an incredibly precious part of our social infrastructure - particularly our libraries and staffed adventure playgrounds at the level of local government responsibility. These types of welcoming communal spaces and resources are a kind of social glue and safety net that can prevent individuals and families slipping through the cracks into a space of being unable to cope, connect etc. I see social and physical infrastructure at the local level from a perspective of changing climate and worsening environmental conditions (extreme heat, mould in housing etc) and I think it has an absolutely crucial role to play in material and social resilience for our community into the future. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Through targeted discussions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and elders it was identified that the following aspects were key to fostering safety:

- Community connection and community development to bring people together.
- Having a gathering place, as people want to be together and feel safer when together.
- Shared lived experience and peer support.
- 24/7 services that go to the people and 'start the conversation' to break down barriers.
- All items on the previously presented list were top priorities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Question:	Q7. What does feeling/being safe mean to you?
Sources:	737 comments across the community survey (n=644 comments) and pop-ups (n=93)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show incidence.

Survey and pop-up respondents put forth a broad variety of topics to explain what safety means to them. Comments could broadly be divided into two perspectives, things that can support feelings of safety (e.g. social cohesion, community support or infrastructure, 215 comments) and, more commonly, things that prevent people from feeling safe (e.g. fear of intimidation or violence, 418 comments).

To me, safety means more than just the absence of harm—it means having access to secure and adequate housing, essential resources, and community-based supports. It means being able to participate in and feel included in my local community without fear or exclusion. Safety also means freedom from police surveillance, harassment, and violence. It means not being criminalised simply for existing in public space - whether resting, gathering, or seeking support. True safety comes from dignity, stability, and connection, not punishment or policing. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]

Being able to walk down the street by myself, not feel on edge that someone will attempt to rob or hurt me. Feel I can walk to my letterbox without locking the door behind me. I can have pot plants out the front of my home without them being stolen. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

1) I feel safe when I see government at all levels effectively & fairly addressing our most pressing problems including climate & environment degradation, lack of housing, social support for those who need it. - young & old 2) I feel safe on St Kilda Road's separated bike lane. 3) I feel safe when I connect with other residents in Port Phillip. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Being able to fully participate in the local community without worrying about potential harms, including when accompanied by children [Male, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

Not being concerned about anti-social and criminal activities being undertaken near or around the areas where I am visiting and interacting in. [Male, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]

Feeling / being safe means I can walk out of my apartment, and go to wherever my destination may be without having to navigate around people acting strangely or aggressively, without drivers speeding up to cross intersections just as the lights change to red and without having to put up with aggressive people on public transport who are often under the influence of drugs and / or alcohol. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

On one hand, it's about walking down the street and content that I don't have to look over my shoulder. And that if something happened in a public space, others (including me) would step in to assist [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

Primarily, comments talked about being able to move around public spaces and homes without fear, specifically from intimidation or violence. Many comments also mentioned the importance of a sense of community to support perceptions of safety. Some elaborated on specific circumstances that contribute to feeling unsafe, such as traveling at night time and behaviour of others (specifically drug use and mental health issues).

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Being without fear (240 comments)	The most commonly mentioned personal interpretation of safety was to live without fear. Many referred to being able to walk around their neighbourhood, or to and from activities without fear (168 comments). 82 comments specifically mentioned night time or after dark. 73 comments didn't elaborate further. 35% year olds more often wrote in a comment relating to travel without fear (17% 35-50 and 18% 60+ year olds). Resident respondents also more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (17%), particularly those from Albert Park and Middle Park (20%), St Kilda and St Kilda West (20%) and Balaclava and St Kilda East (18%).	*"Not having to watch over my shoulder or alter my behaviour because of fear (example walking early in the morning, or home from PT after dark." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Free from intimidation (160 comments)	Being free from intimidation included mentions of aggressive people and/or harassment. This was often coupled with mention of drugs and/or alcohol (39 comments). Resident respondents more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (20%, compared to 10% non-residents).	*"Knowing I am able to exist in peace, without being threatened for things I cannot change, and that are causing no harm. Knowing the same can be said for every other human (and animal) in my community." [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda Road]* *"That I will free to go about my business without violence, harassment or intimidation." [Female, 35 - 49 years, South Melbourne]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Social cohesion (122 comments)	Many elements of social cohesion were put forth as promoting a sense of safety, including knowing neighbours, supportive communities where people step in to assist and feeling part of a community. Comments relating to this theme were more often put forth by respondents aged 18-34 (20%, compared to 10% 35+), people with a disability (21%, compared to 11% without), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (22%, compared to 11% non-LGBTIQA+) and those who live outside of CoPP (20%, compared to 11% resident respondents).	*"Feeling like I belong and have a say in the future at the place." [Pop-up]* *"To have a sense of stability and trust in myself and others, feeling at ease in community." [Male, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"I feel safest when I feel like I am part of a community. If I know my neighbours, the local shop owners and am familiar with my councillors, then I will know that support is always a round the corner. I feel safe when I am able to communicate my needs and be involved in addressing the needs of other people. Feeling safe is as much about the health and happiness of people in the community as my own." [Female, 18 - 24 years, Port Melbourne]*
Free from violence (109 comments)	Being free from violence specifically (rather than just intimidation) was also often mentioned, including being 'attacked'. 43 comments mentioned both intimidation *and* violence. Comments relating to this theme were more often put forth by 35-59 year olds (16%, compared to 7% 60+ year olds).	*"Not worrying about experiencing violence, theft or anti-social behaviour." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Freedom from violence for all CoPP - including properly community supports for those who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, causing others to feel scared." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Outside CoPP]*
Mention of drugs (79 comments)	Many comments mentioned that people under the influence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia in the streets make them feel unsafe. This was often coupled with other concerns such as intimidation, violence and crime. Drugs were more often mentioned by resident respondents (9%, compared to 5% non-residents).	*"Being able to feel safe in my home with the door locked as well as being able to leave my home without being scared walking the streets (in daylight) alone, not fearing unprovoked verbal abuse or physical abuse from a stranger. I have been verbally abused by individuals in St Kilda who appear to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. I fear physical abuse is next :(" [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Crime / theft (75 comments)	Most mentions of crime were general (just using the word 'crime') and many were coupled with mentions of drug use (20 comments). A range of crimes were mentioned, including property theft from houses and motor vehicles and knife crime. There were also mentions of the need for appropriate prevention of and responses to crime, including opposition to criminalisation of homelessness. Respondents from Port Melbourne more often put forth a comment relating to this theme (17%, compared to 3% Balaclava and St Kilda East).	*"Knowing that I can live without being concerned for my personal safety and that the police are active in crime prevention." [Male, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]* *"Feeling and being safe means that one can freely move about and live your daily lives without fear of being attacked, robbed or assaulted. The unbelievable prevalence of knife crime, home invasions and even things like businesses being torched makes people feel unsafe and anxious." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*
Roads and footpaths (69 comments)	There were 36 comments mentioning that speed limits and/or drivers can make them feel unsafe, specifically through speeding, aggressive driving and/or dangerous driving. 29 mentioned that they feel safe when they have safe bike lanes, with many saying that they need to be separated from cars. 25 people mentioned footpaths. This includes being safe from accidents with bike riders and motor vehicles. Roads and drivers were mentioned more often by resident respondents (5%), compared to 1% non-residents).	*"Physical safety requires footpaths, crossings to be in good condition." [Female, 70 - 84 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"Vehicles driving speed limits and obeying rules. Being able to walk on well maintained footpaths free of clutter and hazards. Well lit walking paths with enough visibility to avoid hazards in the dark." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Social supports / services (56 comments)	There were a variety of comments that safety relies on there being services available to support those experiencing challenges, including drug and alcohol harm and those experiencing homelessness. Comments relating to this theme were more often put forth by 18-34 year old respondents (12%, compared to 5% 35+ year olds), respondents who speak a language other than English (12%, compared to 6% English-only), respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 4% non-LGBTIQA+), and those outside of CoPP (13%, compared to 4% residents).	*"It means not having my blankets and bedding cruelly stolen by council workers. It means not being criminalised because I have had a traumatic life. It means being housed, fed and treated with dignity and like a human being. It means receiving care, compassion and decency." [35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*
People experiencing homelessness (53 comments)	23 comments suggested that people experiencing homelessness can remain safe through being housed and/or adequately supported. There were also 26 comments from people who indicated that seeing people experiencing homelessness made them feel unsafe. There were no notable variations in mentions by demographics or location.	*"An inclusive, tolerant community where vulnerable people (homeless, alcohol & drug, mental health, FV) have access to the support they need. I am not supportive of changing local bylaws as a leaver to address these issues." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Outside CoPP]* *"Not having to cross the road to avoid encampments on Fitzroy Street and Grey Street." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Feeling safe for me means not having to worry about the council taking my stuff if I'm gone for 5 seconds and being asked to move on by the council & the public." [Non-binary, 18-34 year old, Lived experience]*
Housing (53 comments)	Many referred to having a home / safe place to sleep as making them feel safe. This includes affordable, stable, safe housing for themselves, as well as emergency and social housing for those in need. 6% of females made a comment relating to this theme, compared to 1% males. 18-34 year olds also more commonly made a comment relating to this theme (14%, compared to 1% 60+).	*"Having access to food, home, stable living environment, being involved in and having access to community groups." [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"Feeling safe means having access to safe housing and community facilities. It means not worrying about where I will be spending the night and it means feeling secure in being sheltered." [18 - 24 years, Outside CoPP]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Amenity (52 comments)	The main aspects of amenity referenced through the comments were lighting (20 comments), Litter / maintenance and cleanliness (19 comments), graffiti and vandalism (10 comments), and/or public space design (9 comments).	*"Not to feel threatened/unsafe walking down the street, or walking into a shopping centre. Not to have cars and homes broken in to. Nice clean streets to be proud of. No vacant shops boarded up, empty collecting dirt & graffiti." [Male, 35 - 49 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]* *"Public spaces e.g. Acland plaza need activation. Bring back table tennis table!" [Pop-ups]*
Police (50 comments)	Of those who mentioned police, most were calling for a greater police presence, with faster response times and more enforcement (33 comments). 10 comments expressed a fear of police violence, and 7 suggested there needs to be fewer police. A call for increased police presence was more common amongst residents (4%, compared to 1% non-residents). Fear of violence by the police was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year olds respondents (4%, compared to 0% 60+ year olds), non-residents (3%, compared to 1% residents), those who speak a language other than English (4%, compared to 1% English-only), respondents with a disability (4%, compared to 1% no disability) and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (6%, compared to 0% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Feeling safe means feeling safe to walk around at night and day without feeling unsafe. There has been an increase in crime. I think a bit more police presence around, which I think I have noticed. If police are called they are responding quickly." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"Walking without looking behind. Having security cameras in streets. Having a police station in Port Melbourne. Seeing police at night and day." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
Mental health (45 comments)	Comments relating to mental health covered 2 key themes: ensuring people with mental health issues have access to services and support (23 comments), and mention of people with mental health issues resulting in others feeling unsafe (18 comments).	*"Personal safety, with the ability to move around the area without fear of verbal or physical attack. Not fearing that my property is at risk of damage or theft. Knowing that there is caring and fully trained local authorities available at all hours, that approach situations they attend to in a non aggressive manner. Local authorities who have better training and care for every member of the community, including those suffering mental health crises, homelessness and*

		drug dependency." [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Other themes with notable mentions include:

- 32 comments mentioned safety for their children.
- 12 comments mentioned safety when walking dogs.
- 5 comments mentioned CCTV.

Question:	Q8. What makes you feel more safe about living in Port Phillip?
Sources:	691 comments across the community survey (n=597 comments) and pop-ups (n=94)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages are calculated as proportion of all respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. It was clear from the tone of responses that many respondents answered this as what would *help make them feel more safe*, rather than things that *currently make them feel more safe*. Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show the incidence of people who would feel more safe from these initiatives (as would be the case if they were shown a list to choose from).

In terms of things that currently foster safety, community connections and support was the main theme of comments.

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Community support / sense of community / neighbours (147 comments)	The primary thing that was mentioned as making people feel safe was a sense of community, including knowing neighbours and looking out for each other. Female respondents more often wrote in a comment regarding this (17%, compared to 10% males), as did those with a disability (26%, compared to 14% without a disability), and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (25%, compared to 13% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Community cohesion. Seeing people able to express themselves, their culture without fear." [25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]* *"It is a wonderful area with many fantastic people living here. I have many friends in the area whom I can contact at any time." [Male, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Nothing – don't feel safe (103 comments)	Many commenters said that they couldn't think of anything that currently makes them feel more safe. A higher proportion of resident respondents wrote in a comment relating to this theme (13%, compared to 4% non-residents). Writing in comments relating to this theme was also more common amongst respondents who speak a language other than English (20%, compared to 11% English-only), those without a disability (13%, compared to 4% of those with a disability), those who don't identify as LGBTIQA+ (13%, compared to 4% LGBTIQA+), and 35-59 year olds (15%, compared to 6% 18-34 year olds).	*"I don't feel safe around the neighbourhood anymore. In the last 5 years the unsafe feeling has been increasing. I'm Worried every morning when I have to walk to work at 7 am and I definitely avoid to walk at nighttime." [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Police (102 comments)	More police presence was commonly mentioned as something that makes people feel more safe. Mentioning more police was more common amongst 35-59 (13%) and 60+ year olds (11%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), residents (12%, compared to 5% non-residents) and respondents from Port Melbourne (21%, compared to 6% Balaclava and St Kilda East).	*"We're lucky to live where we are in PP, but the area has its problems and these problems need proactive action to resolve them. More visibility of the police acting on the behavioural issues needs to be at the forefront." [Male, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]*
Lighting (72 comments)	There were many comments putting forth lighting as something that makes them feel more safe in Port Phillip. This was more commonly mentioned by resident respondents (8%, compared to 3% non-residents).	*"Lighting, murals, activities like festivals and markets as well as other cultural events like running, yoga, open air theatre and movies etc." [Male, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Services / support (70 comments)	A range of services were mentioned as making people feel more safe living in Port Phillip, including community services such as libraries, as well as social support services for those in need. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by 18-34 year olds (12%, compared to 3% 60+ year olds) and respondents identifying as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 6% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Access to public transport and community services (libraries, public parks) make me feel safe and connected to the people around me." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *Knowing community services are around to support me [Female, 35-59, lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Housing / homelessness (66 comments)	There were three types of opinion put forth regarding people experiencing homelessness: some respondents said they feel safe knowing that those experiencing homelessness are properly supported and not mistreated (40 comments), whilst others said they feel safe when homelessness is addressed and they don't see people experiencing homelessness. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by 18-34 year olds (11%, compared to 4% 60+ year olds).	*"I've seen the homeless outreach teams do great work as well as a lot of the services around that provide safe spaces for people. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]* *"Nothing, I live in St Kilda, and it is very dangerous. Out of control on Fitzroy St and Grey St. Port Phillip have not addressed the issue of rough sleepers and troublemakers on Fitzroy St for over 20 years." [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Populated areas (busy streets, people around) (63 comments)	Busy public spaces with people around makes some feel more safe in Port Phillip. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by female respondents (8%, compared to 5% males) and those with a disability (13%, compared to 6% without a disability).	*"That lots of people walk and cycle in Port Phillip makes me feel safer walking around during the day or night. The libraries are a welcoming, warm and safe places to be in, the parks and the bay are beneficial for mental health." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
Transport infrastructure (53 comments)	Key aspects of transport infrastructure that make respondents feel more safe in Port Phillip were public transport, good footpaths and separated bike lanes. There was a mix of tone in comments, with some saying these things were currently good, and more saying improvements would be needed. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly provided by respondents who speak a language other than English (9%, compared to 4% English-only)	*"Excellent public transport that I can utilise while doing hospital shift work. Generally good lighting on streets (some areas could be improved). [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]* *Good footpaths, accessible shops, cafes and other venues." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda Road]*
Cleanliness / maintenance / amenity (28 comments)	Some mentioned that they like the cleanliness and amenity, whilst others mentioned that there were issues with it (graffiti, rubbish, unpruned trees etc.) There were no notable variations in findings by demographics or location.	*"Amenity, trees, traffic safety access to the canal and beach foreshore clean air, less rubbish and pollution active public spaces which accommodate all users, citizens." [Male, 50 - 59 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Diversity (24 comments)	Living in a diverse community was mentioned by some as making them feel more safe. There were no notable variations in findings by demographics or location.	*"Having culture and different people coming together to enjoy life." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 21 comments mentioned a specific location, that it is an affluent area, or that it is safer in some parts.
- 19 comments mentioned CCTV (In the community survey there were 12 comments by females and 5 by males – however given the difference in sample size the percentage was the same for both males and females – 2%).
- 19 comments mentioned mental health, primarily as something that prevents them from feeling safe.
- 18 comments mentioned being at home as a situation where they feel more safe (that is, they don't feel safe outside of their home).
- 18 comments mentioned familiarity (lived there for a long time etc.)
- 16 comments mentioned feel safe without any further details.
- 11 comments indicated that the questions was unclear ("More safe than what?" or "What **would** make me more safe").

Question:	Q9. What makes you feel less safe about living in Port Phillip?
Sources:	766 comments across the community survey (n=658 comments) and pop-ups (n=108)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Quotes that include derogatory terms or stigmatisation have been considered in the overarching analysis, but have not been included in the report for ethical (cause no harm) reasons. Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show incidence.

The main aspects that were put forth by respondents as making them feel unsafe were drugs and alcohol related or mentioned something to do with homelessness:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Drug and alcohol related (225 comments)	The most commonly mentioned topic in comments related to drugs and alcohol, specifically those under the influence making people feel unsafe, as well as paraphernalia in public spaces. 35-59 year old respondents more often wrote a comment relating to this theme (31%, compared to 12% 18-34 and 19% 60+ year olds), as did resident respondents (28%, compared to 6% non-residents), particularly those in Port Melbourne (35%) and St Kilda and St Kilda West (33%).	*"Drug and alcohol impacted people around me...because their behaviour is often unpredictable." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Drug use is the biggest issue here, I have lived in red light districts and remote towns with curfews for most of my adult life (including St Kilda 20 years ago) and I have never seen anything as bad as St Kilda is presently." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Having to inject in public after all the toilets get locked." [Redacted, lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
People experiencing homelessness (192 comments)	Some comments mentioned that they feel unsafe when in areas with people experiencing homelessness (121 comments). Other comments suggested that not providing adequate supports for people experiencing homelessness makes them feel unsafe (68 comments). There were no notable variations in demographics or by location.	*"Camps and rough sleepers, on the street and in the park, living themselves in dangerous situations, and posing threat to others who wish to use streets and park." [Female, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Council taking visible action that results in change - too many people camping on streets." [Female, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]* *"I feel less safe in Port Phillip when I witness police harassing my friends and community members simply for being poor, visibly homeless, or engaging in street-based sex work - which is now decriminalised in Victoria. These forms of targeted policing send a clear message that some people in our community are seen as less deserving of dignity, safety, and public space. I feel less safe when I hear reports of council staff and local laws officers confiscating people's tents, swags, and personal belongings - actions that further punish people already struggling to survive, rather than offering support or solutions." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Intimidation / behaviour of others (173 comments)	Many comments referred to intimidation and/or the behaviour of others as making them feel unsafe, often linked to people under the influence of drugs or alcohol, those with mental health issues, and/or people experiencing homelessness. Resident respondents more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (19%, compared to 13% non-residents)	*"The several gatherings of homeless or drug and/or alcohol affected individuals that are scattered around St Kilda daily. They leave their needles, bongs, bottles, rubbish, and what belongings they have sprawled all over the place with no regard for anyone else. They often intimidate and yell out inappropriate things to you (I'm a woman) and I have been followed several times :(More security officers or police presence will help a lot." [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Crime (170 comments)	In addition to a general mention of 'crime', specific issues covered in the comments were home invasion, motor vehicle and bicycle theft, property damage, knife attacks and violence. 35-59 year old respondents more often wrote a comment relating to this theme (20%, compared to 11% 18-34 year olds), as did resident respondents (21%, compared to 5% non-residents), particularly those in Port Melbourne (30%) and Albert Park and Middle Park (26%).	*"The ongoing issue of property crime—my car has been broken into multiple times even while parked in my carport, which has left me feeling vulnerable in my own home. Despite installing floodlights and security cameras, the repeated incidents have shaken my confidence in the area's safety." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
Police (123 comments)	89 comments relating to police mentioned there not being enough police presence nor enforcement. 34 comments suggest that police activities make them feel unsafe. 35+ year olds more often wrote in a comment relating to lack of enforcement (11%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), whist 18-34 year olds more often mentioned police make them feel unsafe (12%, compared to 3% 35-59 and 0% 60+ year olds).	*"Inaction, low security, no guards or police, low arrest rate, no deterrents, criminals know they can do as they please. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *I don't like when I see people with mental health or substance abuse issues being harassed by police officers. Sometimes the presence of cops, especially when carrying weapons, has heightened tensions rather than reducing fear." [Female, 18 - 24 years, Port Melbourne]*
Cars / traffic (72 comments)	Comments about cars and traffic refer to aggressive drivers, hoon drivers, and unsafe intersections. Resident respondents more often wrote in a comment relating to this theme (8%, compared to 3% non-residents), as did respondents aged 60 years and over (10%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds).	*"1. Many drivers don't understand simple road rules like stopping behind the first line at crossings when the light is red. They drive straight through and stop at the line marking the crossing. This is infuriating. 2. Many people speed and drive aggressively on residential streets and around zebra crossings." [Male, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]*
Lighting (54 comments)	Dark streets and alleyways and lack of lighting at night makes some feel unsafe. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly shared by female respondents (7%, compared to 3% males).	*"Some of our streets are really dark with lots of trees which are great during the day but frightening at night when parking and walking to your destination." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda Road]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Marginalising those experiencing homelessness (46 comments)	There were comments raising concerns about safety for people experiencing homelessness, with mention of the proposed laws and negative treatment / criminalisation of vulnerable people. Typing in a comment relating to this theme was more common amongst female respondents (5%, compared to 2% males), young people (11% 18-34, compared to 5% 35-59 and 1% 60+ year olds), those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background (14%, compared to 5% not from that background), people with a disability (14%, compared to 4% no disability), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 3% non-LGBTIQA+), and those who live outside of CoPP (14%, compared to 3% residents).	*"Local authorities seem to be stretched thin and appear to lack community care. A lot more could be done to help people who are homeless and drug affected and have mental health issues in our area, as they are treated cruelly by the council and police and other members of the community and pose a safety risk to themselves and the wider community. I think much more care and compassion could be shown by all." [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Not enough community support services (34 comments)	A range of support services were mentioned as needed, specifically in relation to housing and mental health. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly shared by 18-34 year old respondents (8%, compared to 2% 35-54 and 3% 60+ year olds) and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (7%, compared to 3% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"A lack of support for vulnerable people within the municipality, including a lack of necessary infrastructure to keep people in need safe (i.e. rough sleepers). I feel unsafe because vulnerable people are forced to fend for themselves in large." [Non-binary, 18 - 24 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Sometimes I feel out of place or I don't fit into normal society because I can be homeless at times or I dress differently This is isolating - need drop in centres." [Female, 35-59 year old, lived experience]*
Amenity (32 comments)	Comments mentioned a range of amenity topics, including litter, cleanliness and maintenance. There were no notable variations in findings by demographics or location.	*"Deterioration of streets, shops, amount of graffiti. General uncleanliness and poor maintenance." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Vandalism (29 comments)	Comments include vandalism and graffiti. Typing in a comment relating to this theme was more common amongst male respondents (6%, compared to 2% females).	*"Signs of neglect and decay. Public and private property, both built and natural environment, left in disrepair. ... Public dumping, litter and graffiti." [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 26 comments mentioned bike lanes / bikes.
- 22 comments mentioned scooters.
- 16 comments mentioned infrastructure.
- 14 comments mentioned CCTV / surveillance (no notable variations by gender).
- 11 comments mentioned the politics behind the proposed local law amendment.
- 9 comments mentioned climate change or extreme weather events.
- 8 comments mentioned media portrayal of crime (including social media).
- 6 comments mentioned empty shopfronts leading to unpopulated areas.
- 3 comments mentioned too many or high concentration of support services in certain areas
- 23 comments mentioned Nothing / don't feel unsafe

In the community workshops, participants often framed their concept of safety within the context of their day to day activities, interactions with the community, or risk of negative experiences. Specifically, being able to travel around without harm or experiencing crime. They said they feel more safe when there are people around or they are familiar with the area, and less safe at night or when there are people around that are perceived to be unsafe.

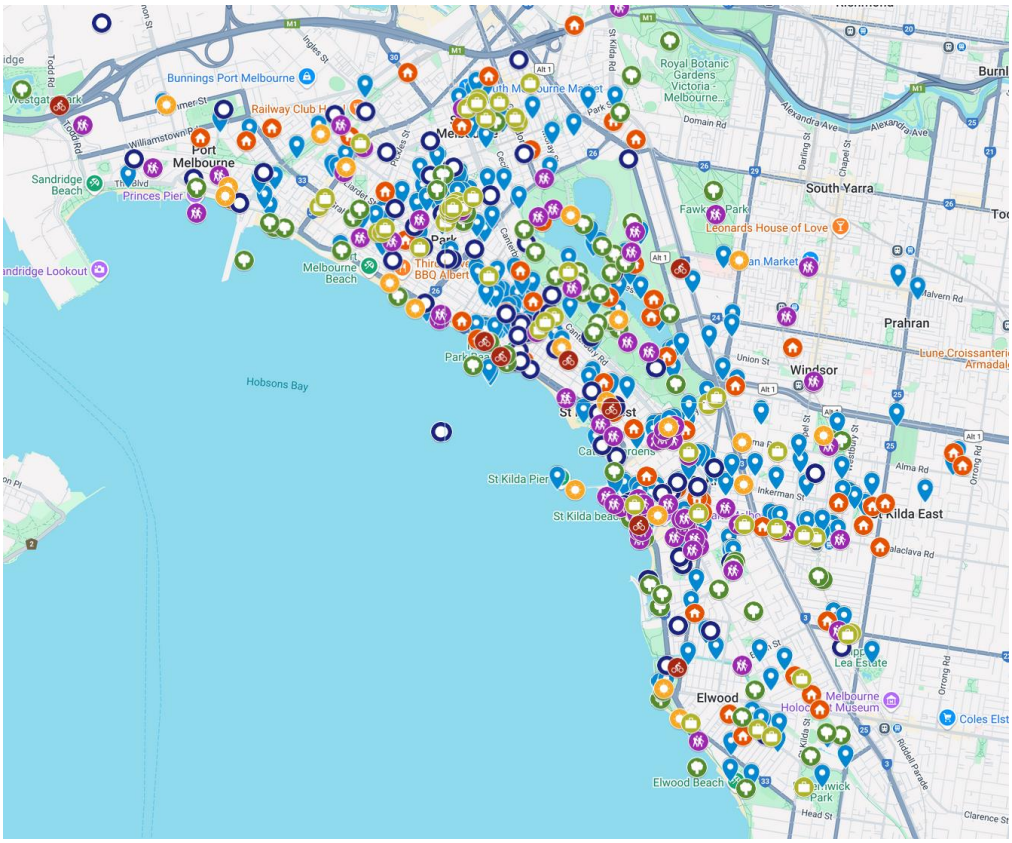
3.2 Where have you felt more and less safe

Question:	Q10. Show us where you feel MORE safe in the City of Port Phillip
Sources:	Community survey (600 map points made by 349 respondents)
Notes:	Respondents were asked to place points on a map to show locations where they felt more safe, and then for each they were required to enter in a comment to explain why they feel more safe at that map point. Many submitted points didn't provide a useable comment, or provided comments that indicated it was a point where they felt unsafe. Where it was clearly an 'unsafe' location this was moved to the unsafe map (Q11). Where possible, comments have been grouped into themes to help represent locations specific to particular safety benefits. Map base sourced from Google Maps.

There were locations all across the City of Port Phillip identified as safe spaces for various reasons. The following pages show each category in further detail.

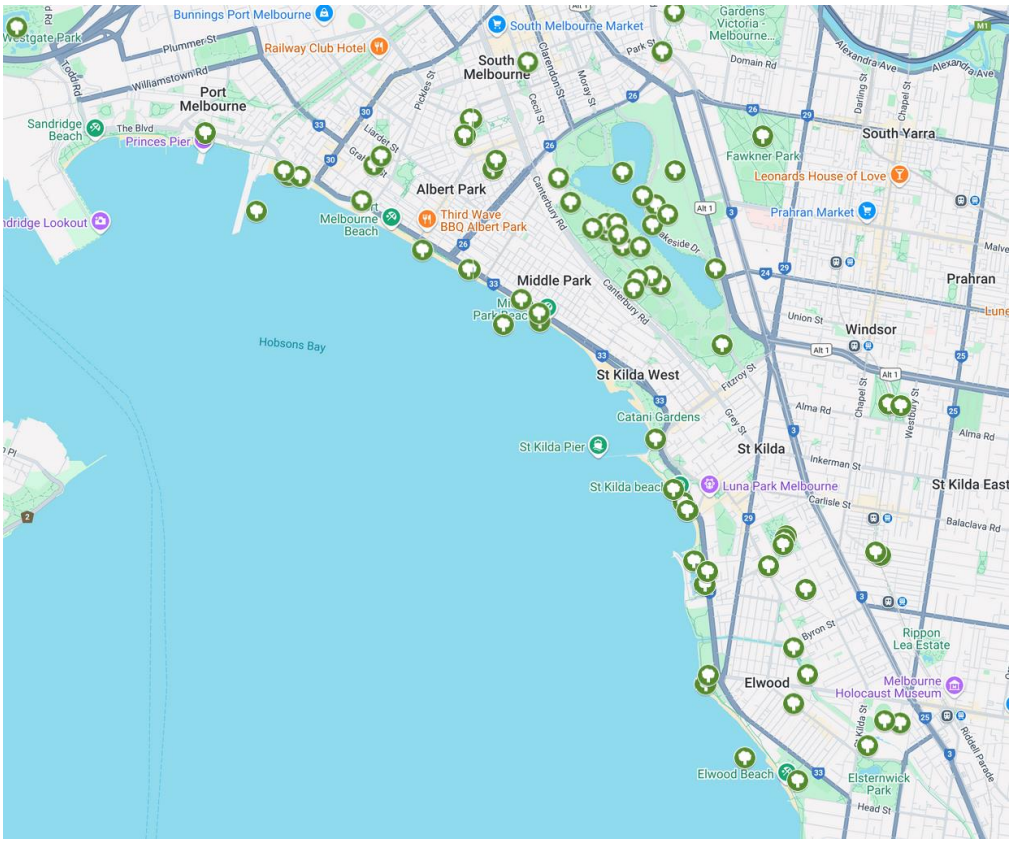
General	Bike paths	Quiet	Park / open space
Populated / sense of community	Businesses	Good lighting	Familiar

Figure 3.2.1 Map of locations selected as places where people feel more safe



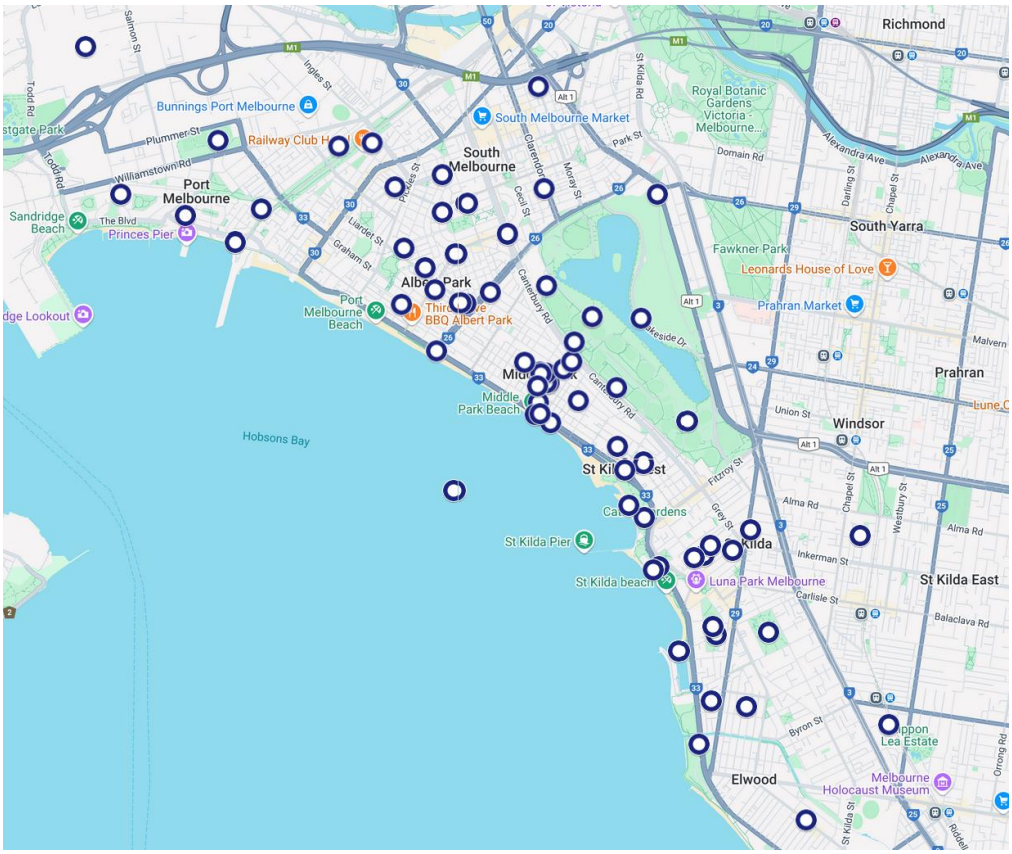
The following map shows the 73 locations respondents identified as safe with reference to them being a park or open space.

Figure 3.2.2 Locations people feel are safe due to open space and/or parkland



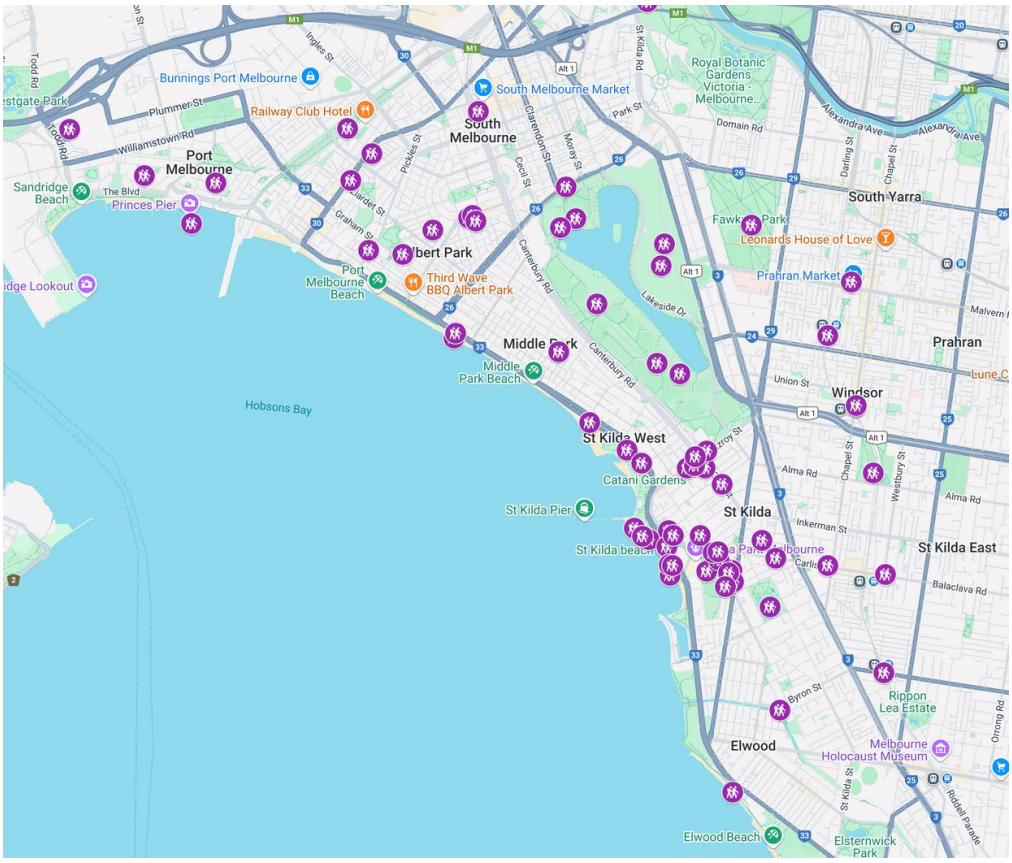
The next map shows the 71 locations where respondents said they feel safe because they are quiet and/or have fewer people that they perceive as intimidating. 18-34 year olds more often placed map points relating to an area being quiet. Almost all map points relating to quiet locations were made by CoPP residents.

Figure 3.2.3 Locations people feel are safe due to them being quiet



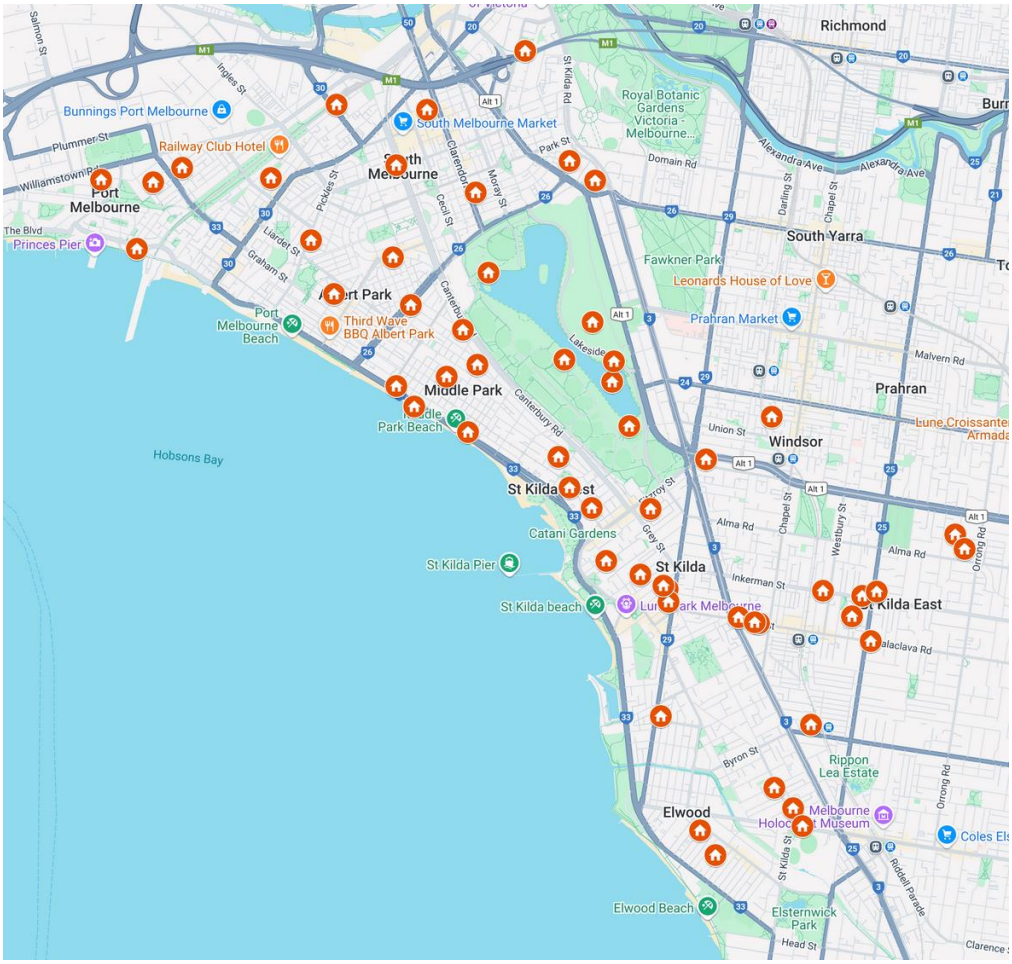
The following map shows the 69 places respondents said they feel safe because there are lots of people around and/or it has a community feel. There were clusters of points around Acland Street, the foreshore and Fitzroy Street.

Figure 3.2.4 Locations people feel are safe due to being populated and/or having a community feel



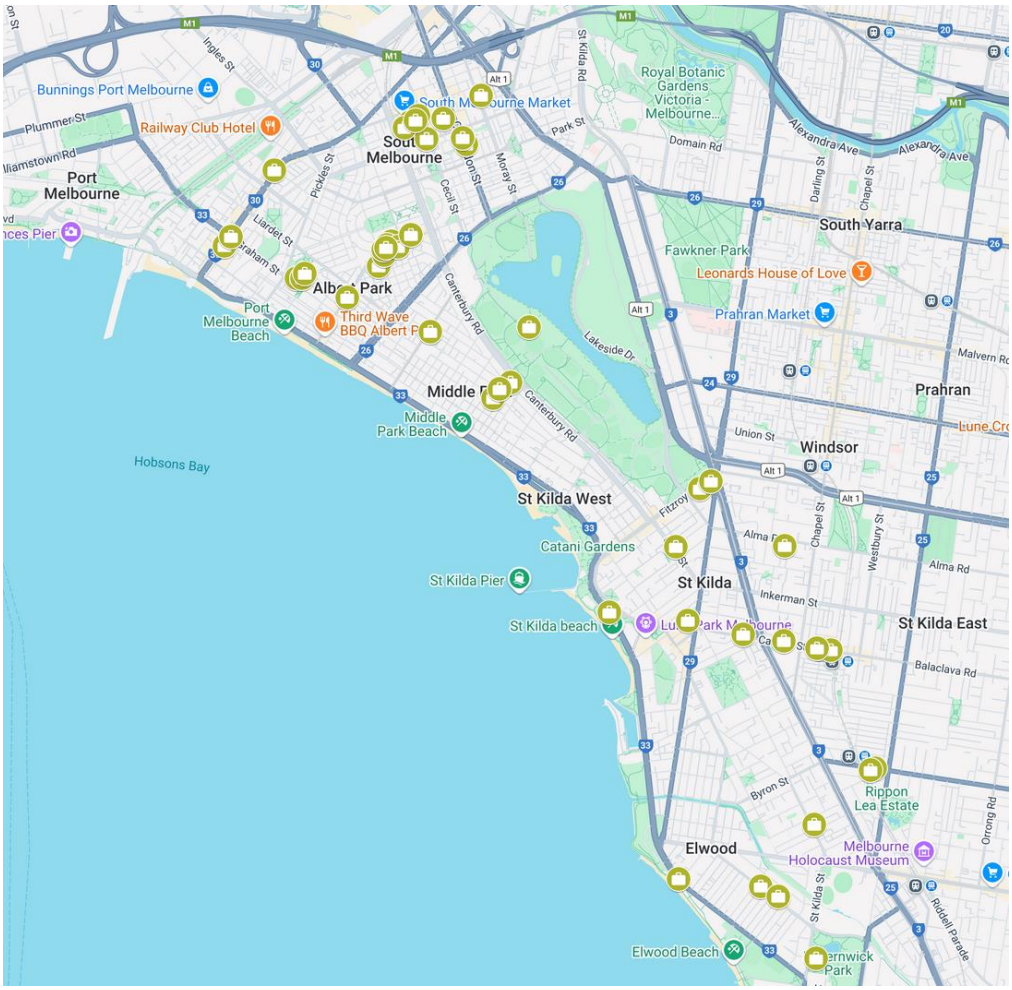
The following map points show the 56 locations that respondents said they felt safe because they were familiar. 60+ year olds more often placed map points based on familiarity.

Figure 3.2.5 Locations people feel are safe due to familiarity



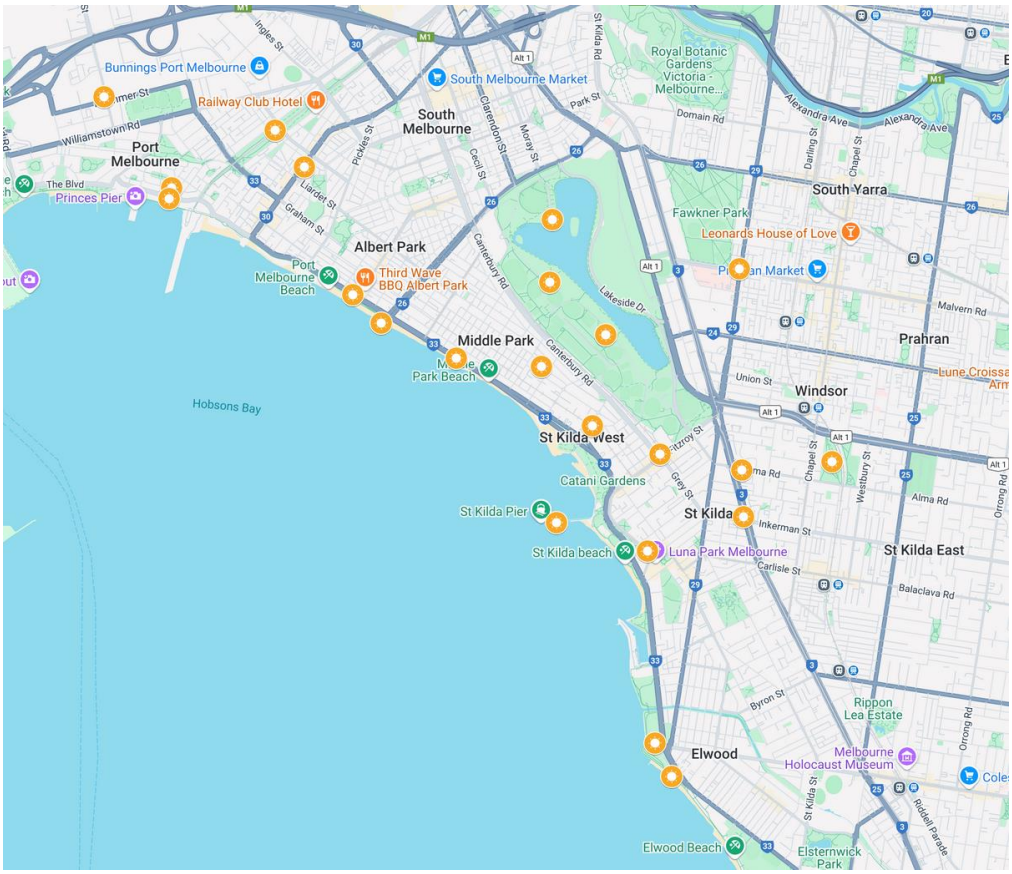
The next map shows 49 locations where respondents said they felt safe relative to businesses (e.g. markets, supermarkets, shopping strips).

Figure 3.2.6 Locations people feel are safe due to businesses



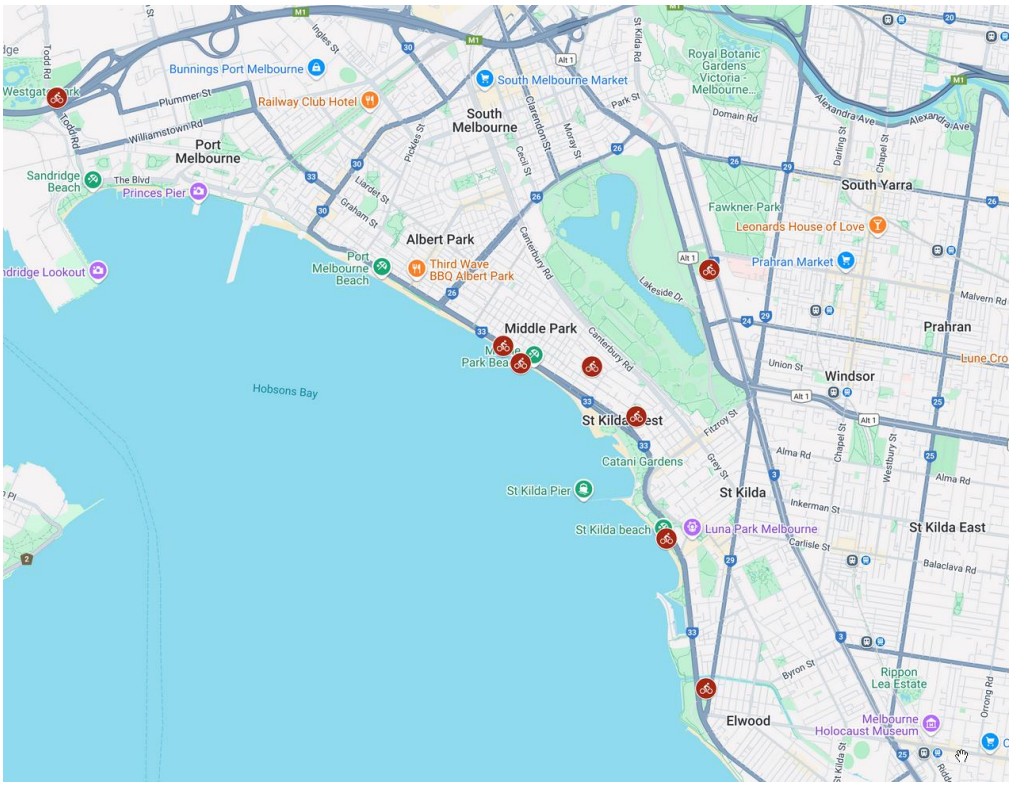
The next map shows 22 points where respondents said they feel safe due to good lighting. Map points for good lighting were more often provided by males - 55% of points marked for good lighting were provided by males (despite only 37% of all points being provided by males). Map points for good lighting were also more often provided by 35-59 and 18-34 year olds.

Figure 3.2.7 Locations people feel are safe due to good lighting



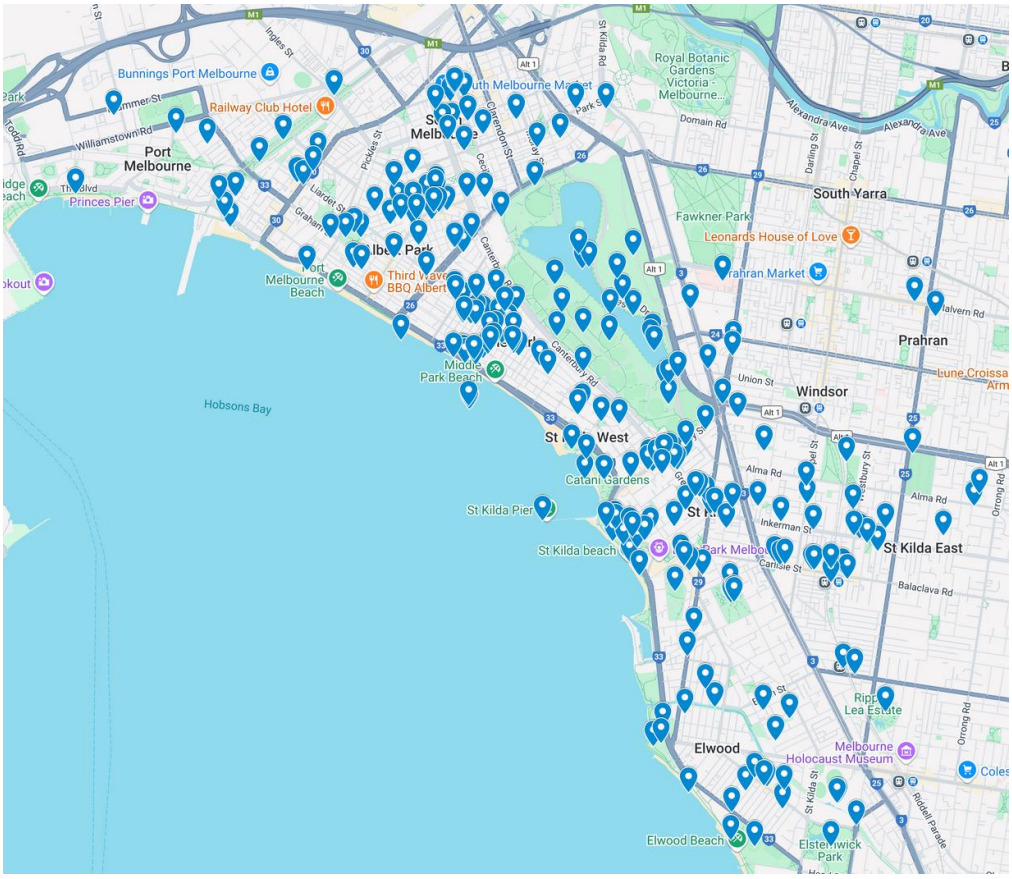
The next map shows the 8 locations where respondents identified a bike lane that made them feel safe. All map points relating to bike lanes were made by residents of CoPP.

Figure 3.2.8 Bike lane locations where people feel are safe



The following map shows the 251 places identified by respondents as safe, without any further context as to why that location was selected (other than it being perceived as safe).

Figure 3.2.9 Locations people feel are safe due to other general reasons



In the community workshops, participants put forth a number of locations as places where they feel more safe:

- Albert Park and Middle Park, due to limited anti-social behaviour and it not being too crowded.
- St Kilda / St Kilda West, due to it being busy.
- Balaclava.
- Elwood, due to sense of community.
- South Melbourne market, due to security.
- Port Melbourne & Fisherman's Bend during the day.
- Beachfront paths due to there being lots of people, with good visibility and well patrolled.

Question:	Q11. Show us where you feel LESS safe in the City of Port Phillip
Sources:	Community survey (1,005 map points made by 414 respondents)
Notes:	Respondents were asked to place points on a map to show locations where they felt less safe, and then for each they were required to enter in a comment to explain why they feel less safe at that map point. Many submitted points didn't provide a useable comment, or provided comments that indicated it was a point where they more unsafe. Where it was clearly a 'safe' location this was moved to the safe map (Q10). Where possible, comments have been grouped into themes to help represent locations specific to particular safety issues. This information has been provided to Council to inform planning, but will not be released publicly to protect the privacy of community members.

While detailed maps of safety concerns were created to assist Council in planning and response, they have not been included here to protect individual privacy and community wellbeing.

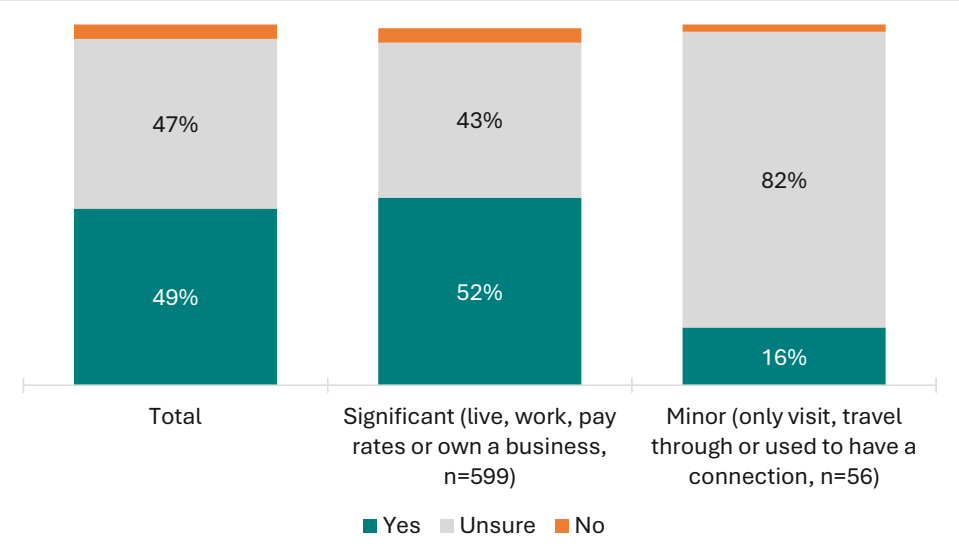
In the community workshops, participants put forth a number of locations as places where they feel less safe:

- St Kilda, due to antisocial behaviour.
- Port Melbourne at night time.
- Balaclava, due to antisocial behaviour.
- Elwood, due to flooding.
- Tram stops and intersections, due to lack of lighting.

Question:	Q13. In the past year, have you limited or changed your behaviour or activities in the City of Port Phillip due to safety concerns?
Sources:	Community survey (n=655)
Notes:	This question was optional.

Half of respondents who chose to answer this question said that 'yes' they had changed their behaviour or activities in the City of Port Phillip due to safety concerns.

Figure 3.2.10 Incidence of behaviour change due to safety concerns by connection to CoPP



Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Changing behaviour due to safety concerns was more common amongst 35-59 year old residents (58%, compared to 34% 18-34 year olds). This finding was influenced by non-residents, who represent almost half of this younger age profile within the data, and show lower instances of changing behaviour in City of Port Phillip.
Diversity	Changing behaviour due to safety concerns was more common amongst: • People without a disability (52%, compared to 36% of those with a disability. • Non-LGBTIQA+ (54%, compared to 32% LGBTIQA+).
Region	A higher proportion of respondents who resided in Port Melbourne (71%), Albert Park and Middle Park (65%), South Melbourne (63%) and St Kilda and St Kilda West (54%) said they had changed their behaviour due to safety concerns, compared to 30% in Elwood and Ripponlea.
Lived experience	30% of those with lived experience of street-based living said they had limited or changed their behaviour or activities due to safety concerns.

Question:	Q14. If you would like to tell us more about your response, you can tell us here.
Sources:	Community survey (n=292 comments made by people who said 'yes')
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Percentages have been calculated based on the number of respondents who said 'yes' in Q13 (n=323). Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show incidence.

An open ended follow-up question gave respondents the change to write in further information about their answer. Some of the insights relating to these topic areas follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Avoidance (122 comments)	People said they would avoid areas, and some said they stopped visiting places. There were multiple mentions of Fitzroy Street (46 comments) and Acland Street (28 comments). There were also 12 mentions of Grey Street, 10 mentions of Bay Street, and 9 mentions of avoiding Jackson Street Car Park. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I try to avoid getting off the train at Balaclava station late at night when it's likely to be quiet, e.g. on weekdays. I have to wait for the tram by the station but it can be so quiet when all the businesses are closed that it feels unsafe. I will try to find some alternate public transport option or get a lift rather than do that." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]* *"I avoid Fitzroy Street sometimes, and if I have my grandchildren with me, they refuse to walk along the southern most section of the street with me." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Don't go out at night time (96 comments)	Many comments specifically mentioned that they have stopped walking around the area at night time. A higher proportion of female respondents who had changed their behaviour shared a comment relating to this theme (36%, compared to 17% males).	*"I don't like to go out in the evenings after dark as much/won't go for as long of a walk as I normally would. I just feel nervous and a bit uncomfortable so my dog's evening walk is generally just a quick on now." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]*
Awareness (36 comments)	Various methods were being adopted to improve situational awareness, including looking out for antisocial people and not wearing headphones. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I avoid being on the streets at night, I have also installed cameras at my home and car. I do not wear headphones anymore as I want to be aware of what people around me are doing to avoid getting in trouble." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Route changes (32 comments)	Some said they altered their route to travel places to avoid locations where they felt unsafe. This includes crossing the road in certain places, through to using different trams, or driving instead of walking – 22 said they avoid walking and 14 said they avoid public transport. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"On several other occasions, I have opted to catch a tram rather than ride my bike even though it would take me much longer to get to my destination because the route I would need to travel would make it likely for me to encounter the kind of near misses or aggression from drivers that can too often make getting around by bike in Port Phillip an unpleasantly adrenaline inducing activity." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Equipment (23 comments)	A variety of equipment was being used, including installing security cameras on houses and self-defence items (tasters, knives, keys, bats). There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I have installed security cameras and am vigilant about keeping all doors locked day and night. I don't walk home alone from the 109 tram terminus at night anymore." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]*
Travel with others (27 comments)	Some comments mentioned that they have started traveling with others and won't travel alone. There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*"I avoid some areas and make my husband meet at the tram stop in Fitzroy Street to walk home if it is dark. I can't run as fast as I used to!! There used to be more people in restaurants in the Bay end of Fitzroy Street and it felt safer." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Experiences (29 comments)	There were comments mentioning personal experiences that had led to a change in behaviour, including assaults and harassment. 22 comments referred to personal experiences of assault or harassment, 7 comments spoke about personally witnessing illegal or aggressive behaviour and 2 mentioned a personal experience with theft. 14% of LGBTIQA+ respondents who had changed their behaviour mentioned an experience of assault or harassment (compared to 6% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"I won't walk at night anymore as a female. I have been followed and yelled at in public. Thus I feel unsafe walking now after dark. Also, even during the day there is constantly broken glass and needles where I live, not safe to walk my dogs. So I drive them somewhere else to do it." [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"I'm homeless and have had to be a lot more careful of my choices of where I sleep as people are becoming much more worse for stealing off one another while people are asleep or had their back turned. [Female, 35-59, lived experience]*
Psychological (14 comments)	Some mentioned that their behaviour had changed due to fear, as well as other mental health impacts (such as anxiety).	*"No longer can you walk the streets without feeling anxious that someone is going to harm you. No longer can you leave your home without feeling anxious that someone may break into it. Anxious*

	There were no notable variations by demographics or location.	*about my car being stolen." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]*

Question:	Evidence tells us that people of different genders have different experiences of safety in public spaces. Women, girls and gender diverse people may have heightened concerns about personal safety in public and feel less safe than men and boys, particularly when it's dark and/or when they're on their own. Q15. What do you think would make women, girls and gender diverse people feel more safe in our City?
Sources:	Community survey (n=542)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Given this was text box question, the findings show the things that were most top-of-mind for respondents. These findings do not show incidence.

An open ended follow-up question gave respondents the change to write in further information about their answer. Some of the insights relating to these topic areas follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
More lighting (182 comments)	Many mentioned lighting in general, with some specifying street lighting and some specifying lighting in parks. More lighting was often coupled with increased police presence (54 instances). Suggesting more lighting was more common amongst female respondents (24%, compared to 16% males).	*"Good street lighting is essential. Good lighting on tram stops is also essential and not always there. Traffic management is also critical. The low-speed limits and speed bumps etc. have helped considerably to make moving about for pedestrians safer." [Female, 70 - 84 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"More brightly lit streets, more cameras, duress buttons everywhere." [Non-binary, 18-34, lived experience]*
Police (134 comments)	Most comments mentioned the need for increased police presence (134 comments), although 9 respondents suggested more police was not safe for women or gender diverse people. Suggesting an increase in police presence was more common in comments made by 35+ year olds (17%, compared to 6% 18-34 year olds), those who were not LGBTIQA+ (17%, compared to 6% LGBTIQA+) and residents (18%), particularly in Port Melbourne (22%), South Melbourne (21%) and St Kilda and St Kilda West (19%).	*"More police on the street. St Kilda must be the only tourist destination in the world that doesn't have a police station, even if it's only a pop up for the summer months." "Explaining to visitors that you have to walk up and cross the Nepean is ridiculous." [Male, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Highly visible police or security representatives who call out or remove antisocial behaviour." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"A night patrol of some kind would help - whether police or another form - being present and visible on the streets." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Community education (86 comments)	There were a range of comments referring to the need for community education and behaviour change to promote a shift in culture. Female respondents more often shared a comment relating to this theme (11%, compared to 5% males), as did those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (17%, compared to 8% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"I am a woman in my late 60s and yes I am situationally aware so will seek out better light, more populated street environments. Safety for women and gender diverse people will only come with greater social cohesion, respect for others and programs and education to address community and family violence. Addressing the root case of the issues leading to violence and safety risks is what is needed." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda Road]* *"A cultural shift. Noone is supporting women to speak for themselves and noone is calling men out for treating them badly. There should probably be some kind of education but I think the men in this area are too stubborn to hear it." [Non-binary, 35-59, lived experience]*
Remove unsafe people (72 comments)	A range of comments were made indicating that women, girls and gender diverse people could feel more safe if unsafe people were not in public spaces. This included those with mental health issues, people experiencing homelessness and people who are perceived as drunk or on drugs. 35-59 year old respondents more often provided a comment relating to this theme (10%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), as did residents (9%), particularly those in St Kilda and St Kilda West (12%).	*"Remove the anti-social behaviour on our streets. It will not get better until this has been rectified." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Thoughtfully adding lighting to specific areas, especially around bus/train/tram stops and high-use pedestrian routes, reducing traffic speed and volume in residential areas, and reduced presence of public drunkenness/drug use." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Services (70 comments)	There was a call for more support services, particularly for those experiencing homelessness and with mental health issues. Female respondents more often shared a comment relating to this theme (9%, compared to 4% males), as did those aged 18-34 (14%, compared to 7% 35+ years), people with a disability (13%, compared to 7% without), and respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (15%, compared to 6% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Increased services for those experiencing housing or homelessness issues, including both short and long term accommodation and services." [Male, 60 - 69 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"More supportive programs for those with mental health and housing issues, more programs to support those living in family violence. More creative ways of 'activating' areas with food and entertainment, and sporting/arts services - so that like in other parts of the world there is always someone around and somewhere to go if you feel vulnerable." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
Address drug and alcohol issues (67 comments)	Many comments suggested that people with drug and alcohol issues make public spaces unsafe for women, girls and gender diverse people. Some comments refer to the pubs and bars holding some responsibility for this. Resident respondents more often provided a comment relating to this theme (9% compared to 2% non-residents).	*"Less intoxicated men... possibly nominated parking areas identified exclusively for women and gender diverse people which were well lit and staffed." [Male, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Regulating Port Phillip venues and ensuring they actually train staff in drug and alcohol related safety and harassment would make everyone safer." [18 - 24 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
Stronger action on crime (53 comments)	There were a range of comments calling for more immediate and stronger action on crime, including stronger punishments to prevent reoccurrence, specific to family violence and antisocial behaviour. Some of these comments mention changing the local laws to facilitate this. There were no notable variations in responses for this theme by demographics or location.	*"ACT! I see the same people every day being anti social, screaming abuse, attacking people who are simply going about their day. Lock them up.! Stop letting repeat offenders back onto the streets." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"...be more proactive than reactive - introduce & amend laws so there can be effective policing, not just a revolving door of criminals through the judicial system, effective repercussions for poor actions and choices." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
More populated areas (50 comments)	Comments under this theme suggested safety could be improved by there being more people in public spaces. Some suggested this could be facilitated by filling the empty shopfronts. Female respondents more often shared a comment relating to this theme (7%, compared to 4% males).	*"Activation of spaces is important - there are many vacant shop fronts that make certain streets feel unsafe." [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"I generally feel more safe when on streets with more people on it. An example is Wells St in Sth Melbourne didn't used to feel safe but since Woolworths opened there are a lot more people walking along the street so it feels safer." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda Road]*
Council activities (43 comments)	A range of suggestions were made specific to Council actions, including more local laws patrols, policy changes and education signage. A higher proportion of respondents from Albert Park and Middle Park put forth a comment relating to this theme (14%, compared to 2% Balaclava and St Kilda East).	*"Visible presence of police, council and tram staff on trams and dealing with anti-social behaviour when it occurs." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
CCTV (39 comments)	Mentions of CCTV were often coupled with lighting (27 comments) and/or increased police presence (22 comments). Resident respondents more often provided a comment relating to this theme (5% compared to 1% non-residents).	*"As a woman, I absolutely experience heightened concerns about personal safety in public spaces—particularly at night or when alone. There are parts of Port Melbourne I simply won't walk through after dark, and I've adjusted my daily routines to avoid isolated streets, dimly lit areas, or anywhere with a strong history of antisocial behaviour at certain times when alone. This isn't about being overly cautious—it's a rational response to repeated safety issues in the environment. When there's little visible enforcement, poor lighting, and no CCTV in key areas, that sense of vulnerability isn't imagined—it's reinforced." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]*

Other themes with notable mentions include:

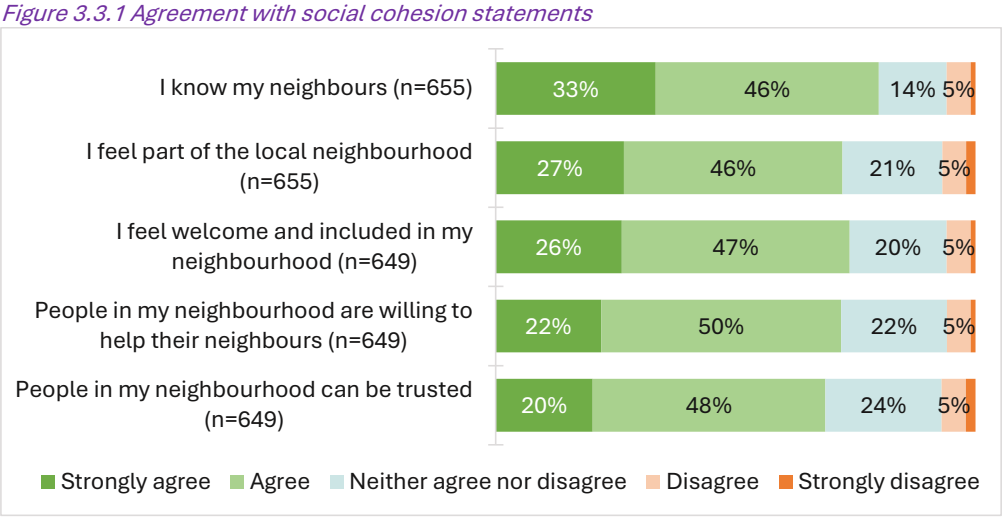
- 33 comments mentioned safer public transport.
- 25 comments mentioned transport infrastructure (footpaths, bike lanes and roads).
- 19 comments mentioned activities and spaces for just women/ girls/ gender diverse.
- 18 comments mentioned facilities (bathrooms etc.)
- 16 comments mentioned family violence support programs / services.
- 15 comments mentioned more sense of community / bystander intervention.
- 13 comments mentioned more safe / welcoming spaces & activities.
- 13 comments mentioned cleaning up the streets.
- 11 comments mentioned emergency call buttons / security escorts to car/home.

3.3 Feeling more safe and welcome in your local neighbourhood

Question:	Q16. How strongly do you agree or disagree with these statements?
Sources:	Community survey (n=649-655)
Notes:	This question was optional.

Amongst survey respondents who completed this question, there were high levels of agreement with most social cohesion statements.

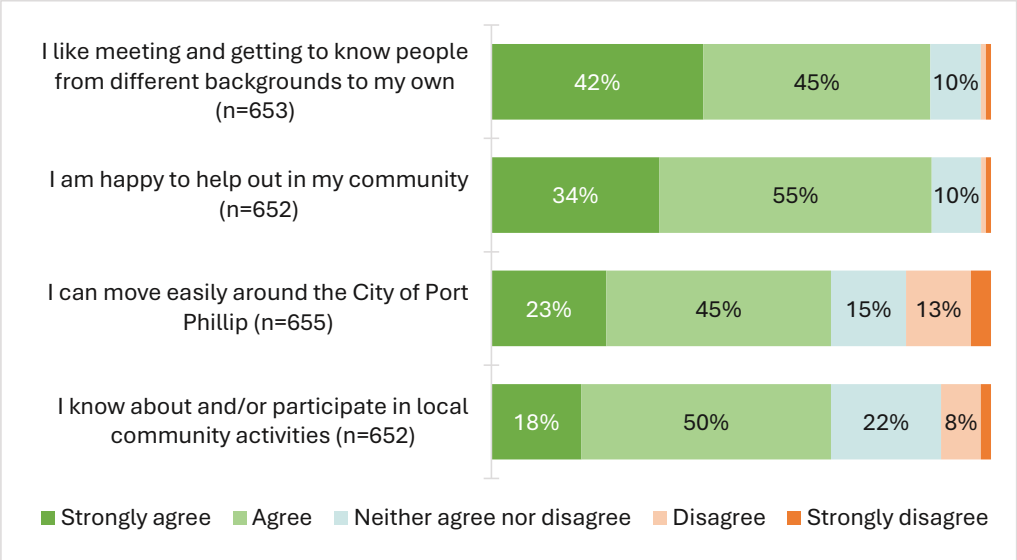
Figure 3.3.1 Agreement with social cohesion statements



Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	60+ year olds showed higher instances of 'strongly agreeing' for *knowing neighbours* (45%, compared to <30% under 60 year olds), *part of local neighbourhood* (37%, compared to <23% under 60 year olds), *welcomed and included* (33%, compared to 21% 35-59 year olds), *people in my neighbourhood are willing to help others* (33%, compared to <19% under 60 year olds), and *people in my neighbourhood can be trusted* (30%, compared to 13% 35-59 year olds).
Diversity	Respondents with a disability more often rated each as 'neither agree nor disagree'
Region	*I know my neighbours* 'strongly agree' was higher in Port Melbourne (45%), and Albert Park and Middle Park (49%), compared to 7% of St Kilda Road respondents. *People in my neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours* 'strongly agree' was higher in Albert Park and Middle Park (41%, compared to 21% St Kilda and St Kilda West).
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience show a notably higher instance of disagreeing with each of these statements.

Most of those who completed the community connection and participation questions in the survey agreed that they like meeting people, are happy to help out, can move around easily and/or know about and/or participate in community activities.

Figure 3.3.2 Agreement with actions and awareness statements

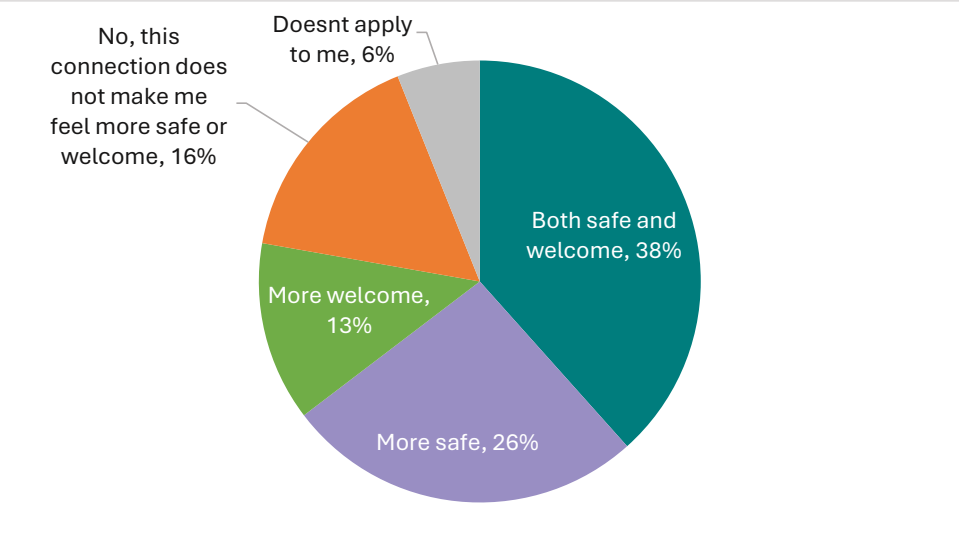


Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Some age groups showed higher instances of 'strongly agreeing' with statements: • *I can easily move around* was higher amongst 18-34 year olds (30%) and 60+ year olds (29%, compared to 16% 35-59 year olds). • 28% of 60+ year olds 'strongly agreed' that they *know about or participate in community activities* (compared to 17% and less for under 60 year olds). • 58% of 18-34 year olds 'strongly agreed' that they *like meeting people from different backgrounds* (compared to 39% 35+ year olds). • *I am happy to help out in my community* received higher instances of 'strongly agree' ratings amongst 18-34 year olds (50%, compared to 27% 35-59 year olds).
Diversity	*I am happy to help out in my community* received higher instances of 'strongly agree' ratings amongst those with a disability (48%, compared to 32% of those without a disability), and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (44%, compared to 32% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Elwood and Ripponlea resident respondents show a higher instance of 'Strongly agreeing' with *I am happy to help out in my community* (52%, compared to 25% Balaclava and St Kilda East, 24% Port Melbourne and 22% South Melbourne).
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience don't show any notable variation in findings.

Question:	Q17. If you selected either 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to any of the statements above, does this connection make you feel more safe and/or welcome in your local neighbourhood?
Sources:	Community survey (n=626)
Notes:	This question was optional.

The social cohesion and sense of connection measures made three quarters of respondents who said they had experienced them feel more safe (64%) and 39% more welcome.

Figure 3.3.3 Impact of sense of connection with community and neighbourhood



Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Respondents aged 35 years and over showed higher instances of saying these things don't make them feel more safe or welcome (21% 35-59 and 17% 60+, compared to 6% 18-34 year olds).
Diversity	Higher instances of indicating these types of connection make them feel both safe and welcome was higher amongst respondents with a disability (49%), compared to 36% without a disability) and LGBTIQA+ (49%, compared to 35% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Findings were consistent across all regions.
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience don't show any notable variation in findings.

Question:	Q18. How could you feel more safe and/or welcome?
Sources:	Community survey (n=313)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893).

When asked to write in what would make them more safe and welcome there were a wide variety of suggestions:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Suggestions relating to those experiencing homelessness (67 comments)	47 comments suggested more needs to be done to support those experiencing homelessness and vulnerable members of the community. 14 said that they wanted encampments removed and/or supported the proposed local laws amendment. 8 wrote in a comment opposing the local laws amendment. Providing a comment calling for more help for those experiencing homelessness was more common amongst respondents with a disability (11%, compared to 4% without) and/or those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (9%, compared to 5% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"I'd also feel safer if responses to hardship were compassionate, not punitive - where people sleeping rough are offered homes and support, not moved on, or made invisible. True welcome means not just being allowed to exist in a place but being invited into its shared life." [Male, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*
Police (60 comments)	51 said more policing, 9 said fewer police. 35+ year old respondents more often provided a comment relating to wanting more police (6%, compared to 1% 18-34 year olds), as did residents (7%, compared to 2% non-residents).	*"Council has to make it harder for people to congregate and live on the street. They must respond to the needs of residents and traders and have move on orders with the help of the police." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Connection with others. No criminalisation of rough sleeping." [Non-binary, 35-59, lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Community connection / cohesion (55 comments)	A range of suggestions were put forth for enhancing community connections thorough programs and activities (32 comments) so that people can get to know their neighbours. Female respondents more often put forth a comment relating to this theme (8%, compared to 4% males), as did those with a disability (14%, compared to 5% without), and LGBTIQA+ (12%, compared to 5% non-LGBTIQA+)	*"Community events that are local to a specific set of streets would help. Even if it is a street busy bee where residents help pick up rubbish from a set of streets. Knowing and being known by more of the people around where I live would make me feel safer." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"I have been thinking of creating a community garden or similar project in my local area where locals can work together and prepare a meal once a week from the garden to create a sense of community, sharing and fun." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Action on drug / alcohol use / mental health issues (45 comments)	The call for action for those who are perceived as drug or alcohol effected or have mental health issues ranges from increased services through to incarceration. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (14%, compared to 5% not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander), people who speak a language other than English (11%, compared to 5% English-only), and resident respondents (6%, compared to 1% non-residents).	*"We need a service like mission beat in Sydney, I'm not talking about the outreach that we currently have I'm talking about having a van on the road that can respond to people who look like they might be in trouble, I'm specifically talking about partygoers, women and people who are clearly under the influence in a manner that is not threatening. We put on a lot of events here and we do have a bad element at play both in the venues and outside of them, we have a duty of care to make sure they get home safely. A mission beat style service could also serve as a conduit to police and ambulance that with proper training of staff may enable emergency services to better triage, they could also drive affected individuals to the emergency department reducing the reliance on ambulance." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Reduce crime (31 comments)	General comments about a need to reduce crime. A comment relating to this theme was more commonly put forth by resident respondents (4%, compared to 1% non-residents) and/or those who don't identify as LGBTIQA+ (4%, compared to 1% LGBTIQA+).	*"Clean the municipality up, get tough on crime, make it known that poor behaviour will not be tolerated in this municipality." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Antisocial behaviour (22 comments)	Many of these comments said that the extent to which they personally feel welcome wouldn't make them feel more safe so long as there was anti-social behaviour when they were in public spaces (18 comments). A comment relating to this theme was more commonly put forth by respondents who speak a language other than English (7%, compared to 2% English-only).	*I feel welcome and safe in my neighbourhood. The problem is not our community, the problem is the antisocial and illegal behaviour of a small amount of people. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 21 comments mentioned nothing, already feel safe.
- 16 comments mentioned clean streets or maintenance.
- 15 comments mentioned lighting.
- 15 comments mentioned activated spaces / shops / businesses.
- 13 comments mentioned services / support (type unspecified).
- 11 comments mentioned roads or driver behaviour.
- 7 comments mentioned urban design or infrastructure.
- 5 comments mentioned CCTV.

One submission said *"I think this area is safer today than when I first moved here".*

In the community workshops, it was suggested that belonging and connection could be increased through:

- Build neighbourhood connections and offer informal support.
- Volunteering.
- Participation in local events.
- Supporting local businesses.
- Public space stewardship.
- Civic engagement and local communication.

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the **Balaclava community forum** held in May 2025, safety was put forth by 3 comments as a way to improve the area, specific to safer streets, better accessibility and cycling routes, and improved footpaths.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, 16% of respondents put forth a vision for a healthy Port Phillip that included comments about reduced crime and/or substance misuse, 11% mentioned something relating to increasing affordable housing and decreasing instances of people experiencing homelessness, and 11% mentioned improving cycling and walking paths and/or less cars.

In the **Plan for Port Phillip: Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Workshop**, when asked to list the number one health priority for Council to focus on preventing violence, affordable housing and homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and food security were amongst the top themes put forth.

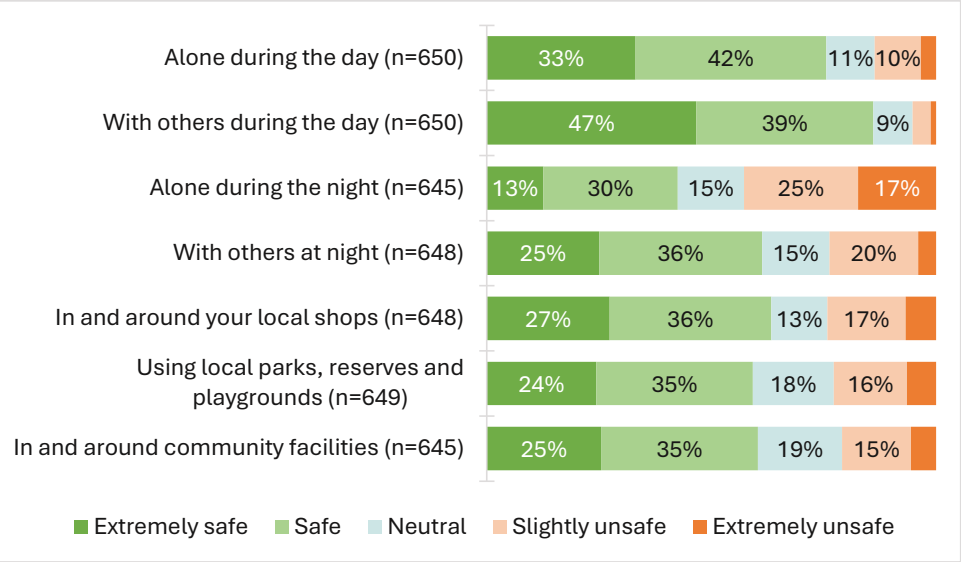
In the **Youth Soundtrack Engagement**, 2024, when asked what would encourage them to go to more live music in City of Port Phillip, 13% said increased safety, and 7% said not feeling safe ever stopped them from attending.

3.4 Your experiences in your local neighbourhood

Question:	Q19. How safe do you feel in your local neighbourhood if you are:
Sources:	Community survey (n=645-650)
Notes:	Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional. It should be noted that the answer option scale for this question wasn't balanced (on the safe side it used 'Safe', whereas on the unsafe side it used 'Slightly unsafe'). This may have resulted in inconsistent interpretation by respondents, and/or skewed the findings.

Perceptions of safety in the local neighbourhood *during the day either alone or with others* was generally quite high. However, the proportion of respondents who said they feel safe *alone at night time* was notably lower, with 42% saying they feel unsafe (slightly and extremely combined).

Figure 3.4.1 Perceptions of safety in different environments



Gender

Female respondents showed a notably higher instance of rating 'extremely unsafe' for *alone during the night* (22%, compared to 10% males) and/or *alone during the day* (5%, compared to 1% males).

Age

35-39 year old respondents said they feel unsafe (extremely + slightly unsafe) in a range of situations:

- 53% *alone at night* (compared to 33% 60+ year olds).
- 33% *in and around local shops* (compared to 16% 18-34 year olds).
- 32% *with others at night* (compared to 27% for other age groups).
- 27% *in and around community facilities* (compared to 15% 18-34 year olds).
- 19% *alone during the day* (compared to 10% or less for other age groups).

Diversity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents more often rated each item as 'extremely unsafe'.

Respondents who speak a language other than English more often rated *using local parks, reserves and playground* as 'extremely unsafe (13%, compared to 6% English-only).

Respondents with a disability more often rated that they felt 'extremely safe' *in and around local shops* (40%, compared to 25% no disability), *in and around community facilities* (37%, compared to 24% no disability), and/or *using local parks* (34%, compared to 23% no disability).

LGBTIQA respondents more often rated that they felt 'extremely safe' *with others during the day* (57%, compared to 44% non-LGBTIQA+), *in and around local shops* (36%, compared to 25% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or *in and around community facilities* (36%, compared to 23% non-LGBTIQA+).

Region

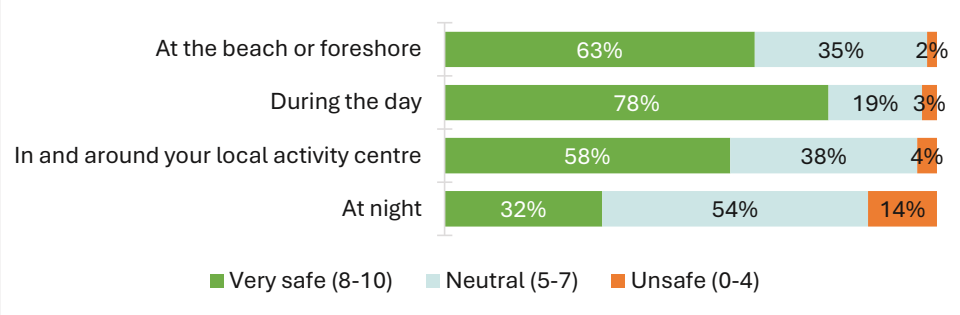
Respondents from Elwood and Ripponlea showed higher instances of saying they feel extremely safe in the daytime situations, around local shops, around community centres, and using local parks; whereas Port Melbourne respondents were less likely to feel safe in these situations.

Lived experience

Respondents with lived experience more often rate *with others during the day'* as 'slightly unsafe' (22%, compared to 4% housed respondents), and *alone during the day* as 'safe' (63%, compared to 30% housed).

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the **2025 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey** a similar question was asked, using an 11 point scale, where 0 means very unsafe and 10 means very safe. It is not possible to compare directly, but the broader community survey shows in general a more positive response, although it should be noted that this might be a function of the methodology (people willing to answer the door to a stranger and do a survey may be those who feel safer in their environments, and face to face research generally has more social desirability bias).



It was observed that sub-groups who generally felt *safer* than average were respondents from St Kilda Road, and to a lesser extent respondents from Elwood / Ripponlea and Albert / Middle Park, senior citizens (aged 75 years and over), male respondents, and respondents from English speaking households. Sub-groups who generally felt *less safe* were respondents from St Kilda / St Kilda West, and to a lesser extent Port Melbourne et al and South Melbourne, middle-aged respondents (aged 45 to 59 years), female respondents, and respondents from multilingual households.

The key reasons given for not feeling safe were drugs and alcohol (24%), people (22%), crime and policing (18%) and incidents / break-ins (17%).

The main locations mentioned in comments where people feel unsafe were Fitzroy Street (13 comments), Acland Street (9 comments) and/or Bay Street (9 comments).

Question:	Q20. If you would like to tell us more about this, you can tell us here.
Sources:	Community survey (n=313)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.

Within the written comments, people share that they feel unsafe due to a range of reasons including:

- Experiencing physical assault.
- Experienced theft.
- Fear of the behaviour of others (intimidation and/or violence, with a number of mentions of people who appear mentally ill).

Comments below have been selected to represent key feedback whilst also maintaining privacy and avoiding risk of harm.

My behaviours have changed so much in the last 4 years. I'm not relaxed going out anymore. I don't sit outside in cafes. I don't walk when dark. I'm on edge. I cross the street when I see trouble or unsafe people heading towards me. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]

I rarely go out alone anymore. It has changed how I live since buying my first property here. [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

St Kilda is not safe. I am wary at all times visiting Fitzroy St and wanting to go to say the chemist. [Female, 60 - 69 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]

Too many people with mental health and drug and alcohol issues - there needs to be more assistance such as the drop in bus near flinders street to help people, there needs to be more efficient move on laws, greater lighting in places. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]

Poor lighting at night makes them unsafe. People who need homes or shelter or food camping outside- they need to be looked after especially in winter. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Pedestrians are not safe on footpaths due to cyclists, scooters/ skateboards and unleashed dogs. [Female, 70 - 84 years, Port Melbourne]

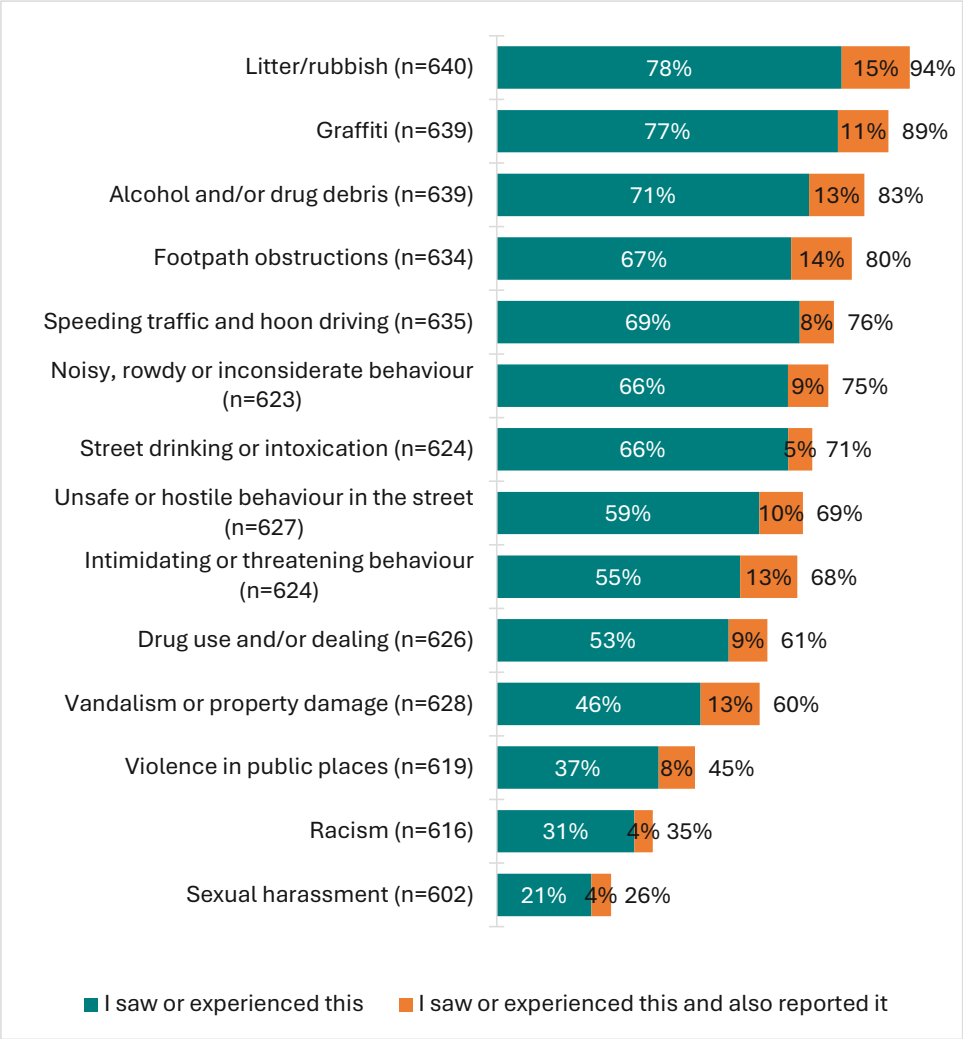
It's a constant sense that you need to watch your back. You learn which areas to avoid, when not to walk alone, and what times of day feel riskier. I never used to think twice about these things in Port Melbourne, but now I do—and that shift speaks volumes. There have also been serious incidents locally, which reinforce that caution isn't just a feeling—it's a practical response to what's actually happening. It's changed how I move through the area and how safe I feel doing normal, everyday things. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]

Question:	Q21. In the past year, which of these have you seen or experienced in our City, and if so, did you report them?
Sources:	Community survey (n=602-640)
Notes:	Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional. Respondents were prompted to select an option for each item. The answer options weren't randomised (appeared in the same order for each respondent) so there may be some order bias in the findings (that is, options at the start of the list are likely to be selected more often than those at the end of the list). The reader is reminded that the distribution method used for this survey likely means that those who responded have had more negative safety experiences that may be the case across the broader population. **These results show the experiences of respondents, not the experiences of the broader community.**

Amongst respondents there was widespread experiences of litter, graffiti, alcohol and drug debris and/or footpath obstructions. More than half said they had experienced a range of behaviours by others such as hoon driving, rowdy behaviour, intoxication, hostile behaviour, intimidating behaviour, and/or drug use/dealing.

