



**10.4** **MOBILE CCTV TRAILER**

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**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To action the Council resolution requesting Council Officers to present options for Council to proceed with the acquisition (either purchase or hire) of a mobile CCTV unit for the Port Phillip Service Area.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The 2020/2021 summer season saw an increase in hoon driving and related antisocial behaviour. Victoria Police borrowed the City of Stonnington's mobile CCTV trailer and positioned it in Port Melbourne. The mobile CCTV trailer was well received by the community.
- 2.2 Victorian Police are the lead agency with responsibility for responding to hoon driving. Council works closely with Victoria Police in relation to public safety issues but does not have the statutory powers to respond to criminal and antisocial behaviour such as speeding and dangerous driving.
- 2.3 Council resolved on the 19 May 2021, that Council:
- Notes the submission to the Department of Justice's Building Safer Communities Grant Program for \$117,120 to acquire a mobile CCTV trailer as per the Council resolution on 3 February 2021 has been submitted.
  - Notes Council would need to budget \$5,000 per annum to cover maintenance, insurance, registration and data costs for the infrastructure.
  - Resolves to purchase a mobile CCTV trailer if successful with grant application.
  - Notes that the current public place CCTV policy indicates that any new public places CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
  - Delegates to the CEO to make necessary amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to include a mobile CCTV trailer.
  - In the event that Council are unsuccessful in this grant application, that this item be brought back to Council for further consideration.
- 2.4 The grant application to the State Government's Building Safer Communities Grant Program was unsuccessful.
- 2.5 Council officers have also submitted a grant application to the Federal Government's Safer Communities Fund – Infrastructure Grants. This grant outcome is still pending with an outcome delayed until December 2021.



- 2.6 Since February 2021, Council has received two petitions from Port Melbourne Road Safety Group (PMRSG) regarding dangerous hoon driving and vehicle noise in the municipality.
- 2.7 Council resolved, (dot point six), when considering the most recent petition on the 15 September, that Council:
  - Requests Council officers to provide a formal report to Council in October 2021 with options for Council to proceed with the acquisition (either purchase or hire) of a mobile CCTV unit for the Port Phillip Police Service Area. The report should include financial costs, details of consultation with Victoria Police about the use of a unit in the Port Phillip Police Service Area and any required policy updates to facilitate the acquisition (either purchase or hire) and use of the unit.
- 2.8 The Public Place CCTV Policy, which was endorsed by Council on the 4 December 2019, indicates that any new public place CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
- 2.9 The costing to purchase a mobile CCTV trailer would be \$117,120. An additional \$5,000 per annum would be required to cover maintenance, insurance, registration, and data costs for the infrastructure.
- 2.10 The cost to hire a mobile CCTV trailer for six months is \$35,000 excluding GST and a supplier can provide this within one to two weeks.
- 2.11 A six-month trial is proposed to gather feedback from the community and Victoria Police on the effectiveness of a mobile CCTV solution to strengthen future applications.
- 2.12 The mobile CCTV trailer would be moved around the municipality by Victoria Police to locations agreed by Council and moved on a weekly or fortnightly basis.
- 2.13 The mobile CCTV trailer would be trialled at various locations that could build community confidence in City of Port Phillip public spaces and not be solely a dedicated asset tackling hoon activity within the municipality.
- 2.14 Council can amend the policy to allow Council to fund, the hire or purchase of CCTV infrastructure. A likely consequence of this would be an increased volume of requests by the community to fund CCTV in various settings throughout the municipality.
- 2.15 If Council resolves to fund a hire of the mobile CCTV trailer, it would be noting it is a decision against the current policy.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the resolution on the 15 September 2021, a request for Council officers to provide a formal report to Council in October 2021 with options for Council to proceed with the acquisition (either purchase or hire) of a mobile CCTV unit for the Port Phillip Police Service Area.
- 3.2 Notes Council has already resolved to purchase a mobile CCTV trailer if successful with a grant application.
- 3.3 Requests officers to continue concurrently applying for grants that would fully fund the hire or purchase of a mobile CCTV trailer, including submitting the hire of a mobile CCTV trailer as an initiative using the Victorian Government COVID Safe Outdoor Activation grant funding.



