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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 25 July 2022

Released to the public on 1 August 2022

**LIVE STREAMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON
COUNCIL'S INTERNET SITE.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਵੈੱਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی روداد کے نقاط ہیں۔ روداد کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT PRESTON TOWN HALL, 284 GOWER STREET, PRESTON ON MONDAY 25 JULY 2022

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.11 PM

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being streamed live and that audio and video would be made available on Council's website.

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr. Trent McCarthy (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Tom Hannan
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Susanne Newton
Cr. Susan Rennie
Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Rachel Ollivier – Interim Chief Executive Officer
Jodie Watson - General Manager Governance and Engagement
Sam Hewett - General Manager Operations and Capital
Shadi Hanna - Acting General Manager Community
Vanessa Petrie – Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy
Jacinta Stevens – Manager Corporate Governance
Stephen Mahon - Coordinator Council Business
Rachna Gupta Singh - Senior Council Business Officer
Michelle Martin – Council Business Officer
Zeeshan Mehmood – IT Support Officer

Other Attendees

John Watson – Municipal Monitor

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Messina, opened the meeting with the following statement:

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hannan advised Council that in the past he had declared a direct conflict of interest in relation to components of the Advocacy Strategy relating specifically to the Theme 1 Area of - Environment, Climate Change and Renewable Energy due to his employment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and his role developing policy in this area. However given the recommendation before Council at this meeting he is of the view that no declaration of the conflict is required in relation to Item 8.2 – ‘Advocacy Platform 2022’ unless Council commences detailed discussion, in which case, he will consider declaring a conflict of interest that time and leaving the meeting.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Coordinator Council Business advised Council that since the distribution of this agenda, Council had held a Special Council Meeting on Thursday 21 July 2022. The minutes of this meeting had been finalised and distributed to Councillors and placed on Councils webpage. Accordingly, he sought to have them confirmed by Council. The revised officer recommendation is shown below:

Revised Officer Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 June 2022 and the Special Council Meetings held on 18 July and 21 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 22-050

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 June 2022 and the Special Council Meetings held on 18 July and 21 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

The Chairperson, Mayor Messina, responded to the following questions submitted for Public Question Time.

- **Leon Zembekis of Reservoir**

On 13 June 2022, one of Darebin City Council's originators of the Climate Emergency, Phillip Sutton, died. I feel it a tragic oversight that Councillors have forgotten the importance of Climate Emergency and people like Phillip Sutton, whose endless campaign for change has not been acknowledged by Darebin Council. Can the City of Darebin please include an in-memoriam recognition of Phillip Sutton in these minutes and create an annual lecture series on Climate Emergency?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Council at its last Ordinary Council meeting did in fact express its sincere sadness and condolences to the family of the late Philip Sutton upon being informed of his recent passing. I as Mayor made a statement that you may refer to in the minutes of that meeting and a number of Councillors spoke to the matter acknowledging Mr Suttons significant contributions to this City. I would encourage you to look carefully at the climate emergency initiatives and projects that this and previous Darebin Councils have pursued, and the leadership shown to our own community and across the local government sector. I would contend that in fact it is municipalities such as Darebin that honour the environmental and climate change champions such as Philip Sutton. With regard to your suggestion that an annual lecture series on the climate emergency be created, I think that as merit, and I am sure it will be considered

- **Jill Polson of Reservoir.**

The inner Darebin suburbs have access to a 50-meter pool when will Reservoir residence get its 50 metre pool? This is an important question given the increase in drownings, particularly in the migrant communities. And it has always been the responsibility of councils to provide swimming facilities and encourage swim learning and training.

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

At its meeting on 26 April 2022, the Council resolution “Requests that officers undertake investigation/early design work on options (with options for different size pools to respond to community needs) for the redevelopment of RLC, to present back to Council in April 2023.”

Officers will report back to Council on type and sizes of pool to meet current and future needs including the learn to swim in the local community.

- **Florencia Rodrigues of Northcote**

City of Darebin's weekly Zumba class has been running successfully for many years and despite many changes of venue, class time, administrative support etc. it has continued to thrive - currently attracting 30+ participants each week of varying ages and backgrounds.

This group is not simply about a weekly dance fitness class. It is a genuine example of community connection, support and well-being.

The group have been campaigning with dance videos, placards, emails and social media posts to do what they can for this class to continue in a regular format that allows them to continue to thrive.

This class is an excellent example of a local council initiative that is a success story at an extremely low cost.

Can council please let us know what they are doing to find a sustainable way to for this class to continue a regular and on-going basis?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Council's Get Active program has included a free Zumba class for more than 3 years.

Council is currently reviewing Get Active, with no winter program scheduled. In the meantime, Council funded a further 8-week Zumba program, outside the winter program, to assist with participants social connectedness and health and wellbeing goals. These classes commenced 15 June 2022.

Get Active review is focused on Council's equity and inclusion principles and long term sustainability to ensure the program is equitable and provides a range of activities for community members to participate throughout the municipality.

Council will work with the Zumba facilitator and class to transition it to a sustainable model for future.

- **Elizabeth Lamb of Preston**

Free 2 hour parking is available 7 days a week at the Preston Market carpark located outside the Aldi supermarket. However, a ticket is required to be purchased on a Monday and Tuesday if you shop on the other side where traders are also open 7 days a week. Will council see fit to rectify this unfair and inconsistent application of parking rules at the Preston Market or will it continue to operate it as a lucrative revenue raising activity at the expense of unsuspecting customers trying to support their local traders?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

The Preston Market car park is a private car park. Parking restrictions are decided by the management of Preston Market. Parking restrictions are enforced by Council, through an agreement with Preston Market. Officers will pass your feedback to the management of Preston Market, for their consideration.

- **Ruth Jelley of Northcote**

1. At the April Council meeting I asked about the installation of separated bike lanes along Cramer St, Preston and was promised a phone call follow up from the Manager. What is council's usual timeframe for making such calls?

2. Why has the Octopus school's program been discontinued, and how does this decision align to Council's priorities and transport strategy?
3. Will Council prepare a report to provide transparent information for the Darebin community on how many schools received funding throughout the life of the Octopus Schools program, what the total expenditure of the program was, and what the main outcomes of the program were?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

1. **Council regrets that you have not yet received a call. I understand Council's Coordinator of Transport Engineering called you today, and arrangements have been made to discuss your query later this week.**
2. **Council is committed to working with schools to improve safety, and we are now doing this through the Your Street, Your Say program, as well as education programs. We've recently been working with schools in Thornbury, Preston and Reservoir West to plan for safety, walking and cycling improvements. Council has also received grant funding from the Department of Transport, some of this will be used to develop safe routes to school.**
3. **Council does not have plans to publish a report on the program at this stage, but we can confirm that the Octopus Schools program was an effective way of helping the school community change travel behaviour.**

• **Maria Miranda of Northcote**

Second Generation anticoagulant rodenticides or SGARS are powerful and deadly poisons that are being used to kill rodents. However, studies in Australia have found that these poisons are killing native wildlife at an alarming rate.

One of the reasons is that rodents remain contaminated for many months, so that any animal that eats a rodent is at risk.

