

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 24 SEPTEMBER 2025



4. Public Question Time

Question from Councillor Crawford:

Mayor Crawford followed up to clarify if there is \$650,000 in budget kept for the possible stormwater management?

Response:

While there is no specific budget allocation for Elster Creek stormwater management, Council does have \$3.25M for Stage 1 - Elwood Park Expansion Stormwater Harvesting Scheme and Elwood Canal plantings. This is made-up of \$1.7M of Federal Government funding from the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and \$1.55M from Council's Stormwater Harvesting Program. Both projects are progressing well and are due for completion in June 2028.

Elwood Park Expansion Stormwater Harvesting Scheme (Stage 1) will use stormwater from within Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve. This will reduce annual stormwater volumes flowing down Elwood Canal.

Question from Gill Don:

As some people may not be aware the lost dogs home is planning to move within the future. This means they might have to move a suburb out the other side of Melbourne. Can there be a scheme organised so that people on low incomes can have the rangers bring their dogs back to us? Secondly, can Council investigate, on the opposite side to where I live the Bothwell side of Bowen St, tree roots that have not been flattened out and cause a tripping hazard for residents?

Response:

In relation to the Lost Dogs Home, the Lost Dogs Home (LDH) site currently servicing the City of Port Phillip is not expected to move for at least the next five years. Additionally, under their existing contract, LDH is required to collect animals within two hours of being notified. This means that any future site must remain within a two-hour radius of our municipality. LDH already supports transport arrangements for other councils located further away, and Council expects similar support would continue when relocation occurs.

In relation to tree roots on Bowen St, Council have inspected the location and reviewed maintenance records. Works were previously completed in January 2024 for an asphalt footpath repair around the tree square and included widening of the tree plot. These repair works were conducted after an inspection officer found the potential defect during the yearly scheduled proactive inspections that was conducted in December 2023. The repair addressed earlier root lifting that had occurred to this section of the footpath. Following this repair the next yearly footpath inspection was conducted in December 2024 where the inspection officer provided a good score to the footpath asset. During a recent site inspection, Council did not identify any current tripping hazards. The patched area is slightly raised however it remains safe for pedestrian use as it is currently below actionable levels in accordance with the Council's road management plan. The area will be continued to be monitored as part of Council's proactive maintenance schedule with the next inspection set for December 2025.

**Please note: Responses to any questions during Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were responded to during the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*

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11.1 Carlisle Street Proposed Sale of Land - Recommendation

Question from Councillor Thomann:

This development will be of several millions, do the normal conditions apply that a development over a certain amount of money, a certain percentage of the development has to be allocated to public art?

Response:

Public artworks enrich Port Phillip's public spaces and contribute to the City's reputation as a vibrant and creative place. Council has a long history of supporting public art and recognises that public art opportunities support the livelihood of artists.

As outlined in the Public Art Developer Guidelines 2019, the City of Port Phillip adopted a Percent for Art Scheme in 2002 through its Urban Art Strategy. The scheme sets out the statutory planning requirement for an inclusion of urban art on larger private developments (set as a percentage of the total cost of development over \$2 million).

It is expected a redevelopment of the Carlisle Street site will be led by Coles in conjunction with a development partner under a planning process managed by the Minister for Planning via the Development Facilitation Pathway (or the DFP). Officers understand the Victorian government does not currently have a formal, statewide Percent for Art Scheme. Although the Port Phillip Percent for Art Scheme would not formally apply to the Carlisle Street redevelopment, the City of Port Phillip retains an advocacy role as a referral authority in the DFP process.

During the pre-application design engagement – secured through the Memorandum of Understanding and section 173 Agreement between Coles and Port Phillip – and later through the formal referral to the Minister, Council can:

- *Advocate for the integration of public art as part of the design excellence and place-making outcomes;*
- *Encourage collaboration with local artists to reflect the cultural identity of Balaclava and Carlisle Street;*
- *Request that public art be included in public realm works, for example, within the open space, laneway activation, or façade treatments and any associated public works projects, where art could be included; and*
- *Reference Council's Percent for Art Scheme as a guiding principle, even though it is not binding in this case.*

This approach would ensure Council remains a proactive design partner through the process.

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12.1 Status of Council Decisions and Questions Taken on Notice

Recorded by Council: 1 April – 30 June 2025

Question from Councillor Makin:

In relation to the two Council decisions from 20 March 2024 'Council submission to the Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Redevelopment Contribution Plan' and the 'Council submission to the Montague Precinct'. I have noticed that these resolutions included letters sent by the Mayor, has Council received responses from those letters?

Response:

Council can confirm that no response has been received so far.

Question from Councillor Thomann:

In relation to the Chapel Street, St Kilda – Proposed Pedestrian operated signal' resolution from 21 May 2025. I believe this decision has been incorrectly reported as 'completed' as the pedestrian crossing has not been delivered?

Response:

Council confirms that this project is still in progress. Officers have completed community consultation as of September 2025 and continue to advance the project in partnership with St Michael's Grammar, who are leading the design and construction. The current schedule anticipates completion of the detailed design in 2025/2026, with project delivery planned for 2026/2027.

Regarding the previously marked completion of this Council Decision from the Council Meeting held on 21 May 2025, this will be corrected. Future reporting will reflect this item as an active action and will only be marked complete once the project has been delivered.

12.2 Councillor Expenses Monthly Reporting – August 2025

Question from Councillor Halliday:

I note that two Councillors attended a conference recently which appears in their expenses, but a third Councillor attended the same conference which does not appear in their expenses?

Councillor Halliday withdrew his question on 25 September 2025 as he mistook figures within the report.