- 3.4 Notes that the current public place CCTV policy indicates that any new public places CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
- 3.5 Notwithstanding, resolves to fund the hire and trial of a mobile CCTV unit for six months to gather feedback from the community and Victoria Police on the effectiveness of a mobile CCTV solution to strengthen future applications.
- 3.6 Allocates \$35,000 to fund the trial and hire of a mobile CCTV unit in an upcoming quarterly budget review, in the event that this is not funded through the Victorian Government COVID Safe Outdoor Activation grant.
- 3.7 Delegates to the Manager Open Space, Recreation and Community Resilience to authorise locations requested by Victoria Police.
- 3.8 Notes Council has already resolved to delegate to the Council officers the ability to make necessary amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to include a mobile CCTV trailer.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

##### Partnering with Victoria Police

- 4.1 Council and Victoria Police partner to manage proactively the public realm as part of Council's Visitor and Summer Management Program. Port Phillip's iconic public spaces, foreshore and streets are attractive locations for visitation during warmer weather.
- 4.2 Victorian Police are the lead agency for responding to hoon driving. Council works closely with Victoria Police in relation to public safety issues but does not have the statutory powers to respond to criminal and antisocial behaviour such as speeding and dangerous driving.
- 4.3 Council borrowed the City of Stonnington's mobile CCTV trailer, with the objective of assisting police in identifying, locating, and responding to crime more effectively. The agile device was positioned in Port Melbourne and acted as a deterrent. The mobile CCTV trailer was well received by the community.
- 4.4 Planning for this 2021/22 Summer period, Victoria Police will be;
  - Reinstalling tactical cameras at Station Pier, a known gathering site for hooning last summer and already a location in October
  - Trialling a Mobile Processing Unit Van with CCTV capability during resourced operations.

##### Acquisition of a mobile CCTV trailer (either purchase or hire)

- 4.5 The cost to purchase a mobile CCTV trailer would be \$117,120. An additional \$5,000 per annum would be required to cover maintenance, insurance, registration, and data costs for the infrastructure.
- 4.6 If Council endorsed the purchase of the mobile CCTV trailer, there is no guarantee that it would be ready for the 2021/2022 summer season, as infrastructure is made to order.
- 4.7 The cost to hire a mobile trailer CCTV trailer, for six months would be \$35,000 with a supply lead time of one to two weeks.
- 4.8 A rented device would unlikely be labelled with the City of Port Phillip and Victoria Police logos. This could potentially have implications on the promotion of the device to



community members and the ability to deter crime. Notwithstanding, branding the trailer could be further explored during procurement.

Policy implications

- 4.9 The current public place CCTV policy indicates that any new public places CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
- 4.10 If Council resolves to fund the hire or purchase of a mobile CCTV trailer this would not be in accordance with our policy position.
- 4.11 Council could resolve to amend the policy to allow Council to fund the hire or purchase of CCTV outright immediately. By doing this it will set a precedence of Council funding CCTV infrastructure and could attract further community submissions.
- 4.12 The option to trial through hire agreement is still funding CCTV, therefore noting this resolution is not in accordance with policy Council could amending the policy if required.

Determining locations and Operations by Victoria Police

- 4.13 To derive the benefit of a mobile CCTV trailer, it is important that the trailer is moved regularly to benefit the entire municipality and address various community safety needs. Therefore, it is proposed that the trailer is relocated on a weekly or fortnightly basis, based on police advice .
- 4.14 Victoria Police would have the ability to propose the locations, however each location will have an assessment by Council against our principles within our Public Space CCTV Policy and approved by the Manager Open Space, Recreation and Community Resilience.
- 4.15 Victoria Police would be responsible for managing the operations of this asset in accordance with legislation, our policy and memorandum of understanding.
- 4.16 Victoria Police would be responsible for the relocation of the trailer. Council can assist in circumstances where appropriate Police vehicle to move trailer is not available.

