

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

17 JUNE 2026



Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Jay:

Councillor Jay followed up to ask who an affected resident can contact to understand whether their specific circumstances are legal?

Response:

Residents affected by intrusive lighting from construction cranes can lodge a request with Council's Safety and Amenity Department for investigation, with the appropriate response depending on the nature of the lighting.

Where a crane includes an illuminated sign or advertising (e.g. displaying the name of a construction company or developer), it may be subject to controls under the relevant planning permit or require a permit under the Port Phillip Planning Scheme. In these instances, complaints can be referred to Council's Planning Compliance Unit for investigation and enforcement.

For general lighting associated with crane or the development site (e.g. safety or operational lighting), residents can contact Council's Health Services Unit. In the first instance, authorised officers generally seek to resolve concerns through advocacy and negotiation with the developer or crane operator, for example by reducing lighting levels or ensuring lights are only used where necessary for safety.

At present, there is no specific local law that directly regulates general crane lighting. Where informal measures are unsuccessful, the only available regulatory pathway is to assess whether the lighting constitutes a Public Health Nuisance under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic). To take enforcement action, Council officers must be satisfied that the lighting:

- Is unreasonable and substantial in its interference; and*
- Is dangerous to health, meeting the evidentiary threshold required under the Act.*

In making this determination, officers must consider the concept of reasonableness from the perspective of both parties. While it may be undesirable for residents to rely on measures such as closing blinds or curtains, where a light impact can be effectively mitigated in this way, it is unlikely to meet the legal threshold for an enforceable nuisance.

Residents seeking clarification on their individual circumstances are encouraged to contact Council, who can direct their enquiry to the appropriate team (Planning Compliance or Health Services) and arrange for assessment.

Question from Councillor Thomann:

A local St Kilda resident Joan Mather is celebrating their 104th birthday tonight, will the City of Port Phillip send them a letter?

Response:

Council can advise a letter has been mailed to Ms Mather on 30 June 2026 from the Mayor on behalf of all Councillors congratulating her on milestone 104th birthday.

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Question from Councillor Halliday:

Councillor Halliday followed up to ask if Council has issued fines to supermarkets for not picking up their trollies? If we use Snap, Send, Solve do we have any information about all the trollies that are being reported?

Response:

Council has received 295 reports of abandoned shopping trolleys during the 2025/26 financial year. Of these, 218 reports were received through the Snap Send Solve platform, with the remainder received through other channels such as phone calls, online requests and customer service enquiries.

Council uses Snap Send Solve as one of several avenues through which residents can report abandoned shopping trolleys. However, residents may also report abandoned trolleys directly to the relevant supermarket or the supermarket's trolley retrieval contractor. Where reports are made directly to the trolley owner or contractor, Council does not receive this information and therefore cannot provide data on the total number of trolley reports across the municipality.

While Council has issued 2 infringement notices for abandoned shopping trolleys during the reporting period, compliance activity has primarily focused on preventing trolleys from leaving shopping centre precincts through the installation and maintenance of perimeter lock systems. Perimeter locks are designed to immobilise trolleys when they are taken beyond a designated boundary, significantly reducing the likelihood of trolleys being abandoned in streets, parks and waterways. As part of this compliance approach, Council has issued 21 infringement notices during the reporting period for failing to provide or maintain an operational perimeter lock system, compared with 2 infringements for abandoned trolleys themselves. This reflects Council's emphasis on addressing the source of the issue through preventative measures rather than relying solely on enforcement after trolleys have been abandoned.

Question from Councillor Mears:

Planned implementation of the removal of temporary infrastructure around Queens Lane, Arthur Street, and Leopold Street was due to be removed in May 2026. In my absence, can officers advise if this has commenced or been completed?

Response:

Council can confirm that the contractor commenced works on Wednesday 17 June and, subject to weather, is due to be completed by the week commencing 22 June.

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8.1 Planning Permit Application PDPL/00562/2025 – For the Use and Development of North St Kilda Child Care Centre 71-79 Argyle Street

Question from Councillor Cunsolo:

During the community consultation meeting, did Council consider larger building here that incorporated more of the Betty Day Centre rather than just a standalone childcare centre?

Response:

In 2021 Council commenced formal community consultation on its proposal to sell three children's centres. The associated Council report, public notices and Have Your Say page noted that Council intended to re-invest the proceeds from the proposed sales in the provision of early childhood education and care facilities, including the planned development of Council's North St Kilda Children's centre into a modern, fully accessible and purpose built facility with expanded capacity.

Having considered feedback, Council decided to rebuild or renovate the three centres, plus others, including the North St Kilda Children's Centre.

Co-locating the North St Kilda Children's Centre with other services – including the Betty Day Centre – was contemplated by Council officers, but on balance, not considered a compelling option at the time. Factors limiting the appeal of the option included: the substantial remaining useful lifespan of the Betty Day Centre; the scale of the resulting development within a residential neighbourhood context; the additional upfront cost; and the complexity of development.

9.2 Urban Forest Precinct Plans: St Kilda & St Kilda West, and Albert Park & Middle Park

Question from Councillor Halliday:

What percentage of our tree canopy cover is afforded by plane trees?

Response:

Council can advise that approximately 29% of the City's canopy is estimated to be provided by plane trees, based on current asset data. This is a high-level indication only, as canopy data continues to be refined through ongoing audits and system updates.