

## Public Question Time and Submissions

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### Question from Isaac Hermann:

In relation to the renewal of laneways, at the Council meeting on 15 February 2017, Council resolved to cease bitumen and concrete sealing of laneways. Who or what body authorised the recommencement of Council laneway renewals that were ceased by council decision 15 February 2017?

In relation to the sustainability of laneway renewals, are planning amendments (specifically VC154) being adhered to when works are being carried out and how is integrated water management being embedded in these works? Given that the City of Port Phillip a number of years ago had over 80% of its land surface impervious, is it about time we did some remodeling to see how far we have deteriorated?

### Response:

Referenced below are the Minutes from the Council meetings held on 15 February 2017 and on 7 June 2017. *Noting there was no motion or resolution made regarding "Council ceasing bitumen and concrete sealing of Laneways"*

[Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15 February 2017 \(portphillip.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/minutes/ordinary-meeting-council-15-february-2017)

[Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council - 7 June 2017 \(portphillip.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/minutes/ordinary-meeting-council-7-june-2017)

At the Council meeting on 5 April 2017, Council resolved to halt laneway sealing works in Elwood pending further investigation into permeable surfaces.

[Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council - 5 April 2017 \(portphillip.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/minutes/ordinary-meeting-council-5-april-2017)

In relation to laneways and how Council determines the renewal program:

In a growing City, with changing customer expectations, in a world of litigation, our vision for asset management remains "As trusted stewards of Council's assets on behalf of our community, we will ensure our assets enable the delivery of agreed services that our community values and are sustainable for current and future generations."

Many objectives in the Council Plan including heritage, access and inclusion, water sensitive city, climate emergency, amenity, safety, inclusion, and many more are delivered through our asset renewals and upgrades programs.

The laneway renewal program is determined based on condition and risk. Inspections are carried out in accordance with the Road Management Plan (RMP), currently every 12 months with independent audits on a 4-year cycle. The last audit was carried out in 2022. We have recently implemented a trial to perform asset inspections using artificial intelligence with cameras installed on a street sweeper and asset inspection trike, so our inspection regime for roads and footpaths is currently higher than what is required under the RMP

Council uses a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being new and 5 end of useful life. This scale is based on a condition scoring matrix of 100 points adopted from best practice guidelines from Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA). Council Transport Portfolio Asset Management Plans provides further details of risk and condition which is based on ISO 55000. Risk is managed in accordance with Councils Risk Management Policy and Framework (2017) which is based on ISO 31000.

The laneway and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) programs are collaboratively scoped in the planning phase through both the Transport and Integrated Water working groups with representatives from across all of Departments including City Design (heritage) and Sustainability. These groups prepare the initial design brief, which goes to the relevant Project Control Group (PCG) for governance.

In the design phase, permeability testing, soil contamination, tree protection, survey, stormwater, future developments impacts are all carried out prior to the design being completed. Design options are reviewed through the Asset Portfolio working groups and onto PCG for approval.

Laneways with heritage overlays are reconstructed in accordance with Heritage Guidelines and permits if required by heritage Victoria. Bluestone laneways outside heritage overlays are designed to meet community expectations and future stormwater requirements.

In the past 12 months Council received 108 customer complaints regarding water pooling, vehicle damage, compensation claims, weeds, dumped rubbish and property damage in relation to our laneways. These complaints have been steadily reducing over the past 4 years.

Council maturity in flood management and asset function has increased significantly since concerns were raised by residents in 2017 and the passion and dedication shown by the community in this area is to be admired.

*\*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.*