



MEDIA STATEMENT | 14 March 2023

The City of Victor Harbor is aware of issues experienced by motorists on Sunday morning due to road closures for the 2023 Sid James Victor Harbor Triathlon.

We know there were significant delays for residents and visitors, specifically between around 8:30 and 10:30am, and we understand this was extremely frustrating.

Council has debriefed with the event organisers (Pushing Limits Events) to understand what went wrong and why.

The Victor Harbor Triathlon has been taking place annually since the early 1990s, and road closures have always been implemented to facilitate the event. Pushing Limits Events have extensive experience working with Fast Lane Traffic to successfully instigate road closures during events.

The difference this year was that the triathlon moved locations, for the first time in 26 years, from Encounter Lakes to Warland Reserve.

The change to this year's course, particularly the cycling leg, introduced a number of challenges for people trying to travel from Encounter Bay to Victor Harbor. While the approved Traffic Management Plans were followed, the closures didn't function as intended, and this caused unacceptable delays for motorists.

As a result, Pushing Limits Events will look to change the cycling route in future years so as not to impact specifically on Encounter Bay residents. Road closures and detours will always be necessary for an event like this, however we need to ensure they cause minimal delays for road users.

Victor Harbor is becoming increasingly popular for major events as our open spaces are highly sought after for concerts, festivals and sporting events. Events bring a range of economic and social benefits to our region.

The triathlon itself was a highly successful event with more than 1,000 competitors. It's important that we continue to support this fantastic event returning to Victor Harbor, but make improvements to the route so it can be held without the issues experienced this past weekend.