And more directly, according to BirdLife, evidence is growing that shows rat poison is not only being eaten by targeted rodents, but also:

Birds – eagles, falcons, and owls, ducks, waterfowl, ravens and currawongs

Native marsupials like quolls and possums

Native reptiles like lizards and snakes

Invertebrates like slugs and insects

Domestic pets such as cats and dogs

My questions to Council are:

Is Council aware of this deadly problem to our native wildlife?

Does Council have wild-life friendly rodent control on all council-managed properties?

Is there a clause in contracts with external providers or contractors that include safe rodent control? And what exactly is the rodent control that they are using?

Does Council provide information to Council tenants about SGARS?

Does Council make it a condition of leases that tenants use wildlife safe pest control?

Does Council have an educational program for the local community about the dangers of these SGARS poisons on local wildlife?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Council does use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARS) in baits to control rodent population. We are aware that the use of SGARS is widespread among government and non-government entities looking to control pests but we're not aware of a significant secondary poisoning issue in Darebin.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Council will investigate the use of SGARS, seek specialist and expert advice and potential impact to wildlife and we'll be in touch with you and other concerned residents following our investigation.

- **Carolyn Lunt of Northcote**

The Australia State of the Environment report states that our biodiversity is declining, and the number of threatened species is increasing.

We know that the health and wellbeing of country and people are connected. In a rapidly changing climate with unsustainable development and use of resources the general outlook for our environment is deteriorating.

Immediate action with innovative management and collaboration can turn things around.

I call on this council to be proactive in putting these issues in the Advocacy Platform 2022. Will council consider that our biodiversity needs to be included as well as the safety needs of pedestrians and cyclists?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Council is aware of the State of the Environment report and agrees that immediate action is required to address the current challenges.

It is for this reason that a number of key projects within the Advocacy Platform directly respond to both biodiversity and cycling safety within Darebin.

The construction of a new Ruthven Wetland, rewilding of Cheddar Rd and improvements to cycling networks are all included within the Advocacy Platform 2022. These projects will complement the ambitious Capital Works program Council has endorsed for the upcoming financial year that will see additional environmental benefits delivered through increased tree planting, water quality improvements and rewilding programs.

- **Louise Kenney-Shen of Reservoir**

1. The question was asked last meeting about Vic state Gov's living local grants and what, if anything Council intended to apply for. Given the issues around the Broadway shopping strip and limited traffic flow to the strip, is Council considering or would they consider an application to the funding stream to improve the accessibility/welcoming nature of Broadway to assist the businesses there as they continue to struggle through COVID recovery. Or the corner of Plenty and Tyler, which could also use a few improvements to entice more shoppers, foot traffic and those who travel through the area. As a follow on from that I would like to get some information on what is planned for the Broadway strip?

2. On June 28, the Herald Sun printed an article titled "Children targeted in campaign to shut Northcote golfers out". In this article, details were given about engagement of kids in

schools in the vicinity of the course through printed sheets asking the kids to draw what they want the space to be used for.

Ignoring the discussion around unlocking the course or retaining golf at the site, the issue still stands that there are ethical issues around this 'engagement', mainly that parents were not engaged, school principals were not engaged, nor were the wider parents associations engaged, before children were asked to provide feedback. These drawings were brought to Council TWICE by Councillors.

Printed across the top of these sheets is "Darebin Council would like to know how you think this land should be used".

As these have been brought before DCC TWICE, with no statement from DCC to address the fact that this sheet is using their name, is the Council assuming responsibility for any complaints around the obvious ethical issues with the manner of this engagement of children? Does Council endorse engaging minors without the consent of their legal guardians?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

1. Council is intending to apply for funding from the Living Local Fund for this year's High Street Tree Planting program which forms part of Council's program for Retail Activity Centre revitalisation through-out the municipality.

Unfortunately, projects located in areas that already have a Suburban Revitalisation Board – such as Reservoir – are ineligible for funding through the Living Local Fund.

Last year Council received approximately \$1.8M in funding for 15 streetscape improvement projects and events as part of the Reservoir Suburban Revitalisation program. This program will continue for another year and there is another \$1M available for Council and other local organisations to apply for.

The corner of Plenty and Tyler and the surrounding area was a recipient of another State Government grant in 2020-21 which saw streetscape improvements including additional tree planting and furniture, new planters and shop-front artwork.

Louise, with regard to your last question, I am on that board and you can google the Reservoir Revitalisation program. There is also going to be further publication about what we have achieved and what the plan forward is. I can assure you that Council is advocating for an expansion into the Preston Precinct as well.

2. Council's community engagement practices encourage consulting young people where appropriate. These practices include receiving guardian consent when seeking feedback from minors.

All Darebin schools were emailed an invitation to share Council's survey with their families and community and provide a direct response via the survey.

Council did not run this activity. The activity sheet was created and distributed by a group of parents.

- **Robert Dunn of Coburg**

I am distressed to have become aware that executive has recommended Option A – golf focused.

This means that the original custodians of these land the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung will be locked out of their country in favour of 7 golfers per hour.

After over two hundred years of occupation, it is clear that the executive of the Darebin City Council is intent on recommending that first nations people should continue to be locked out of ancestral lands. This is not consistent with the Darebin City Council own policy in relation to first nations people.

"Darebin has committed to entering discussions with Traditional Owners about possible transfer, shared ownership or management of some council land"

<https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/about-council/news-and-media/news/2022/05/darebin-to-consult-traditional-owners-on-land-management>

Mayor, I also direct you to a quote that appears on the council website.

'We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin,' Cr Messina says. 'But it is not good enough to just acknowledge that, we need to do what we can, in some small way, to provide restitution.'

<https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/about-council/news-and-media/news/2022/05/darebin-to-consult-traditional-owners-on-land-management>

Mayor, I urge you not to vote for "Option A - golf focussed". This will not provide restitution for the original custodians of these lands, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people.

Such is the magnitude of this decision I have copied two prominent indigenous members of the federal parliament into this email. I urge the Hon Linda Burney "Minister for Indigenous Australians" to use federal powers to override a decision of Option A - Golf Focused should it be made. I shall also be making the prime minister aware of this through his contact form.

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Thank you for your feedback Robert.

This matter will be considered by Council at item 8.1 on our agenda this evening.

As outlined in the Officer's Report, Council made a resolution on 26 April 2022 relating to land across Darebin, which seeks to explore handing back land and responsibility for land management using a respectful partnership engagement approach with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. At this time, formal feedback about the Northcote Public Golf Course site hasn't been provided to Council. The recommendation in this report would not prevent future consideration based on specific feedback about this site.

- **Jaclyn Cruple of Northcote**

How can Councillors justify and explain blocking residents and ratepayer's access to this desperately needed green space?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Courtney Hughes-Lord has a related question: How has the benefit of community access been calculated?

Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy identifies that the City of Darebin has an undersupply of open space in the municipality. Currently, Northcote West is not identified as a high priority area in Darebin for increasing open space.

Furthermore, community consultation identified a range of opportunities and preferences from different users of open space in Darebin in relation to the Northcote Public Golf Course. This supported Council to identify options including spatial and temporal sharing.

At its meeting in May 2022, Council endorsed spatial sharing of the site has resulted in an additional 5.72 hectares of open space for the community, while maintaining a 9-hole golf course (on a smaller site) for those users, satisfying the original request for shared use of the site.

