

Questions taken on notice

12 November 2019



At Council meetings, questions from the public and from Councillors are sometimes taken 'on notice', meaning that an answer cannot be provided at the meeting itself. When an answer is available, it is provided direct to the questioner, and is also published here.

As well as the full response, the text below includes a summary of the question and the answer provided at the meeting. A recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time and Councillor Questions Without Notice) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting.

Response to questions from Barbara Hubi

Question

Given that the GTA report of 8 October 2019 to Council, covers the areas bounded by Holden Street, St Georges Road, Alexandra Parade and Rae Street, how will the impact on residents in Taylor Street, Clauscen Street, Barkly Street, King Street and Rae Street be measured if the median trial in Holden Street and Miller Street go ahead, given that Miller Street is not a DOT road?

Concerns in the detail of the GTA report, which quotes matrix data collected 25 May 2019 for King Street, North Fitzroy between Miller and Clauscen Street. Given that King Street doesn't run between Miller and Clauscen Street, where was this data actually collected?

Response at the meeting

The Director City Works and Assets took the questions on notice.

Subsequent response

Should Council resolve to proceed with the proposed central median trials on Miller Street and Holden Street, "before" and "during" trial traffic counts will measure the impact on Taylor Street, Clauscen Street, Barkly Street, Rae Street and King Street. "Before" traffic counts have been collected and further counts will be undertaken during the trial period.

The Matrix traffic data on King Street was collected between Miller Street and May Street.

Response to questions from Trevor Jenkins

Question

I would like to know when the detailed report on the proposed median trials in Holden and Miller Streets that's required by the Department of Transport that Council officers are required to prepare will be shared with residents, as noted by Dennis Cheng's letter to residents on 22 October 2019?

Is Council aware of the works which are going to take place during December in Nicholson Street for Tramways works and that it be taken into account when the trials are being timed?

Response at the meeting

The Director City Works and Assets took the questions on notice.

Subsequent response

The Traffic Impact Assessment report by GTA Consultants relating to the proposed permanent and trial closures in North Fitzroy can be found on the Scotchmer Local Area Place Making (LAPM) 3 webpage at <https://www.yoursayyarra.com.au/improving-northfitzroy>. The report (pdf format) is located on the right hand side of the page.

Response to question from Heather McDonald

Question

I would like to draw Council's attention to the recent Fitzroy North Local Area Placemaking Update, dated 22 October 2019.

This communication outlines the timeline and process for the proposed Holden and Miller Streets median island trials, commencing with the provision of a detailed report to DoT, which will also be shared with Yarra community and Moreland City Council.

DoT will provide feedback on the proposal and the community will be informed. In early 2020, Councillors will review a further report on the proposed trials, together with feedback from DoT, results of the right-turn ban trial and any further submissions from the community.

Following the decision that was made at the Council meeting on March 5, re trials of median islands, residents impacted by the decision communicated with Councillors.

I would like to now draw your attention to sections of the responses from both Councillor Fristacky and Dennis Cheng to people, referring to the statutory conditions required as part of the VicRoads (now DoT) approval process.

Given these promises, and statutory obligations for further community consultation, there is a glaring omission in the process communicated in the October 22 communication to residents.

Why is there no mention in the October communication of the community consultations promised in the responses to residents post the decisions of the March 5 meeting?

If these consultations are going to take place, when will they occur and what format will the consultation take?

Response at the meeting

Community consultation is required as part of the condition of approval by VicRoads. In the case of the Holden Street centre median proposal, because this was a resolution decision made during the Council Meeting on 5 March 2019, it has not been formally consulted with the wider community. As a result further consultation will be necessary to inform the community of the potential impact of this proposal.

This involves further processes involving additional analysis, public consultation, a report to VicRoads, then Council considering that VicRoads report and all of the above at a public meeting with further submission input and only then decide what to do.

The Director City Works and Assets took the rest of the questions on notice.

Subsequent response

The Fitzroy North Local Area Placemaking update letter to residents dated 22 October notes that "Councillors will review a further report on the proposed trial at a Council Meeting, together with feedback from DoT, results of the right-turn bans trial from Brunswick Street North into Holden Street and any further submissions from the community, then decide whether or not to proceed with the trial median islands."

To be able to implement the trail median closures on Holden Street and Miller Street as per the above Council resolution, Council Officers need to follow Local Government Act requirements. These are:

- that a report from the Roads Corporation (Department of Transport (DoT)) is considered; and
- that 28 days notice is given to residents so that they so can make verbal or written submissions to Council on the proposal.

Therefore, residents will be notified at least 28 days before the Council Meeting where the officer report is presented regarding the trial median closures. This report will include the DoT report and will provide information on the effectiveness of the peak hours right turn ban on Holden Street/Brunswick Street North.

Councillors will hear written and verbal submissions from the community at this meeting and will then resolve whether to proceed with the trial closures or not. Officers propose that the report on the trial closures will go to a Council Meeting early in 2020.

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Response to question from Cr Stone

Question

In relation to the Fitzroy Adventure Playground that Council granted 3 years of funding and part of the Council resolution noted that Council will continue to advocate to state and federal governments for additional funding and also that we would support Save the Children in securing additional funding.

Can we get an update on both of those actions given that there has been some reaction to cut back in hours, particularly in school holidays for Cubbies and some people have been quite upset about that?

Response at the meeting

The Director Community Wellbeing advised that there has been some conversations particularly with DHS in relation into Cubbies and the previous funding that was provided through the Commonwealth government, not through the State. However we have had some informal conversations with the State Government around that and some of the specific details around support for Save the Children to access philanthropic and other funds.

The Director Community Wellbeing took the rest of the question on notice.

Subsequent response

In addition to the conversations with senior members of DHHS, officers prepared a letter, signed by the Mayor, that has been sent to the federal treasurer, Josh Frydenburg, along with the Minister for Local Government, Mark Coulton and Ann Ruston, the Minister for Social Services. A copy has also been forwarded to Adam Bandt as the local member. Officers will also continue to work with colleagues in state, to explore any additional funding opportunities that may arise.

Officers will also be reaching out to Save the Children to get further information about the extent of their efforts to seek additional funding. We are aware of some representation to philanthropic funds which has resulted in a small amount of additional funding being secured which will enable STC to offer a program during school holidays in January. Other activation of the site has also occurred through Brotherhood of St Lurance, who is offering a program called 'my space' on Wednesdays.