

Public Question Time

Question from Steve Phillips

1. In regards to sustainability and emissions in St Kilda, what was the result of the recent tender for the diesel generators for the festival? Were emissions reduced as a result of this tender?
2. Were the emissions measured for the last St Kilda Festival and what were they?
3. What plans are in place to reduce these emissions over time?
4. Why was the Acland Plaza electrical network not upgraded at the same time as the tram electrical network was upgraded?
5. Has the Council considered doing a cost benefit analysis for upgrading the electrical grid capacity in festival areas so that diesel generator costs, emissions and pollutions can be reduced as the electricity grid is decarbonized over time?

Response

1. The generator tender was awarded for the provision of biodiesel fuelled generators with a contractual requirement to provide a post festival report on the volume of fuel used so that an emissions calculation can be made. This data is not yet available and may take a little while to be consolidated. Please note that due to the bushfires some of the generators intended for CoPP had to be diverted for emergency support in regional areas, as a result the ones supplied to CoPP may have different specifications and outputs compared to what we specified in the tender -for these reasons the data collation and reporting is taking longer than expected.
2. The total emissions resulting from the most recent festival were not measured. Compiling an emissions inventory for the festival that is compliant with the National Carbon Offset Standard would include transport emissions from festival attendees and the increase in food and beverages purchased in the local area. These emission sources are outside of Council's direct control. However, the energy use via mains electricity and generator use is within Council's control. The mains electricity is purchased via our MREP program and is 100% renewable. We will calculate and publicly report on the generator emissions once fuel use data is available.
3. Council will offset any emissions from the diesel generators for the 2021 festival onwards as part of our commitment to zero net emissions from Council operations by 2021. Council will continue to collaborate with PTV to provide good public transport options to the festival and will promote active and sustainable transport to attendees. Council will also provide advice and support to stall holders and local businesses to improve their sustainable business practices.

4. The Acland Plaza electrical network for Council access points has been updated to be able to host events and it has done so regularly since its completion. We will clarify with our events team whether any generators were used within the plaza area -this may have been needed based on the number of events occurring at one time.
5. Yes from time to time, the events team has had opportunities to install some additional minor mains electrical outlets. The Events team is also working to identify other opportunities for further installations into the future, such as proposed traffic improvements or Council building upgrade works in the area where power outlets and water supplies for festival events might be able to be included in the project scope.

Please note that we have to consider maintaining flexibility in event and site layout which means there is likely to always be some ongoing need for generators to support a very broad range of event designs/layouts.

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