- **Courtney Hughes-Lord of Northcote**

I found the report to lack objectivity and evidence-informed conclusions.

As an example, “the benefit of community access is not thought to outweigh the greater financial cost of temporal sharing”.

How has the benefit of community access been calculated?

Given the small number of golf users versus other community members, the conclusion seems illogical.

Response above.

- **Meg A’Hearn of East Coburg**

Given the narrow, pro-golf and funding-based report produced by the Darebin Council, could the councillors please confirm that their vote for the future of the Northcote Golf Course is based on a commitment to the broader community and their needs, including the physical and mental health benefits that access to this parkland would provide?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Council is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our community, with our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan embedded in the current Council Plan.

Council are committed to fulfilling their obligations to make decisions in the best interest of our community.

- **Carl Crotty of Thornbury**

The council has sought advice about temporal sharing.

Who has provided this advice?

What was the nature of the advice?

What deliberation has council engaged in together since receiving this advice?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Officers have researched golf operating models. No examples of temporal shared-use golf courses in Australia operating with non-golf activity after a specific time have been identified through investigation with industry providers and associated bodies. However, an example was identified in Scotland at St Andrews Links.

• Julie Williams of Thornbury

1. Once option A is accepted as per the Northcote Public Golf Course recommendations, when will the \$200K offered by the State Government be utilised to plan the course improvements that will then also encourage more golf and generate profits for the community?

2. Golf is booming and is one of the few sports that seniors can play competitively, and that the all generations and genders can play together. What additional programs can the council run or sponsor to encourage even more people to play golf at Northcote Public Golf Course?

3. A long term contract would encourage professional golf course operators to tender and improve the Northcote Public Golf Course.

Can operators who do tender to manage the Northcote Public Golf course ask for longer term contracts?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

1. This funding commitment is subject to Council's decision tonight.

2. Creative programming to activate and encourage increased participation for all will be sought through the management contract.

3. This matter will be addressed through the procurement process.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 22-051

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That the Public Question Time be extended for a further 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**• Bill Jennings of Preston**

1. What were the total number of games played at Northcote Public Golf Course in the 2021-22 Financial Year?

2. What was the final operating profit or cost to Council of the Northcote Public Golf Course in 2021-22 financial year?

3. Thank you for your answer about the annual cost of the upkeep of Darebin Parklands of at least \$560000 per annum (shared with Banyule Council) and your clarification that Council doesn't see that figure as a loss but as an investment. Could Council clarify if it sees the smaller amount it contributed to Northcote Public Golf Course as a loss or similarly is that an investment by Council in an increasingly popular local facility and community sport?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

In response to question 1: In 2021-22, 25,775 rounds of golf were played at Northcote Public Golf Course.

In response to question 2: We will take your question on notice and will respond when Council's end of year accounts have been finalised.

In response to question 3: Council is focused on achieving great community outcomes and best value for our community.

- **Tim Holdsworth of Northcote**

1. The Darebin Open Space Strategy talks about access to open space, but not usage. Does Darebin have any survey data for the actual usage of the open space network so a reasonable comparison can be made to the relative usage of nearby parks and gardens to the usage at Northcote Public Golf Course?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Thank you for your question Tim, and Kayleen Soligo has a similar question which I will respond to together.

Council has indicative survey data for the usage of some larger open space areas in the municipality but doesn't currently have comprehensive park usage data relevant to all parks and open space areas surrounding the Northcote Public Golf Course.

- **Kaylene Soligo of Thornbury**

Q1. Before the course is carved up and 5+ hectares are handed over costing millions, can council please visit all the surrounding parks and take a count of how many people are actually using them, not as a cut through but actually staying there and playing or having picnics? If it is mostly only used to get from A to B then all that needs to change at the golf course is a safe path connecting Mayer Park with the Warrk-warrk bridge

Q2. If the course is to be divided up, can the 200K that Kat Theophanous has offered be used to engage a professional golf course architect to ensure golfers still have a fun, challenging and enjoyable course to play and is financially sustainable as it is now?

Q3. Why doesn't Council promote golf, an intergenerational sport, to seniors, kids, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ and people from non-English speaking backgrounds?

Response above.

- **Mark Cooley of Coburg**

Question 1

Council set out on a mission to find a shared solution for the golf course. And has instead divided the course in an arbitrary way with little to no professional engagement from a golf

course architect. There are many examples of golf courses all over Melbourne where passive public access is allowed while golf continues. Royal Park, Malvern Valley, Dorset.

One is even located in Darebin at Bundoora Public GC.

Why has council chosen division as a solution to the question of "sharing"? Are these two ideas not directly opposed to each other?

Question 2

The removal of the 5th hole for a park is an enormous loss to the golf course and to the golf community who took the time to engage with council's consultation process. The overwhelming majority of responses favoured golf remaining the core focus of the site.

There are 28 parks and open green spaces, located within 5kms of the golf course for all sorts of park, dog walking and other activity. There is no usage data or evidence to suggest that these parks are insufficient for the community's needs. Only a basic population VS square metres of green space figure.

Can council please explain how taking away 25% of the golf course to appease 11% of survey respondents is a fair outcome to both sides? and Will council conduct any study into park usage in the local area before taking 25% of the golf course to determine if another park in the area is even required?

Question 3

Council has set aside up to \$1,000,000 to create a new park and redesign the golf course. Despite only being a passionate golfer for 20+ years, this seems like a very low amount.

Removal of the 5th hole, creates a bigger problem which council may not realise.

This re-routing will likely require the creation of 2 or 3 new holes at the 5th and 6th, and likely the 7th as well.

How does council plan to build a new park and redesign the golf course so that it is presented in the same quality as it is now with only \$1,000,000?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

I will only be responding to three of your questions as per our Governance Rules.

In response to question 1: Council resolved to implement spatial sharing of the course at its meeting on 23 May 2022 to best meet community needs, aspirations and to ensure community safety.

In response to question 2: There were many factors that were considered that led to the decision to spatial sharing of the site while maintaining a 9-hole golf course.

3. Council will not be conducting any park usage studies. Breathing Space is the strategy that identifies open space requirements across the municipality.

- **Janet Rayner of Northcote**

Golf is a rare sport that can be played by both the young and old, both competitively and socially. It is an excellent form of exercise. How will Darebin Council continue to support older citizens to engage in outdoor sports such as provided by the Northcote Public Golf Course?

The 3pm curfew option was not part of the original consultation process. Why is it even being considered?

Option A refers to golf-focussed and lists a number of possible golf adjacent and non-golf

pastimes that could be considered in tender proposal. Of these 16 listed possibilities, only 5 are golf related. If the Council opts for Option A will the golf course be retained as a genuine 9-hole golf course?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

In response to question 1: Council is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our community, with our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan embedded in the current Council Plan.

Age Friendly Darebin supports our older community members to remain active and engaged.

Creative programming to activate and encourage increased participation for all will be sought through the management contract.

Council resolved to consider an alternative option at its meeting on 23 May 2022 along with the provision of a 9-hole golf course.

