

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Friday, 28 November 2025 2:17 PM

Submitted on Fri, 28/11/2025 - 14:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Guosheng Chen



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

Will the City of Melbourne take steps to commemorate the 88th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre on 13 December 2025? This tragic event, which occurred in 1937, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians and prisoners of war, and is widely recognized as one of the darkest chapters of World War II in Asia. Commemorating such events is vital for promoting peace, understanding, and reconciliation in our multicultural city.

The City of Melbourne has previously demonstrated leadership in acknowledging global tragedies, such as its commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki through peace initiatives and public remembrance activities. These actions reflect Melbourne's commitment to fostering a culture of peace and educating future generations about the consequences of war.

Given Melbourne's diverse population and its strong ties to international communities, recognizing the Nanjing Massacre would align with our city's values of inclusivity and respect for historical memory.

A formal commemoration—whether through a public statement, a civic event, or collaboration with community organizations—would send a powerful message that Melbourne stands against atrocities and supports global efforts for peace.

One symbolic gesture could be lighting the Melbourne Town Hall in white on 13 December, representing remembrance and peace.

Could the Council outline its plans to mark this anniversary and work with local community groups to ensure this important historical event is respectfully acknowledged?

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 11:12 PM

Submitted on Wed, 26/11/2025 - 23:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Jimmy Li



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

Will the City of Melbourne take steps to allow the installation of Korean and Chinese statues of peace within the municipality? These statues, recognized internationally as symbols of remembrance and peace, honour the victims of wartime atrocities and promote dialogue about human rights and peace.

There is strong community support for these statues, with local organizations and residents advocating for their installation as a way to acknowledge shared history and foster healing. Supporting these statues would contribute to increasing the representation of women in Melbourne's public art, aligning with the city's strong traditions of recognizing history, peace, and remembrance. Their installation would enhance Melbourne's diversity and reinforce its status as a global cultural city. Furthermore, these statues would foster community unity through meaningful public art, providing a space for reflection and education for all residents and visitors.

The City of Melbourne has previously demonstrated leadership in acknowledging international tragedies, such as its commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki through peace initiatives and public remembrance activities. Building on this tradition, enabling the installation of peace statues would further demonstrate Melbourne's commitment to inclusivity, justice, and historical awareness.

Given Melbourne's multicultural population and strong ties to Asian communities, what specific actions will the Council take to support these efforts and work with local groups to make the Korean and Chinese statues of peace a reality in Melbourne?

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 4:00 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

jake land



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

A few weeks ago I spoke to council about the biblical obligation of the cities many churches to look after the poor and homeless. Not just prayers and hope for the best. A physical approach to provide the basics of existing, including housing is what their faith demands. Unfortunately many of them are failing miserably in this command. I asked the following questions: 1. Would the council support to remind each church of their obligation to society? 2. Would the council consider to relax their rules and to further investigate or request each large church to remove a few pews and install portable accommodation facilities to fulfill their obligation to God and society to take care of each and every homeless person in the Melbourne CBD as their scriptures command? Councilor Gladys Liu responded and said churches were welcome to approach council to offer their help, but failed to answer my questions. I now look forward to an appropriate response.

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 5:42 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 17:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Chris Thrum



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

Thank you to the Commonwealth Government in providing up to \$1.5 million in funding to cohealth to keep its general practice services at Fitzroy, Collingwood and Kensington open up to July 31, 2026.

Gough Whitlam would approve of this. Gough believed in a universal healthcare approach that is an essential right for Citizens, regardless of income.

How are things progressing to deliver a long- term sustainable solution and provide essential care for our community, plus your thoughts on this development?

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 6:42 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 18:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Mary-Lou Howie



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

Does the Council acknowledge that the open-air car park, situated within the boundary of the Market's National Heritage listing, is essential to the future of the traders under the sheds?

Does the Council care that, by converting the convenience of the open-air car park into an open space, it will kill our fresh food market?

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 8:34 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 08:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Bob Evans


Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

1. Will the Lord Mayor clarify whether, despite his statement at the 11 November FMC meeting, Council's own figures confirm a net loss of at least 300 parking spaces within the Queen Street, Franklin Street and Southern Development site of the Queen Victoria Market precinct?
2. When will traders and customers lose access to the existing parking spaces in the open-air car park and the Southern Development site during the construction period?
3. What impact will the loss of revenue from 700 displaced parking spaces have on Council's budget and ongoing income?

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question live via Zoom

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Thursday, 27 November 2025 2:41 PM

Submitted on Thu, 27/11/2025 - 14:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Jamie Govenlock



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Item 6.1: Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2025-21 - 400 Queen Street, Melbourne

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

This submission is being made on behalf of the permit applicant and will address key planning matters being considered in the application, including matters relating to the proposed public benefits.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

From: [Eliza Suffren](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 6.1_ 400 Queen Street_Presentation
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:09 AM

Good Morning,

Please find attached the link to the presentation, That Phil Rowe will be presenting for 400 Queen Street this afternoon.

Attachments via COX Fileshare:

Downloads are available until 3/1/2026 10:04:36 PM

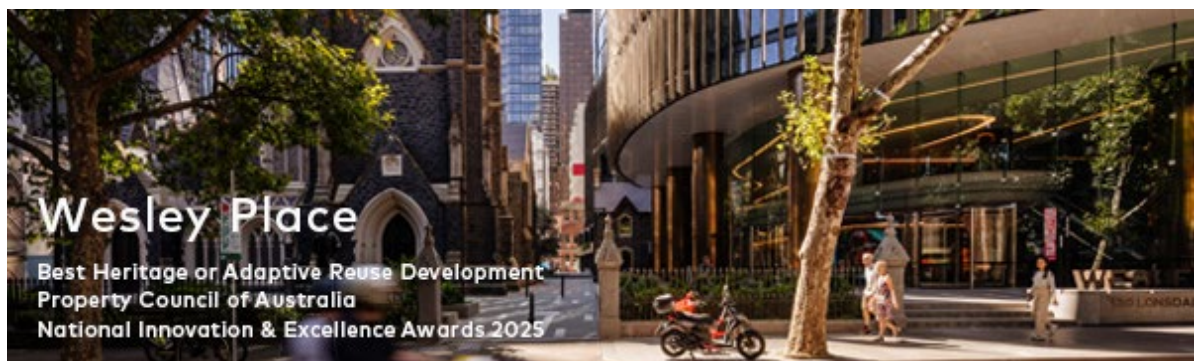
- [REDACTED]

Warm Regards

Eliza Suffren
Director



Level 2, 167 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
T: +61 3 9650 3288
coxarchitecture.com.au | [Disclaimer](#)



Acknowledgement of Country

This email was sent from Naarm on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country. COX Architecture respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, water and sky. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form > Full-width content
Date: Friday, 28 November 2025 12:24 PM

Submitted on Fri, 28/11/2025 - 12:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Helen RICE



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

TPMR-2022-12

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development affecting Punch Lane. I do so as a resident of Punch Lane for 20 years, a long-term City of Melbourne resident for more than three decades, and an architect who understands both the opportunities and risks associated with development in sensitive urban environments. My concerns are outlined below.

1. Insufficient Design Resolution

The proposal lacks a workable and context-appropriate design response. Key operational elements have not been resolved:

- Hotel entrance in a narrow pedestrian lane: The plan attempts to introduce a hotel entrance into a 6-metre-wide pedestrian lane already used by multiple premises. This is an inappropriate fit and creates unnecessary conflict between residents, pedestrians, and hotel guests.
- Guest drop-off and vehicular access: Punch Lane is a dead-end street. If the hotel address is to be on Punch Lane, the proposal fails to demonstrate how taxis and rideshare vehicles

will safely enter, turn, or exit the lane.

- Servicing (food, laundry, waste): The proposal does not explain how daily service operations will be managed without causing significant disruption to residents or obstructing this constrained laneway.
- Loading bay location: It appears the loading bay for this development—as well as for Towers 240 and 222—is now proposed directly on Lonsdale Street, a heavily trafficked corridor with bus lanes. The impact of this has not been acknowledged or assessed.

2. Non-Compliance with Planning Controls

The development is inconsistent with key planning requirements governing this area, including:

- Bourke Hill Precinct height controls
- Melbourne Planning Scheme built form and setback requirements
- Clause 22.22 Laneway Built Form Guidelines

Punch Lane is a low-rise, predominantly residential, pedestrian lane with a long-standing and diverse community, including families with young children. Its human scale, greenery, and afternoon sunlight set it apart from surrounding busier streets, and these qualities are exactly what the laneway policy seeks to preserve.

The proposal:

- fails to meet setback requirements on Exhibition Street, Lonsdale Street, and Punch Lane.
- introduces excessive height that overwhelms the lane.
- contradicts Clause 22.22, which requires upper-level setbacks equivalent to lane width beyond a 15-metre depth to maintain human scale, reduce microclimate impacts, and limit tower visibility.

3. Sunlight, Amenity, and Microclimate Impact

Punch Lane currently benefits from consistent north-west sunlight through much of the afternoon year-round. This development would completely remove that sunlight, resulting in:

- reduced residential amenity,
- loss of existing vegetation, and
- diminished potential for future greening initiatives.

These outcomes are incompatible with the City of Melbourne's stated "Greening the City" objectives and undermine the very policies designed to protect laneway amenity.

4. Heritage Concerns

Given the heritage significance of the Comedy Theatre and nearby heritage buildings, the absence of an accessible heritage assessment is unacceptable. The proposal entails substantial changes to the Exhibition Street and Lonsdale Street facades and introduces a tower that would visually dominate heritage streetscapes. Adjacent heritage buildings at the Punch Lane/Lonsdale Street corner would also be adversely affected.

5. Mischaracterisation of Punch Lane

The design report (this is based on the last report as we have been unable to access the new one) repeatedly refers to "activating" Punch Lane and presents it as "accommodation and retail." This is misleading.

Punch Lane is overwhelmingly residential, with only three small-scale retail outlets. It is already an active pedestrian thoroughfare. The proposal does not enhance this activity; the additional traffic and servicing demands would obstruct it.

The submission also selectively depicts only the Lonsdale Street end of the lane, omitting the tree-lined, low-rise residential section that defines its character. This omission obscures the actual impact of the project on residents and the broader laneway setting.

Conclusion

This proposal does not adequately address its physical constraints, fails to meet key planning controls, threatens residential amenity, and conflicts with the heritage and character objectives for the area. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the application be refused unless it is substantially redesigned to comply with the planning

framework and protect the unique qualities of Punch Lane.

Sincerely,

Helen Rice

Resident, [REDACTED] Punch Lane, Melbourne 3000

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form > Full-width content
Date: Friday, 28 November 2025 11:47 AM

Submitted on Fri, 28/11/2025 - 09:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Jamie Govenlock



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.2 Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Saturday, 29 November 2025 4:07 PM

Submitted on Sat, 29/11/2025 - 16:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Jennifer Eltham



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Ministerial Planning Referral -TPMR-2022-12-222&240 Exhibition St

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(98.03 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

Submission Regarding Proposed Development and Activation Works Affecting Punch Lane and Surrounding Streets

To the City of Melbourne/Future Melbourne Committee,
I write as a long-term resident, ratepayer, and active member of the local community to express significant concerns regarding the proposed development and associated activation works affecting Punch Lane, Lonsdale Street, and the surrounding precinct. While I appreciate the opportunity to comment, I must note that the limited public information and lack of notification have prevented residents from understanding or responding meaningfully to the proposal. This omission is particularly serious given the scale and complexity of the development.

Punch Lane is a predominantly residential laneway comprising 11 dwellings, each with its entrance directly onto the lane. This fundamental fact is consistently absent from several sections of the assessment documentation, despite being critical to evaluating amenity impacts, traffic behaviour, activation strategies, servicing, overshadowing, construction impacts, and built form interfaces.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed development raises significant concerns for residents of Punch Lane and the broader community, particularly given the lack of direct notification and the absence of any opportunity for residents to review or respond to revised plans. Punch Lane comprises 11 residential dwellings, yet the assessment documents repeatedly fail to identify or address their presence.

The report describes Punch Lane as a pedestrian thoroughfare comprising “a mix of accommodation and retail offerings,” but does not mention the long-established residential dwellings whose entrances sit within metres of the development boundary. Similarly, references to tower setbacks do not acknowledge that the tower rises directly on the boundary of 35–37 Punch Lane or the proximity to the lower residential levels of adjoining townhouses.

Claims that community concerns have been considered are undermined by the fact that residents were not informed of the amendment. The last communication from Council planning indicated that there had been no fresh updates on the developments and residents would be kept informed of any updates. This did not occur. **The City of Melbourne received notification on 9 July 2025 but concerned residents were not notified, by City of Melbourne, until 20 November 2025 at 4.05pm.**

Significant operational, structural, and amenity issues also remain unresolved:

- Hotel access should be from Lonsdale Street—not the Punch Lane walk way. Drop-offs, pick-ups, taxis and rideshare vehicles would cause congestion and severely affect residential amenity.

The Traffic Report fails to comment nor address the following:

- No loading bay has been provided for two towers and a hotel, and the car park height is inadequate for commercial vehicles delivering linen and supplies.
- The southern side of Lonsdale Street is a clearway, meaning no legal stopping options are available for hotel servicing.

- Recommendations suggesting that the hotel entrance should instead be located on Punch Lane walk way fail to consider the residential nature of the laneway and would dramatically increase activity directly outside residents' doors.
- The proposal will deprive the northern Punch Lane plaza—currently a valued community gathering and sunlight catchpoint—of all afternoon sunlight, contradicting the goals of Amendment C415Melb.
- Heritage concerns, including the overshadowing and dominance of the tower over the small-scale heritage buildings at 53 Lonsdale Street, have not been properly addressed.
- Wind, acoustic, demolition, waste, traffic, construction, and easement implications remain poorly analysed or unresolved.

Council officers have themselves noted that a 100m+ tower with zero setback behind four-storey residential townhouses is inappropriate and detrimental to the character of Punch Lane.

Overall, the proposal presents unacceptable residential, heritage, traffic, amenity, and public realm impacts. The process has not met a reasonable standard of transparency, and the rights and presence of existing residents have been overlooked.

FULL SUBMISSION

1. Lack of Public Advertising and Consultation

Section 7.2 claims no objections were received regarding the latest amendment. However, the community cannot respond if it is not notified. Residents were previously told there were no amendments with regard to the development and if and when notification was received, concerned parties would be advised; instead, no notice was provided. This fails to meet reasonable expectations of consultation on a project of major scale.

The City of Melbourne received notification on 9 July 2025 but concerned residents were not notified, by City of Melbourne, until 20 November 2025 at 4.05pm.

2. Incomplete and Misleading Description of Surrounds

Section 3.2 describes Punch Lane as containing “small-scale buildings” and a “mix of accommodation and retail offerings,” but omits the existence of 11 residential dwellings. This omission materially affects the assessment of amenity impacts, quiet enjoyment, privacy, and safety.

3. Built Form, Setbacks, and Interface with Homes

The report states:

- Tower height: approx. 110 m
- Setback from Exhibition Street: 22.3 m
- Setback from Lonsdale Street: 2.25 m
- 5 m from the centreline of Punch Lane

However, it does **not** state that the tower is built directly to the **boundary of 35–37 Punch Lane** and is immediately adjacent to the lower levels of residential townhouses. Council officers themselves note that a zero-setback 100m tower behind three-storey homes is inappropriate and compromises the laneway's residential character.

Nor are the new floors and roof to the existing car park on the rear boundary of the townhouses noted.

4. Objections and Community Input

Although Section 7.2 acknowledges past concerns (title, ownership, built form, amenity, traffic), it disregards the fact that no further correspondence was received because residents were never informed of the amendment. The conclusion drawn—that concerns have been “considered”—is therefore unsound.

5. Hotel Entrance, Traffic Impacts, Servicing, and Loading

Section 8.2 proposes that activation could be improved by a new hotel entrance on Punch Lane.

This is inappropriate for the following reasons:

- Punch Lane is extremely narrow and already congested.
- It is a residential laneway, not a commercial frontage.
- Any hotel entrance would create significant pedestrian and vehicular conflict.
- The area outside 31–33 and 35–37 Punch Lane would inevitably become a de facto drop-off/pick-up zone.
- No loading bay is provided for two towers and a hotel.
- Car park height is inadequate for commercial service vehicles transporting linen and supplies.
- Lonsdale Street’s southern side is a clearway—no legal stopping for hotel service vehicles.

A hotel entrance on Lonsdale Street is the only appropriate arrangement.

6. Wind, Overshadowing, and Public Realm Impacts

Amendment C415Melb requires protection of sunlight to public open spaces.

The plaza at the north end of Punch Lane is a valued gathering place and one of the only spots receiving afternoon sunlight in the precinct. The development will remove this entirely.

Wind impacts on the plaza and Punch Lane itself are not adequately addressed.

7. Demolition and Construction Management

Section 9.2 does not mention impacts on residences or businesses directly abutting the demolition zone.

No detailed Construction Management Plan has been provided to address:

- noise
- vibration
- dust
- traffic management
- site access
- safety
- protection of residential entries located within metres of the construction boundary

8. Waste Management

Outstanding matters identified by Council’s Waste and Recycling team remain unresolved and cannot be addressed by permit conditions.

There is insufficient detail regarding:

- where waste will be stored

- how collection will occur
- how impacts on the laneway will be prevented

Waste and Service Vehicle Impacts

The report does not address the increased number of waste truck movements that would result from the higher demand generated by the proposed development. Servicing these buildings will likely require more frequent use of small commercial vehicles, yet the current design does not provide sufficient space or access for these operations.

This is particularly concerning at a time when the City of Melbourne is actively seeking to reduce waste truck movements in the CBD.

Without appropriate planning, this development risks exacerbating traffic congestion, safety issues, and operational challenges for both residents and service providers.

9. **Acoustic Impacts**

No detailed acoustic report has been provided addressing:

- hotel activity
- mechanical systems
- car park operation
- late-night movement
- loading, servicing, and refuse collection

10. **Heritage Considerations**

Section 9.3 does not address the overwhelming scale of the 110m tower relative to the heritage buildings at 53 Lonsdale Street.

The proposal would visually dominate and diminish these smaller heritage forms, undermining the area's character.

11. **Boundary Dispute**

There is a significant concern regarding the horizontal boundary shown on the revised plans. The alignment depicted does not accord with the records held by Culliver & Sim—the original surveyors for this site—who maintain extensive archival material and dispute the accuracy of the boundary as currently drawn. Their evidence indicates discrepancies between the certified survey information and the new architectural documentation.

We request that comments to the Minister require:

- A current, certified survey to be obtained;
- Resolution of the boundary discrepancy before any assessment progresses;
- Written confirmation to residents of the verified boundary location;
- Assurance that all proposed works remain fully within the existing title boundary and do not encroach upon the co-joined townhouses.

This matter may materially affect property rights, easements, and structural integrity considerations.

12. **Variation of Easement**

Land Tenure's advice that the easement must be varied prior to commencement of works is appropriate; however, implications for residents are not identified nor is the consensual nature of this process noted.

Residents should not be asked to approve easement changes without full disclosure of impacts.

13. **Car Park Access and Height – 2.3m Limit**

The plans nominate a car park entrance height of 2.3 metres; however, the Detailed Elevation – North (DA2151) shows internal pipework and ducting that substantially restricts the actual clearance. Based on these obstructions, the realistic operational height is closer to 1.9 metres.

This height is well below recommended standards and would exclude safe access for:

- small waste collection vehicles
- ambulances
- fire service vehicles
- standard LandCruisers and many other common vehicles
- delivery vans

Emergency services require a minimum clearance of 4 metres to safely accommodate fire trucks and ambulances (Building Regulations 2018, s.161). Design standards, including AS/NZS 2890.6, specify a minimum clearance of 2.2–2.3 metres for general vehicle access and for paths serving people with disabilities, ensuring safe and equitable entry. As a result, the current design raises significant operational and safety concerns.

This project provides a timely opportunity to upgrade the car park entrance to contemporary standards, meeting both emergency service requirements and accessibility guidelines, while avoiding potential risks for all users.

14. **Removal of the Existing Loading Bay**

The updated plans show that the existing loading bay has been removed. There is no loading bay at all to service the hotel or the two towers.

A hotel cannot function without:

- Frequent linen deliveries
- Food and beverage supply
- Waste collection
- Housekeeping supply
- General goods and operational services

The absence of loading and service areas appears unviable and requires clarification.

15. **Green Infrastructure**

The proposed development does not incorporate meaningful green infrastructure such as green roofs, vertical greening, or façade planting, despite City of Melbourne guidance and sustainability objectives under Amendment C376 and the Green Factor Tool. Simply

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Saturday, 29 November 2025 4:36 PM

Submitted on Sat, 29/11/2025 - 16:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Andrew John Eltham



Your submission


Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.2

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

 (74.5 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

**City of Melbourne Future Committee
Objection to Revised Plans for 222-240 Exhibition St Development.**

Having studied the revised plans for this development, my concern is the change of use from a commercial development to combined commercial and hotel development.

1. The storage space required for hotel waste, does not appear to have been considered in the plans. The existing loading bay for 222 Exhibition Street is being removed but does not appear to have been replaced with a similar or larger size area that can be accessed by furniture or standard sized rubbish trucks.
2. The Hotel entrance is shown in the narrow part of Punch Lane. This is within two meters of an existing residence. It is likely that hotel guests will arrive and depart via Punch Lane. This seven day/week, 24hr/day movement of vehicles and people in Punch Lane will have a significant impact on the eleven residences and occupants who have lived in Punch Lane for many years. Punch Lane is not a through lane. This will result in further congestion in an already, at times, congested Lane. It is therefore recommended that an inset guest drop-off, pick-up zone is required in Lonsdale Street similar to the area outside Regency Towers in Exhibition Street.
3. The horizontal boundary drawn between the car park and the townhouses is incorrect. The townhouses own the top part of the slab and the development, the lower part of the slab.
4. The shadow diagrams shown for Punch Lane are inconsistent with reality. There is afternoon sun for part of the day consistently in Punch Lane plaza and on the four town houses on the eastern side of Punch Lane. The development would completely block out this sunlight to these areas.

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 12:29 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 11:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Lorraine Ann Shepherd

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

TPMR-2022-12-222 & 240 Exhibition St, Melbourne Vic 3000

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (14.89 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

25 Punch Lane,
Melbourne, Vic 3000

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: TPMR-2022-12-222 & 240 Exhibition St, Melbourne Vic 3000

May we first say that we were extremely disappointed that we have never been consulted regarding the above project either by the Council or by the developers or owners of the project given that it impacts severely on our property in which we have been residents and owners for in excess of 20 years.

Apparently multiple changes have been made to the original plans which were floated some years ago and of which we were only made aware at that time by other interested parties. These changes include a change of use to partial hotel and extensive changes to the carparking arrangements which will effect the co-joined rear joint concrete wall of our building.

Our laneway, which is currently residential in nature with a couple of restaurants already just copes with traffic for daily garbage collection, daily food deliveries, taxi drop off and collections etc will be hard pressed to cope with any additional traffic.

Given that it would seem that the hotel aspect proposed has no loading bay (the existing one on Lonsdale St is apparently to be removed) the deliveries could only be handled by Punch Lane which would probably double the existing use almost destroying the amenity of the residential aspect of the lane.

In addition the entry to the hotel is proposed to be from Punch Lane at the narrowest part thereby creating noise from arrivals, departures, smokers and general hotel activities.

Any change to the construction of the carpark will require a realignment of the easement which is present to protect Punch Lane unit owners for various services which were created at the time of the original construction. This has been an issue before which was finally resolved via court action.

In the event that traffic is increased in the laneway, reduced access to garages together with unauthorised parking in front of garages will effect the amenity of the area for existing residents. With a hotel being involved this will obviously occur.

Please consider these matters at your meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Lorraine & Ian Shepherd

From: [Wendy Syme](#)
To: [Cult Meetings: lucy.mcgovan@transport.vic.gov.au](#); [Richard Cherry](#)
Cc: [Jason Edwards](#); [Jennifer Eltham](#)
Subject: FW: TMR-2022-12-220 & 240 Exhibition Street FMC Agenda Item 6.2 2 Dec 2025
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:41 AM
Attachments: [Image002.png](#)

Please see below for meeting today - TMR-2022-12-220 & 240 Exhibition Street FMC Agenda Item 6.2 2 Dec 2025

From: Wendy Syme
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 8:55 AM
To: [lucy.mcgovan@transport.vic.gov.au](#); [richard.cherry@melbourne.vic.gov.au](#)
Cc: Jennifer Eltham <jennifer.eltham@bigpond.com>; Jason Edwards <sjedwards@buzzsaw.media>
Subject: Proposed Development and Activation Works Affecting Punch Lane

Dear Ms. McGoven, and Mr. Richard Cherry,

As we have just returned from overseas, it was disconcerting to review significant changes to the submission regarding the proposed "Development and Activation Works" which will adversely affect Punch Lane and surrounding streets. We have not even been given an opportunity to properly review due to lack of notification in a timely manner.

We are seriously concerned about the following:

- The development has changed from commercial-only to commercial and hotel, with no resident consultation.
- Hotel activity hours will directly conflict with the harmony of Punch Lane residents, considering the proposed entry is from a very small walkway and only a few meters away from residents' homes.
- The traffic currently is almost unbearable with trucks etc. creating havoc for residents requiring access to garages/cars etc. this will only increase with a hotel.
- I understand that there are already boundary disputes with the new plan, what is happening here? Residents have reasonable cause to object to the impact this will incur.

Further;

- No residents were informed of this change, a complete lack of transparency.
- There has been no community engagement, which is odd considering the serious impact to residents and the effect on value of homes etc.
- As residents of Punch Lane, we feel we are being railroaded into compliance without information and late notification which directly affects our rights to object.
- If council members lived in and/or owned property in Punch Lane, would they accept being treated in this manner? I very much doubt they would.

This is simply unacceptable; residents' impact has not been considered in any way. **Therefore, we wish to be on record that we do indeed vehemently object.**

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your earliest response, and before further development continues.

Regards,

Jason and Wendy Edwards
32 Punch Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000



Wendy Syme
e: wsyme@buzzsawmedia.com.au | m: +61 404 001 277 | p: 1300 908 220 | Level 27, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
www.buzzsawmedia.com.au

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From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 5:10 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 17:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Samantha Westbrooke



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Agenda Item 6.2— Ministerial Planning Referral: TPMR-2022-12 – 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



1 December 2025

Future Melbourne Committee
City of Melbourne

6 Parliament Place
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Submitted online

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au

T 03 9656 9818

Re: Future Melbourne Committee Agenda Item 6.2— Ministerial Planning Referral: TPRM-2022-12 – 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Dear Councillors,

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) writes to express our strong objection to the current plans for the redevelopment of 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne documented in the above Ministerial Planning Referral.

We understand that the current referral does not provide Council with an opportunity to comment directly on heritage matters, which are subject to a separate process of consideration under the *Heritage Act 2017*. However, as part of the broader planning process and considerations to the holistic cultural and local heritage values of the City of Melbourne, we call on the Future Melbourne Committee to oppose the current plans on heritage grounds. We submit this proposal would have unacceptable impacts on The Comedy Theatre and the cultural values of the CBD at large.

The Comedy Theatre is included in the Victorian Heritage Register not only as an outstanding and intact example of an interwar theatre, but for its association with Melbourne's theatre scene in the twentieth century. It is important as the only live theatre building constructed in Melbourne in the first half of the twentieth century, and as an unusual example of an 'intimate' theatre, demonstrating the development of live theatre in the twentieth century.

