

## **Councillor Question Time**

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### **Question from Councillor Pearl:**

Can Officers provide details of the measures to improve the noise issues associated with the Dog Park at the Eastern Road Reserve, South Melbourne?

What has council done to improve the situation. Residents have suggested if Council could extinguish the lighting in the middle of the park to track and reduce the use of the park between the hours of 11pm and 6am?

### **Response:**

The two lights mounted on the wooden pole are un-metered streetlights. These are owned, operated, and maintained by CitiPower. Each light has a photo-electric cell (PE cell), that turns the lights on at dusk, or during the day when dark, and turns the lights off in the morning. This means these cannot be programmed for either dimming or timing.

Council's Animal Management Officers recently increased their patrols of this reserve for ten consecutive days, between 2 and 12 June, between the hours of 6am and 7am. However, we are unable to patrol outside the off-leash hours on-going due to officers' availability.

We are currently recruiting an additional Animal Management officer and this position is anticipated to be filled by the end of August. This will help in our ability to carry out further patrols of this reserve outside of the off-leash hours. As an additional measure we are installing additional, larger signs requesting dog owners to be respectful of residents. While these signs are on order, temporary signs were installed on 5 July 2023.

With regards to any change to the hours for dog owners at this park, we are currently developing the Dog Off-Leash Guidelines (a short-term priority action in the Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022-2023). This will outline Council's position on the provision, distribution, design and management of dog facilities in public open spaces. We are currently not implementing any changes until these Guidelines are approved.

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