• **Annette Kalkbrenner of Thornbury**

1. What environmental impact studies have been conducted to ensure that flora and fauna is protected in any proposed changes to the Northcote golf Course?
2. In regards to the Principles of the *Local Government Act* how does prioritising changing the Northcote Golf Course to a park meet the communities expectations that rates are being fairly and equitably distributed over Darebin - especially keeping in mind the \$65 million dollar development of Northcote pool.
3. Can Council please explain the financial equitability of changing a Sports Facility, the Northcote Golf Course into a park as a priority over other areas in Darebin that do not meet the open space targets?

Response from Interim CEO, Rachel Ollivier

1. All relevant flora and fauna assessments will be undertaken as required as part of the reconfiguration of the golf course.

2. Council's investment in community infrastructure is guided by our 10-year capital works plan, which is developed based on community need, infrastructure requirements and resource capacity.

3. Breathing Space is the strategy that identifies open space requirements across the municipality. The priority to investigate the future of the Northcote Public Golf Course was established in the Council Plan and work continues toward the acquisition of open space in other areas of need.

• **Ruby Kalkbrenner of Thornbury**

1. Why has Darebin Council not funded and supported GIRLS IN GOLF?
2. Has Darebin Council applied for the State Sport Grant as invited to by the local member?
3. What measures has Darebin Council taken to ensure all ages and genders have fair access to sports facilities and funding?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

In response to question 1: Northcote Public Golf Course currently offers a women's program called Fairway Birdies and supported the Rainbow Cup. Council are open to exploring the Girls in Golf program.

2. Council considered the three categories of the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and has submitted an application to support the design stage of the KP Hardiman Reserve pavilion redevelopment.

3. equity and inclusion principles are incorporated into Council's management contracts, sports grants and incentivise inclusion through our performance subsidies with local sports clubs.

- **Nick Verginis of Brunswick**

What is the total net cost of running Northcote Golf Course in the past 10 years?

Golf Australia says golf use is on the rise, but the NGC will still run at a net loss of \$150,000 per year. Does that mean 10 years of losses and a total net cost of \$1.5m for the past 10 years?

What is the sum of the management contract fee paid by Council to the current contract holder? What is the total and annual sum paid? The public have heard rumours that it ranges from \$400k to \$800k per year - Councillors should know the actual cost for tonight's decision.

Financial management section - please provide dollar values based on recent years to give due weight to the % in the document.

- What is the annual expenditure and revenue generated for one year? It is preferable that you provide activation \$ for recent years as well as projections (if they differ).
- If Council does not have the above \$, how do the '40% impact' statement have meaning and given due attention?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

I will clarify firstly that the decision tonight is not to appoint a contractor, the decision tonight is how to progress with procurement. The figures you quoted are broadly correct, the net cost to Council for 2020/21 was \$150,000.

It would not be appropriate to provide this information given it is commercial in nature and the imminent procurement process.

Councillors have been provided with an overview of the financial arrangements in relation to the current management contract for Northcote Public Golf Course to inform their decision making.

We don't have any public information around the details of the contract cost, but we can take this question on notice.

With regard to your question, What is the annual expenditure and revenue generated for one year? We will also take that on notice and confirm what has been made public.

- **Justin Calverley from Reservoir**

On the Darebin website under the community sports for juniors there is links to eight different sports and programs that all juniors can take part in. The tiger golf program at Northcote has

been running for many years, 12 years but in its current state at least 5 years. There is no reference to golf for juniors on the City of Darebin website.

Why has golf for juniors been omitted?

All other sports for children are permitted in green spaces within Darebin. You can fly a kite; walk a dog and you can run or do cartwheels. But golf is not permitted in greenspaces in Darebin, it is prohibited by signage.

Will Council let all children play with equal opportunity?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

Council will be making this decision tonight and your first question will be taken on notice.

- **Jim from Northcote**

I want to speak tonight about the negligence of our streets footpaths. Very recently my elderly mother had a terrible fall due to the uneven footpath along Gillies Street, Fairfield.

When did Council last review the footpaths in this area and why wasn't section determined dangerous and fixed?

How often do street sweepers frequent our streets?

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Messina

My understanding is an Officer from our Operations department has contacted you.

Council has a footpaths and road maintenance program on a periodical basis.

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital, Sam Hewett

Our streetsweepers operate on a 4-5 week program throughout the city.

- **Melanie from Thornbury**

I am wondering where a three and half year contract of Northcote Golf Course leaves your discussions with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people, the Traditional Owners and the possible co-management of the space as a park?

What happened to Councils commitment to continuing these discussions with the Traditional Owners?

I am part of the group Friends of Bracken Creek. Bracken Creek runs in part through Northcote Golf Course and has been neglected for many years. Why have none of the options on Northcote Golf Course, presented to and considered by Council not considered access for the Friends of Bracken Creek? And what actions can Council take to ensure that Friends of Bracken Creek with Friends of Merri Creek can have regular access to conduct vital revegetation activities?

Response from Interim Chief Executive Officer, Rachel Ollivier

There has been recent Council resolutions around this but Council certainly has a commitment to working with the Traditional Owners in a deep and meaningful way which is woven through this Councils Council Plan.

At the moment Council are working with the Woi-Wurrung Corporation to arrange a meeting with Council and the Board, we would expect that to happen in the next couple of months. This is about progressing conversations about priorities for the Traditional Owners across the city.

One of the things I am conscious of with any change in management of land like this is the lead time that is needed to switch operations. Even though this contract would

go for three and a half years, the work towards tendering or reimagining a new management arrangement would probably start in 18 months from now.

Your questions regarding Friends of Bracken Creek will be taken on notice.

- **John Nugent of Epping.**

My question is about why did the Customer Service Department close over the main days over the Christmas and New Year period?

Mayor Messina, if we are so proud of our diverse community then why didn't we put up some decorations for the Lunar New Year like we did last year for the Chinese Community?

My last question is about the Christmas decorations put up outside on the corner of High Street and Cramer Street. The Christmas Tree put up has no sparkle to it. In fact it is boring.

Can something be done before next Christmas to update the Christmas Decorations in the City?

Response from the Chairperson, Mayor Messina

These questions will be taken on notice.

- **Mike Steventon of West Preston**

Has Council considered having meaningful discussions with the Northcote Golf Club, That has run Golf competitions since 1963, as to how best to utilise the Golf Course and the other unused areas so that a positive plan can be put in place instead of the adhoc plan that has been drawn which does not stipulate the new arrangements with the 5th hole

Response from the Chairperson, Mayor Messina

I understand that there is a meeting in the calendar that has already been scheduled.

- **Kaylene Soligo of Thornbury**

If the course is to be divided up can the \$200,000 that Kat Theophanous has offered be used to engage professional golf course architects to ensure golfers still have a fun, challenging and enjoyable course to play and is as financially sustainable as it is now?

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital, Sam Hewett

Negotiations are under way with Sport and Rec Victoria about how we might use the grant, but it is subject to Councils decision tonight.

7. PETITIONS

7.1 - TABLING OF PETITION

Cr Greco sought leave of Council to present a petition concerning Council decision making.

The Mayor sought advice of Officers on the validity of the petition.

