

## **18. CCTV and Public Safety**

One important aspect for liveability is the issue of public safety. While public safety is a fundamental right of all citizens, exactly what that means is subject to debate.

Unfortunately, our community has experienced many 'hot-spots' of street violence and assaults. In addition to 'policing' it is also important to deal with the causes of crime. Investing in mental health, unemployment, homelessness and drug and alcohol services is a cost-effective way to reduce street violence and many other social problems.

There have been calls for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in 'hot-spots' in Port Phillip. In 2010 the Victorian Law Reform Commission published the 'Surveillance in Public Places' report. The report contains recommendations to modernise surveillance laws, and promote the responsible use of surveillance devices in public places. The recommendations strive to ensure that users of surveillance devices do not infringe the rights of the Victorian public.

What is your position on CCTV as an appropriate way to increase public safety in the 'hot-spots' of Port Phillip?

There had been concerns, particularly from traders, about the safety and economic vitality of Carlisle Street, in particular the impact of a small group of people who publicly consume alcohol and/or drugs. In November Council rejected a proposal to implement a six month trial of a local law prohibiting the possession or consumption of an open container of alcohol along Carlisle Street. The majority of Councillors were concerned about the impact on civil rights that this would have. Instead Council voted to implement a range of other measures including short to medium term actions and longer-term strategies.

What is your position on the banning of alcohol in public places that are 'hot-spots' of violence?