

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**Agenda item 6.4****Proposed expansion of Safe City Cameras into Lygon Street, Carlton****3 October 2023****Presenter:** Rushda Halith, General Manager Community and City Services**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to proceed with the expansion of the Safe City Camera Program (SCCP) into Lygon Street (Victoria Street to Elgin Street) and Argyle Square (Lygon Street Carlton), following approval of 50% of the cost (\$260,000.00) from the State Government. City of Melbourne to fund the remaining 50% of the cost of expansion from Capital budget.
2. The SCCP became operational on 27 February 1997. The primary purpose of the SCCP is to improve the level of community safety whilst ensuring individuals' privacy rights are protected.
3. Objectives of the SCCP are as follows:
 - 3.1. contribute to the provision of a safer physical environment
 - 3.2. assist Victoria Police to reduce crime levels by deterring potential offenders
 - 3.3. aiding in early identification of criminal offences
 - 3.4. generally assisting in emergency responses.
4. As per the resolution of the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 13 July 2010, the SCCP was established to operate in the central business district and was not proposed to be used to enforce Local Laws.
5. The Annual Plan and Budget for 2023–24 includes the expansion of SCCP and states "In partnership with the Victorian Government, expand, enhance and upgrade the Safe City Camera program. This includes expanding the camera network to Lygon Street in Carlton, and investigating the use of the network to identify amenity issues that contribute to perceived community safety concerns, such as cleanliness, graffiti and dumped rubbish." There is a capital expenditure allocation of \$520,000 (including the Victorian Government's 50 per cent contribution).
6. At the Council meeting on 30 May 2023 (Agenda item 7.2, Notice of Motion, Cr Leppert: Safe City Camera Program) it was resolved that Council maintains a policy of not funding new capital expenditure to expand the SCCP through Council funds but seek funding via the Victorian Government, with any exception to this policy to be determined by the Council in open session. Any expansion of the SCCP beyond "aid detection of crime, aid identification and apprehension of offenders and assist emergency response" should only be considered after the SCCP policies and manual have been comprehensively reviewed.

Key issues

7. Management have been able to secure \$260,000 (50 per cent) of funding for the expansion of the program into Lygon Street from the Victorian Government.
8. Safety has been identified as a top priority by the Carlton community through recent neighbourhood engagement, with specific concerns being raised around Lygon Street. Carlton Residents Association and Carlton Inc. have been active in their request for the SCCP to expand into Lygon Street. Victoria Police have also expressed support.
9. A review of the existing SCCP policies and manual has commenced. A report will be provided to Council in the last quarter of 2023–24. Use of the cameras will continue for the original intended objectives until this review is complete and any updated proposal is approved by Council.

Recommendation from management

10. That Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 10.1. Approves the expansion of the Safe City Camera Program into Lygon Street, Carlton at a cost of \$520,000.
 - 10.2. Acknowledges that 50 per cent of the cost will be funded by the Victorian Government, and agrees for the remaining funds to be committed by City of Melbourne.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no legal implications. Legal advice will be provided as required.

Finance

2. There is \$520,000 set aside in the 2023–24 Capital budget, which includes \$260,000 to be provided by the Victorian Government.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In developing this proposal, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Stakeholder consultation

5. Safety has been identified as a top priority by the Carlton community through recent neighbourhood engagement, with specific concerns being raised around Lygon Street. Carlton Residents Association and Carlton Inc. have been active in their request for the SCCP to expand into Lygon Street. Victoria Police have also expressed support.

Relation to Council policy

6. This proposal is in line with commitments under Major Initiative 50 of the Council Plan 2021–25 relating to safety, as detailed through the Annual Planning and Budget process for 2023–24.

Environmental sustainability

7. In developing this proposal, it is planned to install a small amount of solar based cameras as a trial, to test the battery longevity with a view to enabling further solar installations should it be successful. This may reduce the requirement for power to each camera.