

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 5 FEBRUARY 2025



Public Question Time

Question from Flossy Sperring:

Parks Victoria have entered into a direct negotiation with Phillip Island Nature Parks to take over management of St Kilda penguin visitation. Earthcare St Kilda are being consulted with, but we feel that the process has been performative rather than collaborative. Earthcare are pushing for affordable access to the penguins for the community and the continued involvement of volunteers as has been the case for 35 years. The penguins will be fine, this is now just about the community. Penguin viewing will be free for at least 12 months, but the future cost is unknown. Phillip Island Nature Parks have not prioritised involvement by the local community and volunteers, despite our efforts. The current proposal is not suitable for volunteers. The consultation process is ongoing, however Earthcare feel that there is little that we can do. Earthcare would like the Council to contact Minister Dimopoulos, Nina Taylor, and Parks Victoria in support of Earthcare, requesting that ongoing affordable access to the colony and the involvement of volunteers be ensured. Will the Council follow up with these parties to get a resolution for us?

Response: *Council officers spoke with Flossy Sperring to gather additional information regarding the status of the item, and to explore pathways for Council's advocacy program. During this discussion, the officer specifically addressed the challenges reported by Earthcare and explored potential solutions to these issues. In accordance with the request, the matter was subsequently forwarded to the Local Member for their consideration and further action.*

Item 7.1 Petition: Demand proactive measures for community safety and crisis services in City of Port Phillip

Question from Councillor Thomann:

During public question time deaths in St Kilda were referenced. I am only familiar with one occasion on Acland Street, which was not related to rough sleeping but where two locals fighting unfortunately resulted in the death of one person. Are we aware of any other deaths in Port Phillip?

Response: *The Crime Statistics Agency reports that in the year ending September 2024 there were four Crimes Against the Person (homicide and related offences) which resulted in death in the Port Phillip Local Government Area [Latest crime data by area | Crime Statistics Agency Victoria](#). Local Police have confirmed that of these, only one was in public in St Kilda and that is the one which occurred in Acland Street.*

Item 8.1 Presentation of CEO Report – Issue 113 November 2024

Question from Councillor Jay:

The report refers to 10 joint patrols with police and 90 clean ups during November 2024. Can officers provide a breakdown of the cost of these to the community?

Response: *Cost of patrols for City Amenity for month of November:*

- *Patrols are carried out every day of the year.*

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- On average the patrols take three hours to complete – Acland Street Carlisle Street , Fitzroy Street , and surrounding areas.
- On average there are three Local Law Officers at each patrol.
- This staff cost of \$14,143.
- Local Laws Officer vehicle cost of \$364.

There will be months where less patrols or less staff are required (winter) but November is an average to busier month for City Amenity.

Cost of patrols for support by City Operations (Street and Beach) for month of November

- Rapid Response team accompany each joint patrol, clean up and dispose of refuse.
- 172 cubic metres of refuse (34 tonnes approx) removed at a cost of \$5330 disposal cost.
- Support provided by Rapid Response team members for joint patrols and cleanups is \$20,976.
- Rapid Response Utility vehicle costs inclusive of 90 cleanups is \$1100.

Total costs for 10 joint patrols and 90 cleanups for the month of November is \$41,913.

Item 10.2 Planning permit application at 51 Pakington Street, St Kilda

Question from Councillor Buckingham:

I know that some consultation has already occurred on this site and around Pakington Street. What are officers' plans for future community consultation and next steps?

Response: Council have completed a concept design on the eastern side of Pakington Street Reserve, at 43 Pakington Street. Consultation on the design was completed via Council's Have Your Say page: [Expansion of Pakington Street Reserve | Have Your Say Port Phillip](#). Subject to the portfolio build process, a design will be completed on the eastern side in the 2025/26 financial year, being 49, 29A and 51 Pakington Street. Consultation is anticipated to be at the end of 2025, once the design is confirmed/drafted. Council has purchased 49, 29A and 51 Pakington Street, however, have not settled on 49A and 51 Pakington Street. Settlement on these properties is anticipated from mid-2025.