The Manager Corporate Governance advised Council that the contents of the petition do not meet the requirements of Rule 16.1 (b) of the Governance Rules, therefore not valid on the basis it is directed to an individual Councillors and could be alleged as defamatory and objectionable in substance. Rule 16 of the Governance Rules is not explicit on managing a petition that is deemed invalid, Mayor as the chairperson, and in accordance with 3.4 of the Governance Rules, you have the discretion to determine the procedure to be followed.

The Mayor made a ruling not to allow the petition to be tabled.

7.2 TABLING OF PETITION – NORTHCOTE GOLF COURSE

Cr Greco sought leave of Council to present a petition concerning Northcote Golf Course

Leave was granted

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 22-052

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That the petition signed by approx. 10000 persons stating:

Dear Darebin City Council and Councillors,

During the Covid 19 lockdown the Darebin City Council opened the Northcote Public Golf Course to local residents. This access was allowed on the basis that post lockdown the course would return to being a golf course. Many people used the golf course for exercise and enjoyed the attraction of a different environment. So much so that a number are now campaigning to share or close the golf course and make it yet another Darebin Council park.

Public golf courses give golfers an opportunity to play a game they love at a reasonable price.

This petition provides golfers and their families with an opportunity to show the Darebin City Council and elected Councillors that we care about our golf course. The Northcote Public Golf Course gives golfers a physical and social activity and as golfers know a mental challenge too, let's keep it open to golfers!

We ask council to keep the golf course open over 9 holes for golfing activities 7 days a week during daylight hours.

be received and considered in conjunction with Item 8.1

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Submissions

The following people made verbal submissions in relation to item 8.1 –Northcote Golf Course Operating Model Options

- Juno Taylor
- Lola
- Leesa-Marie Spencer
- Michael Foster
- Jane Winning and Alfie
- Jen Jewel Brown
- Lauren Krnjacki
- Jim Chahoud
- Louis
- Sandra Kernot on behalf of Angela Madden
- Carl Crotty
- Vanessa Walker
- Lincoln Gray
- Marlene Smith on behalf of Linda Green
- Norm Lasslett
- David Raits
- Luis Castro
- Dan Sibly On behalf of Bill Jennings
- Libby Smith
- Libby Smith on behalf of Ruth Liston
- Tim Holdsworth
- Kaylene Soligo
- Steve Bennett
- Ross Parks
- Mark Cooley on behalf of Josh Beasley
- Mel Del Monaco
- Mark Cooley
- Grant Wastin on behalf of Mary Kenneally
- Yvette Walker
- Mick Verias
- Edward Gamble
- Emma Armstrong on behalf of Julie
- Sandra Kernot

8.1 NORTHCOTE GOLF COURSE – OPERATING MODEL OPTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an extensive community consultation, Council resolved at its meeting on 23 May 2022 to implement spatial sharing at the Northcote Public Golf Course site. This resulted in an additional 5.72 hectares of open space for the community, while maintaining a 9-hole golf course (on a smaller site) for golf users.

Council's resolution requested further investigation into temporal sharing opportunities through the management contract for the operation of the Northcote Public Golf Course.

This report outlines three main options for the management model of the Golf course for Council consideration:

- Option A – golf focused
- Option B – golf with community use after 3pm
- Option C – golf with community use one day a week

On balance Option A (golf focused) is recommended ahead of Option C (golf with one day a week community use), and Option B is not recommended. The main reason for this is that the benefit of community access is not thought to outweigh the greater financial cost of temporal sharing. A key consideration underpinning this recommendation is that in this location there is community access to large open spaces nearby, including Mayer Park and the 5.72Ha area which Council has decided to release back to open space. The community uses that could be provided on the golf course itself can also be provided on other nearby open spaces and there is not a particular benefit to providing them specifically on the golf course. Option C has been assessed as the best 'temporal sharing' model and is generally regarded as viable (subject to findings from any upcoming tender, and noting that this is an untested model in Australia).

Should Council endorse the recommendation to proceed with a golf-focused Tender, Tenderers would be asked to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes. Council would identify the best option through the Tender evaluation process. At the conclusion of the Tender process officers would negotiate the specific of creative activations and confirm them in the contract. Should Council wish to understand temporal shared-use options (option B or C or both) further, officers recommend using an Expression of Interest process prior to a formal public tender process. If Council decided to do this, a new management contract is estimated to start on 1 July 2023.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the commencement of a public tender for a golf-focused operating model at Northcote Public Golf Course, noting that tenderers would be asked to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes.
- (2) Endorses the inclusion of the following principles into the management contract and operating model to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes:
 - a) Access and inclusion
 - b) Health and wellbeing
 - c) Increased participation by target groups (older adults, people with a disability, women and girls, children and youth, LGBTQI+, people from a CALD or Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background, people experiencing financial hardship)
 - d) Community connection and social outcomes
 - e) Sustainable and environmental initiatives

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That the Officer Recommendation be adopted.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie

That point 2 of the Officer Recommendation be amended to include an additional sub point (f) as follows:

- f) Minimisation or if possible, the elimination of the cost to Council.**

The mover and seconder of the motion consented to the amendment.

The amendment was incorporated into the motion which became the substantive motion before the Council.

The motion was put and carried

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 22-053**

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the commencement of a public tender for a golf-focused operating model at Northcote Public Golf Course, noting that tenderers would be asked to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes.
- (2) Endorses the inclusion of the following principles into the management contract and operating model to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes:
 - a) Access and inclusion
 - b) Health and wellbeing
 - c) Increased participation by target groups (older adults, people with a disability, women and girls, children and youth, LGBTQI+, people from a CALD or Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background, people experiencing financial hardship)
 - d) Community connection and social outcomes
 - e) Sustainable and environmental initiatives
 - f) Minimisation or if possible the elimination of the cost to Council.

CARRIED

For: Cr's. Dimitriadis, Greco, Laurence, Messina and Williams (5)

Against: Cr's. Hannan, McCarthy, Newton and Rennie (4)

9.02 pm The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a brief break

9.14 pm The meeting resumed

8.2 ADVOCACY PLATFORM 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes advocacy priorities for 2022 in the draft 2022 Advocacy Platform. Advocacy is a key way that Council supports its community. It advocates on behalf of its community to ensure other levels of government understand local community needs, opportunities and challenges, and to secure support for policy change and local investment. Council draws on extensive community engagement and relationships to inform its advocacy work.

The period spanned by the 2022 Advocacy Platform is the lead up to the 2022 Victorian State Government Election (to be held on Saturday 26 November 2022). The proposed 2022 Advocacy Platform is therefore primarily focused on matters within the Victorian Government's remit.

Priority policy matters proposed in the 2022 Advocacy Platform include: social housing, homelessness, mental health and reducing harm from gambling. There is need for much greater action and investment than is currently underway by the State Government.

Priority advocacy for investment in local community infrastructure includes transport safety matters to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, sports infrastructure including to increase gender inclusive facilities, and investment to stimulate the local economy, including as a renewable and circular economy.

