

6.10 THE USE OF CCTV IN MONASH

Submitting Councillor: Cr Saloumi

MOTION

That Council develops policies on the use of CCTV in Monash.

INTRODUCTION

Council's CCTV surveillance systems fall into two main categories:

- Systems installed in public spaces for use by Victoria Police
- Systems installed in and around council facilities for use by council staff i.e. Corporate CCTV

DISCUSSION

Victorian Auditor General's Office, VAGO, in an audit conducted in September 2018, found not all councils have a policy to guide the management of the use of CCTV. Those that did, had gaps in those policies. In general there was a lack of robust documented operating procedures.

Only one council of those audited had adequate oversight of its public safety system.

The majority did not have senior management oversight; lacked regular reporting and there were no formal committee or reporting processes.

An overview

The overview below is extracted from the website of the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

The full report is available at www.audit.vic.gov.au

Security and Privacy of Surveillance Technologies in Public Places

Tabled: 19 September 2018

Local councils are using advances in surveillance technology legitimately to collect information about people's daily activities. In parallel, they need to fulfil their responsibility to respect individuals' right to privacy, by managing these systems well and in compliance with privacy requirements.

Council's CCTV surveillance systems fall into two main categories:

- Systems installed in public spaces for use by Victoria Police
- Systems installed in and around council facilities for use by council staff i.e. Corporate CCTV

In this audit, we assessed whether councils keep secure the information they collect from these CCTV surveillance systems and whether they protect the privacy of individuals. Specifically, we assessed the management and use of surveillance devices in public places by five councils to see whether they adhere to relevant privacy laws and appropriate use policies and whether they protect the information they collect from unauthorised disclosure.

The councils we audited were:

- the City of Melbourne
- Whitehorse City Council
- Hume City Council
- East Gippsland Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council.

Between them, these councils have more than 1 100 CCTV cameras and they are increasing their use of surveillance devices.

We made 11 recommendations—nine for all audited councils, one for Whitehorse City Council and one for Horsham Rural City Council.

Limited evidence of community consultation and only one of the audited councils could show consideration of the impact on privacy.

VAGO found that Councils cannot demonstrate that they are protecting private information collected through CCTV due to:

1. Gaps in security and access controls
2. Review of system use

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Councils need to

- Improve physical security and access controls
- Regularly assess whether those controls are working

The full list of recommendations are available on website

<https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/report/security-and-privacy-surveillance-technologies-public-places> and on You Tube:

CONCLUSION

In recognition of the recommendations by VAGO, and in order to maintain robust control of CCTV in Monash, policies must be developed and implemented following adequate community consultation.