



## **Listen Out Melbourne 2019 – Event Review Recommendations**

This was the fifth year that the Listen Out Festival has been held in St Kilda. This year the event increased in numbers and this increase led to some changes to the production of the event. While many of these changes were put in place to improve safety it is recognised that some of them created unacceptable impacts on the community.

Every event held in the City of Port Phillip undergoes a review process and the following are recommendations that have come from the review of Listen Out Melbourne 2019.

### **Size of event**

This was the first time an externally run music event of this size has been held within the municipality. Approval was provided in line with the Outdoor Events Policy, the Events Strategy and the Creative and Prosperous City Strategy. Listen Out 2019 was used as a trial of a large music event.

While the event was well managed and provided benefit; the build, road closures and site layout created large impacts. A better balance would need to be found before permitting large events again in the future.

#### **Recommendations**

- Implementation and site plans for any future large events will need to address concerns around access and road closures.
- In its current format, the Listen Out event would not be supported in the future.

### **Bay trail diversion**

It is recognised that the impact of closing the Bay Trail was unacceptable. This diversion was put in place to ensure safety, as large trucks and forklifts were regularly using Pier Road during bump in/out. Previous years we have tried other processes for event vehicles and cyclists to share the road but these have also not been successful. This year it was clear that the detours which were put in place were disruptive and caused other safety issues. Therefore, it should not be implemented in the same way in future years.

#### **Recommendation**

- Establish new processes to ensure the safe sharing of Pier Road for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles for future events. Including consideration of commuter cycling times.
  - Avoid Pier Rd closure between the hours of 7am – 9am and 5pm – 7pm during event set up and pack down.
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## **Length of occupation of site**

Listen Out includes a large build which required appropriate time to complete safely and with minimal impact to the reserve. Times for set up/pack down also need to consider:

- Time of day, avoiding work late at night or in the early hours
- Provision of enough time to undertake required duties without rushing (which can lead to damage to the reserve and unsafe work practices)
- Worksafe requirements - providing protection for both the public, patrons and event staff
- Contingencies for inclement weather.

This year Listen Out doubled their numbers and worked across both Catani Gardens and West Beach. To accommodate the increased patronage, the event increased their set up duration and included a full closure of Catani Gardens. These changes allowed for a safe, incident and damage free build for the larger event but caused a large impact to the community. Specifically Bay Trail impacts for commuter cyclists and passive recreation.

In the future, the time required for build works needs to be balanced against the impacts from closures which restrict access to local residents and the general public.

### **Recommendations**

- Investigate ways to reduce the number of days to build and pack down large events, reduce closure times and increase community access for longer periods.
- Consider extending the hours allowed for set up to reduce number of days on site.
- When developing the major events calendar, continue to spread events across sites so sites are not over-utilised.

## **Noise**

Noise management measures are significant for this event. The event met all permit conditions as verified by both the engaged acoustic consultant and EPA officers who were monitoring noise levels on the day. Noise mitigation measures included shipping containers to create noise barriers, speakers facing the bay, constant noise monitoring and set decibel limits to support noise reductions to residents.

### **Recommendations**

- Continue to manage and monitor noise levels at events in line with Councils Outdoor Noise Management Guidelines.
  - Continue to work with community, noise consultants and EPA to improve noise management throughout the season.
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## **Site impacts**

Listen Out had good mitigation measures to reduce impacts on the reserve from infrastructure, build and crowds. This included track matting, a built bridge to transfer from Catani to West Beach and fencing to protect trees.

Listen Out in St Kilda has never caused major damage to site trees, heritage features or turf. The 2019 event caused minimal damage to two park seats but damage was immediately reported and rectified as a withdrawal from their bond.

### **Recommendation**

- Continue the current site management program and park protection conditions in the permit for major events.

## **Sustainable waste management**

Waste and sustainability initiatives were of a high level including the implementation of a zero-waste program. The site was regularly cleaned throughout the event. The site was handed back in a clean state apart for some missed cable ties on the beach site.

### **Recommendations**

- Look for improvements to waste collection particularly post event with the collection of cable ties.
- Continue zero waste practices within the event and encourage other events to adopt these practices.

This feedback has been presented to the event organisers to ensure these review recommendations are prescribed for future years.

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