



9.1 **RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR BAXTER - SAFE DELIVERY OF LGBTIQA+ PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RECOGNITION**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **ALLISON KENWOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide a report back to Council on the 21 June 2023 Notice of Motion, regarding the continuation of work with key bodies on the safe delivery of LGBTIQA+ programs, community events and recognition.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides an update to Council on items 3 and 4 of the Notice of Motion 21 June 2023.
- 2.2 Across Victoria, including City of Port Phillip, events for the LGBTIQA+ community have been targeted by far-right extremist groups, resulting in cancellations due to safety and security concerns.
- 2.3 Council is committed to welcoming and supporting all its diverse communities, including the LGBTIQA+ community. This is affirmed in the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023-26, with a vision for an Inclusive City where diverse LGBTIQA+ communities are safe, connected and celebrated.
- 2.4 Collaboration and consultation with key bodies have been undertaken in the development of this report, and are ongoing in order to strengthen relationships, draw on their expertise, and increase organisational capacity to safely deliver LGBTIQA+ programs, community events and recognition in future.
- 2.5 Risk mitigation strategies, tools and controls have been investigated to strengthen Council's risk management policies and processes. This is in preparation for hosting or supporting future events for the LGBTIQA+ community and other diverse communities.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the update on the safe delivery of LGBTIQA+ programs, community events and recognition.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 At its meeting on 19 July 2023, Council endorsed the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023-26, committing Council to its vision for an Inclusive City where diverse LGBTIQA+ communities are safe, connected and celebrated.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 21 June 2023, Council moved a Notice of Motion, that Council:



- 4.1.1 *Publicly reaffirms its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people in our community.*
- 4.1.2 *Condemns far right terrorism and hate speech perpetuated against the LGBTIQ+ community their allies and supporters.*
- 4.1.3 *Continue to work with the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, Victorian Pride Centre, Municipal Association of Victoria, Victoria Police and other key bodies on the safe delivery of LGBTIQ+ programs, community events and recognition moving forward.*
- 4.1.4 *Report back to Council on item 3 above within six months*

- 4.3 Since 2022, events for the LGBTIQ+ community events have come with increased risks due to hate speech and threats to the safety of staff, attendees, and performers.
- 4.4 Consultation with Council's LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, the Victorian Pride Centre, Municipal Association of Victoria, Victoria Police and other key bodies has been undertaken to draw on their knowledge and increase operational capacity to safely deliver LGBTIQ+ programs, community events and recognition in future.
- 4.5 This consultation has produced key findings related to the current political climate, Council's role in this space and strategic methods for mitigating risk for LGBTIQ+ events.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Between June and October 2023, consultation has been undertaken in development of this report and response to the Notice of Motion, with a focus of key local peak bodies and representatives of the LGBTIQ+ community, including:
 - City of Port Phillip's LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee
 - Victorian Pride Centre
 - Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)
 - Victoria Police
 - Minus18
 - Rainbow Community Angels
 - Victorian State Government.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal and risk implications relating to the safe delivery of LGBTIQ+ programs have been considered in this report.
- 6.2 It is recognised that Council has a responsibility to create and contribute to a safe environment for the community.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no financial implications pertaining to this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no environmental impacts pertaining to this report.



9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Hosting events and programs for the LGBTIQ+ community, including those recognising days of significance, assist in creating a more welcoming and inclusive city.
- 9.2 Through the endorsement of the LGBTIQ+ Action Plan, Council commits to support its LGBTIQ+ community, which includes safely delivering inclusive programs, events and recognition.
- 9.3 There is an increased understanding across tiers of government, primarily local government, of the need strengthen risk mitigation to consider security concerns in the planning of these events, to create a safe environment for attendees.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 The safe delivery of LGBTIQ+ programs, community events and recognition align with Council Plan 2021-31 Strategic Direction 1: *Inclusive Port Phillip*. This direction has the objective of 'a city that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities'.
- 10.2 Council's LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2023-2026, sets out the needs and aspirations of LGBTIQ+ people in the municipality, establishing desired outcomes and guiding Council in its role of embedding LGBTIQ+ inclusion across Council activities.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- January-February 2024: The annual Midsumma Festival takes place in January and February in the City of Port Phillip, with a presence at the Midsumma Carnival and hosting the Pride March.
- Ongoing: Council will continue to support its diverse communities, including people from the LGBTIQ+ community. This includes hosting and supporting LGBTIQ+ programs, events and recognition.
- Officers will advance the consultation findings to support LGBTIQ+ inclusion across Council activities.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- City of Port Phillip will work with the LGBTIQ+ Community and stakeholders to support safe and inclusive events.
- LGBTIQ+ programs, events or recognition will be sensitively communicated externally to the community and across Council, considering the context as appropriate.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil