

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4 FEBRUARY 2026



Public Question Time

Question from Frank Artuso:

In relation to the red bin lid changeover costs and funding. What amount has the City of Port Phillip spent to date on red bin lid changeover mandated by the Circular Economy Act 2021? Can Council confirm that grant funding for this cost is not assured? Has Council formally advocated to the State Government for relief regarding this specific cost imposition? What financial outcome, if any, has resulted?

Response:

The City of Port Phillip has not incurred any expenditure to date for a municipality-wide red-lid changeover. At this stage, Council have only replaced individual bins with compliant red lids when they are reported as damaged or missing, in line with standard maintenance practices.

Council can confirm that grant funding for the red-lid changeover is not assured. The State Government has provided funding to support the rollout of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services and glass (purple-lid) services. However, no equivalent funding has been committed for the mandatory red-lid transition for general waste bins.

Council has not formally advocated to the State Government specifically for financial support relating to the red-lid changeover. Accordingly, no financial outcome has resulted from grant opportunities or advocacy for this purpose.

Question from David Johnston:

In the Southeast corner of Waterloo Crescent, rubbish is dumped, and cars are broken into daily etc. Families are scared and cars and houses are being robbed constantly. I had to sweep broken glass of a car seat this morning before I drove my children to school. Can the Council install signage or install CCTV cameras to deter this behaviour and to stop the constant crime?

Response:

Council's permanently installed CCTV network is currently limited to designated activity centres and priority precincts. However, Council have asked local Victoria Police to investigate the placement of a mobile CCTV trailer in the street, should there be a suitable location that does not impede access or impinge on the privacy of other residents. Mobile CCTV units can be effective in deterring criminal behaviour and supporting police enforcement, subject to these considerations. In regards to signage, Council cannot promote something that is not in place.

In addition, the City Amenity Team, who regularly patrol Waterloo Crescent to identify any issues and arrange clean-up crews as required, have been spoken to. They will continue to monitor and respond in the street, and Council will continue to work closely with Victoria Police to explore what further crime prevention activities may be appropriate at this location to address the concerns you have raised.

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While crime prevention and enforcement remain the responsibility of Victoria Police, residents are encouraged to report all incidents directly to Police to support appropriate action.

Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Cunsolo:

Have there been any plans commenced about the official opening for the Lagoon Reserve pavilion?

Response:

Council have confirmed with Sport & Recreation, Venues, and Property & Assets the operational status of Lagoon Reserve Pavilion. The good news is that the pavilion is being used. The clubs allocated to Lagoon Reserve for summer cricket and for football/soccer preseason have all been walked through the building, and they're already accessing the ground-floor changerooms, storage areas and kiosk.

The upstairs social space is also available to them through the usual Venues booking process, and clubs get priority in line with their seasons. Some clubs have already moved their equipment in, and others are doing it gradually as they prepare for their upcoming season starts.

Operationally, the building is essentially ready. Venues are set to go live, and there are already "contact Council" signs on the building for public bookings. The Emergency Management Plan (EMP) is almost finalised. It has been drafted and is being reviewed by the Emergency Management team. Following this, the Venues team will formally activate the facility to go-live online, and community can hire the space through the standard booking system.

In short, the pavilion is occupied and being used by clubs as intended. General hire of the upstairs area will be activated as soon as the EMP is finalised. Additionally, Council is working on the official opening of the pavilion, currently looking at 19 March 2026.

Question from Councillor Halliday:

Councillor Halliday followed up to ask whether most of that cost is passed on to rate payers through the waste charge, but that there are some ancillary costs that might come through the general revenue and thus impacts other projects?

Response:

As noted by the CEO at the meeting, Council must operate within the Victorian Government's Waste and Recycling Act 2020 and the associated Minister's Good Practice Guidelines for Waste Service Charges, which outline what can and cannot be recovered through the waste charge.

Within this framework, Council is required to carefully assess which components of the project are eligible for inclusion, ensuring affordability for ratepayers while also managing broader budget impacts. At this stage, Council anticipate that almost all project costs will be

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recovered through the waste charge and therefore passed on to ratepayers through that mechanism. There may be a small number of ancillary costs that fall outside the scope of the waste charge and would need to be funded through general revenue. These ancillary projects are activities such as subsequent communications, that is, a postcard telling residents they had a new bin.

However, any such costs are not expected to be significant or material (approximately \$10,000) and would represent only a minor proportion of the overall project cost. These will continue to be reviewed and confirmed as planning progresses.

Question from Councillor Jay:

What are the rules around arboring trees around electrical lines in the City of Port Phillip, and what are the parameters would require the removal of a tree? In particular, the trees on Heather Street, South Melbourne which there is an existing query in the system for.

Response:

Councils' senior arborist has contacted the resident in response to their enquiry. The trees are non-compliant with the tram wires and Council has been requested to remove them by Yarra Trams. Unfortunately, the amount of reduction required to bring the trees into compliance would significantly impact the amenity and value of the tree. For reference, information on the Energy Safe Victoria Electrical Line Clearance Regulations can be found here: [Legislation, policies and areas | Energy Safe Victoria](#)

Appeals related to this matter are being assessed in accordance with the Urban Forest Strategy, the Greening Port Phillip Strategy, the Customer Complaints Handling Policy, and Council's broader goals and objectives as outlined in the Council Plan and Budget. Council have advised the resident that a report will be prepared for the Manager Parks and Infrastructure Maintenance and have invited them to provide any further information directly for consideration as part of this process. Council expects the report to be completed by 13 February 2026, with a determination to follow shortly thereafter. The resident will be notified of the outcome via email once the review is finalised.

Item 6.1 Deputation Response: Community Safety in Church and Dow Streets, South Melbourne

Question from Councillor Halliday:

Within our existing program to upgrade lighting across the municipality, how do we assess and prioritise the needs of areas that may need more lighting or areas that have a level of high crime? Are we through this program, putting lights where lights already exist?

Response:

Council is currently investing in a comprehensive program to assess the condition of our lighting assets across the municipality. This involves establishing an accurate and up-to-date understanding of the physical condition, performance, and compliance of every light within our public lighting network. This work is an important step in enabling Council to make evidence-based and prioritised investment decisions.

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Once this updated condition data is fully captured, it will be analysed against a set of established criteria, which includes:

- *Areas of key community importance, such as activity centres, transport corridors, pedestrian routes, and recreational precincts.*
- *Locations where improved lighting may enhance community safety, including areas with elevated night-time activity or reported safety concerns.*
- *Neighbourhoods where lighting may support crime-prevention outcomes, noting that Council works in partnership with Victoria Police regarding patterns or emerging issues.*
- *Equity and accessibility considerations, ensuring all members of the community can move safely through public spaces.*
- *Compliance with relevant lighting standards, supporting improved amenity and energy efficiency.*

It is also important to note that the program is not limited to simply replacing lights where lights already exist. The intent is to use the condition assessment and criteria-based analysis to identify gaps, emerging needs, and locations where lighting upgrades or new installations may provide measurable benefit to the community. This structured approach ensures that lighting upgrade investment is strategic, equitable, and aligned with safety, community need, and best-practice asset management. It also provides assurance that Council is proactively managing its lighting network and prioritising areas that will deliver the greatest community value.

Council anticipates providing a briefing to Councillors in June to review this work and seek input into service levels and investment approaches.

Question from Councillor Mears:

The area surrounding the Mac.Robertson Girls' High School, there is very little or no lighting particularly through the stand of Morton Bay figs in Albert Park Reserve. Can Council have an impact on this? Or should I be directing my questions in regard to lighting to the State Government through advocacy?

Response:

The lighting conditions in and around the Mac.Robertson Girls' High School precinct, including the stand of Morton Bay figs within Albert Park Reserve, are noted, and Officers acknowledge the concerns this presents regarding safety, visibility, and community confidence, particularly during early morning and evening periods.

Albert Park Reserve is Crown Land managed by Parks Victoria, and therefore not all lighting infrastructure in this area falls within Council's direct control. This limits the scope of physical works Council can independently undertake. However, Council plays an important role in advocacy where cross-jurisdictional matters arise.

As part of Council's broader program to assess and upgrade lighting across the municipality, Council is currently investing in a detailed condition assessment of all Council-owned lighting assets. This location will be included in that review to ensure any gaps or priority needs are appropriately identified and evaluated. Council anticipates providing a briefing to Councillors in June to review this work.

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Should improvements to lighting within the reserve be required, Council can advocate on behalf of the community, share relevant safety insights, and work collaboratively with the responsible State Government stakeholders to support improved lighting outcomes.

Council remains committed to working constructively with our partners and stakeholders to ensure the area surrounding MacRobertson Girls' High School is safe, accessible, and appropriately lit for students, families, and the broader community.

Item 9.1 Community Electric Vehicle Charging Program

Question from Councillor Jay:

Are there any plans to upgrade the Electric Vehicle chargers at the South Melbourne Market?

Response:

The Electric Vehicle chargers at the South Melbourne Market are working and currently available. These chargers are only two years old, and Council expects that they would have a life of five to seven years, therefore Council would look at any upgrades in 2029/30.