

[REDACTED]

From: Moira Deeming
Sent: Monday, 25 October 2021 6:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Updated wording NOM 786, based on Officer feedback.

Hi all,

Apologies for not getting this to you earlier. Based on Officer Feedback- and concerns about how expensive this exercise will be when what I essentially want is to provide and gather information, I've got some new wording for the motion which doesn't tie us to the government's timeline, but achieves the same end.

Motion

That Council urgently undertake an awareness campaign within Melton to inform our residents of the Victorian Government's plan to allow sex work on public streets and in residential zones.

Currently, sex work is legal. It is only illegal in Victoria if it takes place outside industrial zones, and if it is not conducted in accordance with various other health and safety regulations.

However, the Victorian Government has announced that it will remove those safeguarding regulations to allow sex work/prostitution on commercial streets and in home based brothels, with less oversight than in Industrial Zones.

This issue is of particular concern given the scope, scale and impact for local streets, residential areas and commercial precincts in our municipality.

The consultation undertaken by the Victorian Government did not provide adequate time and scope for meaningful consultation with local councils and the broader community.

We as a Council must step in and inform our community about these impending laws.

I move that Council:

1. Run a public awareness campaign to inform Melton residents about these changes, especially parents or grandparents of minors, and/or commercially zoned business owners.
2. That the awareness campaign framework, including costs, be drafted and presented to Councillors for feedback as soon as possible, and be underpinned by the following facts:
 - a. that sex work/prostitution is currently legal, restricted to industrial zones and details about the safeguarding under the current Sex Work Act 1994.
 - b. that sex work/prostitution will be allowed to operate on public streets and in homes.
 - c. That Council holds concerns about the potential impact on child safety (especially those children who live near or at a home where sex work/prostitution is occurring), as well as community and neighbourhood safety and general neighbourhood living.
 - d. That Council holds concerns about the potential impacts on retail and commercial precincts including general amenity, safety and economic viability.
 - e. That Council holds concerns that these laws will not achieve the worthy goal of increased safety for sex workers/prostitutes, and is concerned about a lack of police, health and counselling resources currently available to sex workers/prostitutes (with relevant information detailing which safeguarding measures have been removed).

3. That a voluntary feedback web form be set up on Council's website, left open for the duration of the campaign and also for 3 months following it, so that if residents would like to provide feedback to the State government through us, they can do so.
4. That after the feedback survey closes, the results, along with our Council letters on this issue, form the basis of a report to be published on our website, and sent to every Member of Parliament, especially the responsible Minister- with the aim of representing our community's views on this issue.

Kind regards,

Cr Moira Deeming

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