

**6.3 RACE AND SEX/GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF CCTV SURVEILLANCE**

Submitting Councillor: Dr Anjalee de Silva

**MOTION**

*That Council:*

1. *notes the motion titled 'Installation and Maintenance of CCTV Cameras in the Oakleigh Activity Centre for Victoria Police Surveillance' passed on 25 May 2021;*
2. *requests that officers prepare race and sex/gender impact assessments in relation to the installation and use of CCTV cameras for the purposes of real-time police surveillance of the community in the Oakleigh Activity Centre, which impact assessments are to identify and discuss;*
  - a. *evidence relating to benefits, if any, to women and/or minorities of the use of CCTV cameras for the purposes of police surveillance, including real-time surveillance, in activity centres such as the Oakleigh Activity Centre, if any;*
  - b. *evidence relating to risks of discriminatory policing of women and/or minorities in the use of CCTV cameras for the purposes of police surveillance, including real-time surveillance, if any;*
  - c. *evidence relating to risks to the safety and privacy of women and/or minorities of the use of CCTV cameras for the purposes of police surveillance, including real-time surveillance, if any;*
  - d. *evidence relating to the perspectives of women and minorities on what are necessary and desirable uses of resources for the purposes of promoting their (women's and minorities') safety and perceptions of safety in public spaces;*

*and that set out officers' views as to the likely overall impact on women and minorities in the municipality of the potential installation and use of CCTV cameras in the Oakleigh Activity Centre for the purposes of Victoria Police surveillance, including real-time feeds into the Oakleigh Police Station.*

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

On 25 May 2021, Council passed the motion titled 'Installation and Maintenance of CCTV Cameras in the Oakleigh Activity Centre for Victoria Police Surveillance'.

That motion:

- noted the request for the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the Oakleigh Activity Centre for the purposes of Victoria Police surveillance, including real-time feeds into the Oakleigh Police Station;
- noted that State Government funding of \$50,000 is offered for the purchase and installation of the cameras and that it is requested that Council funds the ongoing maintenance estimated to cost between \$2,500-\$5,000 per annum;
- noted the use of CCTV for the real-time monitoring of people activity is inconsistent with Council's current use of CCTV cameras;
- committed Council to conducting a municipality-wide consultation to establish the community response to the use of Council assets and resources for the real-time monitoring and surveillance of people

movement, activity, and behaviour by Victoria Police through the use of CCTV cameras, prior to resolving on the specific request;

- committed Council to receiving an officers' report on the findings to enable Council to further consider the request for CCTV camera installation in the Oakleigh Activity Centre.

### ***CONCLUSION***

There is some evidence that the use of CCTV cameras for police surveillance has discriminatory, disproportionate harmful impacts on women and minorities in communities in which they are used.

It is also unclear what the benefits are to women and minorities of the use of CCTV cameras for police surveillance.

In the context of the motion passed on 25 May 2021 and the possible installation and use of CCTV cameras in the Oakleigh Activity Centre for the purposes of Victoria Police surveillance, including real-time feeds into the Oakleigh Police Station, it is essential that the race and sex/gender impact assessments proposed in the motion at hand are conducted and considered as part of Council's decision-making.