

Public Question Time

Question from Adrian Jackson

I just made an online submission for budget 20/21 concerning not funding activities that are closed or cancelled, like events and galleries, because of the Corona Virus. However, while most contact details were requested the address of the submitter was absent. Whether the submitter is a ratepayer or resident of Port Phillip is required. We don't want people not connected with Port Phillip making frivolous or dodgy demands for funding in the budget. Further council should not be funding and planning event in 2021 that won't happen, like sadly, the St Kilda Festival. Recently the St Kilda Film Festival had to go online when St Kilda theatres and the town hall could not be used. The Corona Virus is here to stay and will only get worse as has happen in the weekend 11/12 Jul 20 when Victoria has its first corona virus death, a man in his 90's. Conspiracy theory "good old boys" from the dysfunctional USA will soon say the virus is a prelude to "Mars Attack" like in the funny film with Jack Nicholson and Glen Close. I don't believe American conspiracy promoters though. Please Explain.

Response

Response was sent from Organisational Performance on 15/7/2020. Response published to website alongside minutes.

Thank you for question to Councillors on why we haven't requested a physical address for budget submissions. The Mayor has requested I answer on the Councillors' behalf.

The public consultation process on the draft Budget is open for anyone to put in a submission. Whether the person is a resident or ratepayer in Port Phillip, an out-of-town owner of a business in Port Phillip or a visitor to Port Phillip, we are interested in their views. We do require submitters to include the suburb that they reside in and this gets reported to Council.

We have also requested an email address to contact the submitter rather than a physical address. This is our preferred channel for responding to submissions. This is particularly pertinent during the current lockdown. With most staff working from home, access to stationery to send physical responses is difficult. However, if a person submitting an online submission does not have an email address, they can either call the ASSIST team on 9209 6777 or email: helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au.

I will add your comment not supporting funding and planning for the St Kilda Festival to your online submission, which will be reported to Council on 5 August. A response prepared by the Mayor will be sent to you soon after consideration of all submissions and adoption of the Budget 2020/21 on 19 August 2020.

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