

2.6 Public Question Time

The aim of public question time is to provide an opportunity for the public to ask general questions at Council Meetings requiring routine responses. Questions are received without notice and are responded to without research or reference to Council records.

Questions must be in writing, with the person submitting the question to be in the public gallery at the time.

Questions which contain material that relates to specific people or properties will be summarised at the discretion of Council.

Responses to public questions answered at the meeting, will be general in nature, provided in good faith and should not exceed two minutes. These responses will be summarised in the minutes of the meeting.

Questions requiring research or a detailed reply will be provided a written response as soon as possible following the meeting from the nominated officer. These written responses will be collated for each meeting and available via the Shire's website.

This segment does not substitute for appeal or other formal business procedures with the Council.

Written Responses

International Kite Festival on the Hastings Foreshore

Mr Frederick Crump, a resident of Hastings asked the following question:

During the days before the Councils amalgamated, the former City of Hastings used to organise a kite festival on the Hastings Foreshore. Why can't the Shire organise another International Kite Festival in Hastings where the area is much bigger and safer, for Ukrainian refugees, similar to the kite festival in the United Kingdom festival for Christmas?

A subsequent written response to the above question was provided by Natasha Petkovic-Jeremic, Manager Community Activation, as follows:

Mornington Peninsula Shire delivers a number of significant events each year designed to provide opportunities for participation in cultural life, to enhance townships and act as a source of community pride, including the annual DRIFT Arts Festival and Peninsula Schoolies events. Development and delivery of this annual calendar is guided by Council priorities and plans, including the Shire's Council & Wellbeing Plan, the Arts & Culture Plan 2024 and Music Plan 2025.

The Shire does not currently have resources to self-produce new events, such as the proposed Hastings Kite Festival. However, we also play a significant role enabling and supporting community to deliver events through grant opportunities, event permits and other services. We would be highly supportive of community members delivering this event, and can offer guidance and support through this process.

We also have a funding opportunity available now – the Community Events Grant – that can be applied for to help fund this event.