

Item 12.1 South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2021-25 endorsement of draft for community engagement

Question from Councillor Pearl

With regard to hostile vehicle mitigation, why is it placed against the South Melbourne Market budget, whereas usually when Council installs vehicle mitigation on Council land outside of a private tenant, Council does not charge the tenant for this but absorbs the cost via the appropriate internal department.

Kylie Bennetts, General Manager City Growth and Organisational Capacity, advised that the item is included in the strategic plan to give an accurate sense of future costs. However with regard to why the costing is listed as being charged to the Market, Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer took the question on notice, to be directed to the Chief Financial Officer.

Response

The decision to cost the HVM to SMM IS because the implementation of HVM is as a direct result of the activities of the market and specifically the amount of visitors the market attracts. Thus Officers determined that it should be a cost directly attributable to the market..

There are a few key points:

- The market is not a private tenant. It is a business unit of council with special governance arrangements. It does not pay rent to council.
- The need for HVM is driven by the activities of the market.
- The study identifying the need for HVM and the budget request was led by the market business unit.
- It has been included against the market budget and sponsored by the market manager since its approval several years ago.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*