



9.2 POST EXHIBITION - DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To seek approval from Council to endorse the attached Community Safety Plan.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Safety is a fundamental human right and is essential to the wellbeing of our residents. Port Phillip Council is committed to building a community where both residents and visitors feel safe to live, work and play.
- 2.2 Community safety is a key priority of our Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy 2017– 2021. The perception of safety is incorporated in that Strategy as also important, based upon the understanding that the safer people feel, the more likely they are to participate in and enjoy community life; all of which leads to a healthy and thriving Port Phillip.
- 2.3 Maintaining a safe community requires individuals, communities, businesses, community service organisations and government to work together, so everyone can Play Their Part.
- 2.4 On 5 December 2018, Council approved the draft Community Safety Plan for public exhibition.
- 2.5 The draft Community Safety Plan was placed on exhibition from 17 April to 29 June 2019 to allow an opportunity for the community to provide feedback. Consultation activities included direct engagement with stakeholders as well as an online survey through the 'Have Your Say' webpage These are outlined in **Item 5. Consultation and Stakeholders**. What people told us and our response is part of the attached Community Safety Plan draft (Attachment A.)
- 2.6 The overall feedback indicated positive support for the City's commitment to increase actual and perceived safety in Port Phillip.
- 2.7 Following the close of the community consultation period, Council officers now present a final draft of the Community Safety Plan 2019-2023 (Attachment A). The Plan has been amended to incorporate all feedback from the public exhibition and is recommended for Council endorsement.
- 2.8 Council officers further recommend that a future policy, supporting decision making in relation to CCTV in public places, be developed for Council consideration.



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3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Adopts the final Community Safety Plan 2019-2023, as shown at Attachment 1.
- 3.2 Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Community Safety Plan 2019-2023 in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and alternative format translations.
- 3.3 Requests the development of a policy for CCTV in public places for future Council consideration.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Safety is a fundamental human right and is fundamental to health and wellbeing, and the enjoyment of community life.
- 4.2 Community safety is not only about reducing and preventing crime; it is also about helping people to feeling safe. Perceptions of safety, impacts how safe a person feels and, how they interact within their community. Higher proportions of people who feel safe indicate higher levels of trust and social cohesion within the community (VicHealth).
- 4.3 Community Indicators and VicHealth Indicator surveys 2016 shows that Port Phillip residents feel safe in comparison with Victorian state-wide community safety perceptions.
 - 97.7% of Port Phillip respondents felt safe or very safe when walking alone in their local area during the day. This is very similar to the Victorian average of 97%.
 - Port Phillip has higher safety perceptions regarding walking at night in their local area. 78.6% of Port Phillip residents felt safe or very safe at night, compared with the Victorian average of 70%.
 - Port Phillip also has higher safety perceptions compared with the wider Southern Metropolitan region of Melbourne. 96.7% of people in the Southern Metropolitan region reported feeling safe or very safe when walking alone in the day. 70.3% of people in the region felt safe or very safe walking alone at night.
 - People with disability were only half as likely to feel safe walking alone during the day, and a third less likely to feel safe walking alone after dark, than people without disability. This pattern was consistent for both men and women with disability. <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Health-Inequalities/Indicators-disability-supplement.pdf?la=en&hash=A66E8A8D6B92CBC6BF41FE32FE353446A54B5C6F>
- 4.4 Reported crime in the City of Port Phillip's local government area is predominantly stable, except for higher than average crime rates related to alcohol and other drugs.



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- 4.5 Whilst Council's role in community safety is important, it is dependent on and requires the support of, partnerships and collaboration. Council work in partnership with all levels of government, Victoria Police, community service organisations and members of the Port Phillip community. Council is committed to working with our partners to create safe neighbourhoods where people feel happy, empowered and, where necessary, supported to lead fulfilling lives.
- 4.6 Council is committed to ensuring that community safety is not something that is achieved for one section of the community at the expense of others, therefore every effort will be made to ensure that the needs of all community members are considered.
- 4.7 A series of engagement and consultations opportunities took place with residents, local traders, representatives from community service organisations, Victoria police and relevant Council staff.
- 4.8 Through community consultation, research and partnership collaboration, Port Phillip Council has developed the Port Phillip Community Safety Plan with three strategic priorities to guide our work. These priorities are:
- 4.8.1 Creating Safe Spaces
 - Crime Prevention
 - Safer Design
 - Active Spaces
 - 4.8.2 Building Resilience
 - Promoting Diversity and Inclusion
 - Empowering and Connecting Communities
 - Supporting the Most Vulnerable
 - 4.8.3 Living Healthy
 - Reducing Harm
 - A Vibrant and Diverse Entertainment Economy
- 4.9 Safety is a fundamental principal underlying how Council delivers its services. Within the legislative scope of its operations, under the Local Government Act, and other legislation, the City of Port Phillip can influence some of the causes of crime and public safety issues in the City through a range of mechanisms. For example, planning controls can be used to specify the design quality and safety of new buildings and infrastructure as well as regulate their usage.
- 4.10 Actual and perceived safety is influenced through directly managing aspects of the public domain including: lighting, cleansing and waste management, public event management, public art and provision of community recreational spaces.
- 4.11 The Community Safety Plan describes work already underway as well as new initiatives to improve safety and the perception of safety. The Plan presents a holistic



picture of action by the City of Port Phillip and its partners to achieve shared outcomes – in areas within Council’s control and influence.

