

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 4 MARCH 2026



Item 9.1 Elster Creek Litter Action Plan

Question from Councillor Halliday:

There was a comment about potentially dredging the canal to reduce the runoff of organic matter. Is dredging the canal something that is envisaged or recommended by Melbourne Water?

Response:

Council officers followed up with Melbourne Water in relation to desilting Elwood Canal. The following response was provided by Melbourne Water:

Our desilting program is guided by drainage and hydraulic needs, supported by comprehensive assessments of the Elwood Canal including surveys and cross-sectional modelling which provide the data for targeted maintenance. Generally, the canal is shallow with minimal silt accumulation, except in a few deeper bends, such as at the Byron Street Outfall. We address silt in these deeper areas as needed. From a hydraulic perspective, no additional desilting is required elsewhere along the canal.

The odour occasionally reported in this area is not related to silt build-up; rather, it comes from rotting seaweed that washes in from the beach and is left behind as the high tide recedes. While removing this material could temporarily reduce the smell, it would need to be cleared approximately every two days to have any meaningful impact. Given the frequency required, and the fact that the seaweed continues to arrive with each tidal cycle, this level of intervention is not feasible or sustainable from an operational or environmental management perspective.

While desilting is essential for maintaining flow efficiency, it's also worth noting that a moderate presence of organic matter can provide ecological benefits, such as supporting microbial activity, contributing to nutrient cycling, and enhancing habitat complexity for aquatic organisms. These benefits are considered when determining where desilting is necessary and where natural sediment and organic accumulation can remain without compromising hydraulic performance.

Item 14.1 Notice of Motion – Councillor Cunsolo - Hooning

Question from Councillor Thomann:

In relation to the Department of Transport and Planning community reference group report referenced by Tim Norman during public submissions. This report was created in September 2023, but progress stalled due to the change in premier and cabinet. Is there any chance for Council officers to request an update to see if any action was taken out of this report?

Response:

Council Officers have spoken to a member of Road Safety Victoria at the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) who was involved in the State Government's Hooning Community Reference Group (CRG), and while they were unable to share the final report that was submitted to the Minister and CRG members, they did provide a high-level overview of the project and provided publicly available links to documents that helped to inform the work.

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The CRG sought to identify new initiatives to reduce the prevalence of high-risk driving behaviour on Victorian roads and included representation from local community members impacted by the prevalence of hooning, the Department of Transport (now DTP), Vic Pol and the Department of Justice and Community Services (DJCS). The final report was informed by [community engagement](#) and [research](#) on the matter, and its findings were broadly themed across legislative and enforcement opportunities, social and amenity impacts, community education and interventions, and the role of infrastructure to effectively deter hooning activity.

Since its completion in September 2023, there has been no further direct involvement from officers at Road Safety Victoria however Council officers from across different teams are continuing to work with external partners in response to recent community complaints and are aiming to provide a further update to Councillors by the end of June 2026 outlining the work undertaken, including all identified opportunities to improve the observed issues.