

Summary of Public Questions

13 November 2018



This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Public Question Time at a meeting of the Yarra City Council. This summary includes the names of questioners, the subject matter of questions, the person providing a response and whether or not an answer was provided. An audio recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. **If a question is taken on notice, any response provided after the meeting is included here in red text.**

7.1 John Morrow – Edinburgh Gardens

Question:

There is a stand of 34 elm trees in the Edinburgh Gardens, east of the tennis courts and abutting a north-south path.

- Is there a plan to remove the stand of trees or any of them and if so, why?
- Has the Council passed any motion concerning the future of these trees?

Response:

The Mayor informed the meeting that as part of the conservation management plan the trees have been identified as having little or no significance and that there are plans to replace them at some stage. That said, a planning permit will be required before they are removed, and the community will have an opportunity to comment. It is expected this will happen toward the middle of 2019 and the community will have an opportunity to make a submission at that time.

7.2 Nina Hansen – Illuminated advertising billboards

Question:

What are Council doing to consider whether the large illuminated billboards are suitable for Fitzroy, rather than a major road. For example, 131 Johnson St Fitzroy.

Response:

The Mayor explained that approval of signage is granted by means of a planning permit, and permits are issued in accordance with the Yarra Planning Scheme.

The Director Planning and Place Making provided further detail about the planning process and how objections and submissions are considered. He offered to contact the submitter to confirm that the sign has been constructed in accordance with the permit.

7.3 Graham Kelk - Inner Circle Linear Park

Question:

The corner of Railway St and Brunswick St appears it should be part of the Inner Circle Linear Park. Does the Council have a position on this matter, and has there been any recent discussions with the State Government regarding the land?

Response:

The Director Planning and Place Making replied that to his knowledge, Council does not have a position on the site, but an open space strategy is currently underway and may provide an opportunity to examine it.

Cr Fristacky asked the questioner if he had written to the State Government about the site.

The questioner replied that he hasn't personally, but there have been many approaches to them over the year. He explained that it is an obvious opportunity for Council advocacy.

7.4 Greg Spark – Gas Lamp Standards

Question:

Can Yarra confirm whether an insurance claim was lodged regarding the loss of these lamp stands?

Response:

The Mayor took the question on notice.

The Mayor subsequently advised that he has confirmed with Council's Emergency Management and Insurance Advisor that a claim has not been lodged with Council's insurer regarding the two gas lamps.

7.5 Greg Spark – Cyclist signage

Question:

Can Yarra install permanent signs reading "Cyclists please slow down" at the entry to Edinburgh Gardens?

Response:

The Mayor took the question on notice.

The Mayor subsequently advised that Council officers' position in regards to "Cyclist Please Slow Down" signs is that these are not an effective response to the issue raised by Mr Spark. These types of signs are not enforceable and previous experience has shown that they are often ignored by cyclists that are travelling at higher speeds. There is also the issue of increased visual clutter around the boundary of Edinburgh Gardens, which is not a desired outcome if the signs are not effective in managing cyclist speed.

Based on the above, "Cyclist Please Slow Down" signs are not supported by Council officers.

The Mayor further advised that VicRoads are currently progressing with the "Preston to CBD Strategic Cycling Project" in conjunction with Council's Strategic Transport unit. The issue of bikes in Edinburgh Gardens will be investigated as part of this project.