

2.1 DRAFT COUNCIL PRESENTED AND COUNCIL SPONSORED EVENTS AND FESTIVALS UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR STALLHOLDERS AND SPEAKERS

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Notes the consultation feedback.*
2. *Adopts the revised Council Presented and Council Sponsored Events and Festivals Updated Guidelines for Stallholders and Speakers pertaining to both Council presented and Council supported Events and Festivals within the City of Monash.*

INTRODUCTION

This report provides Council with the outcomes of the consultation process conducted following the report *Council Presented and Council Sponsored Events and Festivals Updated Guidelines for Stallholders and Speakers* adopted at the special Council meeting of 20 February 2018. The Special Meeting was called to consider updating the existing guidelines. At this meeting, Council resolved to revise the current guidelines prior to the 2018/19 Festival season.

Council's endorsement is sought for the attached proposed *Council Presented and Council Sponsored Events and Festivals Updated Guidelines for Stallholders and Speakers* (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND

On 24 November 2014, Council endorsed the document *Guidelines for Stallholders and Speakers at Monash Council Presented Events and Festivals*. The Guidelines stipulated Council's position on the presence, profile and desired outcomes for all its community events and festivals regarding political parties and invitations to members of parliament.

On 20 February 2018, a report was presented to Council to seek endorsement to revise the existing *Guidelines for Stallholders and Speakers at Monash Events and Festivals*. At this meeting, Council directed officers to undertake a comprehensive review of the Guidelines for stallholders and speakers at Monash Festivals and Events and report back to Council prior to the 2018/2019 Festival season.'

Following the Have Your Say Survey consultation process, revised guidelines for *Stallholders and Speakers at Monash Events and Festivals* have been developed.

DISCUSSION

A community consultation process was conducted through July – August 2018. This consultation process elicited twenty-two (22) responses to the survey, with results indicating that there is support for the presence of political stalls at festivals and events.

The survey sought respondents views on whether they supported invitations to sitting politicians, with 57% responding 'Yes' and 24% 'On Occasion' and 19% not supporting. When asked if respondents support stallholders wearing clothing that identifies a particular political party or cause, 38% responded 'Yes' and 33% 'On Occasion', with the relative minority of 24% not supporting clothing identifying political affiliation.

There was also positive support for stallholders being able to promote and disseminate information about their relevant services. To clarify the profile of what is considered to be appropriate and not appropriate for stall signage and apparel, an infographic has been included in Clause 2.4 of the proposed Guidelines.

Council's current position on minimising giveaways was reinforced. Surrounding Councils are also actively enforcing the reduction of single use plastics as well as banning balloons. Monash City Council banned balloons from its festival program over 10 years ago and remains committed to this practice and the escalation of sustainable environmental practice at all its events.

Benchmarking with neighbouring Councils was conducted and found that each Council has a set of General Terms and Conditions for stallholders which are applied to political stalls.

The proposed Guidelines have been updated to reflect the survey results and relevant benchmarking.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The updated guidelines support Council's *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021* framework commitment to a community that is:

- Engaged, Confident & Connected: A city which actively listens, engages and values community wisdom in shaping its own future.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within the small number of responses received to the survey process, there has been strong support demonstrated that sitting Members of Parliament have the ability to be present at local community events to provide information on services. No advice was received to introduce other candidates at festivals and events.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* includes the right to taking part in public life. The continuing inclusion of sitting members of Parliament providing information to their constituents may be interpreted as indirectly meeting this right.

CONSULTATION

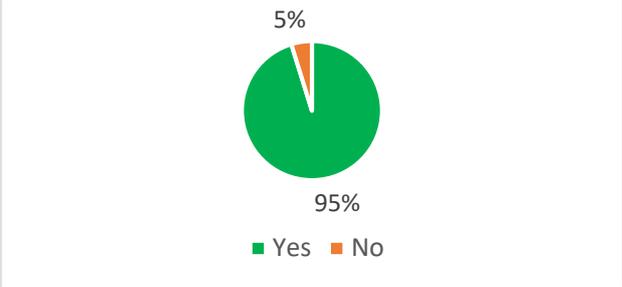
The Have Your Say community consultation process was conducted via a survey to gauge community opinion on the existing guidelines. The survey was conducted online, with promotion and hard copies available at Council's offices and library branches. It was also promoted through Council's website and social media channels. Councillors were consulted on

the proposed questions as part of the development of the survey. As requested, online links to the survey were sent to all stallholders at Council’s events from the 2017/18 season.

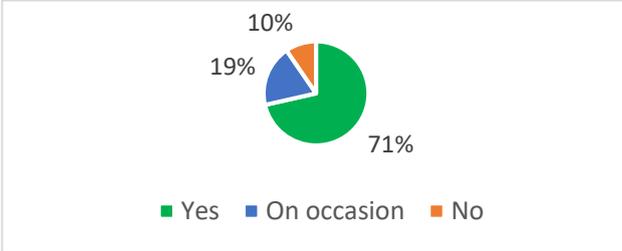
The *Have Your Say Survey* elicited 22 responses, its outcomes are described below:

Have Your Say Survey: Guidelines for stall holders and speakers at Council presented and Council supported festivals and events – 22 responses received

