

Councillor Question Time

Question from Cr Pearl

As a follow-up question regarding the withdrawal of Spirit of Tasmania from Port Melbourne; do officers now have an estimation of the cost to our local economy in terms of the gross local product etc., that our area will lose as a result of Spirit of Tasmania moving from Port Melbourne to Geelong?

Response

To the best of our knowledge, there is no publicly available data on the economic impact to Port Melbourne of the move of TT Lines (Spirit of Tasmania) to Geelong.

Internally, no research has been undertaken about the economic impact to the local economy and we have received no broader commissioned research on this matter.

We have reached out to our State Government colleagues (Visit Victoria, State Government Visitor Economy Unit and the VPA), but they too are unaware of any research commissioned that articulates the economic impact of the move of the Spirit of Tasmania on Melbourne.

We have also previously approached Victorian Ports Corporation (VicPorts) and TT Lines.

Officers are looking to set up a meeting with the Mayor, VicPorts, VPA and officers to discuss Waterfront Place in the context of COVID19, a potentially further reduced cruise shipping season, and what recovery may look like.

This will be another opportunity to discuss with VicPorts the impact of the future changes to the area caused by TT Lines move.

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