

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 17 APRIL 2024



Public Question Time

Question from Janette Fly:

Why has the Council continued to extend the permit for the scaffolding at 237 Princes Street Port Melbourne when no construction has taken place since 8 December 2023. The contractor, told me they are working on another project for the same owner and I am wondering why hasn't the work supervisor for this site directing that the continuation of construction does happen. As a result my car has been trapped in my back yard for 6 months.

Response:

It is a requirement of the Building Act 1993 that a construction site is fenced-off for safety reasons. The encroachment of scaffolding onto the laneway is required for public protection and the Council cannot compel the builder to remove the scaffolding until the associated building works are complete. We have also previously communicated that the access to the rear of your property is unlikely to improve when this building project is completed, due to the positioning of the wall that has been approved through the planning process.

Questions from Isaac Hermann: In an email of 9 April Council's: Coordinator Urban Forest/Open Space, Recreation + Community Resilience noted: 'Permeable pavements tend to be installed immediately around trees and not for long stretches of footpath – they are not a suitable product for footpath trafficability.'

Q.1 So how are we to accept this statement when most of Melbourne is so familiar with our Domain Gardens' Precinct Tan Track?

Permeable paving – Granitic Gravel – apparently is a suitable medium for 'footpath trafficability', and indeed meets City of Melbourne 'Design and Construction Standards: D.4.1.2': 'Granitic Gravel is a standard paving type in flat areas where a permeable surface is required.'

Q.2a Is Council and the public overall not satisfied with the extensive permeable paving in the Blessington Street Gardens, and more recently at the Bay Street central median in Port Melbourne: all areas of high foot traffic?

Q.7 How many new nature strips have been installed since this report was published?

Responses:

Q1 & 2a: Current practice in the City of Port Phillip is to use permeable pavements around trees and not for long stretches of footpath. There are places it is used well in this municipality and in other municipalities. It is not standard practice to use granitic gravel on footpaths outside of parks and reserves, of which your examples are. As we develop the urban forest strategy, we will be considering the increased use of permeable surfaces, any changes will be in line with that strategy and our asset maintenance program.

Q7: The nature strip guidelines provide permission for the community to plant without council permissions. Therefore, there is not recorded number of new nature strips planted since the guidelines were adopted.

**Please note: Responses to any questions during Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were responded to during the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*

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Question from Marion Attwater:

I would like to suggest that Port Phillip Council alters the reporting requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee so that the public can more easily see how the Independent Waste Review recommendations are overseen. Can detailed minutes of Audit and Risk Committee meetings please be published in the council agenda in the future?

Response:

The Audit & Risk Committee (ARCo) Membership has confirmed the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Minutes will not be published as they contain information of an operational and confidential nature not for sharing publicly. The Chair has however agreed to review the information currently shared in our biannual report to Council for improved transparency opportunities.

At its annual workshop held 21 May 2024, the Audit and Risk Committee agreed on the format of reporting to both the Committee and Council on the progress of responding to the internal waste review recommendations. A progress update will be provided at the next scheduled Audit and Risk Committee meeting 24 June 2024. At this meeting, the format for sharing with the public will be discussed and agreed.

Item 13.1 Draft Council Plan 2021-2031 (Year Four) and Budget 2024-25: Release for Public Consultation

Question from Councillor Bond:

Did any other Council in Victoria receive more interest rate revenue than the City of Port Phillip last year?

Response:

In the financial year 2022/23, there were 9 Councils that earned more interest income than Port Phillip City Council.

- *7 Interface Councils.*
- *2 Metro Councils (Boroondara and Greater Dandenong).*

Item 14.1 Notice of Motion – Councillor Marcus Pearl – Pickles, Bridge and Glover Intersection

Question from Councillor Nyaguy: Were these options considered as part of the process up to this point. Why was there no suggestion for changing the direction Cruikshank Street? Was it considered and why didn't any further option come to Councillors?

Response:

The treatment proposed at the intersection of Pickles Street, Bridge Street and Glover Street was developed to directly address safety concerns raised by the community and address the crash history at the intersection which is classified as a Road Safety Black Spot. Consideration of changing the operation of surrounding local streets, including Cruikshank Street, was outside the scope of the project. I note that during consultation on the project there was no feedback specifically requesting the change in the operation of Cruikshank Street, rather there was some concern raised that the closure would impact access their street.

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