

10.2 Notice of Motion 1069 - Cr Cameron

Motion

That Council:

1. Notes the Victorian Government's intent to decriminalise sex work in Victoria and expresses its concerns regarding the following:
 - a. decriminalising street-based sex work in most locations without providing clarity regarding where it will be permitted, and the scale and impact for residential areas;
 - b. altering the sex work licensing and registration system established by the Sex Work Act 1994 including the separation distance requirements between sex work businesses and particular land uses, including dwellings;
 - c. brothels being able to apply for a liquor licence subject to the standard liquor licensing framework established under the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998;
 - d. not having a state wide regulatory framework for the sex work industry, and not providing details about resourcing that will be provided to respond to a new class of workplace and protect vulnerable workers and the community
2. Voices its concern that consultation was only open for two weeks which is inadequate to allow elected representatives to engage with their communities and for meaningful feedback to be provided.
3. Emphasises that:
 - a. meaningful consultation with community and with local government on any proposals must occur before any changes are considered or introduced; and
 - b. community consultation must form and integral consideration for any changes to the sex work industry.
4. Requests the Minister for Consumer Affairs to:
 - a. ensure full consultation with councils and the community before any decisions are made;
 - b. ensure appropriate time is provided for feedback, including consideration of councils meeting cycles;
 - c. to require that adequate and long-term funding be available for an appropriate local service for the purpose of supporting health and safety, advocacy, health promotion, legal support, and community education with regards to the rights and wellbeing of sex workers.
 - d. provide additional evidence including Health Impact Statement, Economic Impact Statement, case studies and criminology assessment in regard to the proposed changes.
5. Writes to the Minister for Consumer Affairs and the shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs to advocate Council's position with a copy of that letter sent to all local members of parliament whose electorates covers Cardinia.
6. Request the CEO or delegate to coordinate with other councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria in regard to any further advocacy opportunities.