Having reviewed the application before you, we have significant concerns regarding the overwhelming scale of the proposed development, its negative impacts on the state-significant Comedy Theatre, and the potential loss of integrity of the local cultural values associated with the Theatre's setting. The Comedy Theatre is a key contributor to Melbourne's cultural and entertainment landscape, and its setting supports and elevates this role.

Approval of this development would establish a troubling precedent for future projects at heritage sites within the CBD, undermining both the integrity of the state register and the well-established cultural values of the city.

While the National Trust acknowledges the Committee's limitations in commenting on heritage matters for sites listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, we submit that supporting this proposal would be inconsistent with the overarching principles of the City of Melbourne's pending Heritage Strategy—a document we consider exemplary in its approach to valuing heritage in all its forms across the city. We therefore urge the Committee to adopt a broader perspective in assessing this planning permit application, particularly regarding the

appropriateness of the built form and proposed tower height, and to consider the wider local heritage values of the place beyond amenity and compliance with the relevant DDOs. In line with this, we urge the City of Melbourne to oppose the current proposal on heritage grounds as part of a broader approach to the planning process for this site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Ministerial Planning Referral. For enquiries regarding this submission, please contact our office on 9656 9818 or me directly at [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Samantha Westbrooke
Conservation and Advocacy Executive Manager
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

From: [Ben Allen](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Fw: Development - Comedy Theatre / 222 Exhibition Street Concerns / Objections
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 10:21 PM

Hi...please find below an email I have also sent direct to Lucy.

Regards,
Ben Allen
[REDACTED] Punch Lane

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Ben Allen
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 7:14:31 PM
[REDACTED]
Subject: Development - Comedy Theatre / 222 Exhibition Street Concerns / Objections

Dear Lucy

Regarding this development, we would like to lodge the following concerns and objections:

1. The plans now being circulated include an additional usage of the site as a hotel. This has not previously been communicated, and will impact the amenity on Punch Lane – which is largely a residential street. Particularly impacted will be residents' privacy, noise in the lane associated with hotel patronage, traffic as uber drivers etc transport patrons to and from the hotel, no included loading facilities increasing commercial vehicle activity in Punch Lane (which is already excessive).
2. There appears to have been a lack of community consultation about this change of proposal. Laila and I are currently away from home, and have only been made aware of these changes and scheduled meeting tomorrow a few days ago by a neighbour. We would request that a proper consultation process is entered into before any changes are made to the development plans.
3. The development will impact natural light / sunlight reaching Punch Lane in the afternoon. We have consulted with our own subject matter expert and it appears that the Lane may be fully overshadowed by 3pm in the afternoon. This does not seem like a good or fair outcome.
4. It appears the plans may have incorrect boundaries for the residential properties on the western side of Punch Lane. There is certainly a dispute to be resolved.
5. Re-emphasizing the noise, as – apart from the external noise associated with increased patronage, there is already noise transmitted from 222 Exhibition to our residences through shared concrete – this development can only make things worse.
6. The plans are not clear about the services to be located behind our residences and

associated new elevator – we would like more information about that.

It seems clear to us that there has been nowhere near enough consultation to enable progressing this plan, so lodge our objections on that basis. As a minimum, significant consultation is needed so that full impacts to Punch Lane residents and amenity may be understood.

Kind Regards,

Ben and Laila Allen

██████ Punch Lane owners / residents

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: TMPR-2022-12-220&240 Exhibition St FMC agenda item 6.2 2 Dec 2025
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 5:24 PM

Dear Sir/Madam

As a property owner and resident of Punch Lane for 40 years, I write to express my concern at the revised plans for 222-240 Exhibition Street which have been recently released.

My home is one of 11 residences in Punch Lane.

The revised plans include a hotel which will operate 24 hours per day and which will have its entrance situated on Punch Lane's pedestrian access steps to Lonsdale Street.

I am greatly concerned about the traffic congestion and increased noise levels this will bring to Punch Lane at all times of the day and night, particularly when the left lane of Lonsdale Street is designated as a clear way. Punch Lane is already congested at times by delivery vans, rubbish collection trucks and local traffic. The addition of taxis, ride share vehicles and other hotel vehicles would make the lane unworkable.

I am also concerned that the height of the proposed building will overshadow my property, reducing or obliterating sunlight during the afternoon.

I stress that no consultation process with local residents has taken place. The addition of a hotel to the proposed development has impacts on residents of Punch Lane who were not directly affected by the original proposal.

I ask that the plans be reconsidered in light of these changes and that consultation with Punch Lane residents be undertaken before any decision is made.

Yours sincerely
Mark Lovell and Geoff Pile
[REDACTED] Punch Lane, Melbourne

Sent from my iPhone

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 7:05 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 07:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Nicola Smith
[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (1.56 MB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

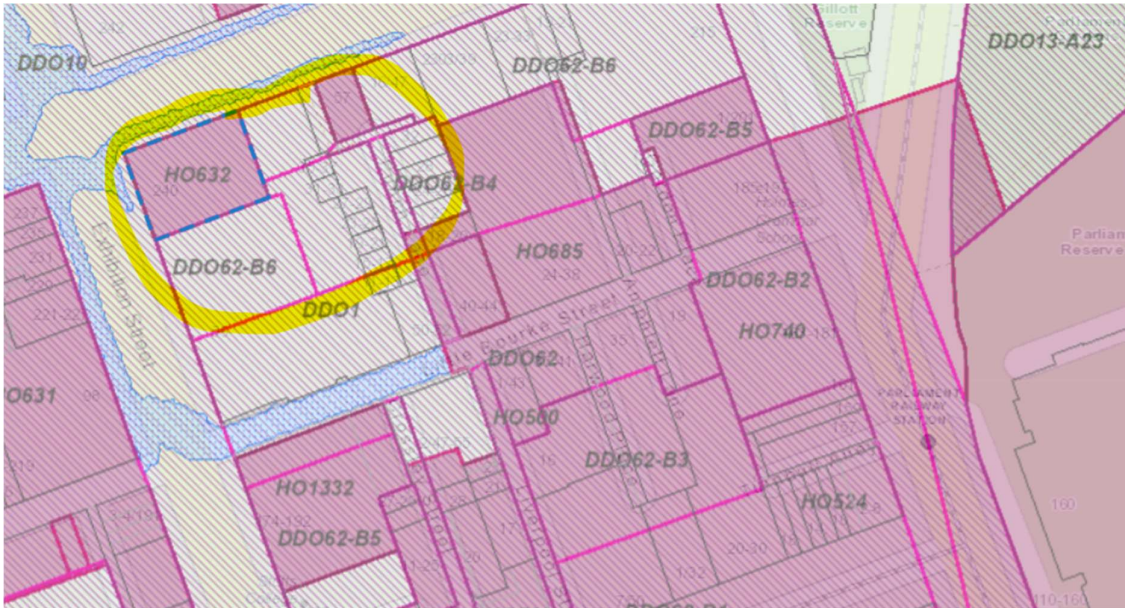
Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make by submission via Zoom

FUTURE MELBOURNE COMMITTEE MEETING – 2ND DECEMBER 2025

AGENDA #6.2 Ministerial Planning Referral - TMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne



Heritage Overlay HO and Design and Development Overlay DDO62 requirements should be upheld.

This proposal would cause significant negative impacts to the attributes and amenity of the Bourke Hill special character area.

- **Demolishing a large portion and completely dominating** the significant Comedy Theatre heritage building with a gigantic tower would likely 'harm the place or object' (*Heritage Act 2017*)
- No Heritage Report is provided for either the Comedy Theatre or 53-57 Lonsdale St in the City of Melbourne Heritage Overlay - representative examples of a small 1880's shop/dwelling group, nor is the mostly residential context of Punch Lane given due regard.

Design Development Overlays are there for a reason. I live in a boutique 11-storey residential building in Liverpool Street, one of the small laneways that DDO62 protects. I experience first-hand the shadows that surrounding towers cast at certain times of the day or year, taking away my daylight, my access to sun, my view of sky, plunging my laneway into temporary darkness. The solar access that remains is precious to residents, shopkeepers, restaurant patrons and other businesses alike. Residents including me, also experience first-hand the wind impacts nearby towers. Since the 12-storey Meridian Hotel was built next door, even trees in large planters on balcony terraces regularly fall over from the wind impacts. Balconies are residents only private open space and much of the time are too windy or shady to enjoy. To keep the Bourke Hill precinct special, this tower should be maximum 12 stories not 27!

The proposed development contravenes the requirements of [DDO62](#) (Schedule 62 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme Design and Development Overlay), enshrined to protect the unique character of the **Bourke Hill special character area**, for example:

- The development does not respect and maintains the heritage significance, low-scale built form and valued public realm attributes of Bourke Hill generally.

- Overshadowing of Lt Bourke St, Liverpool and Crossley Streets (specifically protected by DDO62 from 22 April to 22 September) and public open space.
- The proposal **does not comply with setbacks and other constraints**, required to ensure provision of adequate sunlight, daylight, privacy and outlook from habitable rooms, for both existing and proposed developments; nor taller buildings transitioning down in height to adjacent areas that have a lower height limit, so as not to visually dominate or compromise the character of adjacent existing fine-grain smaller built form.
- City of Melbourne and everyone who cares about the Bourke Hill precinct, should demand that this insensitive proposal in its current form be rejected and require the applicant to **resubmit a proposal compliant with DDO62** if it is to be considered, to protect the unique attributes of the Bourke Hill precinct and the amenity of the area.

See **highlighted** clauses attached

-
- There's been a complete **lack of community engagement** on this application, despite significant implications for Bourke Hill precinct and residents immediately vicinity. Comments provided on a 31-tower version in 2022 have mostly been disregarded.
 - 7.2.Objections – “Notwithstanding the exemption from notice and review, concerns have been raised throughout the application’s history, particularly by residents of Punch Lane - relating to **title and ownership matters, built form, amenity and traffic impacts**”. Surely title/ownership matters cannot just be dealt with via a planning permit condition? Have some section drawings been conveniently omitted from the plans to avoid accurately showing relationships to adjoining properties?
 - The Victorian public should be able to rely on authorities to **uphold their own planning legislation & frameworks**. I bought my property in Liverpool Street on this basis. It is causing me anxiety that this development is even being contemplated and described as appropriate – I totally reject the view stated in #17 that the tower would sit comfortably in its context, with additional shadowing minor and not unreasonably impacting the amenity of public spaces!
 - The proposal overshadows laneways in the heritage overlays including Punch Lane, Liverpool Street, Crossley Street and the public plaza space located at the northern end of Punch Lane. The podium and tower will result in significant loss of sunlight in the laneways and plaza from 22 April to 22 September, diminishing the amenity and enjoyment of these pedestrian-friendly public spaces. Plans showing **significant additional shadowing** are attached. The 22 June plans are missing, which would show even greater solar impacts.
 - The proposal fails to recognise, support and protect the existing **neighbourhood character**. It does not recognise or respect the unique identity of the Bourke Hill precinct + the heritage overlays.
 - I assert that #24 [Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006](#) and #28 Social impacts are applicable in the adjoining residential context and in the context of this special character area, and the high-quality amenity, equity, acceptable levels of wind and solar access that **DDO62** enshrines. The applicable DDO’s and heritage overlays seek to ensure that new buildings provide equitable development rights for adjoining sites and allow reasonable access to privacy, sunlight, daylight and

outlook for habitable rooms. This proposal does not even meet the DDO62 setback, height and bulk requirements and should be rejected on those grounds alone.

- The **Burra Charter**, cultural heritage management generally and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage are completely disregarded by the proposal, a significant omission.
- Does Melbourne really need to partially demolish a much-loved heritage building for a bulky new 110m hotel/office tower when much of the city's office space is empty? **Adaptive reuse** of an existing building would be true environmental sustainability. Even C376 Urban Ecology standard for Green Factor cannot be achieved by the proposal, a huge lost opportunity for a development of this size, nature and location. Melbourne can do better than this. If a new tower must be allowed, require it to be an elegant 12-storey 'pencil' on a well-articulated podium that has due regard for its unique heritage and special character context.

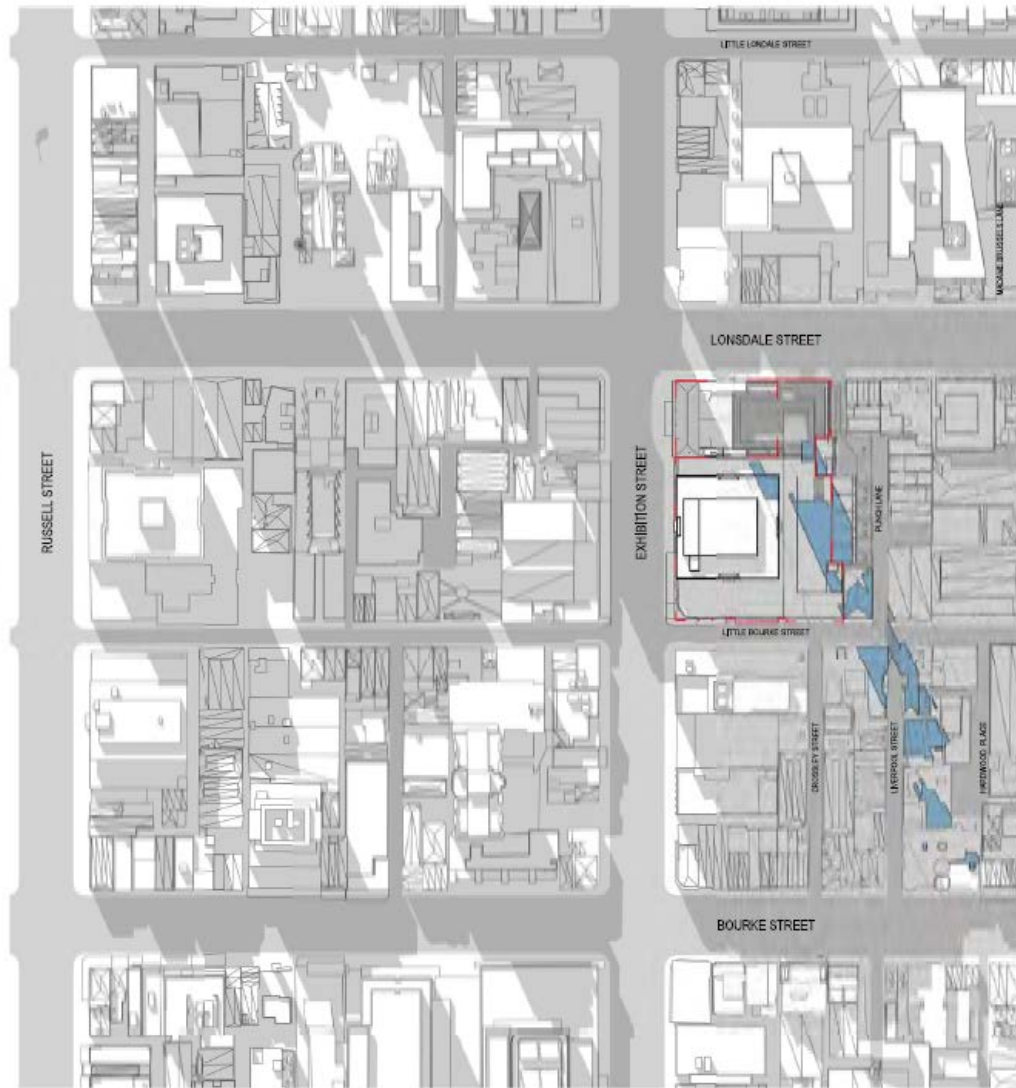
I respectfully request City of Melbourne Planning to show leadership, uphold its planning frameworks and heritage values, and respond to the Minister that this insensitive built form application should be rejected.

Kind regards,

Nicola Smith

■ Liverpool Street, Melbourne 3000

PLANS SHOW SIGNIFICANT SHADING OF THE BOURKE HILL SPECIAL CHARACTER AREA,
AND 22 JUNE PLANS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY WORSE



Melbourne planning scheme

Planning scheme last updated by [GC243](#) <> on Monday 01 December 2025




Melbourne [Ordinance](#) [Maps](#) [Incorporated documents](#) [Amendments](#) [Histories](#)

keyword, clause number or amendment number

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<<https://api.app.planning.vic.gov.au/planning/v2/generate/melb/ordinanceNumber/43.02-s62>>

SCHEDULE 62

13/07/2017
C311

SCHEDULE 62 TO CLAUSE 43.02 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as DDO62.

SPECIAL CHARACTER AREAS- BUILT FORM (BOURKE HILL)

1.0

23/11/2016
C270

Design objectives

To protect the unique character of Bourke Hill.

To protect the built form context of view lines to and from Parliament House to maintain its visual prominence.

To ensure the scale and prominence of the landmark heritage buildings, the Princess Theatre and the Hotel Windsor, is maintained.

To ensure development respects and maintains the heritage significance, low scale built form and valued public realm attributes of Bourke Hill.

To protect sunlight access to streets and key laneways, the steps and 'forecourt' area of Parliament House including adjacent public spaces and public spaces.

To maintain a high level of pedestrian amenity within Bourke Hill.

To retain expansive open air sky views for pedestrians along streets and key laneways.

2.0

13/07/2017
C311

Buildings and works

2.1

13/07/2017
C311

Definitions

For the purpose of this schedule:

street means a road reserve of a public highway more than 9 metres wide.

laneway means a road reserve of a public highway 9 metres or less wide.

street wall means any part of the building constructed within 0.3 metres of a lot boundary fronting the street.

street wall height means the vertical distance between the footpath or natural surface level at the centre of the site frontage and the highest point of the street wall, with the exception of non-habitable architectural features not more than 3.0 metres in height and building services setback at least 3.0 metres behind the street wall.

total building height means the vertical distance between the footpath or natural surface level at the centre of the site frontage and the highest point of the building, with the exception of non-habitable architectural features not more than 3.0 metres in height and building services setback at least 3.0 metres behind the façade.

setback is the shortest horizontal distance from a building façade, including projections such as balconies, building services and architectural features greater than 300mm, to the boundary.

floor area ratio means the gross floor area above ground of all buildings on a site, including all enclosed areas, services, lifts, car stackers and covered balconies, divided by the area of the site. Voids associated with lifts, car stackers and similar service elements should be considered as multiple floors of the same height as adjacent floors or 3.0 metres if there is no adjacent floor.

unsafe wind conditions means the hourly maximum 3 second gust which exceeds 20 metres/second from any wind direction considering at least 16 wind directions with the corresponding probability of exceedance percentage.

comfortable wind conditions means a mean wind speed from any wind direction with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than:

3 metres/second for sitting areas

4 metres/second for standing areas

5 metres/second for walking areas.

mean wind speed means the maximum of:

Hourly mean wind speed, or

Gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85).

additional shadow means any shadow cast outside any existing shadow from buildings or works, but not a shadow cast by incidental elements such as canopies, kiosks, artworks, screens or trees.

2.2

23/11/2016
C270

Buildings and works for which no permit is required

A permit is not required for:

Buildings and works at ground level, including external works to provide access for persons with disabilities that comply with all legislative requirements.

Buildings and works to install or modify plant and service fixtures to an existing building.

Buildings and works to an existing building(s) which do not alter the height or setback of any part of an existing building or result in any additional habitable or occupiable floor area.

Buildings and works which would cast a shadow across the Yarra River Corridor between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm on 22 June caused by unenclosed structures associated with the construction of gangways, mooring poles and pontoons which are constructed by or on behalf of Melbourne Parks and Waterways or Parks Victoria under the *Water Industry Act 1994*, the *Water Act 1989*, the *Marine Act 1988*, the *Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958*, the *Parks Victoria Act 1998*, or the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

2.3

13/07/2017
C311

Requirements

Built Form

Buildings and works:

must meet the Design Objectives in this schedule;

must satisfy the Built Form Outcomes specified for each relevant Area in Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 to this schedule and for each relevant Design Element in Table 5 to this schedule;

should meet the Preferred Building Height or Modified Requirement specified for each relevant Area in Table 3 to this Schedule;

should meet the Building Design Features specified for each relevant Area in Table 4 to this Schedule; and

should meet the relevant Requirement specified for each relevant Design Element specified in Table 5 to this schedule.

An application to exceed the Preferred Building Height or Modified Requirement must document how the development will achieve the specific Design Objectives and Built Form Outcomes of this schedule.

A permit must not be granted for buildings and works, including the replacement of the existing building, which exceed the Maximum Building Height specified in Table 2 to this schedule, with the exception of:

non-habitable architectural features and building services.

buildings and works for a replacement building which:

retains the existing building envelope, including no increase in height or reduction in setbacks, and

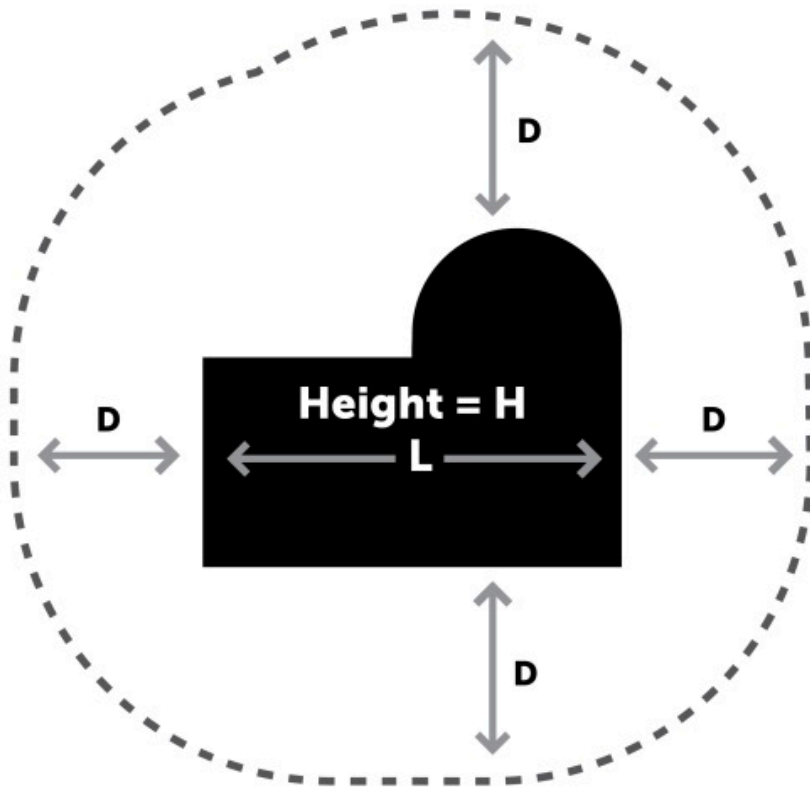
does not result in any additional habitable or occupiable floor area (excluding an open balcony).

Wind effects

A permit must not be granted for buildings and works with a total building height in excess of 40 metres that would cause unsafe wind conditions in publicly accessible areas within a distance equal to half the longest width of the building above 40 metres in height measured from all façades, or half the total height of the building, whichever is greater as shown in Figure 1.

A permit should not be granted for buildings and works with a total building height in excess of 40 metres that do not achieve comfortable wind conditions in publicly accessible areas within a distance equal to half the longest width of the building above 40 metres in height measured from all façades, or half the total height of the building, whichever is greater as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Assessment distance D = greater of:
 $L/2$ (Half longest width of building)
OR
 $H/2$ (Half overall height of building)

[Zoom and rotate image](#)

Overshadowing

A permit must not be granted for buildings and works which would cast any additional shadow across a space listed within Table 1 to this schedule during the hours and date(s) specified, unless the overshadowing will not unreasonably prejudice the amenity of the space;

Table 1 to Schedule 62

Space	Hours between	Date(s)
Parliament Gardens Treasury Gardens Gordon Reserve Parliament Steps and Forecourt Old Treasury Steps	11.00am and 3.00pm	22 April to 22 September
Birrarung Marr	11.00am and 2.00pm	22 April to 22 September
The southern footpath of Bourke Street between Spring Street and Exhibition Street	12.00pm and 2.00pm	22 April to 22 September
The southern building line of Little Bourke Street between Spring and Swanston Streets and Cohen Place/Chinatown Plaza Liverpool Street and Crossley Street	12.00pm and 2.00pm	22 April and 22 September
Any public space, public parks and gardens, public squares, open spaces associated with a place of worship and privately owned public spaces accessible to the public	11.00am and 2.00pm	22 September

[View table in full screen](#)

Table 2 to Schedule 62

Area	Maximum building height	Built form outcomes
B1	15 metres	<p>The low scale and fine grain historic context of the Bourke Hill heritage precinct is respected and new development sensitively responds to this context.</p> <p>The visual prominence of Parliament House is maintained.</p> <p>Maintain the low scale built form context to Bourke Street and the general bowl shaped prospect view from Parliament House.</p> <p>The vista along Bourke Street continues to be characterised by the consistent diminutive scale of buildings facing Bourke Street, an intimate human scale, and a fine grain pattern of buildings and their contrast with the monumentality of Parliament House and its steps at the streets eastern termination.</p> <p>The high level of pedestrian amenity provided by the low scale built form, access to sunlight and active street frontages along Crossley and Liverpool Streets is maintained.</p> <p>Overshadowing of the public realm is limited to maintain the high level of pedestrian amenity by ensuring there is no reduction in sunlight access to the Parliament House steps and 'forecourt' and key streetscapes and public spaces.</p> <p>New development should respect and respond to the high quality public realm and amenity attributes brought about by low scale heritage streetscapes, expansive open air sky views, sunlight access, minimal wind impacts, pedestrian connectivity, active street frontages and development of an intimate human scale.</p>
B2	25 metres	<p>The prominence of the original heritage buildings of the Hotel Windsor and the Princess Theatre is</p>

[View table in full screen](#)

Table 3 to Schedule 62

Area	Preferred Building Height	Modified Requirement	Built Form Outcomes
B4	40 metres	10:1 Floor Area Ratio	<p>Development does not visually intrude upon the Parliament House view lines.</p> <p>Maintain the low scale built form context to Bourke Street and the general bowl shaped prospect view from Parliament House.</p> <p>Development responds to the low scale nature of area B1 and provides a transition to the higher built form scale of area B5 and area B6</p> <p>Development responds to the human scale of Little Collins Street.</p> <p>Upper levels are visually recessive from streets and laneways.</p> <p>The visual impact of taller buildings, above the preferred building height, is alleviated through increased upper level setbacks.</p> <p>Overshadowing of the public realm is limited to ensure pedestrian amenity is maintained by providing a high level of sunlight access to the Parliament House steps and 'forecourt', public spaces and:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">To Little Bourke Street (street frontage on the</p>

[View table in full screen](#)

Table 4 to Schedule 62

Area	Building design features	Built form outcomes
B3	<p>Street wall height should not exceed 25 metres.</p> <p>Buildings above the street wall should be setback no less than 5 metres from a laneway or Liverpool Street.</p>	<p>The provision of a street wall and setback is responsive to the characteristics and operational function of the adjoining laneway.</p> <p>The street wall height and setback should respond to the Built Form Outcomes for area B3 as listed at Table 1 to this Schedule.</p>
B4	<p>Street wall height should not exceed 25 metres.</p> <p>Buildings above the street wall should be setback no less than 5 metres from a laneway or Little Collins Street.</p>	<p>The provision of a street wall and setback is responsive to the characteristics and operational function the adjoining laneway.</p> <p>The street wall height and setback should respond to the Built Form Outcomes for area B4 as listed at Table 1 to this Schedule.</p>

[View table in full screen](#)

Table 5 to Schedule 62

Design Element	Requirement	Built Form Outcomes
Street wall height	Street wall height should not exceed 20 metres, or the preferred building height, whichever is lower, excluding the areas specified in Table 3 above.	<p>Street wall height is scaled to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a human scale. consistency with the prevalent parapet height of adjoining buildings. height and setback that respects the scale of adjoining heritage places. adequate opportunity for daylight, sunlight and skyviews in the street.
Upper level street setbacks	Above the street wall, upper levels of a building should be set back a minimum of 5 metres.	<p>Buildings are setback to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> larger buildings do not visually dominate the street or public space. the dominant street wall scale is maintained. sun penetration and mitigation of wind impacts at street level.
Setback(s) from side boundary	<p>Above the street wall the setback from side boundary should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 metres if above 40 metres, or 6% of the total building height if above 80 metres. <p>If a laneway:</p> <p>Above the street wall, the setback to the centreline of the</p>	<p>Buildings are setback to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of adequate sunlight, daylight, privacy and outlook from habitable rooms, for both existing and proposed developments. provision of adequate daylight and sunlight to laneways. buildings do not appear as a continuous wall at street level or from nearby vantage points and

[View table in full screen](#)

Exemption from notice and appeal

An application to construct a building or construct or carry out works is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act.

