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SAFE CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 7 September 2021 at 10.00am on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg	Councillor
Elyse Rider	Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Elizabeth Johnston	Melton City Council
Kristie Lawson	Melton City Council
Tom Lay	Melton City Council
Lisa Prentice-Evans	Victoria Police
Emile Caggiati	Victoria Police
Amanda Venda	Department of Transport
Amanda Watkinson	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Kim Leech	Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services
Benjamin Taylor	Western Health
Shanti Dicello	Community Representative
Golam Haque	Community Representative

Guests

Bambi Gordon	Neighbourhood Watch Victoria
Vibeke Pedersen	Neighbourhood Watch Victoria
Inderdeep Thapar	Melton City Council
Michelle Venne-Rowe	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 Lara Carli, Councillor

Minute Taker: Elizabeth Johnston, Road and Community Safety Officer

1. Welcome

Chair Cr Carli opened the meeting at 10.03am. Cr Carli welcomed the committee and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country.

2. Apologies

Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Steve Abboushi	Councillor

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Essan Dileri	Melton City Council
Peta Fualau	Centre for Multicultural Youth
Alan Nguyen	Fit to Drive Foundation
Joanne Mutsaerts	Victoria Police
Chris Stuhldreier	Victoria Police

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Safe City Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 June 2021 have been circulated to the Committee for ratification and have been endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 September 2021.

5. Business Arising**5.1 Strategies to address hooning in the City of Melton – E Caggiati**

Victoria Police provided an update on Operation Achilles which focuses on high risk driving and has been a recent success for apprehending a frequent offender at Macpherson Park. Responding to Cr Ramsey's question, E Caggiati advised that there have been less incidents of hooning during lockdown.

Victoria Police off road dirt bikes were on patrol four days last month and had success in monitoring illegal activity in reserves and bike tracks. Victoria Police is optimistic that more of this will occur as resourcing becomes available. Cr Carli noted this is an ongoing problem and thanked Victoria Police for the additional patrols. E Caggiati reminded members of the importance of reporting incidents to Crime Stoppers when they occur, to assist with monitoring and resource allocation.

E Caggiati asked if anything had progressed following the circulation of the information on hoon by-laws introduced in the City of Brimbank. Cr Ramsey advised that Council is currently reviewing local laws, and new rules are expected to be introduced in mid-2022. Victoria Police will be consulted in its development. In response to a question from V Pederson, L Prentice-Evans confirmed that Westgate Highway Patrol have also engaged the City of Wyndham local laws regarding the proposed changes.

Cr Ramsey asked if Council could provide any support to Victoria Police as COVID-19 restrictions eased. E Caggiati advised that Council can continue to investigate local application of hoon by-laws and consider installing signage to advise residents about the prohibition of motorbikes in parks and reserves. B Gordon suggested Crime Stopper reporting options to be included on the signage.

Action:

Members to promote reporting of illegal activity through Crime Stoppers.

Council to investigate installation of signage about motorbikes in parks and reserves.

5.2 Road safety infrastructure – T Lay

Department of Transport have funded improvements to the High Street and Coburns Road intersection, High Street and Norton Drive intersection, and the Melton Highway and Leakes Road intersection. The projects are currently in the detail design phase and the construction is expected to commence by mid-2022.



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Cr Ramsey raised concerns about the Exford Road and Station Road intersection and T Lay advised that Council is investigating the issue. Cr Carli highlighted the importance of perceptions of safety in the municipality as well.

5.3 Empowering Communities Project – E Rider

E Rider provided an update on the established Empowering Communities Project Action Group (PAG) and noted members have taken part in five workshops to date. The proposed initiatives will be available to be shared at the next meeting. A Watkinson highlighted the work of the PAG and complimented Council on its delivery of the project so far.

6. General Business

6.1 Neighbourhood Watch Victoria Engage Network – B Gordon and V Pedersen

E Rider introduced B Gordon and V Pedersen from Neighbourhood Watch Victoria (NHWV) and shared that Council has recently joined the NHWV Engage Network. B Gordon provided information on how NHWV has changed over time, and explained it is now funded by DJCS as a state-wide not-for-profit organisation, partnering with Victoria Police and other relevant stakeholders. NHWV now rebranding as an organisation that helps build community connection, to make neighbourhoods safer.

NHWV are seeking to establish more Neighbourhood Watch groups locally, especially in newly established areas and see building relationships with developers, Councils, and organisations as essential to this. NHWV are currently seeking residents who can take over as administrators on the official Neighbourhood Watch Melton City [Facebook Page](#). They're also asking for support in promoting the '[How Safe Is My Place](#)' website.

B Gordon advised that NHWV are currently developing resources for schools ('How Safe Is My School') to promote safety messages, which are expected to be available later this year for implementation in the 2022 school year. Council has agreed to make connections between NHWV and schools in the City of Melton. Cr Ramsey expressed her thanks and promoted support for NHWV over informal 'vigilante' groups. In response to a question from Cr Carli, B Gordon advised that they have previously done some work in Aintree, but it relied on Developers passing on messages to the community so it had limited success – the Engage Network builds on learnings from that program. E Rider highlighted the connection with the Timbertop Community Safety Ambassador Training Program and potential opportunities to establish a NHWV group in this area.

Action

Members to approach any City of Melton residents who might consider becoming an administrator of the Facebook Group, and help to promote the NHWV How Safe is my Place website.

E Johnston and I Thapar to work with NHWV to investigate the establishment of a group in Aintree, potentially linked to the Timbertop Community Safety Ambassador Training Program.

6.2 Update on Council Resolution 712 – K Lawson

K Lawson provided an update on the Roundtable Forum, which aimed to facilitate discussions of strategies to address antisocial behaviour in newly established areas. The forum took place on 17 June 2021, with strong representation across stakeholder groups and overall attendance. It included presentations and facilitated discussions around perceptions of anti-social behaviour and possible future actions. Cr Carli expressed her congratulations to Council officers on delivering the forum and complimented the high level of engagement on the day. This was seconded by Cr Ramsey and Cr Vandenberg, emphasising the diversity of opinions about anti-social behaviour and the positive outcomes of the forum.

6.3 Member Updates

Community Safety Ambassadors Training Program – I Thapar

I Thapar provided an update on the Community Safety Ambassadors Training Program. Cr Ramsey raised scam texts as a significant safety issue, especially for CALD communities, and highlighted the need for further community education. I Thapar noted Council is working on a scam-awareness training session and a quiz which will be delivered in October and translated into different languages. Cr Carli asked about ongoing funding and rolling out the pilot across the municipality, and E Rider advised that this is something that could be considered in partnership with NHWV and expansion of the Engage Network. E Rider noted there will be an opportunity for Councillors to meet the participants of the program at the Victoria Police Community Safety Forums.

Victoria Police Community Safety Forums – E Johnston

E Johnston updated the Committee that Victoria Police and Council are continuing planning for the delivery of Community Safety Forums. E Johnston will work with Victoria Police and update relevant parties when session dates become available.

Kurunjang Community Strengthening Project – E Johnston

E Johnston provided an overview of the Kurunjang Community Strengthening Project which is funded by the Department of Justice and Community Safety. The infrastructure works are currently on hold until the completion of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which has an expected completion date of late September. Plans will then be finalised and the project will go out to tender for the contract to complete the works. In the meantime, Council is supporting the community-led activation component. If members are in contact with Kurunjang residents, promotional support would be appreciated.

Looking After Our Mates – A Venda

Department of Transport is funding the 30-minute interactive online session titled 'Looking After Our Mates (LAOM)'. The session aims to work with groups in the community to promote road safety, particularly around drug and alcohol use. If members are aware of groups who might be interested, please contact A Venda. In response to a question from Cr Ramsey, A Venda confirmed that it is available to sporting clubs. Cr Carli suggested that Council could facilitate its delivery and assist in promoting this program. A Venda agreed to circulate some further information and complimented its delivery by the Fit to Drive Foundation. K Leech offered to investigate facilitating delivery of a session for the Djerriwarrh College students.

TAC L2P Program Update – K Leech

L2P numbers have dropped slightly due to COVID-19. Some matches ready to go but on hold due to lockdowns. Mentors and learners have been coping well with the COVID safe practices put in place. Earlier in the year the program purchased a new vehicle with support of Council and Melton Toyota. TAC offered funding for supplementary mentor training and a session was delivered on working with disadvantaged youth. The next funding round has been opened so the program has applied for funding to deliver cultural competency training in early December. The VCAL road safety day is on hold due to COVID-19. A new program is being rolled out by the Department of Transport to improve processes and L2P is working to get more sponsors to offer incentives for mentors. Cr Ramsey thanked K Leech for the work of Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services.

Victoria Police Update – L Prentice-Evans

Victoria Police are currently focusing on compliance with the Chief Health Officer orders, requiring additional resourcing from other areas. Victoria Police encourages members to promote the reporting of incidents to help with tasking.



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Action

I Thapar to circulate information about scam awareness and education initiatives.

Members to promote activation component of the Kurunjang Community Strengthening Project to the local community.

A Venda to circulate information about LAOM and E Johnston to investigate how it can be supported by Council.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 7 December 2021 commencing at 10am. Members will be advised of the venue and format closer to the date, based on COVID-19 restrictions.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 11.44am.