There were lower instances of having experienced more extreme safety situations, such as violence, racism and/or sexual harassment, however it should be noted how few stated they had reported these things when they had experienced them.

Figure 3.4.2 Experiences and reporting of safety situations



Gender

29% of females said they had seen or experienced *sexual harassment* (compared to 17% males).

37% of females said they had seen or experienced *racism, anti-semitism and/or islamophobia* (compared to 29% males).

Age

35-59 year olds more often saw and reported *intimidating behaviour* (20%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), whereas 18-34 year olds more often said they hadn't seen this behaviour at all (43%, compared to 25% 35-59 year olds).

43% of 18-34 year olds said they had seen or experienced *racism, anti-semitism and/or islamophobia* (very few reported it), compared to 33% 35+ year olds.

Seeing or experiencing *speeding traffic or hoon driving* was more common amongst 60+ year olds (87%, compared to 64% 18-34 year olds).

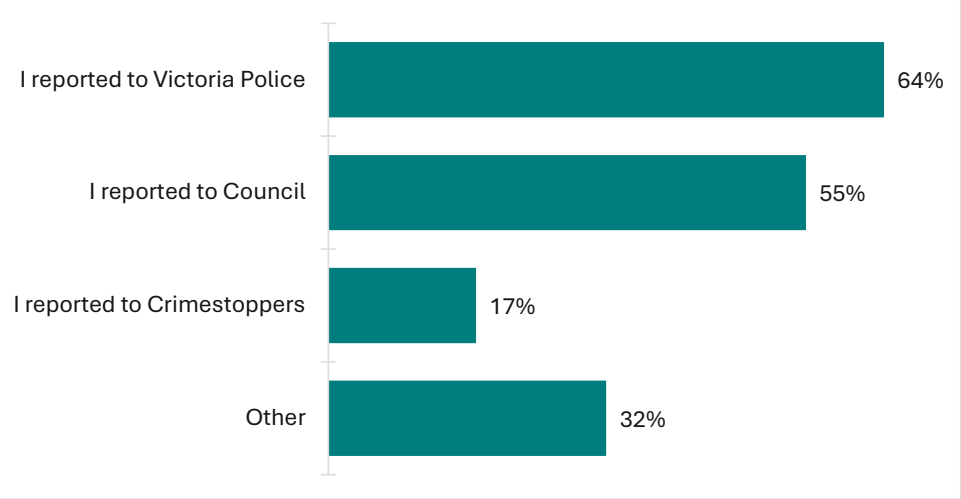
	Seeing or experiencing *drug use and/or dealing* was more common amongst 35-59 year olds (67%, including 13% who had reported it) and 60+ year olds (62%), compared to 45% 18-34 year olds. 35-59 year olds show higher instances of having reported these things they had experienced than 18-34 year olds.
Diversity	73% of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander respondents said they had seen or experienced *racism, anti-semitism and/or islamophobia* (compared to 35% non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents) and 54% said they had seen or experienced *sexual harrassment* (compared to 24% non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). Respondents with a disability and those who identify as LGBTIQA+ more often said that they hadn't experienced each of the listed issues.
Region	Resident respondents more often indicate having experienced and reported each of these issues. Having experienced street drinking or intoxication was more common amongst resident respondents in St Kilda and St Kilda West (77%).
Lived experience	Respondents with lived experience show higher instances of experiencing *sexual harassment* (63%, compared to 25% housed).

A number of experiences were shared during submissions, including items being stolen from cars (4 instances), experiencing people under the influence of drugs (4 instances), cars being stolen (2 instances), home invasion (2 instances), and dangerous driving.

Question:	Q22. If you told us that you reported any of these issues in the past year, how did you report them?
Sources:	Community survey (n=305)
Notes:	If the respondent answered this question with 'didn't report any issues' they were removed from the calculation. Respondents could choose more than one answer.

The most common locations for reporting these types of experiences were the police and Council.

Figure 3.4.3 Reporting behaviours



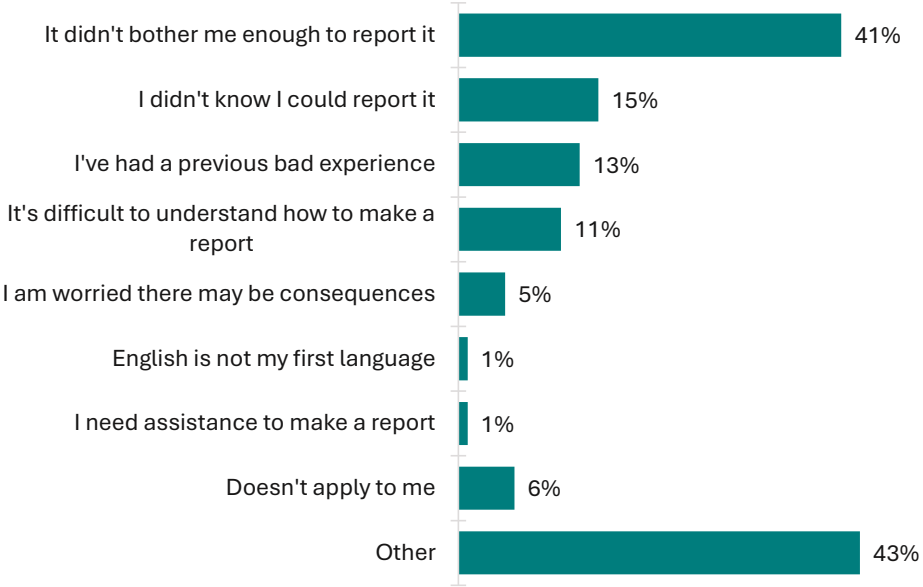
The most common response written into the other box was Snap Send Solve (8% of all responses to this question).

Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	Respondents under the age of 60 more often indicated they reported issues to *Crimestoppers* (21% 18-34 and 23% 35-59, compared to 7% 60+ year olds).
Diversity	Findings were consistent across all diversity segments.
Region	St Kilda and St Kilda West respondents more often said they had reported issues to *Victoria Police* (74%, compared to 42% in South Melbourne).
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Question:	Q23. If you told us that you saw/experienced issues in our City but didn't report, would you like to share why?
Sources:	Community survey (n=574)
Notes:	Respondents could choose more than one answer.

The most common reasons for not reporting these experiences were not being bothered enough, not knowing they could report it, previous bad experience and/or difficult to understand how to report.

Figure 3.4.4 Reasons for not reporting



Those who selected other and wrote in a comment often put forth a perception that nothing would be done if they did report it (by Council or police).

Gender

Female respondents more often said they *didn't know how to report* (18%, compared to 11% males), whereas male respondents more often said that reporting *doesn't apply to them* (9%, compared to 5% females).

Age

35-59 year old respondents showed a high instance of saying they *didn't know they could report it* (19%, compared to 9% 60+).

Didn't bother me enough to report it was more commonly selected as an answer amongst 18-34 year olds (52%) and 60+ year olds (45%, compared to 33% 35-59 year olds).

Diversity

English isn't my first language was selected as a reason for not reporting by 4% of respondents who speak a language other than English (compared to 0% English-only).

Respondents with a disability showed higher instances of saying they have *a previous bad experience* (26%, compared to 11% no disability) and/or *worried there may be consequences* (15%, compared to 4% no disability).

	Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ showed higher instances of saying *it didn't bother me enough to report it* (51%, compared to 38% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or they have *a previous bad experience* (21%, compared to 10% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Elwood and Ripponlea respondents more often said *it didn't bother me enough to report it* (57%, compared to 26% Port Melbourne).
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the Community Safety Roundtable report, which included participation by 20 stakeholders from the social services sector and Victoria Police, the following activities of concern were noted as being commonly seen or experienced in the City of Port Phillip.

- Crime – specific to experiencing violence or assault (actual or threatened), criminal damage and exposure to visible weapons.
- Drug use / dealing – open purchase of drugs and taking of drugs intravenously in the street.
- Visible homelessness – People sleeping rough on the street.
- Encampments – groups of people sleeping rough in car parks, parks and other locations.
- Disorder – People congregating in the street acting erratically and noisy.

"It became evident that there are quite different viewpoints within the community regarding these issues: one holds that this is part of life in Port Phillip, the diversity is what makes it a vibrant place to live, they generally feel safe in the area and there is, historically, a high degree of tolerance for homelessness and some level of erratic and unusual behaviour. Another viewpoint holds that the disorder is evidence of lawlessness and breakdown; tolerate it, and their poor perceptions of safety are seriously impacting their quality of life" (page 8).

In the **Balaclava community forum** held in May 2025, seven comments were made regarding current challenges for the area, including that it was filthy, run down, dirty, uninviting, outdated, disintegrating, unloved, crime, rough sleepers, mess, unruliness, and not a place to be proud of.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, 21% mentioned that in the last four years they had observed health and wellbeing changed in the CoPP through declining mental health and less physical activity opportunities, 21% mentioned a loss of community connection and safety concerns, and 17% mentioned increased cost of living, affordability, and people experiencing homelessness.

In the 2025 **Annual Community Satisfaction Survey** 21% raised safety as an issue for the City of Port Phillip to address, which is higher than 7% average within 2025 Governing Melbourne (Metropolitan Melbourne). This issue was more prominent amongst respondents in Port Melbourne (28% - hoons being a primary concern) and St Kilda East / Balaclava (32%), and less prominent amongst residents in Albert Park / Middle Park (16%).
When asked to rate 'safety and crime' out of 10 (where 0 is very dissatisfied and 10 is very satisfied) the average rating was 6.6. Perceptions of safety was particularly low in City of Port Phillip during the day, at night and in and around local activity areas. Concerns about safety at night were mostly relating to poor street lighting.
This survey asked respondents to rate six areas under community safety:

- Animal management – average satisfaction rating of 7.8 out of 10. This was lower in Elwood / Ripponlea (7.3) and St Kilda, St Kilda West (7.5). Main reasons for

dissatisfaction were dog waste, dog attacks, dogs off-lead when they shouldn't be, roaming cats, and needing more off-lead areas.
- Local traffic management – average satisfaction rating of 7.4 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were traffic, closed streets, and parking issues.
- Parking enforcement – average satisfaction rating of 7.2 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were excessive / inconsistent enforcement and not enough enforcement.
- Provision of parking facilities / spaces – average satisfaction rating of 7.2 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were not enough parking spaces, parking congestion and the permit process.
- Enforcement of local laws – average satisfaction rating of 7.5 out of 10. This was higher in St Kilda Road (8.6) and lower in Albert Park / Middle Park (7.0). Main reasons for dissatisfaction were crime and safety (covering motor vehicle break-ins and theft and general crime), and drug and alcohol issues.
- Council's emergency preparedness and response – average satisfaction rating of 7.8 out of 10. Main reasons for dissatisfaction were too varied to group.

Safety was also raised in relation to bike paths and shared paths.

A range of **other consultations run by Council** in 2024-25 provided insights into community experiences with regards to safety:

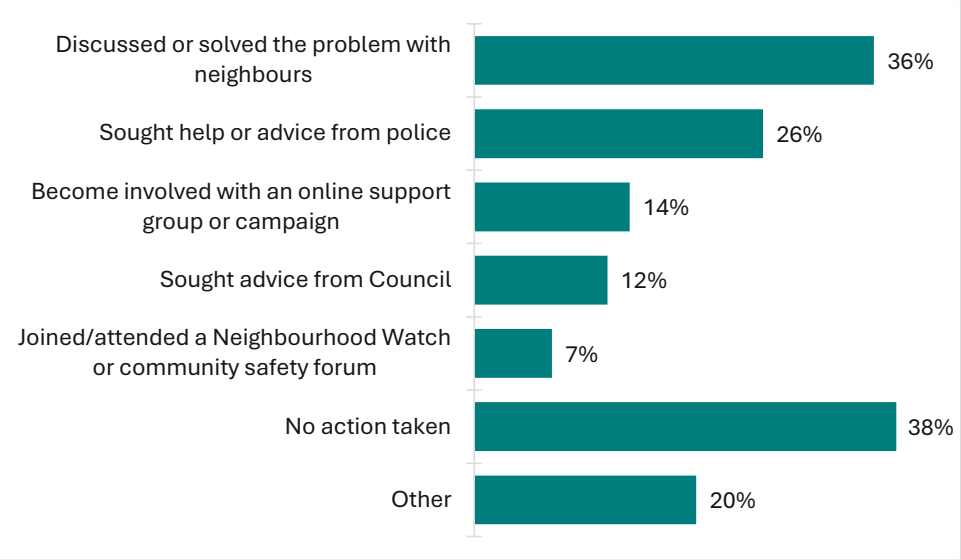
- **Cowderoy Street - No right turn restriction engagement** – Safety issues were raised for pedestrians and cyclist through the area.
- **Danks Street Biolink Review and Renewal** – Concern around alcohol consumption in public spaces, antisocial behaviour.
- **Dog Off-Leash Guidelines** – Concern about the impact of dogs off leash; rushing, attacks, or just being afraid of dogs etc. Particularly for older people, children and those of different cultural backgrounds that aren't used to dogs.
- **Edwards Park Public Toilets** – identified reduced perceptions of safety around public toilets, drug use, visual line of sight of children near roads
- **Inkerman Street Road Safety** – identified issues with road safety, accidents, climate safety.
- **J Talbot Reserve engagement** – identified issues relating to antisocial behaviour, balls on street/road safety, CPTED design.
- **Lagoon Reserve engagement** – identified issues relating to safety around the toilet location more lighting and fencing around the reserve.
- **Local Law 2023 engagement** – identified concerns about anti-social behaviour and safety, hooning, unsafe nature strips and obstructed footpaths.
- **Marine Parade Bike Corridor (DTP project)** – identified issues relating to Road safety, specific to bikes, pedestrians, cars.
- **Reinvigorating Shopping on Acland Street - Retail Mapping Mix** – revealed safety concerns relating to people experiencing homelessness on Acland Street.
- **Smith St Streetscape** – concerns raised about road safety on Smith Street and Williamstown Road.
- **St Kilda Live Music Precinct Policy** – concerns raised regarding antisocial behaviour with Revellers leaving venues, noise, improving accessibility and safety at venues.
- **Williamstown Rd Safe Crossing** – concerns raised about safety for pedestrians and cyclist on Williamstown Rd and Beacon Rd. Particularly for children crossing to JL Murphy Reserve.

3.5 What do you do when you feel less safe

Question:	Q24. What action (if any) have you taken when you have felt less safe?
Sources:	Community survey (n=605)
Notes:	Respondents could choose more than one answer.

Discussing problems directly with neighbours and/or seeking help from police were the two most common actions survey respondents would take if they felt unsafe.

Figure 3.5.1 Actions taken when feel less safe

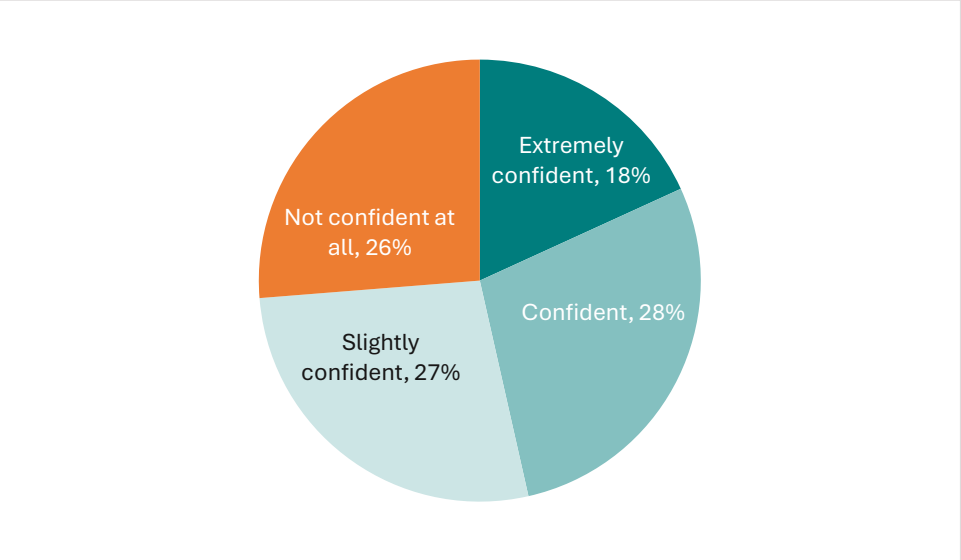


Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	35+ year olds more often said they would *seek help or advice from police* (30% 35-59, 24% 60+, compared to 13% 18-34 year olds) and/or *seek advice from Council* (13% 35-59, 14% 60+, compared to 5% 18-34 year olds).
Diversity	Respondents with a disability and/or who identified as LGBTIQA+ showed higher instances of saying they would *talk to their neighbours* to resolve problems (51% and 43% respectively). Respondents with a disability also showed a higher instance of saying they would *become involved in an online support group or campaign* (26%, compared to 12% of those without a disability).
Region	Resident respondents more often said they had *sought advice from police* (28%, compared to 12% non-residents), *become involved with an online support group or campaign* (15%, compared to 8% non-residents), and/or *sought advice from Council* (14%, compared to 4% non-residents).
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Question:	Q25. How confident do you feel that you know who to contact (or what to do) if you feel less safe in Port Phillip?
Sources:	Community survey (n=623)
Notes:	This question was optional.

Three quarters of survey respondents said they had some confident that they knew who to contact if feeling less safe.

Figure 3.5.2 Confidence that they know who to contact if feeling less safe

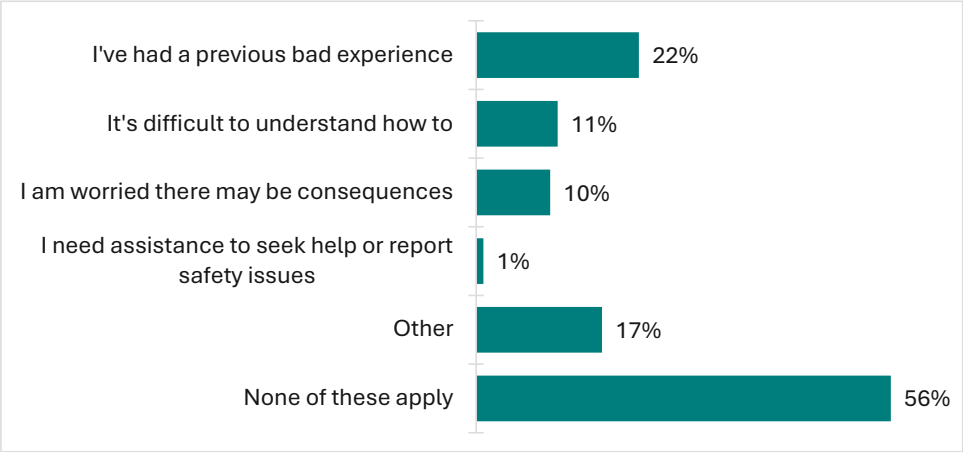


Gender	Males showed a higher instance of saying they were extremely confident or confident (54%, compared to 44% females).
Age	The incidence of indicating they were *extremely confident* was higher amongst 60+ year olds (25%, compared to 15% 35-59 year olds).
Diversity	Findings were consistent across all diversity segments.
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

Question:	Q26. Have any of these made it more difficult for you to seek help?
Sources:	Community survey (n=567)
Notes:	Respondents could choose more than one answer.

Discussing problems directly with neighbours and/or seeking help from police were the two most common actions survey respondents would take if they felt unsafe.

Figure 3.5.3 Factors making it more difficult for people to seek help



Respondents who said they were 'not confident at all' about knowing who to contact if they feel less safe more often said they had found it difficult to seek help due to a *previous bad experience* (32%, compared to 14% extremely confident + confident), *difficult understanding how to* (24%, compared to 2% extremely confident + confident), and/or *worried about consequences* (17%, compared to 6% extremely confident + confident).

Gender	Findings were consistent across all genders.
Age	18-34 year old respondents showed a high instance of saying they'd had a *previous bad experience* (32%, compared to 15% 60+ year olds).
Diversity	Respondents with a disability showed a higher instance of selecting *had a previous bad experience* (45%, compared to 19% no disability), and/or *worried there might be consequences* (23%, compared to 8% no disability). Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ showed a higher instance of selecting *had a previous bad experience* (34%, compared to 19% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or *worried there might be consequences* (16%, compared to 8% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.
Lived experience	Sample size was too small to draw any conclusions from the data.

3.6 A safer City of Port Phillip

Question:	Q27. What could Council do to make you feel more safe in our City?
Sources:	Community survey (n=527 comments)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Quotes that include derogatory terms or stigmatisation have been considered in the overarching analysis, but have not been included in the report for ethical reasons.

Prior to asking what Council can do to make them feel more safe, survey respondents were provided with the following information about Council's role in community safety.

Council has an active role to play in community safety. Some of the areas that Council works across include:

- Community programs and funding
- Enforcement of Local Laws and maintaining amenity
- Partnerships with health, housing and community organisations and businesses
- Public space design and development, and parks and playgrounds management
- Maintaining safe roads and improving transport connections
- Public place and high streets activation
- Promoting connection through sports, clubs and community groups
- Building connections and social cohesion across communities
- Advocacy to state and federal government

Comments were grouped into themes as follows:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
More housing / reduce homelessness (146 comments)	Suggestions for how Council could achieve this include increasing support, potentially through funding, assertive outreach, and partnerships with housing and community organisations. It was also suggested that Council could increase affordable and public housing (including advocacy), and/or relocate people experiencing homelessness into housing. Female respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (18%, compared to 11% males). Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst those with a disability (26%, compared to 15% no disability) and/or those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (22%, compared to 15% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Partner with health, housing and community orgs, advocacy to state/fed governments for more public housing in area." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"Access to affordable housing and assisting those who are sleeping rough NOT fining them or removing their property." [Female, 18 - 24 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Council can connect houseless residents with safe, stable, empowered housing solutions, food and water and mental health care. People with homes, food, water and mental health care who feel empowered in their lives are less likely to engage in the kind of behaviours that are deemed "unsafe" in this survey." [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Number one thing would be rent controls or create more affordable housing." [Non-binary, 35-59 years, lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Police patrols and enforcement (143 comments)	134 comments mentioned the need for more patrols and enforcement for police and local laws, while 9 suggested less police. 35+ year old respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (17%, compared to 7% 18-34 year olds), as did respondents without a disability (16%, compared to 5% of those with a disability), those who don't identify as LGBTIQA+ (17%, compared to 7% LGBTIQA+) and respondents living in South Melbourne (28%, compared to 3% of respondents living in St Kilda Road area).	*"Have a greater police presence. Work with social workers and assist rough sleepers and drug affected people to get appropriate help and accommodation." [Female, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"More police or security patrols and move people along. Offer housing to the ones who want to come off the streets." [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Strengthen and enforcement of local laws to get these people off our streets. Council to force state government to act in getting proactive with jailing the criminals not just recycling them." [Male, 70 - 84 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
Action on drug / alcohol use / mental health issues (132 comments)	Suggestions for how Council could achieve this include providing more services and enforcement of laws. Female respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (18%, compared to 11% males).	*"Provide more services for people on lower incomes or experiencing disadvantage, as well as housing, mental health, and drug and alcohol services. This would address many of the causes of anti-social behaviour." [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Advocate to state and federal governments for more police and more ways to combat drug dealing." [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
More community / support services (103 comments)	Key community support services mentioned in the comments were for housing, drug and alcohol harm and mental health. Female respondents more often put forth a comment within this theme (14%, compared to 7% males). Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst 18-34 year olds (19%, compared to 10% 35+ year olds), those with a disability (20%, compared to 10% no disability) and/or those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (22%, compared to 9% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Provide safe housing and support for vulnerable people. More alcohol and drug support services. More policing." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]* *"More funding for 24/7 community services and programs and drop in centres. More housing for the homeless." [Male, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"Have a safe place to keep my belonging. More access to emergency accommodation. More food services." [lived experience]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Local laws amendment feedback (81 comments)	50 comments said they wanted people experiencing homeless moved on / encampments removed and/or the local laws amendment to be passed, whilst 31 comments put forth opposition to the local laws amendment. A higher proportion of resident respondents put forth a comment supporting the local laws amendment. A higher proportion of respondents under the age of 60 years wrote in a comment opposing the local laws amendment (5%, compared to 1% 60+ year olds). Opposition for the local laws amendment was also mentioned in comments by notably high proportions of respondents with a disability (10%, compared to 3% no disability) and LGBTIQA respondents (10%, compared to 2% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"Enact local laws that give police the ability to move on people who are using our streets and parks as locations to establish camps, where they can remain for extended period of time, and also become locations, where individuals from outside the municipality can congregate to engage in drug dealing and other criminal behaviours (theft, car theft and damage, damage to property and businesses, violent behaviour towards people living and working in the municipality)." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]* *"Adopt the recommendations of police. Change the local camping laws to toughen them up in line with other councils and adopt Cr Hardy's recommendations along with those of the Victorian Police." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]* *"Do not criminalise people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Do not take their property — they have it hard enough, this will just entrench hardship and make the community less safe." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
Lighting (68 comments)	There was a general call for more lighting in public places. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"Council could improve safety by increasing visible foot patrols, enhancing lighting in dimly lit areas, promptly addressing graffiti and vandalism, and installing more CCTV in high-risk zones—especially around public transport, parks, and nightlife precincts." [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Road infrastructure (incl. bike lanes, road crossings) (43 comments)	The main types of road infrastructure mentioned were bike lanes (separated from cars, and protected) and road crossings. Comments relating to this theme were put forth by higher proportions of resident respondents (6%, compared to 1% non-residents) and 35-59 year olds (6%, compared to 2% 18-34 year olds).	*"Consider lowering speed limits to 30 in residential streets and put pressure on State Govt to lower to 50 on main roads such as Kerferd." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]* *"Improving facilities for cyclists, more bike lanes and education for drivers around awareness and not obstructing bike lanes with illegal parking." [Male, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Cleaning / maintenance (41 comments)	Cleaning and maintenance comments mostly referred to litter / bins, amenity, parks and footpaths. Comments relating to this theme were put forth by higher proportions of resident respondents (5%, compared to 1% non-residents).	*"Maintain parks, streets, footpaths and basically all public areas better. They need to be regularly cleaned (hosed down), scans for syringes need to be done (in garden beds and thoroughly). Make the place look beautiful and take pride and care in it and then maybe the people who live here will also." [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Public infrastructure (38 comments)	Public infrastructure mentioned included toilets, libraries. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"More bins. More shade. More locally native plantings. Better design for accessibility. Toilets that aren't the scary big metal ones. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *I think that Council does quite a good job and I'd like to see them continue to support our libraries, meeting places and community funding for fitness programs all of which bring people together and make our community safer and more cohesive." [Female, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]*
CCTV (34 comments)	Most comments mentioning CCTV were calling for more. Comments relating to this theme were put forth by higher proportions of 35-59 year old respondents (6%, compared to 2% 18-34 year olds).	*"Improve lighting, CCTV and general urban design so that women especially don't feel unsafe at night. For example the design along the pedestrian area of Acland St feels unsafe when you come out of the shops and where people often congregate all day. That is poor design in terms of safety." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Improve social cohesion (33 comments)	Ideas for how Council can improve social cohesion include events and activities to build community connections. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"I like the idea of connecting through clubs, community groups, social cohesion and community programs." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Advocacy (31 comments)	Comments call for advocacy to the state government for increased public housing supply, more funding for services, and addressing the root causes of issues. There were also comments calling for advocacy for increased police presence and training. There were no notable variations in responses by demographics or location.	*"Advocate for more proactive policing. Hold the State accountable for crime prevention." [Male, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]* *"Advocate to solve root problems instead of bandaid, patchy fixes. People are not homeless or abusing substance by choice but by systemic injustices that go unsolved decade on decade." [35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"Advocate to state government to increase public housing supply and increase funding to services like South Side Justice." [Non-binary, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*

Other themes with a notable number of comments include:

- 28 comments mentioned activation of public spaces / events
- 22 comments mentioned target hooning, speeding or bad driver behaviour
- 17 comments mentioned community education
- 16 comments mentioned remove graffiti
- 10 comments mentioned they already feel safe
- 9 comments mentioned less police patrols or enforcement
- 7 comments mentioned support for Ian Gray's recommendations
- 3 comments mentioned reduced density or change in location of services

There were also some insights from stakeholder workshops, advisory groups and targeted discussions to help inform Council's role in improving safety:

- When considering cultural safety, this includes anti-Semitism as well as stigma, racism and Islamophobia.
- A safe injecting room is needed in the area.
- There is a need for increased mental health support that is culturally appropriated.

Question:	Q28. What would a safer City of Port Phillip look like, in your opinion?
Sources:	Community survey (n=497 comments)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.

Answers to this question were mostly similar to the previous question about what Council can do. The main topics covered were:

- Social supports and services for those who need it (general) (77 comments).
- More affordable / public housing, so that everyone has access to housing (74 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year old respondents (15%, compared to 7% 35-59 and 5% 60+ year olds) and non-resident respondents (15%, compared to 7% residents).
- Police – more visible with faster response and greater enforcement (70 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 35-59 year old respondents (8%) and 60+ year olds (10%, compared to 3% 18-34 year olds), and resident respondents (9%, compared to 1% non-residents).
- Amenity, including litter, maintenance and cleanliness (68 comments).
- Free from people impacted by drugs and/or alcohol (65 comments).
- Supports / compassion for people experiencing homelessness (62 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by female respondents (7%, compared to 4% males) and non-resident respondents (12%, compared to 6% residents).
- Social / community cohesion, including knowing neighbours and supportive and inclusive communities (59 comments).
- Vibrant / activated spaces, including increased foot traffic and fewer empty shops / businesses (55 comments).
- Improved public lighting (47 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by female respondents (7%, compared to 3% males).
- Fewer people experiencing homelessness / no encampments (46 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by resident respondents (6%, compared to 1% non-residents).
- Free from intimidation, including aggression, harassment and anti-social behaviour (41 comments).
- Services to support those experiencing drug and alcohol harm (36 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year old respondents (9%) and 35-59 year olds (4%, compared to 1% 60+ year olds).
- Reduction in crime / theft (36 comments).
- Ability to travel without fear (day and night) (35 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by female respondents (5%, compared to 2% males).
- Improved roads and driver behaviour (29 comments).
- More mental health services (27 comments).
- Less need for or reliance on Police or enforcement (24 comments). This was more commonly mentioned by 18-34 year old respondents (6%) and 35-59 year olds (3%, compared to 0% 60+ year olds).
- Free from violence – including family violence, being attacked and violence against women (23 comments).

- Safer cycle routes (21 comments).
- Reduction in graffiti and vandalism (19 comments).
- Improved footpaths (16 comments).
- More CCTV (15 comments).
- Improved cultural safety, including less racism (14 comments).
- To be without fear / feel safe (general) (10 comments).

The views of those with lived experience of street-based living were:

- *"Allow homeless people to keep our camps as it provides safety. If these are dismantled were will we go."*
- *"No segregation, all inclusive of community."*
- *"Everyone housed, everyone fed."*
- *"Without local laws getting around the streets."*
- *"More lights."*

In the community workshops, opportunities for improving safety were framed into three categories:

- Things they can **personally control**:
  - Building personal relationships (n=23)
  - Protecting self, home, car, environment (n=13).
  - Behaviour in the community e.g., being an active bystander (n=10).
- Things they can **influence**:
  - Voice concerns to Council and report crimes to police (n=16).
  - Good relationships in community and being an active bystander (n=7).
  - Collaborate with the community and share resources (n=4).
- Things **outside of control or influence**:
  - "Drug and alcohol abuse, randomised violence, inability of by-laws (councils) to maintain control, lack of police."
  - "Community hype on 'danger' not supported by stats"
  - "Global politics, wars etc."

In these workshops the top priorities put forth for creating a safer Port Phillip were:

- Interagency coordination (n=10).
- Mental health and support services (n=9).
- Increase provision and advocacy for social and affordable housing (n=8).
- Increase staffing and local law officer coverage (n=8).
- Lighting and pedestrian safety (n=7).
- Public realm improvements (n=6).

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the **Community Safety Roundtable** report, which included participation by 20 stakeholders from the social services sector and Victoria Police, the following recommendations for Council action were developed.

- Joint street patrols between CoPP Local Laws and Victoria Police.
- CoPP commitment to a human rights approach to housing, homelessness and mental health.
- Maintain CoPP collaborative / partnership model with the support sector.
- Collaboration between support service outreach and CoPP Local Laws.
- Increase supply of emergency accommodation.

- Create hubs and gathering places for people experiencing homelessness to spend time at during the day.

In the **Balaclava community forum** held in May 2025, five comments put for 'safety and policing' as an important thing for Balaclava's future, specific to better lighting, policing and safe and accessible spaces.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, Increasing housing affordability, rental affordability and homelessness support was chosen as a top three health priority area by the highest proportion of respondents (55%), with reducing all forms of violence receiving the fourth highest incidence of being selected as a priority (38%). Within written feedback under the Council Plan themes, respondents mentioned:

- having a stronger police presence to support positive perceptions of safety and entice people to get out and about.
- providing anti-bullying campaigns in schools.
- providing violence prevention education in schools.
- delivering campaigns against violence.
- delivering mental health campaigns to reduce stigma.

When asked to give feedback on the community vision, 196 comments mentioned community safety, with the key feedback relating to:

- Concerns around increase in drug use and anti-social behaviour, particularly in Fitzroy Street and Acland Street, St Kilda.
- Residents report feeling unsafe due to encounters with individuals under the influence of drugs. This has been noted in family-friendly areas, where families feel uncomfortable letting children play or walk in public spaces.
- Personal safety at night, particularly for women.
- Better street lighting to enhance feelings of safety.
- Managing climate change impacts.
- A place where children and women feel comfortable walking at all times of day/night
- Desire for improved police presence/CCTV.
- Traffic safety, including traffic management, slower speeds on roads and better infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

In the **Plan for Port Phillip: Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Workshop**, when asked what actions Council could take to improve health outcomes for Port Phillip communities, key ideas put forth were:

- Acting as a coordinator for services.
- Providing integrated spaces and services with GPs, social services, shared meals etc including community hubs.
- Improving opportunities for innovation/responsiveness to community needs.
- Supporting community to create housing pathways for community members.
- Addressing safety in public housing for young people and families (e.g., Park Towers).

In the **Panel recommendations to Council c**reating safer communities was one of the 7 identified priorities from the next 4 years. The 2 key recommendations under this priority were:

1. Invest more in understanding the root cause of unsafe areas. Identify what causes unsafety so it can be tactically addressed.
2. Create spaces that are safe, open and inclusive through well-designed and maintained amenities with appropriate lighting, to make sure our public spaces are activated.

Safety was a key consideration when reviewing the Liveable theme, with the panel calling for more emphasis on safer street and public spaces, and more affordable housing. Indeed, creating safe communities was the second highest ranked priority for Council, behind supporting people experiencing vulnerability.

In the **Sport and Recreation Strategy engagement** 10% of survey respondents and pop-up participants put forth ideas relating to safety as potential actions for council, specific to improving lighting and safer bike paths (both shared as well as on-road). Engagement activities with sports clubs and other organisations also showed safety to be one of the seven main opportunities for enhancing service provision; specific to bike lanes, and also safety for women and trans people by providing appropriate bathrooms and safe spaces (culturally and infrastructure-based, such as lighting).

A range of **other consultations run by Council** in 2024-25 provided insights into community priorities for Council with regards to safety:

- **Aged Care Reform engagement** - Safer communities can be achieved through better connectivity, safer footpaths, in home care for older people.
- **Carlisle Street Lighting engagement** – Need more and brighter lights around Carlisle Street.
- **Our Coastal Future** – participants were requesting Climate safety and emergency management.
- **Proposed changes to dog on and off leash restrictions engagement** – call for safety for dogs and cyclists, with management of unsafe dogs.
- **Reconciliation Action Plan (First Peoples Community Survey)** – call for cultural safety.
- **Sandridge Bay Trail safety upgrade** – call for road Safety, including pedestrians, bikes, cars, boats.
- **St Kilda Adventure Playground (SKAP)** – want Council to ensure sightlines in playgrounds, calculated risk taking, and ensuring the playground continues to be staffed.
- **South Melbourne Market Upgrade - Stage 1** – noted the need for inclusion of all genders (concern around some unwelcoming trader sentiments).

3.7 Community safety roundtable report

Question:	Q29. If you have read the report and would like to provide any feedback on it or its recommendations, you can tell us here.
Sources:	Community survey (n=304 comments relevant to the report recommendations)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme.

Many of the comments were referring to the local laws amendment or unrelated safety concerns, rather than the recommendations or the report.

There were 111 comments providing general support for the report and recommendations.

The report provides and in-depth, balanced approach which takes into account the complexity and entrenched societal nature of the issue of homelessness, mental health, drug addiction and living on the street. [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]

The report takes an excellent collaborative approach, with in-depth consultation of key stakeholders, coupled with external research findings. I appreciate that a humane, compassionate approach is supported throughout. [Female, 70 - 84 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]

There were a further 75 comments that used this text box to share their opposition to the proposed local laws amendment, and 19 who said that they supported the proposed local laws amendment, or wanted encampments removed.

There were 19 submissions indicating support for all or most of the recommendations made by the Round Table, with 7 of these also opposing elements of it (specific to Police powers). Two outright opposed all of the recommendations as they felt the community needed to be included.

A selection of quotes from the feedback follows, under each of the key themes of the recommendations.

Increase in resources by Victoria Police

- *Requesting more police won't work, the Vic Labor Govt is broke, won't happen [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *... the thought of CoPP thinking we need more police visibility on our streets, beaches, parks, etc alarms me. These people are carrying guns about. That does not make me feel safer and makes me terrified for people who are targeted by police in our community. This is completely the wrong approach to community safety. I think CoPP does well in other aspects about building strong, connected and resilient communities. More policing from Local Laws Enforcement and Victoria Police is not it. [Non-binary, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

- *Keep the police out of the issues, It is not a law and order issue. We won't arrest our way out of the situation. [Male, 70 - 84 years, South Melbourne]*
- *Assertive outreach should be conducted by trained social workers or similar, not by police who frequently harm marginalised communities and cause escalations and fear to them. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
- Seven submissions put forth that they support many of the recommendations, except for the ones calling for an increased police presence, which is perceived as having the potential for resulting in vulnerable people being targeted.

Effective system of CoPP Local Laws officers and Victoria Police joint street patrol

- *Fix the Local Laws that is the solution, no illegal camping on public land, only Port Phillip and Merri-bek council have local laws not fit for purpose on illegal camping. [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *The round table was asked to look at other LGA's bylaws and actions they had taken to prevent encampments and improve safety. One great example is from the city of Melbourne with its bylaws not having exemptions for camping on council land plus having a Homeless Operating Protocol. I highly recommend the City of Port Phillip adopting this. [Male, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *I do not agree that an increase in police patrols would help the neighbourhood feel safer. I do not feel any safer seeing cop cars cruise by, or PSOs at train stations, I feel surveilled. [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
- *The only difficulty I see is that the recommended joint police patrols can only be able to be practically implemented if they could be done in a manner that is truly culturally safe for Aboriginal people, and it is honestly hard to see how that can be practically achieved with the history and ongoing practices that exist, particularly in the absence of any independent police accountability mechanism existing in Victoria. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Commitment to a human-rights based policy approach

- *In the Community safety roundtable final report, Ian Gray recommends a trial of the protocol that incorporates the "details the trauma-informed, culturally safe and human rights-based approach Port Phillip has historically taken to balance the rights of all people in public spaces." However, having read City of Melbourne's Operating Protocols I fail to see how a number of them could be adapted in a way that conforms to these values. They limit the scope of what is consider acceptable behaviour for those sleeping rough; discouraging homeless people from having more than two bags of belongings (protocol 2), sleeping in groups (protocol 5), and exhibiting behaviours that could "impact the enjoyment of other users of public space" (protocol 60). These protocols, if enforced by police or local law officers, would infringe on the human rights of homeless people. It is unfair for them to be held to standards in public that would not be expected of a housed person. [Female, 18 - 24 years, Port Melbourne]*

Collaborative/partnership model with the support sector

- *Alliance and peacemaker program (recommendations 30 and 31) - should not go ahead, make homeless people feel more safe, don't try to move them on or destroy their belongings, that in turn will make the community feel less safe [Female, 25 - 34 years, Port Melbourne]*

Strengthening of key support service providers

- *Many, many more mental health advocates are needed to help them. [Female, 70 - 84 years, Elwood and Ripponlea]*
- *Please ensure that solutions proposes support the homeless and persons suffering from physical, mental and substance addiction are not placed in a more vulnerable position. Rather, services provided to support. The marginalised should not feel more unsafe so that others in the community feel safer. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*

Increased supply of emergency accommodation

- *Crisis accommodation creates more issues for existing tenants, don't do it, will create further issues. [Female, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *Emergency accommodation made things worse- especially during covid on palmerston/ kings way [Female, 35 - 49 years, South Melbourne]*
- *I agree that the report found that more investment in public housing and services, and not more policing and laws discriminating against homeless people, is what's needed. [Male, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*
- *Temporary accommodation is not the answer long term is. [St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *St Kilda Community Housing (SKCH) and Ngwala Willumbong: The "Four-Building Solution: I'm pleased to see that there is planning underway to build more permanent community housing in CoPP. I support more funding towards building more social housing in the area. There's so much vacant land - surely we can use some of it. [Male, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Hubs and gathering places for people experiencing homelessness

- *There is a roll to look at the diverse family of social support services and work through duplications to free up funding to ensure 24hr coverage - including places to go / hang out - not just crisis care - for those of challenging demographics. [Male, 60 - 69 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
- *I agree that providing activity hubs for the homeless is a great idea. Many of them are bored and frustrated and need more opportunities for positive activity [Female, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West*
- *More hubs or outdoor shelters for homeless people some toilet & shower facilities too. [Non-binary, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*

Education and communication

- Recommendation 28 "community education and awareness anti-stigma campaign targeting perceptions of people experiencing mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness issues" - *I bring attention to this as there appear to be a number of significant misunderstandings in some parts of the community about these problems - for example how alcohol related brain damage (from long term, previous alcohol abuse) can affect behaviour of a homeless person (which can include confusion, shouting and bad language) and interact with other mental health issues, but is rarely linked to violence or crime; the long term impacts of adverse childhood experiences; or the varied root causes of homelessness; and the very low correlation between homelessness and crimes against persons. Rather than a one-off campaign I would suggest this requires a long term program of community education as well as leadership*

from council in countering misinformation. [Male, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Other feedback

Recommendations say not to change local laws (9 comments):

- *After reviewing the Council meeting from 21 May 2025, it's unclear whether the Council has formally endorsed the Report. From what I can see, the Council has 'noted' the Report and agreed to begin implementing some of its recommendations. This distinction is important; had the Council endorsed the Report, it would have accepted Recommendation 6, which emphasises confirming the adequacy of current by-laws and focusing on effective implementation and coordination, rather than pursuing legislative change. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *I agree with the findings of the report. I also note that the report does not support changing the local law and I agree with this. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]*

General:

- *Excessive number of recommendations has allowed for a dilution of outcome/responses [Female, 25 - 34 years, South Melbourne]*
- *I think the conversation needs to be diverted away from homelessness as an issue and to antisocial behaviour as the issue. There are homeless people in the area who are not antisocial and there are people who have homes but are antisocial. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *It's disappointing there is little there focused on the specific things that make women in particular feel extremely unsafe while going about their daily lives. [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *The report is heavy in detail and light in measurable outcomes. Most of the outcomes proposed are 'qualitative' hence measurability is problematic. [Male, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *My first encounter with this report was when I heard that Council was considering criminalising homelessness in the area. Reading through the report, I can see that a strong case has been made for why this is a bad idea. I strongly stress my support of an approach that shows compassion and understanding for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. The report notes that even people who have housing feel unsafe in their homes, and I think this really highlights that just moving people off the street does not make the community safer. I do not think that a strong community is one that penalises people for experiencing trauma and suffering. I hope that Council does not cave to the voices in the community that show indifference for those less fortunate. [25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *The Community Safety Roundtable Report and Recommendations is insufficient in how it addresses the responsibilities of Council and other authorities to maintain infrastructure such as street drainage, street cleansing, and the maintenance of parks and gardens. It is also insufficient in how it addresses the responsibilities of the Council to ensure that private property holders are maintaining their properties to an adequate standard in order to enhance the public realm. [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*
- *The recommendations are just wishful thinking that requires funding that Council doesn't have and State Gov doesn't want to spend. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*

Reasons for opposing the report recommendations

- **Round table didn't include community members / consider resident or trader concerns** (11 mentions across the survey and submissions)
    - *Excluding community makes the round table redundant. It was full of people with the same old thinking that created this problem. We don't need do-gooders. We need zero tolerance on crime. [Female, 35 - 49 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
    - *Under-representation of community voices most affected – Many residents, especially in high-impact areas like Jackson Street and Fitzroy Street, feel their daily experiences were not adequately represented. [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
    - *We feel very strongly that local businesses and residents who are directly impacted, should be involved this time, to represent the Community... having only so-called 'exports' attend is a mistake, and will certainly not achieve the desired outcomes for everyone. [Submission]*
- *The report includes some positive language about partnerships and social connection, but overall, it leans too heavily on enforcement, surveillance, and a narrow concept of "amenity" that often excludes vulnerable people. A safer city isn't created by increasing policing or "activating" public space to attract certain demographics - it's built by addressing root causes: housing insecurity, mental health, racism, poverty, and social exclusion. [Male, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*
- *This report is not based on evidence or the safety of People of Colour. The report is heavily biased toward the dominant culture's concept of safety. The recommendations in the report are likely to disproportionately harm people of colour, disabled people and unhoused people, and is likely to contravene the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) as well as a number of other human rights. Increased police is likely to be racist and cause incredible harm, as evidenced by current police statistics. [Female, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
- *This report reads like a justification for inaction. It offers more process, more consultation, but no meaningful change. Meanwhile, residents are dealing with escalating antisocial behaviour, visible drug use, and growing safety concerns. [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]*
- *In Ian Gray's report I do not support the mayor's recommendations 36 and 37. Being unhoused is not a crime and should not be treated as such. Additional surveillance and specifically-located quasi police will only exacerbate issues associated with the public's interaction with the State. These tools will invariably be used against vulnerable citizens. [Submission]*

3.8 Local Law proposed amendment

Question:	Q30. Do you support this approach?
Sources:	Community survey (n=852)
Notes:	It is evident that approximately 200 respondents completed this survey solely to participate in this question (comments to earlier open ended questions were referring to this topic, and/or they skipped the other questions in the survey). One submission raised a concern that there was a risk that the framing of the proposed amendment in the survey may lead respondents to perceive that the proposed law will introduce a mechanism for providing enhanced support to rough sleepers, which is not the function of this law change and will not necessarily occur.

