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SAFE CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 8 June 2021 at 10.00am on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg	Councillor
Cr Steven Abboushi	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
Zorka Dunstan	Victoria Police
Joanne Mutsaerts	Victoria Police
Alan Nguyen	Fit 2 Drive Foundation
Amanda Venda	Department of Transport
Amanda Watkinson	DJCS
Jasleen Kaur	Community Representative
Shanti Dicello	Community Representative
Golam Haque	Community Representative

Guests:

Inderdeep Thapar	Melton City Council
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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, Melton City Council

1. Welcome

Chair Cr Carli opened the meeting at 10.05am. Cr Carli welcomed the committee and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country *Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Benjamin Taylor Djerriwarrh Health Services
Essan Dileri Melton City Council

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflicts of interest

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Meeting notes of the Safe City Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 March 2021 were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 April 2021.

5. Business Arising**5.1 Community Representatives – J McBurnie**

J McBurnie welcomed the three new community representatives Jasleen (Watts Ward), Golam (Cambridge Ward) and Shanti (Coburn Ward). Cr Carli also welcomed the new members and reflected on the benefit of having one representative from each ward.

5.2 Information regarding the implementation of the hoon by-law - E Caggiati

Cr Ramsey advised that the information from E Caggiati had not yet been received. Cr Ramsey advised that a report came to Council about transition to new local laws in 2022. Cr Ramsey noted raising a Councillor Notice of Motion, identifying hoon concerns in the City of Melton. Cr Ramsey would raise the possibility of the Committee identifying strategies in response to hooning.

Action

Committee to discuss potential strategies at next meeting in response to hooning in the City of Melton.

5.3 Study on future treatments to bring Western Highway to an urban standard – T Lay

T Lay updated the Committee that a study is currently being undertaken by the Department of Transport but no update has been forthcoming. Council is providing feedback based on comments from the public and local knowledge of areas of needs.

Cr Carli asked about funds released by the department for works to address the dangerous intersection at Leakes Road and Melton Highway and when we will see the outcome. T Lay advised that Council met with the department and design processes are still ongoing. No specific works and timelines have been announced.

Cr Ramsey queried the time delay between funding announcements and works commencing, and communication to the community. T Lay gave an overview of the planning process required prior to works taking place. T Lay also explained that Council identifies hotspots and regularly advocates to the Department of Transport.

Cr Abboushi requested extra information regarding Marlene Kairouz setting funds aside for improvements to the intersection at Leakes Road and Western Highway. T Lay noted his awareness of funding announcements for the intersections of Leakes Road and Melton Highway, High Street and Coburns Road, as well as High Street and Norton Drive.

Action

T Lay to communicate study outcomes to the Committee when available.



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T Lay to provide information regarding funding received and future works for Leakes Road and Melton Highway.

At 10.30am Alan Nguyen joined the meeting.

6. General Business

6.1 Update on Council Resolutions

712 – Roundtable forum regarding anti-social behaviour – K Lawson

K Lawson provided an update on the roundtable forum which has been scheduled for 17 June, which has been moved online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. In response to a question from, Cr Ramsey, K Lawson confirmed that Councillors are required to register, and Cr Carli agreed to check whether this has been done on their behalf.

Cr Abboushi requested an outline and who has been invited. K Lawson advised that developers, agencies that provide youth related services, Victoria Police and local members of parliament have been invited.

737 – Report to Council assessing police numbers and crime rates – E Johnston

Cr Carli enquired as to which Councillor raised this Notice of Motion. J McBurnie advised that this was tabled by Cr Turner

E Johnston advised that the report has been prepared and is expected be presented at the Council meeting on 28 June. E Johnston noted full details will be within the report, and shared that the State Government recently announced additional police for the City of Melton. Z Dunstan clarified that nine additional police officers have been confirmed. Committee members agreed this was a good outcome, and Z Dunstan indicated it was higher than they had originally anticipated.

