



10.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN AND PUBLIC PLACE CCTV CAMERAS AND POLICY REPORT

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To seek Council endorsement of the Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1) with a review date of November 2025; and subsequent development of a new Action Plan to support.
- 1.2. To seek Council endorsement of the Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy (Version 1.1) with a review date of November 2025.
- 1.3. To seek Council endorsement within the Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy (Version 1.1) for the ability of Council to directly fund renewal and upgrade of CCTV systems in public places in the absence of funding from other sources.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Safety Plan

- 2.1. The Community Safety Plan 2019-2023 (Community Safety Plan) is a four-year strategy which is due for review in September 2023. The Community Safety Plan demonstrates Council's commitment to working in partnership and providing a safe and vibrant community for all by identifying priority areas and actions through an Action Plan.
- 2.2. Delivery of some Community Safety Plan actions has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID19, including lockdowns, service closures and the diversion of Council resources to support the emergency response.
- 2.3. It is recommended that the Community Safety Plan be extended with a review date of November 2025 and a new Action Plan developed to provide for:
 - Identification of actions to ensure currency and relevance to our community, and to ensure that new and emerging priorities are addressed;
 - Consideration of outcomes resulting from implementation of the new Community Amenity Local Law 2023; and
 - Time to thoughtfully facilitate a detailed review of the Community Safety Plan and thorough consultation with community and stakeholder groups.
- 2.4. In the interim, officers have completed a minor desk top review to ensure the Community Safety Plan is current - refer Attachment 1 – Draft Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1).

Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy

- 2.5. The Public Place Closed Circuit Television Policy (Public Place CCTV Policy) technically expires in December 2023. The Public Place CCTV Policy provides the guiding principles for Council's decision-making process in relation to installation of CCTV systems to improve safety in public places.



- 2.6 Officers have completed a desktop review of the policy including consultation with councillors. We are proposing amendment to enable Council funding or upgrade and renewal of systems in existing precincts when other funding sources are not available to ensure community safety (see Version 1.1 attached).
- 2.7 The Public Place CCTV system in Port Phillip was project managed and delivered by Council but funded by the Government. It is operated by Victoria Police. Under its CCTV Policy, Council maintains the system but states Council will not independently fund Public Place CCTV systems noting this a responsibility of State and Federal Governments.
- 2.8 The Public Place CCTV system is nearing the end of its functional life and will soon be due for replacement. It makes sense in replacement to optimise the system in terms of location, upgrade specifications to take advantage of latest technologies, and ensure the security and availability of data.
- 2.9 Officers have explored various avenues for external funding and advocated to the State Government for support. Currently, no external funding has been made available. Officers believe that funding for such systems should be the responsibility of State and Federal governments and will continue our advocacy efforts.
- 2.10 However, we are seeking to amend the policy to enable Council funding for renewal and upgrade in existing precincts to support community safety when other sources are not made available. This will enable us to plan with certainty before the system becomes obsolete or beyond repair.
- 2.11 We are also proposing to update the Public Place CCTV Policy to include a review date of November 2025 to align with the proposed Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1) review date and allow thorough consultation with the community and stakeholder groups.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1. Endorse Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1) with a review date of November 2025.
- 3.2. Endorse Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy (Version 1.1) with a review date of November 2025 including capacity for Council to fund renewal and upgrade of existing CCTV systems in public places; through appropriate approval processes.
- 3.3 Authorises the CEO (or their delegate) to make minor editorial amendments to the Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1) and the Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy (Version 1.1), that do not materially alter their intent.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Community Safety Plan

- 4.1 Community safety is a priority for the City of Port Phillip. It influences our physical health and wellbeing by altering how people use, and interact with the built environment, local amenities, parks and community facilities. A safe city contributes to positive social and economic outcomes for our community.
- 4.2 The Community Safety Plan 2019-2023 (The Plan) details the City of Port Phillip's contribution to making our community a safe and resilient place to live,



work and visit. It highlights three key priority areas of focus, foundational to the Action Plan.

