



Frequently Asked Questions - Public Place CCTV Renewal

Key Messages:

- City of Port Phillip reviews its assets on a regular basis and is proactively working to ensure the municipality's CCTV system functions appropriately and is well-maintained.
- Council has a network of 50 cameras across 29 sites in four precincts in St Kilda (Grey Street, Fitzroy Street, Foreshore and Acland Street).
- In 2022 Council purchased a mobile CCTV trailer which is on loan to Victoria Police and deployed across the municipality. Victoria Police also owns a mobile CCTV trailer that is used in Port Phillip.
- Public place CCTV is one tool that Council uses to improve community safety.

FAQ:

Q: What is the CCTV Renewal Project?

A: As part of good asset management, Council is proactively renewing the current Public Place CCTV system as components reach end of life. This work is linked to annual maintenance of Council assets. The project encompasses improvements to the current system, server renewal and replacement of cameras at end of life or on failure.

Q: What is the purpose of the CCTV cameras?

A: Closed-circuit CCTV is a crime prevention tool which acts as a deterrent and assists Victoria Police with incident response and crime management.

Q: What type of CCTV cameras will be used?

A: The CCTV Renewal project will be replacing the current camera's as they reach end of life. The cameras will be replaced with like-for-like (contemporary equivalents).

Q: Where are CCTV cameras located?

A: Fifty cameras are located across twenty-nine sites in four precincts in St Kilda: Fitzroy St, Grey St, the Foreshore, and Acland St.



Q: Who has access to the footage of the CCTV cameras across CoPP?

A: Council takes seriously the management and maintenance of the public place CCTV network. By design, and in accordance with Council's Public Place CCTV Policy, the network of public place cameras links directly back to the St Kilda Police Station. Council maintains the network for the exclusive use of Victoria Police and accordingly, Council officers don't have access to the vision from the camera network.

Q: Where is the footage stored?

A: Footage and images generated from the CCTV system are stored at the St Kilda Police station for a set period. Footage may be accessed by Victoria Police members in accordance with CCTV Policies and the Law.

Q: How do you ensure all cameras and the system are working correctly?

A: Council oversees the operation of the network and rectifies issues that arise as quickly as possible. Police also monitor the cameras daily. Each week, the maintenance contractor of the network issues a status report for each individual camera and network component. This weekly report is shared with Victoria Police.

Council also receives automated alerts when there are issues with cameras or network components.

Any issues that arise, such as from vandalism, power surges, equipment failure, etc. are addressed as a priority by Council's contractor. Council keeps on hand spare parts and equipment to help avoid downtime.

Q: How will the privacy of the community be protected?

A: Access to any CCTV footage lies solely with Victoria Police. The privacy of the community is guided by the Privacy Act 1988, the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and the Surveillance Devices Act 2004. Cameras are only used for their designated purpose.

Q: Will Council be increasing the amount of CCTV cameras across City of Port Phillip?

A: Two additional locations for new cameras have been identified within the existing precincts as part of this project and will be installed in line with the CCTV Policy.



Q. Why is Council not extending the network into other areas?

A. Council's current CCTV Policy states that any new areas need to be funded through state or federal grant programs. As there are no opportunities available at the moment, Council continues to advocate for funding.

Renewal of the current system is being funded by Council in recognition that investment in the current system is needed to ensure ongoing effectiveness. In August 2023, Council endorsed a change to the Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy to allow the direct funding of renewal and upgrades to Council's existing CCTV system through appropriate approval processes when there was no option for state or federal funding.

Q: Who is responsible for the mobile CCTV camera trailer?

A: In 2022 Council purchased a mobile CCTV trailer to support Victoria Police. Police manage and maintain the trailer under a loan agreement. Council and Victoria Police identify priority sites for deployment of the trailer on a weekly basis. Victoria Police have final say of where the mobile camera trailer is placed.

Q. What is the renewal cost going to be?

A. In 2024 Council made provisional funding of \$800,000 for the renewal of the CCTV system. This will be expended over a three-year period.

In August 2023, Council endorsed a change to the Public Place Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy to allow the direct funding of renewal and upgrades to Council's existing CCTV system through appropriate approval processes when there was no option for external funding.

Q. What's the timing of the renewal project and will it affect the system's current operation?

A. The renewal project will be rolled out over the next two years. The system will continue to operate during the renewal process.

Q. Does CCTV work as a crime prevention tool?

A. CCTV infrastructure, alongside other initiatives, can serve as a deterrent to potential offenders and help Victoria Police with investigations and increase perceptions of safety.



Council's approach to safety is underpinned by a strong commitment to crime prevention through environmental design, including the application of CCTV surveillance systems, where appropriate. As such Public Place CCTV is an integral part of Council's Community Safety Plan 2019 – 2025.

Q Advocacy

A. Funding public place CCTV systems is a shared responsibility of state and federal government. Council continues to work with state and federal funding bodies and advocates for future funding for the maintenance and renewal of CCTV systems within its municipality.

Council advocates not only for continued funding of the CCTV system but also on improving safety and reducing crime through creating safe spaces and building community resilience. Council advocates to the Victorian Government to improve service responses and creating affordable housing via the Port Phillip Zero strategy.

Council values our partnership with Victoria Police and the critical work they do in our community – we are an advocate for improved police resourcing to enable greater physical presence and joint patrols in our hot spots.

Law and order are a policing issue and questions about police response times and resourcing should be directed to Victoria Police. Only Victoria Police has the authority to decide where police should be stationed.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A: Please see the following resources

- [Community Safety Webpage](#)
- [Community Safety Plan \(2023–2025\)](#)
- [Public Place CCTV Policy](#)