Respondents were presented with the following information and then asked to rate their support for this approach.

At the 21 May Council Meeting, Councillors agreed to seek community engagement on a proposed amendment to the Community Amenity Local Law 2023. More information about the Local Law, camping on Council land, and supporting people sleeping rough, is available in the FAQs at https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safe-be-safe or you can ask for a copy from the Housing Team on (03) 9209 6777 or by attending an ASSIST counter.

The proposed amendment would provide Council with the ability to temporarily designate an area as a 'no encampment' area in consultation with key stakeholders if it is determined that:

a) The amenity of the Council land or the amenity of land in the vicinity of the Council land is or is likely to be adversely affected; or
b) The safety or welfare of a person is or is likely to be put at risk by behaviours of persons congregating on Council land with the intention or apparent intention of camping or sleeping there.

The proposed amendment would note that:

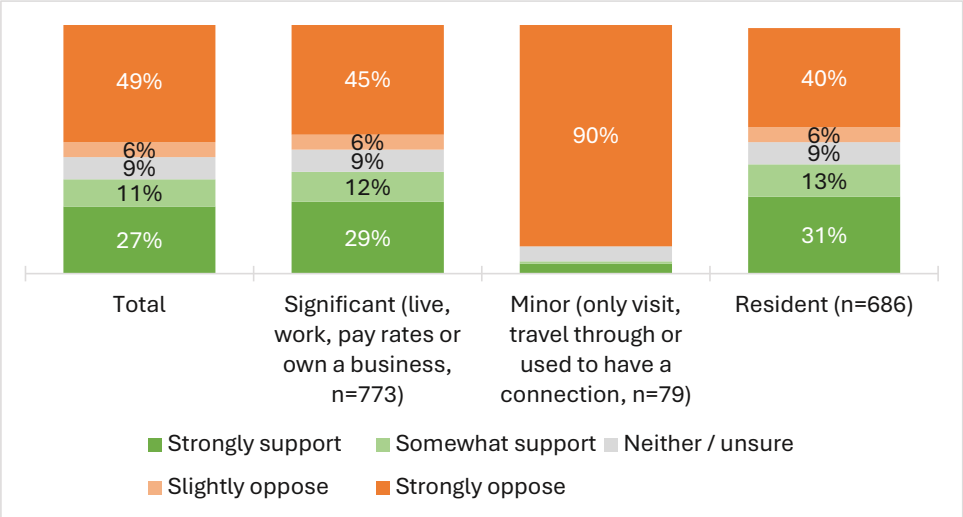
a) such a designation could be considered an exceptional circumstance after existing and enhanced assertive outreach models with service providers and supportive conversations had failed.
b) that enforcement of the potential amendment would not include fines, but instead, the removal and impoundment of equipment following provision of outreach and support services, where individuals have refused both a request and then warning to remove the material from the designated area.

Feedback will inform Council's decision around progressing to legislated community engagement (the next stage of Local Law amendment requirements).

Overall, over half of survey respondents indicated they oppose this approach (55% strongly oppose + oppose), with 38% supporting it (strongly support + support).

When breaking out the data by residents only, views were more evenly split, with 46% opposing and 44% supporting, although the strength of opposition tended to be stronger than that of support (40% strongly oppose, compared to 31% strongly support).

Figure 3.8.1 Support for proposed local law amendment approach by connection to CoPP



Gender	Male respondents showed a higher instance of saying they strongly support the amendment (34%, compared to 25% females). Female respondents show a higher instance of saying they strongly oppose the amendment (50%, compared to 38% males).
Age	35+ year old respondents showed a higher instance of saying they strongly support the amendment (32%, compared to 7% 18-34 year olds). 18-34 year old respondents show a higher instance of saying they strongly oppose the amendment (80%, compared to 41% 35+ year olds).
Diversity	Notably high instances of strongly oppose were recorded amongst respondents with a disability (73%, compared to 45% no disability) and/or who identify as LGBTIQA+ (83%, compared to 41% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Higher instances of strongly support were recorded amongst resident respondents from Port Melbourne (38%), Albert Park and Middle Park (47%), and St Kilda and St Kilda West (30%). Conversely, high instances of strongly oppose were recorded amongst resident respondents from Elwood and Ripponlea (61%), Balaclava and St Kilda East (59%), St Kilda Road (59%) and those living outside of CoPP (84%).
Lived experience	All respondents with lived experience opposed this proposed local laws amendment, with 91% 'strongly opposing'.

There were 6 submissions supporting the local laws amendment, and 26 opposing.

Question:	Q31. Is there anything further you would like to share about your response?
Sources:	Community survey (n=142 comments for support and 348 comments for oppose)
Notes:	Answers were typed in by respondents and then grouped into themes for analysis. Percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents (n=893). Quotes have been selected for inclusion when they provide detailed information in line with the tone of responses under each theme. Quotes that include derogatory terms or stigmatisation have been considered in the overarching analysis, but have not been included in the report for ethical reasons.

Through the follow-up comments and submissions it was clear that there may have been misperceptions influencing opinions regarding this proposed amendment:

- Some of those who said they support the amendment indicated that they did so because they wanted people experiencing homelessness to be safer, perceiving that it would be coupled with more support. It is important to note that most of the support is from a perspective of wanting homeless people to ultimately be housed.
- Many of those who said they oppose perceived that the amendment would grant powers to remove belongings from rough sleepers without any oversight and/or issue fines.
- One submission also raised a concern that there had been a public narrative that the proposed amendment would include fines or penalties for the homeless, which was perceived as not being the case. Another suggested that there needed to be a better recognition of the difference between people experiencing homelessness (who are not a safety issue) and those who are taking drugs and causing issues, with suitable supports provided to each.

Of those who opposed this approach, the following themes were:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Provide more services (143 comments)	Many of those who opposed the amendment suggested that instead Council should seek to provide more services and housing support. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst female respondents (18%, compared to 11% males), 18-34 year olds (31%, compared to 12% 35+ year olds), respondents with a disability (23%, compared to 15% no disability), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (28%, compared to 13% non-LGBTIQA+) and respondents who live outside of Port Phillip (28%, compared to 13% residents).	*"Provide long-term services to people who are unhoused rather than a useless amendment like this. This is a knee-jerk, irresponsible and heartless approach and should not be implemented." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]* *"Our council should have better resources for helping people going through housing or mental health or addiction crisis." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"How about instead put significant funding into creating housing? What how about putting funding into supportive infrastructures? How on earth are you going to be helping anyone by moving community members who are sleeping rough elsewhere?" [18 - 24 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Human rights (107 comments)	Many of those who opposed the amendment commented that it was cruel and/or contravening human rights. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst 18-34 year old respondents (27%, compared to 6% 60+ year olds), respondents with a disability (20%, compared to 11% no disability), those who identify as LGBTIQA+ (23%, compared to 10% non-LGBTIQA+) and respondents who live outside of Port Phillip (24%, compared to 9% residents). There were also notably high instances of comments put forth related to this topic by residents in St Kilda Road (28%) and Elwood and Ripponlea (25%).	*"This seems like a very inhumane response. Why can't we prioritise community support for people sleeping rough instead of punishing them? Particularly as Melbourne winter sets in." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]* *"People sleeping rough deserve safety, they are members of the community. This proposal violates the human rights of people experiencing housing insecurity." [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Doesn't solve anything (96 comments)	Some suggested that the proposed amendment would make things worse and/or it doesn't fix the root causes of the issue. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst 18-34 year old respondents (21%, compared to 12% 35+ year olds), respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (19%, compared to 9% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or residents from Elwood and Ripponlea (22%).	*"Designating 'no encampment' areas places the focus on moving people on, rather than addressing the root causes of homelessness. In practice, removing someone's belongings or designating exclusion zones can cause significant distress, break trust between people sleeping rough and services, and make it harder for outreach workers to build relationships and offer support." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"If you won't install public lockers where do you expect them to store their belonging? People *die* in winter sleeping rough if they do not have warm things. You want to throw that out? *how cruel!* Services will be inundated with more distressed people because their belongings were thrown out while they were at appointments. You will make the problem worse." [Female, 35 - 49 years, Outside CoPP]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Criminalising homelessness (74 comments)	There was concern that the proposed amendment would criminalise homelessness and victimise vulnerable people. Some of these comments suggest that homelessness shouldn't be treated as a crime and isn't a threat to public safety. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (14%, compared to 7% non-LGBTIQA+) and/or non-residents (14%, compared to 7% residents).	*"Why would you choose to punish people during a housing crisis and a cost of living crisis, and make it harder for them to survive? Taking away basic items in winter, like bedding, has strong potential to lead to serious harm. With crisis services overwhelmed and conditions getting worse, why would a punitive approach be a better use of resources than a supportive one?" [Non-binary, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Individual harm (53 comments)	Concern was put forth that the proposed action risks causing more harm to the impacted individual. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (12%, compared to 5% non-LGBTIQA+) and/or non-residents (15%, compared to 4% residents).	*"Service providers in the area struggle to keep up with demand and there would not always be appropriate accommodations available even if supportive conversations and assertive outreach took place. Penalising and 'moving on' people has never worked before because it doesn't solve the root cause of the issue. The resources that would be required to uphold this law amendment would be much better funnelled into housing and crisis support." [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*
Where will they go (42 comments)	Some raised concerns that the proposed actions will just result in the individual moving to another location. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ (8%, compared to 4% non-LGBTIQA+).	*"It won't solve the problem it will just move people around. We need more housing." [Female, 85 and over years, Port Melbourne]* *"These people need to sleep somewhere. I do not approve of this punishment. If these people actually harm someone then that is a different story, but if they are just sleeping or congregating together somewhere i do not think it would improve my safety to remove them. All this does is kick the bucket down the road, where will this person go next?" [Female, 25 - 34 years, Outside CoPP]*

Other reasons for opposing included:

- Ian Gray's / roundtable recommendations are better (25 comments).
- Concern about the impact on First Nations people (19 comments).

- The existing laws are sufficient (18 comments).
- It is open to abuse of power (14 comments).
- Perception that it will result in an increase in crime (11 comments).
- Concern about increased stigma for those experiencing homelessness (8 comments).
- Other priorities (7 comments).
- Difficult to understand the wording (5 comments).

8 of those who assigned an 'oppose' rating wrote in a comment that made it clear that they oppose it because it doesn't go far enough (wanted it to be permanent and/or cover the whole of CoPP).

Comments provided by those with lived experience include:

- *"More housing required. It will cause distress if property is taken - it will cause arguments Camps are community connection."*
- *"Some people are unable to live in homes. It will have negative affects on health if belonging are taken. It will take away basic human rights. It will create further stigma of people that are homeless. It will create mistrust with the Council."*
- *"Leave the homeless alone if you are not offering support or a helping hand."*
- *"The council have over-stepped the line of personal safety."*
- *"Pointless - we would get more mad, more upset, for what purpose? *please* don't throw away my sleeping gear - no where to put it! I'm waiting on a house - this is my only personal *safety zone*!!"*
- *"If you take a homeless persons belongings away that is taking away their warmth, dignity and shelter. Where will we go? A homeless person without a blanket is still homeless. This is further punishing the community and not addressing the issue of housing. It is stripping people of their rights."*

32 submissions were made specific to this topic, 27 of which were opposing the proposed amendment, including a petition with 255 signatures. It should be noted that the following is a very brief summary of over 50 pages of submissions; it is expected that Council will review each submission in full, independent to this summary report. Key topics discussed in submissions were:

- Strengthen outreach and support services, including mental health, GPs, alcohol and other drugs, more housing, and early intervention (to help keep people in housing) (23 submissions).
- Lack of belief that it will improve safety (11 submissions) - there was concern that removing sleeping equipment will potentially result in harm to the individual who is displaced (6 submissions), such as increasing disengagement with services, exasperating trauma, and deteriorating health. One suggested that it could also result in hostility.
    - A petition was submitted with 255 signatures raising concerns about these potential harms to vulnerable people, with a call for instead focusing on the recommendations from the Community Safety Roundtable.
- Concerns that it lacks compassion and will not be compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, particularly the elements relating to designation of prohibited areas and impounding of belongings (7 submissions). There was a call for proposed amendments be reviewed from a human rights perspective.
- Lack of clarity about what situations are within and out of scope of activating the law (that is, if people have engaged with services and no alternative accommodation is

available, will this law be enforced with them) (3 submissions). One submissions suggested the City of Melbourne with their Homeless Protocol be used for guidance.

- Concerns about stigma and criminalisation of homelessness (18 submissions), with a call for prioritising dignity and rights.
- Adopt a 'Housing First' model, which recognises homelessness as a healthcare issue, to provide immediate unconditional housing paired with wrap-around support services (4 submissions).
- Improve collaboration between all levels of government and the housing sector, and improve infrastructure and integration of social services (2 submissions).

People who are homeless or vulnerable need support, not punitive measures. I attended the Council meeting and was alarmed to hear that when 3 people are living in one location on our streets that this is considered an encampment and this is what Cr Hardy's motion wants to dismantle. Homeless or vulnerable people gather together as they are unsafe alone. I implore you to listen to the local service providers who have expertise in this area who are advocating against this change. [Submission]

My main concern is the divisiveness that comes from stigmatizing people who are homeless and/or with mental health problems (including addictions). Opening this door is a very slippery slope that can easily fracture communities and lead to many more, and more severe, problems. [Submission]

My plea is that you implement the 37 recommendations of the Community Safety Roundtable, and that you do NOT change local laws in an effort to deal with what is regarded by some as anti-social behaviour. Let us instead focus on what instead builds community cohesion and invest in social support, rather than adopting a punitive (and inevitably unsustainable) approach to those who are less fortunate. There is NO evidence that temporary move on powers will have any lasting effect beyond moving 'the problem' elsewhere and seriously disadvantaging the people being moved. It is not a sustainable solution. Instead the recommendations of your own commissioned expert report provide the only durable solution. [Submission]

Council should invest more funding into housing provision, such as the Common Ground development currently in construction, and social support services such as the many that work tirelessly despite being desperately underfunded. [Submission]

... the amendment (in its current form) effectively gives carte blanche to the Council, empowering it to deprive its most disadvantaged constituents of what little property they have. There are no adequate checks and balances in the ability to engage the power. [Submission]

The CoPP has failed to adequately utilise its land and resources for the construction of desperately needed housing—especially for people living with severe mental illness, addiction, or trauma. Instead, the burden pushed onto exhausted frontline services and police, who are underpaid, understaffed, and expected to "move on" the very people we have failed. Move them on to where, exactly? [Submission]

Of those who supported this approach, the following themes were:

Theme	Summary	Quotes
General support for removal of encampments (61 comments)	There were varied drivers to supporting the removal of encampments, with people mentioning that it is needed to address a growing issue and to bring the local laws in line with other areas. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst male respondents (10%, compared to 6% females), and resident respondents (8%, compared to 2% non-residents), particularly those from Albert Park and Middle Park (15%).	*"Council should be able to control council land. This includes not allowing people to crew ate semi/permanent encampments on public & council land. People sleeping in the streets and on council & public land damages and can destroy the overall amenity of that land for the community in general." [Female, 60 - 69 years, Balaclava and St Kilda East]* *"I haven't read the report. I support the general idea as long as it's not punitive. Rough sleepers suffer enough. As long as an empathetic approach is taken then I'm good with removal and seizure as a last resort from a safety based perspective." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]* *"I strongly support change in this area. Enough is enough in terms of the way people are treating each other poorly by camping on the streets and turning them into tent cities - drugs, alcohol, rubbish, anti social behaviours etc . Council need to listen to the local police and provide them the powers to act. The entire CoPP should be a ban on camps - like the alcohol bans brought in a few years ago." [Male, 50 - 59 years, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"People should not be allowed to camp on our streets. There should be enough places for them to sleep safely. Government should be doing more to support these people and help them to improve there lives." [Female, Albert Park and Middle Park]*
Needs to go further (22 comments)	Some comments mentioned that they didn't think it went far enough, with suggestions that it should cover a wider area and/or be made permanent. 8 of these provided an "oppose" rating. There were no notable variations in demographics or location for this theme.	*"The whole of St Kilda should be declared a NO CAMPING zone, as a minimum, the Fitzroy St, Acland St, Barkly St and Grey St blocks." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]* *"It's a start, but is not strong enough, and does go far enough to protect the CoPP residents. Stop worrying about who you might offend, govern the local area to support the majority." [Male, 50 - 59 years, South Melbourne]*

Theme	Summary	Quotes
Will improve safety (21 comments)	Some mention the potential for improved safety for residents, whilst others mention improved safety for people experiencing homelessness. Comments relating to this theme were more common amongst female respondents (3%, compared to 1% females).	*"Council has an obligation to rough sleepers too to protect their safety by disallowing encampments. It creates an environment of lose social management and encourages negative behaviours broadly." [Outside CoPP* *"I support the proposed amendment as a necessary step toward restoring community safety and amenity in areas experiencing ongoing disruption and risk. However, the language around "exceptional circumstances" and the emphasis on process again signals reluctance to act decisively. For many residents, the situation has already reached a tipping point -- particularly in locations like Bay Street, where people no longer feel safe, businesses are closing, and public space is being lost. We need Council to demonstrate that it is willing to act (not just consult) when amenity and safety are clearly being impacted." [Female, 50 - 59 years, Port Melbourne]* *"While I acknowledge how horrible it would be to have to live on the street, and to have dealt with the things that made that your reality, I do not believe we can have people on our streets at the expense of others who do not feel safe to even walk down them. It's not fair on the people who call this home, nor the businesses." [Female, 50 - 59 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*
Needs to be coupled with wrap-around support for the individual (17 comments)	Some comments agreed that people shouldn't be allowed to sleep on the streets, but that appropriate housing and support needs to be provided so that it isn't necessary. There were no notable variations in demographics or location for this theme.	*"People should not be allowed to camp on our streets. There should be enough places for them to sleep safely. Government should be doing more to support these people and help them to improve there lives." [Female, Albert Park and Middle Park]* *"The proposed actions (removal of people and belongings) should be clearly said that the homeless will receive support and be offered a decent place to live where he will have chance to be recovered IN A LONG TERM. To put someone in a short-term accommodation is not a solution. Do not clarify this in the amendment is not honest." [Male, 70 - 84 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]*

Other reasons for supporting included:

- Perception that it will improve amenity (10 comments).
- Needs to be targeted at criminals, not people genuinely experiencing homelessness (3 comments).
- Concern regarding taking belongings and the individual's ability to retrieve belongings (3 comments).

Six submissions were in support of the local laws amendment for the following reasons:

- "drug camps" were perceived as dangerous for both the broader community and those living in the camps, and need to be disbanded. It was put forth that this needed to be coupled with an increase in access to support services.
- They are having an impact on the wellbeing of the residents in the surrounding community.
- Suggestion that 'move on' laws need to be tried because current strategies aren't working and it is impacting on the livelihood of local traders and safety of residents. It was suggested this can be done in conjunction with enhanced services and without punishment for the person experiencing homelessness.
- Concern that rough sleepers from other areas are in CoPP due to more relaxed laws, and are refusing housing offers.

Shut down high-risk, unmanaged encampments. Expand access to rehabilitation, mental health, and housing services. Keep streets, parks, car parks, and school zones safe for everyone. Make service providers accountable for long-term outcomes … We are not calling for punishment — we are calling for balance and responsibility. Yes, help must come first. But prevention matters too. [Submission]

Some may say that changes to regulations to strengthen "move on" provisions will not work. We will not know unless we try. And if the move on provisions are only partially successful, it still adds to the law enforcement toolbox to make our streets safer. [Submission]

These encampments are not safe. They are growing in size and impact and are becoming increasingly dangerous and anti-social. Vulnerable people—both within and outside of the encampments—are being targeted and harmed. No member of our community should have to live in fear, yet that is what is happening, and it is not improving… If you oppose this motion, you are effectively allowing these unsafe conditions to escalate. If you support this motion, you are standing with the community, supporting frontline police, and taking meaningful action to protect all residents, business, traders and especially those who are most vulnerable. [Submission]

One submission suggested that the proposed amendment doesn't go far enough, and that a blanket 'no camping on public land' homeless protocol be introduced (as recommended by Victoria Police), coupled with tiered on-the-ground response approach (assessment, intervention, enforcement).

There were also some insights from stakeholder workshops and targeted discussions regarding the proposed amendment:

- Need to ensure Police have capacity to support any proposed actions.
- It requires refinement of the criteria that triggers removal of an encampment.
- Note that only City of Port Phillip and Merri-Bek have encampment exemptions.

In the community workshops, participants expressed disappointment that the local laws amendment had been included as part of the general community safety workshops, suggesting it deserved its own separate session. There was a concern that it might skew the broader safety

discussion in a different direction. There was also a call for further information about the context behind the proposed amendment (level of Councillor influence, community engagement to inform the decision) and potential impacts (complexity of homelessness, community trust).

Participants said they would support the law under certain circumstances:

- Location-based impacts (n=8), if they block footpaths, retail entrances or places of high pedestrian traffic.
- Last resort (n=7), only after all outreach and support services have been offered and the individual has declined assistance.
- Clear public safety, health or amenity triggers (n=6), for instance violence, fire hazards, antisocial behaviour, or proximity to schools / playgrounds.
- Clear rules to follow (n=4).
- Housing support, crisis accommodation available (n=3), only come into play when alternatives are available.

Participants said they would not support the proposed amendment due to the following concerns:

- Need to prioritise other levels of support.
- Risk that it will make people experiencing homelessness feel unsafe.
- Doesn't address underlying issues.
- Unfairly disadvantage First Nations people.

Clarification was requested as follows:

- Enforcement and governance: who has power to move people on, existing police powers, enforcement costs, and officer training.
- Legal clarity and process: questions related to the 'exact steps' before action is taken.
- Support service and housing pathways: questions (concerns) related to how and when rough sleepers are connected to housing or mental-health support, and accountability for offers made (where do they go?)
- Human impact and personal belongings: questions related to where people go once camps are cleared, what happens to confiscated items, and guarantees of housing access.
- Council's focus on this issue and level of investment: questions around spending, statistics on camp numbers and their effect on community safety.

Insights from other research and past engagement

In the City of Port Phillip Homelessness and affordable housing engagement (June 2025 report) the following key findings can contribute to an understanding of community sentiment regarding this topic:

- The top 3 things that respondents felt were most important for Council to prioritise were Advocating to State Government to require developers to contribute to the provision of social housing; Advocate to Commonwealth and State Government to strengthen rights and supports for renters; and offer people experiencing or at risk of homelessness information on local homelessness services.
- There were high levels of support for these three actions listed above (77%+), as well as Council continuing to provide cash and land contributions for social and community housing (77%), helping people experiencing homelessness to find pathways to housing through coordinating local service delivery via the Port Phillip Zero program (83% support).
- When asked to share other ideas on how Council should support people experiencing homelessness there were 62 comments, with the most common responses relating to opposition for punishing or criminalising people sleeping rough (26%) and working with other service providers (26%).
- This theme of opposing punishing people sleeping rough was also the most prominent theme amongst other general comments made in the survey, alongside email and pop-up comments (21% of 92 comments).

In the **Panel recommendations to Council**, supporting people experiencing vulnerability was the highest ranked of the 7 identified priorities for the next 4 years. The 2 key recommendations under this priority were:

1. Increase funding for support services.
2. Provide more accommodation for rough sleepers.

In the **2024 Health & Wellbeing Plan engagement**, under the housing and rental options and services and supports themes, ideas put forth by respondents included:

- providing more social and affordable housing, including budget allocation;
- developing a housing emergency plan; and
- applying a compassionate lens to planning and development with social, environmental and health indicators guiding decision-making
- Providing more services and supports focused on homelessness, employment, mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, and domestic violence.

3.9 Safety and transport

Within the 2025 Feel Safe Be Safe engagement a number of questions and other points of feedback emerged relating to transport and road safety.

Question:	Q2. When we consider community safety, we can think about all the following areas. Tick the FIVE that are the most important to you.
Sources:	Community survey (n=874)
Notes:	

20% Selected *Road safety (such as transport, traffic and pedestrian safety)* as one of the top 5 most important areas to consider for community safety (out of a list of 23 topics).

43 Survey respondents put forth a comment about road infrastructure when asked what Council could do to make them feel more safe, with the main topics mentioned being bike lanes and pedestrian crossings.

The *road safety* option was selected in the top 5 responses for a notably high proportion of 60+ year old respondents (24%, compared to 14% 18-34 year olds). It was also selected in the top 5 by a notably high 30% of respondents who said they live in Albert Park and Middle Park region (compared to 15% of respondents from St Kilda and St Kilda West).

The maintenance of bike lanes is a huge problem (compared to my home country at least). There are little (or sometimes bigger) shards of glass everywhere & it would be good if community services could clean the bike lanes more frequently, also cleaning leaves now that it's autumn. [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

I ride a bike everywhere I can. I feel utterly unsafe on many of my routes in Port Phillip. Road safety means BIKE LANES. Why don't you even include this in road safety? Research shows that separate cyclist infrastructure benefits both cyclist AND driver safety. [Female, 60 - 69 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

The activity of Hoons ie speeding & noisy vehicles & motor bikes is at times unbearable [Male, 60 - 69 years, Port Melbourne]

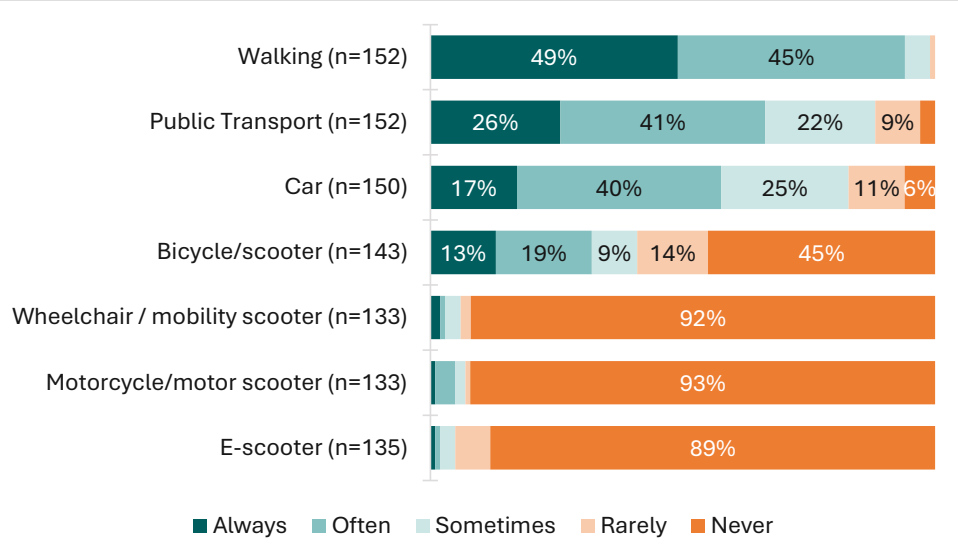
*More deterrents to driving with excess speed and driving through zebra crossings in highly pedestrianised areas is required. I advocate for safety camera on zebra crossings and street like Liardet St that are used as cut throughs. People who don't live locally drive irresponsibly fast and drive through zebra crossings when people are trying to cross. *Electric scooters are a terrible addition to the community. They are predominantly used by teenagers who ride without helmets and drive them dangerously. It is beyond me why they have been implemented and what possible benefits they bring. They are 100% a net negative. [Male, 35 - 49 years, Port Melbourne]*

Road safety is also top of my list because we all need to get around without worrying that we might get hit by a car and die. A place a dense and vibrant as St Kilda needs to prioritise people over vehicles. Just because a car takes up a lot of space, doesn't mean their time and convenience are worth more than all the other people who walk, cycle, etc to get where they need to go. [Male, 35 - 49 years, St Kilda and St Kilda West]

Question:	Q4. In the past year, how frequently have you used each of these modes of transport?
Sources:	Community survey (n=133-152)
Notes:	This question only appeared for respondents who selected *Road* safety in Q2 (top 5 most important community safety areas). Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional.

Amongst those who answered this question in the survey, *walking* was very frequent, and most said they use *public transport* 'often' or 'always'. Few said they ever use *motorcycles, escooters* and/or *wheel chairs*.

Figure 3.9.1 Frequency of using modes of transport



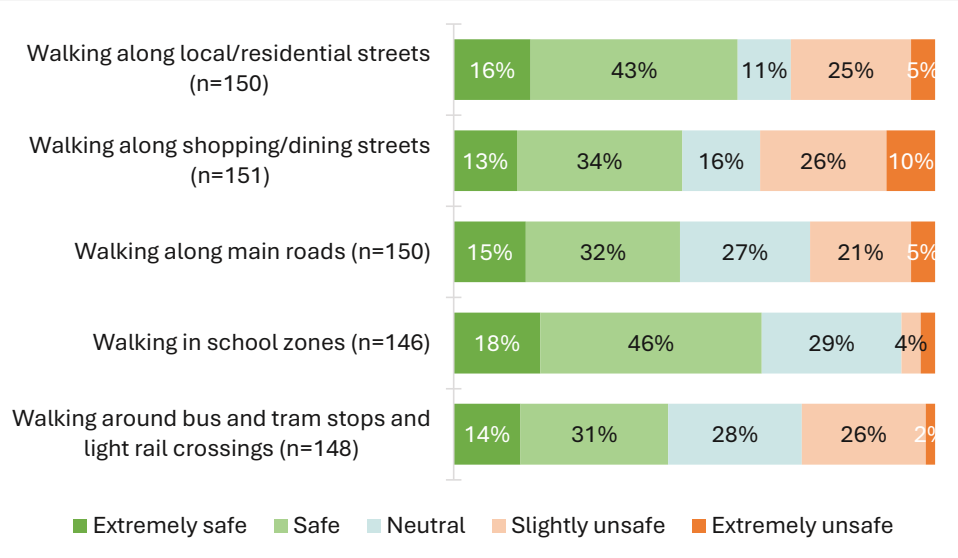
Gender	Female respondents more often said 'never' for *bicycle/scooter* (55%, compared to 36% males).
Age	60+ year old respondents more often said 'never' for *bicycle/scooter* (62%, compared to 35% 35-59 year olds). 18-34 year old respondents more often said 'sometimes' for *car* (60%, compared to 22% 35+ year olds). *E-scooters* were only used by 18-34 year olds (27%, all rarely) and 35-59 year olds (18%, including 4% who said always or often).
Diversity	'Always' using a *bicycle / scooter* was more common amongst respondents who said they speak a language other than English (46%, compared to 9% English only) and respondents identifying as LGBTIQA+ (28%, compared to 10% non-LGBTQIA+). Respondents who speak a language other than English also more often said they 'always' use public transport (54%, compared to 24% English-only), and/or walking (77%, compared to 46% English-only).

	Respondents with a disability more often said they 'rarely' use a *car* (31%, compared to 9% without a disability), and 14% said they 'always' use a *wheelchair* (compared to 1% of those without a disability).
Region	38% of non-resident respondents said they 'rarely' use a *car* (compared to 9% residents).

Question:	Q5. How safe do you feel in the following scenarios within the City of Port Phillip?
Sources:	Community survey (n=130-151)
Notes:	This question only appeared for respondents who selected *Road* safety in Q2 (top 5 most important community safety areas). Sample sizes for each item vary as participation in this question was optional. The answer option scale for this question wasn't balanced (on the safe side it used 'Safe', whereas on the unsafe side it used 'Slightly unsafe'). This may have resulted in inconsistent interpretation by respondents, and/or skewed the findings.

Respondents who answered this question more often felt safe walking along residential streets and/or in school zones. The walking location receiving the highest proportions of 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe' ratings was shopping / dining streets.

Figure 3.9.2 Perceptions of safety in situations when walking

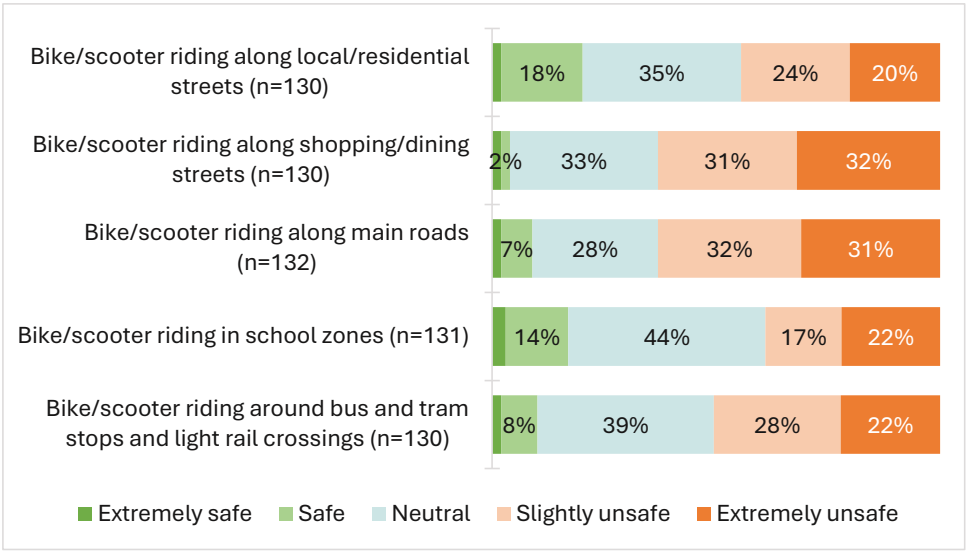


Gender A higher proportion of female respondents who answered this question said they feel unsafe (slightly unsafe + extremely unsafe) *walking along main roads* (32%, compared to 17% males).

Age	A higher proportion of 35-59 year old respondents who answered this question said they feel unsafe (slightly unsafe + extremely unsafe) *walking along main roads* (34%, compared to 18% 60+ year olds).
Diversity	20% of respondents with a disability who answered this question said they feel unsafe (slightly unsafe + extremely unsafe) walking in school zones (compared to 6% of those without a disability).
Region	Notable variations by region were: • 52% of respondents from Port Melbourne who answered this question said they felt unsafe (slightly + extremely) *walking along shopping / dining strips* (compared to 23% of resident respondents in St Kilda and St Kilda West). • High proportions of respondents from Elwood and Ripponlea who answered this question said they feel safe (safe + extremely safe) *walking along shopping / dining strips* (91%) and/or walking along main roads (91%). • Non-resident respondents who answered this question more often said they feel 'extremely safe' *walking around tram stops and light rail crossings* (42%, compared to 11% residents).

Very few respondents who answered this question said they felt safe riding along shopping / dining strips and/or along main roads. School zones and along residential streets fair a little better, but still showed more than half rating these areas as unsafe to ride.

Figure 3.9.3 Perceptions of safety in situations when bike / scooter riding

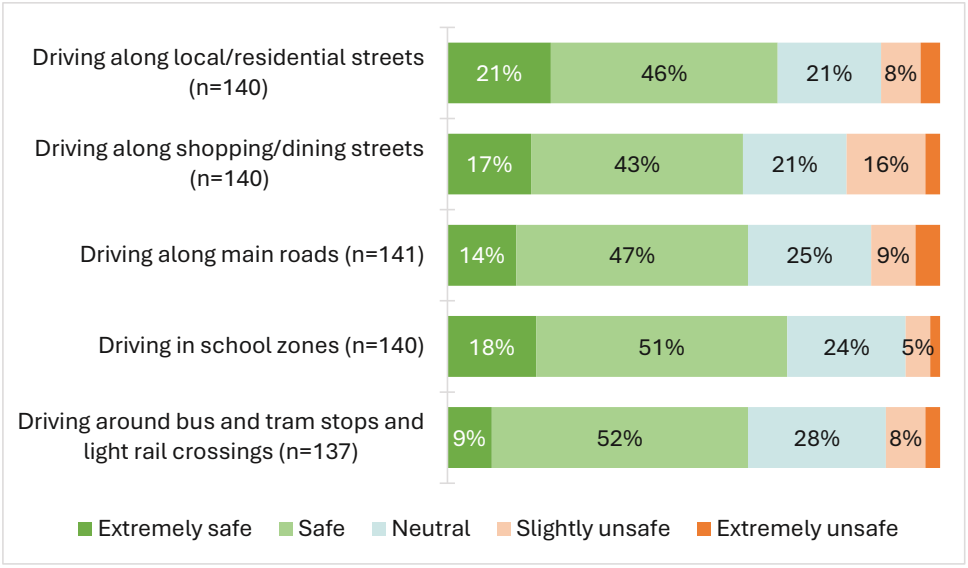


Gender	A higher proportion of male respondents who answered this question said they feel safe (safe + extremely safe) *bike/scooter riding along local/residential streets* (33%, compared to 12% females).
Age	Findings were consistent across all ages.

Diversity	A higher proportion of respondents who speak a language other than English said they feel 'extremely unsafe' *Bike/scooter riding along main roads* (64%, compared to 28% English-only).
Region	A higher proportion of respondents from Port Melbourne said they feel 'extremely unsafe' *Bike/scooter riding along shopping/dining streets* (56%, compared to 13% St Kilda and St Kilda West).

In each of the scenarios listed, more than half of respondents who answered this question said they feel safe driving.

Figure 3.9.4 Perceptions of safety in situations when driving

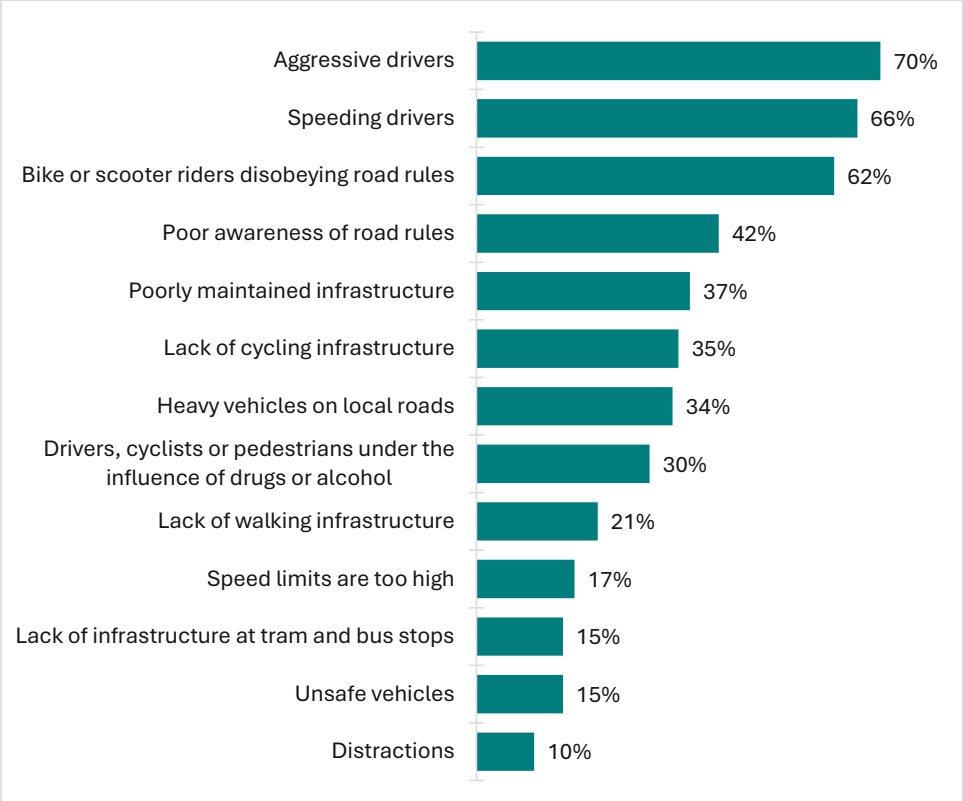


Gender	Female respondents who answered this question more often said they feel 'safe' *diving along local/residential streets* (60%, compared to 28% males – males more often said 'neutral', 32%, compared to 15% females), *driving along main roads* (56%, compared to 31% males – males more often said 'slightly unsafe', 16%, compared to 5% females), and/or *driving along shopping/dining streets* (55%, compared to 22% males – males more often said 'neutral', 34%, compared to 14% females).
Age	Findings were consistent across all ages.
Diversity	Respondents with a disability who answered this question more often rated that they feel 'extremely unsafe' *driving along local/residential streets* (17%, compared to 2% without a disability), *driving along shopping/dining streets* (17%, compared to 2% without a disability), and/or *driving in school zones* (17%, compared to 1% without a disability).
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.

Question:	Q6. If you feel unsafe while travelling in the City of Port Phillip, what makes you feel unsafe?
Sources:	Community survey (n=149)
Notes:	This question only appeared for respondents who selected *Road* safety in Q2 (top 5 most important community safety areas). Answers were retained even if they didn't rate any of the previous scenarios as unsafe.

Perceptions of feeling unsafe when travelling around City of Port Phillip were mostly attributed to aggressive drivers, speeding drivers and/or riders disobeying road rules.

Figure 3.9.5 Factors leading to feeling unsafe when travelling around City of Port Phillip



Gender

Female respondents who answered this question more often selected *distractions* (15%, compared to 4% males).

Age

35-59 year old respondents who answered this question more often selected *poorly maintained infrastructure* (43%, compared to 8% 18-34 year olds), *lack of walking infrastructure* (31%, compared to 12% 60+ year olds), and/or *unsafe vehicles* (25%, compared to 8% 60+ year olds).

35+ year old respondents who answered this question more often selected *bike or scooter riders disobeying road rules* (63% 35-59 and 70% 60+, compared to 23% 18-39 year olds),

Diversity	Respondents who speak a language other than English who answered this question more often selected *lack of cycling infrastructure* (77%, compared to 31% English-only) and/or *lack of walking infrastructure* (46%, compared to 19% English-only). Respondents with a disability who answered this question more often selected *lack of walking infrastructure* (47%, compared to 19% no disability), and/or *unsafe vehicles* (33%, compared to 13% no disability). Respondents who identify as LGBTIQA+ who answered this question more often selected *lack of cycling infrastructure* (56%, compared to 32% non-LGBTIQA+), and/or *unsafe vehicles* (44%, compared to 11% non-LGBTIQA+).
Region	Findings were consistent across all locations.

Through other engagement activities a range of insights were put forth:

- A submission by a resident indicated frustration about not being able to find a park near their house, despite it being a permit zone and them having a permit. *"The other issue with having to park away from my home is fear of my safety given some of the intimidating residents"*.
- A submission put forth a range of suggestions for transport improvements, including improving pedestrian pathways and bike lanes, implement shared e-scooters, and upgrade infrastructure to match increasing density.
- A submission suggested that traffic lights are needed on the intersection of Bay St and Liardit Streets in Port Melbourne. There was also concern that the pedestrian walkways in this area are dangerous due to lack of lights.
- A submission suggested that the South Melbourne Market car park could be used to provide a safe space for people experiencing homelessness to sleep.

4 Next Steps

The City of Port Phillip will use this information, along with other key inputs, to develop a draft Community Safety Plan. The draft Plan will be released for public exhibition in late 2025 to seek community feedback.

Feedback received during the exhibition period will be reviewed and used to inform any changes to the draft Plan. The outcomes of the public exhibition will be reported to Council, and the revised draft will be presented for endorsement and adoption in late 2025.

Appendix 1 – Survey Questions

Your connection to City of Port Phillip

Q1. What is your connection to the City of Port Phillip?

- ☐ I live in the City of Port Phillip at a fixed address
- ☐ I live in the City of Port Phillip but don't currently have a fixed address
- ☐ I work in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I pay rates in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I own a business in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I visit the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I travel through the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ I used to live in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ I used to work in the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ I used to visit the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ I used to travel through the City of Port Phillip but don't anymore
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

What safety means to you

Q2. When we consider community safety, we can think about all the following areas. Tick the FIVE that are the most important to you.

- ☐ General health and wellbeing
- ☐ Personal and property safety
- ☐ Cultural safety
- ☐ Family and gender-based violence, child safety and elder abuse
- ☐ Mental health and wellbeing
- ☐ Social isolation
- ☐ Housing and homelessness
- ☐ Drug and alcohol abuse, and gambling related harm
- ☐ Food security
- ☐ Online safety and cyber-crime
- ☐ Racism, Antisemitism and Islamophobia
- ☐ Social cohesion and inclusion
- ☐ Communication and information sharing
- ☐ Crime prevention activities
- ☐ Environment, sustainability and climate
- ☐ Public place infrastructure and design (such as lighting and accessibility)
- ☐ Public place activation and maintenance (such as programs and amenity)
- ☐ Community services
- ☐ Council facilities and community centres
- ☐ Road safety (such as transport, traffic and pedestrian safety)
- ☐ Local Laws and City Amenity
- ☐ Animal management
- ☐ Safety around water
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q3. If you would like to share why these are important to you, you can tell us here [Comment box]

[If selected road safety in Q2 continue, others skip to Q7]

City of Port Phillip is being supported by the Traffic Accident Commission (TAC) to develop a Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, and your responses will help to inform the development of this Action Plan.

Q4. In the past year, how frequently have you used each of these modes of transport?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Public Transport (bus, train, tram)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bicycle/scooter	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Motorcycle/motor scooter	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Car	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
E-scooter	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Wheelchair/mobility scooter/walking frame or other mobility device	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Q5. How safe do you feel in the following scenarios within the City of Port Phillip?

Walking	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Walking along local/residential streets	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking along shopping/dining streets (e.g. Carlisle Street, Bay Street)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking along main roads (e.g. St Kilda Road, Beaconsfield Parade)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking in school zones	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Walking around bus and tram stops and light rail crossings	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Bike/scooter riding	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Bike/scooter riding along local/residential streets	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding along shopping/dining streets (e.g. Carlisle Street, Bay Street)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding along main roads (e.g. St Kilda Road, Beaconsfield Parade)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding in school zones	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Bike/scooter riding around bus and tram stops and light rail crossings	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Driving	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Driving along local/residential streets	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Driving along shopping/dining streets (e.g. Carlisle Street, Bay Street)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Driving along main roads (e.g. St Kilda Road, Beaconsfield Parade)	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Driving in school zones	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Driving around bus and tram stops and light rail crossings	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Q6. If you feel unsafe while travelling in the City of Port Phillip, what makes you feel unsafe? Tick all that apply

- ☐ Speeding drivers
- ☐ Aggressive drivers
- ☐ Bike or scooter riders disobeying road rules
- ☐ Distractions
- ☐ Speed limits are too high
- ☐ Poorly maintained infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of walking infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of cycling infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of infrastructure at tram and bus stops
- ☐ Incorrect use of seatbelts
- ☐ Drivers, cyclists or pedestrians using the road while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- ☐ Heavy vehicles on local roads
- ☐ Unsafe vehicles
- ☐ Poor awareness of road rules
- ☐ None, I always feel safe travelling in the City of Port Phillip
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q7. What does feeling/being safe mean to you? [Comment box]

Q8. What makes you feel more safe about living in Port Phillip? [Comment box]

Q9. What makes you feel less safe about living in Port Phillip? [Comment box]

Where you have felt more and less safe in our City

Q10. Show us where you feel MORE safe in the City of Port Phillip. [Mapping tool]

Q11. Show us where you feel LESS safe in the City of Port Phillip. [Mapping tool]

Q12. If you would like to share any other experiences about feeling more or less safe in the City of Port Phillip, you can tell us here [Comment box]

Q13. In the past year, have you limited or changed your behaviour or activities in the City of Port Phillip due to safety concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Q14. If you would like to tell us more about your response, you can tell us here. [Comment box]

Evidence tells us that people of different genders have different experiences of safety in public spaces. Women, girls and gender diverse people may have heightened concerns about personal safety in public and feel less safe than men and boys, particularly when it's dark and/or when they're on their own.

