



15.3

I, Councillor Dick Gross, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 April 2018:

That Council submits to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council, the following motion:

That the MAV advocate that the State Government increases the period of monitoring for dangerous enterococci from 1 December to March each year instead of December and January only and works with council to develop and implement strategies to improve the health of the bay.

Supporting Information

Increasingly the water quality in the Bay is a major issue for the community. This is particularly an issue after heavy rains when polluted water flows into the bay via storm water outlets.

The Victorian Government water sampling program tests for Enterococci, a group of bacteria found inside warm-blooded animals. Enterococci is recognised as the best indicator in measuring faecal contamination of marine recreational waters.

If there are high results, the EPA contacts Council and ask for signs to be erected at the relevant beach that warns the public of the risks of illness to swimmers from increased bacterial levels.

Last summer (2016/17) St Kilda Beach had the signs erected twice and Port Melbourne on three occasions. In the summer of 2015/16, this happened once at South Melbourne Beach and Port Melbourne.

Council is concerned that the level of monitoring which only occurs between 1 December and 31 January is inadequate and does not cover the use of the beach over February and increasingly into March.

Council also understands that the monitoring standards are lower than those in other states.

The draft Port Phillip Bay Environment Management Plan pointed to the central issue being the failure of any one agency to have responsibility for the water quality of the Bay.