Priority 1: Creating Safe Spaces

Priority 2: Building Resilience

Priority 3: Healthy Living

- 4.3 The Plan also aligns with a range of state and national strategies that relate to crime prevention, family violence, reducing harm from alcohol and drugs, emergency response and community safety.
- 4.4 Delivery of some Community Safety Plan 2019-2023 actions has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID19, including lockdowns, service closures and the diversion of Council resources to support the emergency response.
- 4.5 Despite this unexpected extra demand on our resources, we have managed to achieve many actions in the Community Safety Plan since its inception in 2019. Some highlights include:
- Installing public place CCTVs and buying a mobile CCTV unit.
 - A comprehensive Local Laws review.
 - Installation of graffiti deterring murals bringing colour and vibrancy to our streets.
 - Activation of public spaces through performances and community grants and funding.
 - The Renew Fitzroy Street and Carlisle Street vacant shopfront projects to help revitalise these high streets.
 - Substantial financial contribution to the Wellington Street Common Ground Project to support people with complex needs who have been sleeping rough.
 - Helping provide housing for those who need it most and connecting vulnerable members of our community to welfare services.
 - Partnering with Victoria Police and advocating for community safety needs.
 - Refer Attachment 3 – Community Safety Plan - Action Plan Status – July 2023.
- 4.6 The Community Safety Plan is due for review in September 2023. The timing of this review and development of a new Community Safety Plan should consider COVID19 impacts on delivery of actions and subsequent realignment of actions to ensure currency and relevance to our community. Additionally, the Community Amenity Local Law 2023 has just recently been adopted. Adequate time is required to assess outcomes resulting from its implementation.
- 4.7 A high-level review of the Community Safety Plan 2019-2023 with an extension of the review date to November 2025 would provide for and opportunity for extensive community and stakeholder consultation to inform development of a new Plan. To review this Plan fully and undertake community engagement will require up to 18 months for completion with Council approval.
- 4.8 It's recommended that with an extension of a review date of the Community Safety Plan that a new Action Plan also be developed, to November 2025, to ensure community safety activities are updated and focus on current priorities.
- 4.9 To allow for the extension of the review date of the Community Action Plan to November 2025 the current plan has been reviewed and relevant updates made. Refer



Attachment 1 – Draft Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1) with proposed tracked changes marked.

Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy

- 4.10 The Public Place CCTV Policy is underpinned by the premise that safety is a fundamental human right and is essential to the wellbeing of community.
- 4.11 The Public Place CCTV Policy (The Policy) seeks to positively influence safety in Port Phillip and provide direction for Council's decision-making process in relation to the proposed installation of CCTV systems in public places.
- 4.12 The Policy establishes an agreed set of principles that inform the delivery of public place CCTV systems in Port Phillip and work in conjunction with Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police.
- 4.13 The principles in the current policy include:
- Funding public place CCTV systems is a shared responsibility of the state and federal government.
 - In accepting funds for future public place CCTV systems Council understands that CCTV cameras and associated equipment has a functional lifespan.
 - Council will continue to work with funding bodies to advocate for the necessary funds to support equipment renewal.
 - Council accepts the responsibility for owning, managing, maintaining and licensing each public place CCTV precinct-based system for its functional life.
 - In seeking external funds for public places CCTV systems, Council will have considered all conditions in regard to minimum and co-contribution, non-infrastructure costs, design costs, project management, community consultation, evaluation, legal and administrative costs, planning permits or fees, camera licenses and audit services.
 - Council will accommodate requirements around a minimum co-contribution to the project and accept responsibility for co-contributions of funds and in-kind support as determined by the funding guidelines.
 - In a situation where state and federal government seek to determine public space CCTV outcomes for the City,
 - Council will continue to base decision making on all guiding principles,
 - Expect that all project infrastructure and delivery costs are met by the funding body.
- 4.14 The Public Place CCTV system is nearing the end of its functional life and will soon be due for replacement. It makes sense in replacement to optimise the system in terms of location (within existing precincts), upgrade specifications to take advantage of latest technologies, and ensure the security and availability of data.
- 4.15 Officers have explored various avenues for external funding and advocated to the State Government for support. Currently, no external funding has been made available. Officers believe that funding for such systems should be the responsibility of State and Federal governments and will continue our advocacy efforts.
- 4.16 However, we are seeking to amend the policy to enable Council funding for renewal and upgrade in existing precincts to support community safety when other sources are



not made available. This will enable us to plan with certainty before the system becomes obsolete or beyond repair.