Q15. What do you think would make women, girls and gender diverse people feel more safe in our City? [Comment box]

Feeling more safe and welcome in your local neighbourhood

Q16. How strongly do you agree or disagree with these statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I know my neighbours	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
People in my neighbourhood can be trusted	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
People in my neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
I feel part of the local neighbourhood	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
I feel welcome and included in my neighbourhood	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
I can move easily around the City of Port Phillip	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
I know about and/or participate in local community activities	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
I like meeting and getting to know people from different backgrounds to my own	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
I am happy to help out in my community	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Q17. If you selected either 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to any of the statements above, does this connection make you feel more safe and/or welcome in your local neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

- ☐ Yes, this connection makes me feel more safe
- ☐ Yes, this connection makes me feel more welcome
- ☐ No, this connection does not make me feel more safe or welcome
- ☐ Doesn't apply to me

Q18. How could you feel more safe and/or welcome? [Comment box]

Your experiences in your local neighbourhood

Q19. How safe do you feel in your local neighbourhood if you are:

	Extremely safe	Safe	Neutral	Slightly unsafe	Extremely unsafe
Alone during the day	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
With others during the day	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Alone during the night	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
With others at night	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

In and around your local shops	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Using local parks, reserves and playgrounds	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
In and around community facilities	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍

Q20. If you would like to tell us more about this, you can tell us here [Comment box]

Q21. In the past year, which of these have you seen or experienced in our City, and if so, did you report them?

	I saw/ experienced this	I saw/ experienced this and also reported it	Neither
Alcohol and/or drug debris (e.g. bottles, syringes)	❍	❍	❍
Drug use and/or dealing	❍	❍	❍
Footpath obstructions	❍	❍	❍
Graffiti	❍	❍	❍
Intimidating or threatening behaviour	❍	❍	❍
Litter/rubbish	❍	❍	❍
Noisy, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour	❍	❍	❍
Racism, Antisemitism and/or Islamophobia	❍	❍	❍
Sexual harassment	❍	❍	❍
Speeding traffic and hoon driving	❍	❍	❍
Street drinking or intoxication	❍	❍	❍
Unsafe or hostile behaviour in the street	❍	❍	❍
Vandalism or property damage	❍	❍	❍
Violence in public places	❍	❍	❍

Q22. If you told us that you reported any of these issues in the past year, how did you report them? Tick all that apply

- ☐ I reported to Council
- ☐ I reported to Victoria Police
- ☐ I reported to Crimestoppers
- ☐ I did not report any issues in our City in the past year
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q23. If you told us that you saw/experienced issues in our City but didn't report, would you like to share why? Tick all that apply

- ☐ I've had a previous bad experience
- ☐ English is not my first language
- ☐ It's difficult to understand how to make a report
- ☐ I need assistance to make a report
- ☐ I am worried there may be consequences
- ☐ It didn't bother me enough to report it
- ☐ Doesn't apply to me
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

What you do when you feel less safe

Q24. What action (if any) have you taken when you have felt less safe? Tick all that apply

- ☐ Sought help or advice from police
- ☐ Discussed or solved the problem with neighbours
- ☐ Sought advice from Council
- ☐ Become involved with an online support group or campaign
- ☐ Joined/attended a Neighbourhood Watch or community safety forum
- ☐ No action taken
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

Q25. How confident do you feel that you know who to contact (or what to do) if you feel less safe in Port Phillip? I feel:

- ☐ Extremely confident
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Slightly confident
- ☐ Not confident at all

Q26. Have any of these made it more difficult for you to seek help? Tick all that apply

- ☐ I've had a previous bad experience
- ☐ English is not my first language
- ☐ It's difficult to understand how to
- ☐ I need assistance to seek help or report safety issues
- ☐ I am worried there may be consequences
- ☐ None of these apply
- ☐ Other [Comment box]

A safer City of Port Phillip

Council has an active role to play in community safety. Some of the areas that Council works across include:

- Community programs and funding
- Enforcement of Local Laws and maintaining amenity
- Partnerships with health, housing and community organisations and businesses
- Public space design and development, and parks and playgrounds management
- Maintaining safe roads and improving transport connections
- Public place and high streets activation
- Promoting connection through sports, clubs and community groups
- Building connections and social cohesion across communities
- Advocacy to state and federal government

Q27. What could Council do to make you feel more safe in our City? [Comment box]

Q28. What would a safer City of Port Phillip look like, in your opinion? [Comment box]

Community Safety Roundtable

In March 2025, we held a Community Safety Roundtable for stakeholders, chaired by former Chief Magistrate, Ian Gray AM. He has prepared a report with 37 recommendations around improving community safety. The report can be found at https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safebe-safe or you can ask for a copy from the Housing Team on (03) 9209 6777 or by attending an ASSIST counter.

At the Council meeting on 21 May 2025, Council endorsed the Community Safety Roundtable Report and Recommendations. Council agreed to implement those recommendations which can be actioned within existing budget and Council resources. The other recommendations will be considered as part of the development of the Community Safety Plan.

29. If you have read the report and would like to provide any feedback on it or its recommendations, you can tell us here [Comment box]

Local law proposed amendment

At the 21 May Council Meeting, Councillors agreed to seek community engagement on a proposed amendment to the Community Amenity Local Law 2023. More information about the Local Law, camping on Council land, and supporting people sleeping rough, is available in the FAQs at https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safe-be-safe or you can ask for a copy from the Housing Team on (03) 9209 6777 or by attending an ASSIST counter.

The proposed amendment would provide Council with the ability to temporarily designate an area as a 'no encampment' area in consultation with key stakeholders if it is determined that:

a) The amenity of the Council land or the amenity of land in the vicinity of the Council land is or is likely to be adversely affected; or
b) The safety or welfare of a person is or is likely to be put at risk by behaviours of persons congregating on Council land with the intention or apparent intention of camping or sleeping there.

The proposed amendment would note that:

a) such a designation could be considered an exceptional circumstance after existing and enhanced assertive outreach models with service providers and supportive conversations had failed.
b) that enforcement of the potential amendment would not include fines, but instead, the removal and impoundment of equipment following provision of outreach and support services, where individuals have refused both a request and then warning to remove the material from the designated area.

Feedback will inform Council's decision around progressing to legislated community engagement (the next stage of Local Law amendment requirements).

Q30. Do you support this approach?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neither support nor oppose
- ☐ Slightly oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

Q31. Is there anything further you would like to share about your response? [Comment box]

About you

Before we finish, please tell us a little bit about yourself so that we can understand who we're hearing from. To understand how your information is used, you can request a copy of Council's Privacy Policy by calling ASSIST on (03) 9209 6777.

Q32. Please indicate your age group.

- ☐ 5– 11*

- ☐ 12 – 14*
- ☐ 15 - 17
- ☐ 18 - 24
- ☐ 25 - 34
- ☐ 35 - 49
- ☐ 50 - 59
- ☐ 60 - 69
- ☐ 70 - 84
- ☐ 85 and over
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

Q33. If you told us you're under 15, a parent or guardian over 18 needs to agree for you to take this survey. I'm a parent or guardian and I agree to let my child take part in this survey.

- ☐ Yes

Q34. Which gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Female (woman or girl)
- ☐ Male (man or boy)
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say
- ☐ I use a different term (please specify) [Comment box]

Q35. What is your residential suburb?

- ☐ Albert Park
- ☐ Balaclava
- ☐ Elwood
- ☐ Melbourne
- ☐ Middle Park
- ☐ Port Melbourne
- ☐ Ripponlea
- ☐ South Melbourne
- ☐ Southbank
- ☐ St Kilda
- ☐ St Kilda East
- ☐ St Kilda West
- ☐ Windsor
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other, please specify [Comment box]

Q36. Please tick any of the statements that apply to you.

- ☐ I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
- ☐ I speak a language other than English at home
- ☐ I am a person with disability
- ☐ I identify as LGBTIQA+
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say
- ☐ None of these apply to me

Q37. Have you provided feedback on any other City of Port Phillip projects in the past 12 months?

- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Q38. If you would like a copy of your survey responses, please provide an email or postal address [Comment box]

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return it to a City of Port Phillip library or ASSIST counter by 27 June 2025.

Response to Community Safety Roundtable Recommendations

The Community Safety Roundtable Report presented a series of recommendations relating to Council's role in the areas of community safety, homelessness and housing, and social cohesion. These recommendations have directly informed the development of the actions for the new draft *Community Safety Plan* and the *Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy*.

The table below maps each Community Safety Roundtable (CSR) recommendation to corresponding actions within a relevant Council strategy or Plan.

Several recommendations have been included verbatim in the draft *Community Safety Plan*, while others are referred to as exploratory pieces of work.

Some recommendations will also be implemented through other strategies and plans (i.e. the Reconciliation Action Plan and / or Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy).

At the Council meeting on 21 May, the Community Safety Roundtable Report and recommendations was tabled with 33 recommendations for Council and four as advocacy to State and Federal Government. At this meeting, eleven recommendations were requested to be undertaken immediately. The status of these eleven recommendations is noted below.

No.	Community Safety Roundtable Recommendation	Status of Endorsed Recommendations (at 21 May 2025 Council Meeting)	Community Safety Plan Action	Homelessness and Affordable Housing Action	Other
1	An increase in resources by Victoria Police to the Neighbourhood Policing model in the Port Phillip Police Service Area with an increase in foot patrols, local engagement and problem solving, particularly in identified community safety "hotspots". The CoPP to continue advocating for this model and working with Victoria Police on its implementation.		Advocate for an increase in resources by Victoria Police to the Neighbourhood Policing model in the Port Phillip Police Service Area with an increase in foot patrols, local engagement and problem solving, particularly in identified community safety 'hotspots'.		
2	**Endorsed by Council:** Advocate for an ACLO role specific to the Port Phillip Police Service Area.	Underway	Verbatim		
3	Develop and pilot a welfare-based model of joint patrols with Victoria Police, CoPP Local Laws, outreach workers, peer supports and other services to engage with rough sleepers and those with complex needs.		Verbatim		
4	Work with relevant agencies to develop a formal partnership agreement between Victoria Police and CoPP for an effective, coordinated response to homelessness – taking guidance from the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police's Homelessness Operating Protocol /Policy Operating Statement		Verbatim		

5	Work closely with local services to update CoPP's Protocol for Assisting People Sleeping Rough to ensure it reflects a culturally safe, trauma-informed, human rights based non-enforcement approach. This should be developed in tandem with the formal Police/CoPP Protocol referred to above.			Deliver coordinated housing, health, food and homelessness support for those experiencing chronic homelessness and ensure an integrated response in public spaces via implementation of the reviewed and updated Protocol for Assisting People who are Sleeping Rough	
6	Confirm adequacy of current by laws, emphasizing the need for effective implementation and coordination rather than legislative change.		Verbatim		
7	CoPP and Victoria Police protocols guiding the frontline role of Victoria Police engaged in homelessness response should emphasise rapid social and therapeutic intervention (problem solving) as the primary goal, with enforcement actions being secondary, or a last resort.		Verbatim		
8	Conduct an immediate audit of available housing and emergency accommodation along with options for transfer/use/repurposing of Council owned land for affordable housing development.			Verbatim	

9	Identify and establish new emergency and short-term accommodation options, with culturally appropriate spaces specifically for Aboriginal people.			Audit existing drop-in and support services within CoPP to identify service gaps and opportunities for advocacy, co-location or integration ("wraparound support").	
10	Ensure adequate provision of supports to assist individuals in maintaining long-term housing placements.			Review existing collaboration and partnerships with service providers to enhance opportunities to align to community need and deliver measurable public value through service agreements where relevant.	
11	Consider CoPP support for the St Kilda Community Housing “Four Building Solution” detailed in their submission-noting that it has been costed. Consider staged implementation as soon as possible.			$150k committed to St Kilda Community Housing in FY 25/26	
12	**Endorsed by Council:** Maintain and enhance existing partnership protocols among CoPP, Victoria Police, and key service providers (e.g., Launch, Access Health, Ngwala Willumbong).	Underway	Verbatim	Verbatim	
13	**Endorsed by Council:** Continue to support and adequately fund service providers demonstrating effectiveness, particularly	Ongoing – funding continuing	Verbatim	Review existing collaboration and partnerships with service	

	those working with high-impact cohorts (individuals leaving prison, mental health, or rehabilitation facilities).			providers to enhance opportunities to align to community need and deliver measurable public value through service agreements where relevant.	
14	**Endorsed by Council:** Lead a coordinated advocacy campaign to increase the resources of PACER and HOPS and advocate for the State Govt to ensure implementation of Mental Health Royal Commission recommendations including transfer of first response to mental health emergency services calls from Police to Ambulance Victoria	Underway – advocacy campaign to State government	Verbatim		
15	Tackle the service gap for responding to people experiencing acute mental health episodes in public places, particularly the gap in culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal people.		Verbatim	Identify potential service gaps and explore opportunities for new partnerships which will address emerging needs. such as collaborating with community organisations to assist those experiencing poverty with accessing services such as food relief and rental support.	
16	**Endorsed by Council:** Renew and clearly define service agreements between CoPP and community service agencies, outlining explicit mandates, outreach obligations,	Underway – integrated into renewal of agreements	*Action as part of operational activity*	*Action as part of operational activity*	

	required capacities, and accountability mechanisms.				
17	**Endorsed by Council:** Enhance the Port Phillip Zero collaboration, implementing identified improvements based on participant feedback.	Ongoing through PPZ Improvements Working Group		Verbatim	
18	Establish a dedicated CoPP internal outreach coordinator to ensure effective and assertive 24/7 outreach and response			Review Council's current homelessness service model to deliver an integrated, empathetic and effective assertive outreach response.	
19	Extend and formalise the partnership with Ngwala Willumbong, giving due consideration to the need for increased funding, and capacity building		Maintain and enhance existing partnership protocols among CoPP, Victoria Police, and key service providers (e.g., Launch, Access Health, Ngwala Willumbong).		
20	Identify, develop, and sustain accessible, safe daytime social spaces ("hubs") for rough sleepers and vulnerable community members, potentially modelled after existing successful services (e.g., Sacred Heart)			Verbatim	
21	Council support the establishment of Community Gathering place that respects gathering as a cultural norm and practice for Aboriginal people.		Facilitate partnerships in support of Council's establishment of a Community Gathering place that respects gathering as a cultural norm and practice for Aboriginal people.	Verbatim	*Reconciliation Action Plan Action*

22	Ensure the development of hubs or gathering places is undertaken utilising strong community development and engagement principles.		Verbatim		
23	Map existing drop-in and support services within CoPP to identify service gaps and opportunities for co-location or integration ("wraparound support")			Audit existing drop-in and support services within CoPP to identify service gaps and opportunities for advocacy, co-location or integration ("wraparound support").	
24	**Endorsed by Council:** Urgently review and modify problematic public spaces (e.g., Woodstock), applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles	Underway – CPTED approach rolling out in early September at Woodstock Street	Urgently review and modify problematic public spaces, applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.		
25	Review current processes and establish clear procedures enabling rapid infrastructure interventions in public spaces contributing to unsafe conditions.		Verbatim in new CSP action		
26	Elevate consideration of CPTED principles in planning decisions for key developments within CoPP and mandate their use for Council urban design projects		Elevate consideration of CPTED principles in planning decisions for key developments within CoPP and mandate their use for Council capital design projects		
27	**Endorsed by Council:** Review the current placement of CCTV cameras to ensure their ongoing value and efficacy to community safety efforts in the CoPP.	Ongoing - integrated into renewal project	Deliver a renewal program for public place CCTV to ensure the system functions appropriately and is well maintained.		

28	Develop a community education and awareness anti-stigma campaign targeting perceptions of people experiencing mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness issues, aiming to reduce fear, encourage understanding, and ultimately enhance community safety perceptions.			Verbatim	
29	**Endorsed by Council:** Continue to invest in and publicise the work of the Trauma Aware Port Phillip group with a view to expanding its reach and impact	Underway – Toolkit developed and rollout to commence	Continue to invest in and publicise the work of the Trauma Aware Port Phillip group with a view to expanding its reach and impact.	Continue to invest in and publicise the work of the Trauma Aware Port Phillip group with a view to expanding its reach and impact.	
30	That Council lead discussions for the establishment of an ongoing alliance that will continue the work in this space over the next four years		Lead discussions for the establishment of an ongoing alliance that will continue the work of the Community Safety Roundtable over the next four years.		
31	That Council consider introducing a Peacemaking Program similar to that operating in the City of Yarra to reduce community conflict.			Council explores opportunities for programs which will contribute to reducing community conflict (such as the Peacemaking Programs).	
32	**Endorsed by Council:** Review the need to equip CoPP Local Laws officers with protective gear (such as stab-proof vests) due to increased safety risks encountered.	Ongoing – roll out of protective vests for high-risk patrols underway			*Complete risk assessment, trial and rolling out permanently*

33	**Endorsed by Council:** Provide Local Laws officers with essential equipment for emergency situations and site management, including temporary fencing, pressure cleaning equipment, and access control measures.	Underway			*Action as part of operational activity*
34	Continue to assist with the three-year City Street Health outreach service in St Kilda. Including a trial for Victoria's first overdose prevention and response helpline.				*Part of Council Advocacy Program*
35	Provide additional Police resources, including dedicated, rostered neighbourhood policing for weekly/daily joint patrols with Council's Local Laws Officers.				*Part of Council Advocacy Program and Police Protocol negotiations*
36	Engage PTV PSOs to patrol tram stops, particularly in areas like Acland and Fitzroy streets.				*Part of Council Advocacy Program*
37	Provide funding to upgrade and expand public place CCTV and mobile CCTV trailers.				*Federal funding commitment*

11. A VIBRANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

11.1 South Melbourne Market 2024-25 Annual Report 314

11.1 SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **CLAIRE STEVENS, GENERAL MANAGER, ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE**

PREPARED BY: **MEAGAN SCOTT, HEAD OF MARKETING & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE**

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To endorse the South Melbourne Market Annual Report 2024-25.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The South Melbourne Market Advisory Committee (SMM Committee) is required to submit an Annual Report to Council each year on the operation and performance of the Market.

2.2 The South Melbourne Market Annual Report 2024-25 (Annual Report) was endorsed by the Committee at the 14 August Committee meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Endorses the South Melbourne Market Annual Report 2024 – 25 (Attachment 1).

3.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to make any minor editorial changes that do not materially alter the Annual Report.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 The Annual Report (Attachment 1) provides a comprehensive record of the Market's operation and performance for the last financial year.

4.2 The Annual Report details the Market's achievements in the core areas and functions of the Market: retail, brand, asset management, sustainability, financial management and governance.

4.3 The Annual Report details the Market's progress on the strategic priorities identified in the South Melbourne Market 2021 – 25 Strategic Plan.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 A draft of the report was provided to the South Melbourne Market Advisory Committee for review and feedback.

5.2 The final draft of the Annual Report was endorsed by the Committee at the 14 August Committee meeting 4 September 2024.

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

6.1 A financial report is included in the attached Annual Report.

7. COMMUNITY IMPACT

7.1 The South Melbourne Market Annual Report provides the community and Market traders with a comprehensive and transparent record of the Market's operation and performance.

8. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

8.1 The Council Plan 2025 – 35 plan identifies investment in the Market *to deliver the quintessential village market experience by developing and implementing the South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan* as one of the key initiatives required to deliver the *A Vibrant and thriving community* Strategic Direction.

9. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

9.1 TIMELINE

9.1.1 The Annual Report will be published on the following Council endorsement.

9.2 COMMUNICATION

9.2.1 The final Annual Report will be published on the South Melbourne Market website and shared publicly with the community via Council and Market digital communication channels.

10. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

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

ATTACHMENTS **1. Draft South Melbourne Market Annual Report 2024-25**

South Melbourne Market 2024-25 Annual Report

Wominjeka

The South Melbourne Market 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.

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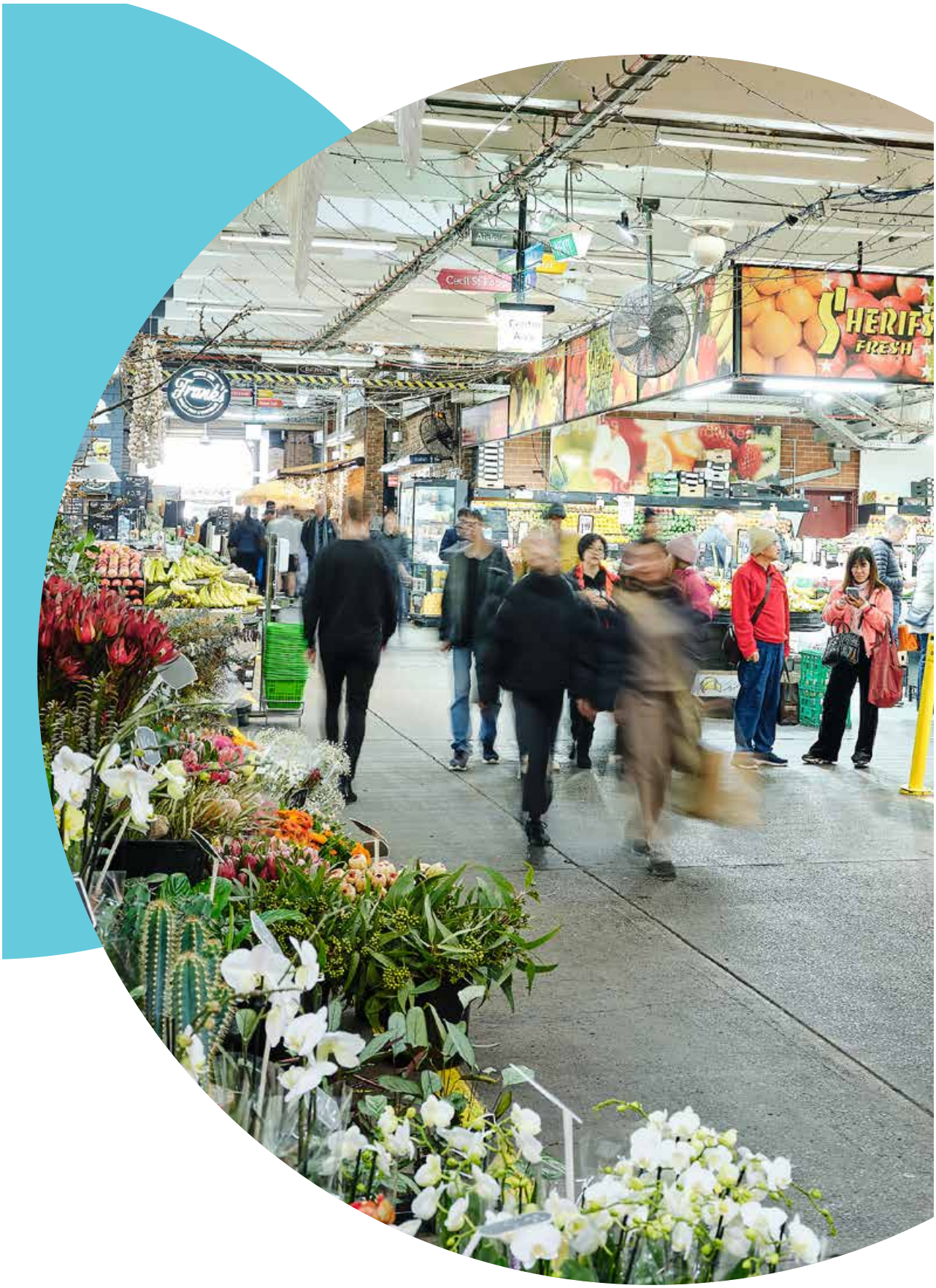
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Introduction

Welcome

A message from our Chairperson

South Melbourne Market feeds our community – it fills our hearts, our souls and our stomachs. Two out of three visitors to the Market are locals and they come about once a week. The locals are a broad cross section of our community and I am very proud of the inclusive and welcoming nature of the Market.

There are 155 stalls and many of the traders are long term, some are multi-generational and some are new. The personal, friendly service, variety, freshness, local sourcing and environmentally sustainable nature of the Market sets it apart from other food shopping experiences and keeps people coming back.

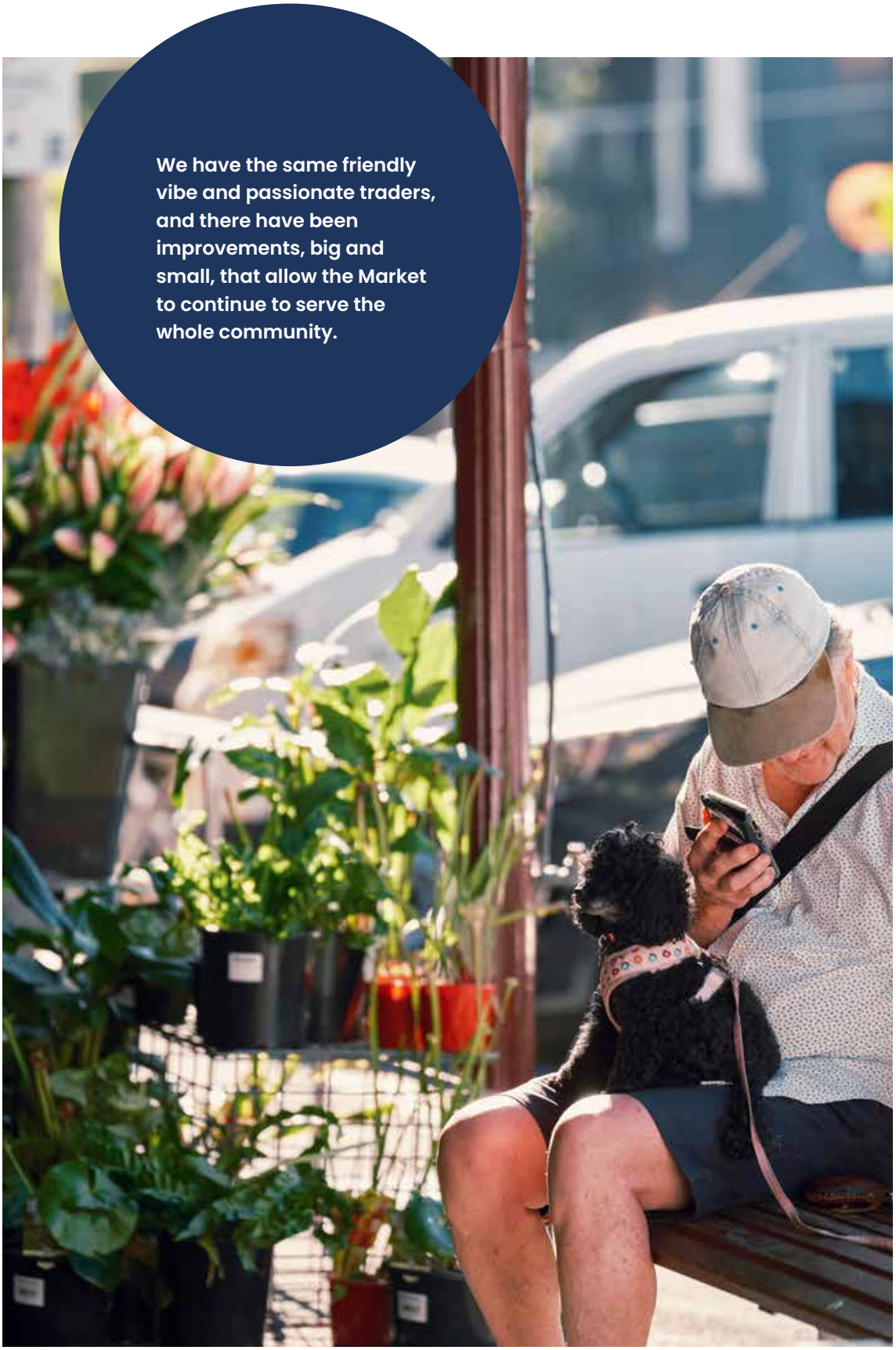
I have been shopping at the Market for over 25 years and have had the privilege to be Chair of the Advisory Committee twice, first from 2012 to 2016 and 2023 until present. In that time many things have been updated and improved, and many things have remained the same: we have the same friendly vibe and passionate traders, and there have been improvements, big and small, that allow the Market to continue to serve the whole community.

It is great to see the Market thriving with strong attendance and maintaining very high customer and trader satisfaction ratings. It is a tribute to the traders' efforts every Market day and the Market management team, led by Sophie McCarthy.

I am looking forward to working on the Market's new strategic plan for 2026-30 and continuing to work with the Market management team and City of Port Phillip to keep this 158 year old community asset thriving.

I hope to see you at the Market soon.

Amanda Stevens
South Melbourne Market Committee Chairperson


We have the same friendly vibe and passionate traders, and there have been improvements, big and small, that allow the Market to continue to serve the whole community.

About our Market

South Melbourne Market is the quintessential village market, a place where people come not only to purchase fresh food, but to meet, eat, drink, shop, discover, share and connect.

The Market opened in 1867 following a petition by the local community to Emerald Hill Council (now City of Port Phillip) that highlighted the need for a local market. Built on land made available through a Crown Grant, the Market was originally open three days a week, each day starting and ending with the ringing of the Market bell. To this day, the Market remains proudly owned and operated by Council.

Over its 158 years, the Market has undergone regular changes and improvements to continue to meet the needs of traders and the community. These include the addition of a rooftop carpark in 1972, a Food Hall in 1991 and a new roof in 2012, enabling the Market to capture rainwater and generate solar electricity.

The Market is proud to be home to many longstanding traders who have served the community for decades: the Chang family have been serving loyal customers from the eponymous dim sim stall for 78 years. The Market also continues to evolve its offer and is a champion of supporting independent, emerging small businesses.

Whether new or old, what unites our traders is their pride and passion. Each aisle is full of quirky and playful characters, delivering quality wares and old-fashioned customer service with a smile.

158 years old

155 small businesses

Open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

City of Port Phillip owned and operated

600+ people employed

Our vision

South Melbourne Market, the *Quintessential Village Market*.

A prosperous, authentic destination that is home to fresh, artisanal and cultural products; creative and joyful experiences; celebrates local; is a leader in sustainability; is loved, trusted and connects our customers and community.

South Melbourne Market will achieve its vision by:

1. Being a trusted destination for quality, value, fresh and extensive offer
2. Being a safe, accessible and inclusive market for the whole community
3. Embracing and curating all that is local, artisanal, emerging, cultural and creative
4. Remaining a loved, happy, quirky and experiential destination – full of moments of surprise and wonder
5. Continuing to be environmentally and economically sustainable – a financially secure urban experience, living and breathing green
6. Being accessible – physically and online.

Executive summary

With over 5.4 million visitors* and a Net Promoter Score of 79.5, it has been yet another incredible year for South Melbourne Market, reaffirming its important role as a vibrant hub for fresh produce, artisanal goods, cultural experiences, and community connection.

This year the Market saw strong performance across all major indicators following the successful implementation of key initiatives from the 2021-25 Strategic Plan.

94% of our traders were satisfied with the Market as a venue for their business and our reputation as a desirable retail precinct has seen consistently high demand for opportunities to join the Market. This year we welcomed nine new traders, bringing exciting offers to the Market like authentic Roman cuisine and musical instruments from across the globe. We also supported 38 emerging small businesses through the SO:ME Space.

We celebrated significant anniversaries for many long-standing traders, including Ralph's Meats who have been serving the community for over 70 years and Rod's Fruit and Veg who opened 45 years ago. The key to their longevity, and to all our traders' ongoing success, is their passion, knowledge and ability to adapt to the ever-evolving needs of their customers. To help meet these needs, the Market assisted five traders to implement upgrades to their stalls and supported three traders moving into bigger locations to take the next step in their businesses' journey.

Infrastructure upgrades, including a new ticketless rooftop carpark system and improved services for our popular Cecil Street restaurant precinct allowed for improved efficiencies, safety and customer experience. Work also continued on Project Connect which combines compliance upgrades with visionary public realm improvements to futureproof the Market for generations to come.

Environmental sustainability remained a core focus this year. Waste diversion increased to 77%, electricity usage dropped by 17%, and innovative programs like Shuck Don't Chuck and converting food waste to energy demonstrated the Market's commitment to reducing its ecological footprint.

We continued to connect with and support our community through partnerships with local organisations, food relief programs, and events like the Port Phillip Mussel & Jazz Festival, which drew over 50,000 attendees on the Labour Day long weekend. Initiatives such as the Market Explorers Club, tours program and popular Foodie Affair series encouraged families and customers new and old to explore the Market and discover their new favourite traders.

The Market delivered a $481,000 operating surplus, a 14% increase on last year, illustrating the success of the Markets strategic priority to become a financially sustainable asset for Council and the community.

As we prepare to launch the 2026–30 Strategic Plan, the Market is proud of what has been achieved over the past five years. With the support of our traders, South Melbourne Market is a thriving hub where tradition meets innovation, and where every visit is a celebration of local life.

* Entries into the Market on Market trading days.

Our achievements

79.5
Net Promoter Score

over
5.4 million
visitors

9
new businesses

119
Market Explorers club members

new
carpark management system

5
new fit-outs for existing traders

38
small businesses trialled in small business incubator SO:ME Space

13%
increase in waste diversion

98%
stall occupancy

$29,812
of food donated to charity

94%
of traders satisfied with South Melbourne Market as a venue for their business

over
600
attendees on Market Tours

95%
of customers rated the Market's offer as Very Good or Excellent

THE ROLLING STON
MARIAH CAREY
DIRE STRAITS
ELTON JOHN
EAGLES
DR HOOK
BEE GEES
COLD CHISEL

Operating our Market

Retail

South Melbourne Market connects customers to 155 small businesses. With 34 eateries, 39 grocery, 64 general merchandise, 13 services, and five SO:ME Space pop-up stalls, the Market offers a unique shopping experience that celebrates fresh, local, artisan and unbeatable quality, all under one roof.

The Market maintained a consistently high level of demand for new stalls throughout the year, welcoming nine new traders and a range of pop-up stalls, in both the SO:ME Space and the broader Market.

Our traders

From multigenerational, family-run businesses to emerging small businesses, the Market's traders bring to customers expertise, quality, passion and a sense of connection that combine to make the Market an unforgettable shopping destination.

2024-25 trader highlights

Greg
Create TBT

"I've constantly been adjusting my stock to work with what I believe the customers are looking for, and it's working tremendously well! It's exciting! Before this time last year, I made some changes to the shop, and I've had record week after record week!"

Ejaz
Lost in Seasons

"Truly overwhelmed by the amazing response to our new perfume bar, carefully sourced from Dubai. I'm so grateful for the continued support and excited that our little shop now offers something for everyone. Thank you for being part of the journey."

Chris
The Fresh Pasta Shop

"We moved stall location nearly two years ago. We love this spot, it's perfect, we're so much happier here and it all works well. Our customers are beautiful, and our regulars are very kind."

Angela and Gianni
Vangeli's Deli

"We have a fantastic new olive oil from Greece, and another from the high country of Victoria. We have the big bottles, and people bring their own bottles to refill. It's been a big hit! We've had local customers coming here for years and years."

Kushna
Naneez Children Wear and The Sock Shop

"Lots of people are happy and excited, loving the Market, liking the food offer, and finding all of us little diverse shops on the way. Our Australian made socks are always extremely popular, especially with our visitors from overseas. Locals love it, they love to come early to avoid the "Market shuffle", the regulars like knowing the shops that have been here forever are still here, and that they can find us."

Sue
Dragon Room Chinese

"This year has been great! The customers have been really, really good, always coming back and love the menu. Always the regular customers, who come every week. Also, a lot of overseas customers love the new menu. We updated our menu and change the meals all the time, and it has been going well!"

Anniversaries

This year a range of traders celebrated significant anniversaries at the Market:

10 years

Agathé Pâtisserie

Azalea

Clare's Bears and Wares

Tea Drop

20 years

Décor Gallery

Fritz Gelato

Dr Shen Massage

Melbourne Hemp and Bamboo

25 years

Nutshoppe

Sherif's Quality Fruit and Veg

30 years

Lara's Women's Fashion

45 years

Rod's Fruit and Veg

70 years

Ralph's Meat Co

Business progression

The Market supports existing traders to further develop and grow their businesses. Following the EOI (Expression of Interest) process, three existing Market traders were appointed to new stalls within the Market.

Suki McMaster and Markee Skincare Stall 87

Sister-and-brother duo Suki and Mark joined forces to bring their two thriving businesses together in a new location. This exciting collaboration offers Suki's cheerful, Australian-designed homewares and stationery, alongside Markee Skincare's handmade, sustainable skincare products.

Everything Aussie Stall 185

Quoc, owner of Everything Aussie, has been in the Market for over 14 years. His new, larger stall has allowed him to expand his range of Australian souvenirs to include unique Indigenous artworks and artefacts, and other requested gifting and souvenir ranges for locals and tourists.

Look At You Stall 217

Look At You Iris Photography commenced at the Market in 2019 as a pop-up, followed by a limited term licence in the SO:ME Space. Their new location provides them with a permanent location to continue providing their innovative, one-of-a-kind iris photography.

Stall upgrades

The Market supported five traders to make upgrades to their stalls this year, ranging from a refurbishment to full new fit-outs.

K&L Poultry
Stall 27

Melbourne Hemp and Bamboo
Stall 215

Coconut Revolution
Stall 181

Greenvalley Timber
Stall 179

Traffic Footwear
Stall 125

Farewell

Goodbye and thank you to the following traders who left the Market this year:

- Andrea, The Cupboard Under the Stairs
- Pouria, Dyad Artisans
- Attiq, Attiq Ladies Clothing
- Con, Hair At
- Michael, Green Lab

And also to some long-term traders who have recently sold their businesses:

- William, William's Professional Massage
- Michael, South Melbourne Poultry

Welcome

New offers

Five new businesses joined the Market in 2024-25, providing one new ready-to-eat offer and four new general merchandise businesses.

Pizzateca Lupa
Stall 53

Pizzateca Lupa is a love letter to traditional Roman cuisine, serving antipasti, pasta, pizza, coffee and a selection of Italian and local drinks. Opened by Italian brothers Lino and Gabriele Torre, it pays homage to their childhood memories and sharing food with family.

Rhythm Unites
Stall 155

Rhythm Unites sell musical instruments that have been ethically sourced from around the world and hand-woven baskets from West Africa. Embracing diversity and wellbeing through the power of music, they also run drumming workshops, sound bath sessions and education programs.

Stanlie
Stall 136

Stanlie is a beach essentials and swimwear brand, providing youth-focused pieces for summer days spent in the sun and the waves. Owner, Sky, designs all products in Australia with her collection an expression of coastal fashion.

The Only Label
Stall 137

The Only Label is an independent Melbourne-based womenswear label designed by owner Net. With a background in upcycling vintage clothing, she is passionate about combining street style trends with retro charms.

Aua Premium Gifts
Stall 226

Aua offer a selection of personalised and individually curated gifts, handcrafted and handpainted by owner, Aimee. Featuring realistic dog and cat ornaments, candles and other animal themed items, Aua is the perfect spot to pick up a unique gift.

New Licensees

The Market also welcomed new operators for three existing service offers and one grocery operator.

South Melbourne Poultry Stall 28

Bringing over 20 years of experience, Chris and Olivia are dedicated to providing high-quality, ethically sourced products. They offer a diverse range of premium poultry and game meats, and prepared meals inspired by seasonal and international flavours.

Zen Holistic Health Stall 159N

The Zen Holistic team provide a sanctuary for wellness and rejuvenation at the Market. Their holistic approach incorporates alternative therapies such as reflexology, acupuncture, and cupping, offering a comprehensive healing experience.

Miss Fortune Reads Stall 245

Abi offers a unique, engaging tarot and astrology-based reading service that blends humour and insight, aiming to provide entertaining yet thought-provoking readings to customers.

Mister Handsome Barber Stall 204B

Alessio, Darren and the team offer mens haircuts, beard trims, shaves, consultations, and grooming products such as hair styling products, beard oils, and shaving accessories.

Pop-up stalls

Pop-up stalls ensure consistently high occupancy levels while stalls are in transition between permanent traders and maintain the overall customer experience. Pop-up stalls over the twelve-month period included:

Mo's Sharpening

Mo offers onsite, high-quality knife and scissor sharpening, repairs, maintenance and restoration services, supporting and extending the life of tools.

La Colmena

La Colmena is dedicated to celebrating the rich, diverse heritage of Spanish pastry-making. With deep roots in ancient family recipes, every pastry is handcrafted with meticulous care, honouring tradition through artisanal processes and premium ingredients.

Lena & Linen

Designed and handmade in Melbourne by Jelena Germane, Lena & Linen is a slow fashion and homewares collection. Crafted with care, each piece combines the natural breathability of linen with the artistry of handmade techniques.

SO:ME Space

SO:ME Space is a unique retail precinct in the heart of the Market that supports the incubation and development of new businesses. Priority is given to businesses that focus on sustainable, innovative, locally designed and/or locally made products.

In the 2024-25 period, the SO:ME Space pop-up precinct has continued to be highly sought-after, with spaces booked in advance and a high return rate with 85% of pop-up stalls requesting a future booking after their initial timeslot.

This year 38 unique, emerging small businesses were featured in the pop-up precinct, including:

Giftfully

Giftfully uses laser cutting to create unique jewellery, accessories and objects that can be fully customised with embossing and engraving. The design, creation and handpainting of the pieces are all done onsite by owner Tran.

DeLata

DeLata transforms discarded materials into stunning, handcrafted accessories and clothing. Using aluminium can ring-pull tabs, each piece is crocheted by a foundation of mothers in Colombia who have overcome domestic violence.

Nancy Cover Art

Melbourne-based Australian artist Nancy turns her digitally drawn illustrations into greeting cards and limited-edition wall art that celebrates youthful wonder and natural beauty.

Billie Bespoke

Antoinette collaborates with upcoming Greek designers to curate a range of affordable yet unique jewellery pieces.

Brand

The Market continues to position itself as The Quintessential Village Market – the local's place to shop, eat, drink and meet.

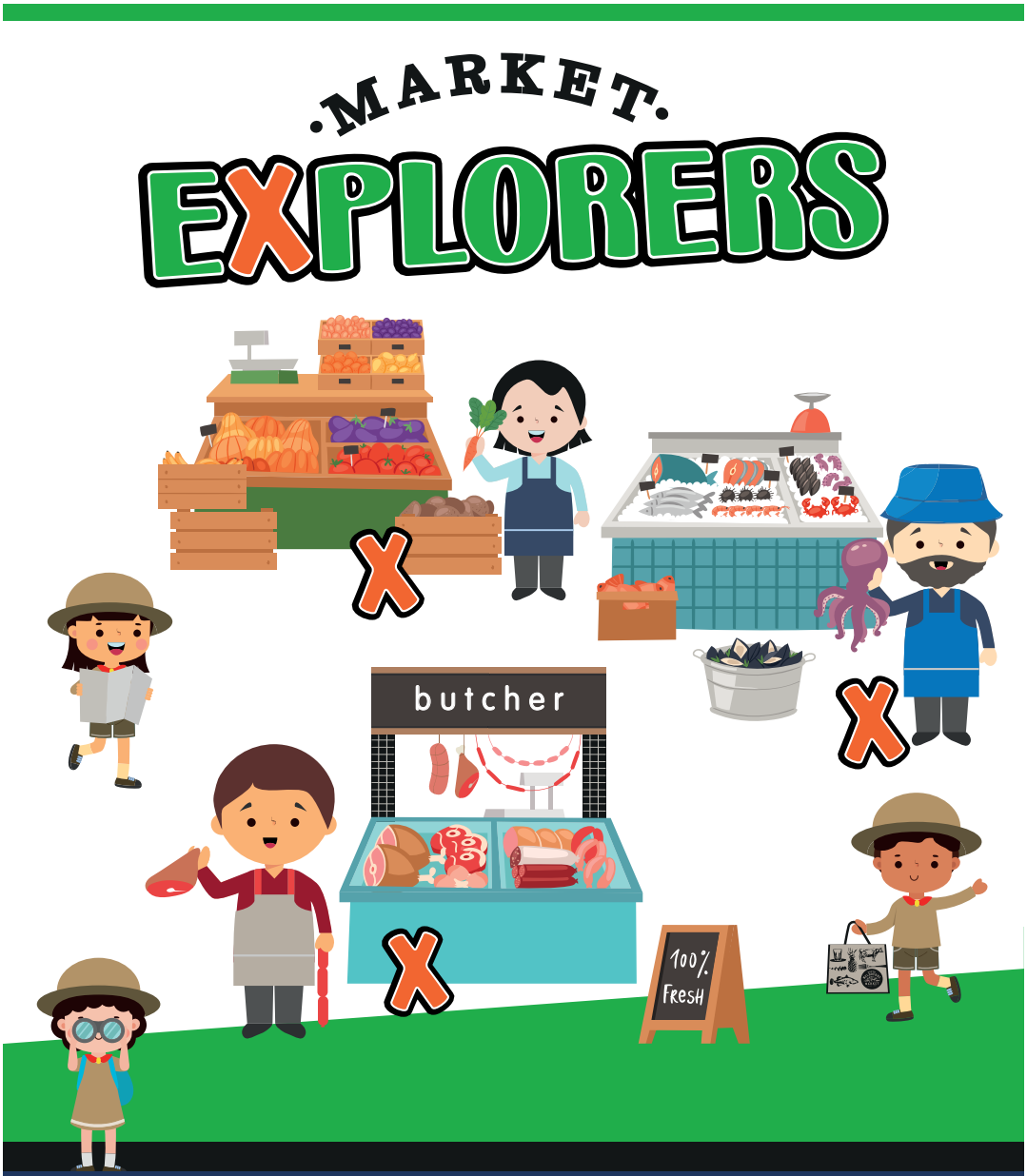
The 2024-25 period saw a number of key initiatives undertaken to generate brand awareness, drive visitation and support Market traders.

Customer experience, marketing and events

2024-25 highlights

This year, the popular Victorian Affair event in October showcased some of the incredible growers and producers our state has to offer and the Market's festive season once again returned record visitation in December. Other highlights included:

- Weekly Foodie Tours, plus Primary, Secondary and VCE school tours, in partnership with Flavourhood Tours.
- NAIDOC Week live music program.
- Lunar New Year celebrations with traditional lion dancers.
- Two ticketed 'Foodie Affair" events with A Victorian Affair in October and Flavours of Japan in June.
- Ride2Work Day, with free breakfast and coffee for riders, entertainment and bike engraving and registration with Victoria Police.
- Children's story-time sessions in partnership with the Port Phillip Library Service.
- Monthly bike hub in collaboration with City of Port Phillip and Back2Bikes, offering free ten-minute bike tune-ups for cyclists.
- Two short film screenings as part of the Academy Accredited St Kilda Film Festival.
- Free cooking demonstrations in collaboration with partners including Open Table and A better choice!
- Sydney Swans Fan Zone activation during the AFL finals season.



Market Explorers

September saw the launch of Market Explorers, a free scavenger hunt for children aged 6-12 which teaches food literacy, encourages children to develop meaningful connection with the Market and its traders and supports return visitation.

Children meet friendly traders who help them solve clues to become an official member of the South Melbourne Market Explorers Club, with seasonal prizes up for grabs.

Port Phillip Mussel & Jazz Festival

Over the Labour Day long weekend, South Melbourne Market came alive as more than 50,000 festivalgoers enjoyed two days of incredible live music, delicious seafood and entertainment.

The tenth festival featured a great range of street food vendors including Claypots Evening Star, Juicello, Western Port Mussels, and Inkredible Calamari, a main stage of live music, a licensed bar sponsored by Pirate Life Brewing and Patient Wolf Gin, roving performances, kids' activities and more.

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy and B-Alternative, 1,746 kg of mussel shells were diverted from landfill as part of the Shuck Don't Chuck program that sees oyster, mussel and scallop shells used in a reef restoration project that rebuilds the precious ecosystems in Port Phillip Bay.

"I love markets and this one is great to visit. It has everything." - Sam

"Terrific Market with great produce." - George

"I love this place! Shop here every week and have gotten to know my favourite vendors by name. So much better than paying extreme supermarket prices and the personal relationship that has been developed with my chicken guy and the fresh fish stall - love them to bits. Always a giggle and a smile to go with the yummy food!" - Bekkii

'South Melbourne Market is one of my favourite markets in Melbourne! The atmosphere is always warm and stylish, with a lively vibe that makes every visit enjoyable. There's a fantastic variety of ready-to-eat food and so many local products to explore. I've never been disappointed when coming here—there's always something new and delicious to try. Highly recommended for anyone looking to experience the best of Melbourne's market scene!' - Sujinda

"One of the best markets in Melbourne! Always a great vibe, fresh produce, amazing food stalls, and friendly vendors. Love coming here for brunch or a weekend walk. The seafood and deli sections are top-notch. Highly recommended if you're after quality, variety, and a true local experience." – Fardad

"Amazing fruit and veg and meats. Great atmosphere. Definitely the best market in Melbourne." – AJ

"What a fabulous market. I would live there if I could." – Lily

Source: Google

Trader Spotlight

Greenvalley Timber

Greenvalley Timber offer beautiful, one-of-a-kind chopping boards, each one a testament to Australian craftsmanship and sustainability.

They began in 1992 as a timber trading company, exporting Australian timber worldwide. But in 2009, the business took a creative turn - branching out into handcrafted chopping boards.

“It started with timber,” owner Lin explains. “But we wanted to create something that reflected the quality and culture of Australian craftsmanship. That’s when we started making chopping boards - and we haven’t looked back.”

Their boards are made from Camphor Laurel, an introduced species considered invasive in parts of Australia.

“By harvesting it and turning it into useful, beautiful products, we’re helping the environment by giving native trees a chance to grow back.”

The natural grain and colour of the timber influences every board they make.

”No two are the same, and that’s what our customers love. People often comment on the beauty of the wood grain - it’s a functional item, but also a piece of art.”

Trader Spotlight

South Melbourne Poultry

For Chris and Olivia, the poultry industry isn't just a career—it's a lifelong passion. Both grew up learning the trade from their parents' separate businesses at Prahran Market, where they were immersed in the art of butchery and poultry handling from a young age.

The pair take a creative approach with their product range, combining traditional butchery techniques with modern flavours. From handmade sausages and marinated cuts to pre-prepared meals, they continuously explore ways to bring new and exciting options to customers. "Customer feedback is a huge part of what we do," they say. "We listen to what people want and create products that make cooking at home easier and more delicious."

For Chris and Olivia, it's not just about selling poultry—it's about helping customers feel confident in the kitchen. Whether it's sharing cooking tips, meal ideas, or preparation techniques, they're always happy to chat with customers about the best ways to enjoy their products.

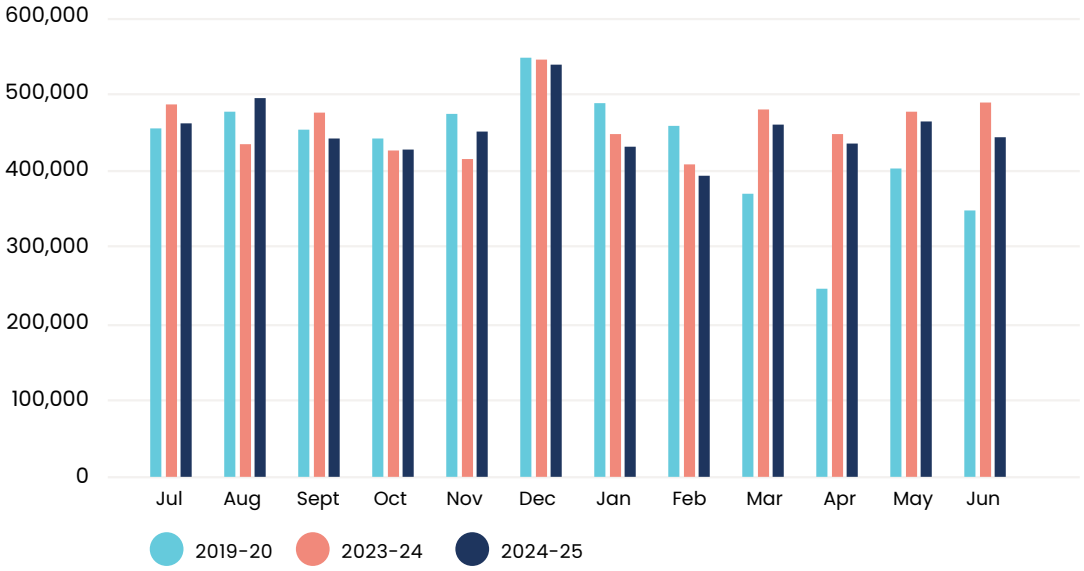
Since taking over South Melbourne Poultry in February, Chris and Olivia have felt incredibly welcomed by the South Melbourne Market community. "The traders here are amazing. Everyone is supportive, collaborative, and always willing to lend a hand," they share. "It truly feels like a family. We love grabbing a coffee from the Market's café, and we're always discovering hidden gems at different stalls. There's so much to explore, and the sense of community makes it special."

Market visitation

Market visitation is measured using infrared sensors that count people entering and walking around the Market. In 2024-25, visitation (entries) on Market days totalled 5.45 million.

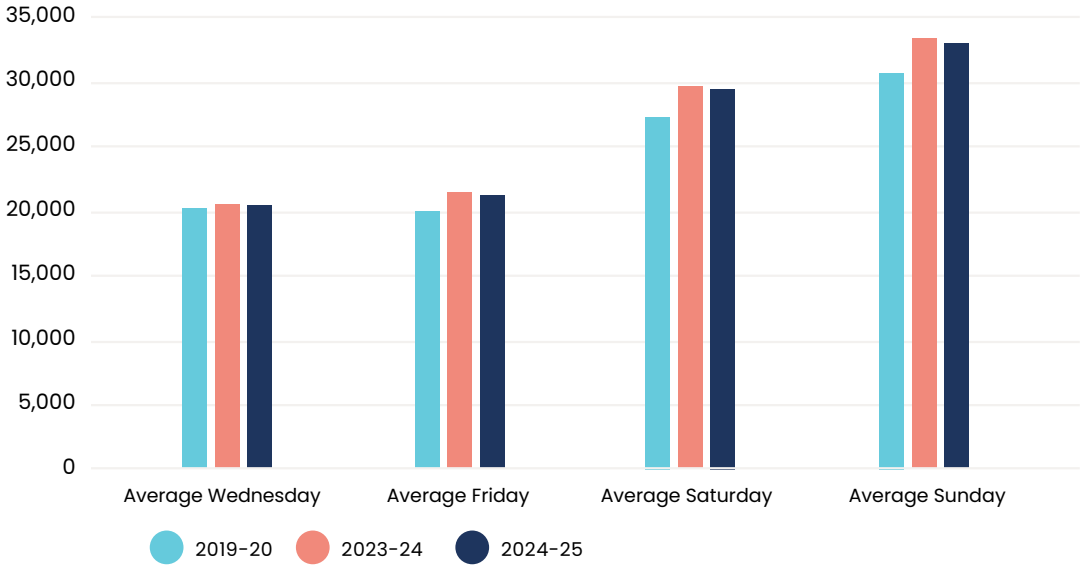
* 2019-20 figures are used as the reporting baseline against the 2021-25 Strategic Plan

Visitor numbers per month



As the number of trading days per month varies, the average visitor numbers by trading day (Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) is also measured.

Average foot traffic by Market day



Connecting with our community

Food relief

The Market is proud to partner with Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) to rescue food that would otherwise go to waste. Every Sunday afternoon, a group of PPCG volunteers collect excess food and donations from Market traders to distribute to those in need.

This year Market traders donated $29,812 worth of excess food to help people in need. This food was distributed to 14 agencies within the City of Port Phillip including Emerald Hill Mission, Launch Housing and Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation.

Winter coat drive

The Market once again partnered with the Off Your Back coat drive over the winter months to be a key collection point for pre-loved coats and jackets to provide warmth and comfort to those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Vinnies CEO Sleepout

The Market's rooftop carpark hosted the 2025 Vinnies CEO Sleepout on Thursday 19 June.

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout is a one-night event held on one of the longest (and coldest!) nights of the year. Hundreds of CEOs, business owners as well as community and government leaders sleep out for the night and fundraise to support the many Australians who are experiencing homelessness and people at risk of homelessness.

This year's Melbourne event saw over 150 leaders come together to raise funds for Vinnies Soup Vans — keeping meals, support and human connection on the road for thousands of Victorians experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. Collectively, the group raised over $1.4 million, with over $8 million raised nationally.

Community Space

As a part of the Market's commitment to supporting the local community, pop-up spaces are available for community groups, not-for-profit organisations and charities to use free-of-charge.

During the 2024-25 period, the Market hosted several organisations, including:

- Port Phillip Community Group
- Albert Park Scouts
- Victoria Police - Coffee with a Cop
- City of Voices
- Port Phillip Men's Shed
- Space2B
- Sisterworks
- South Melbourne Primary School
- Hearing Australia
- MacRob High School
- RSL Victoria

Asset management

Improvements to the Market asset helps to provide a safe, enjoyable and productive environment for traders and the community. This year a range of enhancements were delivered, including improving the customer experience of the rooftop carpark and improvements in the loading bay.

Renewal works

The Market's renewal works are part of an annual rolling program, comprising multiple projects that relate to safety, essential services, accessibility and the renewal of ageing infrastructure.

Stall upgrades and fit-outs

The refurbishment of existing stalls is part of the Market-wide program of reinvestment. The key objective is to ensure changes are aligned with the building standards and the expectations of the Market customer, while also maintaining the Market's essence.

In the 2024-25 period, the Market assisted over 14 traders, from refurbishments to stall base builds and major new fit-outs.

Public space and facilities upgrades

Several improvements were made to public space and facilities, providing a safer and more enjoyable experience for the Market community, including:

- New outdoor dining area with glazed panels on York Street
- New greenery planted in the Food Hall Courtyard
- Refurbishment of the Coventry Street Food Hall parklet
- Upgrades to the two electric vehicle chargers in the rooftop carpark
- New ATMs installed which provide lower customer transaction fees
- New extraction unit installed in Centre Aisle to improve air circulation and comfort.

New cleaning and waste management provider

Following a competitive tender process, IKON Services were awarded the Market's cleaning and waste management contract in September. With improved infrastructure and increased use of electric vehicles, the new contract has improved efficiency,

Back-of-house and safety improvements

The Market delivers improvements to back-of-house areas to support the safety and wellbeing of the Market's traders and contract partners:

- Safety upgrades in the Market's loading bay included:
  - New line markings and pedestrian crossing to improve pedestrian safety
  - New guard rails to improve pedestrian safety
  - New magnetic removable bollards
  - New lighting to improve visibility
- New gas cage providing increased security and safety
- Bird repellents installed in loading bay and Market Food Hall
- New roof access and skylight protection installed on Aisle B roof
- Non-slip flooring installed between the Deli Aisle and Food Hall.

Rooftop Carpark – new carpark management system

In June, the Market upgraded the parking infrastructure in the rooftop carpark. This included the installation of new and improved entry and exit barriers and pay machines.

The new Carpark Management System includes license-plate-recognition software which removes the need for paper tickets. The upgrade also saw the move to cashless parking payments, in line with the City of Port Phillip Council's transition to cashless parking machines in 2023.

Removing cash payments and paper tickets has reduced maintenance downtime, resulted in a faster and more seamless entry and exit from the carpark, reduced downtime and improved reliability of machines.

Capital projects

Project	Summary	Status
Cecil Street Essential Services	New services were installed to make the outdoor kiosks on Cecil Street compliant. This included gas, hydraulic , electrical, exhaust and waste services. The majority of the works were completed in early 2025, with the final stage of the project to be completed in early 2025-26.	●
Carpark Management System	The Market's infrastructure on the rooftop carpark was updated with a new license-plate-recognition system, rolled out in June. The new system aims to reduce costs, downtime, congestion, and ticket-related issues.	●
Level 1 External Stairs (Fire Egress Stair)	As part of the Market's program of compliance works, designs were developed for the construction of an external stair from Level 1 carpark to the York Street ground level carpark. Installation of the stairs will commence in 2025-26.	●
Project Connect	Following the project scope being endorsed by Council, the project has moved into the concept design stage with the process to appoint a Principal Design Consultant underway.	●

● Completed ● In progress

Project Connect

Project Connect is a program of capital improvement works that will address compliance requirements and provide a strategic uplift to the Market asset, ensuring it remains a thriving community hub and retail destination. The project incorporates a range of works, including:

- **Compliance:** In the 2019 10-year Council Budget, funding was allocated to a program of significant upgrades that are required to bring the Market into compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC). These include, but are not limited to pedestrian gradients, access to the rooftop carpark and amenities. Some of these works have already been completed and the balance will now form part of the Project Connect program.
- **Strategic uplift:** In November 2022, Council was presented with a strategic vision for the Market (The NEXT Project), with outcomes designed to address not only compliance but also population growth, trader productivity and the need for more public space. Council supported investment in a mid-range program that would provide a range of value outcomes, including upgrading back-of-house facilities and improving the public realm on Coventry and Yorks Streets. These public realm improvements are aligned to, and supported within, Council's South Melbourne Structure Plan.

Combining these works into one overarching, aligned and comprehensive program, Project Connect will ensure all interdependencies are managed, disruption is minimised, works are appropriately staged, and efficiencies sought. Running alongside the compliance works, an Asset Renewal Program will continue to deliver an annual program of minor capital works to ensure the safe and successful day-to-day operation of the Market. The project scope was endorsed by Council in May 2024, and moved into the design phase

Environmental sustainability

We're transforming the environmental impact of your Market; for our traders, our shoppers, our community, our planet.

Sustainability performance

The 2023-27 Environmental Sustainability Strategy identifies three key outcomes the Market will work towards over five years:

- Wipe out waste
- Transition to zero carbon emissions
- Reduce water use and impact on water ways.

Together with its traders, the Market aims to improve its sustainability performance and achieve better environmental outcomes for its shoppers and the community.

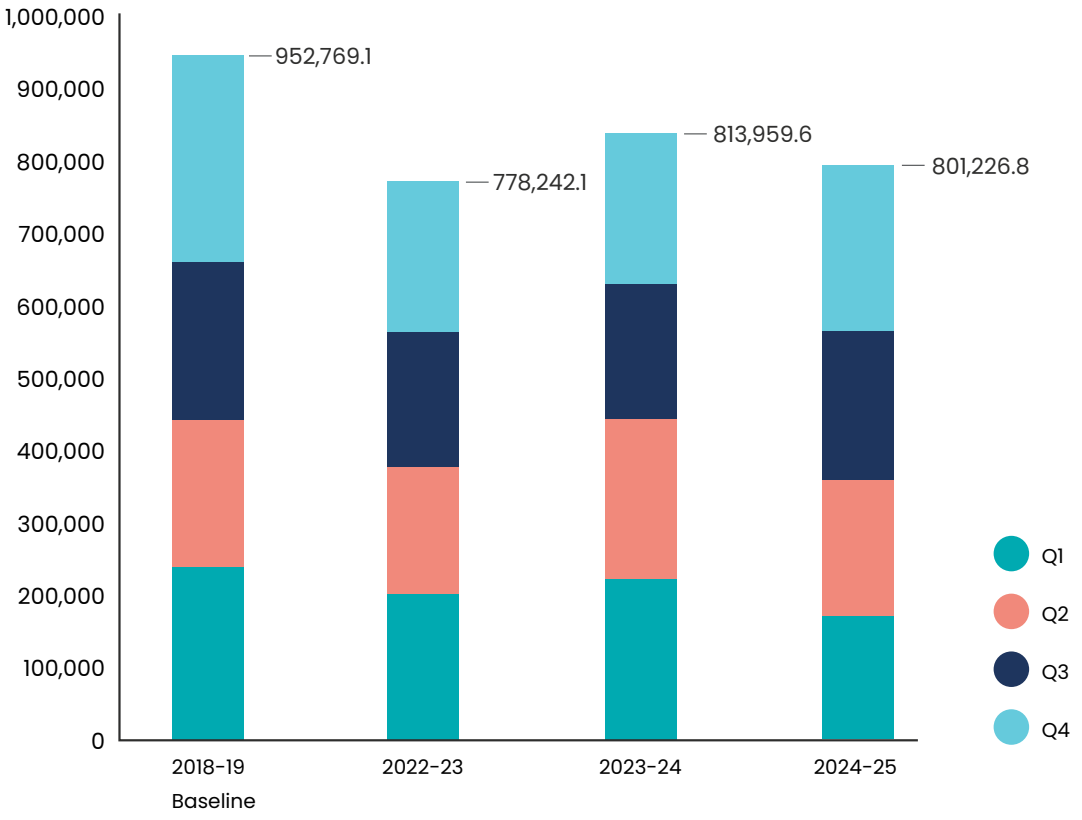
	Waste diversion	Potable water (KL)	Electricity (kWh)
Baseline (2018-19*)	64%	25,755.1	952,769.1
2023-24	65%	23,006.4	778,242.2
2024-25	72% +8%	26,824.8 +4%	801,226.8 –17.3%
Target 2024-25	73%	-4%	-10%
Target 2027	85%	-10%	-25%
Status	On track	Off track	On track

* 2018-19 figures are used as a reporting baseline as 2021-22 usage was impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

Electricity

The Market used a total of 801,226.8 kilowatts of electricity this year, a 17.2% reduction on baseline.

Total Electricity Usage (kWh)



Solar energy

From July to January the Market's rooftop solar panels generated 155,789kwh of power, approximately 35% of the Market's electricity use.

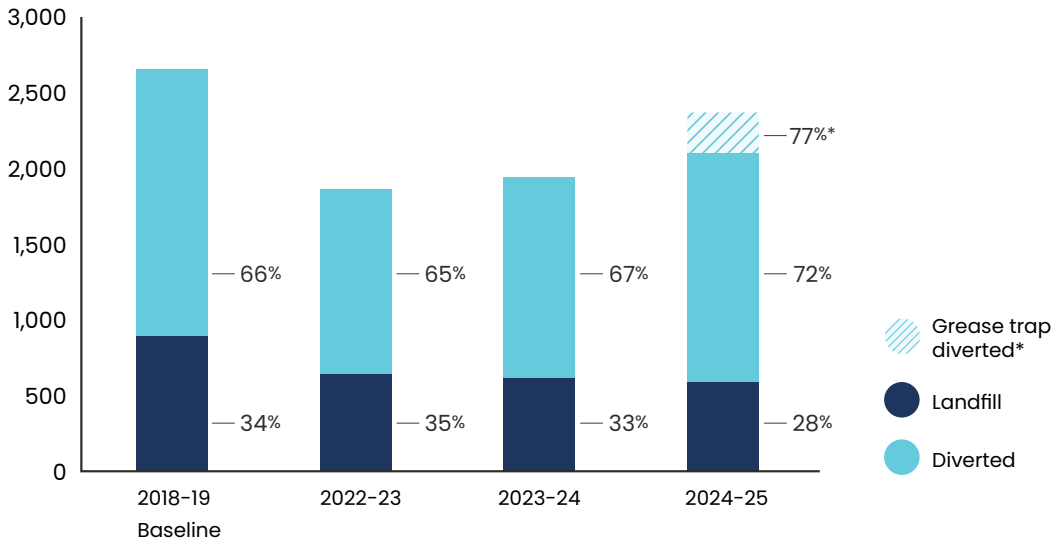
Due to a solar distribution board fault, the Market was unable to utilise solar energy from February. A new distribution board was installed in June 2025, with reconnection to be completed in early 2025-26.

As the Market's grid power is generated by a wind farm, the electricity use remained 100% renewable for the entire year.

Waste

The Market produced 2,290 tonnes of waste in 2024-25, a 14% decrease on baseline. The Market's waste is sorted into 16 different waste streams and turned into a range of new products. This year, 77% of the Market's waste was diverted from landfill.

Landfill vs Diverted Waste (tonnes)



* Previous year's waste diversion data did not include grease trap waste. To provide a more accurate comparison to previous years, the contribution of grease trap waste to waste diversion is reported separately.

Turning waste into electricity

With the commencement of the Market's new cleaning contractor – Ikon Services – in September, the Market's food waste is now being turned into an exciting new product: electricity!

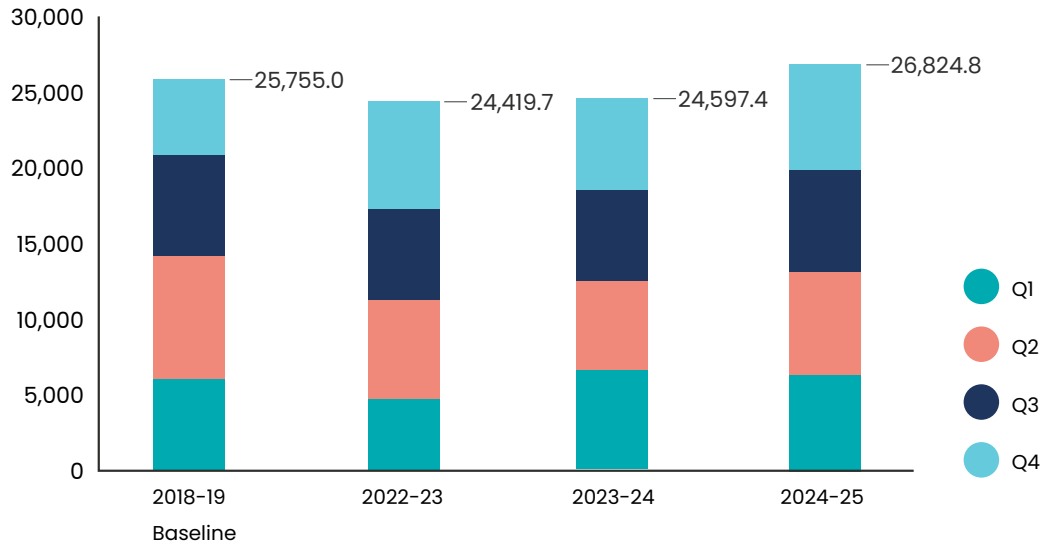
The Market's food scraps go to a food waste energy facility built by Yarra Valley Water that processes commercial food waste into clean, renewable energy and digestate, a nutrient rich fertiliser.

The facility sits next to Yarra Valley Water's Aurora sewage treatment plant and generates enough energy to power the facility and the sewage treatment plant. Excess power is then exported into the electricity grid.

Water

The Market used 26,824.8 kilolitres of water in 2024-25, an increase of 4% on baseline.

Potable Water Usage (KL)

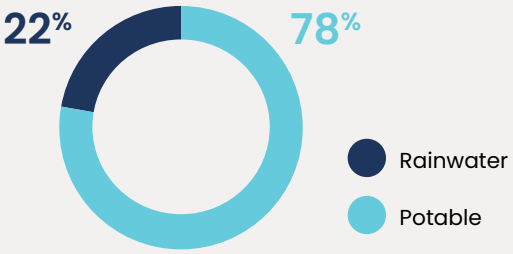


Rainwater use

The Market captures water from its rooftop which is used to wash down floors, flush toilets and used by the Market's florists.

22% of the Market's water use this year was rainwater.

Potable vs Rainwater (KL)



Sustainable Trader Spotlight

Moses and Co. Market Wholefoods

Moses and Co. Market Wholefoods have been supplying health foods, supplements and more to the Market community for over 30 years.

When Moshe and his son Omer expanded their stall in 2017, they finally had the opportunity to fulfil their dream and add a range of bulk offers, allowing customers to bring reusable containers to stock up on items like olive oil, house made nut butters and environmentally friendly cleaning products.

After seeing their bulk olive oil sales triple when they upgraded to a new, easier to use dispenser, Omer and Moshe realised that if they wanted customers to reduce waste and embrace bulk shopping, they needed both a better solution for their existing products and to increase the range of offers available.

Moses and Co. were awarded an Early Adopter Sustainability Grant to install a user-friendly bulk display that allows customers to easily see what's available and fill containers themselves rather than having to wait for staff.

Since its implementation, uptake of the bulk products has more than doubled. Prior to its installation, Omer was ordering two, 15-litre dishwashing liquid drums each week - he now orders four. That's about 40 single-use plastic bottles being avoided every week!

This initiative illustrates the customer demand for sustainable options and that going green makes good business sense.

Eco-warrior Rob has been championing sustainability at the Market since 2005. Now joined by his daughter Adele, Melbourne Hemp and Bamboo sell eco-friendly clothing and accessories and a range of hemp seed oil body care products.

Sustainability achievements

The Market has delivered a range of actions this year to reduce our impact on the environment. These include:

Reducing single-use

In July this year, the Market launched a campaign encouraging customers to go beyond the shopping bag and BYO reusable containers for grocery items like fish, deli goods and bread. The Market has also been working with traders to reduce avoidable single-use packaging within their stall, with this year's focus on phasing out takeaway containers, black plastic produce trays and balloons for decorating.

Trader waste induction

To ensure that all staff working at the Market understand the importance of sorting waste appropriately, the Market has developed a new waste induction. The training educates traders about the Market's waste products, how and where they should be disposed of and the valuable products they are turned into.

Shuck Don't Chuck

Since 2015, the Market has proudly partnered with The Nature Conservancy to deliver the Shuck Don't Chuck program which uses oyster, mussel and scallop shells to restore the reefs in Port Phillip Bay. In recent years, the shell bins at the Market's popular oyster bars were increasingly being contaminated by other rubbish, increasing the risk of plastics going back into our oceans. To solve this problem, the Market developed new bins with a cleverly designed and easy to understand oyster shell-shaped cut out on the lid and implemented a supporting educational marketing campaign. Since their installation, the oyster shell bin contamination has significantly reduced and the volume of shells contributed has doubled.

Sustainability education

The Market developed a suite of educational assets which aim to increase understanding of the Market's sustainability initiatives and encourage sustainable choices by both traders and Market shoppers. These will be used across various platforms including education walls at key locations throughout the Market.

LED lighting upgrades

This year, the Market commenced a program to transition all lighting at the Market to LED. The loading bay, Market perimeter, rooftop carpark and key internal aisles were upgraded this year. The new LED lighting uses approximately 75% less power and offers improved safety with increased visibility.

ORGANICS
POTATOES
POTATOES

Our performance

Our performance

Measures of success

The Market is on track for all key performance indicators, a testament to the successful implementation of the 2021-25 Strategic Plan key priorities.

	Visitation (million)	Financial profit	Occupancy	Trader satisfaction	Community satisfaction
Baseline*	5.16	-$1,933,000	93%	90%	93%
2023-24	5.54	$449,000	99%	93%	96%
2024-25	**5.45**	**$481,000**	**98%**	**94%**	**95%**
Target	5.40	$493,000	98%	90%	93%
Status	On track	On track	On track	On track	On track
Notes	Entries into the Market on Market trading days	Excludes capital works	Stalls under licence	Somewhat or very satisfied with venue for their business	Very good or excellent rating for overall view on offer

* 2019-20 figures are used as the reporting baseline against the 2021-25 Strategic Plan

Trader Spotlight

Van Jeweller

When it comes to jewellery, Van can do just about anything - from mending clasps and securing gems, melting and reconfiguring silver and gold, to fixing watches and bringing custom jewellery designs to life.

Van's skill for the craft and passion for the intricate work of jewellery repair has built him a loyal clientele at the Market, where he has been servicing customers for almost 30 years.

Van started learning the jewellery trade in Can Tho, Vietnam. After moving to Australia in 1990, he worked extensively for large jewellery houses across Melbourne including Zamel's, House of Ruth and Wallace Bishop. After gaining this experience, Van decided to take the big step and open his own business, first in Moorabbin and then a second shop at South Melbourne Market in 1996.

In addition to his repair services, Van also sells an assortment of gold and silver jewellery and a large range of watches, ranging from the classic Casio to unique fashion pieces.

It makes Van happy when customers are satisfied by the work he has done, and it's the smiles on customer's faces that he appreciates most.

2021–25 Strategic Plan: Year five

The 2021–25 South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan identified four strategic priorities:

Enhance the brand – The Quintessential Village Market	Continuously improve and futureproof the Market asset	Ensure the Market is financially sustainable	Further develop and build on the Market's differentiated retail offer

Over five years, the implementation of the Plan has delivered significant improvements for the Market's customers, traders, Council and the local community. These include:

- Returning an annual operating profit to Council through the new multi-faceted revenue model.
- A rapid rebound in visitation post-Covid.
- Future proofing the Market through the development of a 10-year program of asset investment.
- An increase in waste diversion and decrease in water and power use.

Key Strategic Priority Status

Strategic Priority	Actions	Progress update
Enhance the brand	Brand Strategy	●
	Marketing and CX Strategy	●
	Digital Solutions Strategy	●
	Environmental Sustainability Strategy	●
Improve the asset	Deliver Compliance Plan	●
	Risk and Safety Plan	●
	Asset Improvement Plan	●
	Explore and deliver on NEXT Project*	●
Build financial sustainability	New multi-faceted revenue model	●
	New revenue opportunities and cost efficiencies	●
Differentiated retail offer	Retail Strategy	●
	Market Precinct Plan	●
	Trader Pipeline	●
	Retail support and continuous improvement	●

*Now Project Connect

● Developed/completed ● In progress

2026-30 Strategic Plan Development

In October the Market Committee and Management commenced the planning and development of the 2026-30 Strategic Plan for the South Melbourne Market. This strategy aims to build on the success of the past five years and will ensure it is in the best position to support traders to thrive, meet the needs of our local community and to deliver necessary compliance and capital works for a sustainable future for generations to come.

Governing our Market

Advisory Committee

South Melbourne Market is owned and operated by the City of Port Phillip (Council) and is overseen by an Advisory Committee.

Role of the Committee

The South Melbourne Market Committee Charter (Charter) guides the decisions of the South Melbourne Market Advisory Committee (Committee) and Market Management.

The purpose and objectives of the Committee are to provide advice to the Council and Chief Executive Officer or delegate to:

- position the Market as the premier Village Market in Victoria, one that is recognised as being vibrant, diverse and unique and that is sustainable for traders and the City of Port Phillip;
- promote the Market and encourage its use by residents, visitors and the community; and
- oversee the management and operation of the Market in accordance with the terms of this Charter and Council's Strategic Plan, policies and programs.

The Committee is responsible for providing advice to the Council and Chief Executive Officer on the effective management and operation of the Market, including:

- setting the long-term vision and strategic position of the Market at the local, metro and national level;
- establishing and overseeing the execution of commercially sustainable retail and brand strategies;
- understanding the needs of traders and oversee an approach that makes the Market the 'market of choice' for traders at the local, metro and national level;
- understanding customer needs and provide a customer experience that attracts new and retains existing customers to the Market;
- contribute to broader Council plans and strategies, programs and policies for the city and South Melbourne;
- advise on Market risks, opportunities and budget.

Committee membership

The Committee is comprised of five members: three members independent of Council and two City of Port Phillip Councillors.

The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by Council and must be a member independent of Council (unless Council determines otherwise).

In September 2024 Cr Marcus Pearl and Cr Andrew Bond finished their terms as Councillors and Committee members.

In December 2024, Cr Beti Jay and Cr Alex Makin were elected as the new Councillor members of the Committee. Both Councillors are proud Port Phillip residents and South Melbourne Market regulars.

The current members bring a diverse range of skills to the Committee, including expertise in urban planning, commercial retail leasing, marketing, strategy development and strong professional governance.

All members of the Committee must have significant understanding and experience at a senior level in corporate governance, strategy, risk and financial management.

Committee members 2024-25

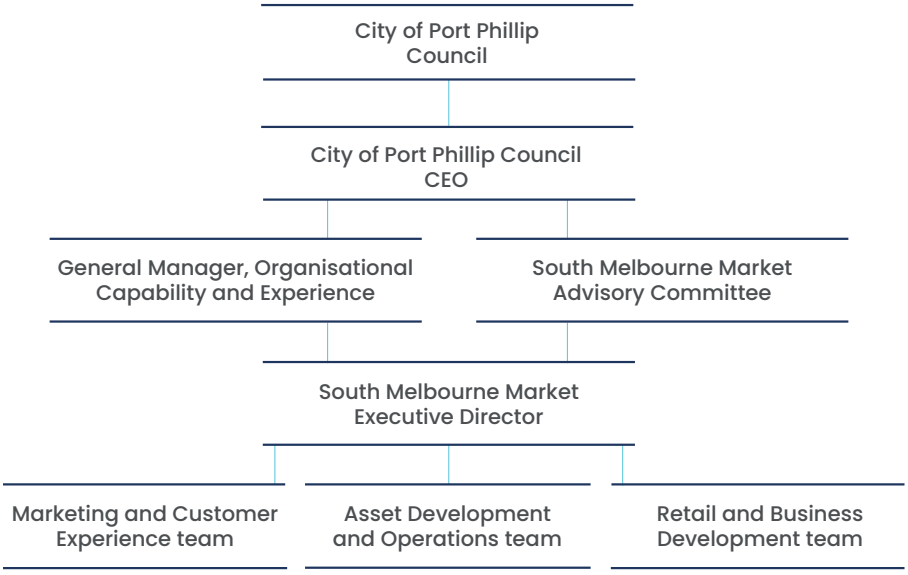
Name	Position	Attendance at eligible meetings
Amanda Stevens	Independent member | Chairperson	6/6
Andrew Danson	Independent member | Deputy Chairperson	4/6
Nicola Smith	Independent member	4/6
Cr Marcus Pearl	Councillor (finished September 2024)	1/2
Cr Andrew Bond	Councillor (finished September 2024)	2/2
Cr Beti Jay	Councillor (commenced December 2024)	2/3
Cr Alex Makin	Councillor (commenced December 2024)	3/3

Our Market team

The daily operation of the Market is managed by the Executive Director, Sophie McCarthy and a supporting management team of 12.3 full time equivalent staff.

The Market team is responsible for managing the core functions of the Market and delivering the key initiatives identified in the 2021-25 Strategic Plan.

Organisational structure



Risk management

Managing risk and safety is a key priority of the South Melbourne Market Committee and Market team. This year, the Market has continued to implement a range of processes and procedures to better manage risk and further develop its risk maturity.

Emergency Planning Committee

The Market's Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) meets on a quarterly basis and is responsible for establishing and implementing emergency plans and procedures, appointing and training Emergency Control Organisation personnel and conducting evacuation exercises.

The EPC reports to Council's Health and Safety team who collate EPC details into a report presented at the Building Safety and Security Committee meetings. This year, the EPC implemented a range of actions to enhance emergency management at the Market including:

- Evacuation drill efficiency improvements including streamlined search zones and warden assembly point communication tools.
- Nationally accredited training provided to all wardens.
- Door to door emergency awareness training delivered to all traders.
- *Call Push Shock* program delivered by Ambulance Victoria to provide free training to the community and traders on how to provide CPR and defibrillator use.

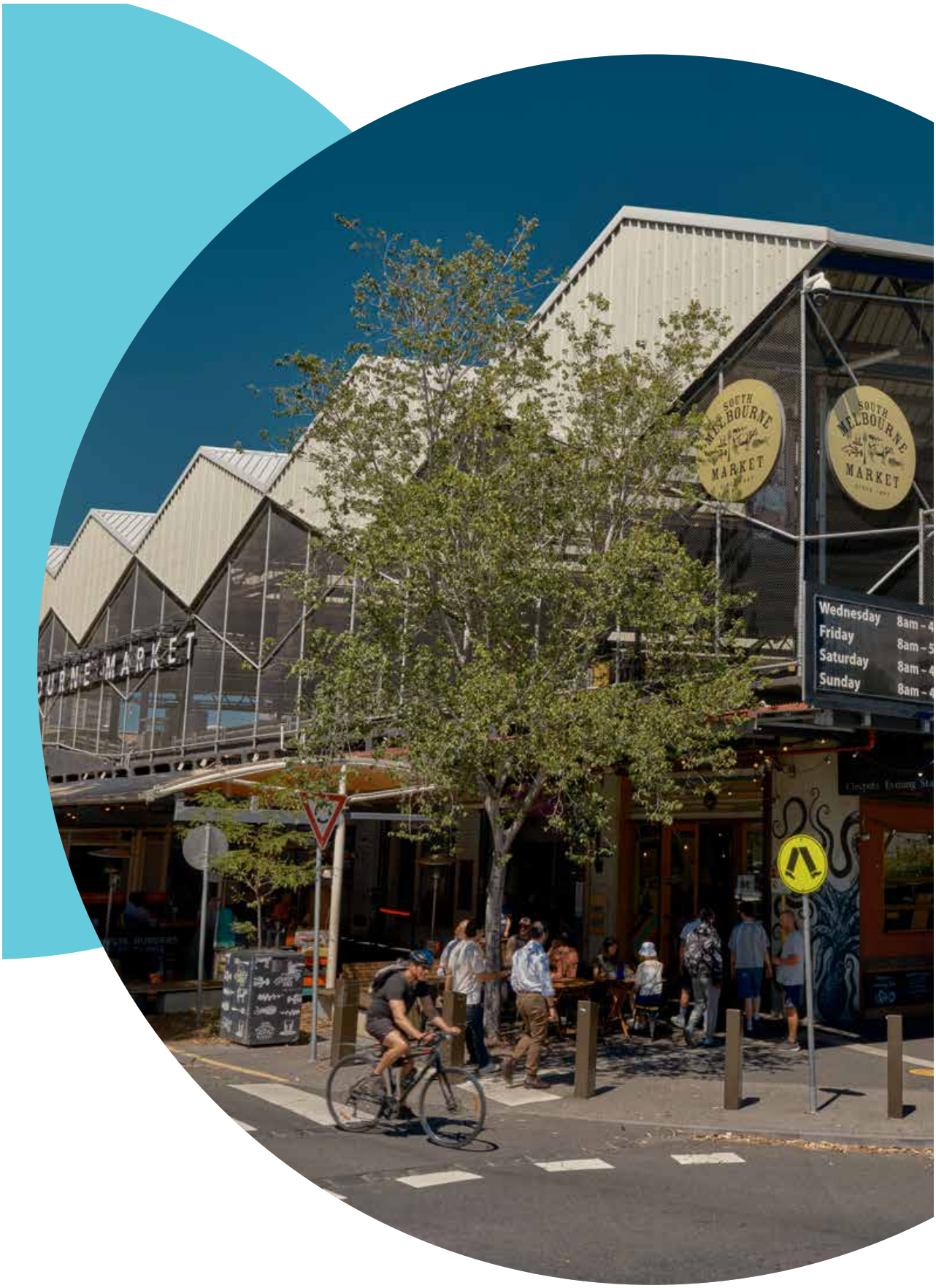
Business Continuity Plan

The Market has a site-specific Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to assist the Market team to respond to business interruption events such as extreme weather events, building evacuations, power outages or pandemics.

In October 2024 the Market undertook a desktop exercise to test the effectiveness of the plan and updated the BCP in late 2024, incorporating the insights from the exercise, to improve the efficacy of the plan.

Market Risk Committee

The Market Risk Committee (MRC) is comprised of the Market's Executive Director and leadership team. The MRC meets on a regular basis and is responsible for ensuring that risks are identified and appropriately managed by the Market and reported to Council's Strategic Risk and Internal Audit Committee and the Risk Committee as required.


SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET
SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET
Wednesday 8am –
Friday 8am –
Saturday 8am –
Sunday 8am –

Financial management

Financial report

The Market's operating surplus for the 2024-25 financial year of $481,000 was $58,000 (14%) higher than last year.

South Melbourne Market Income Statement 2024-25

	2024-25 Actual ($'000)	2023-24 Actual ($'000)	Variance ($'000)	Variance
Income				
Licence Fees / Rent	7,451	7,030	421	6%
Parking Fees	886	786	100	13%
Other Income	730	779	(49)	(6%)
Total Income	**9,067**	**8,595**	**472**	**5%**
Expenditure				
Employee Costs	1,835	1,810	(25)	(1%)
Materials and Services	83	23	(61)	(265%)
Contract Services	3,073	3,030	(43)	(1%)
Utilities and Insurance	385	374	(11)	(3%)
Financing Costs	17	0	(17)	0%
Depreciation	452	305	(148)	(49%)
Congestion Levy	324	311	(13)	(4%)
Fire Services Levy	18	16	(2)	(14%)
Land Tax	241	274	33	12%
Bad and Doubtful Debts	20	(5)	(25)	497%
Professional Services	190	149	(41)	(28%)
Marketing and Advertising	538	537	(1)	0%
Other Expenses	140	90	(50)	(56%)
Notional Rent	1,039	1,045	6	1%
Internal Head Office Overhead Costs	158	152	(6)	(4%)
Operating Projects	73	62	(11)	(18%)
Total Expenses	**8,586**	**8,172**	**(414)**	**(5%)**
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	**481**	**423**	**(58)**	**(14%)**

The Market's operational income was $9.07 million, representing an increase of $472,000 (5%) on the previous year. Annual licence fee increases, high stall occupancy and a strong demand for rooftop carparking contributed to this increase in revenue.

The Market's operational expenditure of $8.59 million represents an increase of $414,000 (5%) on the previous year. This is due to annual cost increases in alignment with Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI) rates, the implementation of a new cleaning and waste contractor in September 2024, and depreciation costs relating to cleaning and waste equipment.

Income Statement Converted to Cash

	2024-25 Actual ($'000)	2023-24 Actual ($'000)	Variance ($'000)	Variance
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	**481**	**423**	**58**	**14%**
Adjustments for non-cash operating items:				
• Add: Depreciation	452	304	148	49%
Adjustments for investing items:				
• Less Capital Expenditure	(1,581)	(912)	(669)	(73%)
Adjustments for investing items:				
• Less Lease Repayments	(125)	0	(125)	100%
Adjustments for Reserve Movement items:				
• Net Reserve Drawdown / (Replenish)	791	25	766	3066%
Cash Surplus / (Deficit)	**19**	**(160)**	**179**	**112%**

K&L
FRESH POULTRY

Capital Investment

The Market's 2024-25 capital works program included a range of improvements including services upgrades, internal asset renewal and stall base build works, and initial investigative works.

- The majority of the Cecil Street Essential Services construction works was completed, with the final stages of works to be completed in 2025-26.
- A range of investigative and design works were undertaken for Project Connect, Fire Stair and Compliance Works projects.
- Stall Base Build Changeover: The Market invested in the base build works of many market stalls to ensure they were compliant to building code and ready for a new tenant to move in. Continual improvement is important to ensure the Market continues to attract high quality traders.
- The Market also delivered many asset improvement works in line with the Asset Management Plan. The major infrastructure renewal was the installation of the new carpark management system. The program of works also included an upgrade to some roller doors and installation of LED lighting.

More details on the Market's Asset renewal and capital works program can be found on pages 33-35.

Capital Works Program

	2024-25 Actual ($'000)	2023-24 Actual ($'000)	Variance ($'000)	Variance
Cecil Street Essential Services	646	81	565	698%
Compliance Works	22	261	(239)	(92%)
Fire Stairs to Level 1 carpark	37	67	(30)	(45%)
Smoke Extraction	51	16	35	217%
Stall Base Build Changeover	284	125	159	127%
Renewal works	314	169	145	86%
Project Connect	227	75	153	205%
2023-24 Closed Projects*	0	119	119	(100%)
Total Spend	**1,581**	**912**	**669**	**73%**

* 2023-24 Capital Works Program total spend included expenditure on projects that were completed in that year (Public Safety Improvements, Central Stair, Loading Bay and Waste Optimisation Project), and projects that have been merged into Project Connect (York Street Stair and Lift, Amenities Upgrade, Regrading).

THE VILLAGE MARKET

Corner Cecil and Coventry Streets
South Melbourne, Victoria 3205

southmelbournemarket.com.au

SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET SINCE 1867

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP

12. AN ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

Nil

13. A TRUSTED AND HIGH PERFORMING ORGANISATION

13.1 In Principle Approval of the 2024/25 Annual Financial Statements and 2024/25 Performance Statement..... 379

13.2 Proposed Discontinuance and Sale - Part Union Place (Adjoining 154-158 Bank Street) South Melbourne ***(Deferred due to an administrative matter in accordance with provision 21 of the Governance Rules)***

13.1 IN PRINCIPLE APPROVAL OF THE 2024/25 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND 2024/25 PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **LACHLAN JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER, OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

PREPARED BY: **PETER LIU, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**
ELIZABETH ERSKINE, HEAD OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND SERVICES

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To obtain Council's in principle approval of the annual financial statements and performance statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Council is required by the Local Government Act to:

2.1.1 Prepare an annual report each financial year that contains a report on operations, audited financial statements, audited performance statement, and copies of the auditor's report on the statements.

2.1.2 Pass a resolution giving in principle approval to the financial statements and performance statements and submit these to the Auditor-General's Office as soon as possible after the end of financial year for reporting on the audit.

2.1.3 Authorise two Councillors to certify the statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by audit have been made.

