

6.2 General Reports

6.2.1 Report in Response to the Cockatoo Community Market Petition

Responsible GM: Nigel Higgins
Author: Cheryl Casey

Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Note the petition
2. Request officers work with the Cockatoo Country Market organising committee to require the safe ongoing operation of their twilight and regular market events, including any suggestions for alternative locations.
3. Undertake an assessment of the 'regular market' in operation to inform future traffic management options.
4. Undertake a range of traffic management investigations for Pakenham Road including signage and line marking to better manage event activity.
5. Note Councils Festival and Events Officer role currently being recruited.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

A petition (648 signatures) was received requesting Cardinia Shire Council supply a suitable permanent location in Cockatoo for the Cockatoo Country Market to ensure it can continue. Officers will support the market organising committee to manage safe ongoing events.

Background

A petition to Council has been received (648 signatures) about the Cockatoo Country Market.

"The petition of residents in Victoria calls on the Cardinia Shire Council to secure a suitable permanent location in Cockatoo for the Cockatoo Country Market, soon to celebrate its 6th birthday is a volunteer run market that has become a much-loved monthly event in Cockatoo. The market just in 2020 alone donated \$5000 back into the Cockatoo community- all funds raised through the market. Cardinia Council has recently withdrawn permission for the market to occupy the carpark at the Cockatoo Community Complex, citing parking and traffic concerns. Cardinia Council have as yet been unable to provide the Cockatoo Country Market a suitable all weather indoor / outdoor location to hold their markets year-round – placing the future of the market under threat. The Market is a great support for small business owners and local tourism and needs a secure future. We call on the Cardinia Shire Council to provide a suitable permanent location in Cockatoo for the Cockatoo Country Market and ensure it can continue for years to come."

During March to November the regular monthly market occurs at the Cockatoo Community Complex Hall and car park (at Alma Treloar Reserve). Each market attracts approximately 500 people across the 5 hours of the event. The market has been operating successfully for the past 6 years without incident.

The Cockatoo Country Market also operates two Twilight events per year in December and February using the lower amphitheatre space at Alma Treloar Reserve.

In December 2020, the Twilight Market (a larger event) was held with approximately 1000 people in attendance. This was the first market following the pandemic lock down. Parking overflowed onto nearby Pakenham Road causing a range of traffic and pedestrian safety concerns. A significant concern was vehicle and pedestrian movements on the Arterial Pakenham Road with inadequate traffic management. Vehicles were illegally parking at 90 degrees on a busy road, parking on grass verges and pedestrians were mostly crossing uncontrolled.



Pakenham Road Illegal 90degree parking.
Parking needs to be parallel



The February 2021 Twilight Market operated with approximately 750 people attending with no reported concerns.

The recent March 2021 regular market operated from Alma Treloar Reserve lower amphitheatre with a Council approved traffic management plan in place. There were no traffic and pedestrian safety matters raised. The April 2021 market will also run from the lower amphitheatre with a similar traffic management plan.

During winter, the market organisers would prefer to resume operating with the shelter afforded from the Cockatoo Community Complex and carpark site. An assessment of the forthcoming regular market event will be undertaken to guide future event management. In addition, investigation of parking controls and line marking for Pakenham Road will be undertaken (in conjunction with Vic Roads) to inform any improvements.

Council supports the continuation of the market from the location, but a traffic management plan must be developed and undertaken to ensure protection and safety of the community attending the event. Should the markets outgrow this location, alternative locations in Cockatoo could be considered. Council's new Festival and Event officer in that case will work with the organising committee to consider these options.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Relevance to Council Plan

1.5 Our People - Variety of recreation and leisure opportunities

1.5.1 Provide active and passive recreation facilities to meet the needs of residents.

1.6 Our People - Increased awareness of safety

1.6.2 Improve awareness of township safety in local communities.

4.3 Our Economy - Diverse and resilient business community

4.3.1 Support small businesses to remain viable in rural townships.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil.

Consultation/Communication

Petition received from Cardinia Community

Financial and Resource Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

Officers will support and require the Cockatoo Market Committee to run safe markets utilising a traffic management plan approach without compromising the safety of the community. Council Festival and Events Officer will work with the organising committee to meet these requirements.