

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 2026



Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Cunsolo:

It has been reported that the well-liked hanging flowerpots at the Port Melbourne Town Hall have been taken down. Can officers advise why and if they will be reinstated?

Response:

Council has removed the hanging baskets at the Port Melbourne Town Hall to replenish and reinvigorate the plants. The baskets have been pruned, replanted with fresh soil and fertiliser, and given time to grow on under nursery conditions. They will be reinstated along the Bay Street frontage in late March when it is expected the harsh warm weather to have passed. The baskets on the side of the Town Hall will be replaced once the building refurbishments are complete and the hoarding has been removed.

Question from Councillor Halliday:

There was a question from Frank Artuso about the CCTV drain inspection program. Can we get an idea of how complete that program was for our main drain, our large drains that are connecting out to the bay?

Response:

Council has around 25,000 stormwater assets essential for managing stormwater runoff, which are assessed via inspections on an ongoing basis. CCTV has been used to inspect drains located across major catchments, including Elwood Foreshore, Elwood Canal, Kerferd, Hanna, Salmon, Montague, Scott, Fennel, Pickle, Alma, and McGregor.

Item 10.1 Broadway Bridge Superstructure Deck Replacement, Elwood

Question from Councillor Crawford:

Will there be measures taken in the reconstruction of this bridge to limit the debris and pollution to go into the canal? I know there is environmental damage but there is also run off into the canal. Has this been considered as part of the tender? I'm not only concerned about the local damage but also what might fall into the canal and then out to the bay.

Response:

Measures to limit debris and pollution entering the canal have been specifically considered as part of the project and tender requirements.

An Environmental Management Methodology Plan is in place for the Broadway Bridge Superstructure Project. This plan is a condition of the permit issued by Melbourne Water. Failure to comply would place the contractor, Waratah Constructions (VIC) Pty Ltd, in breach of that permit.

Key controls to protect the canal and downstream environment include:

- Full plastic sheeting scaffold encapsulation for dust suppression and capture of paint flakes (shown in attached plan);*

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- *Sediment fencing at key locations in the event of sediment run off from works;*
- *A silt curtain (similar to that seen on waterways to collect rubbish) will be installed in Elster Creek downstream of the bridge to add further protection in the event of sediment run off;*
- *Suspension of works during heavy rainfall or high flow conditions*

These measures address both local environmental impacts and the risk of material entering the creek and travelling downstream to the bay.

Works are scheduled to commence in late June. Council officers will monitor the site daily to ensure strict compliance with the approved plan.

Item 11.1 South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026-30 Adoption

Question from Mayor Makin:

The tram route 96 is heavily patronised with market goers. My understanding is that the second largest catchment for the market is Port Melbourne. What understanding do we have of modal share of how Port Melbourne residents get to the market?

Response:

Regarding Market patronage, the top three residential postcodes of Market visitors in 2025 were:

1. *South Melbourne (11%)*
2. *Port Melbourne (8%)*
3. *Southbank (7%)*

Market visitors who selected these residential postcodes utilised the following modes of transport to the Market:

1. *South Melbourne*
 - *Car (26%)*
 - *Foot (72%)*
 - *Tram (3%)*
 - *Bike (2%)*
 - *Bus (0%)*
2. *Port Melbourne*
 - *Car (81%)*
 - *Foot (14%)*
 - *Tram (2%)*
 - *Bike (4%)*
 - *Bus (0%)*
3. *Southbank*
 - *Car (32%)*
 - *Foot (69%)*

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- Tram (4%)
- Bike (3%)
- Bus (0%)

This compares with overall results for Market visitors in 2025 being:

- Car (61%)
- Foot (20%)
- Tram (16%)
- Bike (2%)
- Bus (1%)
- Other (1%)