



9.4 **CCTV: ACLAND STREET AND THE ST KILDA ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Councillors of the offer of funding presented to the City of Port Phillip by the Victorian State Government to support and extend CCTV from the St Kilda Foreshore to the Upper Esplanade, Acland Street, the entertainment precincts of the Palais and National Theatres and the Luna Park forecourt, and to recommend a Council response.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Upper Esplanade, Acland Street, Luna Park, Palais and National Theatres form a gateway to the St Kilda foreshore and are popular destinations for residents and visitors to the City.
- 2.2 Like any destination that attracts high visitation, Acland Street and its extended precincts can occasionally be susceptible to incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity which can impact on amenity, safety and perception of safety.
- 2.3 The Victorian State Government has offered Council \$275K for the design and installation of a CCTV system that would extend Port Phillip's Foreshore CCTV system to incorporate the Upper Esplanade, Acland Street, the entertainment precincts of the Luna Park forecourt and the Palais and National Theatres.
- 2.4 Council determined to commence a trial of CCTV in Fitzroy Street in August 2015 for a trial period of two years. This trial will be completed and the evaluation completed on 19 March 2019.
- 2.5 The Victorian Government offered Council funding for CCTV in Little Grey Street as part of the package of funding to improve the vicinity around the Regal rooming house, which Council accepted on 4 April 2018.
- 2.6 The Victorian Government also offered Council funding for CCTV for the St Kilda foreshore, which Council accepted on 16 May 2018, and with a revised resolution on 16 August 2018 to include Council meeting project management and maintenance costs.
- 2.7 A City of Port Phillip Community Safety Plan has been developed for community engagement. This plan considers the use of CCTV as one component of a broader approach to community safety.



3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes that the Port Phillip Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan identifies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Community Safety Audits in partnership with local communities as one of the primary methods to address community safety concerns
- 3.2 Notes that the first year Fitzroy Street Evaluation findings did identify significant improvements around perceptions of safety since the installation of CCTV but the two-year Fitzroy Street CCTV trial will not be complete and fully evaluated until March 2019.
- 3.3 Notes that as much data as possible from the CCTV installation on Little Grey Street, resolved on 4 April 2018, and recently installed, will be included in the Fitzroy Street evaluation.
- 3.4 Acknowledges the increasing concern of some residents and Victoria Police regarding community safety in parts of the City of Port Phillip including the Upper Esplanade, Acland Street, the entertainment precincts of the Palais and National Theatres and the Luna Park forecourt, and the increasing requests for CCTV to be installed.
- 3.5 Accepts the offer from the Victorian Government to fund additional CCTV to the Upper Esplanade, Acland Street and the entertainment precincts of the Palais and National Theatres and Luna Park forecourt, as a part of the broader package of public safety initiatives.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 In response to heightened anti-social behaviour and increased risk on the foreshore, Victoria Police implemented a special operation with increased resources tasked to the area during January and February in 2018. Police operations will again focus on the foreshore and surrounds entering the 2018-19 summer period.
- 4.2 In March 2018 Council received the first year Fitzroy Street CCTV evaluation (**Attachment 1**) in which findings identified improvements around perceptions of safety since the installation of CCTV. Findings included:
 - 4.2.1 A reduction in incidence of anti-social behaviour in the area and a noticeable decrease in the amount of customer enquiries and complaints made to Council regarding anti-social behaviour and safety concerns in Fitzroy Street after the installation of CCTV.
 - 4.2.2 Little change to reporting of graffiti or streetscape amenity in the street or surrounding areas
 - 4.2.3 A significant improvement in the way police respond to crime in and around Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. Police operations reportedly benefited from real-time updates to attending units, escalation or de-prioritisation of incidents, verifying emergency Triple '000' calls and evidence collection.
- 4.3 As a high profile and highly visited area, St Kilda foreshore and entertainment precincts have featured regularly in media reports depicting incidents which impact on people's actual and perceived safety as well as St Kilda's long-term reputation (**Attachment 2**).

