

Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Pearl:

Can officers provide an update on the Foreshore Lighting Project, partially completed a few years ago, and particularly the landscaping components out the front of and around the Port Melbourne Life Saving Club?

Response:

The current works in Port Melbourne have been delayed in relation to a Fusarium Wilt issue, which relates to a disease that effects palm trees, obviously there's a lot of palm trees along that part of the foreshore. Working through those issues has meant there has been a delay in achieving approval from the State Government. A contamination management plan has had to be prepared. This is a prerequisite for the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) granting coastal crown consent for the works to proceed.

Council officers have been looking at ways to mitigate the risk of the Fusarium Wilt pathogen spread between palm trees when undertaking construction works on the lighting. Unfortunately, we have been unable to obtain a robust pathogen management plan, therefore we are needing to amend the scope of the project to set up tree protection zones and avoid any works around the palm trees. Due to this the landscaping around the front of the Life Saving Club is proposed to be removed from the scope of the project, however it is still intended to complete landscaping works on the lawn area around the club and the toilet block. This will be done as a separate project to allow the immediate focus on replacing the deteriorating lighting infrastructure.

Based on this revised approach our current timelines expect construction to occur between April – June 2024 subject to the receipt of Marine and Coastal consent. As the lawn area is expecting to be used as a construction compound during this time, the landscaping works will not occur until after the construction works are completed.

Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.