

# RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

## COUNCIL MEETING 3 JUNE 2026



### Public Question Time

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#### Question from Maria Jevic:

While renting a small office from Council at the Mary Kehoe Centre, we have experienced ongoing security issues and unauthorised access that have not been adequately addressed. This changed when we installed CCTV cameras, the footage showed strangers in our space without our consent. Can we change the locks, or can Council allow us to do it for the safety of our volunteers and the property? Can a period of rent relief be considered to help replace stolen and damaged property of over \$1000? Can an independent investigation be launched into who has access to the building, why people have been entering without notice and what happened to our CCTV footage?

#### Response:

*Council acknowledges that Planetary Heal Artist has raised concerns regarding security, together with allegations of property damage and theft, and note the seriousness of these matters. These matters are currently the subject of ongoing communications between Council officers and the tenant. Council officers are, and will continue to be, in contact to work towards resolving these matters. Separately, Council confirms that arrangements are underway to change the office locks. A further update will be provided once a suitable date and time has been agreed to be finalised.*

### 9.1 Urban Forest Strategy Annual Update

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#### Question from Councillor Jay:

Councillor Jay followed up to ask who an affected resident can contact to understand whether their specific circumstances are legal?

#### Response:

*St Kilda Road is classified as a State arterial road and is therefore under the ownership and overarching management of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). With respect to the nature strips along St Kilda Road, these are generally maintained by the abutting property owners, consistent with Council's standard practice across the municipality. Council officers have, however, worked collaboratively with several body corporates and property owners in this precinct to support and improve the presentation of these areas where opportunities arise.*

*There are several constraints impacting the condition and potential enhancement of nature strips along this corridor, including:*

- *High pedestrian volumes, which contribute to wear and compaction*
- *Significant shading from adjacent buildings and established tree canopy*
- *Resulting poor turf performance, making traditional grass surfaces difficult and resource intensive to maintain*

*Given these conditions, alternative treatments to turf are often required to achieve a more sustainable and visually appealing outcome, and officers continue to explore opportunities with stakeholders where feasible.*

*\*Please note: Responses to any questions during Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were responded to during the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*

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*In relation to the central medians, those located in proximity to Anzac Station are maintained directly by the Department of Transport and Planning, while other sections are maintained by Council's contractors under an established Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Government. Council officers will continue to liaise with DTP and local stakeholders to seek practical and sustainable improvements to the amenity of St Kilda Road where possible.*

### **13.1 Proposal to Readdress the Hallmark Building**

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#### **Question from Councillor Jay:**

Do we have any idea of the costs of changing titles or things like that?

#### **Response:**

*For most properties, there will be no direct cost associated with updating the address on title. The Victorian land titles system is now largely electronic, and Council will notify the Victorian Land Registry as part of the process, enabling address details to be updated across relevant records.*

*For the small number of property owners who may still hold a hard copy title, there is an option to manually update the address through the State Government. This attracts a minor administrative fee (currently around \$20 per title). Importantly, this step is not mandatory, as the legal identifier of the property (the parcel description) does not change. The updated address will also be reflected automatically at the time of any future property transactions.*

*More broadly, Council will undertake bulk notifications to relevant government agencies and service providers to minimise any administrative burden on affected property owners. Council will note that this is an enforced address change to reinforce the need for timely updates and the expectation that where possible changes be processed without cost to affected property owners.*

#### **Question from Councillor Halliday:**

We heard also about the comparison of 1 Albert Road, is that building in a similar or different position. Has Council reviewed that building for its appropriateness of its address whether it should be on Albert or St Kilda Road?

#### **Response:**

*The property at 1 Albert Road, Melbourne 3004 occupies a full corner site with multiple active frontages, and access points from both Albert Road and St Kilda Road. As a result, its current addressing does not present the same level of ambiguity as the Hallmark building. Following permanent changes to the surrounding road network associated with the ANZAC Station development, the Hallmark Building now has a clearly defined primary access point from St Kilda Road. Based on addressing standards requiring alignment with the primary point of access, readdressing was considered necessary for Hallmark but not required for 1 Albert Road, Melbourne 3004.*

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### 11.1 Draft Multicultural Strategy

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#### **Question from Mayor Makin:**

Does the engagement within high rise buildings include engagement with owner corporations and building managers?

#### **Response:**

*As part of Phase One of engagement for the Multicultural Strategy, staff have been intentional in ensuring that residents of high-rise buildings are meaningfully included. A targeted and strategic approach has been undertaken to reach these communities. This included a pop-up engagement session at South Melbourne Primary School, where approximately 68% of the school community is born overseas, and a significant proportion of families live in nearby high-rise housing. Council has a strong and established relationship with the school, which has been effectively leveraged as a trusted community hub to reach this cohort and raise awareness. This approach also reflects an understanding that many families connected to the school participate in broader multicultural activities, including Council-supported programs such as multicultural Storytime sessions.*

*Additional outreach was conducted through culturally specific programs, including Hindu Storytime and Mandarin Storytime sessions. Participants in these sessions identified as living in high-rise buildings, and the unique challenges they raised have been incorporated into the draft Strategy, particularly under Action 3.2, which focuses on:*

*“Increasing the visibility and accessibility of Council support services in neighbourhoods with high levels of new migrant settlement, including St Kilda Road, South Melbourne and public housing estates, so residents can more easily find and access support.”*

*Through the consultation process, a key issue identified was limited awareness of Council services among high-rise residents. Addressing this gap is being considered as part of the implementation planning, including scoping improved and more accessible engagement methods for this cohort.*

*The purpose of Phase Two engagement is to return to participants who previously provided input and ensure their feedback has been accurately captured. As part of this process, staff will revisit the Hindu and Mandarin Storytime sessions, as well as South Melbourne Primary School, to validate findings and confirm that Council have accurately reflected community input. In addition, engagement with owner corporations and building managers is planned as part of this phase. This will include contacting body corporates to support the distribution of information (such as posters in building foyers) and facilitating information sessions within residential buildings. To maximise accessibility, materials will be provided in key community languages and in plain English.*