- 4.17 Planning for replacement and upgrade will be included in the relevant asset management plan. Authorization and resource allocation would happen via normal Council budget and project management processes. Council contributions would be funded from the capital budget allocation, savings, or asset renewal reserve.
- 4.18 We are also proposing to update the Public Place CCTV Policy to include a review date of November 2025 to align with the proposed Community Safety Plan (Version 1.1) review date and allow thorough consultation with the community and stakeholder groups.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The internal Community Safety Committee and Council departments involved in community safety activities have been consulted on the impacts of amendments and an extension of the review dates for both the Community Safety Plan and Public Place CCTV Policy. There was agreement that the current Community Safety Plan and three key focus areas were still relevant and provided a solid framework for the next two years along with an updated Action Plan. There was also support for the necessity of amendments to the Public Place CCTV Policy given the current lack of external funding availability to allow for consideration of Council funding toward replacements, upgrades and improvements.
- 5.2. Consultation has also taken place with Victoria Police on the community safety needs and Public Place CCTV and with Government agencies about the availability of funding.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Council has received external legal advice supporting the extension of the Community Safety Plan review date.
- 6.2 Council has also received external legal advice supporting extension of the review date for the Public Place CCTV Policy, inclusive of amendments enabling Council to directly fund replacement cameras or new infrastructure (following appropriate approval processes).
- 6.3 Council's Public Place CCTV systems meet obligations under relevant legislation such as the Privacy Act 1988 and Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.
- 6.4 The use of the existing Public Place CCTV systems is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to ensure the integrity of the system and that data access complies with privacy laws.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Financial implications will be considered as part of the Council Plan and Budget process.
- 7.2 There is currently no external funding available to support public place CCTV systems and infrastructure.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The environmental impacts from delivery of the Community Safety Plan – Action Plan will be considered as the document is developed.



- 8.2 Public Place CCTV system enhancements, such as migration from proprietary 'black box' DVR deployments to IP deployments (i.e., cloud-based technology) provide for the system to become greener by reducing energy consumption and having a low environmental impact. Any amendments or change of systems or infrastructure will be considered in the context of sustainability.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Meaningful engagement and fostering partnerships with the community, Victoria Police and other stakeholders is critical to the development of a new Community Safety Plan - Action Plan for the next two years.
- 9.2 The Public Place CCTV Policy supports the creation of a liveable, safer and healthier city by monitoring activities that occur in public places that may impact on urban character, local amenity and fair enjoyment by or safety of others.
- 9.3 Public Place CCTV cameras have been well received by residents, traders and visitors and assist in reducing antisocial behaviour and assist in crime prevention. We will continue to engage on the development of their use.
- 9.4 Victoria Police have indicated that Public Place CCTV cameras improve public safety and security by supporting Police to identify, locate and respond to crime more effectively. They will continue to be a critical partner.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Community safety is a priority which is underpinned by the Council Plan 2021-2031 strategic direction Liveable Port Phillip:

A great place to live, where our community has access to high quality public spaces, development and growth are well-managed, and it is safe and easy to connect and travel within.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

COMMUNICATION

- 11.1 Communication – publish on Council's website:
- The extended Community Safety Plan.
 - The extended and amended Public Place CCTV Policy.
- 11.2 Engage with the community, Victoria Police and other key stakeholders to inform development of a new Action Plan.
- 11.3 Review the Public Place CCTV system to develop a prioritised plan for relocation, removal, upgrade, replacement or addition of cameras and associated equipment.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Community Safety Plan
2. Draft Public Place Closed Circuit Television CCTV Policy
3. Community Safety Plan - Action Plan Status – July 2023