- 4.12 An internal Implementation Plan is attached and will be reviewed annually to address the priority areas and support the implementation of the Community Safety Plan. Activities will be undertaken by the responsible department that has leadership for that area and if additional funding is required, this will be applied for using the budget process.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The consultation to develop the priorities of the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Integrated Transport Strategy, *Move, Connect, Live*, have helped inform the Community Safety Plan. This consultation was extensive and included:
- Specific engagement with groups identified as ‘hard to engage’.
 - Facilitated input from Council’s community advisory committees; i.e. Multicultural Forum, Multi-faith Network, Older Person’s Consultative Community, Urban South Local Aboriginal Network and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community, Youth Advisory Community.
- 5.2 The City of Port Phillip contracted RedRoad Consulting to assist with the engagement and consultation component of the Community Safety Plan. Voices of South Side (VOSS) were also contracted as expert community researchers. VOSS is composed of people with lived experience of homelessness, who are the group whose safety is most at risk. In this way, the most vulnerable members of the community were given the opportunity to participate in the consultation process.
- 5.3 RedRoad conducted two half-day workshops in mid-April 2019, with 78 attendees including community members, community service organisations, Victoria Police and Council officers.
- 5.4 One outcome of the workshops was the agreement to further and deepen the consultation by holding focus group meetings that targeted specific population groups. This work sought to drill down to specific community safety issues that affected each specific group.
- 5.4.1 The first focus group involved people considered to be the most vulnerable in community. This was achieved through RedRoad Consulting, VOSS and a council officer attending the Father Bob’s Community Dinner at Peanut Farm Reserve, on 26 May 2019, to have informal conversations with vulnerable community members about their perspective of community safety and the Plan.
- 5.4.2 The second group involved interested residents and local traders.
- 5.4.3 The third group involved community service organisations and Victoria Police.
- 5.4.4 An additional, fourth, focus group was undertaken, due to further interest from residents and local traders.



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- 5.5 Community members were also invited to provide feedback on the draft Community Safety Plan via the 'Have Your Say' website over a four-week period closing on 28 June 2019.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Whilst improving community safety reduces personal and community risk, the mitigation of risks associated with crowded spaces and other gatherings will continue to be addressed through Risk Management Plans for Public Safety, Festivals and other places where large groups gather.
- 6.2 Anti-social incidents can attract negative media and impact the reputation of the City. It can also influence negative perceptions of safety.
- 6.3 Council has met its obligations under the relevant legislation including the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The Community Safety Plan has been developed in alignment with existing budget and staff expertise.
- 7.2 Separate applications for funding opportunities will be made where they align to the priorities of the Community Safety Plan.
- 7.3 The delivery of the Community Safety Plan largely represents the alignment of 'business as usual' activities with the outcomes in the Plan – sometimes requiring a shift in focus or realignment of resources, but not requiring extensive new resources.
- 7.4 There may be funding impacts in relation to any extension and upkeep of CCTV in public places, pending the adoption of a future policy.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Council will assess the environmental impact for each project delivered.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Safety is fundamental to the cultural and social sustainability of communities. The City of Port Phillip uses community development approaches to build social cohesion and to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes.
- 9.2 The Community Safety Plan has a focus on strengthening informal networks and enhancing community structures with the potential to build community capacity. This can provide opportunities to mobilise communities to address local issues and increase safety.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Public safety influences many different aspects of our City's quality of life and sustainability for its growing population of residents, workers and visitors.



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Consequently, the areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to Council's overarching vision for Port Phillip set out in our Council Plan 2017 – 2027.

10.2 Council; in adopting the Council Plan 2017 – 2017, committed to the delivery of actions across six strategic directions. Relevant to the Community Safety Plan are:

- Direction 1: We embrace difference and belong
- Direction 4: We are growing and keeping our character
- Direction 5: We thrive by harnessing creativity

10.3 Improving community safety is a key priority for the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy through the vision 'a safe and active community with strong social connections.'

10.4 A key objective of the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy is to ensure Council's planning of natural and built form are informed by land use and design principles that contribute to community safety.

11. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

11.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS 1. CoPP Community Safety Plan Draft Jul 2019