

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 3 JULY 2024



Public Question Time

Question from Annabell Jones:

Given the large number of pet registrations that we have in the City of Port Phillip, over \$500,000 a year has been raised. Where has this money been spent and in particular, towards the pet community. We do need another off-leash area, surely these funds could be spent there?

Response:

Fees collected through pet registrations are dedicated to various initiatives and facilities that benefit people who own pets as well as the wider community. These include:

- 1. Pound Services:** *The after-hours collection and care of escaped or abandoned animals, and the reunification of lost pets with their owners.*
- 2. Animal Management:** *Funding animal management staff to handle nuisance and noise complaints, patrols to enforce pet regulations, stray animal collections and investigations into reports of dog attacks.*
- 3. Community Programs:** *Supporting pet events and educational programs for responsible pet ownership.*
- 4. Dangerous Dog Management:** *Ensuring owners are managing dogs that have been declared dangerous, and that they are in compliance with regulations.*
- 5. Facilities:** *Maintenance and creation of dog parks, including off-leash areas and fenced parks – larger projects also come out of the broader budget through annual budgeting processes*

Question from Michael Barrett:

I understand from a question that I asked at the last Council Meeting on June 19th 2024 that the City of Port Phillip Risk & Audit Committee will be presenting its annual report to council in one of the scheduled council meetings in August. Could I please have the date on which the committee will be presenting its report and given some of the risk and audit issues occurring in the City of Port Phillip during the course of 2023/24, I request that the members of the Audit & Risk committee be physically present at the council meeting and be available to take questions from the public gallery after their presentation of their report to council.

Response:

The City of Port Phillip Audit and Risk Committee biannual report (covering the period 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2024) and annual review of the Committee Charter will be presented to Council at the 21 August 2024 Council Meeting. The Committee Charter was reviewed by the Committee at its 25 June 2024 meeting and the biannual report is currently under review by the Committee Chair.

Independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee are not required to attend Council meetings. The Mayor and one other nominated Councillor (representing Council on the Audit and Risk Committee) are in attendance at the Council meetings and may be able to respond to straightforward questions. More specific detailed questions that may require a detailed response may be taken on notice and responded to with support from Council officers.

**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.*