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- 4.4 On 16 May 2018 Council accepted the Victorian Government offer to fund the design and installation of CCTV on the St Kilda Foreshore to the extent that Government funding will allow, conditional on the Victorian Government meeting the full infrastructure planning, purchase project management, operating and installation costs of the system. A new resolution was required and made on 16 August 2018 as the funding was conditional on the Council meeting the project management and maintenance costs.
- 4.5 On 8 July 2018 Council received correspondence from Inspector Jason Kelly supporting CCTV for the St Kilda Foreshore to be extended into the Acland Street Precinct, as described above. Inspector Kelly highlighted challenges along the St Kilda Foreshore area including 'hoon' related activities, large gatherings, anti-social behaviours and crime.
- 4.6 Foreshore CCTV installation is scheduled for completion by 1 December 2018, prior to the beginning of the summer period.
- 4.7 Council has also permitted Victoria Police to host the temporary installation of CCTV cameras on Council Foreshore assets in response to surge demand periods over summer seasons.
- 4.8 A review of crime statistics data for St Kilda Foreshore, where the permanent cameras are yet to be operationalised, is summarised in the table below:

Type of Crime	Jan-March 2016	Jan-March 2017	Jan-March 2018
Crime against the person	9	10	10
Property and deception offences	29	25	37
Drug offences	9	3	12
Public order and security offences	17	10	18
Total Recorded Offences	82	52	79

- 4.9 On 11 October 2018, Council received correspondence from Minister Neville offering a grant up to \$275,000 (GST inclusive) for the installation of CCTV cameras to support public safety infrastructure improvements to Acland Street St Kilda and associated entertainment precincts.
- 4.10 On 16 October Peter Smith, CEO City of Port Phillip, responded to Minister Neville outlining that a full briefing with Councillors had been scheduled for Wednesday 28 November, followed by a report (with officer recommendations) being tabled at the Wednesday 5 December Council Meeting. The correspondence outlined the possibility preliminary work being undertaken should partial funds be released early.
- 4.11 Public safety issues and risk assessment perceived with the Foreshore, Acland Street and associated entertainment precincts:



- 4.11.1 St Kilda's foreshore and public spaces are easily accessible and attractive locations for people to congregate in large numbers.
 - 4.11.2 The foreshore has been identified as a "crowded place" in the Australia-New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee's report 'Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism'. The report calls on councils as responsible land managers to decrease the risk factors of an attack. In response, Council has implemented CCTV, fixed infrastructure, pop-up bollards and boom gates in certain locations within the St Kilda foreshore precinct, and further installations are planned along the municipal foreshore in 2018.
 - 4.11.3 The challenge with the large impromptu crowd gatherings is that they do not benefit from the pre-planning, security and management of our regular permitted large events, and therefore security risks are not managed effectively.
 - 4.11.4 Improvements to public safety on the St Kilda Foreshore and public spaces assist Council to achieve its vision of 'we are liveable, inviting, beautiful, caring, bold and real' by influencing a positive environment where people can safely enjoy the foreshore.
- 4.12 Roles and Responsibilities regarding Public Safety
- 4.12.1 Victoria Police is responsible for responding to incidents of crime.
 - 4.12.2 Council is responsible for local laws that control behaviour, infrastructure to ensure people are safe and permitting activities on public land.
- 4.13 Port Phillip Community Safety Plan
- 4.13.1 A draft Community Safety Plan has been developed for community engagement. This outlines the approach the City takes to promoting community safety and wellbeing and perceptions of safety.
 - 4.13.2 The plan proposes that CCTV can be used, along with management of lighting, parks, footpaths, graffiti and waste management to promote safety and perceptions of safety.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The City of Port Phillip has consulted with:
 - 5.1.1 The Hon. Lisa Neville MP
 - 5.1.2 The Hon. Martin Foley MP
 - 5.1.3 Department of Justice and Regulation
- 5.2 In reporting on 'Proposed Alcohol Restrictions – Public Spaces and Foreshore' Council consulted with local traders and community regarding safety in the area.
- 5.3 Engagement and consultation with the Foreshore Stakeholder Group, Fitzroy Street Traders, Little Grey Street Safety Audit and Talbot Street Safety discussion groups have indicated support for CCTV in crime prevention and influencing perceptions of crime.
- 5.4 Victoria Police have stated that an extension of CCTV will address current hotspots in crime and anti-social behaviour (as currently being experienced within the Talbot



Reserve precinct and Little Grey Street) as well as make an important investment into protecting the City from unforeseen incidents of terror in areas where large numbers of people congregate. Victoria Police identify this threat as heightened from October to March.