Cr Shannon thanked Z Dunstan for their work and asked if this meets the need for Caroline Springs Police Station to operate on a 24-hour basis. Z Dunstan clarified that it does currently operate for 24 hours a day, but the front doors are not opened to ensure there are enough police on the roads responding to call outs. Cr Shannon asked how the message can be communicated and requested a statement from Victoria Police for Councillors to refer to in discussions with the community. Z Dunstan agreed to provide a statement that Councillors could refer to when speaking with the community. Cr Carli noted that this messaging seems to be getting through to the community. Z Dunstan stated that they had noticed this also and hope it will improve with further engagement face to face.

Action

Z Dunstan to provide a statement from Victoria Police regarding evidence and rationale for decision on Caroline Springs Police Station.

E Johnston to note which Councillor raised notice of motion in future agendas.

Recommendation

Committee members and Councillors continue to disseminate the message that Caroline Springs Police Station is operating 24/7.

At 10.32am A Watkinson joined the meeting

6.2 Empowering Communities Funding – E Rider

E Rider provided an overview of the empowering communities funding being provided by the DJCS, following on the forum that took place in March. Council is currently calling for

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expressions of interest to establish a Project Action Group (PAG), Committee members were encouraged to submit an expression of interest and share with relevant stakeholders.

A Watkinson identified the link with the Roundtable Forum, Officers agreed it would be utilised to inform the project. Cr Ramsey enquired as to the nature of initiatives E Rider clarified the funding is intended for community based programs (as opposed to works in the built environment) however noted initiatives will be co-designed by the PAG based on their expertise and the evidence available.

At 11.07am Cr Abboushi left the meeting

J Kaur asked whether consultation with the community would be undertaken as part of the project. E Rider explained that Council can utilize existing engagement such as through the forum, the development of the Council Vision and Plan, as well as results from the annual Community Satisfaction Surveys. Random sampling methods ensure we have a good representation of people from across the community.

In response to a question from Cr Shannon, E Rider advised that schools would be engaged for information exchange and partnership for the delivery of initiatives if they are relevant. Cr Shannon asked if the initiatives may be something that involves students, and J McBurnie agreed this was a possibility, but it would ultimately be decided on by the PAG. Cr Ramsey raised concerns about environmental and situational factors when a survey is completed affecting the results (e.g. COVID-19 lockdowns) E Rider agreed and explained that Council had delayed a recent survey due to similar concerns. A Watkinson clarified that DJCS is funding establishment of the PAG to get insights and hear experiences from organisations working in the space.

Cr Turner raised that a key issue is engagement of young people with the police, so some funding could be spent on events that connect these groups. Committee discussed that it has improved over the years, and engagement has been increased broadly. E Rider confirmed that in principle, youth related engagement with police is in the scope of funding, but any initiatives would need to be determined by the PAG. Z Dunstan noted are working to overcome these barriers and create positive interactions with the community, and it's important for services to support this.

J McBurnie advised that there were 13 available positions on the PAG. Cr Shannon and Cr Carli asked whether there was capacity for Councillor involvement. E Rider advised that the funding stipulates that the PAG sits separate to the political process and proposed initiatives would be approved at Ministerial level. Council staff can keep Councillors and members of this committee informed about the progress of the project and to feedback any commentary. A Watkinson added that the initiative was intended to be community led, and as the DJCS representative she was taking the suggestions from this meeting and would be open to further discussion with Councillors. Cr Ramsey requested a briefing to Council on the outcomes. E Rider agreed to provide an update to Councillors after the establishment of the PAG, and once projects have been designed.

Action

E Johnston to provide copy of the presentation with the minutes and circulate the link for the expression of interest.

Empowering Communities will remain as a standing ongoing agenda item.

E Rider, J McBurnie and E Johnston to provide an update on the PAG to Councillors at key milestones.

6.3 Community Road Safety Forum – E Johnston

E Johnston provide an update that the Forum took place on 20 May at Fraser Rise, and there were 58 people in attendance. Good feedback has been received in participant surveys, with all who responded saying they would recommend the event. Cr Ramsey



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commended E Johnston, E Rider and the team on the delivery of the forum, noting effectiveness of the speakers and that it is imperative Council continues to deliver the forums.

6.4 Community Safety Ambassador Program – I Thapar

I Thapar presented on the Community Safety Ambassador training being delivered at Timbertop Children's and Community Centre. Cr Carli and Cr Shannon asked about Councillor involvement and I Thapar indicated that it was a community-initiated program. I Thapar and E indicated that there may be opportunities for Councillors to support the program once the Ambassadors have completed the workshops if they are happy to. Further updates could be provided through this committee.

