

Councillor Question Time

Question from Cr Copsey

In relation to a public question asked from Michael Knight regarding businesses charging for access to Business Parklets, are Council officers aware of this and also is there a policy on this that will deal with this issue?

Response

I have followed up with Mr Knight further and his feedback doesn't in fact concern a parklet, but one of our foreshore activations - the West Beach Bather's Pavilion. This business - plus The Exchange Beach Club pop up in Port Melbourne have both advertised packages where people can book a spot on the beach including a deckchair and table starting from \$40 depending on the number of patrons. Mr Knight is correct in saying this doesn't fit with the intent of the Live Love Local program which was to assist traders in reaching pre-COVID capacity.

Foreshore activations are permitted under our Event Permitting process and this activity wasn't included in the relevant applications. It is not something we support and we will provide feedback to the owner that it's not something that would be supported in the future.

The other example raised by Mr Knight does involve a parklet - 29th Apartment in Fitzroy St. This owner closed his business for renovations but continued to use the parklet as a personal parking space. We have advised the owner that the parklet was not intended for this usage and if he continues to park there he will be fined as would any member of the public exceeding the permitted time in a space. He is hoping to re-open next week at which time use of the parklet would resume

In terms of the upcoming policy, we will incorporate guidance regarding what is and isn't an appropriate use of permitted space including 'changed use' and 'inappropriate financial gain'.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*