2.5

13/07/2017

C311

Application Requirements

If in the opinion of the responsible authority an application requirement listed below is not relevant to the assessment of the application, the responsible authority may waive or reduce the requirement.

Urban context report

An application for permit must be accompanied by a written and illustrated urban context report.

The urban context report must:

- explain the key planning, design and contextual considerations and influences on the proposed buildings and works.

- describe the existing urban context of the area in which the proposed buildings and works are to be located.

- explain how the proposed buildings and works relate to and respond to their urban context including:

 - built form character of adjacent and nearby buildings.

 - heritage character of adjacent and nearby heritage places.

- identify the key opportunities and constraints supporting the design response.

- explain the effect of the proposed buildings and works, including on:

 - microclimate, including sunlight, daylight and wind impacts on streets and other public spaces.

 - vistas.

Explain how the proposed buildings and works respond to each of the Design Objectives and the Built Form Outcomes in Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 and Table 5 of this schedule, as appropriate.

Wind analysis report

An application for a permit for a building with a total building height in excess of 40 metres must be accompanied by a wind analysis report prepared by a suitably qualified person. The wind analysis report must:

- explain the effect of the proposed development on the wind conditions in publicly accessible areas within a distance equal to half the longest width of the building, measured from all facades, or half the total height of the building, whichever is greater.

at a minimum, model the wind effects of the proposed development and surrounding buildings (existing and proposed) using wind tunnel testing.

identify the principal role of each portion of the publicly accessible areas for sitting, standing or walking purposes.

not rely on street trees or any other element such as screens, within public areas for wind mitigation.

3D digital model of buildings and works

An application for a permit must be accompanied by a 3D digital model of the proposed buildings and works in a format to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The model may be used for assessing overshadowing and visual impacts caused by the proposal and for general archive, research and public information purposes.

3.0

23/11/2016
C270

Subdivision

A permit is not required to subdivide land.

4.0

23/11/2016
C270

Advertising signs

None specified.

5.0

13/07/2017
C311

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

The Design Objectives.

The specific Built Form Outcomes of Table 2, Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5 to this schedule.

Whether the development adversely impacts on the unique character of the Bourke Hill precinct.

Whether the development respects the built form scale and urban structure of the precinct where it is located.

Whether the development provides a high quality architectural response.

The impact of development on the consistency of scale (low scale) and heritage significance of the Bourke Hill heritage precinct.

Whether development detracts from the visual prominence of Parliament House both in terms of scale and architectural expression.

Whether development adversely impacts on the built form context of view lines to and from Parliament House.

Whether the scale and prominence of the landmark heritage buildings, the Princess Theatre and the Hotel Windsor, is maintained.

Whether development maintains and responds to the fine grain subdivision pattern and narrow lot frontages of Bourke Hill.

Whether the distinctive and highly valued public realm attributes of Bourke Hill are maintained and enhanced.

Whether development adversely impacts on the expansive open air sky views (from pedestrian eye level) along streets and laneways.

Whether development improves pedestrian connectivity and permeability.

Whether development provides a comfortable and attractive pedestrian environment at ground level, including frontage activation and protection from adverse wind impacts.

Whether the development adversely impacts significant trees through overshadowing in the Melbourne Club Garden.

Securing the floor area ratio across a site where a site is developed in part to ensure:

that an agreement be entered into to acknowledge that the remaining site cannot be later developed;

that a heritage building being retained that an agreement be entered into to conserve the heritage building in perpetuity;

that the proposed building is sited so that adequate setbacks are maintained in the event that the land is subdivided or separate land holdings are administratively effected to create a future development site.

Whether the cumulative effect of the proposed development in associated with adjoining existing and potential development supports a high quality of pedestrian amenity in the public realm, in relation to human scale and microclimate conditions including overshadowing and wind impacts.

The effect of the proposed buildings and works on solar access to existing and proposed open space and public places.

The potential for increased ground level wind speeds and the effect on pedestrian comfort and the amenity of public places, with allowance to exceed uncomfortable conditions only if the wind effects of the proposed development do not exceed the existing wind condition(s).

Reference documents

Bourke Hill Heritage, Planning and Urban Design Review, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, September 2014

Central City Built Form Review Overshadowing Technical Report, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, April 2016

7.0

23/11/2016

C270

Transitional arrangements

The requirements of this schedule do not apply to:

an application (including an application to amend the permit) made before the commencement of Amendment C262 to this planning scheme. For such applications, the requirements of this schedule, as they were in force immediately before the commencement of Amendment C262, continue to apply.

an application (including an application to amend the permit) made after the commencement of Amendment C262 but before the commencement of Amendment C270 to this planning scheme. For such applications, the requirements of this schedule, as they were in force immediately before the commencement of Amendment C270, continue to apply.

[← Previous ordinance](#) <>

[Next ordinance](#) → <>

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 5:42 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 17:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Shaun Schroter



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Item 6.2 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 6:03 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 17:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Dr Stan Capp



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12-222&240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Future Melbourne Committee Meeting – 2nd December 2025

Agenda 6.2:

Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Submission by: Dr Stan Capp, President of EastEnders Inc

I submit that the FMC should amend the recommendation from management at page 1 of 118 and replace with the following:

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to:

7.1. Advise the Department of Transport and Planning that the Melbourne City Council objects to the application, subject to the resolution due to the large number of critical outstanding matters that are contrary to City of Melbourne policies. and inclusion of conditions outlined in the planning report

7.2 Note that the Melbourne City Council in no way supports the proposal receiving a Heritage permit. Further notes that as the Comedy Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register, the Council's advice to the Department about whether a planning permit should be issued is required to ignore heritage considerations.

7.3 Direct management to prepare an objection to the granting of a Heritage permit when the opportunity arises, particularly including the extent of the cantilever that demonstrably impacts the historic prominence of the Comedy Theatre.

7.4 Direct management to engage with key stakeholders from Punch Lane, Exhibition Street, Lonsdale Street and Little Bourke Street, seek and collaboratively respond to their feedback on this or any other future proposals for this site.

Some general comments follow:

1. Minister for Planning and the Department of Transport and Planning should be advised that the City of Melbourne does not support the proposal and that significant further work is required to enable the application to be considered as an appropriate addition to the City of Melbourne.

2. 3. The outstanding key matters and recommended conditions contained at pages 111-117 of 118 are of such consequence that further clarity is required within the proposal before a Permit could again be considered.

The idea of a cantilevered extension of the development over the theatre should be regarded as totally unacceptable – it is not enough to build above the preferred height limit and ignore setbacks, but developers are allowed to invade the floor space of neighbouring buildings from above. The cantilevering will severely reduce the integrity of the Comedy Theatre, and while the effects hardly rate a mention in the council assessment documents, it should be of extreme concern to Council.

Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne – Submission by Dr Stan Capp, 1

4. 5. The application was not subject to the notice requirements of the Act because:

- The Capital City Zone exempts it; and
- The Heritage Overlay's notice requirements do not apply as a permit is not required under the Heritage Overlay - this is because the Comedy Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

This does not mean that consultation with affected parties is forbidden, particularly when it is clearly known that key stakeholders are significantly affected. Further, it is apparent that they have been deliberately omitted from any discussions about the development proposed. This FMC process is the community's first knowledge of the current proposal, and this clearly fails any test of natural justice.

It is worth noting that a previous application was referred to City of Melbourne on 20 June 2022 and as the Report notes, there were substantial comments referred to Council.

“Notwithstanding the exemption from notice and review, concerns have been raised throughout the application's history, particularly by residents of Punch Lane. These concerns generally relate to title and ownership matters, built form, amenity and traffic impacts. While Council has not received any further correspondence in response to the latest s.50 amendment (assessment material), the general themes of the previously raised concerns remain relevant. Although Melbourne City Council is not the responsible authority, these matters have been considered and discussed throughout this report where relevant.” (Page 88 of 118).

I submit that the comment could have been more patronising, but I fail to see how. Regardless of the shield provided by the Act to not require Notice to be given, surely this does not prevent City of Melbourne officers from contacting affected parties and exploring concerns.

I have read the submission by Jenny Eltham, a long-term resident of Punch Lane who is rightly affronted by the lack of empathy by both the Responsible Authority

and the City of Melbourne in this matter. Council, the Department and indeed the developer knew that there were serious issues and impacts on Punch Lane yet chose not to engage in any way. Despite the legislative shield, this is where people live, have invested heavily and contributed to the city in multiple ways. This development directly abuts these properties, and they deserve better from their Council and state government.

As the Comedy Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register, the City of Melbourne report correctly states that "Heritage matters cannot be considered as part of this planning permit application." Heritage Victoria is yet to issue a permit. The City of Melbourne report only talks about Heritage Victoria's preliminary concerns with the proposal, especially the cantilevered section. Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne – Submission by Dr Stan Capp, 2

6. 7. The proposed amendments to the FMC resolution acknowledge this but makes the legitimate if implicit point that the heritage impact cannot be dismissed. This affirms the Officer's conclusion that "The extent of cantilever impacts the historic prominence of the heritage building (Comedy Theatre)." (p88 of 118) and acts as sound advice to the Minister that Council considers the heritage value to be extremely significant and not for negotiation.

While I acknowledge that a developer can elect to pursue a permitted use such as, in this case a hotel, I am conscious of the Shangri La Hotel that has been vacant now for several years and a sad commentary on planning approvals in our city.

Finally, I am very disappointed that several members of the FMC will declare conflicts of interest and will be unable to participate in this debate. I am hopeful that a quorum will be retained as reliance upon the recommendations of Council Officers would in my view be the worst outcome for local government, and particularly the City of Melbourne.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these thoughts and recommendations.


Dr Stan Capp

Melbourne

1 December 2025

Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne – Submission by Dr Stan Capp, 3

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

 (146.46 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

Future Melbourne Committee Meeting – 2nd December 2025

Agenda 6.2:

Ministerial Planning Referral - TPMR-2022-12 - 222 & 240 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Submission by: Dr Stan Capp, President of EastEnders Inc

I submit that the FMC should amend the recommendation from management at page 1 of 118 and replace with the following:

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to:

7.1. Advise the Department of Transport and Planning that the Melbourne City Council does not objects to the application, ~~subject to the resolution due to the large number of critical outstanding matters that are contrary to City of Melbourne policies. and inclusion of conditions outlined in the planning report (refer to Attachment 3 of the report from management – Planning Report).~~

7.2 Note that the Melbourne City Council in no way supports the proposal receiving a Heritage permit. Further notes that as the Comedy Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register, the Council's advice to the Department about whether a planning permit should be issued is required to ignore heritage considerations.

7.3 Direct management to prepare an objection to the granting of a Heritage permit when the opportunity arises, particularly including the extent of the cantilever that demonstrably impacts the historic prominence of the Comedy Theatre.

7.4 Direct management to engage with key stakeholders from Punch Lane, Exhibition Street, Lonsdale Street and Little Bourke Street, seek and collaboratively respond to their feedback on this or any other future proposals for this site.

Some general comments follow:

1. Minister for Planning and the Department of Transport and Planning should be advised that the City of Melbourne does not support the proposal and that significant further work is required to enable the application to be considered as an appropriate addition to the City of Melbourne.
2. The outstanding key matters and recommended conditions contained at pages 111-117 of 118 are of such consequence that further clarity is required within the proposal before a Permit could again be considered.
3. The idea of a cantilevered extension of the development over the theatre should be regarded as totally unacceptable – it is not enough to build above the preferred height limit and ignore setbacks, but developers are allowed to invade the floor space of neighbouring buildings from above. The cantilevering will severely reduce the integrity of the Comedy Theatre, and while the effects hardly rate a mention in the council assessment documents, it should be of extreme concern to Council.

4. The application was not subject to the notice requirements of the Act because:
 - The Capital City Zone exempts it; and
 - The Heritage Overlay's notice requirements do not apply as a permit is not required under the Heritage Overlay - this is because the Comedy Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

This does not mean that consultation with affected parties is forbidden, particularly when it is clearly known that key stakeholders are significantly affected. Further, it is apparent that they have been deliberately omitted from any discussions about the development proposed. This FMC process is the community's first knowledge of the current proposal, and this clearly fails any test of natural justice.

It is worth noting that a previous application was referred to City of Melbourne on 20 June 2022 and as the Report notes, there were substantial comments referred to Council.

"Notwithstanding the exemption from notice and review, concerns have been raised throughout the application's history, particularly by residents of Punch Lane. These concerns generally relate to title and ownership matters, built form, amenity and traffic impacts. While Council has not received any further correspondence in response to the latest s.50 amendment (assessment material), the general themes of the previously raised concerns remain relevant. Although Melbourne City Council is not the responsible authority, these matters have been considered and discussed throughout this report where relevant." (Page 88 of 118).

I submit that the comment could have been more patronising, but I fail to see how. Regardless of the shield provided by the Act to not require Notice to be given, surely this does not prevent City of Melbourne officers from contacting affected parties and exploring concerns.

I have read the submission by Jenny Eltham, a long-term resident of Punch Lane who is rightly affronted by the lack of empathy by both the Responsible Authority and the City of Melbourne in this matter. Council, the Department and indeed the developer knew that there were serious issues and impacts on Punch Lane yet chose not to engage in any way. Despite the legislative shield, this is where people live, have invested heavily and contributed to the city in multiple ways. This development directly abuts these properties, and they deserve better from their Council and state government.

5. As the Comedy Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register, the City of Melbourne report correctly states that *"Heritage matters cannot be considered as part of this planning permit application."* Heritage Victoria is yet to issue a permit. The City of Melbourne report only talks about Heritage Victoria's preliminary concerns with the proposal, especially the cantilevered section.

The proposed amendments to the FMC resolution acknowledge this but makes the legitimate if implicit point that the heritage impact cannot be dismissed. This affirms the Officer's conclusion that *"The extent of cantilever impacts the historic prominence of the heritage building (Comedy Theatre)."* (p88 of 118) and acts as sound advice to the Minister that Council considers the heritage value to be extremely significant and not for negotiation.

6. While I acknowledge that a developer can elect to pursue a permitted use such as, in this case a hotel, I am conscious of the Shangri La Hotel that has been vacant now for several years and a sad commentary on planning approvals in our city.
7. Finally, I am very disappointed that several members of the FMC will declare conflicts of interest and will be unable to participate in this debate. I am hopeful that a quorum will be retained as reliance upon the recommendations of Council Officers would in my view be the worst outcome for local government, and particularly the City of Melbourne.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these thoughts and recommendations.

Dr Stan Capp
Melbourne
1 December 2025

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 3:19 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Tess



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

TPMR-2022-12

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

1. Inadequate Design Resolution

The proposal does not present a functional or context-appropriate design. Key operational issues remain unresolved:

Hotel entrance in a 6m pedestrian lane: Forcing a hotel entry into an already narrow, heavily used lane is inappropriate and creates unnecessary conflict between residents, pedestrians, and guests.

Vehicle access and drop-off: Punch Lane is a dead-end street. The proposal does not demonstrate how taxis or rideshare vehicles could safely enter, turn or exit.

Servicing (food, laundry, waste): No workable plan has been provided for daily service operations without obstructing the lane or impacting residents.

Loading bay relocation: The loading bay appears to be placed on Lonsdale Street—already a major traffic and bus corridor—with no assessment of impacts.

2. Planning Non-Compliance

The development conflicts with key controls including:

Bourke Hill Precinct height limits

Built form and setback requirements of the Melbourne Planning Scheme

Clause 22.22 Laneway Built Form Guidelines

Punch Lane is a low-rise, predominantly residential pedestrian lane with a strong community character, sunlight access, and established greenery—qualities protected by laneway policy.

The proposal:

fails to meet required setbacks on Exhibition Street, Lonsdale Street, and Punch Lane

introduces excessive height that overwhelms the lane

breaches Clause 22.22 by not providing required upper-level setbacks (equal to lane width) beyond 15m depth to maintain human scale and reduce microclimate impacts

3. Loss of Sunlight, Amenity, and Greenery

Punch Lane currently receives consistent northwest sunlight throughout the afternoon. The development would remove this entirely, resulting in:

reduced residential amenity

loss of existing vegetation

limited potential for future greening

These impacts contradict the City of Melbourne’s “Greening the City” objectives and laneway amenity policies.

4. Heritage Impacts

No accessible heritage assessment has been provided. Significant concerns include:

major alterations to Exhibition and Lonsdale Street facades

a new tower visually dominating heritage streetscapes

adverse impacts on adjacent heritage buildings at the Punch Lane / Lonsdale Street corner

5. Misrepresentation of Punch Lane

The design report mischaracterises Punch Lane as “accommodation and retail” needing “activation.” This is incorrect.

Punch Lane is predominantly residential, with only three small retail tenancies.

It is already an active pedestrian thoroughfare; additional hotel traffic and servicing would obstruct—not enhance—activity.

The submission selectively depicts only the Lonsdale Street end, omitting the tree-lined, low-rise residential section central to the lane’s identity.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 12:42 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 11:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Efe Ozyaba



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(36.86 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

Dear Future Melbourne Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important work shaping the future of Macaulay, and for the extensive effort by Council officers to reach this stage.

I am a resident of Stubbs Street and a co-founder of a startup registered in the City of Melbourne. I am directly affected by these proposed changes. The proposed height controls in the Boundary Precinct will block my city views and almost certainly reduce my apartment's value. Despite this, I fully support the upzoning of this area. We are in the midst of a housing crisis and urgently need well-located, connected housing in amenity-rich areas like Macaulay. I cannot, in good conscience, advocate for outcomes that benefit me at the expense of broader society and future residents, many of whom are not represented here due to the limitations of community engagement.

The amendment refers to desperately needed open space funded through developer contributions, using future tense language such as "will be funded." Yet these open space plans date back to 2019 in the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan and the Macaulay Precinct Plan 2021. Years later, there is still no sign of actual green space, despite robust planning documents and millions in developer contributions. I urge the City of Melbourne to lead in delivering this long-promised infrastructure, rather than deferring responsibility to the State Government. Failing to secure and deliver open space before upzoning will result in poorer and more expensive outcomes, Docklands and Fishermans Bend are clear examples of this recurring failure, which is repeating itself again right before our eyes.

Further, the amendment seeks to encourage active transport by reducing car parking provisions. While this is commendable in theory, without adequate cycling infrastructure it creates serious safety risks. I do not own a car and rely on cycling and public transport, aligning with the amendment's aspirations. Yet every day I battle trucks and cars on the narrow Macaulay Road bridge to cross Moonee Ponds Creek. Following the recent cyclist fatality in this area, it is not a question of if, but when another tragedy occurs, possibly involving me. If the City of Melbourne promotes active transport as policy, it must also deliver the infrastructure that makes it safe. The next death will not be an accident; it will be the foreseeable consequence of inaction.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Efe Ozyaba

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:57 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 09:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Geoff Leach



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-03

Agenda item title

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

1/ Population Estimates

The population estimates have not been updated, and are still stated as 10,000. That would appear to be substantial under-estimate, or under-quote.

There are already around 5,000 new apartments built or approved in Macaulay. That's 10,000 people. And that's not including the increase anticipated by the public housing redevelopments.

These underestimates have been repeatedly pointed out since the beginning of Arden-Macaulay.

It took an investigation by The Age to reveal that the estimates, now being termed "targets", for Arden were increased from 15,000 to 20,000.

Please in the interest of transparency make available the modelling for the unchanged 10,000 figure.

2/ The boundary for C417 has changed from that of the Macaulay Urban Renewal Area. C417 includes the electrical substation adjacent to the Moonee Ponds Creek on Arden and Lloyd St. Why?

Similarly a strip of land on the eastern side of the Moonee Ponds Creek immediately adjacent to the Arden area is now included in not Arden but Macaulay. This seems incongruous.

An explanation / rationale for these changes should be given.

Note also that the area for Macaulay has repeatedly been stated as around 90 hectares. However, it was only around 70, as measured with the CoM map system. Now with the boundary changes it is around 90. Was the intention to always include the extra area now added to C417?

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make by submission via Zoom

From:



Subject:

Submission to Future Melbourne Committee Meeting 2 nd December 2025 Kensington Population Explosion and Need for Parklands in Addition to Moonee Ponds Creek Area

Date:

Monday, 1 December 2025 8:00 PM

My name is Leo McCartin a Kensington resident .I made the submission number 27 to the Macaulay Structure Plan Amendment C417 regarding lack of parking for residents and visitors in the new Kensington towers. I am involved in Kensington community activity as a committee member of the Kensington Association and treasurer of the Kensington RSL.

My particular concern is that thousands of extra residents are proposed living in the block bounded by Racecourse Rd , Stubbs St ,Macaulay Rd and Eastwood st .

The recently completed towers do not seem to have any green space of any size and they are gated communities with no public access.

It seems the parks proposed for Moonee Ponds Creek will take years to happen due to the numerous Government Departments involved.The Chelmsford st park does not lie within the outlined boundary . There is an urgent need to green the area within the boundary of the above named streets .I urge Council to acquire open space to extend the Robertson st park to the east along Robertson St .That land is presently for sale and development .It is part of a huge block up for sale extending to Stubbs St..Although i'm retired now , previously in my career as a Chartered Accountant i audited municipal cities and shires as a delegate of the Auditor General and understand municipal financials The City of Melbourne has approximately \$23 million of developer funds received so far from the area described above . More is to come in .Councillors owe it to Kensington residents to use some of those funds to generate open space rather than remedy an overall Council overdraft. I note the Council budget for the next few years did not show any money budgeted for open space acquisition. Not spending the money in the area described above is an insult to residents and future residents and is in effect discrimination in comparison to more leafy City of Melbourne areas .

And Yes get on with the Moonee Ponds Creek proposal but please extend the park on the corner of Robertson St and Barnett St as this can be done NOW .

And investigate other suitable sites within that boundary.

Leo McCartin

Eastwood St

Kensington 3031

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:13 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 09:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Stephen Pallavicini



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Please refer to submission#59.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 4:47 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 16:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Stephen Pallavicini

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (107.27 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

Sixty Martin Place
Level 14, 60 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

GPO Box 3909 Sydney NSW 2001

T +61 2 8248 5800
F +61 2 8248 5899

Our ref CS:SP5911286
Your ref CoM: DM#18239768

1 December 2025

planningpolicy@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Timothy Westcott
Manager Planning Policy
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001

Electronic

Dear Sir/Madam

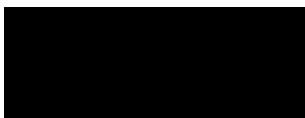
**Proposed Planning Controls for Kensington and North Melbourne
Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C417 - Macaulay Urban Renewal Area
Property: 52 – 112 Elizabeth Street, Kensington**

We refer to our letter dated 3 February 2025, the letter from Qualitas dated 6 February 2025 and the e-mail from Planning Policy dated 20 November 2025 and Item 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay of the Future Melbourne Committee-Agenda to be considered on 2 December 2025.

Our letter includes the submission prepared by our client's traffic consultants, Eukai. On behalf of our client we reiterate our client's submission that the proposed changes to the road conditions will impact access to "The Mill" and the safe operation of the heavy vehicles and trains that deliver raw materials to The Mill and distribute finished products.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully
Thomson Geer



Stephen Pallavicini
Special Counsel



From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 3:46 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Kate Kennedy



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay and 6.6, 6.7, 6.9,6.12

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

As this submission address 5 agenda items, I ask if the submission be circulated to councillors in relation to each of the items:

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay, 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding, 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street), 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan, 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29,

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(146.81 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Submission on agenda items 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.12 in relation to Macaulay open space and safety matters

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

There are five reports on the agenda directly relating to Macaulay open space. We have not had time to adequately consider each of these reports.

They are:

- 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay
(A recommendation to refer the amendment to a planning panel.)
- 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding
(A recommendation to investigate public acquisition overlays for land identified as future open space but not owned by council, and to advocate to the Victorian Government to again request the finalisation and release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.)
- 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street)
(A recommendation to finalise a community lease arrangement for the land but not to acquire it, and to not commence the concept plan until after both the amendment C417 and Macaulay flood modelling and drainage infrastructure work led by Melbourne Water are complete.)
- 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan
(A recommendation to approve the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for public consultation, with no specificity about Macaulay open space.)
- 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29
(A recommendation to endorse the Advocacy and Partnerships Plan without public consultation, and without a single mention of Macaulay.)

Read together, these five reports and recommendations reveal that the Council is choosing amendment C417 as the one and only viable solution for securing open space at scale in Macaulay, no matter how long that amendment takes, and that there is no significant pressure being placed on the Victorian Government to allow for that land to be secured in any other way. They show that if C417 fails in any way, there is no alternative plan.

Most disappointingly, the report on Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding (item 6.6) has repeated the error of the 18 March 2025 report: it has failed to provide **options to acquire the drainage land** as requested by the Future Melbourne Committee on 9 July 2024 (and repeated on 18 March 2025).

Instead, the report offers the investigation of a public acquisition overlay on all land marked as future open space which is not owned or managed by Council, and to consider yet another report in April 2026. But this recommendation is immediately negated by the next report (item 6.7), which recommends against Council acquiring the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road.

The report (item 6.6) also reveals that “an infrastructure priority list and detailed cashflow modelling is being developed” but will not be completed until after Amendment C417 is finalised, *and* until after Melbourne Water has completed an analysis of drainage infrastructure requirements.

The lack of urgency about this matter, and the introduction of new hurdles every time the matter returns to Council with an update, is a slow tragedy in the making. The new populations have arrived. The open space has not only failed to arrive, it is now likely to be delivered substantially later than previously expected, if at all.

Where is the Council’s advocacy to the Victorian Government? Why will sending another letter to the Minister for Planning asking where the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan is up to possibly succeed, when the last six years’ worth of polite letters have produced precisely nothing?

We submit the following in relation to the five reports:

In relation to item 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay

- The recommended change to the amendment to specify that the Macaulay DCP introduced via C417 is “part A” of a two-part approach is supported **only on the understanding that the Council does not intend to delay the purchase and upgrade of the drainage land** by insisting on waiting for a “part B” amendment to be prepared and completed. We seek an assurance about this.
- The other elements are supported and we urge the council to expedite the final stages of the amendment process.

In relation to item 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure

- The recommendation to investigate a separate planning scheme amendment that seeks to apply the public acquisition overlay to land within the Macaulay area (that is not owned or managed by council but is identified as future open space) is supported subject to:
 - The Council being confident that this exercise will not in any way impede other attempts to secure control of the drainage land, e.g. by way of Ministerial

- intervention, land swap, direct negotiation with VicTrack for a community lease in the interim, etc;
- The Council being confident that this exercise will not impede the expeditious completion of amendment C417, e.g. should the panel argue that the proposed setback controls on private land for linear open space parallel to the creek not be finalised until the Council's investigation of public acquisition overlays has been completed, etc; and
- Clarity about the compatibility of this recommendation with the paper for item 6.7 which states that the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road should *not* be acquired.
- Letters to the Planning Minister to finalise and release the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan are obviously not working. We seek clarity on which much more substantial actions can be taken to resolve this matter. There is a state election in less than twelve months.

