

Public Question Time

Question from Sam McDonald

Why has the Council allowed a Ferris wheel to be erected on St Kilda Beach (beginning 17th of March) during a pandemic when this is a time of discouraging tourism? Can the Council justify this decision when this choice does not seem to prioritise the safety of local residents or the general public?

Response

The KIIS Giant Wheel was permitted by Council to be set up on South Beach Reserve, St Kilda and was open to the public for one day with only a handful of participants.

Council ensured that the event provider was made aware of the rapidly changing Government requirements. At the time of set up, there was no Government requirement for them not to operate. (Attendance numbers were estimated to be less than 20 people per day). As well as being compliant with relevant bans, the operation of the ferris wheel (at the time) was in line with other similar activities that were still operating such as the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel in Docklands. Council also requested additional hygiene procedures to ensure the safety of employees and patrons such as additional cleaning, hand sanitiser and ticket box queue management.

After the further Government statements over the weekend, we announced we were revoking all permitted gatherings and events on public land within our municipality. We have cancelled all event permits until the end of May and will not be issuing any new permits until further notice.

The health and safety of our community and visitors is paramount, and we take this situation very seriously. We are working to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak and are closely monitoring the situation. To find out about the latest on Council events, services and facilities, please visit our website here <http://www.portphilip.vic.gov.au/events-services-facilities-updates.htm>

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