Once adopted, the 2022 Advocacy Platform will be implemented through direct representation from the Mayor and senior staff to decision makers and candidates, a local community campaign, and by working with regional alliances and partners. Council's four-year Advocacy Strategy remains Council's long term and comprehensive guide in relation to Advocacy.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the 2022 Advocacy Platform as attached to this report.
- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer (and delegates) will implement Council's 2022 Advocacy Platform in line with this report.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 22-054**

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the 2022 Advocacy Platform as attached to this report.
- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer (and delegates) will implement Council's 2022 Advocacy Platform in line with this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT (LXRP) - GRANGE ROAD ASSET OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Grange Road Level Crossing was removed in 2018 and the train line was lowered under Grange Road. As it was one of the first level crossings in Victoria to be removed, the process for asset allocation and maintenance was not well established, and consequentially the handover of new community assets from Grange Road was never finalised.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) have requested that Council take on ownership and associated maintenance of a small number of new assets which include drainage, a shared user path, planting and benches. The assets delivered were a result of Council and the communities' successful advocacy campaign to improve the local area around Grange Road. LXRA improved the connectivity and amenity of the local area through the construction of pedestrian and cyclist paths and increased planting of trees and landscaping throughout the project area.

While it is acknowledged that taking on these new assets will have an ongoing impact on budgets and operational matters, it is a small ongoing commitment and overall recommended because the benefit to our local community of properly maintaining these assets outweighs the cost. It is therefore recommended that the CEO be authorised to finalise and execute the handover documentation to take ownership and maintenance responsibility for non-rail infrastructure assets delivered through the Victorian Government led Grange Road level crossing removal project.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the handover documentation for the Grange Road Level Crossing Removal Project, which will confirm Council's ownership and maintenance commitments of the non-rail infrastructure assets, generally as outlined within this report.
- (2) Writes to VicTrack requesting a review of municipal wide maintenance responsibilities for VicTrack owned, Council maintained land.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 22-055**

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the handover documentation for the Grange Road Level Crossing Removal Project, which will confirm Council's ownership and maintenance commitments of the non-rail infrastructure assets, generally as outlined within this report.
- (2) Writes to VicTrack requesting a review of municipal wide maintenance responsibilities for VicTrack owned, Council maintained land.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**8.4 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 2022**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The matters covered under the Governance Report for the month of July 2022 are:

- Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors.
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council Meeting held on 27 June 2022.
- Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022.
- Appointment of additional members to the Darebin Nature Trust.
- Appointment of members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group.
- Appointments to the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

**Officer
Recommendation**

That Council:

- 1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2022.
- 2) Notes the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- 3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- 4) Notes the responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, at **Appendix B** to this report.
- 5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022 at **Appendix C** to this report.
- 6) Appoints _____ and _____ to the Darebin Nature Trust for a term to align with the current appointees.
- 7) Appoints following 7 members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group for a term of 2 years:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- 8) Note that Councillor Susanne Newton has reconsidered their interest in being part of the CEO Employment Matters Committee as provided for in the resolution of Council at its meeting on 26 April 2022.
- 9) Appoints Councillor Susanne Newton to the CEO Employment Matters Committee for the duration of the recruitment of the CEO up to confirmation of appointment, taking the Committee membership to 9 Councillors
- 10) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect this appointment, in the 'composition' section that the Committee will be constituted by an independent chairperson and nine Councillors, and in both the 'composition' and 'meetings' sections reflect a quorum of six members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee.
- 11) Note that the appointment of an independent conduct and probity advisor for the CEO Employment Matters Committee and CEO recruitment was not made, following the appointment of the Municipal Monitor – Mr John Watson and confirmation that Mr Watson would be in attendance at CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings throughout the recruitment process.

The General Manager, Governance & Engagement advised Council that on the basis of the Special Council Meeting held on 21 July 2021 considering the appointments to the CEO Employment Matters Committee the Officer Recommendations 8, 9 & 10 were no longer required and can be removed. The revised Officer Recommendation is shown below:

Revised Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2022.
- (2) Notes the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, at **Appendix B** to this report.
- (5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022 at **Appendix C** to this report.
- (6) Appoints _____ and _____ to the Darebin Nature Trust for a term to align with the current appointees.
- (7) Appoints following 7 members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group for a term of 2 years:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- (8) Note that the appointment of an independent conduct and probity advisor for the CEO Employment Matters Committee and CEO recruitment was not made, following the appointment of the Municipal Monitor – Mr John Watson and confirmation that Mr Watson would be in attendance at CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings throughout the recruitment process.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- 1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2022.
- 2) Notes the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- 3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- 4) Notes the responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, at **Appendix B** to this report.
- 5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022 at **Appendix C** to this report.
- 6) Appoints **Owen Butler and William Ruchel** to the Darebin Nature Trust for a term to align with the current appointees.
- 7) Appoints following 7 members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group for a term of 2 years:
 - **Beth Healy**
 - **Nadine Richings**
 - **Neil Thompson**
 - **Samantha McKernan**
 - **Skye Cook**
 - **Robyn Edwards**
 - **Serena Horg**
- 8) Note that the appointment of an independent conduct and probity advisor for the CEO Employment Matters Committee and CEO recruitment was not made, following the appointment of the Municipal Monitor – Mr John Watson and confirmation that Mr Watson would be in attendance at CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings throughout the recruitment process.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 22-056

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- 1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2022.
- 2) Notes the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- 3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- 4) Notes the responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, at **Appendix B** to this report.
- 5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022 at **Appendix C** to this report.
- 6) Appoints **Owen Butler and William Ruchel** to the Darebin Nature Trust for a term to align with the current appointees.
- 7) Appoints following 7 members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group for a term of 2 years:
 - **Beth Healy**
 - **Nadine Richings**
 - **Neil Thompson**
 - **Samantha McKernan**
 - **Skye Cook**
 - **Robyn Edwards**
 - **Serena Horg**
- 8) Note that the appointment of an independent conduct and probity advisor for the CEO Employment Matters Committee and CEO recruitment was not made, following the appointment of the Municipal Monitor – Mr John Watson and confirmation that Mr Watson would be in attendance at CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings throughout the recruitment process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA, MAYOR**

Cr. Messina reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Councillor briefings
- Councillor only meetings
- Monthly Council meeting
- Special Council meetings
- Planning meeting
- Councillor session with David Bryson

- Regular meetings with CEO
- Regular meetings with CE Office Staff
- Good Governance Action Plan Meetings
- CEO employment meetings
- Lunch meeting with Stan from Metro Waste
- Ruthven Play space opening
- Site tour around Your Street Your Say areas
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Northern Bullants Women in Business breakfast
- Councillor Meeting with Cr Williams
- Darebin Community Awards Presentation for Youth of the Year
- Lunch Meeting with Frances Coppolillo
- Meeting with Darebin Phil D'Adamo
- Meetings with David Barber
- Opening at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre
- AGAPI Care's 35th Anniversary Gala Ball
- Town Hall Ave photo opportunity
- Green Room Awards
- Meeting with Kat Theophanous
- NARC video filming
- M9 Meeting
- Darebin TAC event
- Meeting with Ela Rose Studio

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

Cr. Greco reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

JUNE

- INLLEN AGM
- Catch with acting CEO
- Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Hearing of submissions meeting
- Speakeasy Opening Night of Security
- Good governance action plan
- Weekly councillor online meeting
- Welcoming Cities Committee Reference Group meeting
- Interfaith Advisory Committees
- Interim CEO interviews

