

Councillor Couros - MoN - Melbourne Street Revitalisation Grant

Tuesday, 28 July 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Mary Couros

Public

Contact Officer:
Tom McCready, Director City Infrastructure

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Mary Couros will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That the Council:

Requests the Administration, in consultation with the Minister for Adelaide and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), to commence discussions regarding the allocation of the remaining Melbourne Street Revitalisation State Government grant funding to deliver a coordinated streetscape activation package, including:

1. The strategic installation of atmospheric feature lighting throughout Melbourne Street to create a distinctive identity, improve amenity and encourage increased visitation during both day and evening.
2. Enhancing the existing hanging basket program by selecting plant species that are fully established at the time of installation, provide maximum visual impact, and are suited to Adelaide's climatic conditions to ensure long-term performance.
3. The purchase and installation of high-quality Christmas decorations that can be reused annually, creating an enduring asset that supports seasonal activation and reduces future costs.
4. Any complementary streetscape improvements that support the objectives of the Melbourne Street Master Plan and maximise the economic activation and attractiveness of the precinct.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. The Melbourne Street Revitalisation State Government grant of \$1 million was awarded by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) to deliver a defined scope of revitalisation and activation works consistent with the Melbourne Street Master Plan.
2. The approved scope includes rationalisation of street furniture (*completed*), temporary footpath extensions (*completed*), entry statement banners and brackets (*completed*), under-veranda festoon lighting (*progressed*), suspended planter boxes (*completed*), the Dunn Street electronic car park sign (*completion August 2026*) and associated project delivery costs.
3. Key businesses were approached in relation to installation of festoon lighting (funded through the grant) within their premises, however there was limited uptake.
4. In relation to the hanging baskets, a refined maintenance and plant replacement program to enhance the existing hanging basket program is currently being considered. This will include consideration of plant selection, visual impact, seasonal performance and suitability to Adelaide's climatic conditions.
5. As at 30 June 2026, approximately \$516,747 had been expended, with a further \$143,440 committed to delivery of the remaining approved project scope. The remaining works primarily relate to completion of the

Dunn Street electronic car park sign, associated electrical works, commissioning and the removal of redundant parking and wayfinding infrastructure, and additional planter boxes.

6. During project delivery, Council sought approval from DIT to extend the funding period and broaden the approved grant scope to enable delivery of additional Melbourne Street improvements. That request was not supported by DIT. A subsequent extension of the funding period was approved solely to enable completion of the Dunn Street electronic car park sign and minor items with the project currently approved through to August 2026.
7. Items 1, 3 and 4 identified in this proposed motion are not included within the currently approved grant scope.
8. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion, Administration will re-engage with DIT and the Minister for the City of Adelaide and request remaining Melbourne Street Revitalisation grant funding be available for reallocation to the unfunded initiatives identified in the motion.
9. It should be noted that support of this motion does not guarantee that grant funding can be reallocated, as this decision rests with DIT.
10. In addition, and in response to the Council decision of 23 June 2026, one of the key actions is to investigate opportunities to deliver decorative lighting initiatives ahead of the Stage 2 streetscape upgrade, which is currently planned to commence construction in FY2028/29.
11. Consideration of alternative decorative lighting to replace the existing deteriorated bud lighting in trees is within the scope of the Melbourne Street Revitalisation Project. While bud lighting remains a common approach for temporary or seasonal activation, contemporary streetscape projects are increasingly considering more permanent, robust and lower-maintenance decorative lighting solutions that can provide a similar visual effect without the ongoing maintenance requirements associated with extensive bud lighting installations.
12. A range of decorative lighting options is currently being developed and will be presented to Council by November 2026, ahead of the Quarter 1 - Business Plan and Budget Report, together with the associated cost implications and proposed implementation timelines. Options may include illuminated features or atmospheric lighting that can be adapted for future seasonal and cultural events, including, but not limited to, Christmas.
13. A coordinated decorative lighting strategy that integrates with the proposed streetscape upgrade and public art, and reflects the unique identity of Melbourne Street, would provide greater long-term value and strategic alignment to the vision of the street.
14. Subject to DIT approval, reallocation of any underspent grant funding towards the delivery of decorative lighting would offset the current renewal budget allocation for the replacement of existing tree bud lights.
15. The purchase of new Christmas decorations for installation on Melbourne Street is not currently funded and is subject to DIT consideration and approval. Reallocating any underspent grant funding towards the purchase of Christmas decorations could support increased economic activation and enhance the vibrancy and attractiveness of the Melbourne Street precinct.

Should the proposed motion be supported by Council, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Should any future initiatives proceed following discussions with DIT, the need for community engagement would be assessed as part of the individual project.
External consultant advice	Not applicable.
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Any variation to the grant funding arrangements would be undertaken in accordance with the existing funding agreement and in consultation with DIT.
Impacts on existing projects	Supporting the proposed motion is not anticipated to impact delivery of the current Melbourne Street Revitalisation project. Officer resources will be required to undertake discussions with DIT and assess any outcomes.
Budget reallocation	Budget reallocation subject to discussions with DIT and the Minister for the City of Adelaide.

Capital investment	Any future capital investment associated with initiatives identified in the proposed motion would be subject to Council approval and confirmation of an appropriate funding source.
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not applicable.
Other	The proposed motion seeks commencement of discussions only and does not authorise expenditure or amend the existing grant agreement. Any proposed change to the approved grant scope or allocation of grant funding would require DIT approval.
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this Administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 6.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -