

Attachment 1.

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES (EXTRACT) 6 April 2009

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Item 1

Ms Jill Quirk (representing Friends of Catani Gardens) and Ms Julianne Bell (representing Protectors of Public Land Victoria) addressed the council about possums and Catani Gardens. In summary their comments were:

- Possums do not damage palm trees; they do not carry fusarium wilt disease and they do not eat palm fronds.
- The council should not have acted to reduce the possum colony; the council wrongly relied on advice from a consultant and acted in contravention of the Wildlife Act 1975.
- Possums were sleeping in the traps until several weeks ago when the traps were removed - were those possums destroyed?
- Sporting events should be held in purpose built venues and not in the Catani Gardens.
- There is concern over the treatment of homeless people.
- Speed humps should be introduced on surrounding roads
- Bands on trees should be removed, and the council should call an amnesty and discontinue events in Catani Gardens until a Master Plan has been drawn up and recommendations made as to restoration and revegetation of the whole precinct.

Cr Bolitho asked that the range of matters raised by Ms Bell be the subject of a full response from the organisation. Cr Klepner referred the matter to the CEO (Interim) Darrell Treloar to be dealt with accordingly.