- CEO Employment Matters Committee X2
- Councillor Briefings X2
- Special Council meeting
- Active Health Ageing Advisory Committee
- Planning committee meeting
- FECCA Conference
- Budget briefing
- Preston Lions 75h Anniversary Dinner
- Everyone belongs refugee week
- Briefing by Monitor, John Watson

JULY

- Site tour, Your Street-Your Say
- Ruthven Playspace Opening
- CEO Interview
- Councillor Briefing X3
- Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force
- Briefing and meeting
- Darebin Art and Heritage Advisory Panel Meeting
- Opening at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre
- CEO Employment Matters Committee X3
- Tour of NARC
- Good governance action plan
- Virtual Special council meeting
- Darebin TAC L2P
- Special Council meeting
- Town Hall Ave Big housing build event
- Councillor catch up

REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS

Cr. Williams reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- 2 x Council Meeting
- 3 x Council Briefing session
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Weekly online Councillor Teams meetings
- Darebin Community Awards Presentation for Youth of the Year
- 2 x CEO Interviews

- 3 x CEO Employment Matters Committee
- Meeting with Cr Messina
- Animal management catchup
- Tour of NARC
- Good Governance Action Plan
- Yoga yearly celebration 2022
- 2 x Special Council Meeting
- Darebin TAC L2P Celebration
- Townhall Ave - Big Housing Build Event

Attended to matter and discussions with residents regarding:

Northcote Golf Course, Preston Market, Shopping strip shops, graffiti, Defibs, St. John's, home help, level crossing, community garden, Diversity concerns.

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

Cr. Laurence reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Council meeting
- Council briefing
- CEO Performance Committee
- Narisa function to celebrate yoga day
- 35th anniversary of Agapi care

REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON

Cr. Newton reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities

- Townhall Avenue Preston - Big Housing Build Milestone Event
- Meeting with officers from City of Bendigo about Rainbow Tick accreditation
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- CEO Employment Matters Committee Meetings x4
- Friends of Baucau meeting
- Meeting with Cr Amanda Stone re Friends of Baucau
- Special Council Meeting x2
- Councillor Briefings - multiple
- Good Governance Action Plan training
- Tour of Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre build
- Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force Meeting
- Chairperson for Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Panel Meeting
- Mentoring session with Pathways to Politics for Women mentee Courtney May
- Northen Bullants Football Club Women in Business and Networking Event, including breakfast, Preston City Oval

- Meeting to discuss Safe Access Over Bell Street Bridge for Everyone chaired by Moreland Mayor Mark Riley
- Historic renaming ceremony: NAIDOC week event and special council meeting to consider final name recommendation (from Moreland to Merri-bek)
- Meeting with David Bryson, facilitator

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

Cr. Rennie reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Townhall Avenue Preston - Big Housing Build Milestone Event
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- CEO Employment Matters Committee Meetings x4
- Special Council Meeting x2
- Councillor Briefings - multiple
- Good Governance Action Plan training
- Tour of Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre build
- Meeting with David Bryson, facilitator
- CEO interviews x 2 sessions
- DIVRS 10 year celebration of L2P
- Darebin Arts – Paradise Lost
- Council meeting
- Phone calls and meetings with residents

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

Cr. McCarthy reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Weekly Councillor meetings
- CEO Employment Matters Committee Meetings
- Meeting with NAGA Deputy Chair Cr Amanda Stone and new NAGA Executive Officer Karen Gardham
- NAGA Executive Officer interviews
- Your Street, Your Say Walking Tour
- Special Council Meetings
- Councillor Briefings
- Good Governance Action Plan Training
- Meeting to discuss Safe Access Over Bell Street Bridge for Everyone chaired by Moreland Mayor Mark Riley
- Historic renaming ceremony: NAIDOC week event and special council meeting to consider final name recommendation (from Moreland to Merri-bek) - online attendance

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

Cr. Dimitriadis reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Attended Council briefings (in-person and online)
- Attended Councillor-only meetings (in-person and online)
- Attended official Council meeting (in-person)
- Attended two Special meetings (online)
- Attended Good Governance Action Plan meeting (in-person)
- Attended CEO Employment Matter meeting (in-person and online)
- Attended Round 1 and Round 2 interviews for CEO (in-person)
- Attended NRISA “International Yoga Day” event (in-person)
- Attended Alphington Community Centre Winter Art Exhibition (in-person)
- Attended Refugee Week event hosted Iranian Women’s Association (in-person)
- Attended AGAPI Care 35th Anniversary Gala (in-person)

Contact from residents regarding: Kalamata Place in Thornbury, outcome of gender-inclusive facilities at Northcote Tennis Club and John Cain Memorial Park, parking issues in Fairfield, sealing car park at Pitcher Park, Koori Academy Basketball home in Darebin, Darebin Parklands Association, overuse of weedkiller on resident’s nature strip that damaged the grass, resident’s fall on footpath.

REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN

Cr. Hannan reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Contact (phone / online) with residents about their concerns, e.g., traffic and noise complaints, planning developments, parking permits, Northcote Public Golf Course, Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- Online meeting with proponents of proposed development at 169 - 171 Gower street
- Audit and Risk Committee meeting
- NAIDOC week event / Opening of Bundoora Homestead
- Monthly Council meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Governance training session
- CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings
- Councillor briefings
- Councillor only meetings

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Greco, through a procedural motion put forward a motion to admit an item of urgent business regarding 'Economic Crisis and Situation in Sri Lanka'.

ADMISSION OF ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 22-057

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence

That the matter regarding Economic Crisis and situation in Sri Lanka be admitted as urgent business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.1 URGENT BUSINESS - ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

Urgent Business Motion

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence

That Council:

- 1) Notes Darebin's Towards Equality Framework policy "recognises the current climate change and social justice challenges that we encounter both locally and globally".
- 2) Notes that Darebin is home to and welcomes people from diverse backgrounds and therefore reaches out to support and stand in solidarity with members of the Darebin Sri Lankan community, whose relatives and friends have been affected by the current economic crisis.
- 3) Writes to the Federal Minister for Immigration, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. Penny Wong, requesting the Federal Government to:
 - a. Consider changing the visas of all Sri Lankan temporary visa holders living in Australia by making them permanent to assure people will not be at risk of imminent forced return to the country which is facing extreme economic hardship;
 - b. Consider granting Sri Lankans refugee status, prioritising the most long-term asylum seekers who are vulnerable;
 - c. Provide direct humanitarian aid and/or other types of Australian assistance to people living in Sri Lanka and suffering from lack of basic supplies and services;
 - d. Provide health and wellbeing support to Sri Lankan communities living in Australia in collaboration with State Governments;
 - e. Provide financial assistance as required to Sri Lankan international students.
- 4) As an executive member of Local Government Mayoral Taskforce and a member of Refugee Welcome Zone, request similar letters be sent to the Federal Minister for Immigration, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. Penny Wong.

- 5) Notes that as a local government authority, and consistent with our commitments as a member of Welcoming Cities network and Refugee Welcome Zone, Darebin City Council stands ready to welcome Sri Lankan migrants and refugees and work with our partners and local communities to provide support and assist with their settlement.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan

That point 3(b) of the motion be amended as follows:

- 3) Writes to the Federal Minister for Immigration, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. Penny Wong, requesting the Federal Government to:
- b) Increase Australia's humanitarian intake and expand eligibility criteria, prioritising the most long-term asylum seekers from Sri Lanka and other countries.**

The mover and seconder of the motion consented to the amendment.

