



# Frequently Asked Questions - Public Place CCTV Expansion Project

## Key Messages:

- Council's advocacy during the 2025 federal election campaign has resulted in a signed agreement with the Australian Government for a \$1.5 million Strengthening Community Safety grant.
- We will be expanding the existing Port Phillip public CCTV network over the next two years, with Carlisle Street (Balaclava), Clarendon/Coventry Streets (South Melbourne) and Bay Street (Port Melbourne) as proposed locations.
- In addition to seeking advice from Victoria Police, each site's assessment will consider feedback from community members including traders which will be sought this year.
- The funding will also allow us to buy a second mobile CCTV trailer to be deployed by Victoria Police.
- Public place CCTV is one tool that Council uses to improve community safety, alongside other environmental and social considerations.

## Q: What is the CCTV Expansion Project?

*A: This project will increase public place CCTV across the City of Port Phillip through the installation of new systems in the key retail precincts of Port Melbourne, Balaclava, and South Melbourne. The new systems will complement the existing CCTV network across St Kilda which is currently being renewed by Council.*

*The project will also include the acquisition of a new mobile CCTV trailer to provide additional surveillance in areas with increased antisocial behaviour upon advice from Victoria Police.*

## Q: What is the purpose of the CCTV cameras?

*A: Closed-circuit Television (CCTV) is a crime prevention tool which acts as a deterrent and assists Victoria Police with incident response and crime management.*

## Q: Where will CCTV cameras be located?

*A: The new precincts are proposed to include Carlisle Street (St Kilda/Balaclava), Clarendon/Coventry Streets (South Melbourne) and Bay Street (Port Melbourne).*



**Q: Who will have access to the footage?**

*A: Council takes seriously the management and maintenance of the public place CCTV network. By design, and in accordance with Council's Public Place CCTV Policy, the network of public place cameras will link directly back to the St Kilda Police Station and the forthcoming South Melbourne Police Station. Council officers will not have access.*

**Q: Where will the footage be stored?**

*A: Footage and images will be stored at the St Kilda Police Station and the forthcoming South Melbourne Police Station for a set period that aligns with Council's Public Place CCTV Policy. Footage may be accessed by Victoria Police members in accordance with CCTV Policies and the Law.*

**Q: How will you ensure all cameras and the system are working correctly?**

*A: As with our current CCTV network, Council will oversee the operation of the new systems and rectify any issues that arise as quickly as possible. Any issues that arise, such as from vandalism, power surges, equipment failure, etc. will be addressed as a priority by Council's contractor.*

*Police will also monitor the cameras daily.*

**Q: How will the privacy of the community be protected?**

*A: Access to any CCTV footage lies solely with Victoria Police. The privacy of the community is guided by the Privacy Act 1988, the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and the Surveillance Devices Act 2004. Cameras are only used for their designated purpose.*

**Q: Where is there already CCTV in Port Phillip?**

*A: Council has a network of fifty cameras across 29 precincts covering Fitzroy Street, Little Grey and Grey streets, St Kilda foreshore and Acland Street. Council is investing in planned renewal of these precincts this year.*



**Q: Who is responsible for the mobile CCTV trailer?**

*A: In 2022 Council purchased a mobile CCTV trailer to support Victoria Police. A second trailer is being purchased as part of the expansion project grant funding.*

*Police manage and maintain the trailers under a loan agreement. Council and Victoria Police identify priority sites for deployment on a weekly basis. Victoria Police have final say of where the mobile camera trailer is placed.*

**Q: What is the Expansion Project budget?**

*A: Council has received a grant of \$1.5 million for the expansion project and the purchase of a second mobile CCTV trailer.*

**Q: What is the timing for the expansion project?**

*The CCTV Expansion Project is designed as a staged process to ensure all evidence, feasibility, governance and engagement requirements are met before installation begins. The project involves:*

**Year 1 - 2026: Research, feasibility and engagement**

- Precinct assessments and data gathering (Feb–Apr 2026)  
Site-based safety audits with Police and Business Associations, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design assessments, feasibility studies, and initial community information sessions to review local issues.
- Community engagement on proposed locations (Aug–Sept 2026)  
Testing and refining proposed CCTV locations through place-based walks, in-person sessions, online interactive maps, and targeted outreach.

**Year 2 - 2027: Installation**

- The rollout will occur in stages across the three precincts. After installing the cameras and infrastructure, we'll integrate the system with Victoria Police and complete all technical, privacy and quality testing before each camera goes live.

**Q: Does CCTV work as a crime prevention tool?**

*A. CCTV infrastructure, alongside other initiatives, can serve as a deterrent to potential offenders and help Victoria Police with investigations and increase perceptions of safety.*



*Council's approach to safety is underpinned by a strong commitment to crime prevention through environmental design, including the application of CCTV surveillance systems, where appropriate. As such Public Place CCTV is an integral part of Council's Community Safety Plan 2019 – 2025.*

### **Q. Advocacy**

*A. Funding public place CCTV systems is a shared responsibility of state and federal government. Council continues to work with state and federal funding bodies and advocates for future funding for the maintenance and renewal of CCTV systems within its municipality.*

*Council advocates not only for continued funding of the CCTV system but also on improving safety and reducing crime through creating safe spaces and building community resilience. We also advocate to the Victorian Government to improve service responses and creating affordable housing via Council's Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy and the Port Phillip Zero program.*

*We value our partnership with Victoria Police and the critical work they do in our community – we are an advocate for improved police resourcing to enable greater physical presence and joint patrols in our hot spots. Law and order are a policing issue and questions about police response times and resourcing should be directed to Victoria Police. Only Victoria Police has the authority to decide where police should be stationed.*

### **Where to find more information:**

Community safety webpage

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/community-safety/Webpage>

Community Safety Plan (2025–2029)

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/edqbgz2y/feel-safe-be-safe-community-safety-plan-2025-29-pdf-3-mb.pdf>

Public Place CCTV Policy

[https://intranet.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/yuqljqt4/city-of-port-phillip-public-place-cctv-policy\\_endorsed-by-council-2-august-2023-2.pdf](https://intranet.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/yuqljqt4/city-of-port-phillip-public-place-cctv-policy_endorsed-by-council-2-august-2023-2.pdf)

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