- 5.5 The Little Grey Street safety audit March 2018 and the Talbot Reserve community safety discussion provided feedback in relation to heightened levels of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.
- 5.6 A broader group of Talbot reserve residents met with council officers, Victoria Police and local business owners in October 2018. This meeting discussed issues still seen to be impacting upon the safety and amenity of the area.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Council has an obligation to manage the public spaces in its jurisdiction effectively and to balance the various uses and opportunities with public safety considerations.
- 6.2 Council has an obligation to consider how its management of public space might impact adjoining private land such as commercial and/or residential areas. Failure to do this may result in actions being brought against Council.
- 6.3 A research agreement has been signed with Victoria Police to provide data for evaluation for the period of the Fitzroy Street CCTV two-year trial.
- 6.4 Victoria Police have advised that they believe CCTV will play a role in helping them with policing for safety.
- 6.5 The current State Government Funding offer for CCTV includes funds for design allowing Council the opportunity to scope actual costs prior to committing to a broad CCTV investment.
- 6.6 Any release of funds for preliminary works will not obligate Council to deliver the program or accept remaining funds.
- 6.7 Council is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to ensure the integrity of the system and data access is in keeping with privacy laws.
- 6.8 Reputational Damage
 - 6.8.1 The consequences of incidents such as the Christmas Day event, and coverage of incidents of crime

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Whilst the Victorian government may contribute to initial funding for the installation of CCTV, there needs to be consideration in relation to the ongoing ratepayer contribution to the maintenance and servicing of these cameras.
- 7.2 Fitzroy Street CCTV costs were approximately \$402,000, with \$246,250 provided by the Victorian Government and Council contributing \$156,406. There are also ongoing project management, maintenance and evaluation costs associated with CCTV. These are borne by Council.
- 7.3 The Victorian Government have currently offered \$275,000 for CCTV design and build for the foreshore. Of this, \$22,000 is identified for design.



- 7.4 Victoria Police use the information gathered through the CCTV system within existing policing commitments. Victoria Police monitor the cameras when resources and prioritise permit under existing policing resources.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Digital CCTV systems have low environmental impact

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 An extended CCTV system will assist in improving the way police prevent and respond to crime in St Kilda.
- 9.2 The risk associated with public safety will be reduced or mitigated.
- 9.3 Perception of safety are enhanced.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Council, in adopting the Council Plan 2017 – 2027, committed to the delivery of actions under the direction of 'We embrace difference and belong.' Outcomes by 2027 include:
- 10.1.1 A safe and active community with strong social connections.
- 10.1.2 Access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community.
- 10.1.3 Community diversity is valued and celebrated.
- 10.2 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.'
- 10.2.1 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. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 November to December 2018, Council meet with Victoria Police and CCTV design experts to develop precinct design. Council will also run a competitive procurement process to establish a panel of CCTV suppliers. Council will also work with CitiPower and asset owners to gain in-principal approvals for electricity connections and mounting locations for cameras.
- 11.1.2 5 December 2018, Council to make formal decision on CCTV in Acland Street and St Kilda entertainment precincts
- 11.1.3 After 5 December 2018, if agreed, Council to initiate procurement proceedings and communicate decision to residents and business owners in the affected precincts. The CCTV panel of contractors will enable a relatively quick appointment of a contractor to install the cameras if Council resolve to do so.
- 11.1.4 February 2018 commence installation.
- 11.1.5 March 2018 system is operational.



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11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Communication plan incorporating a works notice, regular updates to Council's website and locational signage will be developed. The communications plan will ensure residents and business owners in the identified precincts are aware of camera locations and the roles and responsibilities of Council and Victoria police with regards to data management.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Fitzroy Street CCTV Evaluation Year 1 March 2018
2. Attachment 2 - CCTV Media Evidence Crime on Foreshore Updated