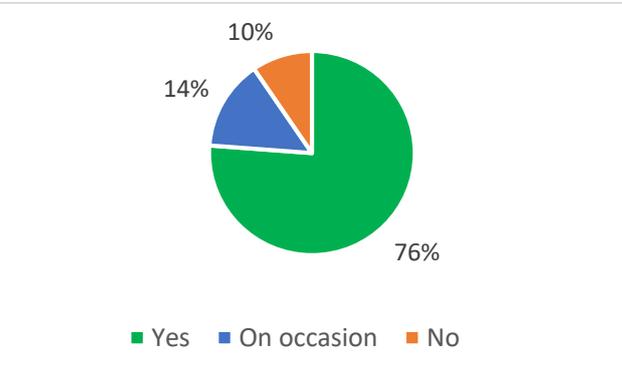
1. Do you support Local community groups to provide information about local community services and activities that are directly of benefit to the local community (e.g. sporting clubs, older people’s groups).



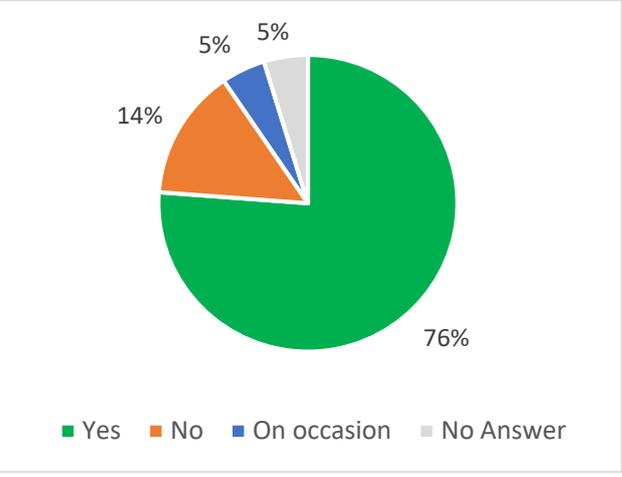
2. Do you support State and Federal government departments to disseminate information about their relevant services (e.g. VicRoads, Centrelink).



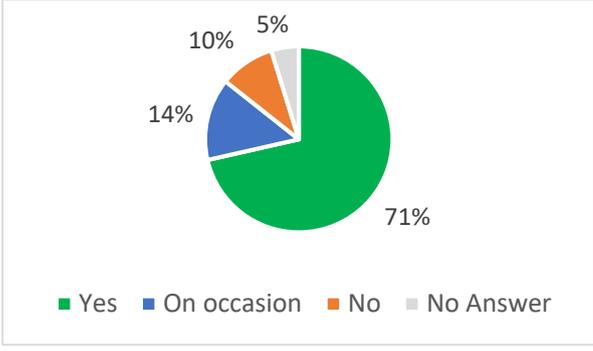
3. Do you support Local sitting Members of Parliament to participate by providing information or services that are of direct benefit and relevant to the local community and which are not politically partisan in nature e.g. local newsletters and information of general interest.



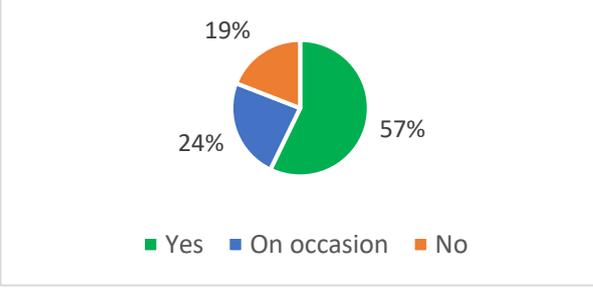
4. In accordance with current stallholder and speaker guidelines Council does not allow material with a predominant purpose of promotion of a political party, another candidate or group, or soliciting membership to a political party or group, including material that includes derogatory statements regarding an opposing policy, point of view or opinion. Do you support this?



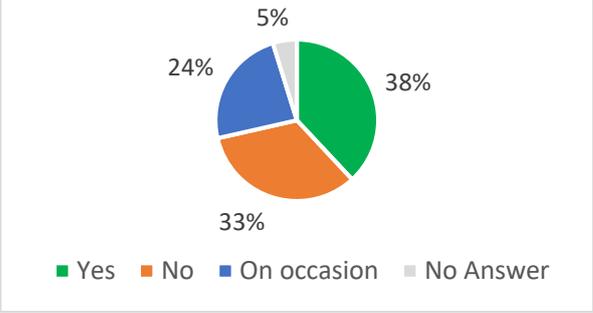
5. Currently the guidelines do not allow material with the predominant purpose of promoting a political party, Member of Parliament or candidate. In particular balloons, stickers, pens or similar ‘give-aways’ must not be distributed under any circumstances.
Do you support this?



6. Currently the guidelines allow invitations to sitting politicians, whose electorates/regions cover the locality in which a Council event or festival is held, to speak at that event or festival.
Do you support this?



7. We’d like your feedback on stallholders and/or speakers wearing clothing (e.g. hats, t-shirts) that identifies a particular political party or cause.
Do you support this?



CONCLUSION

While a small response was elicited from the survey, the outcome supports the continuing presence of Sitting Member of Parliament stallholders and permitting choice in apparel while staffing stalls. The Guidelines have been revised to reflect these outcomes, presented for Council’s consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Proposed Council presented and Council sponsored Events and Festivals Updated Guidelines for Stallholders and Speakers.