Cr Shannon asked whether this program was being rolled out elsewhere, and I Thapar indicated it could be considered a pilot training program. Based on the outcomes, available budget, and community demand it had the potential to be replicated elsewhere. Cr Ramsey and Cr Carli emphasised the benefits this could have across this municipality and expressed interest in meeting the Ambassadors. In response to a question from J Kaur about senior citizen representation in the program, I Thapar indicated that no expressions of interest were received from seniors, but broader programs for digital literacy are being delivered. Cr Carli concluded by thanking I Thapar for her work and that we look forward to hearing more.

Action

I Thapar to share the plan of safety activities that can be run from Timbertop with the Committee and determine whether there would be an appropriate opportunity for Ward Councillors to meet the Ambassadors.

E Johnston to add the program as an ongoing agenda item and to provide copy of the presentation with the minutes.

6.5 TAC funded projects at Caroline Springs – T Lay

T Lay advised that Council has been successful in obtaining TAC funding for road safety projects in Caroline Springs, including pedestrian crossings. Project is currently in design phase and construction should commence by the end of the year.

6.6 Pedestrian and Cycling investigation – T Lay

T Lay advised TAC funding has also been acquired for an investigation around pedestrian and cyclist safety around Melton, Melton South, and Brookfield. Council will engage consultants to complete this work, and are expecting to seek feedback from the community in the next few months through the avenues available.

6.7 Member updates - All

Victoria Police – Z Dunstan & J Mutsaerts

Z Dunstan advised that she has been successful in obtaining another position and will be leaving the Melton area next month. The new Local Area Commander will be Lisa Prentice-Evans, starting on 15 July and who will be introduced to the committee by email. Z Dunstan thanked everyone for their support during her time in the City of Melton. Cr Carli, Cr Ramsey, and Cr Vandenberg expressed thanks for Z Dunstan's support and contributions and noted how much Z Dunstan would be missed by the local community.

Community Safety Forums will be taking place around the City of Melton across July and August 2021 in the evening, led by Victoria Police. J Mutsaerts advised that the locations have been chosen to meet the needs of developing areas, forums would be prevention driven and are in partnership with Council and Neighbourhood Watch. J Mutsaerts thanked E Johnston for support in booking venues as noted below. Flyers will be

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circulated shortly to promote the forums, and all are welcome to attend across any of the locations. Cr Ramsey expressed interest in receiving dates through the minutes and supporting promotion of the events.

VicRoads – A Venda

A Venda congratulated the City of Melton for receiving a Community Road Safety Grant of \$8,095 to fund the acquisition of a new VMS board.

Fit2Drive – A Nguyen

N Nguyen reported that upcoming road safety workshops will be operating in three schools in the municipality. Fit2Drive is hiring and looking for casuals to facilitate workshops with young people. A Nguyen shared the link and asked members to circulate it to their networks.

Antisocial behaviour in Hillside area – Cr Carli

Cr Carli shared community concerns about anti-social behaviour in the Hillside area, near Hillside community and recreation centers. J Mutsaerts encouraged residents to report the activity as it is not an issue that she recalled had been flagged. J Mutsaerts noted the issue and requested specific information to be provided. Cr Carli agreed to provide the information to Officers to pass on. Victoria Police can undertake engagement in partnership with Council for businesses, like they have done recently for Scott Street and a shopping strip in Melton South. Cr Carli noted Young Communities and sent outreach workers to the site, but the activity hasn't been taking place in the times they attended.

Hooning – Cr Carli

Cr Carli advised there have been concerns about hooning at the intersection of Hume Drive and Calder Park Drive. It was noted that Council's Engineering team, were considering installing road surface treatment.

Action/Recommendation

A Nguyen to circulate link regarding Fit2Drive recruitment.

Cr Carli to send contact details and related information to Council officers.

7. Next Meeting

Cr Ramsey acknowledged E Johnston for organizing the meetings.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 September 2021 from 10am on Microsoft Teams.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.24pm.