

## **Public Question Time – Adrian Jackson, Middle Park**

---

**Question 1:** *With predictions of extreme future flooding in low lying areas of Port Phillip why is Fishermans Bend being developed with buildings instead of open space ovals and parkland?*

**Response:** The renewal of Fishermans Bend into a high density urban area was decided by the State Government, including designation of land for new buildings and for public open space. A Fishermans Bend Framework has been developed that 'is a plan for the parks, schools, roads, transport, community facilities and services to ensure the liveability of the area as it grows over the next 30 years'.

Although Fishermans Bend is relatively low lying and therefore is at risk of flooding events, Council officers are working with the State Government to, as best we can, quantify the risk. We are also advocating to ensure mitigation measures are in place to minimise the risk. This includes a combination of engineering measures, such as levies and pumps, and building design (for example podiums) and planning controls. This work, called the Water Sensitive City strategy for Fishermans Bend is significant, extensive and ongoing. It involves all the major agencies and is led by the State Government (Fishermans Bend Taskforce).

**Question 2:** *Who will pay for the parklets and who will keep them clean? What consultation has been undertaken? Who manages parklets when cafes are closed and are they fire safe?*

**Response:** Parklets are a temporary measure under Council's Economic and Social Recovery Program 'Live Love Local'. All applicants are required to seek support from their neighbouring traders and residents and this is taken into consideration when assessing each application. Costs associated with the construction as well as the maintenance of the business parklet, including sanitation, graffiti, litter removal and damage is the responsibility of the permit-holder. Litter generated from the parklet must not be swept into the street gutter or adjacent areas and must be deposited within the operator's own bins kept within the premises. The occupation of the business parklet must have a limited impact on the residential amenity and neighbourhood. Tables must be cleared of all bottles, glass and tableware and be kept clean to ensure safety and cleanliness for other patrons. Outside of the approved hours of occupation, furniture within the business parklet must be safely stacked and rendered unusable. Upon the expiry of the permit the permit-holder is responsible for the removal of all items and returning the area back to its original condition. Where smoking is permitted under the Tobacco Act 1987, windproof ashtrays must be provided for patrons wishing to smoke within the business parklet. The level of fire safety depends on the materials used to construct each individual parklet.

**Question 3:** *Can Council explain what "Play Space" and "Pop Ups" are as mentioned in the council website and Have Your Say published on 13 Oct 20?*

**Response:** Play Streets are temporary road closures being planned in 3 locations to enable temporary street activations including community activities, live music, trader engagement and more. 'Pop Up's are temporary activations that may appear in public spaces such as children's play equipment, reading nooks, dance parties, life size chess, outdoor hairdressing salons – whatever temporary use of space may be required or desired. This is part of Council's 'Live Love Local' program to help community and business enjoy the municipality safely this summer.

**Question 4:** *What is Council going to do, with police and government assistance naturally, about the illegal drugs, violent assaults and anti-social behaviours in Fitzroy St?*

**Response:** The Victorian State Government is responsible for law and order and is the lead agency on responses to these type of issues in the City of Port Phillip and other municipalities. Council works closely with Victoria Police in relation to public safety issues but does not have the statutory powers to respond to criminal and anti-social behaviour such as drug activity and aggressive individuals. If a crime is occurring and/or if a person is in immediate danger, you are strongly encouraged to contact Victoria Police by calling triple zero (000).

**Question 5:** *Why does council not ban alcohol on outdoor council areas all year around?*

**Response:**

**Context: The current restrictions:**

Currently alcohol is restricted on all public land after 8pm until 12 noon the next day, and certain public holidays/peak days.

In our streets, there is a 24-hour year round ban on alcohol consumption.

St Kilda foreshore has a 24-hour ban from Langridge (West beach) to Thackeray St (St Kilda Marina) from 01 Nov – 31 March

Therefore, the only places where you can legally drink during the summer period is parks and foreshore reserves outside the St Kilda zone, between 12 noon and 8pm.

**Council's position and why**

On **21 March 2018** Council considered a number of options for alcohol bans ranging from a ban across the entire foreshore, year round, to a ban just on the St Kilda Foreshore area during peak periods.

At the time, Council resolved to implement a ban on the St Kilda Foreshore during peak periods and on peak days. The decisions was based on criteria set by Council; risk assessments completed against criteria set by Council, and feedback from many in the community, stakeholders and Victoria Police.

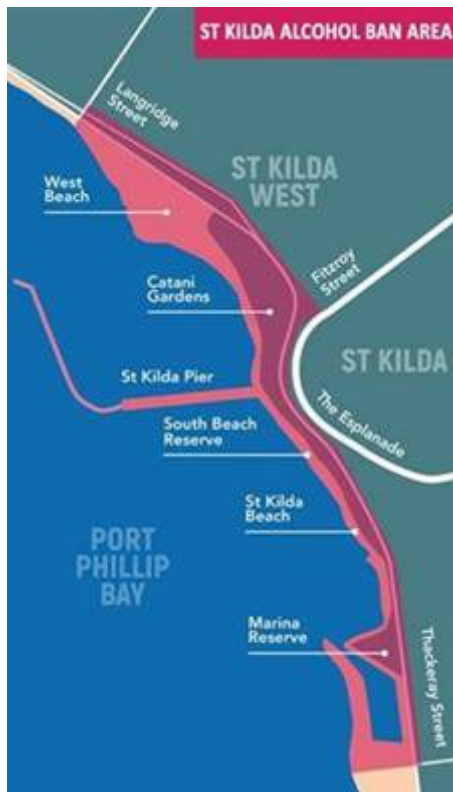
At the time, Council noted that restrictions along the whole foreshore were not recommended, ...."as the risks do not merit an all-year-round total foreshore alcohol restriction, given the escalation of risks is in the peak season when visitation to the foreshore also peaks."

The Resolution also noted that a peak season alcohol restriction along the entire foreshore during the summer period from 1 November to 31 March would have a " .....a negative impact on the right to enjoy responsible alcohol consumption on the foreshore away from the higher risk St Kilda foreshore."

On **December 4 2018**, Council re-considered the alcohol bans, and resolved to retain them, focussed only on the St Kilda Foreshore Zone, in summer and on key public holidays.

This was the last time Council considered the matter.

During these deliberations, and based on the feedback at the time, Council did not consider a city-wide (all open spaces, all year) alcohol ban.



**Question 6:** *Can the 50kph speed sign in Patterson St be replaced with a 40kph sign?*

**Response:** Council's Transport Safety team has identified the need to reduce a speed limit from 50 km/h to 40km/h on Dank Street - Patterson Street - Park Street from Mills Street in Middle Park to Fitzroy Street in St Kilda. This improve safety and bring it in line with side streets that are already 40km/h.

The team was preparing a community information campaign in April/May 2020, however due to Covid-19 restrictions, the campaign had to be postponed until February 2021.

Once the community is advised of the proposed speed limit change, a submission has to be made to the Department of Transport to seek their approval. If all steps are successfully completed, we anticipate that a new 40km/h speed limit could be installed by end of June 2021.

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