

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Notice of Motion, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood: State Government's preferred second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room**

**Motion**

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 1.1. Requests the Chief Executive Officer write to Minister Foley to:
    - 1.1.1. reject the proposed Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) site on Victoria Street, adjacent to the Queen Victoria Market;
    - 1.1.2. ask why a second preferred location was chosen when the independent report is silent on a preferred location;
    - 1.1.3. request the Victorian Government develop a Metro Heroin and Ice Taskforce to consider all options to address the issue, including early intervention, drug and alcohol rehabilitation pathways, co-located detox and drug rehab facilities, drug overdose response, enhanced street outreach, mental health and counselling services and co-located facilities;
    - 1.1.4. request that if a comprehensive strategy still recommends a second MSIR, the Victorian Government involves City of Melbourne, businesses, residents and relevant experts in consideration of appropriate locations and de-centralised models other than the preferred site;
  - 1.2. Requests management to provide advice to council on any planning controls or other powers that would enable council to refuse this proposed location.

**Background**

2. The preferred location for the second MSIR is adjacent to the world-renowned Queen Victoria Market which has 600 traders, 2,000 workers and is the most visited attraction in Victoria with close to 10 million visitors annually. It is the City Of Melbourne's fastest-growing neighbourhood in terms of residents, with a high proportion of international students residing in the area, and is the location for small businesses, hotels, childcare, and the multicultural community hub and is the gateway to the \$100 billion dollar central city economy.
3. Queen Victoria Market attracts a very important tourism segment being the VFR (Visiting, Friends and Relatives) which represents approximately one quarter or 613,000 of total international overnight visitors.

4. This area is ear-marked as an innovation jobs precinct, future home to 20,000 new residents, the revitalised Queen Victoria Market and is predicted to generate hundreds of millions in gross local products.
5. The precinct will be home to affordable housing, family services and childcare upon completion of the Munro development. The precinct is already home to vulnerable residents immediately adjacent to the preferred site.
6. A harm minimisation approach to drug addiction is supported. However the decision to immediately progress with a second MSIR without an overarching strategy to tackle the root cause of drug addiction as opposed to the symptoms is not supported.
7. There is compelling evidence that shows where there is inadequate drug and alcohol rehabilitation beds available, drug dependent individuals who wish to recover often struggle to secure a bed.

**Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood**

**Seconded: Cr Beverley Pinder**