Options

- 4.17 Council can;
  1. continue to apply for grants and progress only when funding is made available, no change to policy would be required
  2. resolve to fund the purchase or ongoing hire of a mobile CCTV immediately and amend the current policy, or
  3. trial mobile CCTV trailer through a hire agreement, note trial funding is not in accordance with policy and continue to apply for funding concurrently.

Officer Recommendation

- 4.18 Noting Council has already resolved, requesting Council officers provide options for Council to proceed with the acquisition through either purchase or hire.
- 4.19 It is recommended, Council trial the hire of a mobile CCTV trailer (option 3) as;
  - A hire agreement is the most efficient way to acquire one for this summer



- A trial allows Council to collect feedback from Community and Victoria Police to strengthen future grant applications.
- A trial would not require Council to amend the policy that CCTV should be funded by State and Federal Government, not Local Government. This issue could be reviewed when considering the outcomes of the trial.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The Community Safety Plan was developed in consultation with community members, local traders, Victoria Police, community service organisations, government agencies, internal staff, and via the 'Have Your Say' website.
- 5.2 The Community Safety Plan articulates that the use of CCTV must be balanced with evidence for need, appropriateness of location and citizen's privacy.
- 5.3 Council has received two petitions from PMRSG in relation to speeding, hoon activities, noisy vehicles and antisocial behaviour.
- 5.4 Council officers have worked in partnership with Victoria Police to consider the required scope for the proposed mobile CCTV trailer equipment.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Council has an obligation to effectively manage public spaces in its jurisdiction and powers and to balance the various uses and opportunities with public safety considerations.
- 6.2 Antisocial behaviour and incidents of crime can impact on the reputation of the City and increases negative perceptions of safety. Council investment in Public Place CCTV systems assist Victoria police response.
- 6.3 Council's Public Place CCTV Network meets obligations under relevant legislation like the *Privacy Act 1988* and *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.
- 6.4 The use of the existing Public Place CCTV Network is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to ensure the integrity of the system and that data access remains in keeping with privacy laws.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 If Council resolves to hire a mobile CCTV trailer it would cost \$35,000 excluding GST for a six-month period.
- 7.2 If Council resolves to purchase a mobile CCTV trailer it would cost \$117,120 excluding GST. An additional \$5,000 excluding GST per annum would be required to cover maintenance, insurance, registration, and data costs for the infrastructure.

## 8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 The implementation of a mobile CCTV system has been in response to community concerns about ongoing antisocial and dangerous behaviour. These concerns have been received directly by officers, Councillors and Victoria Police. Two petitions have also received by Council on this topic.
- 8.2 The mobile CCTV trailer was effective and well received by residents when used at Beacon Cove, and saw a reduction in hoon behaviour in this area.



- 8.3 Victoria Police have indicated that the extension of the CCTV Network via portable means will work to improve public safety and security by supporting Police to identify, locate and respond to crime more effectively.

**9. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 9.1 Direction 1 of the City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2017-2027 articulates that Council is working towards a 'Safe and active community with strong social connections'.
- 9.2 The Community Safety Plan, which takes a holistic, multifaceted approach to community safety was adopted at the Council meeting of 4 September 2019.
- 9.3 The Public Place CCTV Policy provides assistance to Council in decision making in relation to any future proposals of the application of CCTV in public places. The policy was endorsed by Council on the 4 December 2019.

**10. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**10.1 TIMELINE**

- 10.1.1 Council has a quote for hire agreement supply of a mobile CCTV trailer with a site deliver by mid November 2021
- 10.1.2 The current federal grant determination is now anticipated to be December 2021
- 10.1.3 Officers will continue to monitor and apply for appropriate grants
- 10.1.4 The trial of hire agreement will conclude April / May 2022

**11. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

- 11.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil