



# MINUTES

## SAFE CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 7 December 2021 at 10.00am on Microsoft Teams

### Present:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Cr Julie Shannon   | Councillor                                   |
| Cr Sophie Ramsey   | Councillor                                   |
| Elyse Rider        | Melton City Council                          |
| Jayde McBurnie     | Melton City Council                          |
| Elizabeth Johnston | Melton City Council                          |
| Essan Dileri       | Melton City Council                          |
| Joanne Mutsaerts   | Victoria Police                              |
| Chris Stuhldreier  | Victoria Police                              |
| Amanda Venda       | Department of Transport                      |
| Alan Nguyen        | Fit to Drive Foundation                      |
| Kim Leech          | Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services |
| Benjamin Taylor    | Western Health                               |
| Jasleen Kaur       | Community Representative                     |

### Guests

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Kerry Walton | Melton City Council |
|--------------|---------------------|

**Quorum:** A quorum for the Committee will require attendance of one (1) Councillor, and at least four (4) persons from the community representatives and external stakeholder members.

**Chairperson:** Cr Julie Shannon and Cr Sophie Ramsey

**Minute Taker:** Elizabeth Johnston, Road and Community Safety Officer

### 1. Welcome

Acting Chair Cr Shannon opened the meeting at 10.07am. Cr Shannon welcomed the committee and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country.

### 2. Apologies

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cr Lara Carli          | Councillor                     |
| Cr Bob Turner          | Councillor                     |
| Cr Steve Abboushi      | Councillor                     |
| Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg | Councillor                     |
| Kristie Lawson         | Melton City Council            |
| Peta Fualau            | Centre for Multicultural Youth |

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Lisa Prentice-Evans | Victoria Police          |
| Amanda Watkinson    | DJCS                     |
| Shanti Dicello      | Community Representative |
| Golam Haque         | Community Representative |

**3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests**

Nil.

**4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

Meeting notes of the Safe City Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 September 2021 have been circulated to the Committee for ratification and were presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 October 2021.

*E Rider temporarily left the meeting at 10.11am*

**5. Business Arising****5.1 Neighbourhood Watch Victoria – E Johnston on behalf of I Thapar**

E Johnston advised that Neighbourhood Watch Victoria delivered an online information session to promote the program and educate attendees about home safety. The 'How Safe Is My Home' resource was circulated to participants. Council distributed information and continues to promote the establishment of local Neighbourhood Watch groups to local residents. Council also delivered Scam Awareness initiatives during Community Safety Month, including an information session and a competition, involving 115 residents.

**6. General Business**

*Note: Items 6.1 and 6.2 were switched to accommodate staffing availability.*

*Cr Ramsey commenced as Chair from 10.15am.*

**6.1 Strategies to address hoon driving – E Johnston and C Stuhldreier**

E Johnston advised that a meeting with Council and senior officers from Victoria Police took place in response to a letter sent to the Melton Local Area Commander from former Mayor Cr Majdlik. In the meeting, representatives discussed strategies implemented by Council and Victoria Police to address dangerous driving, specifically in Caroline Springs. A summary of traffic calming infrastructure being implemented by Council in the area was provided. Victoria Police advised that they undertake further patrols in the area, with greater resources expected to be available following reduced pandemic related requirements. Victoria Police noted it is critical for residents to report any incidents to Victoria Police or through Crime Stoppers when they occur to inform tasking and help them apprehend offenders. Council agreed to assist by promoting this messaging to the community, with support from RoadSafe Westgate.

C Stuhldreier agreed that it is important to encourage residents to report hoon driving, stating that the behaviour is generally difficult to predict. On and off-road Police motorbikes are now back in operation which will enable more patrols, but local resources are still being allocated to COVID-19 related tasking (e.g. demonstrations).

In response to a question from Cr Shannon, C Stuhldreier spoke about the drivers of hooning behaviour emphasising that it occurs everywhere. After a follow up question, C Stuhldreier discussed programs that are currently running in schools to reduce hoon driving and A Nguyen



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spoke about the Fit to Drive Program which is being supported by Council and delivered in secondary schools across the municipality. C Stuhldreier noted that school curriculums are already busy (especially during the pandemic) and fitting more of this messaging in would be challenging. C Stuhldreier also advised that the messaging was being promoted regularly on the Melton Victoria Police Eye Watch Facebook page, and that most comments were positive.

*J Mutsaerts entered the meeting at 10.25am.*

*E Rider re-entered the meeting at 10.34am.*

A Venda advised that the state government have been in discussions about establishing a committee including the Victoria Police Hooning Taskforce and other key stakeholders to look at strategies that state government can implement to reduce hoon driving. A Venda requested that Council include them in future discussions relating to hooning.

K Walton noted Council are working to prevent hooning through infrastructure measures. Cr Shannon suggested installation of signage or use of the video messaging (VMS) board promoting hoon reporting contact numbers. K Walton and E Johnston advised they could investigate including the reporting line on existing VMS boards. A Venda added that VicRoads fund local hooning interventions regularly and encouraged Council to apply for funding for this purpose.

### Action

E Johnston and K Walton to investigate methods for communication of hoon reporting line.

### 6.2 Empowering Communities Project – E Rider

E Rider presented an update on the Empowering Communities Project. Two initiatives have been agreed on by the Project Action Group (PAG), which are now at the Ministerial level for endorsement. The first of these initiatives is called 'Family Empowered Engagement in Learning' (FEEL) which addresses the need to re-engage young people in education and employment taking a preventative approach to chronic absenteeism. The lead organisation for this initiative is Whitelion, with support from the Department of Education and Training.

The second initiative is 'Connecting Our Communities Outdoors'. This initiative will focus on activating local sites across the municipality. Community members will be empowered to take ownership of local activities. The lead organisation for this initiative is Edmund Rice Services.

A range of communication and targeted engagements will take place once funding is confirmed. The initiatives are expected to be implemented in early 2022.

Cr Shannon congratulated the PAG on the initiatives and asked how communities would be engaged to participate in the second initiative. E Johnston advised that the project would leverage the targeted engagement process and the PAG's combined network of stakeholders and community leaders. Cr Ramsey highlighted the potential changes to the VCAL program and how they might impact the issue more broadly. E Rider agreed that there is a need for local education opportunities within the municipality and recognised that these changes would significantly affect residents in the City of Melton. Cr Ramsey thanked the PAG for working to address these issues with the FEEL initiative.

### Action

E Rider to provide another update at the March 2022 meeting.

### 6.3 CPTED Audits – J Mutsaerts and E Johnston

E Johnston advised that Council have been receiving some reports of criminal and anti-social behaviour in various public spaces across the municipality. Council engaged with Victoria Police to undertake Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits at these locations. CPTED audits have recently taken place at Kurunjang Community Hub, Hillside

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Recreation Reserve and Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve, and further CPTED audits are being arranged for other sites as required.

J Mutsaerts explained some of the principles of CPTED, how it is applied in public and private spaces and the process for the audits. During the audits there was also an opportunity to speak with facility users about the issues they had experienced. J Mutsaerts emphasised the need for facility users and nearby residents to contact the Police if they witness any incidents or notice any criminal damage (i.e. theft, vandalism, or graffiti) to enable more accurate police tasking. Some of the recommendations in the audit report included activation initiatives, signage, general maintenance and repair, installation of security alarms and other technologies. It was acknowledged that CCTV cameras might be considered for the facilities as a crime deterrent and enforcement measure, but that they would not solve the issues themselves. The full reports from the CPTED audits have been provided to Council for consideration.

Cr Shannon thanked J Mutsaerts for conducting the audits and asked how Council would be utilising the findings. E Johnston advised that the recommendations were currently being reviewed and would be considered by relevant Council departments. In response to questions from Cr Shannon, J Mutsaerts advised that improved sightlines from streets to the facilities needed to be considered in the design processes, and that some do not report criminal activity because they see it as minor and that nothing will come from it. The Victoria Police Assistance Line and online reporting are recommended in these situations and should be promoted widely.

In response to a question from Cr Ramsey, J Mutsaerts advised that CPTED audits have previously been conducted for MacPherson Park and infrastructure changes were made as a result. It was acknowledged that there are safety concerns about the park at nights, but many of these are exacerbated by the isolated location and it was noted that patrols are regularly conducted in the area. J Mutsaerts added that community safety had improved at Hannah Watts Park since the park facilities were upgraded following a review there.

**Action**

E Johnston to coordinate the review of the CPTED audit reports amongst relevant Council departments.

**6.4 Member Updates*****Fit to Drive Foundation – A Nguyen***

A Nguyen advised that the online program had been delivered to various schools across the municipality, and feedback was received from teachers that they would like to see SES involved in addition to FRV. The program will be taking a hiatus over the summer holidays and bookings have commenced for the year 11 and 12 programs in 2022. More training sessions are also expected to take place in the new year in partnership with Victoria Police.

***VicRoads Community Road Safety Grants – A Venda***

A Venda reminded organisations that acquittals will be due on 28 January 2022 for the Community Road Safety Grants, and any requests for extension could be submitted in writing. A new grant round will be opening in February 2022. Cr Ramsey thanked members for applying for these funding opportunities and implementing the programs in the City of Melton.

***TAC L2P Program – K Leech***

K Leech advised that the L2P program has returned to normal operations and four people have obtained their probationary driver's license in the last week from the City of Melton. Thirty learner drivers are on the road regularly and only some mentors have decided not to return due to COVID-19. Pandemic measures (i.e. cleaning, masks) are in place to reduce likelihood of transmission. Funding has been received for some professional development training for mentors on understanding cultural diversity, taking place in February 2022. The VCAL road safety day has also been scheduled. K Leech shared feedback from a learner driver's parent



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about the positive impact of the program on the participant. Cr Ramsey thanked K Leech and reflected on the success of L2P for young people.

### ***Traffic accident on the Calder Freeway – Cr Ramsey***

Cr Ramsey spoke about the incident which took place on the Calder Freeway and how Council can support the community. Victoria Police noted the incident had occurred in a neighboring municipality.

### ***Response to vaping – Cr Shannon***

Cr Shannon spoke about Notice of Motion that was put forward to undertake some research around the issue of underage vaping with nicotine and how it is being supplied to young people. J Mutsaerts advised that Victoria Police are aware of the issue and are undertaking investigations. Cr Shannon asked if Victoria Police could provide some general data around the problem to Council officers undertaking this work. J Mutsaerts advised that to support the efforts of Victoria Police Council can provide information about planning permit conditions as required, and that any further action would need to take place after their investigation has been completed.

### ***Youth Homelessness Service – Cr Shannon***

Cr Shannon noted a recent visit to the Youth Homelessness Service in the City of Brimbank to learn more about their work. The service is responsible for the City of Melton as well however have no facilities in the locality. Cr Shannon will be speaking to relevant Council officers to discuss future opportunities. E Rider noted Community Planning would be interested in these discussions to attract wrap-around services.

### ***Safe Plate Day – E Johnston***

E Johnston shared that a Safe Plate Day was held in partnership with Bunnings in November. Attendance was reduced due to weather, but it was a good opportunity to recommence face to face events.

### ***Community Road Safety Forum – E Johnston***

E Johnston advised that the next Community Road Safety Forum has been scheduled for 31 March 2021 at the Melton Library and Learning Hub. Speakers will be arranged, and promotion will commence in early 2022.

### ***Kurunjang Community Strengthening Project – E Johnston***

E Johnston advised that there has been delays with the Kurunjang Community Strengthening Project due to the required field work for the Cultural Heritage Management Plan being delayed. A request for variation to the funding agreement has been granted by the Department of Justice and Community Safety, and it is now expected that the works will commence mid-2022.

### ***Victoria Police Community Safety Forums – J Mutsaerts***

J Mutsaerts explained that the Victoria Police Community Safety Forums were again postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and are now expected to take place in early 2022. It was decided that this would enable the community to feel more confident in attending. Once the new dates are scheduled, they will be promoted through the Melton Victoria Police EyeWatch Facebook page and shared by Council.

### ***Traffic hotspots – K Walton***

K Walton stated that the main corridor through Taylors Road is a traffic hotspot due to rapid population growth. Road safety audits have been undertaken and a number of changes are being implemented. One of these is the intersection of Taylors Road and City Vista Court where there have been several incidents, so final plans and engagement are underway for a contractor to put in a roundabout as short term measure until traffic signals are put in place in the future. Subject to funding and contractor availability, construction will begin in the new year.

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A capital works program will be implemented over the next few years including seven new signalised intersections and several road duplications and safety upgrades. In response to a question from Cr Ramsey, K Walton advised that a signalised intersection are expected to be installed by VicRoads at High Street and Coburns Road in March 2022. Council is also expecting changes to the High Street and Northern Drive intersection in response to heavy vehicle movement. In response to a question from A Venda, K Walton advised that lighting faults can be reported to Council's customer service team and an officer will liaise with Powercor.

C Stuhldreier spoke about the increasing traffic during peak times on the Western Freeway and the need for duplication. K Walton advised that the Department of Transport are undertaking a study in the area, and that the Council is strongly advocating for its duplication, especially with the expected development of the hospital in Cobblebank. J Mutsaerts added that the traffic around Ferris Road and Western Freeway intersection is particularly busy and dangerous, especially when events are taking place at Tabcorp Park. Cr Ramsey advised that Council is advocating for upgrades.

**Action**

E Johnston to connect J Mutsaerts with officers actioning the vaping research Notice of Motion.

**7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on 8 March 2022, commencing at 10am, location to be confirmed.

**8. Close of Business**

Cr Ramsey thanked all members and closed the meeting at 12.01pm.