2.2 The financial statements and performance statement have been prepared by appropriate Council officers and have been checked and cross referenced by the Chief Financial Officer.

2.3 The financial statements and performance statement were reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 2 September 2025.

2.4 The statements are audited by BDO Australia, agents appointed by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

2.5 The performance statement includes results for 2024/25 and 2023/24 with materiality thresholds established to explain movements between reporting periods.

2.6 Council is required under the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations to prepare the Governance and Management checklist, which is to be certified by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

2.7 Key financial points for 2024/25:

2.7.1 An overall low risk rating on VAGO financial sustainability indicators.

2.7.2 A cumulative cash surplus of $3.1 million.

2.7.3 A positive net operating result of $30.2 million (10.6 per cent of total revenue).

2.7.4 A working capital ratio of 283 per cent.

2.7.5 An investment portfolio of $105.2 million.

2.7.6 Record capital project delivery of $103.9 million.

2.7.7 $150 million increase in asset valuations.

2.7.8 Permanent ongoing efficiency savings of $0.8 million in addition to the $1.5 million included in Budget 2024/25.

2.8 Material movements and events impacting the financial results are discussed in detail under section 4.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Notes the financial performance for financial year 2024/25 which includes an operating surplus and a low-risk rating on the Victorian Auditor General's Office Financial Sustainability.

3.2 Gives in principle approval to the annual financial statements and performance statement (the statements) for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

3.3 Authorises the Mayor, Councillor Louise Crawford, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bryan Mears, to certify the annual financial statements and performance statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

3.4 Approves the materiality threshold in the performance statement at +/- 10 per cent of Council's 2023/24 result for the explanation of variances between the 2024/25 and 2023/24 result.

3.5 Authorises the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer, to certify the Governance and Management checklist.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4.1.1 Council reported a $30.2 million operating surplus, funding a record $103.9 million investment portfolio including land acquisitions to expand open space.

4.1.2 The Operating surplus represents a $24.1 million improvement on 2023/24 driven by increased income and effective cost containment.

4.1.3 Operating revenue increased by $21.7 million (8.3 per cent) due to the following factors:

i. Rates revenue increased by $6.1 million driven by the rates cap increase of 2.75 per cent and growth in property assessments.

ii. Increased parking fees and infringement revenue due by $5.0 million due to increased utilisation in foreshore and tourist areas during summer, events periods and warmer weather, and higher enforcement hours in high traffic and tourist areas.

iii. Monetary contributions for open space from development increased by $3.6 million, rebounding from prior year declines linked to economic conditions and the rise of exempt build-to-rent developments.

iv. Non-monetary contributions increased by $2.2 million reflecting the transfer of infrastructure surrounding the new Anzac Station to Council for our community use.

v. Grants revenue (operating and capital) increased by $1.8 million resulting from the early receipt of the first instalment of the 2025/26 Victoria Grants Commission financial assistance grant.

vi. Other income increased by $1.6 million largely from temporary rental income from the Australia Post site.

4.1.4 Operating expenditure decreased by $2.4 million or 1.0 per cent due to the following offsetting factors:

i. Net loss on asset disposals decreased by $6.6 million, reflecting the transfer of $6.6 million of land to Port Phillip Housing for social housing development in 2023/24.

ii. Materials and services decreased by$3.0 million due to accounting standards and valuation methodology, which reclassified previously recognised maintenance and construction expenses as capital expenditure.

iii. Other expenses increased by $3.4 million primarily due to higher community grant payments.

iv. Employee costs increased by $1.7 million because of the 2.5 per cent increase in salaries and wages under the 2022 Enterprise Agreement, and the legislated 0.5 per cent increase in superannuation.

v. Allowance for impairment losses increased by $1.3 million due to the corresponding growth in parking infringement debt owed to Council.

4.1.5 Total Comprehensive Result comprises net operating surplus/(deficit) and other comprehensive income from net asset valuation increments/decrements for Council's Property Infrastructure Plant and Equipment assets.

4.1.6 Total Comprehensive Result increased by $254.6 million, resulting in a $179.8 million surplus, compared to a $74.8 million loss in 2023/24. This is significant turnaround is primarily due to large fluctuations in asset valuations over the past two years:

- Land valuation recorded an increment of $2.7 million in compared to a decrement of $101 million in 2023/24.
- Buildings and all infrastructure assets were revalued in 2024/25 to comply with new accounting standards, resulting in valuation increments of $143.3 million, compared to $20.3 million in 2023/24.
- Heritage and works of art assets were formally revalued, increasing by $3.6 million.

4.1.7 Council's Balance Sheet increased by $189.5 million largely due to asset valuations increments as discussed in 4.1.6. As a result, Total Equity (Net Assets) increased to $3.8 billion, up from $3.6 billion in 2023/24.

4.1.8 Key movements in the Balance Sheet during the financial year include:

- $241.1 million increase in property, infrastructure, plant and equipment largely driven by:

  - $149.6 million asset revaluation increments
  - $103.9 million of asset additions from the record delivery of the 2024/25 capital project portfolio.
- $39.6 million decrease in cash, cash equivalents and financial assets (current and non-current) reflecting drawdown on reserves as planned for the record capital project portfolio expenditure in 2024/25 including strategic land acquisitions ($51.2 million).
- $6.4 million increased trade payables due to the timing of invoices received.
- $3.9 million decreased other assets due to the Australia Post site purchase deposit being reflected in the prior year.
- $54.5 million net drawdown on reserves supporting strategic land acquisitions, project delivery, and organisational initiatives, including:
  - Open Space reserves $16.9 million
  - Strategic Property $16.0 million
  - Gasworks $2.1 million
  - Asset Renewal fund $4.2 million
  - In Our Backyard - Affordable Housing $2.3 million
  - Project deferrals $7.1 million
  - Municipal Growth Fund $5.1 million

4.1.9 Council's principal financial planning statement is the Income Statement converted to Cash, also known as Rate Determination Statement. This statement determines the budget position based on the net cash position including capital expenditure, lease and borrowing repayments, and reserves transfers.

Under this calculation, Council has a cumulative cash surplus of $3.1 million, closely aligned with the forecast cash surplus of $3.3 million for Budget 2025/26.

4.2 PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

4.2.1 The form and content for the performance statement to 30 June 2025 is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

4.2.2 The performance statement includes:

- A description of the municipal district including its size, location, and population.
- A set of prescribed sustainable capacity indicators
- A set of prescribed service performance indicators
- A set of prescribed financial performance indicators including forecast results for the next four years from the 10 Year Financial Plan.

4.2.3 Local government performance reporting results will be reported for 2024/24 and 2023/24. Council's must establish materiality thresholds. The threshold will set a movement range for comparing current year results with prior year results, and current year results for the forecast results (for financials only). Each council will set their own materiality threshold based on assessments of their previous year results. If a current year result falls outside the range for the materiality threshold councils are required to explain this movement as a material variation.

4.2.4 Officers propose materiality thresholds at +/- 10 per cent of Councils 2023/24 result. This is based on the example thresholds outlined by the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and reinforced by feedback from other councils.

4.2.5 There are nine relevant service performance indicators in the performance statement. All nine indicators fell within the expected range; however, two of the nine services did not meet their set targets:

- Sealed local roads made to condition standards was within range however just fell below the target by 0.19%. The number of road sections below the intervention level is expected to improve through ongoing work programs addressing segments of roads in poor condition. Council continues to invest in road condition improvements with a $9m allocation made in the new Council Plan.
- Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill fell within the expected range and fell just below the set target by 0.55%. There has been continued improvement in landfill diversion in 2024/25 as residents settle into the second year of the Food and Organics (FOGO) service. Increased familiarity with the service has been supported by targeted education initiatives, including flip-top bin audits across both recycling and FOGO streams. These audits provided direct feedback to individual properties, helping reinforce correct usage and improved participation rates. Council is currently reviewing its waste strategy, which aims to further promote diversion from landfill.

4.2.6 The key objective of the financial performance indicators is to evaluate Council's financial management across five dimensions: Efficiency, Liquidity, Obligations, Operating position, and Stability. There are 11 measures, with 4 falling outside the expected range as follows:

Liquidity

- Current assets compared to current liabilities decreased from 461% to 283% in 2024/25 primarily due to reduced cash reserves following a record $103.9 million investment in community infrastructure, including strategic land acquisitions for open space. Council's endorsed long term financial plan will see drawdowns on cash in future years as we continue our substantial investment in community infrastructure.
- Council's unrestricted cash ratio has increased from -152% to -75%. This indicator reflects a snapshot of short-term cash and investments relative to current liability at 30 June 2025, and may fluctuate depending on the allocation between short-term and long-term investments. Overall, this ratio

does not recognise the investments held in longer-term deposits which attract higher yield. Council has sufficient in cash and other financial assets to cover the total cash restricted or allocated to specific purpose. This will fund projects in future years, placing Council in a strong position to continue to meet its financial obligations, as reflected in the working capital ratio. Our prudent financial management ensures all current liabilities are settled promptly.

Obligations

- Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation has increased by 118% to 169% in 2024/25 due to record spend on works in 2024/25. Council spent $103.9 million on community assets: $40 million were renewal and upgrade expenditure which represented 169% on depreciation. It is lower than the budgeted ratio of 215%, mainly due to deferred project spend in parks and open space.

Operating position

- The adjusted underlying surplus of 6% has increased from the prior year result of -0.48%. This measures the operating surplus less ad hoc and one-off transactions (such as capital grants and non-monetary contributions). The improvement in the operating surplus for 2024/25 was primarily driven by increased user and statutory parking fees, stronger developer contributions, and the early receipt of $1.8 million in annual general-purpose funding from the Victoria Grants Commission. Our long-term financial plan projects continued positive surpluses in future financial years. Both surplus and depreciation remain vital funding sources to support the renewal, upgrade, and expansion of community infrastructure to meeting growing needs.

4.2.7 There are seven sustainability capacity indicators measured in the performance statement. Two of these fall outside the range as follows:

- Population density per length of road has seen an increase due to Council's estimated resident population increasing by 5.5% in 2024/25, while the length of local roads remained unchanged.
- Work force turnover has seen an increase in overall turnover for 2024/25. This is primarily attributed to the strategic exit of the majority of our Aged Care services in Quarter 2. Additionally, a slight rise in resignations during Quarter 4 reflects broader market trends, as the candidate landscape continues to stabilise following pandemic-related fluctuations. In addition, some frontline services remain affected by ongoing national labour challenges. Internally, we have continued to evolve our practices to strengthen our position as an employer of choice. Our focus remains on enhancing the employee experience for current team members, in alignment with our attraction and retention strategies.

4.3 The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 include a requirement for councils to certify a Governance and Management checklist as part of the report of operations in the Annual Report.

4.3.1 The Mayor and Chief Executive Office must certify that the information contained in the checklist presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The preliminary audit of the statements has been conducted by BDO Australia acting on behalf of and appointed by the Victorian Auditor-General.

5.2 The City of Port Phillips' Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the draft financial statements and performance statement at its meeting on 2 September and have recommended these to Council for adoption.

5.3 The preparation of the statements is in line with the model accounts template released annually by Local Government Victoria and reviewed by a technical working group of representatives from professional accounting bodies and Local Government Finance Professionals (FinPro).

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In principle approval of the financial statements and performance statement is required to enable Council to meet its audit obligation to lodge the Annual Report with the Auditor General in October 2025.

6.2 Failure to meet this deadline will have a negative impact on Council's reputation.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 Council's financial position is sound.

7.2 Council was able achieve over $1.5 million of efficiency savings in 2024/25 despite increasing cost pressures and rising service delivery.

7.3 An operating surplus was achieved in 2024/25.

7.4 Moreover, Council was able to maintain a cumulative cash surplus of $3.1 million.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Not applicable.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Not applicable.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 Not applicable.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 Consistent with the 2025-2035 Council Plan strategic direction 6- A Trusted and High Performing Organisation, Council is a financially sustainable, high performing, well governed organisation which is demonstrated in the 2024/25 financial results.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 Council to give 'in-principle' approval to the statements and authorise two Councillors to certify the statements in their final form to certify the statements in their final form,

12.1.2 The statements are then forwarded and reviewed by the Victorian Auditor-General who may recommend further changes. Final changes (if required) will be made to the statements which are then certified by the Principal Accounting Officer, two Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer.

12.1.3 The Victorian Auditor-General certifies the statements and issues an independent Audit Report expressing an opinion on the statements.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 Council is required to consider the Annual Report at an open Council meeting within four months of the end of the financial year. This meeting will be advertised in the local media. Council must also advertise that the statements have been audited.

12.2.2 The Annual Report will be produced in hard copy and displayed at municipal offices and libraries and made electronically available on Council's website.

12.2.3 Council's key messages regarding financial performance for 2024/25 and financial position at 30 June 2025 include:

- In 2024/25, Council continued to deliver valued community services while investing $103.9 million in infrastructure and community assets. This included $51.2 million in land acquisition to support population growth through the creation of new parks and green open spaces. These investments supported the delivery of priority projects and service enhancements, reinforcing our commitment to continuous improvement, operational efficiency, and keeping rates affordable. We experienced rising costs associated with delivering Council's core services due to increased contract pricing. Recognising the burden on our community with the cost-of-living pressures from raising inflation to interest rates, Council provided additional support to our community including:
    - Increase pensioner rates rebates to $220
    - Outreach services assisting rough sleepers
    - Expanded food relief programs
    - Continued business support under the Economic Recovery Package
- Councils strong financial position is demonstrated by:
    1. An overall low risk rating on VAGO financial sustainability indicators.
    2. A cumulative cash surplus of $3.1 million.
    3. A positive net operating result of $30.2 million (10.6 percent of total revenue).
    4. An investment portfolio of $105.2 million.
    5. A healthy working capital ratio of 283 percent.
    6. Permanent ongoing efficiency savings of over $0.8 million in addition to the $1.5 million included in Budget 2024/25.
    7. Cumulative savings since the introduction of rates capping in 2016/17 are more than $113 million.

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. **2024-25 Audited Financial Statements**
2. **2024-25 Audited Performance Statement**
3. **2024-25 Governance and Management Checklist**

City of Port Phillip
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

City of Port Phillip
Financial Report
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Financial Report
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Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020,* the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020,* the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Peter Liu CPA
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated : *19/09/2025*
St Kilda

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the City of Port Phillip for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

Louise Crawford
Councillor
Dated : *19/09/2025*
St Kilda

Bryan Mears
Councillor
Dated : *19/09/2025*
St Kilda

Chris Carroll
Chief Executive Officer
Dated : *19/09/2025*
St Kilda

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Comprehensive Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	152,189	146,070
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	27,285	23,478
User fees	3.3	44,434	41,237
Grants - operating	3.4	12,150	8,940
Grants - capital	3.4	4,489	5,895
Contributions - monetary	3.5	5,912	2,277
Contributions - non-monetary	3.5	3,828	1,674
Other income	3.7	33,822	32,835
Total income / revenue		**284,109**	**262,406**
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	111,168	109,466
Materials and services	4.2	88,933	91,937
Depreciation	4.3	23,733	23,157
Depreciation - right-of-use assets	4.4	1,638	1,469
Allowance for impairment losses	4.5	4,681	3,347
Finance costs - leases	4.6	456	464
Net (gain) or loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	1,508	8,129
Other expenses	4.7	21,778	18,346
Share of net losses of associates and joint ventures	6.3	31	27
Total expenses		**253,926**	**256,342**
Surplus for the year		**30,183**	**6,064**
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	9.1	149,601	(80,883)
Total other comprehensive income		**149,601**	**(80,883)**
Total comprehensive result		**179,784**	**(74,819)**

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	17,136	19,212
Trade and other receivables	5.1	40,641	38,652
Other financial assets	5.1	63,000	112,500
Prepayments	5.2	1,496	3,325
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	6.1	1,202	1,202
Contract assets	5.1	1,698	5,346
Other assets	5.2	-	3,880
Total current assets		**125,173**	**184,117**
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	609	588
Other financial assets	5.1	25,023	13,000
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.3	157	188
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	3,671,479	3,430,425
Right-of-use assets	5.7	7,192	7,129
Total non-current assets		**3,704,460**	**3,451,330**
Total assets		**3,829,633**	**3,635,447**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	15,894	9,501
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	6,978	6,624
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	2,913	2,812
Provisions	5.4	16,844	19,737
Lease liabilities	5.7	1,610	1,230
Total current liabilities		**44,239**	**39,904**
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	3,179	2,617
Lease liabilities	5.7	5,897	6,082
Total non-current liabilities		**9,076**	**8,699**
Total liabilities		**53,315**	**48,603**
Net assets		**3,776,318**	**3,586,844**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		731,567	637,253
Reserves	9.1	3,044,750	2,949,591
Total Equity		**3,776,318**	**3,586,844**

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025	Note	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000	Other Reserves $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		3,586,844	637,253	2,796,912	152,679
Adjustment to opening retained earnings*		9,690	9,690	-	-
Adjusted opening balance		3,596,534	646,943	2,796,912	152,679
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		30,183	30,183	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.2	149,601	-	149,601	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(51,874)	-	51,874
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	106,315	-	(106,315)
Balance at end of the financial year		**3,776,318**	**731,567**	**2,946,513**	**98,238**

2024	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000	Other Reserves $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year	3,660,613	641,248	2,877,795	141,570
Adjustment to opening retained earnings**	1,050	1,050	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	3,661,663	642,298	2,877,795	141,570
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,064	6,064	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	(80,883)	-	(80,883)	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	(41,564)	-	41,564
Transfers from other reserves	-	30,455	-	(30,455)
Balance at end of the financial year	**3,586,844**	**637,253**	**2,796,912**	**152,679**

* Council discontinued Moubray Road which reverted it to unreserved Crown Land in August 2023. During 2024/25 it was confirmed that Council were appointed Committee of Management of the land parcel by the Minister for Environment on 24 May 2024. Opening retained earnings (equity) has been adjusted to reflect the impact on the prior year results.

** In 2007 Council transferred land and buildings to Port Phillip Housing to be used for Community Housing purposes. This included the parcel at 28A Woodstock Street which was transferred/disposed from our asset register in error. During 2023/24, ownership of this asset has been confirmed to have been with Council, therefore opening retained earnings (equity) has been adjusted to reflect the impact on the prior year results.

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) $'000	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) $'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		152,199	142,231
Statutory fees and fines		21,482	19,371
User fees		44,528	43,004
Grants - operating		16,732	7,945
Grants - capital		4,489	5,895
Contributions - monetary		5,912	2,277
Interest received		5,742	7,050
Trust funds and deposits taken		23,913	22,654
Other receipts		19,474	16,860
Net GST refund		13,438	10,124
Employee costs		(113,985)	(107,659)
Materials and services		(89,657)	(101,319)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		(856)	(521)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(23,559)	(22,991)
Other payments		(13,816)	(10,120)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9.2	**66,036**	**34,801**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	(103,912)	(38,353)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	285	130
Payments for investments		(88,023)	(125,500)
Proceeds from sale of investments		125,500	133,494
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**(66,150)**	**(30,229)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid - lease liability		(456)	(464)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(1,506)	(1,333)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		**(1,962)**	**(1,797)**
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(2,076)	2,775
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		19,212	16,437
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		**17,136**	**19,212**
Financing arrangements	5.5		

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Property			
Land		51,246	-
Total land		51,246	-
Buildings		23,484	10,542
Total buildings		23,484	10,542
Total property		74,730	10,542
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		3,149	2,875
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		337	251
Computers and telecommunications		714	431
Library books		709	627
Total plant and equipment		4,909	4,184
Infrastructure			
Roads		2,797	2,856
Bridges		141	61
Footpaths and cycleways		5,118	2,654
Drainage		997	1,944
Parks, open space and streetscapes		15,220	12,232
Total infrastructure		24,273	19,747
Total capital works expenditure		**103,912**	**34,473**
Deposit for land purchase	5.2	-	3,880
Total capital works expenditure including deposit		**103,912**	**38,353**
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		56,906	4,391
Asset renewal expenditure		16,430	13,954
Asset expansion expenditure		6,966	2,784
Asset upgrade expenditure		23,610	13,344
Total capital works expenditure		**103,912**	**34,473**

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The City of Port Phillip was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 22 June 1994 and is a body corporate.
The Council's main office is located at 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting policy information

1.1 Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:
- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.7)
- whether or not AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or $1 million where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2025 $'000	Actual 2025 $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	150,914	152,189	1,275	0.84%	**1**
Statutory fees and fines	24,084	27,285	3,201	13.29%	**2**
User fees	44,780	44,434	(346)	(0.77%)	
Grants - operating	8,977	12,150	3,173	35.35%	**3**
Grants - capital	4,540	4,489	(51)	(1.12%)	
Contributions - monetary	2,496	5,912	3,416	136.86%	**4**
Contributions - non-monetary	-	3,828	3,828	(100.00%)	**5**
Other income	30,547	33,822	3,275	10.72%	**6**
Total income / revenue	**266,338**	**284,109**	**17,771**	**6.67%**	
Expenses					
Employee costs	109,169	111,168	(1,999)	(1.83%)	**7**
Materials and services	93,786	88,933	4,853	5.17%	**8**
Depreciation	23,148	23,733	(585)	(2.53%)	
Depreciation - right-of-use assets	1,530	1,638	(108)	(7.06%)	
Allowance for impairment losses	4,203	4,681	(478)	(11.37%)	**9**
Finance costs - leases	426	456	(30)	(7.04%)	
Other expenses	21,452	21,778	(326)	(1.52%)	
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,125	1,508	617	29.04%	**10**
Share of net profits losses of associates and joint ventures	-	31	(31)	(100.00%)	
Total expenses	**255,839**	**253,926**	**1,913**	**0.75%**	
Surplus for the year	**10,499**	**30,183**	**19,684**	**187.49%**	

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

(i) Explanation of material variations- Income and Expenditure

Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Rates and charges	The favourable variance of $1.3 million is due to higher supplementary rates from property development in the municipality and an increase in interest on outstanding rates and charges.
2	Statutory fees and fines	The $3.2 million favourable revenue variance is primarily driven by parking enforcement infringement notices issued. This increase is largely attributed to greater traffic activity in foreshore and tourist areas during the summer and major event periods. Additionally, improved operational capacity, supported by a greater staff retention rate, has enabled more consistent and effective enforcement throughout the year.
3	Grants - Operating	The favourable variance of $3.2 million is largely due to: • $1.8 million prepayment of the 2025/26 Federal Government financial assistance grants. • $0.4 million additional Commonwealth funding for aged and home services to support a longer and smoother service transition. This was unbudgeted. • $1.0 million increase in additional grants received for key projects including Metro Tunnel, Middle Park Beach Renourishment and Housing Strategy.
4	Contributions - monetary	The favourable variance of $3.4 million is due to higher than expected property subdivisions from development within the municipality. All developer contributions have been ring-fenced in the Open Space Reserve for future public space enhancements to cater for population growth.
5	Contributions - non-monetary	The favourable variance of $3.8 million reflects the recognition of additional contributed assets, largely due to the completion of the ANZAC station precinct and other minor infrastructure contributions associated with new developments. Council is now required to maintain these assets ongoing.
6	Other Income	The favourable variance of $3.3 million has largely resulted from: • $1.5 million increase in property rental income largely due to additional sites becoming available for rent and the temporary lease of the Australia Post site back to Australia post. • $0.9 million additional tree planting contributions received from developers. • $0.6 million due to one-off legal settlements. • $0.3 million funding secured for E-scooter trial.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

(i) Explanation of material variations- Income and Expenditure (continued)

Ref	Item	Explanation
7	Employee costs	The unfavourable variance of $2.0 million is mainly due to: • $1.0 million additional employee costs associated with externally funded project work, key projects including Metro Tunnel, Middle Park Beach Renourishment and Housing Strategy. • $0.4 million additional aged and home care services expenditure funded by the Federal Government to support a longer and smoother service transition. • $0.3 million increase in parental leave due to greater utilisation.
8	Materials and services	The favourable variance of $4.9 million is mainly due to: • $3.1 million net operating project spend deferred to future years (offset by Council reserves) for projects including Clever Port Phillip, Coastal Planning, Planning Scheme Amendments and In Our Backyard. • $0.8 million lower expenditure related to prior year work-in-progress, no longer being capitalised and re-allocated to expenditure (non-cash) • $0.5 million additional efficiency savings achieved through reduction in external consulting advice for planning matters, where projects were completed in house or completed with savings and other minor savings.
9	Allowance for impairment losses	The unfavourable variance of $0.48 million is mainly due to an increase in the value and quantity of parking infringements issued by Council.
10	Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	The favourable variance of $0.62 million was mainly due to updated timing of divestment of council assets with proposed property sales deferred to future years.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2025 $'000	Actual 2025 $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Land	44,897	51,246	6,349	14.14%	**1**
Total land	**44,897**	**51,246**	**6,349**	**14.14%**	
Buildings	28,628	23,484	(5,144)	(17.97%)	**2**
Total buildings	**28,628**	**23,484**	**(5,144)**	**(17.97%)**	
Total property	**73,525**	**74,730**	**1,205**	**1.64%**	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,675	3,149	474	17.72%	**3**
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	735	337	(398)	(54.15%)	**4**
Computers and telecommunications	750	714	(36)	(4.80%)	
Library books	702	709	7	1.00%	
Total plant and equipment	**4,862**	**4,909**	**47**	**0.97%**	
Infrastructure					
Roads	3,352	2,797	(555)	(16.56%)	**5**
Bridges	352	141	(211)	(59.94%)	**6**
Footpaths and cycleways	5,608	5,118	(490)	(8.74%)	**7**
Drainage	1,310	997	(313)	(23.89%)	**8**
Parks, open space and streetscapes	20,777	15,220	(5,557)	(26.75%)	**9**
Total infrastructure	**31,399**	**24,273**	**(7,126)**	**(22.69%)**	
Total capital works expenditure	**109,786**	**103,912**	**(5,874)**	**(5.35%)**	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	52,974	56,906	3,932	7.42%	**10**
Asset renewal expenditure	19,399	16,430	(2,969)	(15.30%)	**11**
Asset expansion expenditure	7,140	6,966	(174)	(2.44%)	**12**
Asset upgrade expenditure	30,273	23,610	(6,663)	(22.01%)	**13**
Total capital works expenditure	**109,786**	**103,912**	**(5,874)**	**(5.35%)**	

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

(i) Explanation of material variations- Capital Works

Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Land	Investment in land for open space exceeded budget by $6.3 million primarily due to the timing of deposit recognition for a land purchase, and brought forward land acquisitions in St Kilda East that were originally planned for future years.
2	Building	Building capital spend was $5.1 million lower than budget mainly due to the deferral of several building projects to 2025/26 and future years. Key contributing factors included asbestos-related and known seismic delays impacting South Melbourne Town Hall Renewal, resource constraints affecting the SMM Project Connect, extended timelines required to award the design contract for Albert Park Bowls Club Pavilion and delays for both Palais Theatre Concrete Spalling and the Electronic Security Expansion Upgrade project.
3	Plant, machinery and equipment	Plant, machinery and equipment capital spend was $0.5 million greater than budget due to accelerated expenditure on parking sensor replacements, prompted by sensor failures, and increased procurement of bins to address higher-than-anticipated volumes of bin repairs.
4	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	Fixtures, fittings and furniture capital spend was $0.4 million lower than budget primarily driven by cost savings for the Workplace Renewal and Upgrade Program, following a revised project scope. Additionally, the deferral of the St Kilda Library Furniture Replacement to future years - due to delays arising from consultation with Heritage Victoria - contributed to the underspend.
5	Roads	Roads capital spend was $0.6 million lower than budget due to the partial deferral of the Park Street road construction project to future years, due to delays associated with the constructions works.
6	Bridges	Bridges capital spend was $0.2 million lower than budget due to savings achieved in the design phase of the Broadway Bridge renewal project.
7	Footpaths and cycleways	Footpaths and cycleways capital spend was $0.5 million lower than budget primarily attributable to cost savings for the West Beach Boardwalk accessibility project, as less contingency was required for the management of contaminated soil than initially anticipated.
8	Drainage	Drainage capital spend was $0.3 million lower than budget and was achieved through savings and efficiencies in the delivery of the Stormwater Capital Works Program.
9	Parks, open space and streetscapes	Parks, open space and streetscapes was $5.6 million lower than budget mainly driven by the deferral of several projects to future years, due to resource constraints and updates to project scope and design. The impacted projects include Gasworks Arts Park - Park Upgrade, JL Murphy Pitch Upgrade, Sol Green Reserve Upgrade and Sandridge Recreation Precinct. Additionally, cost savings were realised for the JL Murphy Pitch upgrade as a result of lower-than-expected soil contamination.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

(i) Explanation of material variations- Capital Works

Ref	Item	Explanation
10	New asset expenditure	New asset expenditure was $3.9 million greater than budget primarily related to funding brought forward from future years to support land acquisitions.
11	Asset renewal expenditure	Asset renewal expenditure was $3 million less than budget mainly due to deferral of building renewal works impacted by resource constraints, asbestos-related and known seismic delays, extended timelines required to award design contracts and project scope changes.
12	Asset expansion expenditure	Asset expansion expenditure was $0.2 million less than budget mainly due to deferral of open space and building programs to future years to address the impacts of resourcing, design updates and project scope changes.
13	Asset upgrade expenditure	Asset upgrade expenditure was $6.7 million less than budget mainly due to deferral of building, parks and open space programs driven by resource constraints, project scope changes and design updates.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs:

2.2.1 Community Wellbeing and Inclusion

The Community Wellbeing and Inclusion division plays a vital role in delivering high-quality services and programs, that enhance the lives of everyone who lives, works, learns, and plays in our city — from newborns to older adults.

We are especially committed to supporting those who face barriers to participation, ensuring they can fully engage with all that the City of Port Phillip has to offer.
Our team is made up of passionate professionals — from frontline service providers to policy developers — all working together to create inclusive, welcoming environments that foster wellbeing and connection.

We work in close partnership with other organisations and community groups to amplify impact, build local capacity, and strengthen social cohesion. These collaborations are key to creating sustainable, community-led solutions that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of our residents.

We approach our work guided by evidence and driven by outcomes, we strive to ensure our programs are not only effective but truly make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

City Growth and Development

The City Growth and Development division plays a central role in shaping the cultural, economic, and built environment of Port Phillip – making it safer, more vibrant, and sustainable now and into the future.

We focus on services that enhance community safety and amenity, and champion sustainability through strategic planning, infrastructure delivery, and community programs that promote long-term environmental resilience. Our transport projects make it easier and safer for people to move around the City as it grows. This includes leading the delivery of Fishermans Bend as Australia's largest urban renewal project.

We lead statutory planning and building solutions, manage the impacts of new development and land use changes to protect the unique character and heritage of our City. Our work ensures that growth is thoughtfully managed and aligned with community values.

We support economic development through cultural activation and place promotion, including the landmark declaration of St Kilda as Victoria's first Live Music Precinct. Our placemaking, urban design, and planning strategies help create welcoming, dynamic spaces across the municipality. Our team delivers Council's Festivals program and manages the iconic Esplanade Market, enriching the cultural life of Port Phillip.

Operations and Infrastructure

The Operations and Infrastructure division provides asset management, infrastructure management and maintenance, project delivery and financial support to the organisation. We work with our community and other stakeholders to build, maintain and manage our City's infrastructure, deliver quality services and projects all retaining the unique look and feel of our parks, villages and streets. We incorporate environmental sustainability into our practices, and ensure that our impact is reduced through new initiatives to maintain our City and our assets leaving the City in a better place for our community.

Our team works across 4 departments. Our staff aim to provide the best customer experience to our residents and visitors with each interaction. Not only does this include when residents contact us for a request, but also when walking down the street, into our parks, Council facilities and onto our foreshore.

The Division's priorities include getting the most from our investment in assets, delivering high quality services and ensuring the financial sustainability of Council.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program continued

2.2.1 Governance & Performance

The division provides governance and advocacy, corporate planning, enterprise portfolio management office, risk and assurance and stakeholder engagement functions to support service delivery.

Our team delivers a broad range of services including advice on governance issues, Council meetings, Council elections, administrative support to Councillors, Freedom of Information as well as Privacy.

We lead Council's advocacy and grants program to influence policy and secure funding to enhance community wellbeing, infrastructure and environmental sustainability. We champion community engagement to ensure that the voice of our community is reflected in the decisions that Council make.

We strategically manage Council's business enterprise risks, compliance, insurance, assurance and business continuity frameworks.

Organisational Capability and Experience

The division provides oversight for customer experience and transformation, people, culture and safety, digital and technology services, and South Melbourne Market operations.

Responsible for embedding a customer-centric mindset, customer culture and capability across the organisation, improving customer experience and making it easier for our customers to access services and interact with Council, and supporting staff to implement and adapt to change.

Enables an employee experience where our people feel welcomed, safe, informed and equipped to contribute and perform at their best. This includes employee and industrial relations, HR business partnering services, recruitment, organisational development and health safety and wellbeing (including Child safety).

Designs the technology infrastructure approach for the organisation, manage all core systems, applications and cyber security, provide data insights and reporting, manage Council's information and records, and deliver digital solutions, continuous improvement and transformation.

Manages all elements of South Melbourne Market operations to ensure a positive experience for the community and traders, including asset management and market operations, marketing and promotion, and retail management and licencing.

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

2025	Income / Revenue $'000	Expenses $'000	Surplus/ (Deficit) $'000	Grants included in income / revenue $'000	Total assets $'000
Community Wellbeing and Inclusion	14,455	42,203	(27,748)	4,288	636,493
City Growth and Development	62,327	51,587	10,740	638	778,019
Operations and Infrastructure	194,402	119,998	74,404	11,713	1,809,773
Governance and Organisational Performance	222	9,520	(9,298)	-	143,578
Organisational Capability and Experience	12,703	30,618	(17,915)	-	461,771
	284,109	**253,926**	**30,183**	**16,639**	**3,829,633**

2024	Income / Revenue $'000	Expenses $'000	Surplus/ (Deficit) $'000	Grants included in income / revenue $'000	Total assets $'000
Community Wellbeing and Inclusion	15,594	44,994	(29,400)	6,424	638,103
City Growth and Development	52,138	48,556	3,582	687	688,619
Operations and Infrastructure	182,543	123,654	58,889	7,724	1,753,671
Governance and Organisational Performance	172	8,307	(8,135)	-	117,810
Organisational Capability and Experience	11,959	30,831	(18,872)	-	437,244
	262,406	**256,342**	**6,064**	**14,835**	**3,635,447**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES	2025 $'000	2024 $'000

3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses CIV (Capital Improved Value) as the basis of valuation for rating purposes of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is the value of the property including both land and all improvements
The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2024/25 was $75.8 billion (2023/24 $75.0 billion).

General rates	135,414	130,950
Cultural and recreational land	187	182
Waste management charge	15,015	14,499
Special rates and charges	900	873
Special rates and charges applied	(907)	(931)
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	1,256	591
Specific rate rebates	(610)	(686)
Interest on rates and charges	934	592
Total rates and charges	**152,189**	**146,070**

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2024 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2024.
Annual rates and charges are recognised as income when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Parking fines and parking permits	23,008	19,468
Infringements and costs	308	256
Court recoveries	82	51
Town planning fees	1,484	1,520
Land information certificates	279	271
Permits	2,124	1,912
Total statutory fees and fines	**27,285**	**23,478**

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fines and permits) are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

3.3 User fees

Parking fees	22,400	20,894
Aged and health services	298	480
Leisure centre and recreation	984	912
Child care/children's programs	10,150	8,987
Registration and other permits	7,140	6,741
Building services	957	966
Waste management services	361	314
Markets	835	717
Towing	926	890
Other fees and charges	383	336
Total user fees	**44,434**	**41,237**

User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised at a point in time	44,434	41,237
Total user fees	**44,434**	**41,237**

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	9,401	3,744
State funded grants	7,238	11,091
Total grants received	**16,639**	**14,835**
(a) Operating Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Aged and home care	1,519	2,657
Community health	255	291
Financial Assistance Grants	5,144	145
Recurrent - State Government		
Aged and home care	91	733
Building	138	276
Community health	63	60
Family and children	1,145	1,236
Libraries	755	755
Maternal and child health	939	876
Other	488	439
Recreation	119	120
School crossing supervisors	219	206
Total recurrent operating grants	**10,875**	**7,794**
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Community health	-	11
Family and children	22	40
Other	118	3
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Community health	-	60
Family and children	25	25
General home care	(152)	-
Maternal and Child Health	47	99
Foreshore	350	-
Other	725	496
Parks and Streetscapes	-	25
Sustainability	140	387
Total non-recurrent operating grants	**1,275**	**1,146**
Total operating grants	**12,150**	**8,940**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
(b) Capital Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	361	278
Total recurrent capital grants	**361**	**278**
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Buildings	250	1,505
Footpaths and cycleways	1,262	420
Other	11	22
Parks and Streetscapes	481	3,377
Roads	141	19
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Building	156	167
Footpath and cycleway	183	-
Parks and streetscapes	1,627	6
Recreation	-	101
Roads	17	-
Total non-recurrent capital grants	**4,128**	**5,617**
Total capital grants	**4,489**	**5,895**

(c) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:
- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

Income recognised under AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*		
General purpose	5,559	1,482
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	3,485	3,437
Other specific purpose grants	4,817	6,422
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*		
Specific purpose grants	2,778	3,494
	16,639	**14,835**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner		
Operating		
Balance at start of year	1,469	5,287
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	1,950	676
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(341)	(4,494)
Balance at year end	**3,078**	**1,469**
Capital		
Balance at start of year	6,349	6,187
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	827	3,150
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(2,783)	(2,988)
Balance at year end	**4,393**	**6,349**

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

3.5 Contributions		
Monetary	5,912	2,277
Non-monetary	3,828	1,674
Total contributions	**9,740**	**3,951**
Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.		
Land	-	1,500
Roads	2,510	-
Drains	740	-
Open Space	570	-
Other infrastructure	-	19
Heritage plant and equipment	8	155
Total non-monetary contributions	**3,828**	**1,674**

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	285	130
Written down value of assets disposed	(1,793)	(8,259)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	**(1,508)**	**(8,129)**

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.7 Other income		
Interest	6,088	7,396
Property rental	14,801	13,230
Other rent	8,246	7,619
Other	4,687	4,590
Total other income	**33,822**	**32,835**

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	80,404	77,045
WorkCover*	3,390	2,133
Casual, temporary and agency staff	6,582	8,555
Superannuation	10,535	9,644
Fringe benefits tax	381	263
Annual and long service leave	9,319	9,342
Cessation of service costs	-	1,678
Other	557	806
Total employee costs	**111,168**	**109,466**

* WorkCover increase was largely due to higher Local Government sector WorkCover industry rates which impacted the premium paid in 2024/25.

(b) Superannuation
Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	217	257
	217	**257**
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	4,441	4,435
Employer contributions - other funds	5,789	4,952
	10,230	**9,387**
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-

Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Materials and services

Waste management contracts	15,049	14,397
Maintenance and construction contracts	12,937	14,009
Parks and gardens contract	11,933	12,046
Consultants	8,466	9,175
Family and community support contracts	5,472	5,846
Parking administration contracts	6,870	6,309
Building and general maintenance	4,185	5,524
Office administration	4,719	5,913
Information technology	6,010	5,659
Utilities	3,161	2,995
Cleaning contract	4,421	4,421
Insurance	2,689	2,620
Security	1,884	2,049
Other contract payments	1,137	974
Total materials and services	**88,933**	**91,937**

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
4.3 Depreciation		
Property	5,920	5,868
Plant and equipment	3,773	3,779
Infrastructure	14,040	13,510
Total depreciation	**23,733**	**23,157**

Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and accounting policy.

4.4 Depreciation - Right of use assets		
Vehicles	1,385	1,374
Property, plant and equipment	253	95
Total Depreciation - Right of use assets	**1,638**	**1,469**

4.5 Allowance for impairment losses		
Parking fine debtors	4,352	3,399
Other debtors	329	(52)
Total allowance for impairment losses	**4,681**	**3,347**
Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors		
Balance at the beginning of the year	35,462	33,047
New allowances recognised during the year	6,069	5,712
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(995)	(172)
Amounts allowed for but recovered during the year	(2,180)	(3,125)
Balance at end of year	**38,356**	**35,462**

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.6 Finance Costs - Leases		
Interest - Lease Liabilities	456	464
Total finance costs	**456**	**464**

4.7 Other expenses		
Contributions and donations	16,009	13,010
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	97	99
Auditors' remuneration - Internal	182	194
Councillors' allowances	466	485
Operating lease rentals	856	521
Bank charges	624	590
Catering costs	188	192
Subscriptions	838	916
Other	2,518	2,339
Total other expenses	**21,778**	**18,346**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
5.1 Financial assets		
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	3	4
Cash at bank	13,133	19,208
Term deposits	4,000	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	17,136	**19,212**
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits	63,000	112,500
Total current other financial assets	63,000	**112,500**
Non-current		
Term deposits and floating rate notes	25,018	12,995
Shares in Municipal Associations Purchasing Scheme (MAPS)	5	5
Total non-current other financial assets	25,023	**13,000**
Total other financial assets	88,023	**125,500**
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	105,159	**144,712**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

(c) Trade and other receivables

Current		
Statutory receivables		
Rates debtors	27,560	27,570
Infringement debtors	47,019	42,547
Allowance for expected credit loss - infringements	(38,062)	(35,196)
Net GST receivable	2,570	1,819
Non statutory receivables		
Other debtors	1,848	2,178
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(294)	(266)
Total current trade and other receivables	**40,641**	**38,652**
Non-current		
Non statutory receivables		
Other debtors	609	588
Total non-current trade and other receivables	**609**	**588**
Total trade and other receivables	**41,250**	**39,240**

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS	2025 $'000	2024 $'000

5.1 Financial assets

(d) Ageing of Receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	150	720
Past due by up to 30 days	175	85
Past due between 31 and 180 days	44	18
Past due between 181 and 365 days	58	38
Past due by more than 1 year	303	181
Total trade and other receivables	**730**	**1,042**

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of $1.73 million (2024: $1.72 million) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was $0.29 million (2024: $0.27 million). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Current (not yet due)	1	-
Past due by up to 30 days	2	-
Past due between 31 and 180 days	578	1,214
Past due between 181 and 365 days	381	152
Past due by more than 1 year	766	358
Total trade & other receivables	**1,728**	**1,724**

(f) Contract assets

Contract assets	1,698	5,346
Total contract assets	**1,698**	**5,346**

Contract assets are recognised when Council has transferred goods or services to the customer but where Council is yet to establish an unconditional right to consideration.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.2 Non-financial assets	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
(a) Other assets		
Prepayments	1,496	3,325
Deposit land*	-	3,880
Total other assets	**1,496**	**7,205**

*Other assets included a prepaid deposit of $3.88 million in 2023/24 for strategic land purchase for future public open space in Port Melbourne. This was settled in 2024/25.

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities		
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
Non-statutory payables		
Trade payables	15,418	9,332
Accrued expenses	476	169
Total current trade and other payables	**15,894**	**9,501**
(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	1,035	971
Fire services levy	1,264	916
Other refundable deposits	4,679	4,737
Total current trust funds and deposits	**6,978**	**6,624**
(c) Contract and other liabilities		
Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	1,336	1,982
Other	1,577	830
Total contract liabilities	**2,913**	**2,812**
Other liabilities		
Current		
Deferred capital grants	-	-
Total other liabilities	**-**	**-**
Total contract and other liabilities	**2,913**	**2,812**

Trust funds and deposits
Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Contract liabilities
Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of government funding. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note

Purpose and nature of items

Refundable deposits
Deposits are taken by council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

Fire Service Levy
Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Other refundable deposits
Other deposits are taken by council as a form of surety in varying circumstances, including stallholder bonds, permits and fellowship grants.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.4 Provisions	Employee $ '000	Other $ '000	Total $ '000
2025			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	21,996	358	22,354
Additional provisions	10,439	94	10,533
Amounts used	(12,377)	(152)	(12,529)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(335)	-	(335)
Balance at the end of the financial year	**19,723**	**300**	**20,023**
Provisions - current	**16,844**	**-**	**16,844**
Provisions - non-current	**2,879**	**300**	**3,179**
2024			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	19,774	407	20,181
Additional provisions	11,635	-	11,635
Amounts used	(8,823)	(49)	(8,872)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(590)	-	(590)
Balance at the end of the financial year	**21,996**	**358**	**22,354**
Provisions - current	**19,585**	**152**	**19,737**
Provisions - non-current	**2,411**	**206**	**2,617**

(a) Employee provisions	**2025 $'000**	**2024 $'000**
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	5,350	5,363
Long service leave	8,319	8,889
Retirement gratuity	8	9
Redundancies	-	2,000
Other	339	381
	14,016	**16,642**
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	2,758	2,860
Retirement gratuity	70	83
	2,828	**2,943**
Total current employee provisions	**16,844**	**19,585**
Non-current		
Long service leave	2,879	2,411
Total non-current employee provisions	**2,879**	**2,411**
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	16,844	19,585
Non-current	2,879	2,411
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	**19,723**	**21,996**

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.4 Provisions	**2025 $'000**	**2024 $'000**

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:
- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.20%	4.35%
- index rate	4.25%	4.45%

(c) Other provisions

Current		
Council rates waivers**	-	152
	-	**152**
Non-current		
Workcover MAV insurance scheme shortfall*	300	206
	300	**206**
Total Other Provisions	**300**	**358**

* Council was a participant in the MAV self insurance WorkCare scheme. The agreement states that each participant is liable for contributions to the Scheme to the extent of their share of any shortfall in the provision and such liability shall continue until June 2027 whether or not the participant remained a participant in future insurance years. The scheme ceased however we were advised in June 2020 of a funding shortfall and provided for an initial $1.499 million, and a further $0.24 million in 2021/22 which has been drawn down on as the fund is wound up. The provision has increased in 2024/25 based on fund projections.

** In 2021/22 Council endorsed a rates hardship waiver program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy enables ratepayers to apply for waivers retrospectively. The 2023/24 $152,000 has been transferred to reserves and waivers applied from 2025/26 will draw down from this amount.