Amendment was incorporated into the motion which became the substantive motion before the Council.

The motion was put and carried unanimously

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 22-058**

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence

That Council:

- 1) Notes Darebin's Towards Equality Framework policy "recognises the current climate change and social justice challenges that we encounter both locally and globally".
- 2) Notes that Darebin is home to and welcomes people from diverse backgrounds and therefore reaches out to support and stand in solidarity with members of the Darebin Sri Lankan community, whose relatives and friends have been affected by the current economic crisis.
- 3) Writes to the Federal Minister for Immigration, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. Penny Wong, requesting the Federal Government to:
 - a. Consider changing the visas of all Sri Lankan temporary visa holders living in Australia by making them permanent to assure people will not be at risk of imminent forced return to the country which is facing extreme economic hardship;
 - b. Increase Australia's humanitarian intake and expand eligibility criteria, prioritising the most long-term asylum seekers from Sri Lanka and other countries;
 - c. Provide direct humanitarian aid and/or other types of Australian assistance to people living in Sri Lanka and suffering from lack of basic supplies and services;
 - d. Provide health and wellbeing support to Sri Lankan communities living in Australia in collaboration with State Governments;
 - e. Provide financial assistance as required to Sri Lankan international students.
- 4) As an executive member of Local Government Mayoral Taskforce and a member of

Refugee Welcome Zone, request similar letters be sent to the Federal Minister for Immigration, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. Penny Wong.

- 5) Notes that as a local government authority, and consistent with our commitments as a member of Welcoming Cities network and Refugee Welcome Zone, Darebin City Council stands ready to welcome Sri Lankan migrants and refugees and work with our partners and local communities to provide support and assist with their settlement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor advised that since the distribution of the agenda, the Interim Chief Executive Officer via her delegate, the General Manager Governance & Engagement had determined that two items of Urgent Business – ‘Appointment to the CEO Employments Matters Committee’ and a confidential item ‘Appointment of Chief Executive Officer’ were required to be determined by Council pursuant to the Governance Rules. The Officers Reports on the items had been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

9.40pm The Interim Chief Executive Officer declared a material conflict of interest in the admitted Urgent Business item 10.2 – ‘Appointment to the CEO Employment matters Committee’ and left the meeting.

10.2 URGENT BUSINESS - APPOINTMENT TO THE CEO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS COMMITTEE

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1) Note the appointment of Councillors on the CEO Employment Matters Committee end upon appointment of the Chief Executive Officer by the execution of the contract of employment.
- 2) Note that Council’s obligations in accordance with the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (Appendix B) are to appoint the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and some or all of Councillors to the Committee.
- 3) Appoint Mayor Lina Messina, Deputy Mayor Trent McCarthy and Councillors _____ to the CEO Employment Matters Committee, to take effect from the date of execution of the CEO employment contract.
- 4) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect these new appointments, in the ‘composition’ section that the Committee will be constituted by an independent chairperson, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and _____ Councillors, and in both the ‘composition’ and ‘meetings’ sections reflect a quorum of _____ members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee.
- 5) Note that the current term of appointment of the Independent Chair of the CEO Employment Matters Committee ends on 25 November 2022, and that a further report will be provided to Council at its September 2022 meeting for decision regarding role requirements and appointment to this position.
- 6) Note that the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy will be reported to Council at its September 2022 meeting.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence

That Council:

- 1) Note the appointment of Councillors on the CEO Employment Matters Committee end upon appointment of the Chief Executive Officer by the execution of the contract of employment.
- 2) Note that Council's obligations in accordance with the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (Appendix B) are to appoint the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and some or all of Councillors to the Committee.
- 3) Note that the CEO Employment matters Committee will comprise of the Independent Chair, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 3 Councillors. Except when there is a vacancy in the position of CEO, when for the recruitment and appointment process, the membership will be –
 - Independent Chair; and
 - All Councillors
- 4) Appoint Mayor Lina Messina, Deputy Mayor Trent McCarthy and Councillor Emily Dimitriadis, Councillor Gaetano Greco, and Councillor Susan Rennie to the CEO Employment Matters Committee, to take effect from the date of execution of the CEO employment contract.
- 5) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect these new appointments, in the 'composition' section that the Committee will be constituted by an independent chairperson, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 3 (three) Councillors, and in both the 'composition' and 'meetings' sections reflect a quorum of 4 (four) members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee.
- 6) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect clearly that all Councillors will receive notices and agendas for all meetings of the committee and if not a member of the committee will be welcome to attend.
- 7) Note that the current term of appointment of the Independent Chair of the CEO Employment Matters Committee ends on 25 November 2022, and that a further report will be provided to Council at its September 2022 meeting for decision regarding role requirements and appointment to this position.
- 8) Note that the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy will be reported to Council at its September 2022 meeting.

The motion was put and carried unanimously .

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 22-059****MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence****That Council:**

- 1) Note the appointment of Councillors on the CEO Employment Matters Committee end upon appointment of the Chief Executive Officer by the execution of the contract of employment.
- 2) Note that Council's obligations in accordance with the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (Appendix B) are to appoint the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and some or all of Councillors to the Committee.
- 3) Note that the CEO Employment matters Committee will comprise of the Independent Chair, the Mayor, Deputy mayor and 3 Councillors. Except when there is a vacancy in the position of CEO, when for the recruitment and appointment process, the membership will be –
 - Independent Chair; and
 - All Councillors
- 4) Appoint Mayor Lina Messina, Deputy Mayor Trent McCarthy and Councillor Emily Dimitriadis, Councillor Gaetano Greco, and Councillor Susan Rennie to the CEO Employment Matters Committee, to take effect from the date of execution of the CEO employment contract.
- 5) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect these new appointments, in the 'composition' section that the Committee will be constituted by an independent chairperson, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 3 (three) Councillors, and in both the 'composition' and 'meetings' sections reflect a quorum of 4 (four) members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee.
- 6) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect clearly that all Councillors will receive notices and agendas for all meetings of the committee and if not a member of the committee will be welcome to attend.
- 7) Note that the current term of appointment of the Independent Chair of the CEO Employment Matters Committee ends on 25 November 2022, and that a further report will be provided to Council at its September 2022 meeting for decision regarding role requirements and appointment to this position.
- 8) Note that the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy will be reported to Council at its September 2022 meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**9.51pm** The Interim Chief Executive Officer returned to the meeting.

10.3 CLOSE OF MEETING TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 22-060****MOVED: Cr. S Rennie**
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following item designated confidential by the Interim Chief Executive Officer on the basis that the matters are confidential in accordance with Section 3(1) of the *Act*.

10.3 Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer

This item is designated confidential because it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the *Act* .

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was closed to the members of the public at 9.51 pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Item 10.3 – Appointment of the Chief Executive officer in the closed meeting.

EXTENSION OF TIME**Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 22-061****MOVED: Cr. S Newton**
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

10.16 pm That the Council meeting continue for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**

Nil

12. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 10.41 pm.

**CITY OF
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