In relation to item 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (south of Macaulay Rd)

- We note that the original ambition of the Future Melbourne Committee to consult on the concept plan in FY25-26 (paragraph 15) is now recommended to be delayed until at least FY26-27.
- The update about the community lease does not specify when the lease was applied for. We seek clarity about whether this report is referring to the 2019 application or a subsequent application, noting that the Council's website states that: "In 2019 the City of Melbourne applied for a community lease for Lot 110 and Lot 72. Following a number of delays, VicTrack responded in 2022 advising that Lot 72 is unavailable and that Lot 110 is not available for community lease and a land transfer would be subject to further review and investigation."
- If the report does still refer to the 2019 application, we seek substantially more information about the true reasons for delay in resolving the matter.

In relation to item 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

- There are no planned projects in the 'north-west' (where Macaulay is located) within the next four years to 'provide' (build) public open space other than completing the Chelmsford Street open space project.
- Beyond the next four years the "ideas for consideration" include "Increasing and improving open space, as identified in the Open Space Strategy, Macaulay Structure Plan and Arden Structure Plan." There is no specific mention of any of the locations set out in the Macaulay Structure Plan; the vague need for open space generally is merely an 'idea to consider'.
- You have already consulted the Kensington and North Melbourne communities about infrastructure priorities in Macaulay, through the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan (2010-12), amendment C190 (2012-18), Macaulay Structure Plan Refresh (2019-21), and amendment C417 (2022-25). We therefore ask that you not ignore these 15

continuous years of community consultation by endorsing a draft infrastructure plan that ignores the findings of that consultation, reducing council's open space ambitions for Macaulay.

- We request that councillors add the following to the plan *before and not after* community consultation, in the list of planned projects (next four years) on page 50 of 64: “7. Complete open space infrastructure planning and funding mechanisms for all other **open space projects identified in the Macaulay Structure Plan**. (Plan)”

In relation to item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

- The recommendation is to adopt the plan without consultation. This is despite the transport theme excluding mention of the endorsed advocacy position on Racecourse Road, and the waterways theme excluding mention of specific proposals to secure and upgrade the drainage and public open space abutting Moonee Ponds Creek, or to give effect to the endorsed advocacy position about the creek.
- We request that, if the plan is not going to be consulted on, the following highest priority amendments be made by councillors:
 - Add a specific outcome to the transport theme to give effect to the [FMC resolution of 15 July 2015](#): “Urgently commit to investigate and implement safety and accessibility improvements to Racecourse Road identified in the Racecourse Road Strategic Improvements Plan Advocacy Plan”.
 - Add a specific outcome to the waterways theme to give effect to the [Moonee Ponds Creek Joint Statement](#): “Unlock Moonee Ponds Creek to support our fast-growing community, by immediately releasing the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan to create a clear governance and funding pathway to deliver critical projects, and by reinstating the Moonee Ponds Creek trail in Docklands.”

Thank you,

Dr Kate Kennedy

Chair, Kensington Association

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 11:22 AM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 11:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Maddi Moore

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.4

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED]

(498.51 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



1 December 2025

Future Melbourne Committee
City of Melbourne

6 Parliament Place
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Email: conservation@natrust.com.au
Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au

Submitted online

T 03 9656 9818

Re: Future Melbourne Committee Agenda Items 6.4 City of Melbourne Heritage Strategy: Stories of People and Place

Dear Councillors,

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) provides the following submission to the above Agenda Item regarding the City of Melbourne Heritage Strategy: Stories of People and Place.

National Trust Position

The National Trust is fully supportive of the City of Melbourne Heritage Strategy: Stories of People and Place and the associated implementation plan. We commend the Council for this comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to heritage planning and for undertaking such an extensive and inclusive consultation process in developing this strategy.

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, councils are obliged to conserve and enhance buildings, areas, or other places of local heritage significance. To adequately protect sites of local significance, Victorian councils must ensure heritage values are detailed and listed in their Planning Scheme.

As a municipality where heritage is central to the experience of Victorians and visitors alike, the City of Melbourne plays a pivotal role in demonstrating how we protect, manage, and celebrate heritage across Victoria. The National Trust believes this Strategy will serve as an important benchmark for other councils developing their own Heritage Strategies.

General comments

We congratulate Council staff on the extensive community consultation that has shaped the development of this strategy and its actions. While not a legislative document, this strategy represents a new benchmark in heritage planning at the local government level. Drawing from deep community input, it clearly articulates the significance of heritage and the breadth of values it embodies across the City of Melbourne.

The initial discussion paper, *Heritage, People and Place*, provided an excellent foundation for engagement and generated valuable dialogue about the diverse nature of heritage and its unique importance within the municipality.

We particularly commend the varied consultation methods employed, including panel discussions and workshops. Our National Trust team has valued participating in several workshops and discussions with City of Melbourne staff, and the final updates to the

proposed strategy show that our submission and recommendations have been internalised in the final document.

The final Heritage Strategy is well-structured, accessible, and visually engaging. We strongly support the five strategic priorities, which thoughtfully address the layers of meaning embedded in place:

- Aboriginal Heritage
- Powerful Experiences of our Multicultural City
- Distinctive Places
- Climate and Biodiversity Emergency
- Stewardship

Aboriginal Heritage

We applaud the Strategy's recognition of post-contact First Peoples' heritage and the emphasis on embedding First Peoples' values into heritage practice. The National Trust supports meaningful consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties and First Peoples' groups to ensure that actions are collaboratively developed and delivered.

We particularly endorse the focus on truth-telling and increasing visibility of First Peoples' stories across Melbourne's heritage landscape. We support the updated and additional actions to enhance collaboration with First Peoples, including commitments to ensuring self-determination and meaningful involvement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Groups in decision-making processes that affect them.

Powerful Experiences of our Multicultural City

We support the renaming the former "Powerful Experiences" priority to "Powerful Experiences of our Multicultural City," to provide stronger emphasis on the multicultural stories, lived experiences, and the ethnic and religious diversity that are a defining feature of Melbourne in Victoria and Australia.

We also support the expanded scope of various actions initiated by the enhanced emphasis of this priority, including improved accessibility aims for the municipality-wide Heritage Interpretation Strategy and heritage planning content. These updates align closely with the National Trust's own Advocacy Strategy, which includes Inclusive Heritage as a key objective.

We encourage the City of Melbourne to engage and [partner with the Australian Heritage Festival in 2026](#) to showcase Melbourne's heritage stories and engage a broad audience in place-based experiences as part of this pillar delivery.

Distinctive Places

The explicit references to evolving community values for diverse built heritage capture the critical understanding that heritage values change as our society develops. We value the recognition that heritage places have layers of significance that can change with time and use, and the applicable action therefore that heritage listings require review to reflect this.

Climate and Biodiversity Emergency

The National Trust supports the integration of natural heritage breaking down the silos between natural and built heritage. We welcome the significant expansion and clarification of this theme and note that several actions now feature more detailed wording for practical effect such as developing guidance for retrofit and sustainable upgrades for heritage buildings.

We particularly support the clearer advocacy for incentives promoting adaptive reuse over demolition. These priorities align with advocacy the National Trust is undertaking at the state level, and we would welcome opportunities for partnership with Council in this area. We would welcome opportunities to collaborate and partner with the City of Melbourne on advocacy for legislative support listed in actions 4.2, 4.4, and 4.7.

Stewardship

As custodians of 39 heritage places across Victoria, we understand the challenges and opportunities of heritage stewardship.

The application of Heritage Overlays asks property owners to take on good custodianship on behalf of the community to protect our heritage. These property owners are tasked with, for the collective good, preserving the values of locally significant sites for their communities now and into the future.

We are therefore extremely pleased to see the refined actions under this pillar providing more explicit incentives and programs to support heritage custodians to look after our important places, hopefully in someways addressing certain perceptions and [myths](#) that heritage controls are an unfair and limiting burden for property owners.

The National Trust continues to advocate for the reinstatement of state level support and [funding for local Councils](#) in relation to heritage.

Conclusion

We commend Council for its ambitious and thoughtful Heritage Strategy, which sets a new standard for local government leadership in this space. The National Trust welcomes further opportunities to contribute to the implementation of this Strategy and to work in partnership with the City of Melbourne to celebrate, protect, and activate the city's rich and diverse heritage.

For enquiries regarding this submission, please contact our office on 9656 9818 or me directly at [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Samantha Westbrooke
Conservation and Advocacy Executive Manager

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

From:
To: [Jordan McKay](#)
Subject: Re: FMC 2 December
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 4:25 AM

NOTE: This email address is confidential and restricted access. Please do not share it or publish it.

Thank you.

Dear Jordan/ CoM meetings,

Re 6.4 Heritage Strategy 2025 and 6.9 Community Infrastructure Plan .
I will do submissions and presentations for both when they are on the FMC Agenda.

Note:

We have been expecting to hear from CoM.

It has been requested and is expected that they will be withdrawn from the Agenda 2/12 due to the excessive , unreasonable number of early release major items - 6, an unprecedented large number - on the FMC agenda for the one meeting, presenting an undoable, work overload for the public and hence contrary to the intent and purpose of genuine public consideration and inclusion/input.

People have not been able to read and consider them all and complete submissions , and this has caused significant worry and distress.

regards,

B. McNicholas

Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs

Convenor, Planet Ark National Tree Day, Nature Care, Heritage & Lighting expert events
Founder/co-ordinator, Campaign for World Heritage nomination of Melbourne Observatory
Friends of Melbourne Observatory and Melbourne's Domain Parklands and Memorial Precinct
Friends of Fawkner Park
Cultural heritage professional

HERITAGE MATTERS

On Monday, 1 December 2025, 10:37:45 pm AEDT, [REDACTED] wrote:

NOTE: This email address is confidential and restricted access. Please do not share it or publish it.

Thank you.

Hi Jordan,

I wish to register to ask a question , and it needs to please be at the start of the

meeting.

I plan to get a submission in to you tomorrow morning too.

Thank you

Kind regards

B. McNicholas

Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs

Convenor, Planet Ark National Tree Day, Nature Care, Heritage & Lighting expert events
Founder/co-ordinator, Campaign for World Heritage nomination of Melbourne Observatory
Friends of Melbourne Observatory and Melbourne's Domain Parklands and Memorial Precinct
Friends of Fawkner Park
Cultural heritage professional

HERITAGE MATTERS

From:



Subject:

Heritage Strategy 2025 response for Council meeting 12 February 2025

Date:

Tuesday, 2 December 2025 8:02 AM

Attachments:

[Heritage Strategy written submission 02122025.pdf](#)

Dear Dana,

Thankyou for your notification.

Please ensure that this letter is tabled for inclusion as a response to the *Heritage Strategy 2025: Stories of People and Place* agenda item in today's Council meeting. Please confirm this has been done.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting in person tonight.

Best regards

Mark

Mark Wang | 王兴乡

Chief Executive Officer

MUSEUM OF CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

22 Cohen Place Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia



W: chinesemuseum.com.au

The Museum acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.



2 December 2025

Request to table this written submission at the Council Meeting on 2 December, in response to the City of Melbourne Draft Heritage Strategy: 2025: Stories of People and Place

“I attended many of the public meetings held over the last few months to inform and seek public input to the Strategy.

*Initially, I was gladdened to see that the words **People and Place** were included in the new theme of the Strategy title, as previous strategies have mostly focused on the tangible, built heritage of Melbourne. The new strategy has identified five priorities. I commend the first priority that ensures Aboriginal Heritage is imbedded in all aspects of the Strategy.*

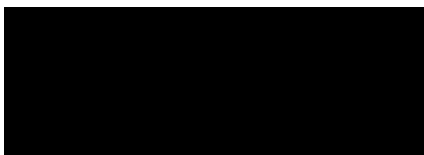
*Heritage is continued by passing it down from generation to generation as Aboriginal people do well. The **owners of Melbourne’s heritage** are all people with the lived experiences who pass it on over generations. Melbourne has come of age where migrant communities have arrived here over the last six generations and carry their heritage of Melbourne. I think these people are under-represented in the new Strategy*

Melbourne’s heritage owners do not stop at our Municipal boundaries, but are in the memories of people who reside all over metro-Melbourne and beyond. Our intangible cultural heritage is an “inheritance” that we perpetuate through these people.

Please broaden the view of PLACE to include the owners of community heritage – the past and present gatherings of people. Just as we need to maintain heritage buildings, please recognise that we need to maintain the heritage of its community. So please include grants opportunities to support this maintenance, that have never been included in past strategies.

“The Memories of Melbourne” embrace a whole community – past and present that reach far beyond our city boundaries. The City will benefit greatly by a wider inclusion of the historical ownership of Melbourne.”

Best regards



Mark Wang
Chief Executive Officer
Chinese Museum

MUSEUM OF CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

22 Cohen Place, Melbourne, VIC 3000 Australia T: (03) 9662 2888

W: chinesemuseum.com.au | E: info@chinesemuseum.com.au

ABN 75 132 318 160 ACN 607 298 019

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 5:42 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 17:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Mary-Lou Howie



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.4 City of Melbourne Heritage Strategy: Stories of People and Place

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(49.06 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person



The City of Melbourne Heritage Strategy 2025: Stories of People and Place outlines a broad framework for managing heritage across the municipality over the next 10 years, including priorities such as stewardship and distinctive places, however it lacks concrete commitments or actions tailored to the protection of unique heritage significance of National and Victorian heritage listed sites, an example being Queen Victoria Market (QVM) which has already been compromised for commercial gain.

The protection of the National Heritage listed QVM is the lense through which I assess this strategy.

Here are the key reasons and gaps identified:

1. Absence of Specifics

- The document does not provide a dedicated section or detailed plan for the management, protection, or enhancement of heritage values, despite those that are recognised in the National Heritage listing and are of cultural significance.
- While QVM is mentioned in general terms as a heritage site, not mention is made of its elevated status as a National Heritage listed site. There is no specific strategy or action plan addressing its unique historical, cultural, and social importance.

2. Lack of Firm Protections:

- The document does not propose enforceable protections or non-discretionary planning controls to safeguard against potential threats, such as overdevelopment or inappropriate changes.
- Concerns raised in submissions, such as the impact of commercial development on heritage sites are not directly addressed.

3. Limited Integration of Community Concerns:

- Submissions from individuals and groups, such as Melbourne Heritage Action, Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and other stakeholders, highlight dissatisfaction with the perceived prioritization of commercial interests over heritage values.

- The Strategy does not explicitly incorporate these concerns or provide mechanisms for community-led stewardship or co-governance.
- 4. Importance of Specific Master Plans:**
- The document does not reference or commit to developing a master plan for heritage sites that align with their National Heritage status and ensures their long-term protection and cultural significance.
 - Submissions criticize the lack of a clear framework for managing heritage values, particularly in light of ongoing development pressures.
- 5. Intangible Heritage:**
- While the Strategy emphasizes intangible heritage, it does not adequately address the living cultural practices, social rituals, and community connections that make heritage sites a vital part of Melbourne's identity.
 - The absence of specific actions to protect and celebrate these intangible aspects that have already been identified in the case of QVM's heritage is a notable gap. See Queen Victoria Market: Intangible Values attached
- 6. Concerns About Development Impact:**
- Submissions raise concerns about the Southern Development Project at QVM, which could compromise the heritage values of the Old Melbourne Cemetery and the broader market's heritage listing.
 - The Strategy does not address these concerns or propose measures to mitigate potential impacts on heritage sites.

In summary, while the City of Melbourne Heritage Strategy 2025 provides a broad framework for heritage management, I cannot see how this document would adequately protect the specific heritage values of the Queen Victoria Market. The lack of detailed actions, enforceable protections, and a dedicated master plans necessary for places of National Heritage-listed status leaves them vulnerable to potential threats from development and insufficient/inadequate community engagement. More work needs to be done and more genuine commitment needs to be shown.

Attached documents:

QVM: Intangible Values Final Report

Links to Key Documents - Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc.

The Queen Victoria Market: Essential infrastructure for Melbourne

Posted March 07, 2025

Author: [Marcus Spiller](#) Expert in this area: SGS Economics & Planning

<https://sgsep.com.au/publications/insights/queen-victoria-market-essential-infrastructure-for-melbourne>

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Sunday, 23 November 2025 12:55 PM

Submitted on Sun, 23/11/2025 - 08:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Andrew Blyth



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

The Safe City Programme sounds awfully like George Orwell's 1984 and the currently applied Communist China's surveillance programme, both of which goes against Australian values. Such surveillance will have a chilling affect on democracy and societal participation including parking in the city and even city visitation. The Safe City Camera policy violates Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 of Victoria, Section 13 Privacy (<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/charter-human-rights-and-responsibilities-act-2006/015>). The existence of this Charter is to protect from misuse and abuse of any future authorities. The proposed policy gives tools for authoritarian governments and fascist parties that already exist in our community (namely the National Socialist Network).

It violates sections 12 and 15. The Victorian Police already target pro-Human Rights Protestors (as demonstrated on the 31st Aug and 19th Oct). Consequently, the the Police are likely to use the proposed policy to unfairly target people after pro-human rights activities. If ever the NSN comes to government, they can use this policy to target their adversaries.

This policy cannot proceed.

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Friday, 21 November 2025 5:58 PM

Submitted on Fri, 21/11/2025 - 17:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Mason Medutis



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.5

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

My peers and I believe that working with communities and programs to rehabilitate would be entirely more effective than camera surveillance.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Saturday, 29 November 2025 12:19 AM

Submitted on Fri, 28/11/2025 - 22:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Anna Prifti

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.5 Safe City Camera Policy

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (295.49 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

Submission from City Precinct on the Safe City Camera Program Policy

City Precinct is a collective association of around 140 small, local, niche, sometimes hidden, independent retailers, hospitality and service providers that together make the Melbourne story unique. Our members are concentrated around the little streets; in particular along Flinders Lane; along Swanston Street with a large number residing in the Nicholas Building. The precinct connects its small business members and encourages supportive relationships to foster community in the Melbourne CBD.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Safe City Camera Program Policy that has come before the Future Melbourne Committee. Our feedback is offered after speaking directly with a range of members across our precinct; especially those in the little streets where issues of amenity, safety and access are felt most acutely day to day.

Our overall position

City Precinct supports the expanded use of the Safe City Camera Program to assist with enforcement of Council local laws where this:

1. improves safety and amenity for workers, visitors and residents
2. protects the ability of small businesses to trade and receive deliveries efficiently
3. is accompanied by strong safeguards around privacy, governance and the protection of vulnerable groups.

Our members are not asking for a surveillance free for all; they are asking for a fair go where those who repeatedly ignore basic rules do not make it harder for everyone else.

Use of cameras to police smoking in smoke free streets

Members in and around the designated smoke free areas consistently report:

1. regular smoking in clearly signed smoke free streets, particularly at peak commuting and lunchtime periods
2. smoke drifting into small shops, hospitality venues and upper level studios
3. customers avoiding particular stretches of street because of clusters of smokers at entries and under awnings.

This behaviour directly undermines Council's intent in designating smoke free areas and has a real impact on customer comfort, staff health and the presentation of our laneways.

We therefore support camera footage being used to:

1. identify repeat problem locations and times so that on street officers can be rostered more effectively
2. support evidence for enforcement where patterns of non compliance are obvious
3. provide a clearer deterrent message that smoke free streets are genuinely enforced, not simply aspirational.

Better targeted enforcement of smoking restrictions will quickly be noticed by our members and their customers and will reinforce the reputation of the CBD as a welcoming, healthy environment.

Misuse of loading zones and impacts on business deliveries

Loading zone misuse is one of the most common and costly irritants reported by City Precinct members. Typical problems include:

1. private vehicles and ride share cars occupying loading zones during business hours
2. vehicles overstaying beyond signed limits, effectively blocking access for large parts of the day
3. delivery drivers forced to double park or circle blocks, adding cost, congestion and safety risks.

For small retailers, galleries, studios and hospitality venues that rely on frequent deliveries of stock, fresh produce and equipment, blocked loading zones mean:

1. delayed or missed deliveries
2. extra freight charges
3. staff pulled away from serving customers to sort out logistics at the kerb.

We support the Safe City Camera Program being explicitly used to:

1. monitor loading zone occupancy and identify vehicles that are clearly in breach of time or vehicle type conditions
2. inform targeted local law enforcement operations at known hot spots
3. build an evidence base for any future adjustments to loading zone locations, time limits or signage in the little streets.

If Council wishes to trial camera supported loading zone enforcement in a defined area, City Precinct would be pleased to help identify suitable streets and to gather before and after feedback from affected businesses.

General antisocial behaviour and perceived safety

Our members report that the new Community Safety team presence in the CBD has been a positive addition; businesses value seeing staff on the ground and able to respond quickly when issues arise.

However, there remain recurring concerns about:

1. aggressive or intimidating behaviour in and around doorways and building entries
2. late night disorder that leaves visible damage and mess for traders opening the next morning
3. repeat incidents in specific laneways that undermine perceptions of safety for workers closing up and customers leaving venues.

We support the expanded Safe City Camera Policy being used to:

1. assist the Community Safety team and authorised officers to review incidents and identify patterns of behaviour and hot spots
2. back up staff reports with objective footage where further enforcement action is warranted
3. coordinate responses with Victoria Police where conduct escalates beyond local law issues.

Used this way, cameras become another practical tool for addressing known problem areas rather than a blunt instrument; they help ensure that the small number of people engaging in antisocial behaviour do not dictate how safe the city feels for everyone else.

Privacy, safeguards and accountability

We are aware that community consultation has surfaced concerns about privacy, data security and the potential for disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups. These concerns are important and City Precinct supports Council's commitment to:

1. clear limits on the purposes for which camera footage can be accessed and used
2. robust oversight through the Safe City Camera Program Audit Committee
3. training for staff in privacy, human rights and unconscious bias
4. strong transparency so that the public understands where cameras are, how footage is used and how complaints can be made.

Our support for expanded camera use sits alongside these expectations. Small businesses want effective enforcement, but they also live and work in these streets every day; a trusted, well governed system is essential for long term community support.

Offer of assistance and ongoing engagement

City Precinct would be happy to assist Council in the implementation and evaluation of the new policy. In particular, we can:

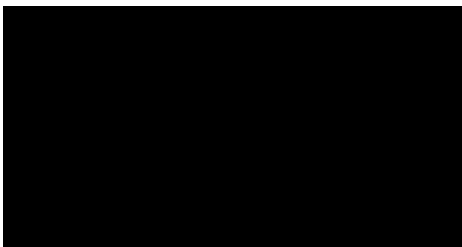
1. provide a cross section of businesses for interviews or case studies on the effectiveness of the Community Safety team and the Safe City Camera Program
2. host small roundtables in the little streets to gather detailed feedback on specific locations or issues
3. help communicate key messages about the policy and its safeguards through our member networks, so traders understand both the benefits and the limits of camera use.

Conclusion

The little streets and laneways of Melbourne are a big part of what makes the city special; they are also where strains on amenity, access and safety are felt first. With appropriate safeguards, the expanded Safe City Camera Program can be a useful and proportionate tool to support smoke free streets, fair access to loading zones and a more orderly, welcoming public realm. As an aside, many members of the public are not aware the 'Little' streets are pedestrian first zones. We would therefore welcome further road works to flatten the sidewalks, creating a level walking field for pedestrians.

City Precinct looks forward to continuing to work with Council officers, the Community Safety team and councillors to ensure the policy delivers practical benefits on the ground for small businesses and the wider community.

Yours sincerely



Anna Prifti
President
City Precinct Inc.

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Saturday, 29 November 2025 1:53 AM

Submitted on Sat, 29/11/2025 - 01:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Sylvia Amelia de Hungria Machado Paes de Carvalho



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-01

Agenda item title

6.5 Safe City Camera Policy 6.5 Safe City Camera Policy

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Safe City Camera Program Policy. On behalf of the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association, I would like to express our strong support for the final policy and its phased implementation.

Our community consistently tells us that safety is one of their biggest concerns. Whether it's residents walking home at night, families visiting our parks, or local businesses trying to operate without fear of repeat damage, safety underpins the wellbeing and vibrancy of North and West Melbourne.

Over recent months, several local traders have reported incidents that have left them feeling vulnerable and unsupported. Shops along Errol Street and Victoria Street have experienced ongoing vandalism, graffiti attacks, and attempted break-ins. The bottle shop Sessions, in the emerging Arden precinct, has faced repeated vandalism and robbery, creating real anxiety for staff and neighbours. These incidents may not always make headlines, but they have a significant impact on the confidence and livelihoods of our small business community.

A well-managed and transparent Safe City Camera Program can make a meaningful

difference. It provides reassurance, improves incident response times, and helps deter opportunistic crime and anti-social behaviour. Importantly, the strengthened privacy safeguards and clear governance framework in the updated policy give our community confidence that safety and privacy are being balanced responsibly.

We also welcome the phased implementation, which will allow the City of Melbourne to build community awareness, strengthen oversight mechanisms, and ensure the program is equitable and accountable.

Around the world, cities have seen positive results from similar approaches.

London has used monitored public-space cameras to support incident detection in busy nightlife and retail precincts.

Singapore integrates surveillance with community policing to reduce vandalism and improve neighbourhood safety.

New York City has seen improvements in public-space safety perception following expanded camera coverage in high-traffic zones.

These examples show that when camera programs are implemented thoughtfully, with strong community consultation, they can enhance safety without undermining public trust.

We appreciate the City of Melbourne's willingness to listen to residents and traders throughout the consultation process. The final policy reflects this engagement, and we believe it is a responsible and balanced step toward making our city safer for everyone.

Warm regards,

Sylvia Hungria

President

North and West Melbourne Precinct Association

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Sunday, 30 November 2025 10:47 PM

Submitted on Sun, 30/11/2025 - 22:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Hudson J.J. Clark



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Safe City Camera Policy

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Besides safety, how can ai powered surveillance cameras benefit citizens of Melbourne?

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Sunday, 30 November 2025 10:06 PM

Submitted on Sun, 30/11/2025 - 21:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Hudson J.J. Clark



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Your question

Why should a technology that causes mass human suffering (ai) be entrusted with this city's public safety?

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 12:35 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 12:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Anastasia Beasley



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.5 Safe City Camera Policy

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

 (1.38 MB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

SUBMISSION: SAFE CITY CAMERA PROGRAM

The City of Melbourne is in breach of its Community Engagement Policy and hasn't fulfilled the requirements set out in FMC and Council decisions. I have detailed my concerns, separated by topic.

Cost-benefit reporting

A new purpose is proposed for the SCCP: protecting ratepayers' money.

No estimates have been given of how much money could be saved in cost avoidance or recovery through fines. Reporting on the impact and cost-effectiveness of the program must include the collection rate of fines.

It's also important to account for the long shadow of COVID amplifying the drivers of crime; family violence and cost of living pressures (Bob Hill on repeat offenders driving the increase in youth crime statistics, March 2025). A reduction in crime rates cannot be attributed solely to expanded enforcement powers, and underlying trends must be accounted for.

The draft policy documents for this meeting, Tuesday December 2, claim the 2025-26 Budget allocates \$2.07m for the upgrade and expansion of the SCCP, fast approaching the total budget for Community and City Services at \$2.3m. The budget actually says "During 2025-26, \$0.5 million will be expended on expansion of existing assets. This includes CCTV Network Expansion (\$0.5 million)" If the project has quadrupled in cost before the policy has even passed, it will be difficult to cope with any service disruptions, software or change management fees, and upgrades to infrastructure or staffing required to process the vast amounts of data now available to a whole new audience.

Bad and doubtful debts expenditure for 2025–26 is budgeted to be \$12.5 million, and fines are projected to provide \$40.2 million in revenue.

The Human Rights Impact Assessment says "It is open to Council to continue to address public nuisance and enforce Local Laws without the use of the Safe City Cameras. However, this will not achieve the same enforcement objectives." This is a baseless claim with no sources cited. The recent research shared by Crime Prevention Victoria in support of sometimes using CCTV says there are some specific circumstances where CCTV can be helpful, usually in car parks and complemented by 24/7 security presence.

Ethical

The Human Rights Compatibility Assessment Tool says "In this case, it is possible that the expansion of the Program will lead to more enforcement against individuals with a

disability than individuals without a disability. It is difficult to model what, if any, higher level of enforcement such individuals might experience.” It is not difficult to model, all the evidence is publicly available.

In regards to discrimination, it says “the objectives described in Section 1 of this assessment would require more frequent enforcement action from Police or Council employees, which may lead to the potential inequalities of outcome described in 4B above”. If CoM followed its Protocol for engaging with unhoused people, and applied those principles to people with mental illnesses and disabilities, the most action required would be from the social support sector. Unless CoM wants to sweep the streets of who behaves in unexpected ways, more resources need to be allocated to health-based responses.

AIHW's report "The health of people in Australia's prisons 2022" shows 47% of women and 27% of men surveyed in prison had a long-term health condition that limited their daily activities. The Youth Parole Board's 2023 survey showed a quarter of children in custody at the time had a diagnosed cognitive difficulty. The undiagnosed numbers are likely significant too, especially for conditions like ADHD, complex trauma and fetal alcohol syndrome which can present as challenging behaviour.

The University of Melbourne's 2022 study into children with cognitive disabilities or neurodiversity in the justice system found that:

1. They're more at risk of becoming disengaged from school at a young age and offending.
2. They're more at risk of maltreatment, neglect and trauma, which can lead to antisocial behaviour.
3. If they're arrested they may struggle to understand and communicate with police and courts, so they're more susceptible to acquiescing in interviews - guessing what answer they can give to quickly finish the process.

These are just a few sources I found in a quick search. Obviously it's difficult to integrate enforcement and health approaches to safety, but I understand the City of Melbourne has made a start through Operation Protocol with the Salvation Army, the Library Support worker, the Daily Support Team and By Name list with Launch Housing, and support referrals through Park Rangers.

The Protocol for engaging with people who are unhoused or sleeping rough in the City stipulates weekly meetings between police, CoM and Launch Housing, which would

imply Launch Housing is a vital stakeholder in this and should have been consulted from the start.

No further provisions have been made for Launch Housing to support the influx of support requests.

Governance

There's nothing in the Safe City Cameras Program Audit Committee Terms of Reference (DM#12010234v6) that stipulates payment, but it does require the committee to be independent. Why is the annual honorarium more than a month's rent (DM#17332117)?

From the 7 October report:

“Council officers have connected with Liberty Victoria, who have advised that the individual best placed to contribute to this work will not be available until after December 2025.” VEOHRC and Liberty Victoria were not able to contribute to the draft policy, so human rights stakeholders had real impact on its formation.

From the Safe City Camera Program report 29 July 2025:

“55. Consultation with key stakeholders is planned to include those stakeholders, or similar, who were involved at the SCCP inception and 2010 policy review including the SCCP Audit Committee, OVIC, VEOHRC, Liberty Victoria and Victoria Police.

56. To ensure consistency with the Community Engagement Policy, a communications and community engagement approach is being developed in relation to the program of work”

From the Community Engagement Policy:

“Whenever the City of Melbourne is planning, delivering a project or making a decision that significantly impacts the way our community experiences the city or their interaction with our organisation, the community must have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in that process.”

Not completed:

6th May 2025: “Requests management seek expert assistance in assessing whether the above proposals are reasonable and consistent with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and include this assessment in its report to Council.” – lawyers were contacted, human rights advocates weren't, and none of it was included in the July report.

2 December 2025: “Community engagement was undertaken with feedback was sought via Participate Melbourne on the draft SCCP Policy between 8 October 2025 and 29 October 2025. We received 2158 submissions, which included 1388 survey responses, 770 free text submissions and seven documents were uploaded.” – the Participate

Melbourne portal is yet to be updated with a summary of what CoM heard and how it has influenced the policy.

“Note the final Policy will be included in a report back to Council on 9 December 2025 and if endorsed published on Councils website” – so why is it early?

These actions are meant to be “undertaken as part of implementation” but they must be mandated in the policy:

Requesting that the SCCP Audit Committee monitor and report on the expanded policy settings including performance data and publishing the SCCP Audit Committee’s Terms of Reference.

Subject to endorsement of a final Policy an evaluation and report back to Council will be prepared no later than 12 months from when the Policy commences to ensure it is meeting its intended purpose and not having any unintended consequences; *[this needs specific metrics]*.

Conclusion

There is very little community support for this policy (maximum 25% support in any gender group) but it seems to be moving ahead full steam anyway with no justification. CoM has disrespected its residents and visitors by denying them the opportunity to be heard in any meaningful way, and undermined its own policies and decisions by ignoring them. This policy proposes a level of scrutiny for the general public that the administration could not withstand because CoM is not following its own rules in this project. Although the consultation on integrating AI is scheduled for next year, I have no reason to believe the community could stop its introduction if we tried.

Accountability, meaningful community consultation and oversight, and genuine transparency need to be embedded in the policy from the start.

Supporting attachments:

1. Monitoring Melbourne report to illuminate the trade-offs and inconsistencies in machine learning (AI) approaches
2. Email to FOI submitted as a concerned citizen (ignored)
3. Screenshots of the cost-benefit model map for enforcement-based and health-based approaches to city safety

Appendix 1: Monitoring Melbourne Report

Monitoring Melbourne: Safety, security and privacy in a Busy Australian Capital city

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report explores three ways machine learning techniques could assist the City of Melbourne (CoM) to balance privacy and safety concerns as they take a data-driven approach to cleanliness and security.

First, K-means clustering is discussed as a method for identifying incident hotspots or risk factors that increase the likelihood of incidents. K-means is popular for strategically deploying risk mitigation resources where they'll have maximum impact, which could be useful in directing CoM's graffiti prevention techniques.

Next, the application of multiple linear regression to cost effectiveness questions is discussed through cost-benefit case studies on Cloud architecture and crime prevention interventions. Cost-benefit analysis for CCTV cameras and software requires some consensus on how benefits are measured, which will influence the accuracy of this simple, powerful model.

The final problem is collecting accurate insights that accurately reflect a diverse cross-section of their stakeholders. In principle, everyone who visits, works or lives in the area has an equally influential and important voice in consultations affecting Council decisions (CoM 2021). With limited time and resources to facilitate inclusive discussions about the new surveillance policy, CoM must maximise the value of existing data. The Knowledge Bank, a vast and diverse database of community discussions, can be leveraged with the help of dimension reduction algorithms that assist staff in identifying distinct voices in the community from intersectional demographic data.

INTRODUCTION

CoM is a growing capital city, projected to house 9 million people in the 2050s (City of Melbourne 2025). Like many democratic governments, its leaders want new approaches for balancing public participation with operational efficiency and visible progress.

One controversial initiative taken by the Council is the introduction of a new plan to expand the reach and enforcement scope of their CCTV cameras, eventually enabling the use of AI crime detection tools (Woodall 2025). Public response to this new policy was so strong that CoM cancelled all but one community consultation session out of concern for staff safety.

The purpose of this report is to provide three recommendations of machine learning solutions that can be applied to three business problems that emerged with the introduction of this new policy. It focusses on feasible solutions that maximise returns on existing data architecture and assets, maximising the value of previously collected information.

BUSINESS PROBLEMS

1. Understanding the problem with clustering

Council knows very little about how, when, and why rubbish and graffiti appear on its streets, making it difficult to prevent. They have a graffiti strategy which outlines four approaches it employs to reduce unwanted graffiti: removal, prevention, enforcement, and collaboration (City of Melbourne 2021). The business problem is that removal of graffiti and rubbish comes at a high cost, which the other approaches have not effectively mitigated.

By analysing the patterns in these offences, the City can target their preventative methods to places and times that are most likely to need them for efficient resource allocation. For example, some preventative techniques include connecting property owners with street artists to facilitate legal murals, planting hedges and vines to reduce access, and activating areas with outdoor dining and busking.

Gayatri and Srinivasarao (2025) used K-means clustering to identify the times and places where crimes were frequently committed, effectively creating a schedule for strategic police deployment. K-means is a relatively simple algorithm that has also been used effectively to classify safety incidents and determine key factors for accident prevention (Deng et al. 2020).

Similarly, Ahyan and Tokdemir (2019) combined another clustering algorithm with a neural network model to predict the outcomes of incidents in the construction industry and identify the necessary preventative actions. They acknowledged that while the results were promising, the heterogeneity of the data created challenges. People from different worksites or companies completed incident reports differently, so the data had many types of variables and missing information.

For CoM, K-means clustering is likely to be an effective way to map the drivers of graffiti and rubbish removal costs so they can direct their prevention efforts more strategically.

Available Data

Applying a clustering algorithm to analyse patterns in rubbish and graffiti requires some transformation to CoM's existing datasets:

1. List of reports through service portal

2. Salesforce data from customer service calls
3. Rubbish and graffiti recorded by local laws officers on patrol
4. Purchase order records for graffiti and rubbish removal
5. Coming soon: CCTV incident reports

There are risks to the model's integrity that will only be visible during the data exploration stage and require additional cleaning or preparation.

Duplicate reports

Local Laws Officers may record dumped rubbish that has also been reported in the service portal or through the customer service phone line.

Timeliness

The existing records about rubbish and graffiti are timestamped at the moment it was noticed and reported, not the time it appeared. Although the City has excellent CCTV coverage, it has only been available for the police to use in enforcing State-level laws. The CCTV policy is changing in December 2025 to enable local laws officers to use it in their investigations, so there will soon be a complete, consistent, accurate and timely record of every incident. This is unlikely to be compatible with a model built on historical data, but will be very useful. Graffiti and rubbish accrue quickly in this busy capital city, so after 6 months Melbourne may have enough time-series data to model the relationship between the time of day and risk of incident. Until then, the historical data will be able to map the risk more broadly against the time of year.

Governance

The comprehensive incident log based on CCTV footage may include extremely valuable, sensitive data which needs special protection. For example, descriptions of a person and the action they're taking may reveal identifying information or protected characteristics like race or political affiliation. CoM has strict information management guidelines which may restrict the use of the incident log in statistical analysis or require extra steps to de-identify the data (CoM 2024).

2. Cost-Benefit analysis using linear regression

Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the CCTV expansion will be difficult, but necessary to balance the financial commitment, privacy risks, and expected benefits. The Privacy Commissioner's ruling on Kmart's surveillance highlighted the importance of proportionality: the benefits must be significant enough to justify the privacy impact, and other options must be considered first (Jones et al. 2025). CoM acknowledges their prevention and collaboration methods to manage vandalism are the most impactful, and Crime Prevention Victoria (2025) suggests they're also more cost-effective than CCTV. In this highly regulated operating environment where non-compliance can cost millions in pecuniary penalties, CoM must demonstrate the benefits of the additional cameras, expanded enforcement remit and AI tools.

Lawson et al. (2018) used simple linear regression to predict the effect of adding CCTV and street lighting on the crime rates in each locale of Glasgow, to compare their cost effectiveness under different conditions. Where the camera programs were deployed strategically in crime hotspots, the cost avoidance through prevention was almost ten times the cost of installation and operation. The impact on cost and frequency of crime was heavily dependent on the type of crime; this study focussed on violent crime, which is enforced by police rather than local government.

The report's conclusions were corroborated by Piza et al. (2019), who conducted a meta-analysis of CCTV studies spanning 40 years and confirmed that property crime, the subject of CoM's interest, was reduced by CCTV.

Modelling the total investment in CCTV against cost avoidance through projected offence reduction and revenue from fines would provide an easily understandable cost-benefit calculation. However, the number of offences isn't the only factor driving cost – it's also how much rubbish is dumped, or whether the graffiti is in a hard-to-reach place requiring special equipment and permits. Expected fine revenue will also need to consider the cost of collection (resources required to extract money) and rate of collection (how many fines are actually paid). There are also more benefits associated with preventing property crime than just the two identified, so CoM needs to draw on best-practice cost modelling tools for multiple regression.

Manning et al. (2023) improves on the Manning Cost-Benefit-Tool (MCBT) used by the College of Policing UK by using multiple regression analysis to calculate the economic benefit of crime prevention interventions. This study developed a cost-benefit analysis app for evaluating the impact of a program or policy, but it includes costs that would be incurred at the State government level rather than local (e.g. courts, prisons).

Financial risks

If the predicted costs and benefits are inaccurate, the financial loss to Council will be proportional to the size of the error. Key stakeholders including the Director of City Safety Security and Amenity, Finance, and the Treasurer must agree on the target confidence interval for the cost-benefit modelling.

In Al-Hashimi and Al-Ghazali's cost-benefit modelling of environmental sustainability initiatives (2023), this method is described as cheap, simple, and effective with one major drawback. Multiple linear regression is sensitive to outliers, so if they aren't removed in the data cleaning and preparation stage, the predictions will be inaccurate by a wide margin.

Process risks

Abstract expected benefits, like having a cleaner city with stronger perceptions of safety, are difficult to quantify in monetary terms. If CoM doesn't include intangible

benefits in the estimates, the project may not be financially justifiable, but deciding how to assign a dollar value to them could add months to the process.

There are methods to evaluate intangible benefits, usually developed for specific use cases. For example, Wu and Buyya (2015) draw on domain knowledge and industry benchmarking to assess the relative advantage of one data architecture over another. Chen et al. (2016) make a four-level evaluation framework for attributing part of a building's total value to the intangible benefits of its intelligent (energy efficient) systems. The closest framework to what CoM needs is the improved MCBT, but it was designed to quantify the benefit of social support interventions as an alternative to enforcement, so it still requires modification by a domain knowledge expert if it's to be useful.

Available data

CoM has detailed data about the cost incurred for each graffiti cleaning job because it's undertaken by contractors, who provide data about the time and resources needed in the billing process. Waste removal is undertaken by staff, so although details are recorded, the cost would need to be estimated as a proportion of their hourly rate.

Theoretically, this data should be complete, accurate and timely, but there's a risk that it's riddled with inconsistencies and missing data. For example, staff, contractors and members of the public may use different language to describe a problem and its location – mirroring the challenge Ahyan and Tokdemir met when clustering incident data (2019). The same piece of graffiti may be reported multiple times in different formats. The accuracy of the cost-benefit model will be improved after the initial data sourcing and exploration, but it could necessitate budget changes.

3. Low-contact consultations – Dimension Reduction

Dimension reduction can assist with the business problem of maximising the value extracted from vast, high-dimensional, under-utilised information assets.

CoM must engage with the community on decisions that impact the way they experience the city or interact with the organisation. Its engagement policy mandates that staff “proactively seek out a real mix of voices and experiences” (City of Melbourne 2021), providing opportunities for a representative sample of the population to participate in decision-making.

It recognises that including underrepresented voices in the consultation process requires additional resources, which could mean organising more in-person sessions or booking interpreters. Traditionally these take place in community centres, libraries or the Town Hall, but consultations for the CCTV policy were solely online, for just three weeks, out of concern for staff safety. This could impact participation from the 46% of Melbournians who speak a language other than English at home (Department of

Families, Fairness and Housing 2023), or the 18.8% of public housing residents who have mobile-only internet access (Digital Inclusion Index 2025).

The online consultation portal, Participate Melbourne, includes an online survey and submission form. Responses to both are added to Knowledge Bank, a database containing structured and unstructured data including free text, demographic information, the time, place, and topic of consultation, and the question participants are responding to.

Knowledge Bank holds data in this high-dimensional format from every consultation over the past 20 years, some of which were extremely thorough and elicited contributions from under-represented communities who require more support for their engagement. CoM staff can query the Bank, but their ability to extract accurate, meaningful insights is limited because the interface only has basic search and filter functionality, with an optional sentiment analysis tool for the free text field.

For example, a query could return all contributions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants from the past 5 years about bike lanes, then estimate the percentage of those comments that were positive, but staff would have to read them individually to find out whether the comments were complementing existing bike lanes or supporting the addition of new bike lanes. The clear-cut filters for demographic information also struggle to reflect the complexity of intersectional identities in Melbourne – a combination of demographic factors like age, language and gender intersect to suggest the community someone might identify with.

Effective online consultations that meet the Community Engagement Policy's requirements for accessibility and diversity require in-depth data analysis. Machine learning consultation tools such as Polis can be used to derive insights from large-scale online conversations, and have been used in local, state and federal decisions across the USA and Asia Pacific region (Polis 2025).

Polis is an open-source machine learning system for civic participation that uses dimensionality reduction and clustering to direct participants into consensus-forming groups. It relies on people writing opinions and labelling each other's contributions with "agree", "disagree" or "pass". Instead of using text mining to evaluate the content or meaning of the comments, the votes are the main data steering the model, so participants can see their impact in real time. Dimensionality reduction is vital in this process because every comment is a dimension and every participant is an observation. That means the number of dimensions increases over time, so dimension reduction and clustering are iterative processes.

A vote-based system like Polis doesn't use natural language processing so it's language agnostic, which is useful to the CoM's diverse population, and has one clear way to reduce its dimensions. Polis relies on Principal Component Analysis and Uniform

Manifold Approximation and Projection. This enables further analysis with clustering algorithms and general summary statistics (The Computational Democracy Project 2025).

Although case studies for UMAP in social science applications like this are limited, it excels at surfacing overlooked structures in human populations by illustrating relationships between discrete and continuous variables. This was demonstrated when Diaz-Papkovich et al. (2019) used it to find hidden structures in genomic data and remarked that it was fast and easy to use on a desktop computer, even with large population-scale datasets with diverse variable types.

PCA is an unsupervised technique optimised to find linear projections that show some change in the data, but Knowledge Bank is non-linear. UMAP is typically used unsupervised, and performs well on non-linear datasets, with an optional target parameter that can be used for supervised classification. It can be a preparation step to boost the effectiveness of clustering algorithms, or a stand-alone visualisation technique.

Given that the consultation period for the CCTV policy has passed, and both the survey results and free text submissions are in Knowledge Bank, CoM doesn't have the option to collect more data or deploy Polis as an off-the-shelf solution. PCA will not be helpful in this case, but additional context could be gleaned by using UMAP to reduce the dimensionality of this consultation's dataset and the historical consultations on security and surveillance topics separately.

Using UMAP on the structured demographic data before sentiment analysis on the free text data could surface real social and cultural structures to disaggregate the sentiment analysis. By disaggregating the recent consultation before UMAP is applied, CoM can more clearly identify which voices were missing from the recent consultation and what they've said in the past about security and surveillance measures. Although the historical data can't be used to directly inform the proposed policy, it can contextualise the recent submissions in the "bigger picture" of Melbourne's community attitudes.

Transparency

If the outcome is challenged by decision-makers or key stakeholders, it should be easily traceable, but transparency and accountability aren't built into unsupervised machine learning techniques.

UMAP could help CoM staff get more value from the existing Knowledge Bank data, but there are social and political implications for the plane it chooses, and it is sensitive to hyperparameter adjustment. Unsupervised algorithms can find the optimal plane to embed data from higher-dimensional spaces, but without knowing how much each variable is influencing the projection, it is unclear whether it's misleading (Conlen and Hohman 2018).

The digital divide

The dataset will always be incomplete because the sample can't represent the whole population when it's collected online. Although UMAP opens the possibility of extracting more valuable insights from the data, resources still need to be allocated to interpreters and face-to-face consultations if the entire community is to be meaningfully consulted.

Conclusion

Machine learning can help CoM meet its stakeholders' needs by efficiently and fairly analysing community feedback and extracting high-quality insights from existing data assets. Modelling the cost-effectiveness of new safety and security interventions will provide accountability

K-means clustering is a tried and tested method for predicting where resources need to be diverted to prevent incidents. The more detailed and accurate CoM makes their model, the more transformation will be required to integrate diverse data sources without duplicating observations of graffiti or rubbish.

Multiple linear regression for cost-benefit analysis must be accompanied by appropriate, context-specific tools for quantifying intangible benefits. The benefits of this method are its simplicity, ease of use and understandability. As such, it relies on strong domain knowledge to ensure the input data is accurate enough to provide predictive power.

Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) is a powerful dimension reduction method that can reveal complex hidden patterns, trends, and clusters in datasets. It overcomes challenges associated with high dimensionality, massive volume, non-linear data and heterogeneity. These capabilities make it ideal for enhancing staff queries to Knowledge Bank, unlocking value from previous consultations by disaggregating distinct voices in the community.

The challenges of remaining accountable and efficient continue to grow in complexity as more sophisticated methods are used, but the decision-making process becomes clearer and simpler for community leaders who can draw on available information for accurate insights.

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Appendix 2. Email attachments

From: **A B**

Date: Fri, Aug 29, 2025 at 4:03 PM

Subject: SCCP review and upgrade

To: <foi@melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Hi,

I am looking for some information about the Safe City Camera program and its planned upgrades, hoping I don't need to submit an FOI.

I've had a look at what's published on the website but there are still a few things I have questions about. Apologies for the long email, I really have tried to find these things out but there's very little information available.

- Are the SCCP Audit Committee paid, and how much? How are they elected/chosen and do they have a maximum term?
- Where is the SCCP handbook?
- Where is the review of the SCCP handbook? There's no information in the report submitted to Council on July 29 about who was involved, what research was done, how they arrived at their conclusion etc. The resolution from May 6 was that management "seek expert assistance in assessing whether the above proposals are reasonable and consistent with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities" - who were the experts and what did they say?
- Where can I view the request to speak and the item of correspondence from Bill Horman AM APM at the FMC Committee meeting on May 6 which prompted the motion to expand the SCCP?
- Why has the audit committee not signed their last two reports?
- The report from July 29 says "increased CCTV is commonly suggested in CoM community engagement" - is there any data about how common and who says that in what contexts?
- Why is the Privacy Impact Assessment being prepared by an external legal partner? Why is it being prepared by a lawyer at all? The Privacy Impact Assessment is meant to be prepared by the people within the City of Melbourne who will use the technology and have the most in-depth technical understanding of it, so that the

Information Management Governance Forum can accurately assess whether it's compliant with Melbourne's governance engagements. How is the PIA already being prepared if stakeholder consultation hasn't even taken place for partners like VEOHRC? The legal partner seems to be working on a document that analyses a policy and operation manual which doesn't exist yet

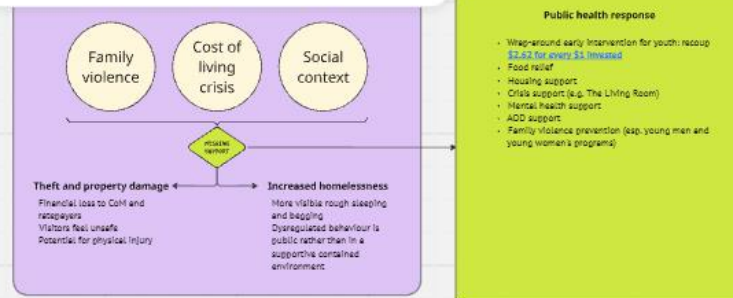
- Why is the PIA going through the SCCP audit committee instead of the IMGf?
- What action did the City of Melbourne take on the feedback from VAGO's 2018 report that the SCCP Audit Committee reports "are communicated in the language of a negative assurance review rather than an audit or reasonable assurance engagement" and there's no oversight or reporting for the corporate CCTV system?
- The report from July 29 says "approximately four weeks of community engagement will occur, concluding on 26 October 2025." October 26th is a Sunday, which allows 16 business days to prepare the final policy for endorsement by the FMC. Is the consultation just a survey or will there be people's panels? How will the feedback be analysed and integrated in such a short space of time?
- Has any SCCP technology had a PIA approved by the IMGf?

I don't mean to sound rude or imposing, I just know this has the potential to increase risk for vulnerable people in their contact with the justice system. It could also affect our freedom to protest, as [Council's priorities shift](#) to minimising the nuisance or disruption associated with protests. As it stands, the camera program retains footage for 30 days, which could be expanded in the new policy and operation manual. If anyone wants to deter protesters in the city, it would be easy to use gait recognition to identify them at a rally, search for them in the system, and fine them for unrelated offences like smoking in a no-smoking area or jaywalking.

Please let me know when I can expect to hear back.

Kind regards,

Anastasia Beasley



Public health response

- Wrap-around early intervention for youth: recoup \$2.62 for every \$1 invested
- Food relief
- Housing support
- Crisis support (e.g. The Living Room)
- Mental health support
- ADD support
- Family violence prevention (esp. young men and young women's programs)

Victoria Police's Embedded Youth Outreach Program spent \$943 per offence prevented, when they would have spent \$48,131.93 if the offence occurred

Addressing the root causes

Communities and society

Individuals and families

Communities and society

Addressing the root causes

Thinking long term

Diagram 4: The CAPICOR model

Berry Street provides:

- Support for a child's parents and carers
- System-level responses across education, child protection etc to build their safe network
- Trauma-informed psychotherapy

Results:

- High rates of stabilised mental health
- Improvements in antisocial or aggressive behaviour
- Lasting positive impact on resilience and psychological wellbeing

YOUTH FAYERS - A PROVEN SOLUTION

Youth Fayers are a way out of homelessness. They provide a safe and stable home with educational, employment and living skills support for young people aged 16-24.

80% end into stable housing

65% gain secure, decent employment

Youth Fayers unlock thriving futures in 2 years

60% less likely to be involved in justice systems

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF YOUTH FAYERS

- ~20K** young people supported (With 50 Youth Fayers over a 10 year period)
- \$172K** savings to governments per person (For every young person experiencing a cycle of homelessness)
- \$2.9bn** in lifetime benefits (The amount 50 Youth Fayers will unlock by 2040)
- 6:1** return on investment (ROI) (With 50 Fayers we will see a ROI of \$6 for every additional dollar spent)

- From a return-on-investment perspective, Kids Under Cover is an effective intervention and has been at providing high social returns for each equivalent dollar invested. Overall the service has returned \$4.13 dollar invested over the past six years and an average social return on a typical year of \$4.89.
- Kids Under Cover generates the highest amount of value for its primary stakeholders, the young people residing in a studio. The total value created for the young people who live in the studios was found to be \$30,721,084 across the six-year period. The second key beneficiary group, being other young people over 12 years old living in the main residency, returned a social value greater than \$14 million.
- The provision of scholarships to young people creates substantial relief for households experiencing financial stress and supports the young people in engaging in education or training, improving their long-term prospects.

Men in
early
life of

83% of young people under justice in Victoria have experienced a combination of maltreatment and household dysfunction. They also have high levels of trauma, symptomatology, substance use, and internalizing and externalizing behaviours both more than two-thirds of young people scoring in the clinical ranges on each of these measures.

The minimum lifetime cost to taxpayers of chronic institutionalisation in 2012 was \$960,000. That's over \$1.5 million today.



Homelessness costing millions

Of the \$22 million in costs for a group of 15 people, \$1.4 million was for criminal corrections and \$8 million was for support.

Researcher said "being and becoming homeless is associated with an increased risk of mental health and associated support and health issues. It's not always the result of the 'broken' state of criminal justice interventions."



Victorian savings through homelessness support: It is cheaper to support people with complex health and wellbeing needs into stable housing, than let them cycle through the service system and experience repeated homelessness.

Queensland Government showed a cost saving to the Queensland Government of almost \$13,000 per person per year:

- Health (\$52,335)
- Homelessness services (\$149,344)
- Criminal Justice (\$122,904)



Data from the CoM SRU identifies that long-term homelessness (12 months or longer) in inner Melbourne was experienced by 70 per cent of people aged between 55 and 64 and 83 per cent of people 65 or older who experienced homelessness.

"We'd sleep in the city because the cameras are here and it's safe" - Individual with lived experience of homelessness, neighbourhood surveys 2024

Business owner perceptions of the current state

70% of business owners feel that their business is moderately or severely impacted by homelessness.

- The likelihood of being able to continue to operate is lower.
- Homelessness is a major concern for business owners.
- Homelessness is a major concern for business owners.
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- Homelessness is a major concern for business owners.

From CoM's homelessness strategy

Frequency of crime in CoM

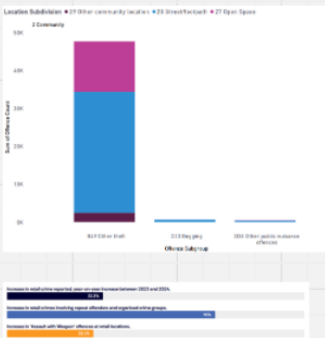
The most common crimes in Melbourne right now are various types of theft, which damage our sense of safety and make business even tougher for already-struggling retailers.

Crime Stoppers Victoria says retail theft offenders are increasingly carrying weapons, and interactions with security are becoming more dangerous.

On March 23rd, Nine News published an article naming Melbourne as the "Retail theft capital of Australia", citing 2244 incidences of retail theft last year, up from 1264 the year before, including a run-in on Digi.

At last year's Retail Crime Symposium, Dr Iantha Halliday (Associate Professor of Criminology at University of Newcastle) framed the wider societal issues that are contributors to the year-on-year increase in retail crime rates. The cost-of-living crisis has increased the theft of essentials like groceries, as well as goods that can be sold on the street. The impacts of youth justice and crime as having an impact on the wider picture of retail crime too.

Police attribute the rise in crime, especially youth crime, to the cost-of-living crisis and its exacerbating effects on family violence. Family violence is an extremely visible driver of crime in its victimhood.



High-impact security threats

Terrorism (Risk: HIGH)
The current threat level for terrorism is PROBABLE. The radicalisation of minors, the impacts of social media, mental health challenges, the spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories, and growing levels of grievance all require a whole-of-community response.

Social cohesion is eroding, trust in institutions is declining, intolerance is growing, even truth itself is being undermined by propaganda, hate and discrimination. Community violence in Australia is not common, but expected to spike in the next five years. Our greatest threat remains a lone actor using an easily obtained weapon.

Psycholo-driven attacks
\$10 million in structural safety improvements were made in response to the 2017 Bourke Street Incident, but not **enough**.

Engineering solutions have been maximised, but to effectively prevent this type of violence, a therapeutic response is needed.

The City of Melbourne's submission to the national housing and homelessness plan calculated \$3 in community benefit for every \$1 spent on affordable housing (a 300% return on investment).

SGS economics and planning calculated the cost of failing to invest in affordable housing will reach \$25 billion per year by 2051.

Victorian cost of family violence, adjusted for inflation:

- **\$6.6 billion total cost**
- **\$3.3 billion to individuals and their families**
- **\$1.2 billion to the broader economy**

In 2016, the Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV or 'the Royal Commission') recommended the delivery of a "rigorous and consistent measurement of the cost of family violence to Government, the community and individuals". This was one of 227 recommendations set out to reduce and better respond to family violence in Victoria. KPMG was engaged by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to give effect to this recommendation. This has involved developing a consistent methodology to estimate the costs of family violence to governments, individuals, and the community and economy. It has also involved building on the work undertaken by the RCFV and the Victorian Government to apply this methodology to develop cost estimates for 2015-16. This Summary Report provides an overview of KPMG's findings. This analysis provides one key input to the evidence base to help in giving effect to the Victorian Government's reforms to the family violence service system over the short, medium, and long term. Continuing to strengthen the evidence will also be important in supporting the critical decisions required to support the continued roll-out of the reforms.

1. In 2015-16, over **160,000** people were estimated to have experienced family violence in Victoria.
2. The total cost of family violence in Victoria was estimated at **\$6.3 billion** in 2015-16.
3. The costs borne by government for the provision of supports was estimated at **\$1.8 billion**.
4. The costs borne by individuals and their families was estimated at **\$2.6 billion**.
5. The costs borne by the Victorian community and broader economy was estimated at **\$918 million**.



Victoria's retail theft hotspots revealed
Retail theft across Victoria jumped almost 20 per cent last year, according to statistics from Victoria's C.

Estimating the cost of crime

ANZ estimates **retail crime cost \$2.79 billion** in Australia last year, while the Retailers Association says it's **upwards of \$9 billion**.

There's no recent data on how much a single crime costs the community, but estimates from the **AIC's 2012 report**, adjusted for inflation, suggest \$494.16 in total loss for each offence in "other theft". Multiplying this by the 5044 recorded offences in Melbourne last year produces almost **\$2.5 million in general theft losses**, not including theft from cars and shops or theft of bicycles.



Family violence is a **leading cause of homelessness** for women and children in Victoria (and Australia more broadly).

Among the more than 105,000 people who accessed specialist services in Victoria last financial year (2020-21), close to half (47% or 49,035 people) sought assistance due to family violence (including domestic violence).

Overall, the rate of family violence was 1,177 crimes per 100,000 population, based on more than 60,000 police reports over 12 months

Drivers of crime

The most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our community come into contact with justice early, usually as victim-survivors, and enter a cycle of institutionalisation

Being homeless can limit access to medicine, treatment and basic hygiene and expose young people to sexual exploitation, violence and social isolation (Davies & Wood 2018). Homeless young people can also experience levels of mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, behavioural problems and alcohol and drug use. Due to a combination of these factors, homeless young people face a high mortality (Aldridge et al. 2017; Heerde & Patton 2020).

Further, a linkage study found that young people involved in one of either the child protection, youth justice or homelessness systems were more likely than the general population to become involved in the others (AIHW 2012).

- If young people live in overcrowded conditions, it can:
- be a major source of stress for them, limiting their privacy, social behaviours and the autonomy in their lives
 - limit their access to basic amenities, clean conditions and encourage the spread of disease and illness
 - expose them to increased violence and abuse (Bilotta et al. 2018; Waters 2001).
- These factors can all lead to poorer health outcomes and reduced wellbeing.

legal policies. Evidence on the social determinants of health that people experiencing social, economic, political and environmental disadvantage are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes has led to acceptance globally that public health policies must address systemic factors and not just focus on individual behaviour. In this article, we propose that a conceptual framework of the social determinants of justice could valuably inform efforts to reduce the criminalisation and incarceration of targeted and disadvantaged groups.

This 2023 review of 2731 incarcerated Australians identified these social determinants of criminalisation (the more determinants you experience, the more likely you are to be incarcerated and reincarcerated):

- Early-age police contact, even as a victim
- Indigenous status
- Unsupported mental illness or cognitive disability
- Drug and alcohol use
- Homelessness/unstable housing
- Disadvantaged location
- Incomplete education
- Placed in out-of-home care as a child

View of Who does Australia Lock Up? The Social Determinants of Justice

(4) Taking a public health approach of children involvement in the child justice system and undertake research to inform the development of a prevention strategy.¹⁰ Clarifying the principles of a child rights-based approach, a public health model uses the service continuum, from universal service delivery, to responsive support services, through to targeted support where harm to children has already occurred.¹¹

Submitters also advocated for a trauma-informed justice system that addresses the holistic wellbeing needs of children.¹² At the core of the public health model, tertiary supports must provide evidence-informed, specialist interventions for those engaged in the justice system.

Recent research highlights that offending by children often arises from a complex interaction of multiple factors, especially for what has been termed 'the chronic persistent' offenders, using a public health model may effectively target interventions for those with particular vulnerabilities, and support provision of trauma-informed supports and interventions.¹³

It is now understood that children's involvement in the justice system is a failure of the systems which should have helped them earlier.¹⁴ Stakeholders in interviews and submissions repeatedly called for a focus on prevention, early intervention and addressing the drivers of offending by children. They cautioned that unless there is systemic investment in preventative efforts upstream, we will fail to reduce the flow of children into the criminal system.¹⁵ The UN Committee, in General Comment 34, reiterates the importance of prevention and early intervention, and of protecting children's rights at all stages of the child justice system.¹⁶ It urges government to conduct research on root causes



Data modelling (defecit)

Goals for young people	Measures
I experience more connectivity and liveability in my neighbourhoods and cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of young people who regularly cycle or walk Proportion of young people who report they can access services, supports and local amenities in their local community
I have more capacity to influence and adapt to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of young people involved in decision making on environmental issues, climate change and disaster preparedness and recovery

Goals for young people	Measures
I have more equitable access to locally available and culturally responsive services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of young people who report having access to safe (including age-appropriate and culturally safe) services that they need Proportion of young people who feel they can make a complaint about a service if needed
Services are better coordinated and tailored to my needs and circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of young people who feel satisfied that the services they received met their needs and circumstances
I am more involved in designing, delivering, leading and evaluating services, policies and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of young people who are clients of services and who are involved in co-design or decision making with service providers Proportion of services that have involved the voice of young people with lived experience in the design, delivery, governance and evaluation of services, policies and programs

challenges

rough sleeping	graffiti	property damage
Theft	AoD harm	FV harm
disruptive behaviour	major incidents	out of home care

Cost

		no data since 2003
		about \$442 million per year to Melbourne alone
		about a trillion a year for VIC - can model lifetime costs for one year of OoHC leaves in Melbourne alone at \$6.3 trillion

Frequency

		4674 (assuming we have similar rates to Geelong)

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 9:05 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 20:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Collins Street Precinct Group - Luke Harris, President



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.5

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

The Collins Street Precinct Group who represents close to 400 asset owners and businesses in the CBD supports the motion tabled regarding safe city cameras.

The cameras are a vital component of safety measures in the city which are needed to ensure that the city is a safe place for people to come to visit, do business, be entertained and live.

Cameras have been instrumental in providing support to reduce crime and apprehend offenders in the city of crime which has impacted many members.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Sunday, 30 November 2025 10:11 PM

Submitted on Sun, 30/11/2025 - 22:08

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

John Kavanagh



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(226.62 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Submission

Future Melbourne Committee Meeting 2 December 2025

Agenda item 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding

- The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek strongly supports actions set out in the report to increase public open space in the Macaulay precinct.
- The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek supports Council's "continued advocacy for resolution and progress for acquisition of land for future open space by application of Public Acquisition Overlay(s) (PAO)" (Point 32).
- Given the large increases in population that are presently occurring in Macaulay precinct with the apartment developments in Stubbs St and Macaulay Rd, Kensington and given the limited options for significantly increasing open space in the Macaulay precinct (cf Attachment 1 of the report), it would be short-sighted not to also consider acquisition of land in the adjacent Arden urban renewal area "just across the Creek".
- "Just across the Creek" includes the land along Langford St, North Melbourne, predominantly unbuilt on, and designated as Integrated Water Management Open Space (IWMOS) under the approved Arden Structure Plan.
e.g.



- Thus the FMC report Recommendation 10 should encompass a wider area for provision of future open space for the Macaulay precinct -

*10.1. Request management investigate a separate planning scheme amendment that seeks to apply the Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) to land within the Macaulay Urban Renewal Precinct **and adjacent Arden Urban Renewal Area** that is not owned or managed by Council and is identified as future open space; and provide a report back to this Committee by April 2026.*

John Kavanagh
President
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
PO Box 1092
Moonee Ponds VIC 3139
www.mooneepondscreek.org.au

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 3:46 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Kate Kennedy



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

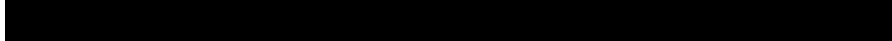
6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay and 6.6, 6.7, 6.9,6.12

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

As this submission address 5 agenda items, I ask if the submission be circulated to councillors in relation to each of the items:

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay, 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding, 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street), 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan, 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29,

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(146.81 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Submission on agenda items 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.12 in relation to Macaulay open space and safety matters

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

There are five reports on the agenda directly relating to Macaulay open space. We have not had time to adequately consider each of these reports.

They are:

- 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay
(A recommendation to refer the amendment to a planning panel.)
- 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding
(A recommendation to investigate public acquisition overlays for land identified as future open space but not owned by council, and to advocate to the Victorian Government to again request the finalisation and release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.)
- 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street)
(A recommendation to finalise a community lease arrangement for the land but not to acquire it, and to not commence the concept plan until after both the amendment C417 and Macaulay flood modelling and drainage infrastructure work led by Melbourne Water are complete.)
- 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan
(A recommendation to approve the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for public consultation, with no specificity about Macaulay open space.)
- 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29
(A recommendation to endorse the Advocacy and Partnerships Plan without public consultation, and without a single mention of Macaulay.)

Read together, these five reports and recommendations reveal that the Council is choosing amendment C417 as the one and only viable solution for securing open space at scale in Macaulay, no matter how long that amendment takes, and that there is no significant pressure being placed on the Victorian Government to allow for that land to be secured in any other way. They show that if C417 fails in any way, there is no alternative plan.

Most disappointingly, the report on Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding (item 6.6) has repeated the error of the 18 March 2025 report: it has failed to provide **options to acquire the drainage land** as requested by the Future Melbourne Committee on 9 July 2024 (and repeated on 18 March 2025).

Instead, the report offers the investigation of a public acquisition overlay on all land marked as future open space which is not owned or managed by Council, and to consider yet another report in April 2026. But this recommendation is immediately negated by the next report (item 6.7), which recommends against Council acquiring the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road.

The report (item 6.6) also reveals that “an infrastructure priority list and detailed cashflow modelling is being developed” but will not be completed until after Amendment C417 is finalised, *and* until after Melbourne Water has completed an analysis of drainage infrastructure requirements.

The lack of urgency about this matter, and the introduction of new hurdles every time the matter returns to Council with an update, is a slow tragedy in the making. The new populations have arrived. The open space has not only failed to arrive, it is now likely to be delivered substantially later than previously expected, if at all.

Where is the Council’s advocacy to the Victorian Government? Why will sending another letter to the Minister for Planning asking where the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan is up to possibly succeed, when the last six years’ worth of polite letters have produced precisely nothing?

We submit the following in relation to the five reports:

In relation to item 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay

- The recommended change to the amendment to specify that the Macaulay DCP introduced via C417 is “part A” of a two-part approach is supported **only on the understanding that the Council does not intend to delay the purchase and upgrade of the drainage land** by insisting on waiting for a “part B” amendment to be prepared and completed. We seek an assurance about this.
- The other elements are supported and we urge the council to expedite the final stages of the amendment process.

In relation to item 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure

- The recommendation to investigate a separate planning scheme amendment that seeks to apply the public acquisition overlay to land within the Macaulay area (that is not owned or managed by council but is identified as future open space) is supported subject to:
 - The Council being confident that this exercise will not in any way impede other attempts to secure control of the drainage land, e.g. by way of Ministerial

- intervention, land swap, direct negotiation with VicTrack for a community lease in the interim, etc;
- The Council being confident that this exercise will not impede the expeditious completion of amendment C417, e.g. should the panel argue that the proposed setback controls on private land for linear open space parallel to the creek not be finalised until the Council's investigation of public acquisition overlays has been completed, etc; and
- Clarity about the compatibility of this recommendation with the paper for item 6.7 which states that the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road should *not* be acquired.
- Letters to the Planning Minister to finalise and release the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan are obviously not working. We seek clarity on which much more substantial actions can be taken to resolve this matter. There is a state election in less than twelve months.

In relation to item 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (south of Macaulay Rd)

- We note that the original ambition of the Future Melbourne Committee to consult on the concept plan in FY25-26 (paragraph 15) is now recommended to be delayed until at least FY26-27.
- The update about the community lease does not specify when the lease was applied for. We seek clarity about whether this report is referring to the 2019 application or a subsequent application, noting that the Council's website states that: "In 2019 the City of Melbourne applied for a community lease for Lot 110 and Lot 72. Following a number of delays, VicTrack responded in 2022 advising that Lot 72 is unavailable and that Lot 110 is not available for community lease and a land transfer would be subject to further review and investigation."
- If the report does still refer to the 2019 application, we seek substantially more information about the true reasons for delay in resolving the matter.

In relation to item 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

- There are no planned projects in the 'north-west' (where Macaulay is located) within the next four years to 'provide' (build) public open space other than completing the Chelmsford Street open space project.
- Beyond the next four years the "ideas for consideration" include "Increasing and improving open space, as identified in the Open Space Strategy, Macaulay Structure Plan and Arden Structure Plan." There is no specific mention of any of the locations set out in the Macaulay Structure Plan; the vague need for open space generally is merely an 'idea to consider'.
- You have already consulted the Kensington and North Melbourne communities about infrastructure priorities in Macaulay, through the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan (2010-12), amendment C190 (2012-18), Macaulay Structure Plan Refresh (2019-21), and amendment C417 (2022-25). We therefore ask that you not ignore these 15

continuous years of community consultation by endorsing a draft infrastructure plan that ignores the findings of that consultation, reducing council's open space ambitions for Macaulay.

- We request that councillors add the following to the plan *before and not after* community consultation, in the list of planned projects (next four years) on page 50 of 64: “7. Complete open space infrastructure planning and funding mechanisms for all other **open space projects identified in the Macaulay Structure Plan**. (Plan)”

In relation to item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

- The recommendation is to adopt the plan without consultation. This is despite the transport theme excluding mention of the endorsed advocacy position on Racecourse Road, and the waterways theme excluding mention of specific proposals to secure and upgrade the drainage and public open space abutting Moonee Ponds Creek, or to give effect to the endorsed advocacy position about the creek.
- We request that, if the plan is not going to be consulted on, the following highest priority amendments be made by councillors:
 - Add a specific outcome to the transport theme to give effect to the FMC [resolution of 15 July 2015](#): “Urgently commit to investigate and implement safety and accessibility improvements to Racecourse Road identified in the Racecourse Road Strategic Improvements Plan Advocacy Plan”.
 - Add a specific outcome to the waterways theme to give effect to the [Moonee Ponds Creek Joint Statement](#): “Unlock Moonee Ponds Creek to support our fast-growing community, by immediately releasing the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan to create a clear governance and funding pathway to deliver critical projects, and by reinstating the Moonee Ponds Creek trail in Docklands.”

Thank you,

Dr Kate Kennedy

Chair, Kensington Association

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Sunday, 30 November 2025 10:23 PM

Submitted on Sun, 30/11/2025 - 22:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

John Kavanagh

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Rd to Arden St) and control of land

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (204.56 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Submission

Future Melbourne Committee Meeting 2 December 2025

Agenda item 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden St and control of land

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (established 1989) has as one of its long-standing aims the formation of a linear park along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

The Friends of Moonee Ponds and local community have for twenty+ years promoted and participated in the revegetation of the Creek embankment between Macaulay Rd and Arden St, (the so-called 'Kensington Embankment') through projects supported by Melbourne Water and the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration Committee in doing so creating an established biodiversity and habitat corridor, also enjoyed by local residents for its open space amenity.



The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek therefore strongly endorses the Recommendations in this report for Council, particularly:

- The application by Council to take a community lease of the embankment corridor (Lots 72 and 110) from VicTrack
- Formalise community access, both over the levee from Bent St, and from the southern end at Lloyd St
- Commencement of the Moonee Ponds Creek Linear Park concept plan
- Release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan by the State Government and roundtable discussion to unlock open space to support the needs of the increasing population in the precinct.

John Kavanagh
President
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
PO Box 1092
Moonee Ponds VIC 3139
www.mooneepondscreek.org.au

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 3:46 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Kate Kennedy



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay and 6.6, 6.7, 6.9,6.12

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

As this submission address 5 agenda items, I ask if the submission be circulated to councillors in relation to each of the items:

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay, 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding, 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street), 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan, 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29,

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(146.81 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Submission on agenda items 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.12 in relation to Macaulay open space and safety matters

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

There are five reports on the agenda directly relating to Macaulay open space. We have not had time to adequately consider each of these reports.

They are:

- 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay
(A recommendation to refer the amendment to a planning panel.)
- 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding
(A recommendation to investigate public acquisition overlays for land identified as future open space but not owned by council, and to advocate to the Victorian Government to again request the finalisation and release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.)
- 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street)
(A recommendation to finalise a community lease arrangement for the land but not to acquire it, and to not commence the concept plan until after both the amendment C417 and Macaulay flood modelling and drainage infrastructure work led by Melbourne Water are complete.)
- 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan
(A recommendation to approve the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for public consultation, with no specificity about Macaulay open space.)
- 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29
(A recommendation to endorse the Advocacy and Partnerships Plan without public consultation, and without a single mention of Macaulay.)

Read together, these five reports and recommendations reveal that the Council is choosing amendment C417 as the one and only viable solution for securing open space at scale in Macaulay, no matter how long that amendment takes, and that there is no significant pressure being placed on the Victorian Government to allow for that land to be secured in any other way. They show that if C417 fails in any way, there is no alternative plan.

Most disappointingly, the report on Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding (item 6.6) has repeated the error of the 18 March 2025 report: it has failed to provide **options to acquire the drainage land** as requested by the Future Melbourne Committee on 9 July 2024 (and repeated on 18 March 2025).

Instead, the report offers the investigation of a public acquisition overlay on all land marked as future open space which is not owned or managed by Council, and to consider yet another report in April 2026. But this recommendation is immediately negated by the next report (item 6.7), which recommends against Council acquiring the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road.

The report (item 6.6) also reveals that “an infrastructure priority list and detailed cashflow modelling is being developed” but will not be completed until after Amendment C417 is finalised, *and* until after Melbourne Water has completed an analysis of drainage infrastructure requirements.

The lack of urgency about this matter, and the introduction of new hurdles every time the matter returns to Council with an update, is a slow tragedy in the making. The new populations have arrived. The open space has not only failed to arrive, it is now likely to be delivered substantially later than previously expected, if at all.

Where is the Council’s advocacy to the Victorian Government? Why will sending another letter to the Minister for Planning asking where the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan is up to possibly succeed, when the last six years’ worth of polite letters have produced precisely nothing?

We submit the following in relation to the five reports:

In relation to item 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay

- The recommended change to the amendment to specify that the Macaulay DCP introduced via C417 is “part A” of a two-part approach is supported **only on the understanding that the Council does not intend to delay the purchase and upgrade of the drainage land** by insisting on waiting for a “part B” amendment to be prepared and completed. We seek an assurance about this.
- The other elements are supported and we urge the council to expedite the final stages of the amendment process.

In relation to item 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure

- The recommendation to investigate a separate planning scheme amendment that seeks to apply the public acquisition overlay to land within the Macaulay area (that is not owned or managed by council but is identified as future open space) is supported subject to:
 - The Council being confident that this exercise will not in any way impede other attempts to secure control of the drainage land, e.g. by way of Ministerial

- intervention, land swap, direct negotiation with VicTrack for a community lease in the interim, etc;
- The Council being confident that this exercise will not impede the expeditious completion of amendment C417, e.g. should the panel argue that the proposed setback controls on private land for linear open space parallel to the creek not be finalised until the Council's investigation of public acquisition overlays has been completed, etc; and
- Clarity about the compatibility of this recommendation with the paper for item 6.7 which states that the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road should *not* be acquired.
- Letters to the Planning Minister to finalise and release the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan are obviously not working. We seek clarity on which much more substantial actions can be taken to resolve this matter. There is a state election in less than twelve months.

In relation to item 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (south of Macaulay Rd)

- We note that the original ambition of the Future Melbourne Committee to consult on the concept plan in FY25-26 (paragraph 15) is now recommended to be delayed until at least FY26-27.
- The update about the community lease does not specify when the lease was applied for. We seek clarity about whether this report is referring to the 2019 application or a subsequent application, noting that the Council's website states that: "In 2019 the City of Melbourne applied for a community lease for Lot 110 and Lot 72. Following a number of delays, VicTrack responded in 2022 advising that Lot 72 is unavailable and that Lot 110 is not available for community lease and a land transfer would be subject to further review and investigation."
- If the report does still refer to the 2019 application, we seek substantially more information about the true reasons for delay in resolving the matter.

In relation to item 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

- There are no planned projects in the 'north-west' (where Macaulay is located) within the next four years to 'provide' (build) public open space other than completing the Chelmsford Street open space project.
- Beyond the next four years the "ideas for consideration" include "Increasing and improving open space, as identified in the Open Space Strategy, Macaulay Structure Plan and Arden Structure Plan." There is no specific mention of any of the locations set out in the Macaulay Structure Plan; the vague need for open space generally is merely an 'idea to consider'.
- You have already consulted the Kensington and North Melbourne communities about infrastructure priorities in Macaulay, through the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan (2010-12), amendment C190 (2012-18), Macaulay Structure Plan Refresh (2019-21), and amendment C417 (2022-25). We therefore ask that you not ignore these 15

continuous years of community consultation by endorsing a draft infrastructure plan that ignores the findings of that consultation, reducing council's open space ambitions for Macaulay.

- We request that councillors add the following to the plan *before and not after* community consultation, in the list of planned projects (next four years) on page 50 of 64: “7. Complete open space infrastructure planning and funding mechanisms for all other **open space projects identified in the Macaulay Structure Plan**. (Plan)”

In relation to item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

- The recommendation is to adopt the plan without consultation. This is despite the transport theme excluding mention of the endorsed advocacy position on Racecourse Road, and the waterways theme excluding mention of specific proposals to secure and upgrade the drainage and public open space abutting Moonee Ponds Creek, or to give effect to the endorsed advocacy position about the creek.
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 - Add a specific outcome to the waterways theme to give effect to the [Moonee Ponds Creek Joint Statement](#): “Unlock Moonee Ponds Creek to support our fast-growing community, by immediately releasing the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan to create a clear governance and funding pathway to deliver critical projects, and by reinstating the Moonee Ponds Creek trail in Docklands.”

Thank you,

Dr Kate Kennedy

Chair, Kensington Association

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 24 November 2025 9:04 PM

Submitted on Mon, 24/11/2025 - 21:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Toby Robinson



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.8 Chapman Street Reserve expansion final concept plan

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

I would like to share with Council my unweaving support for this project and encourage you to support the motion. This project demonstrates a high-quality public realm outcome, undertaken with a thorough and well considered design and public consultation methodolgy. My thanks to the officers involved in preparing the plans and I wish Council every success in the devliery of this fantastic project. A genuine improvement for the community of North Melbourne.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Sunday, 30 November 2025 2:53 PM

Submitted on Sun, 30/11/2025 - 14:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Julian O'Shea



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Chapman St Reserve

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

I strongly welcome the expansion of green spaces and parks in this neighborhood. This is a positive project and as a local resident, I strongly support it. The positive impacts of more green spaces, shade, environmental and biodiversity, and amenity are the major benefits.