5.5 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2025.		
Bank overdraft	1,500	1,500
Credit card facilities	2,300	2,167
Other facilities	-	-
Total facilities	**3,800**	**3,667**
Used facilities	41	30
Unused facilities	**3,759**	**3,637**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.6 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

2025	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Operating					
Waste management	23,747	19,131	52,177	-	95,055
Building maintenance	5,644	5,141	4,736	-	15,521
Open space management	11,411	1,383	898	-	13,692
Operational services	6,056	4,038	1,580	-	11,674
Community Services	4,799	2,899	2,062	-	9,760
Computers and technology	5,660	1,445	283	-	7,388
Cleaning contracts for council buildings	3,881	2,623	481	-	6,985
Consultancies	690	32	-	-	722
Total	**61,888**	**36,692**	**62,217**	**-**	**160,797**
Capital					
Buildings	12,746	8,592	32	-	21,370
Parks & open spaces	9,659	841	-	-	10,500
Roads	674	41	-	-	715
Plant, machinery and equipment	270	270	61	-	601
Total	**23,349**	**9,744**	**93**	**-**	**33,186**
	85,237	**46,436**	**62,310**	**-**	**193,983**

2024	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Operating					
Waste management	22,057	17,351	48,595	15,183	103,186
Building maintenance	5,653	5,220	9,757	-	20,630
Open space management	13,390	10,284	1,828	-	25,502
Operational services	3,240	2,652	3,383	-	9,275
Community Services	4,608	2,375	2,218	-	9,201
Computers and technology	4,845	3,798	153	-	8,796
Cleaning contracts for council buildings	2,439	544	-	-	2,983
Consultancies	669	261	20	-	950
Total	**56,901**	**42,485**	**65,954**	**15,183**	**180,523**
Capital					
Buildings *	4,818	539	6	-	5,363
Parks & open spaces	41,652	761	28	-	42,441
Roads	675	74	50	27	826
Plant, machinery and equipment	300	186	186	49	721
Total	**47,445**	**1,560**	**270**	**76**	**49,351**
	104,346	**44,045**	**66,224**	**15,259**	**229,874**

* Includes the settlement amount of $34.927 million for the strategic open space land purchase in Port Melbourne. A deposit of $3.88 million was paid in 2023/24. Refer note 5.2(a).

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.6 Commitments

(b) Operating lease receivables

Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into leases and licences for some of the property it owns or controls as a Committee of Management for crown land. Properties used for commercial purpose are held under leases which have varying terms. Long term leases usually reflect significant private investment in the buildings on the land. Most leases include an annual rental increase and periodical reviews to market. Council also enters into licence agreements with stallholders at the South Melbourne Market.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Not later than one year	12,917	12,010
Later than one year and not later than five years	41,642	35,154
Later than five years	44,962	71,204
	99,521	**118,368**

5.7 Leases

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

· any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus

· any initial direct costs incurred; and

· an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, Council uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

· Fixed payments

· Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement

· Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and

· The exercise price under a purchase option that Council is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if Council is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless Council is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Under *AASB 16 Leases*, Council as a not-for-profit entity has elected not to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.7 Leases

Right-of-Use Assets	**Property**	**Vehicles**	**Plant and Equipment**	**Total**
	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**
Balance at 1 July 2024	-	6,868	261	7,129
Additions	201	1,010	490	1,701
Depreciation charge	(26)	(1,385)	(227)	(1,638)
Balance at 30 June 2025	**175**	**6,493**	**524**	**7,192**

Lease Liabilities	**2025**	**2024**
	$'000	**$'000**
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	1,999	1,659
One to five years	6,581	5,622
More than five years	-	1,345
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	**8,580**	**8,626**
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:		
Current	**1,610**	**1,230**
Non-current	**5,897**	**6,082**
Total lease liabilities	**7,507**	**7,312**

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of AUD$5,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2025	**2024**
Expenses relating to:	**$'000**	**$'000**
Short-term leases	844	516
Leases of low value assets	12	5
Total	**856**	**521**

	2025	**2024**
	$'000	**$'000**
Variable lease payments (not included in measurement of lease liabilities)		
Variable lease payments	70	134
Total	**70**	**134**

Variable lease payments are those that depend on an index or a rate, for example payments linked to the consumer price index, a benchmark interest rate or changes in market rental rates.

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

Payable:		
Within one year	49	32
Later than one year but not later than five	47	34
Later than 5 years	6	8
Total lease commitments	**102**	**74**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

6.1 Non-current assets classified as held for sale	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Asset at carrying value	1,202	1,202
Total non-current assets classified as held for sale	**1,202**	**1,202**

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 $'000	Additions $'000	Contributions $'000	Revaluation $'000	Depreciation $'000	Disposal $'000	Transfers $'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2025 $'000
Property	2,889,144	56,307	9,690	45,108	(5,920)	(109)	1,107	**2,995,327**
Plant and equipment	33,435	4,083	8	3,574	(3,773)	(86)	19	**37,260**
Infrastructure	481,725	15,532	3,820	100,919	(14,040)	(1,598)	10,673	**597,031**
Work in progress	26,121	27,990	-	-	-	-	(12,250)	**41,861**
	3,430,425	103,912	13,518	149,601	(23,733)	(1,793)	(451)	**3,671,479**

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP $'000	Additions $'000	Write-off $'000	Transfers $'000	Closing WIP $'000
Property	11,456	19,256	(9)	(1,107)	**29,596**
Plant and equipment	19	233	-	(19)	**233**
Infrastructure	14,646	8,501	(442)	(10,673)	**12,032**
Total	26,121	27,990	(451)	(11,799)	**41,861**

**write-off refers to the reallocation of costs to operating expenditure*

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(a) Property

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Total Land	Buildings - specialised	Buildings- non specialised	Total Buildings	Total Property
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	2,510,822	106,017	**2,616,839**	493,864	92,818	**586,682**	**3,203,521**
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	-	-	**-**	(274,060)	(40,317)	**(314,377)**	**(314,377)**
	2,510,822	106,017	**2,616,839**	219,804	52,501	**272,305**	**2,889,144**
Movements in fair value							
Additions	12,322	38,841	**51,163**	4,166	978	**5,144**	**56,307**
Contributions	9,690	-	**9,690**	-	-	**-**	**9,690**
Revaluation	13,067	(10,374)	**2,693**	73,070	47,703	**120,773**	**123,466**
Disposal	-	-	**-**	(521)	-	**(521)**	**(521)**
Transfers	-	-	**-**	1,107	-	**1,107**	**1,107**
	35,079	28,467	**63,546**	77,822	48,681	**126,503**	**190,049**
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	**-**	(5,075)	(845)	**(5,920)**	**(5,920)**
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	**-**	412	-	**412**	**412**
Revaluation	-	-	**-**	(40,185)	(38,173)	**(78,358)**	**(78,358)**
	-	-	-	(44,848)	(39,018)	**(83,866)**	**(83,866)**
At fair value 30 June 2025	2,545,901	134,484	2,680,385	571,686	141,499	**713,185**	**3,393,570**
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	-	-	-	(318,908)	(79,335)	**(398,243)**	**(398,243)**
Carrying amount	**2,545,901**	**134,484**	**2,680,385**	**252,778**	**62,164**	**314,942**	**2,995,327**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Heritage plant and equipment	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Computers and telecomms	Library books	Total plant and equipment
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	23,864	13,230	2,757	2,946	4,189	**46,986**
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(473)	(7,630)	(2,133)	(1,615)	(1,700)	**(13,551)**
	23,391	5,600	624	1,331	2,489	**33,435**
Movements in fair value						
Additions	35	2,523	102	714	709	**4,083**
Contributions	8	-	-	-	-	**8**
Revaluation	2,863	-	-	-	-	**2,863**
Disposal	-	(664)	(30)	(688)	(64)	**(1,446)**
Transfers	-	19	-	-	-	**19**
	2,906	1,878	72	26	645	**5,527**
Movements in accumulated depreciation						
Depreciation and amortisation	(238)	(1,905)	(238)	(621)	(771)	**(3,773)**
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	594	30	672	64	**1,360**
Revaluation	711	-	-	-	-	**711**
	473	(1,311)	(208)	51	(707)	**(1,702)**
At fair value 30 June 2025	26,770	15,108	2,829	2,972	4,834	**52,513**
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	-	(8,941)	(2,341)	(1,564)	(2,407)	**(15,253)**
Carrying amount	**26,770**	**6,167**	**488**	**1,408**	**2,427**	**37,260**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Parks open space and streetscapes	Off street car parks	Other Infrastructure	Total Infrastructure	Work In Progress
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	281,980	10,825	151,924	162,844	113,824	20,116	19,206	**760,719**	**26,121**
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(80,240)	(7,866)	(65,634)	(63,544)	(50,240)	(2,912)	(8,558)	**(278,994)**	**-**
	201,740	2,959	86,290	99,300	63,584	17,204	10,648	**481,725**	**26,121**
Movements in fair value									
Additions	1,851	-	5,847	1,805	3,350	50	2,629	**15,532**	**27,990**
Contributions	1,872	-	638	740	570	-	-	**3,820**	**-**
Revaluation	53,820	3,682	26,296	7,672	24,049	4,115	2,686	**122,320**	**-**
Disposal	(1,548)	-	(515)	(102)	(486)	(107)	(143)	**(2,901)**	**-**
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**(451)**
Transfers	933	-	338	1,013	8,389	-	-	**10,673**	**(11,799)**
	56,928	3,682	32,604	11,128	35,872	4,058	5,172	**149,444**	**15,740**
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation and amortisation	(4,444)	(122)	(2,026)	(1,175)	(5,092)	(53)	(1,128)	**(14,040)**	**-**
Revaluation	(2,475)	(2,648)	(12,074)	(2,176)	(581)	(86)	(1,361)	**(21,401)**	
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	583	-	250	43	276	49	102	**1,303**	**-**
	(6,336)	(2,770)	(13,850)	(3,308)	(5,397)	(90)	(2,387)	**(34,138)**	**-**
At fair value 30 June 2025	338,908	14,507	184,528	173,972	149,696	24,174	24,378	**910,163**	**41,861**
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(86,576)	(10,636)	(79,484)	(66,852)	(55,637)	(3,002)	(10,945)	**(313,132)**	-
Carrying amount	**252,332**	**3,871**	**105,044**	**107,120**	**94,059**	**21,172**	**13,433**	**597,031**	**41,861**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer also to Note 8.4 for further disclosure regarding fair value measurement.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		**$'000**
Land & land improvements		
land	-	All
land improvements	10 - 100 years	$5
Buildings		
buildings	25 - 100 years	$5
building and leasehold improvements	100 years	$5
Plant and Equipment		
heritage plant and equipment	100 years	$2
plant, machinery and equipment	4 -7 years	$2
fixtures, fittings and furniture	5 years	$2
computers and telecommunications	3 - 6 years	$2
library books	5 years	All
motor vehicles	5 years	All
Infrastructure		
road pavements and seals	18 - 30 years	$5
road substructure	100 years	$5
road formation and earthworks	250 years	$5
roads - kerb, channel and minor culverts and other	50 years	$5
bridges - deck	20 - 80 years	$5
bridges - substructure	40 - 100 years	$5
footpaths and cycleways	40 - 50 years	$5
drainage	150 years	$5
waste management	10 years	$5
parks open space and streetscapes	10 - 100 years	$5
off street carparks	100 years	$5

Land under roads

Council does not recognise land under roads that it controlled prior to 30 June 2008 in its financial report.
From 1 July 2008, Council recognises any material land under roads that comes in Council's control within the financial report at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Repairs and maintenance
Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings
Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Sarah Morrissy AAPI (No 62894) and Benjamin Israel, Assistant Valuer. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1 $'000	Level 2 $'000	Level 3 $'000	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Land	134,484	-	-	Jun-25	Full
Specialised land	-	-	2,545,901	Jun-25	Full
Buildings	62,164	-	252,778	Jun-25	Full
Total	196,648.00	-	2,798,679		

Valuation of infrastructure
Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with a valuation undertaken by Mr Mohamed El-Saafin ME (Civil) and Clint Vandepeer (B.Eng).

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1 $'000	Level 2 $'000	Level 3 $'000	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	-	-	273,504	Jun-25	Full
Bridges	-	-	3,871	Jun-25	Full
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	105,044	Jun-25	Full
Drainage	-	-	107,120	Jun-25	Full
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	94,059	Jun-25	Full
Other infrastructure	-	-	13,433	Jun-25	Full
Total	-	-	597,031		

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Valuation of heritage and works of art
Valuation of Heritage assets and works of art are undertaken by qualified independent valuers. The valuation is at market value based on current market prices for similar types of assets based on use, type and condition.

Heritage and works of art valuations as at 30 June 2025 were performed by the following independent valuers:
- Australian Art Valuers - contemporary, visual, historical and public art;
- Sainsbury Books - heritage photographs; and
- Sophie Ullin Art Advisory - historical items, artworks, monuments and memorials, mayoral robes, chains and other attire

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's heritage and works of art and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1 $'000	Level 2 $'000	Level 3 $'000	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Heritage and works of art	-	-	26,770	Jun-25	Full
Total	-	-	**26,770**		

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from $508 to $4,918 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 5 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 5 years to 250 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

Reconciliation of specialised land	**2025 $'000**	**2024 $'000**
Parks and reserves	2,020,691	1,998,864
Commercial	147,775	241,832
Community	331,864	328,504
Council office land	45,571	47,639
Total specialised land	**2,545,901**	**2,616,839**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries

(a) Investments in associates
Interests in joint ventures accounted for by the equity method are:
Albert Park Hockey and Tennis Centre

Background
In 1997 Council entered into a 21 year Joint Venture agreement with Wesley College, St Kilda Rd, Prahran for the maintenance and operation of the Albert Park Hockey and Tennis Centre. A further 21 Year Joint Venture Agreement between Council and Wesley, was executed in 2020.

The objective of the Joint Venture is to provide, manage and maintain the Albert Park Hockey and Tennis Centre for use by sporting clubs, schools and residents of Port Phillip municipality and the students of Wesley College. The Joint Venture Agreement provides for joint control via a Management Committee with 50% representation and 50% voting power for each of the Joint Venture parties with decisions being made by a majority vote. The Joint Venture Agreement also provides for each party to share equally in the profits or losses occurring each year and provides for an equal share of the net assets.

The Joint Venture reporting period is for the 12 months to 31 March each year.

The draft Joint Venture financial statements for the 12 months ended 31 March 2025 have been provided. Council's carrying value in the joint venture investment represents a 50% share of the net assets and liabilities of the Albert Park Hockey & Tennis Centre as at 31 March 2025.

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Fair value of Council's investment in Albert Park Hockey and Tennis Centre	**157**	**188**
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	188	215
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	(31)	(27)
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year	**157**	**188**
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	188	215
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	(31)	(27)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	**157**	**188**
Council's share of expenditure commitments		
Operating commitments	-	15
Council's share of expenditure commitments	**-**	**15**
Council's share of contingent liabilities and contingent assets	nil	nil
Significant restrictions	nil	nil

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

For joint operations, Council recognises its direct right to, and its share of jointly held assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of joint operations.

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the interests are initially recognised in the consolidated balance sheet at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise Council's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses and movements in other comprehensive income in profit or loss and other comprehensive income respectively.

b) Community Asset Committee
All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as community asset committees, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

Principles of consolidation
An assessment by management has determined that there are no consolidated entities for the 30 June 2025 reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

City of Port Phillip Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.3.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of City of Port Phillip. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Managers and Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors	Councillor Louise Crawford (Councillor from 1 July 2024, Mayor from 14 November 2024) Councillor Heather Cunsolo (Mayor to 26 October 2024,Councillor from 8 November 2024) Councillor Bryan Mears (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Serge Thomann (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Libby Buckingham (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Rod Hardy (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Justin Halliday (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Beti Jay (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Alex Makin (from 8 November 2024) Councillor Marcus Pearl (to 26 October 2024) Councillor Andrew Bond (to 26 October 2024) Councillor Tim Baxter (to 26 October 2024) Councillor Rhonda Clark (to 26 October 2024) Councillor Peter Martin (to 26 October 2024) Councillor Christina Sirakoff (to 26 October 2024) Councillor Robbie Nyaguy (to 26 October 2024)
Other	Chief Executive Officer Chris Carroll General Manager Operations & Infrastructure Lachlan Johnson General Manager City Growth and Development Brian Tee General Manager Organisational Capability & Experience Claire Stevens General Manager Community Wellbeing & Inclusion Kylie Bennetts (from 11 November 2024) A/General Manager Community Wellbeing & Inclusion Tarnya McKenzie (to 18 November 2024) Director Governance & Performance Robyn Borley (from 20 January 2025) Chief Financial Officer Peter Liu Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Capability Joanne McNeill (to 31 January 2025) A/Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Capability James Gullan (from 4 November 2024 to 24 January 2025)

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Total Number of Councillors	16	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	10	8
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	**26**	**17**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

	2025 $	2024 $
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	2,750	2,285
Other long-term employee benefits	55	44
Post-employment benefits	239	182
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	**3,044**	**2,511**

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
$10,000 - $19,999	7	-
$20,000 - $29,999	6	-
$30,000 - $39,999	-	6
$40,000 - $49,999	1	1
$50,000 - $59,999	-	1
$60,000 - $69,999	1	-
$100,000-$109,000	1	-
$120,000 - $129,999	-	1
$170,000 - $179,999	-	1
$180,000 - $189,999	-	1
$190,000 - $199,999	1	1
$200,000 - $210,999	2	-
$220,000 - $229,999	-	1
$230,000 - $239,999	3	-
$240,000 - $249,999	1	
$250,000 - $259,999	-	1
$280,000 - $289,999	-	1
$290,000 - $299,999	1	-
$300,000 - $309,000	1	1
$410,000 - $419,999	-	1
$420,000 - $429,999	1	-
	26	**17**

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds $170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

	2025 $	2024 $
Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	4,184	3,235
Other long-term employee benefits	99	354
Post-employment benefits	458	80
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	**4,741**	**3,669**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

The number of other senior staff are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Income Range:	2025 No.	2024 No.
$170,000 - $179,999	2	4
$180,000 - $189,999	5	1
$190,000 - $199,999	1	3
$200,000 - $209,999	2	2
$210,000 - $219,999	4	4
$220,000 - $229,999	3	1
$230,000 - $229,999	1	2
$240,000 - $249,999	3	1
$300,000 - $309,999	1	-
	22	**18**

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:	4,741	3,669

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.

Funding deeds- payable to community groups following submission to the grants assessment panel and approved by Council.	nil	2

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

No balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.	nil	nil

(c) Loans to/from related parties

There are no loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party.	nil	nil

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

There are no commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party.	nil	nil

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.
At balance date the Council was not aware of any contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:
- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
- it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
- the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Legal matters

The Council is presently involved in a number of confidential legal matters which are being conducted through Council's solicitors. Some of these legal matters may present a liability to council through the course of the matter. Council has not presented any estimate of these amounts in these financial statements, as these matters are ongoing and any reflection of a contingent liability in relation to these matters may unfairly prejudice Council's position in relation to the outcome of these matters.

MAV Workcare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013 , there is a six-year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). At the end of the liability period, an adjustment payment may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payment is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2025 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are expected to impact Council.
In September 2024 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued two Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS). This followed Commonwealth legislation establishing Australia's sustainability reporting framework. Relevant entities will be required to undertake mandatory reporting of climate-related disclosures in future financial years. Public sector application issues remain under consideration and Council will continue to monitor developments and potential implications for future financial years.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), and payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020* . Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.3 Financial instruments

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.
To help reduce these risks Council:
- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet, and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

A parallel shift of + 0.5% and -1.0% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.70%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy , Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

Council has considered the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement that apply for the 2024-25 financial year as a result of AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities. For assets, where the Council adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, the Council now considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.
The AASB 13 amendments apply prospectively, comparative figures have not been restated.

The AASB 13 amendments have impacted Council's financial statements as follows:
• The current replacement cost of Council assets, such as infrastructure assets, has increased by $194 million due to the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets.
The movements are as follows:
• Land $2.6 million,
• Buildings $42.4 million,
• Infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, drainage and open space) $101 million and
• Heritage and works of art assets $3.6 million.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.4 Fair value measurement

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Site preparation costs related to the removal and disposal of any unwanted existing structures on the land to make way for hypothetical construction of a reference asset have not been included in the replacement cost estimate for infrastructure assets. Information to estimate those costs is not reasonably available as the Council has not recently undertaken any significant construction projects, such as construction of a new road, that would provide the data to reliably estimate those costs.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 3 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	**Revaluation frequency**
Land	Annually
Buildings	Every 3 years
Roads	Every 3 years
Bridges	Every 3 years
Footpaths and cycleways	Every 3 years
Drainage	Every 3 years
Parks, open space and streetscapes	Every 3 years
Other infrastructure	Every 3 years
Heritage and works of art	Every 3 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increase reverses a prior year decrease for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increase is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decreases are recognised as an expense except where prior increases are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrease is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increases. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increases and decreases within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Reserves (a) Asset revaluation reserves	Balance at beginning of reporting period $'000	Increase (decrease) $'000	Balance at end of reporting period $'000
2025			
Property			
Land and land improvements	2,362,698	2,693	2,365,391
Buildings	135,699	42,415	178,114
	2,498,397	45,108	2,543,505
Infrastructure			
Roads	143,146	51,345	194,490
Bridges	897	1,034	1,931
Footpaths and cycleways	38,589	14,222	52,811
Drainage	56,167	5,495	61,662
Parks, open space and streetscapes	30,476	23,468	53,944
Offstreet car parks	8,249	4,030	12,279
Other infrastructure	3,314	1,325	4,639
	280,837	100,919	381,755
Plant and equipment			
Heritage plant & equipment	17,678	3,574	21,252
	17,678	3,574	21,252
Total asset revaluation reserves	**2,796,912**	**149,601**	**2,946,512**
2024			
Property			
Land and land improvements	2,463,846	(101,148)	2,362,698
Buildings	135,699	-	135,699
	2,599,545	(101,148)	2,498,397
Infrastructure			
Roads	143,146	-	143,146
Bridges	897	-	897
Footpaths and cycleways	38,589	-	38,589
Drainage	42,244	13,923	56,167
Parks, open space and streetscapes	24,134	6,342	30,476
Offstreet car parks	8,249	-	8,249
Other infrastructure	3,314	-	3,314
	260,572	20,265	280,837
Plant and equipment			
Heritage plant & equipment	17,678	-	17,678
	17,678	-	17,678
Total asset revaluation reserves	**2,877,795**	**(80,883)**	**2,796,912**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

	Balance at beginning of reporting period	Transfer from accumulated surplus	Transfer to accumulated surplus	Balance at end of reporting period
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
(b) Other reserves				
2025				
General Reserve				
Contractual Reserves	40,796	28,168	(34,146)	34,818
Strategic Reserves	33,932	4,110	(23,948)	14,094
Other Reserves	38,364	13,723	(21,402)	30,685
	113,092	**46,001**	**(79,496)**	**79,597**
Statutory Reserves				
Resort and recreation reserve	37,796	5,873	(26,819)	16,850
Contributions for car parking reserve	1,791	-	-	1,791
	39,587	**5,873**	**(26,819)**	**18,641**
Total Other reserves	**152,679**	**51,874**	**(106,315)**	**98,238**
2024				
General Reserve				
Contractual Reserves	48,006	12,445	(19,655)	40,796
Strategic Reserves	31,699	4,404	(2,171)	33,932
Other Reserves	19,993	23,236	(4,865)	38,364
	99,698	**40,085**	**(26,691)**	**113,092**
Statutory Reserves				
Resort and recreation reserve	40,081	1,479	(3,764)	37,796
Contributions for car parking reserve	1,791	-	-	1,791
	41,872	**1,479**	**(3,764)**	**39,587**
Total Other reserves	**141,570**	**41,564**	**(30,455)**	**152,679**

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Asset revaluation reserve	2,946,512	2,796,912
Other reserves	98,238	152,679
Total Reserves	**3,044,750**	**2,949,591**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

(b) Other reserves

General Reserve

General Reserves will be maintained at levels sufficient to ensure operational liquidity and for contingencies. Council holds three types of general reserves:

Contractual Reserves hold funds that are subject to contractual obligations. These reserves arise from external contributions such as unspent government grants, infrastructure contributions (including the Childcare Infrastructure Fund, Waste Charge Fund, and committed project budgets). Their use is strictly limited to the purposes for which they were received, ensuring compliance with all relevant agreements and statutory requirements.

Strategic Reserves are allocated by Council to support the delivery of long-term priorities and major initiatives. While not legally restricted, these reserves are set aside to fund future infrastructure projects, service enhancements, or other strategic commitments identified through Council's planning processes. They reflect Council's proactive approach to managing future needs and ensuring the city's resilience and growth. These reserves include Palais Theatre, Strategic Property Fund, Sustainable Transport, Affordable Housing).

Other Reserves are not tied to specific projects or obligations and are used to manage unforeseen events, asset renewal, and support the overall financial health of the organisation. They enable Council to respond effectively to emerging challenges while maintaining service continuity. Other reserves are also offset by Council's internal borrowings

Statuory Reserve

Resort and recreation reserve The resort and recreation reserve is for the accumulation of developer contributions which are to be expended at a future date on recreational infrastructure.

Contributions for car parking reserve The car parking reserve is for the accumulation of developers contributions which are to be expended at a future date on improved car parking facilities.

9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	**2025 $'000**	**2024 $'000**
Surplus for the year	30,183	6,064
Non-cash adjustments:		
Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,508	8,129
Depreciation/amortisation	25,371	24,626
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(3,828)	(1,674)
Deposit for land purchase	-	3,880
Other	916	1,809
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,989)	(3,563)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	5,709	(2,341)
Increase/(decrease) in contract assets	3,649	(1,955)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	6,393	(2,258)
(Decrease)/increase in contract and other liabilities	101	248
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	354	(337)
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	(2,331)	2,173
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**66,036**	**34,801**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2025, this was 11.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2024: 11.0%).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. An interim actuarial investigation is currently underway for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2025 as the fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is expected to be completed by 31 October 2025. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2025 (of which Council is a contributing employer) was 110.5% (2024: 105.4%). The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.6% pa

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2024 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2024 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2025, this rate was 11.5% of members' salaries (11.0% in 2023/24). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

9.3 Superannuation

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts
An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2024 while a full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2024 (Interim) $m	2023 (Triennial) $m
- A VBI Surplus	108.4	84.7
- A total service liability surplus	141.4	123.6
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	156.7	141.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2024.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2024.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2024.

The 2025 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2025 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2025. The last interim actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2025 was at 30 June 2024. The VBI vested benefit index of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2025 was 110.5% (2024: 105.4%).

Net investment returns 5.7% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.6% pa

Because the VBI was above 100%, the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and it is expected that the actuarial investigation will recommend that no change will be necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

9.3 Superannuation

The 2023 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2023 Triennial investigation	2020 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.7% pa	5.6% pa
Salary inflation	3.50% pa	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter
Price inflation	2.8% pa	2.0% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 are detailed below:

			2025 $'000	**2024 $'000**
Scheme	**Type of Scheme**	**Rate**		
Vision super	Defined benefits	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	217	257
Vision super	Accumulation	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	4,441	4,457

Council has not paid any unfunded liability payments to Vision Super during the 2024/25 year (2023/24: $nil)

There were $0 contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 is $231,242.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

The Fixed Asset Accounting Policy has been updated to include changes in costs in response to the new AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requirements

In accordance with the standard, Council recognises additional elements in the replacement cost of assets including

- Once-only costs, such as design costs, for a hypothetical construction of the subject asset
- Site preparation costs
- Costs to restore assets of other entities
- Costs of removal or disposal of any unwanted existing structures on land that would be incurred when acquiring or constructing the subject asset
- Disruption costs when acquiring or constructing the subject asset

These costs will also be recognised as capital. Previously expenses of this nature where written off as operating in nature.

There have been no other accounting policy changes in the 2024/25 financial year.

City of Port Phillip

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2025

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Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

_____
(*Principal Accounting Officer Name and Qualifications (if any)*)
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: *(Date)*

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the *City of Port Phillip* for the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.

_____
(*Councillor 1 Name)*
Councillor
Dated: *(Date)*

_____
(*Councillor 2 Name)*
Councillor
Dated: *(Date)*

_____
Chris Carroll
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: *(Date)*

Victorian Auditor – General's Office Audit Report

We will include the VAGO independent auditors report when we receive it.

City of Port Phillip

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2025

About City of Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip is located south of Melbourne's city centre on the northern shore of Port Phillip Bay. The foreshore stretches over 11 kilometres. A network of public open spaces makes the City a desirable place for residents and visitors to enjoy. Significant employment areas within Port Phillip include the St Kilda Road office district, and the industrial, warehousing and manufacturing districts in South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and Fishermans Bend.

The City of Port Phillip is one of the smallest and most densely populated municipalities in Victoria, covering an area of 20.6 kilometres and being home to 112,669 people. We anticipate substantial population growth over the next 40 years, particularly in Fishermans Bend on the northern edge of the City. The largest growth is expected to be in those aged over 60, suggesting many residents will retire within our community.

Section 2 - Service Performance Indicators For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results					
	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comment
Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	**Actual**	**Actual**	**Actual**	**Target as per budget**	**Actual**	
Aquatic Facilities ***Utilisation*** *Utilisation of aquatic facilities* [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	
Animal Management ***Health and safety*** *Animal management prosecutions* [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100%	100%	100%	N/A	100%	Council achieved 100 per cent success rate on animal prosecutions through the Magistrates' Court of Victoria. All cases were thoroughly assessed to ensure accuracy of evidence prior to being submitted for prosecution.
Food Safety ***Health and safety*** *Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications* [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	N/A	100.00%	All major and critical non-compliance identified within registered food premises were follow-up within the registration period.
Governance ***Consultation and engagement*** *Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement* [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	54	52	49	54	69	Satisfaction with community engagement has risen significantly, reaching its highest level on record and meeting LGV targets. This improvement reflects Council's increased investment in community engagement planning and implementation over the past two years. Contributing factors include more rigorous reporting of engagement findings, regular community communications, and an unprecedented number of place-based engagement activities. In 2025, our survey methodology changed from computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) to face-to-face interviews, and our rating scale changed. These changes likely had a positive effect on the scores.
Libraries ***Participation*** *Library membership* [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	#N/A	#N/A	30.34%	N/A	34.23%	9,594 new members joined the library service in 2024/25. Whilst this number is slightly down on 2023/24 (~1%), there was an increase in active library membership, indicating a larger number of our membership base were actively using our collections and technology services.

Section 2 - Service Performance Indicators For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results					
	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comment
Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation						
Participation in the MCH service	78.58%	76.71%	79.67%	N/A	80.70%	Overall enrolments have decreased slightly, however participation and engagement in the service has increased. Families who have missed a visit are followed up with a reminder and offered outreach visits in childcare centres if they are finding it hard to get to the maternal and child health centre.
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100						
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children	83.72%	84.44%	86.36%	N/A	93.75%	There has been an increase in the number of identified First Nations children accessing the service. Almost all of these children engaged with the service and attended their Key Age and Stage visits.
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100						
Roads						
Condition						
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards	95.48%	94.36%	95.11%	95.00%	94.81%	As per the Road Management Plan, Council conducts visual condition inspections every three years for all roads within the municipality. The annual target was almost met, with the number of road sections below the intervention level expected to improve through ongoing work programs addressing segments of roads in poor condition. Council continues to invest in road condition improvements with a $9m allocation made in the new Council Plan.
[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100						
Statutory Planning						
Service standard						
Planning applications decided within required time	45.12%	56.99%	60.89%	65.00%	71.93%	Council has increased the number of decisions made within timeframe. This is attributed to the active management of planning applications with a focus on the efficient administration of application processes.
[(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100						
Waste Management						
Waste diversion						
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	32.54%	34.91%	37.35%	40.00%	39.45%	There has been continued improvement in landfill diversion in 2024/25 as residents settle into the second year of the Food and Organics (FOGO) service. Increased familiarity with the service has been supported by targeted education initiatives, including flip-top bin audits across both recycling and FOGO streams. These audits provided direct feedback to individual properties, helping reinforce correct usage and improved participation rates. The set target of 40% was almost met. Council is currently reviewing its waste strategy, which aims to further promote diversion from landfill.
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100						

Section 3 - Financial Performance Indicators - For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results					Forecasts				
	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Efficiency ***Expenditure level*** *Expenses per property*	$2,892.64	$3,034.63	$3,379.72	$3,337.00	$3,293.29	$3,489.33	$3,513.72	$3,528.61	$3,572.90	Expenses per property assessment for 2024/25 show a favourable comparison to 2023/24, primarily due to the one-off disposal of land last year for development of community housing. Excluding this item, the ongoing cost base increased marginally by 1%, which is below the 2% inflation rate, reflecting effective cost containment and $1.5m of efficiency savings. Forecast expenditure is expected to rise, driven by cost shifting from State Government, including substantial increases in land tax, WorkCover premiums, congestion levy and landfill levy.
Revenue level *Average rate per property* [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	$1,813.14	$1,667.33	$1,725.25	N/A	$1,764.63	$1,797.20	$1,850.88	$1,897.51	$1,943.41	The 2024/25 ratio increased in line with the rates cap legislation. This ratio is expected to increase subject to the forecast rates cap to be set by the Victorian Government.
Liquidity ***Working capital*** *Current assets compared to current liabilities* [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	390.11%	451.50%	461.40%	273.00%	282.95%	230.74%	150.23%	143.62%	121.12%	Council continues to meet its short-term financial obligations. The ratio has declined compared to the previous year, primarily due to reduced cash reserves following a record $103.9 million investment in community infrastructure during 2024/25, which included strategic land acquisitions for open space. In line with Council's endorsed long-term financial plan, substantial investment in community infrastructure will continue, necessitating further drawdowns on cash reserves.
Unrestricted cash *Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities* [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	-141.12%	-183.73%	-151.95%	N/A	-75.01%	-68.27%	-37.03%	-23.83%	-21.68%	Council's total cash reserves are invested in accordance with our Investment and Treasury Policy, aiming to optimise investment returns while prioritising capital preservation, liquidity and corporate social responsibility. This indicator reflects a snapshot of short-term cash and investments relative to current liability as at 30 June 2025, and may fluctuate depending on the allocation between short-term and long-term investments. Our prudent financial management ensures all current liabilities are settled promptly. Over 62 percent of supplier invoices are paid within 14 days of receipt, in alignment with the Small Business Charter.

Section 3 - Financial Performance Indicators - For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results					Forecasts				
	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Obligations ***Loans and borrowings*** *Loans and borrowings compared to rates* [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council have no current borrowings and no future borrowing plans.
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	5.56%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council have no current borrowings and no future borrowing plans.
Indebtedness *Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue* [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	1.11%	1.08%	3.57%	N/A	3.52%	2.64%	2.26%	1.88%	3.98%	Consistent with prior year. This result is impacted by lease liabilities recognised in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.
Asset renewal and upgrade *Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation* [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	100.44%	96.28%	117.88%	215.00%	168.71%	196.23%	212.78%	128.22%	121.31%	Council spent $103.9 million on community assets during the 2024/25 financial year. $40 million were renewal and upgrade expenditure which represented 169% on depreciation. This ratio increased by 51% on 2023/24 due to record spend on works in 2024/25. It is lower than the budgeted ratio of 196%, mainly due to deferred project spend in parks and open space.
Operating position ***Adjusted underlying result*** *Adjusted underlying surplus (or* [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	5.00%	6.64%	-0.48%	N/A	6.04%	-1.14%	0.21%	1.03%	1.32%	The improvement in the operating surplus for 2024/25 was primarily driven by increased user and statutory parking fees, stronger developer contributions, and the early receipt of $1.8 million in annual general-purpose funding from the Victoria Grants Commission. Our long-term financial plan projects continued positive surpluses in future financial years. Both surplus and depreciation remain vital funding sources to support the renewal, upgrade, and expansion of community infrastructure to meeting growing needs.

Section 3 - Financial Performance Indicators - For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results					Forecasts				
	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Stability										
Rates concentration *Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue* [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	60.12%	57.03%	57.28%	58.00%	56.32%	58.62%	59.21%	59.82%	60.22%	Consistent with prior year we have revenue streams from multiple sources that Council can rely on to fund our services, with no over-reliance on rates. This will remain consistent in future years.
Rates effort *Rates compared to property values* [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.20%	0.19%	0.19%	N/A	0.20%	0.21%	0.21%	0.21%	0.21%	This ratio is influenced by a number of factors including the annual valuation of properties in the municipality, growth in properties during the year and the rates cap. This result is consistent with prior years and long team forecast targets.

Section 4 - Sustainable Capacity Indicators For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comment
Indicator / Measure [Formula]	**Actual**	**Actual**	**Actual**	**Actual**	
Population *Expenses per head of municipal population* [Total expenses / Municipal population]	$1,935.21	$2,218.10	$2,340.70	$2,253.73	This has reduced from prior year due to a reduction in expenditure mainly as a result of asset disposal costs in the prior year due to significant transfers for community housing.
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	$6,599.59	$7,558.25	$7,428.98	$8,796.51	This has increased due to the completion of projects in 2024/25 resulting in record spend during the year. In addition the impact of accounting standard changes for the recognition of fair value costs has resulted in a $150 million valuation increase to Infrastructure asset values.
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	421.40	386.01	407.12	418.84	Council's estimated resident population increased by 5.5% in 2024/25, and the length of local roads remained consistent. This has resulted in an increase in the population density per length of road.
Own-source revenue *Own-source revenue per head of municipal population* [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	$1,881.44	$2,222.38	$2,224.54	$2,287.50	This result has remained consistent with the prior year as the increase in revenue is matched by the increase in population.
Recurrent grants *Recurrent grants per head of municipal population* [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	$111.85	$110.96	$73.71	$99.73	There was a substantial increase in this indicator, primarily due to the early receipt of $1.8 million in annual general-purpose funding from the Victoria Grants Commission during 2024/25.
Disadvantage *Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage* [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	The SEIFA relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage score is measured every five years. The score summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within the City. It indicates that there was an increase in disadvantage when compared to other local government areas in the most recent results. There are several pockets of disadvantage and vulnerable members of our community are experiencing mental health issues, substance abuse problems, childhood developmental difficulties, insecure housing and employment. Building a safer and active community with strong social connections is key to supporting the community we serve.
Workforce turnover *Percentage of staff turnover* [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	20.2%	17.4%	13.4%	18.2%	There has been an increase in overall turnover for 2024-25. This is primarily attributed to the strategic exit of the majority of our Aged Care services in Quarter 2. Additionally, a slight rise in resignations during Quarter 4 reflects broader market trends, as the candidate landscape continues to stabilise following pandemic-related fluctuations. In addition, some frontline services remain affected by ongoing national labour challenges. Internally, we have continued to evolve our practices to strengthen our position as an employer of choice. Our focus remains on enhancing the employee experience for current team members, in alignment with our attraction and retention strategies.

Section 5. Notes to the accounts

5.1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* .

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by *the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* . Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 by the council's financial plan.

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

5.2. Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

5.3. Other Matters

Overview of 2025

During the year Council invested $103.9 million in infrastructure and community assets, including $51.2 million of land acquisition to cater for the growing population by creating new parks and green open space. This investment supported the delivery of priority projects and service enhancements, reinforcing our commitment to continuous improvement, operational efficiency, and keeping rates affordable.

Rising costs associated with delivering Council's core services such as increasing cost base for long day child care, high inflation on contracted services impacted council service. Despite all the above pressures we were able to report a surplus for the 2024/25.

Council is responsible for $3.67 billion of community assets. Changes in asset valuation methodology saw our fixed assets increase by $150 million due to the new cost recognition criteria. Most significantly roads and footpath assets increased by $65 million, buildings $42 million and parks and open space $23 million.

Councils cash reserves have reduced due to the record capital works spend and the $51 million for strategic land acquisitions for open space.

Governance and management checklist

The governance and management checklist increases transparent reporting and is prescribed under the *Local Government Act 2020* (The Act). The checklist measures whether a council has strong governance and management frameworks in place covering community engagement, planning, monitoring, reporting and decision making.

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
1 ***Community engagement policy*** *(policy under Section 55 of the Act outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)*	*Adopted in accordance with Section 55 of the Act* Date of adoption: 17 February 2021	☒
2 ***Community engagement guidelines*** *(guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)*	*Guidelines (online toolkit)* Date of operation of current guidelines: 20 March 2021	☒
3 ***Financial Plan*** *(plan under Section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)*	*Adopted in accordance with Section 91 of the Act* Date of adoption: 26 June 2024 (as part of the integrated Council Plan 2031-31)	☒
4 ***Asset Plan*** *(plan under Section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)*	*Adopted in accordance with Section 92 of the Act* Enterprise Asset Management Plan 2022-32 Date of adoption: 29 June 2022	☒
5 ***Revenue and Rating Plan*** *(plan under Section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)*	*Adopted in accordance with Section 93 of the Act* Date of adoption: 26 June 2024 (as part of the integrated Council Plan 2031-31)	☒
6 ***Annual budget*** *(plan under Section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required)*	*Adopted in accordance with Section 94 of the Act* Date of adoption: 26 June 2024 (as part of the integrated Council Plan 2031-31)	☒
7 ***Risk policy*** *(policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to council's operations)*	*Policy* Date of commencement of current policy: 6 September 2023	☒
8 ***Fraud policy*** *(policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)*	*Policy* Date of commencement of current policy: 7 August 2024	☒
9 ***Municipal emergency management planning*** *(Council's participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC))*	*MEMPC meetings were attended by one or more representatives of Council (other than the chairperson) during the financial year.* Date of MEMPC meetings attended: • Friday 20 September 2024 • Friday 29 November 2024 • Thursday 27 February 2025 • Wednesday 7 May 2025	☒
10 ***Procurement policy*** *(policy under Section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council)*	*Adopted in accordance with Section 108 of the Act* Date of adoption: 21 August 2024	☒

11 ***Business continuity plan*** *(plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)*	Current Plan in operation: 19 February 2025 Business Continuity Plan is currently being revised and updated by an external BCP consultant and will be finalised Q2 2024	☒
12 ***Disaster recovery plan*** *(plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)*	*Current plan in operation* Date of operation: 17 January 2025	☒
13 ***Complaint policy*** *(Policy under Section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints)*	*Developed in accordance with Section 107 of the Act* Date of commencement of policy: 1 Oct 2024	☒
14 ***Workforce plan*** *(Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation)*	*Established in accordance with Section 46 of the Act* Date of commencement of current plan: 26 November 2021	☒
15 ***Payment of rates and hardship policy*** *(Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates)*	*Policy* Date of commencement of current policy: 17 April 2024	☒
16 ***Risk management framework*** *(Framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)*	*Framework* Date of adoption of current framework: 6 September 2023	☒
17 ***Audit and Risk Committee*** *(Advisory committee of Council under Section 53 and Section 54 of the Act whose role is to monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures, monitor Council's financial reporting, monitor and provide oversight on internal and external audit functions)*	*Established in accordance with Section 53 of the Act.* Date Established: 1 September 2021 Audit & Risk Committee Charter and Annual Workplan reviewed annually	☒
18 ***Internal Audit*** *(Independent accounting professionals engaged by Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance risk and management controls*	*Engaged* Date of engagement of current provider: 5 June 2024	☒
19 ***Performance reporting framework*** *(A set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance indicators referred to in Section 98 of the Act)*	*Framework* Date of framework: 26 June 2024 As part of Integrated Council Plan 2021-31	☒
20 ***Council Plan reporting*** *(Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan including the results in relation to the strategic indicators for the first six months of the financial year)*	*Current report*: • 6-month report 19 February 2025	☒
21 ***Quarterly budget reports*** *(Quarterly reports presented to Council under Section 97 of the Act comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)*	*Reports presented to Council in accordance with Section 97(1) of the Act* Dates presented: • Quarter 1 report:11/12/ 2024 • Quarter 2 report: 19/02/2025 • Quarter 3 report 21/05/2025	☒
22 ***Risk reports*** *(Six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies.)*	*Reports* Date of reports: **Operational Risk Reporting** - Operational High Risks are shared at every Strategic Risk and Internal Audit Committee meeting:	☒

	8 July 2024, 12 August 2024, 12 September 2024, 14 October 2024, 11 November 2024, 9 December 2024, 10 February 2025, 11 March 2025, 14 April 2025, 12 May 2025, 10 June 2025 ***Strategic Risk Reporting:*** • Deep dives into specific strategic risks occur at both Strategic Risk and Internal Audit Committee and Audit and Risk Committee meetings. • Strategic Risks were shared with Council as part of the Council Plan & Budget 25/26 • Long Term Financial Outlook and Budget Development 11 December 2024	
23 ***Performance reports*** *(Six-monthly reports of indicators measuring results against financial and non-financial performance including the performance indicators referred to in Section 98 of the Act 2020)*	*Reports* Date of 6 monthly reports: • Financial indicator performance report:19/02/2025 • Non- financial indicator performance report:19/02/2025	☒
24 ***Annual Report*** *(Annual report under Sections 98, 99 and 100 of the Act 2020 to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)*	*Presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with Section 100 of the Act Date of presentation: 16 October 2024*	☒
25 ***Councillor Code of Conduct*** *(Code under Section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)*	*Date Model code of conduct code key dates:* • published on the council's website: 12 November 2024 • declaration by councillors to abide by the model (formal council affirmations and oaths of office): 14 November 2024	☒
26 ***Delegations*** *(Documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with Sections 11 and 47 of the Act)*	*Date of review under Section 11(7):* • Council delegation to CEO 2/08/2023 • Council delegation to CEO South Melbourne Market 19/07/2023 • Council delegation to Members of Staff 2/07/2025 • Council delegation to Planning Committee 20/10/2021 • CEO delegations to Staff 17/10/2023 • CEO delegation of CEO Powers, Duties and Functions 28/03/2023 • CEO delegation to Staff for VicSmart applications under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 28/01/2022 • CEO delegation to Municipal Building Surveyor 10/06/2025	☒
27 ***Meeting procedures*** *(Governance Rules under Section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)*	*Governance Rules adopted in accordance with Section 60 of the Act* Date Governance Rules adopted: 8 September 2022 The meeting procedures are part of the Governance Rules and are not adopted separately. They are included as Chapters 2-4.	☒

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

15. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR DELEGATES

16. URGENT BUSINES

17. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE AND SALE OF PART UNION PLACE (ADJOINING 154-158 BANK STREET), SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITING SUBMISSIONS UNDER SECTION 223

Port Phillip City Council **(Council)**, gives notice under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* **("1989 Act")** and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* that Council proposes to discontinue part of Road UNIP01-10 adjoining 154-158 Bank Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205, shown hatched on the plan below, and to sell that land to the owner of 154-158 Bank Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205.

Interested persons are invited to lodge a written submission on the proposal by close of business Wednesday 20 August 2025. Submissions should be submitted via Council's website or addressed to Kate Psomotragos and posted to Port Phillip City Council, Private Bag 3, St Kilda, VIC 3182. Submissions can also be hand delivered to 99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda VIC 3182.
All submissions will be considered in accordance with section 223 of 1989 Act. No further community consultation will be undertaken.
Any person making a submission is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting of Council or a Committee of Council at a date, time and place determined by Council.
Following consideration of submissions, Council may resolve not to discontinue the road or to discontinue the road and either sell the land from that road or retain the land.
Further information regarding the proposal can be obtained from Port Phillip City Council (Kate Psomotragos via email property@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

CHRIS CARROLL
Chief Executive Officer