



Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia

Your ref: COR 2023 006574
Our ref: LEX 11880 | BSEC-1-25-5596

Deputy State Coroner Spanos
c/-Amber Wylie
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email only: team6@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Deputy State Coroner

INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF FRANCES JEYANN RAMIREZ – RESPONSE TO CORONER'S RECOMMENDATION

I refer to Your Honour's Finding without inquest (**Finding**) dated 2 October 2025 concerning the death of Frances Jeyann Ramirez.

The Department of Transport and Planning (**Department**) extends its condolences to the family and friends of Ms Ramirez. Every life lost on our roads is a tragedy and our hearts go out to those impacted by Ms Ramirez's death.

The Department has considered Your Honour's Findings and recommendations, and the Department's response is detailed below.

Coroner's recommendations

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), Your Honour made the following recommendations:

1. *“That Maribyrnong City Council immediately prioritises the Joseph Road Precinct DCP Functional Layout Plan and Traffic Signal Plan for approval by Head, Transport for Victoria.”*
2. *“That Maribyrnong City Council and Head, Transport for Victoria work together to urgently prioritise the design, approval, and implementation of upgrades to signalling and streetlighting along Hopkins Street, Footscray, where it intersects with Whitehall Street, Hallenstein/Moreland Streets and Joseph Road.”*
3. *“Maribyrnong City Council urgently considers interim measures that can be implemented in the meantime, such as flashing speed limit signs or road markings to indicate to drivers there is a reduced speed limit and a need to watch for pedestrians.”*

Recommendation 1 is directed at Maribyrnong City Council (**Council**) and the Head, Transport for Victoria (**Head, TfV**) is prepared to prioritise a response to any submissions from Council.

Recommendation 2 is directed at the Head, Transport for Victoria (**Head, TfV**) and Maribyrnong City Council (**Council**).

Recommendation 3 is directed at the Council. However, Hopkins Street is an arterial road, and road markings, speed limits and warning signs are the responsibility of Head, TfV. The Department employs staff to perform functions on behalf of Head, TfV.

The Department has met with Council to discuss the recommendations and is working as required with Council to address the recommendations.

Response to Recommendations

The recommendations are accepted in principle subject to the following comments:

- i. The Department and Council acknowledge the importance of progressing the Joseph Road Precinct Development Contributions Plan (DCP) Functional Layout Plan and Traffic Signal Plan. A draft Functional Layout Plan has been prepared, and Council and the Department are working together to finalise the detailed design plans for the site.
- ii. The Department and Council recognise the need for improved signalling and streetlighting at the intersections of Hopkins Street with Whitehall Street, Hallenstein/Moreland Streets, and Joseph Road. These improvements will be delivered through the Joseph Road Precinct DCP funded upgrades. Both the Department and Council will continue to work together to prioritise the progression of the design and ultimately the implementation of the infrastructure, subject to funding availability.
- iii. The Department and Council support the introduction of interim safety measures along Hopkins Street to improve pedestrian safety. The Department will install appropriate additional signs, and possible road markings, to support awareness of the 40km/h limit in place as quickly as practicable.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your findings. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Howard, Executive Director Inner Metro [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if you or your team have any questions or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Jeroen Weimar
Entity Head, Head, Transport for Victoria
Secretary, Department of Transport and Planning

Date: 19 January 2026