This proposal has limited impacts on parking. I would welcome the removal of even more street parking, to make the streets safer (fewer car movements), reduce emissions, promote more sustainable forms of transport, and allow more green space. The goals of sustainable cities should be a trend towards the reduction of surface car parks.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 3:46 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

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Yes

Your details

Contact details

Kate Kennedy



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay and 6.6, 6.7, 6.9,6.12

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Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(146.81 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Submission on agenda items 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.12 in relation to Macaulay open space and safety matters

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(A recommendation to refer the amendment to a planning panel.)
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(A recommendation to investigate public acquisition overlays for land identified as future open space but not owned by council, and to advocate to the Victorian Government to again request the finalisation and release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.)
- 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street)
(A recommendation to finalise a community lease arrangement for the land but not to acquire it, and to not commence the concept plan until after both the amendment C417 and Macaulay flood modelling and drainage infrastructure work led by Melbourne Water are complete.)
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In relation to item 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (south of Macaulay Rd)

- We note that the original ambition of the Future Melbourne Committee to consult on the concept plan in FY25-26 (paragraph 15) is now recommended to be delayed until at least FY26-27.
- The update about the community lease does not specify when the lease was applied for. We seek clarity about whether this report is referring to the 2019 application or a subsequent application, noting that the Council's website states that: "In 2019 the City of Melbourne applied for a community lease for Lot 110 and Lot 72. Following a number of delays, VicTrack responded in 2022 advising that Lot 72 is unavailable and that Lot 110 is not available for community lease and a land transfer would be subject to further review and investigation."
- If the report does still refer to the 2019 application, we seek substantially more information about the true reasons for delay in resolving the matter.

In relation to item 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

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continuous years of community consultation by endorsing a draft infrastructure plan that ignores the findings of that consultation, reducing council's open space ambitions for Macaulay.

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In relation to item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

- The recommendation is to adopt the plan without consultation. This is despite the transport theme excluding mention of the endorsed advocacy position on Racecourse Road, and the waterways theme excluding mention of specific proposals to secure and upgrade the drainage and public open space abutting Moonee Ponds Creek, or to give effect to the endorsed advocacy position about the creek.
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 - Add a specific outcome to the waterways theme to give effect to the [Moonee Ponds Creek Joint Statement](#): “Unlock Moonee Ponds Creek to support our fast-growing community, by immediately releasing the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan to create a clear governance and funding pathway to deliver critical projects, and by reinstating the Moonee Ponds Creek trail in Docklands.”

Thank you,

Dr Kate Kennedy

Chair, Kensington Association

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Sunday, 30 November 2025 6:04 PM

Submitted on Sun, 30/11/2025 - 17:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Matthew Sykes
[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.10 Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (215.4 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

Swimmable Cities SUBMISSION: CoM swimmable Birrarung report, Dec 2025

Congratulations to the Lord Mayor for the significant progress towards a swimmable Birrarung / Yarra River; building upon the Melbourne 2050 Summit and Peoples Panel, Cr David Griffiths' original motion, and this Report led by colleagues Elise, Krista and Evan.

As someone who has worked in our local urban swimming and nature rights movements since 2018, it's exciting to see a transition taking place, from advocacy to delivery.

The City of Melbourne becoming a lead Actor in the movement is very important, because it is inspiring greater care, engagement and investment in the Birrarung by a greater diversity of actors. Collectively, we are reinvigorating an ancient Birrarung swimming culture that originates and continues with our First Peoples, and connects with iconic swimming events from the 1980s, Yarra Swim's proposed activation at Enterprize Park, the famed Yarra Yabbies and a group of champions called Advocates for a Swimmable Yarra River / Birrarung.

The movement now includes a growing youth voice, as demonstrated by the success of the inaugural Birrarung Floating Youth Summit, which was kindly supported by the City of Melbourne as part of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association's Birrarung Riverfest.

Responding to the Report:

The plan to identify three pilot locations for waterfront swimming activation are BIG STEPS because they fit into a BIGGER 2050 vision.

This vision is for a 'BIG SWIM' project - like Victoria's BIG BUILD infrastructure, only BLUE! (or should I say clay brown?!) The BIG SWIM masterplan involves a corridor of public swim sites from Deep Rock in Abbotsford to the Docklands and Bay; eventually extending along the Maribyrnong River. It has the potential to become one of the transformational projects within the Victorian Government's Burndap Birrarung, burndap umarkoo / Yarra Strategic Plan – just like the Birrarung Valley Walk from source to sea.

Related to the proposed Coalition:

As the Co-Founder of Swimmable Cities, again, I warmly invite the City of Melbourne to join the City of Yarra, City of Paris and London, as a municipal signatory to the Swimmable Cities Charter.

Internationally, we're seeing outstanding examples of transboundary, whole of catchment cooperation – from the Great Lakes of Canada and the USA, to the Guanabara Bay of Rio de Janeiro.

So, I also encourage the Lord Mayor to proactively invite other Mayors along the Birrarung, and Maribyrnong, to also sign the Charter because Melbourne's BIG SWIM calls for a team effort.

Related to plans to Celebrate & Activate:

Let's start with Moomba!

- The City of Melbourne should partner with other Actors in the movement to create a swimmable Birrarung-themed float in this year's Moomba Parade.
- The Lord Mayor should lead a BIG SPLASH into the Birrarung to celebrate World Water Day.
- We can finish at Fed Square's BIG SCREEN, with a showing of the BIG SWIM short documentary and a panel discussion featuring the Lord Mayor.

Related to Cleaning our Stormwater

The 'swimmability' of the Birrarung links well with values expressed by Cr Camillo - clean streets and civic pride. Along with water quality, 'swimmability' also calls for positive improvements to public health, biodiversity, social equity and economic vitality.

For this reason, I encourage the City of Melbourne to consider the links between this swimmable Birrarung work and the opportunity for a city-wide Water Strategy, as identified during the Melbourne 2050 Peoples Panel. This is vital to recognising the true value of what the Birrarung and other waterways bring to Melbourne, as part of our Natural Capital and Blue Economy.

Wrapping Up

As we prepare for this next stage in our deepening relationship with the Birrarung, and we look ahead to Moomba in March, Birrarung Riverfest in September and the State Election in November; I want you to know that you are not alone.

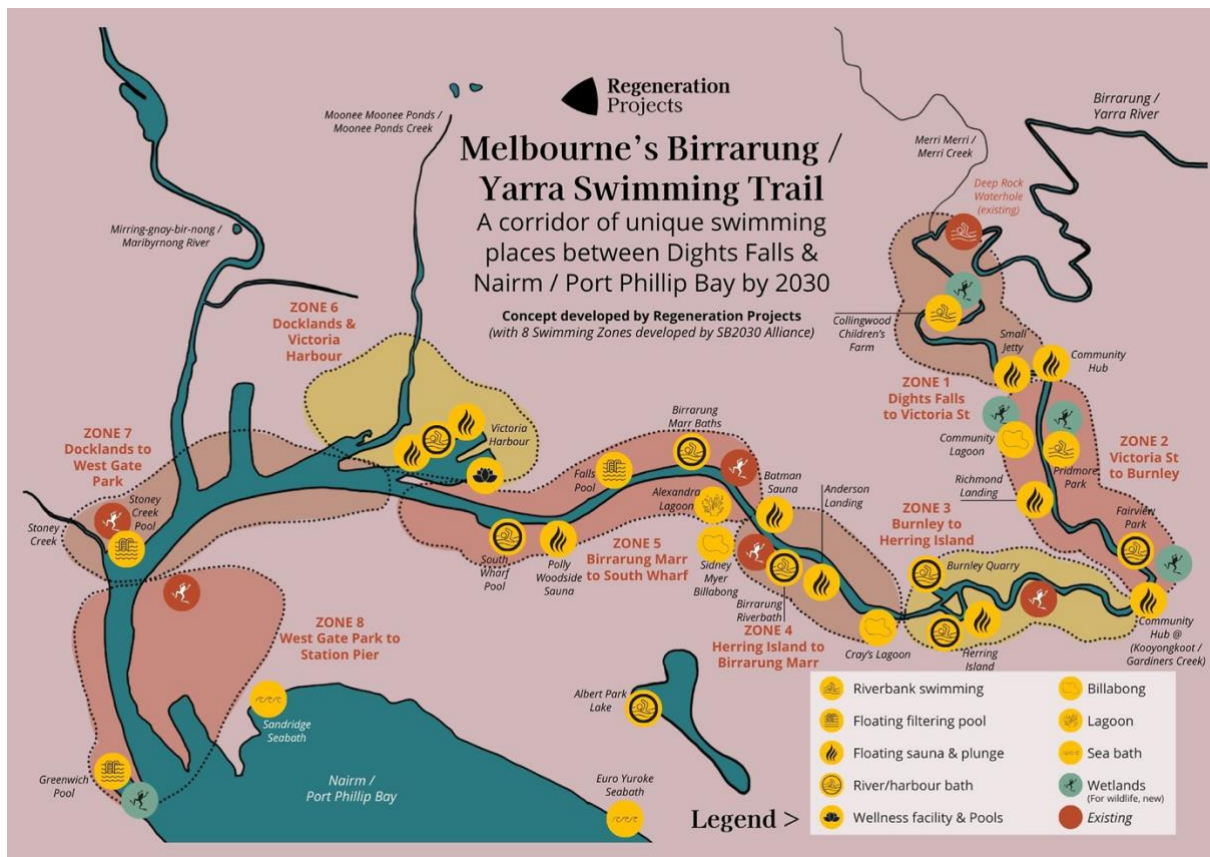
There is a local and global Swimmable Cities movement, spread across over 100 cities and 35 countries - we will be swimming, splashing and paddling with you the whole way.

Ngun godjin / Thank you.

Matthew Sykes, Co-Founder & Lead Advisor to Cities, Swimmable Cities



Appendix:



Birrarung BIG SWIM Trail

Source: <https://www.walktalkswimbirrarung.com/>

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 6:42 AM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 06:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Lauren Rickards



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(63.05 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



1 December, 2025
La Trobe Climate Change Adaptation Lab
La Trobe University, 360 Collins St, Melbourne

Dear City of Melbourne,

Re: Swimmable Birrarung

I am writing as an expert in climate change adaptation, a member of Regen Melbourne's Research Council and a Melbournian to congratulate the City of Melbourne on its internal report about a Swimmable Birrarung and urge it to adopt its recommendations.

Working towards a Swimmable Birrarung is a smart way to progress multiple climate change adaptation goals across the natural environment, built environment, water and community domains. To reduce the impacts of climate change, it is vital to tackle existing vulnerabilities such as water pollution and public disconnection from nature. At the same time, the stresses that climate change is introducing – including hotter, drier conditions, extreme rainfall events and strained social cohesion – demand intelligent, multi-dimensional adaptation solutions. The Swimmable Birrarung program of work is an outstanding example of an adaptation pathway to reduce serious, compounding impacts and generate far-reaching adaptation benefits, and would place the City of Melbourne as an international adaptation leader.

Vital to such work is boundary-crossing collaboration. As the internal report indicates, the City is in a unique position to facilitate a coalition of actors across business, community, academia and government institutions. In doing so, I encourage it to build on the sophisticated work that Regen Melbourne has already undertaken in this area. As an independent non-profit organisation that has built strong trusting relationships with a wide variety of relevant groups, Regen Melbourne is best positioned to harness this on behalf of the city we love.

I also note that the work involved in Swimmable Birrarung is a great opportunity for innovative, applied interdisciplinary research. This would not only help ensure the program is effective but could document the journey at the City to help share it with the rest of the world and inspire others to take the same approach.

I look forward to supporting this work in any way I can.

Kind regards,



Professor Lauren Rickards
Director, La Trobe Climate Change Adaptation Lab

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 11:45 AM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 08:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Janet Bolitho

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.10 Delivering a swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (262.6 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

Submission from the Yarra Riverkeeper Association

Agenda item 6.10 Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Future Melbourne Committee – 2 December 2025

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA) welcomes the City of Melbourne's paper *Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung* and congratulates Council for its leadership in advancing this bold and transformative vision for the river. We strongly support the Lord Mayor signing the Swimmable Cities Charter and commend the Council for taking an active role in catalysing the partnerships and actions needed to restore the Birrarung to a healthy, swimmable state.

1. A bold, hopeful and unifying vision

The ambition for a swimmable Birrarung is a powerful proposition, one that inspires the community to see the river not as a degraded urban waterway, but as a living, treasured place that can be healed through collective effort. This vision has already captured the public imagination, and its potential to galvanise positive, hopeful action and revitalise the river should not be underestimated.

YRKA acknowledges the 2050 target identified in the report and encourages Council and its partners to explore opportunities for greater ambition. We support the proposed coalition in assessing what is needed to advance this timeline, utilising global examples where decisive leadership has accelerated river restoration

.YRKA: the community's independent voice for the river

As the independent community advocate for the Birrarung, YRKA has been the trusted voice for the river for over 20 years. We provide a vital link between the community, decision-makers and the river itself. Our work includes:

- A **20-year history of successful advocacy** for a healthy, protected river, including support for the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017 and the restoration of environmental flows.
- Being among the **early champions of the Swimmable Birrarung** movement, in collaboration with the Advocates for a Swimmable Birrarung, a group formed in 2024, including Regeneration Projects, Regen Melbourne, Birrarung Bathers, Yarra Pools and others.
- Frequent media engagement **advocating for a swimmable river** and river protection, including only two weeks ago -

The Yarra, Birrarung

Healthy, Protected and Loved

✉ Info@yarrariver.org.au  yarrariver.org.au



“Fifty years ago the Yarra was thought of as a joke - people said it was brown and dirty. Well it’s not like that any more, it’s much better than it was. We need the next generational shift, which is towards swimmability”

Janet Bolitho, YRKA President, 22 Nov 2025, The Age newspaper

- Presenting the rapidly growing **Birrarung Riverfest**, now in its third year, which in September 2025 featured **76 events** along the river and achieved a media reach of **4.7 million+** (21million+ over two years).
- Deep **connections across the catchment**, including leadership roles within the Urban Waterways Alliance (UWA) and the Concerned Waterway Alliance (CWA).

With this reach, credibility and convening capacity, YRKA is the key community organisation positioned to support and strengthen Council’s vision for a swimmable river.

2. Birrarung Riverfest: the ideal platform for community engagement

Riverfest is already delivering exactly what Recommendation 8.5 (and 27.1) calls for: a **large-scale, diverse, accessible community engagement program centred on connection to the river**. Its growing success demonstrates that:

- the public’s appetite for engaging with the river is strong and expanding
- YRKA has the unique capacity to activate community interest across the entire river corridor
- Riverfest is strategically positioned to become the flagship community engagement mechanism for the Swimmable Birrarung vision

Riverfest reaches audiences that Council alone cannot - schools, families, corporate volunteers, river users, cultural groups, sports clubs, waterway NGOs, Traditional Owner organisations and the broader public. Its model is collaborative, distributed and scalable, making it an ideal hub for amplifying Council’s engagement objectives and embedding swimmability as a shared civic goal.

This is why YRKA sees Riverfest not simply as an event, but as the **logical and high-impact vehicle for long-term community engagement** aligned with Council’s ambitions.

The Yarra, Birrarung

Healthy, Protected and Loved

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3. Representation in the proposed coalition (Recommendation 8.4)

For a Swimmable Birrarung to succeed, it is essential that the longstanding NGO champions of this vision, including YRKA, are represented in the proposed coalition. We therefore request that YRKA, be formally included in the coalition's membership to ensure that community knowledge, expectations and values are integrated into decision-making.

4. Community engagement partnership (Recommendation 8.5)

Ongoing community engagement is vital to shaping public understanding, strengthening cultural connection and building long-term support for a swimmable Birrarung.

YRKA is a natural partner for the City of Melbourne in this work. We offer to collaborate with Council through:

- **City of Melbourne sponsorship of Birrarung Riverfest** and its extensive program of community-facing events. (YRKA has already provided Council with Riverfest's partnership prospectus. View our 2025 Riverfest Report [here](#) or view this [1 minute reel](#) for a quick snapshot)
- Co-delivery of **public engagement activities**, including our proposed Community Water Summit at Federation Square in 2026.
- Exploration of a significant community swim or water-engagement activation (A Big Swim event).
- YRKA's year-round community activities on the lower Birrarung, including guided educational tours on the YRKA boat, litter clean-ups, presentations and school programs (aligning with Action 27.1).

Together, these partnerships build the community connection, understanding and momentum essential for achieving a swimmable Birrarung.

5. Stormwater, litter and construction-site pollution (Recommendation 8.6)

YRKA strongly supports the report's emphasis on stormwater management, which aligns with our major advocacy and education priorities.

- **Setting water quality targets and preparing a new Stormwater Management Plan** are essential steps towards a swimmable river.

The Yarra, Birrarung

Healthy, Protected and Loved

✉ Info@yarrariver.org.au  yarrariver.org.au



- We endorse **proposed action 30.2** to strengthen construction-site compliance. YRKA's [2025 Polystyrene Pollution Report](#) identified construction sites as a major contributor of polystyrene pollution in the Birrarung.
- We strongly support **proposed action 30.4**, linking litter behaviour to the vision of a swimmable river. Last financial year, YRKA delivered **48 litter clean-ups with 848 participants**, and we would be pleased to extend this work in partnership with Council through joint education and community action programs.

These actions are critical to improving water quality and reducing the pollutants that currently prevent safe public swimming.

6. Conclusion

The City of Melbourne's leadership is both timely and deeply appreciated. A swimmable Birrarung is achievable but will require ambition, collaboration and community involvement at every stage. YRKA stands ready to partner with the City of Melbourne, not only as an advocate, but as a trusted conduit to the community and a leader in river protection.

In closing, YRKA asks Council to:

1. **Include YRKA in the proposed coalition (Recommendation 8.4);**
2. **Partner with YRKA to deliver community engagement through Birrarung Riverfest and related programs (Recommendation 8.5); and**
3. **Prioritise strong stormwater, construction-site compliance and litter-reduction actions essential to achieving a swimmable river (Recommendation 8.6).**

We thank Council for its commitment to this vital work and look forward to contributing to the shared journey toward a healthy, swimmable Birrarung.

Yarra Riverkeeper Association

2 December 2025

The Yarra, Birrarung

Healthy, Protected and Loved

✉ Info@yarrariver.org.au  yarrariver.org.au



From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 11:51 AM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 11:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Charity Mosienyane



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.10 Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(509.35 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

1 December 2025

Dear Lord Mayor & Councillors,

Re: Response to City of Melbourne investigation to deliver a Swimmable Birrarung

Regen Melbourne would like to congratulate the City of Melbourne (CoM) on the outcomes of the investigation to deliver a Swimmable Birrarung by 2050. We note that the Future Melbourne Committee is scheduled to consider management's report at its meeting on 2 December 2025, and decide on next steps for furthering Council's commitment to a Swimmable Birrarung.

This is a significant moment for Melbourne that builds on decades of work by community groups, advocacy groups and government agencies. A Swimmable Birrarung is a clean, healthy and thriving one. Regen Melbourne strongly supports management's recommendations and we are committed to partnering with you to achieve this ambitious goal. We look forward to continuing to work with CoM, and the hundreds of passionate advocates and community members who share our vision for a Birrarung that we can all be proud of, as the lifeblood of our city. We know that your commitment to making the river swimmable by 2050 will have ripple effects across the various local and state government departments that share responsibility for achieving this vision and unlock a new way of collaborating and implementing catchment scale solutions for the good of the Birrarung. After all, Burndap Birrarung, Burndap Umarkoo: *'What's good for Birrarung, is good for all.'*

Regen Melbourne supports the recommendations that have been made by CoM and we offer the following input:

- **Stream A: initiate the coalition for a Swimmable Birrarung** – For a challenge this significant, a coalition of broad actors is important. This includes government institutions, businesses, leading researchers and community organisations. Successful swimmable urban waterways like Parramatta River (Sydney, Australia) and the Rhine River (Bern, Switzerland) are examples of the importance of bringing together diverse voices on the journey towards swimmability. Regen Melbourne has been convening a coalition of actors across the Yarra catchment for several years now to understand the challenges and the opportunities to regenerate our river so that it is healthy, thriving and swimmable again. We stand ready to galvanise this coalition in support of CoM's efforts and all the actors and stakeholders within the river catchment to make the Birrarung swimmable again.
- **Stream B: celebrate and activate the waterfront:** Reconnecting Melburnians and visitors to Melbourne to the Birrarung is a key component of the journey towards a healthy thriving river. Over the last five years, our work has shown that although the Wurrundjeri Woiworrung consider the Birrarung the lifeblood of Melbourne, many Melburnians are disconnected and do

not know the river. Activating the waterfront can be done through storytelling, arts and culture, swimming activations (as Paris trialled on the Seine), and sporting events like the Henley Rowing Regatta. There is an opportunity to highlight the importance of the river by leveraging key Melbourne events such as the Australian Tennis Open, Formula 1, Moomba Festival, Riverfest, Food & Wine Festival, RISING Festival and many more. These activations will centre the river. In collaboration with over 30 partners we have developed a portfolio of activities and interventions to bring people to the river. We'd welcome the opportunity to share these initiatives to support your activation strategy.

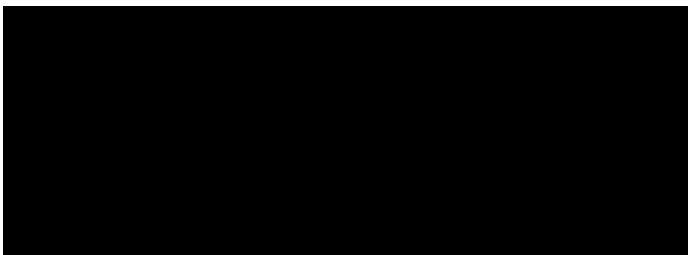
- **Stream C: clean the stormwater** - Stormwater is the major source of pollution into the Birrarung in the city reaches. Over the last five years, our work within the Birrarung's catchment has identified that a holistic understanding of pollution sources into the river is lacking. Understanding of pollution sources will require a whole of catchment approach by a coalition of government agencies and we welcome management's recommendations to develop water quality targets and a new Stormwater Management Plan. We will continue to advocate for government agencies such as Melbourne Water and the EPA to play an integral role in the pursuit of cleaning stormwater as the city reach is the 'end of line' for the river and therefore upstream interventions are just as important. Recently, we collaborated with CoM during Riverfest 2025, and co-hosted the 'Changing the Stormwater Conversation' which convened city shapers and decision makers working adjacent to the river to have a conversation about revaluing stormwater. This was a very successful event and we have been in conversation with CoM about extending this event to the wider public.

Regen Melbourne has been a convener of a diverse actors within the Yarra Catchment, facilitating connections between unusual actors and amplifying the key systemic issues and opportunities for a catchment wide response to make the city reaches of the Birrarung swimmable again. We have supported the CoM during their investigation and will continue to provide support towards this ambitious goal.

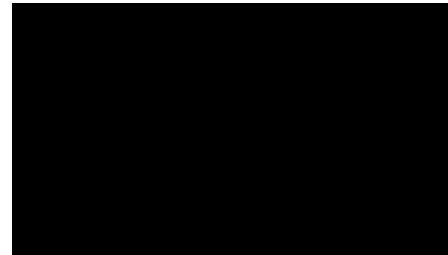
In particular, we see an opportunity to support CoM as a co-convenor of a formal coalition of actors working together towards swimmability. We look forward to working closely together to create a Swimmable Birrarung and a lasting legacy for generations to come.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting by our beautiful Birrarung | Yarra River.

With gratitude,



Kaj Löfgren
CEO



Charity Mosienyane
Lead Convenor, Swimmable Birrarung



From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 11:59 AM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 11:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Dean Campbell-Smith

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (16.48 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

I'm writing to support Council's investigation into making the Birrarung swimmable. As a Burnley resident and parent who's experienced swimmable urban waterways firsthand, I believe this is a truly exciting opportunity for Melbourne's future.

When my family lived in Stockholm for two years, we discovered what accessible, clean waterways really mean for daily life. As an Australian, I'd never swum as much as I did there.

Melbourne is getting hotter. We're seeing more frequent heatwaves and extreme heat days - having a swimmable river could really improve the livability of the city. Swimming in public pools or waterparks can be expensive for families but a swimmable river that's genuinely accessible to everyone, regardless of income would be amazing!

Everything we need to do to make the river swimmable also improves the broader environment. Better stormwater management, upgraded wastewater systems, restored vegetation along the banks – this helps the entire ecosystem. A healthy river means more biodiversity, better habitat for native species, improved water quality throughout the system, and natural flood mitigation. We get climate resilience, carbon sequestration, and urban cooling. And swimming!!!

I've been volunteering through the ACF with my daughter doing Birrarung revegetation. It's been a great way to meet neighbors and contribute to environmental issues locally. I believe efforts to improve the river will be great for the community and for environmental education. When we volunteer with my daughter and work on revegetation, we're also learning about place and Indigenous history.

I don't think we should wait until the water is perfect to start engaging people with the river. We should focus on the technical work to clean the river but also make it attractive and accessible right now to build public interest and support. I'm sure you have thought of all of this – but I feel it is worth saying and from my perspective, a swimmable Birrarung is such a popular idea – we should leverage it as much as possible!

I urge Council to fully support this investigation.

We have an amazing river running through our city. Making it swimmable would improve public health, restore environmental health, provide equitable access to cooling and build community connection.

Thank you for considering this submission.

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 12:22 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 11:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Cheryl Batagol



Your submission

Date of meeting

1953-03-08

Agenda item title

6.10 Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Dear Committee, as a previous Chair of Melbourne Water (2004-2009), Chair of the Environment Protection Authority Vic (EPA Vic) (2009-2020) and Chair of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, I have for decades now had an ambition to make the Birrarung swimmable. I congratulate the City of Melbourne team on their report strongly supporting a swimmable Birrarung and believe that the community also strongly supports this important initiative. I am now Chair of the Alluvium Group, an employee-owned environmental consultancy that has a strong focus on Integrated Water Management. From my long experience across my organisations, I know the issues of stormwater, litter and diffuse source pollutants emanating from the way we all use the Birrarung catchment, are major issues. These issues will need significant coordination amongst the many organisations that have statutory responsibility for these matters but also bring our stakeholders through understanding of the benefits, risks and sources of contamination that we must all collectively control in order to make the Birrarung swimmable. This will require significant facilitation. I note that Regen Melbourne has already been coordinating stakeholders and authorities towards that end. I would strongly

recommend that process continue with Regen as they know all the stakeholders well and have already "brought them into the tent" with aspirations developing strongly for a swimmable Birrarung. Melbourne is my home, my work and a place where my family and I spend valuable time, with the Birrarung central to our life. Again, I congratulate the City of Melbourne for their deep engagement on this issue. I am very happy to lean in on this aspiration to make the Birrarung swimmable and do all I can to influence towards that outcome.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 8:35 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 20:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Magnus Moglia

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.10 Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (83.65 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

1st December 2025
La Trobe University's Climate Change Adaptation Lab
La Trobe University, 360 Collins St, Melbourne

Dear City of Melbourne,

Re: Support of City of Swimmable Birrarung

I am writing as an expert in urban water, climate change adaptation, and nature-based solutions, and as Chair of the Regen Melbourne Research Council, to congratulate the City of Melbourne on its internal report on a Swimmable Birrarung and to urge the council to adopt its recommendations. Your support for this project is an exciting and critical milestone for our city.


A Swimmable Birrarung is a commendable goal for the council; important both symbolically and practically. The river, and its communities, as well as natural ecosystems stand to benefit greatly from this vision. We know that if the vision can be achieved, it will provide multiple benefits for:

- Ecology, such as:
 - Restore habitats for fish, birds, and reptiles.
 - Improve biodiversity
- Health, such as:
 - Reducing exposure to pollution and pathogens.
 - Improving physical and mental health.
- Economy:
 - Make Melbourne more attractive for skilled workers.
 - Provide a boost to the local economy.
- Social and cultural, such as:
 - Provide a sense of pride and identity.
 - Provide access to high quality public space.

A clean and healthy river will also strengthen Melbourne's resilience to climate change. Achieving this vision will require broad alliances across government, academia, industry, and community. Regen Melbourne, as an independent non-profit supported by philanthropy, is well placed to be a central partner in this work. They have built the networks, relationships, and knowledge base needed to support implementation. I also see strong potential for innovative systems-oriented research that both guides the program and shares Melbourne's journey with the world.

I look forward to supporting this work in any way I can.

With congratulations and respect,



Associate Professor Magnus Moglia
Deputy Director, La Trobe University Climate Change Adaptation Lab

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:07 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 09:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Oliver Pelling

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-03

Agenda item title

City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne – Swimmable Birrarung

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED] (165.14 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

1 December 2025

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Response to City of Melbourne investigation to deliver a Swimmable Birrarung.

GOOD&PROPER would like to congratulate the City of Melbourne (CoM) on the outcomes of the investigation to deliver a Swimmable Birrarung by 2050. We note that the Future Melbourne Committee is scheduled to consider management's report at its meeting on 2 December 2025, and decide on next steps for furthering Council's commitment to a Swimmable Birrarung.

My business works in the communications and PR space, and we have had the great privilege of supporting river-advocating organisations such as the Yarra Riverkeeper Association and Regen Melbourne over the last three years. During that time, we have been exposed to the incredible depth, breadth and history of work on regenerating the Yarra/Birrarung, and so many of the inspiring Melbournians who make that work possible.

GOOD&PROPER's role in this work has been primarily to help provide strategic communications support (eg. rebranding the YRKA's Riverfest event, supporting Regen Melbourne with communicating the Swimmable Birrarung on social media) as well as extensive media and PR support. The latter has seen us achieve wonderful results across all manner of media, and with the help of the organisations listed above we have been able to get this vision for a Swimmable Birrarung covered across the likes of Sunrise, Channel 7, Channel 9, The Today Show, The Herald Sun, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, the ABC, TimeOut and so many more besides.

That City of Melbourne is investigating the delivery of a Swimmable Birrarung by 2050 suggests to me that the Lord Mayor and Councillors understand the profound impact this goal, if achieved, would have on our city. Not only would it help restore essential biodiversity and rally a community around a singular, positive environmental goal from which we will all benefit; it will also help foster a deeper connection with nature and help reconnect generations of Melbournians with the very ecosystem we depend on. Not to mention the untold tourism and economic benefits – and the simple, accessible joy of all Melbournians being able to hop into the CBD section of the Yarra for a dip on their lunch breaks. In a world that is so overwhelming now, and with so many things out of our control – from climate, to geopolitics to technology – orienting ourselves locally around a wildly ambitious and fantastically tangible goal like this is the antidote we need.

Through our PR efforts for the river and its advocates, we have realised that there is already so much support for this movement out there. Editors and journalists want to publish and go deep on stories about regenerating, rebuilding and reconnecting. They want stories that

help them tap into the hope and opportunities of this moment. Readers and viewers, likewise, want to engage with stories that they can positively affect. They want answers and solutions they can see, touch and contribute to. People don't just want help through these times, they want to help through these times, and the promise of a Swimmable Birrarung by 2050 is something every Melbournian can contribute to, if they have capacity.


So much work has already been done for the Birrarung, from First Nations stewards, advocates and activists through to environmental advocacy groups, schools, non-profits and individuals taking it upon themselves to look after her. Our task now is to help organise this ambition into something coherent, so we can collectively deliver the Birrarung back to health, back to her Matriarchal strength, and back to beauty and abundance. The likes of YRKA and Regen Melbourne have taken great strides in this space in recent years, and a commitment from the City of Melbourne to continue exploring this potential exciting future state will help catalyse change and momentum at scale. After all, Burndap Birrarung, Burndap Umarkoo: *'What's good for Birrarung, is good for all.'*

We know that your commitment to making the river swimmable by 2050 will have ripple effects across the various local and state government departments that share responsibility for achieving this vision and unlock a new way of collaborating and implementing catchment scale solutions for the good of the Birrarung.

GOOD&PROPER would be thrilled to pledge our support and willingness to assist with any Birrarung-related comms, creative or media projects through 2026 and beyond. Myself and my team have developed our own relationships with the river over these past few years, and we are in awe of the many advocates we have already collaborated with. To be able to continue supporting their work, and the work of CoM, to bring the vision of a Swimmable Birrarung to as many Melbournians as we can reach would be a wonderful privilege. Supporting these types of projects is the reason my business exists, and we believe creative communications and emotive storytelling can help unlock more momentum and support for our beloved Birrarung.

Along with our friends YRKA (and Melbourne Water by association) and Regen Melbourne, we look forward to continuing to share the stories of the regeneration of the Birrarung with the people of Melbourne, and we're excited to meet and collaborate with more of the incredible organisations and individuals who have and will continue to lead this work. Burndap Birrarung, Burndap Umarkoo: *'What's good for Birrarung, is good for all.'*

With gratitude,


Oliver Pelling
Founder and Managing Director
GOOD&PROPER

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 6:48 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Perry Molloy



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.10 Delivering a Swimmable Birrarung

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Birrarung's health is critical to Melbourne's future - economically, socially and culturally - and Council is well placed to advocate for collective investment in its care. But they don't need to do it alone. Other councils, Melbourne Water, EPA, DEECA, DTP and Parks Victoria together with the private sector need to come together and do more than they currently do to improve water quality in the river. We have seen a groundswell of support for improving urban waterways internationally, Melbourne can benefit from being part of that movement. We have the knowledge to do more to improve the river's health, we just need leaders to get on board. Please accept in full recommendations made by Council staff.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:03 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 08:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Rebecca Scott

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.10

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED]

(80.68 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

2nd December 2025

Dear City of Melbourne,

Re: My support for the City of Melbourne's plan for a Swimmable Birrarung

As the co-founder and CEO of STREAT, a leading social enterprise with over a decade of experience supporting young people across Melbourne, and a member of the Regen Melbourne's Board of Directors, I enthusiastically support the City of Melbourne's recommendations for a Swimmable Birrarung. I congratulate Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, all Councillors and staff on this significant milestone.

The Birrarung Yarra River is the life-force of this place, something that our First Nations friends have always known. It is our responsibility as residents of Melbourne to care for, nurture and regenerative this river system, for humans and for all life. A Swimmable Birrarung creates a collective ambition that we can all rally around, each bringing our strengths and our expertise. It is in this context that the active support and leadership from the City of Melbourne becomes critical. This is truly an exciting and important milestone for our city!

I regularly volunteer my time at Coranderrk helping the Wurundjeri revegetate the upper part of the Birrarung. On a recent planting in September as part of Riverfest, we planted 8,000 new grasses and shrubs to help form the critical understory of a multi-storey ecosystem – what Uncle Dave Wandin calls a “ladder” of grandmother trees, mother trees, and grandchild trees. As he shared on the day,

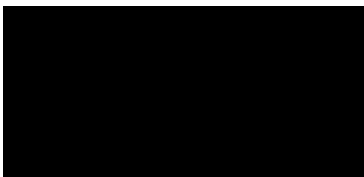
“In a healthy ecosystem, with the right grasses and mycelium, these grandmothers, mothers, and grandchildren will now all be having conversations together.”

How wonderful to think that this new ecosystem was created through a loving collaboration – young and old, human and plant – working together to bring life back to the river.

I recognise that the City of Melbourne has a critical role in catalysing and convening such multi-generational work. And I recognise the three critical focus areas identified in the City of Melbourne's report. Each of these are important pathways. In particular, I appreciate the identification of the need for a unique coalition of actors to work more closely together. This is where I think the leadership from the City of Melbourne can come together with the impressive work that Regen Melbourne has already undertaken, working across sectors and siloes to create the knowledge and alliances we need to bring this vision to life. As a Director on Regen Melbourne's Board I have watched with great admiration at the care, sophistication and leadership of Regen Melbourne's Swimmable Birrarung work, led by Lead Convenor, Charity Mosienyane.

As *Melburnian of the Year* in 2024 I've had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful humans contributing to a thriving city for us all. This experience only deepened my already great love for our city and I'm so grateful for the experience. I stand ready to support the Swimmable Birrarung initiative in any way I can. I'm so proud to live in a city where we can identify necessary and ambitious projects, and achieve them together.

With congratulations and deep respect,



Rebecca Scott OAM
Co-founder and CEO, STREAT

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 7:18 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 06:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Chris Thrum



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Dear City of Melbourne,

This is a written submission in regards to the City of Melbourne Future Melbourne Committee meeting of Tuesday the 2nd of December, 2025 and in particular the Agenda Item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29.

Thank you to Stephanie Hamilton and Rebecca Skelton and Council Management Team for the work involved in the development of the Advocacy and Partnerships Plan.

I support the Recommendations from Management.

There are four Advocacy priority areas listed.

All of these priority areas are worthy of attention.

However, there are many citizens who truly believe that City of Melbourne should focus on Melbourne being a musical city, that is the music capital of Australia.

City of Melbourne must advocate that it understands that Melbourne is on the global map for being a brilliant music city!

City of Melbourne must further develop partnerships in the music industry, and with local venues. With this in mind, City of Melbourne must bring back Melbourne Music Week.

<https://studiobinocular.com/projects/mmw/>

When then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle went to Chicago, Illinois in 2017, for the Chicago Forum on Global Cities, in meetings with then Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, he did convey to the Chicago citizens the deep respect and love Melbourne musicians have for Chicago music and musicians.

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/meeting/council-meeting-26-july-2017>

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle noted that Chicago is a city twice the size of Melbourne. It was recognised that there is great importance placed on the roles universities have in driving forward the economic life of the City!

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle emphasised how City of Melbourne embraced universities by supporting and emphasising Knowledge Week.

In 2017 we believed that by 2025, Fisherman's Bend would be well on its way to being a new beacon of technology and engineering innovation. In 2017 we believed that in 2027 the Metro 2 project would be breaking ground. People at the University of Melbourne thought so.

<https://www.unimelb.edu.au/quantumhub>

When Robert Doyle was speaking in Chicago, in front of him was the best and brightest minds of Illinois. At this time, Robert Doyle noted the real drive of the locals there, how willing they were to put the shoulder to the wheel. People discussed the importance of nurturing innovation districts.

The future looked bright.

Today, City of Melbourne must advocate for the Fisherman's Bend precinct development to be accelerated.

In September 2025, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker highlighted the development of the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park (IQMP), a first-of-its-kind campus built for quantum technology and Microelectronics innovation and scale-up.

This campus, which had a ground-breaking ceremony just recently, is a big deal for Chicago. Governor Pritzker noted that Illinois is the leader of Quantum in the USA. Our friends at University of Melbourne know this.

Our friends at University of Melbourne, in 2017 were anticipating big and grand things at Fisherman's Bend, by 2025.....

Returning to Chicago, Governor JB Pritzker announced that French Company Pasqal, a

global leader in neutral atom Quantum computing, will establish their US headquarters at IQMP.

<https://iqmp.org/news/governor-pritzker-announces-global-quantum-computing-pioneer-pasqal-to-establish-u-s-headquarters-in-illinois/>

Our friends at the IBM Quantum Hub at the University of Melbourne would be most familiar with the IQMP.

<https://iqmp.org/>

City of Melbourne must advocate for the train line to Newport, that runs under Fisherman's Bend be built as soon as possible.

And City of Melbourne must bring back into the fold the disenchanting music venues of the City by bringing back Melbourne Music Week.

Best regards,
Chris Thrum

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance may be limited based on venue capacity and will be allocated on a first registered, first served basis.

I wish to make my submission in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 10:54 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 22:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

John Kavanagh



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-02-02

Agenda item title

City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(181.86 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Submission

Future Melbourne Committee Meeting 2 December 2025

Agenda item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

Two of these Melbourne's proposed advocacy and partnership priorities are relevant to the Moonee Ponds Creek and to two relevant items:

- **Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan**
- **Reinstatement of the shared Moonee Ponds Creek trail to Docklands**

Melbourne thrives as we grow

Advocacy under this heading includes ensuring Melbourne provides enough open space and community infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing population.

Melbourne's thriving waterways

- Green corridors. Partner to create green corridors along our urban waterways.

The Moonee Ponds Creek is a significant open space component of the strategic plans for the urban renewal areas of Arden and Macaulay - both of which focus on providing increased housing for the City of Melbourne. The Arden Strategy Plan already has approval and the process for Macaulay is well underway. The Creek has already been identified for supporting the rapidly increasing population in Macaulay.

To leave the Creek aside ignores its role in the above advocacy / priorities. Therefore the overarching document - **the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan must be included as an aligned strategic document for open space and community infrastructure.**

Open space, green corridors, connectivity, community infrastructure and liveability are related. If we are to recognise the role of the Moonee Ponds Creek in supporting Melbourne "thriving as it grows" and its "thriving waterways" - with the Docklands shared trail along the Moonee Ponds Creek meeting these criteria - then **advocacy for its reinstatement must surely be an achievable goal.**

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek asks that these two items be incorporated into the Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-2029.

John Kavanagh
President
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
PO Box 1092
Moonee Ponds VIC 3139
www.mooneepondscreek.org.au

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Monday, 1 December 2025 3:46 PM

Submitted on Mon, 01/12/2025 - 15:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Kate Kennedy



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay and 6.6, 6.7, 6.9,6.12

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

As this submission address 5 agenda items, I ask if the submission be circulated to councillors in relation to each of the items:

6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay, 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding, 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street), 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan, 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29,

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(146.81 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No



Submission on agenda items 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.12 in relation to Macaulay open space and safety matters

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

There are five reports on the agenda directly relating to Macaulay open space. We have not had time to adequately consider each of these reports.

They are:

- 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay
(A recommendation to refer the amendment to a planning panel.)
- 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding
(A recommendation to investigate public acquisition overlays for land identified as future open space but not owned by council, and to advocate to the Victorian Government to again request the finalisation and release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.)
- 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (Macaulay Road to Arden Street)
(A recommendation to finalise a community lease arrangement for the land but not to acquire it, and to not commence the concept plan until after both the amendment C417 and Macaulay flood modelling and drainage infrastructure work led by Melbourne Water are complete.)
- 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan
(A recommendation to approve the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for public consultation, with no specificity about Macaulay open space.)
- 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29
(A recommendation to endorse the Advocacy and Partnerships Plan without public consultation, and without a single mention of Macaulay.)

Read together, these five reports and recommendations reveal that the Council is choosing amendment C417 as the one and only viable solution for securing open space at scale in Macaulay, no matter how long that amendment takes, and that there is no significant pressure being placed on the Victorian Government to allow for that land to be secured in any other way. They show that if C417 fails in any way, there is no alternative plan.

Most disappointingly, the report on Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure Funding (item 6.6) has repeated the error of the 18 March 2025 report: it has failed to provide **options to acquire the drainage land** as requested by the Future Melbourne Committee on 9 July 2024 (and repeated on 18 March 2025).

Instead, the report offers the investigation of a public acquisition overlay on all land marked as future open space which is not owned or managed by Council, and to consider yet another report in April 2026. But this recommendation is immediately negated by the next report (item 6.7), which recommends against Council acquiring the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road.

The report (item 6.6) also reveals that “an infrastructure priority list and detailed cashflow modelling is being developed” but will not be completed until after Amendment C417 is finalised, *and* until after Melbourne Water has completed an analysis of drainage infrastructure requirements.

The lack of urgency about this matter, and the introduction of new hurdles every time the matter returns to Council with an update, is a slow tragedy in the making. The new populations have arrived. The open space has not only failed to arrive, it is now likely to be delivered substantially later than previously expected, if at all.

Where is the Council’s advocacy to the Victorian Government? Why will sending another letter to the Minister for Planning asking where the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan is up to possibly succeed, when the last six years’ worth of polite letters have produced precisely nothing?

We submit the following in relation to the five reports:

In relation to item 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C417: Macaulay

- The recommended change to the amendment to specify that the Macaulay DCP introduced via C417 is “part A” of a two-part approach is supported **only on the understanding that the Council does not intend to delay the purchase and upgrade of the drainage land** by insisting on waiting for a “part B” amendment to be prepared and completed. We seek an assurance about this.
- The other elements are supported and we urge the council to expedite the final stages of the amendment process.

In relation to item 6.6 Macaulay Local Open Space Provision and Drainage Infrastructure

- The recommendation to investigate a separate planning scheme amendment that seeks to apply the public acquisition overlay to land within the Macaulay area (that is not owned or managed by council but is identified as future open space) is supported subject to:
 - The Council being confident that this exercise will not in any way impede other attempts to secure control of the drainage land, e.g. by way of Ministerial

- intervention, land swap, direct negotiation with VicTrack for a community lease in the interim, etc;
- The Council being confident that this exercise will not impede the expeditious completion of amendment C417, e.g. should the panel argue that the proposed setback controls on private land for linear open space parallel to the creek not be finalised until the Council's investigation of public acquisition overlays has been completed, etc; and
- Clarity about the compatibility of this recommendation with the paper for item 6.7 which states that the land on the western bank of the creek south of Macaulay Road should *not* be acquired.
- Letters to the Planning Minister to finalise and release the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan are obviously not working. We seek clarity on which much more substantial actions can be taken to resolve this matter. There is a state election in less than twelve months.

In relation to item 6.7 Moonee Ponds Creek linear park concept plan (south of Macaulay Rd)

- We note that the original ambition of the Future Melbourne Committee to consult on the concept plan in FY25-26 (paragraph 15) is now recommended to be delayed until at least FY26-27.
- The update about the community lease does not specify when the lease was applied for. We seek clarity about whether this report is referring to the 2019 application or a subsequent application, noting that the Council's website states that: "In 2019 the City of Melbourne applied for a community lease for Lot 110 and Lot 72. Following a number of delays, VicTrack responded in 2022 advising that Lot 72 is unavailable and that Lot 110 is not available for community lease and a land transfer would be subject to further review and investigation."
- If the report does still refer to the 2019 application, we seek substantially more information about the true reasons for delay in resolving the matter.

In relation to item 6.9 Draft Community Infrastructure Plan

- There are no planned projects in the 'north-west' (where Macaulay is located) within the next four years to 'provide' (build) public open space other than completing the Chelmsford Street open space project.
- Beyond the next four years the "ideas for consideration" include "Increasing and improving open space, as identified in the Open Space Strategy, Macaulay Structure Plan and Arden Structure Plan." There is no specific mention of any of the locations set out in the Macaulay Structure Plan; the vague need for open space generally is merely an 'idea to consider'.
- You have already consulted the Kensington and North Melbourne communities about infrastructure priorities in Macaulay, through the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan (2010-12), amendment C190 (2012-18), Macaulay Structure Plan Refresh (2019-21), and amendment C417 (2022-25). We therefore ask that you not ignore these 15

continuous years of community consultation by endorsing a draft infrastructure plan that ignores the findings of that consultation, reducing council's open space ambitions for Macaulay.

- We request that councillors add the following to the plan *before and not after* community consultation, in the list of planned projects (next four years) on page 50 of 64: “7. Complete open space infrastructure planning and funding mechanisms for all other **open space projects identified in the Macaulay Structure Plan**. (Plan)”

In relation to item 6.12 City of Melbourne Advocacy and Partnerships Plan 2025-29

- The recommendation is to adopt the plan without consultation. This is despite the transport theme excluding mention of the endorsed advocacy position on Racecourse Road, and the waterways theme excluding mention of specific proposals to secure and upgrade the drainage and public open space abutting Moonee Ponds Creek, or to give effect to the endorsed advocacy position about the creek.
- We request that, if the plan is not going to be consulted on, the following highest priority amendments be made by councillors:
 - Add a specific outcome to the transport theme to give effect to the FMC [resolution of 15 July 2015](#): “Urgently commit to investigate and implement safety and accessibility improvements to Racecourse Road identified in the Racecourse Road Strategic Improvements Plan Advocacy Plan”.
 - Add a specific outcome to the waterways theme to give effect to the [Moonee Ponds Creek Joint Statement](#): “Unlock Moonee Ponds Creek to support our fast-growing community, by immediately releasing the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan to create a clear governance and funding pathway to deliver critical projects, and by reinstating the Moonee Ponds Creek trail in Docklands.”

Thank you,

Dr Kate Kennedy

Chair, Kensington Association

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:21 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 09:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Ariel Valent



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

6.13 Organisational-wide Grants and Sponsorships

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



(533.81 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

1 December 2025

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

I write with regard to Future Melbourne Committee 2 December 2025 Item 6.13 Organisation-wide Grants and Sponsorship Policy.

As Director of North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, we receive City of Melbourne funds through a four-year Neighbourhood Houses partnership agreement. We also receive sponsorship through EPP for Queensberry Cup. NWMNC has also received a variety of one-off grants, mostly under the former Community Grants & Partnerships Framework.

In a former life, I was centrally involved in City of Melbourne's Community Grants programs, convening assessment panels and providing recommendations to management. I also sat on the EPP panel one year and also had exposure to the Arts Grants program.

Overall, I support the proposed Organisation-wide Grants and Sponsorship Policy. It is a sensible approach to consolidate City of Melbourne's various grant and funding activities under an over-arching policy, making it clear to Councillors, staff and the broader community the parameters of these programs.

This framework and the associated financial commitment shows that Council understands that to solve the issues in our city and to reach the aspirations of M2050, City of Melbourne must work with and empower its partners in the community.

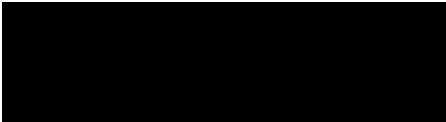
I do have some concerns or clarifications that I think are worth noting:

- 1) While there is a mention of \$15 million overall total, the policy gives no further details about the amount of Council expenditure in each Focus Area profile. It is my understanding that these funds are already committed in the 2025-26 budget, so there should at least be a statement of the amount allocated to each area.
- 2) The Neighbourhood House Partnership agreements are excluded from this policy framework as these agreements are not competitive. I have no issue with the change of focus. However, I request that Council explicitly states as part of this motion that City of Melbourne's financial support for Neighbourhood Houses will continue under current arrangements for the life of Council Plan 2025-2029, or preferably on a permanent basis. Whilst I don't think Councillors or staff would want to reduce funding for Neighbourhood Houses, I am justifiably concerned about the prospect of a change of staff or some crisis that means Neighbourhood Houses are able to be forgotten because there is no Council-mandated authorising environment.
- 3) The lack of a Council-mandated authorising environment has resulted in a gap between the former Community Grants & Partnerships Framework and the proposed Organisation-wide Grants and Sponsorship Policy. As a result, there have been no significant community grants awarded in 2025, which by my calculations has removed an investment of approximately \$1.4 million from the community sector this calendar year. Given this unfortunate state of affairs, I am suggesting that Council doubles its investment into the Community Grants Focus Area Profile in the first year of operation.

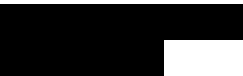
- 4) Regarding EPP, my understanding from the policy is that EPP will be assessed by external independent assessors. I believe that this is a very important development that strengthens the integrity what can appear to be an opaque process.
- 5) Further regarding EPP, I think that the “commercial in confidence” provisions need to be further interrogated. While Councillors, staff and assessors need to adhere to privacy provisions, there is no reason to treat the information provided to the public any different to the other funding streams. Nobody is suggesting sharing detailed budgets or similar information, so please consider the transparency benefits of removing this designation.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any of the above.

Yours sincerely,



Ariel Valent
Director
North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre



From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee submission form
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 9:49 AM

Submitted on Tue, 02/12/2025 - 09:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Dylan Cole

[REDACTED]

Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-12-02

Agenda item title

Organisation-wide Grants and Sponsorship Policy

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[REDACTED]

(149.37 KB)

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission:

No

City of Melbourne Grants & Sponsorships Policy Consultation

Submitted by: Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Date: 02/12/2025

Contact: Dylan Cole, Executive Director

1. Introduction

Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the City of Melbourne's proposed organisation-wide Grants and Sponsorships Policy and the associated Focus Area Profiles, including the Creative Funding Profile.

As one of the state's largest cultural institutions and Victoria's second-largest event after the Australian Open, MICF has a strong interest in ensuring that the City's funding structures remain effective, transparent and aligned to the needs of Melbourne's creative ecosystem. We acknowledge the City of Melbourne's longstanding support for the Festival and the broader creative sector.

MICF alone generates almost 8 million pedestrian impressions outside of Festival Hubs and **over 700,000 live attendances** across the Festival period. Our impact extends well beyond the Festival through year-round venue operations, sector development programs, touring, training and artist support. We are a crucial provider of career paths and support thousands of small to medium sector creatives each year.

This submission outlines MICF's commendations, key concerns and recommendations to ensure the new Policy strengthens rather than diminishes Melbourne's position as a world-class creative capital.

2. Commendations

2.1 Strengthened governance and transparency

We welcome the City's commitment to open Council decision-making and improved consistency across funding programs.

2.2 Alignment with the Council Plan 2025–29 and M2050 Vision

We support greater alignment between grant-making and Melbourne's long-term civic and economic priorities, recognising the essential role creativity plays in the life and identity of the city.

2.3 Retention of a Creative Funding Focus Area

We acknowledge the continued recognition that creative activity requires dedicated and specialised funding frameworks.

2.4 Introduction of Events Partnership Focus Area

We support the introduction of this Focus Area Profile because it strengthens Melbourne's event ecosystem by backing free, accessible, high-impact events that drive visitation, economic activity and vibrant, inclusive civic experiences across the city.

3. Key Concerns

3.1 Dilution of creative-sector specificity and limited consultation

The former Creative Funding Framework was shaped through extensive consultation and reflected the realities of Melbourne's creative ecosystem. The proposed shift introduced with limited sector consultation and under compressed notification timelines risks creating additional administrative burden and reducing the tailored support required by creative organisations.

3.2 Festivals 'carved out' but not adequately accounted for in policy design

While the Policy accounts for festivals, it does not meaningfully differentiate between:

- small community events,
- emerging festivals, and
- Melbourne's globally significant hallmark festivals.

Major cultural festivals operate at the intersection of:

- creative production,
- economic development and tourism,
- precinct activation,
- city branding and reputation, and
- year-round sector development.

Treating all festivals uniformly risks a **structural mismatch**, where hallmark festivals are administratively grouped with general events but assessed through mechanisms that do not reflect:

- multi-year planning cycles,
- specialised delivery requirements,
- complex commercial-in-confidence partnerships, or
- the large-scale economic and visitation impacts they produce.

3.3 Dilution of Creative Funding over time

We are concerned that combining sponsorship and grants into a single policy risks diluting the pool of creative sector funding over time, particularly as Council priorities shift and competition for limited resources intensifies.

4. Recommendations for Improvement

4.1 Reframe EPP or establish a dedicated funding focus area for Major Festivals of Melbourne

A tailored stream is essential to recognise the scale, complexity and economic impact of major festivals and institutions, ensuring they are not lost within generic funding arrangements.

4.2 Maintain arts-specialist peer assessment

Creative projects must continue to be assessed by sector specialists to ensure relevance, fairness and cultural insight.

4.3 Continue structured and meaningful consultation with the creative sector

The ongoing design and implementation of the Policy should be developed in partnership with creative organisations to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose and effective.

5. Conclusion

MICF supports the City of Melbourne's efforts to improve governance, transparency and coherence across grants and sponsorships. However, moving away from a dedicated Creative Funding Framework without robust, sector-specific protections risks diminishing the very organisations that underpin Melbourne's standing as Australia's cultural capital.

To retain its leadership in arts, culture and festivals, Melbourne must clearly recognise, appropriately support and structurally prioritise its major cultural institutions. MICF looks forward to working with the City to refine the Policy so that it delivers strong governance while safeguarding Melbourne's creative, economic and cultural vitality.