



the place
to live

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 8 July 2019

Released to the public on Thursday 11 July 2019



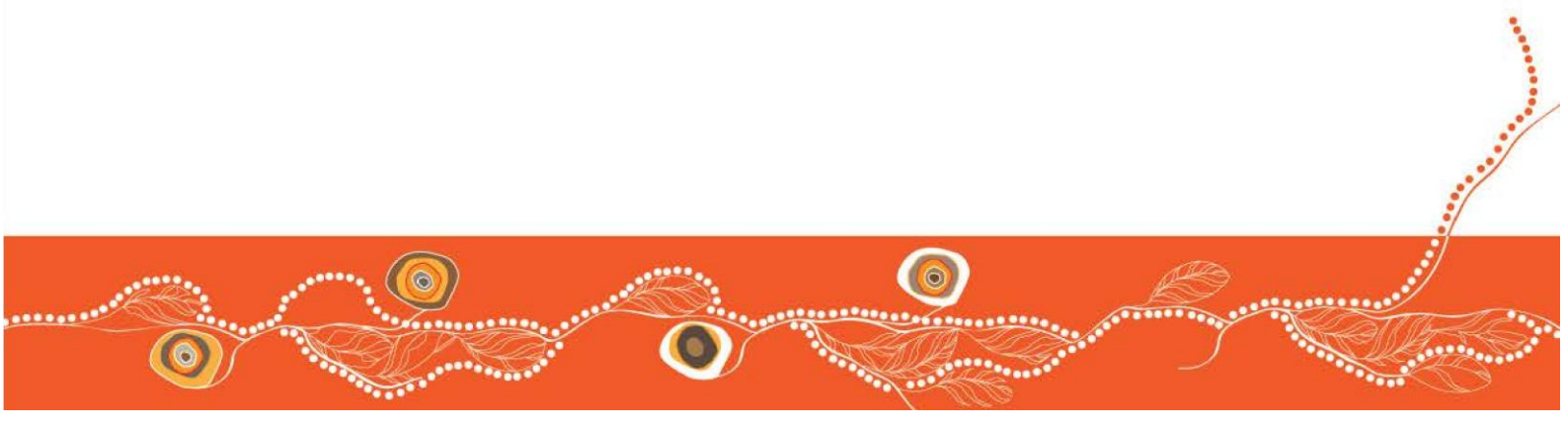
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

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

Council also 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 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 8888 8470.

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 ਕੌਂਸਲ 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.

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
1. PRESENT	5
2. APOLOGIES.....	5
3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	5
4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS	6
4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.....	6
5. CLOSE OF MEETING.....	8

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2019**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.01PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Steph Amir
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Lina Messina
Cr. Julie Williams (6.02pm)

Council Officers

Sue Wilkinson - Chief Executive Officer
Ingrid Bishop - General Manager Governance and Engagement
Cathy Henderson - General Manager Community
Felicity Leahy – Acting General Manager Operations and Capital
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Melinda Viksne - Manager Governance and Performance
Ralph Anania - Acting Coordinator Governance, Council Business and Civic Services
Karlee Ferrante - Council Business Officer
Georgina Steele - Council Business Officer

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received for Cr. Gaetano Greco and Cr. Kim Le Cerf.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

Cr. Julie Williams entered the meeting at 6.02pm.

4. ITEM LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An item of Urgent Business regarding the Local Government Bill was raised by Cr Newton at the Council meeting held on 24 June 2019.

The meeting admitted the following motion from Cr Newton –

That Council:

- (1) Notes with grave concern that:
 - a) several significant changes are proposed to the Local Government Bill 2018, intended to be introduced into parliament later this year, without warning and without consultation, with only one month to provide feedback by 17 July 2019;
 - b) the proposed changes include changes to the voter franchise, blanket single-member wards for all councils and removing the multi-member wards as an option which has been strongly supported by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and introducing a petition process (requiring 25% of voters) which could lead to dismissing Councillors, which is undemocratic.
- (2) Notes that the VEC is about to commence its representation review of Darebin City Council, with submissions opening 26 June 2019 and noting that in its last review in 2007, the VEC recommended that Darebin move from single-member to multi-member wards, which has led to greater diversity of Councillors and representation; and single-member wards could reverse this outcome.
- (3) Authorise the CEO to write to:
 - a) the Minister for Local Government expressing Council's concerns about his proposed changes and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector and seeking clarification of proposed community consultation and parliamentary tabling timelines and details of the proposed Bill;
 - b) the Premier, Local State Members of Parliament, the Opposition State Minister for Local Government, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) as above, expressing Council's concerns about the Minister's proposed changes and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector.
- (4) Authorise the CEO to work with other Councils in seeking the Minister to reconsider his proposed changes.
- (5) Authorise the CEO to prepare a submission to the proposed changes by the Minister for Local Government (due 17 July), on the grounds that Council objects to the proposed changes in terms of 1 and 2 above in the strongest possible terms, including that:
 - a) Voter petitions with support from more than 25% of voters within a municipality will lead to a Commission of Inquiry (Col), and where the Col finds a Councillor has caused or contributed to a failure of the Council's good

- governance, the Councillor will be disqualified for four years; and Councils will have to meet the costs for the Col;
- b) Single-member wards will be mandated except where a Ministerial exemption is granted for an un-subdivided municipality based on a small population and large geographic area;
 - c) Simplified voter franchise requiring non-resident property owners to apply to vote rather than automatically included from the Council's rates records.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 19-121**

MOVED: Cr. S Newton
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes with grave concern that:
 - a) several significant changes are proposed to the Local Government Bill 2018, intended to be introduced into parliament later this year, without warning and without consultation, with only one month to provide feedback by 17 July;
 - b) the proposed changes include blanket single-member wards for all councils and the removal of multi-member wards as an option, when multi-member wards have been strongly supported by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and introducing a petition process (requiring 25% of voters) for dismissing Councillors, which is undemocratic;
- (2) Notes that the VEC has commenced its representation review of Darebin City Council, with submissions opening 26 June 2019 and noting that in its last review in 2007, the VEC recommended that Darebin move from single-member to multi-member wards, which has led to greater diversity of Councillors and representation, and single member wards could reverse this outcome;
- (3) Authorise the CEO to write to:
 - a) the Minister for Local Government to express Council's concerns about his proposed reforms and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector and to seek clarification of the proposed community consultation and parliamentary tabling timelines;
 - b) the Premier, Local State Members, the Opposition State Minister for Local Government, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Government Association expressing Council's concerns about the Minister's proposed reforms and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector;
- (4) Authorises the CEO to:
 - a) work with other councils in seeking the Minister to reconsider his proposed reforms; and
 - b) prepare a submission to the proposed reforms by the Minister for Local Government (due 17 July), on the basis that while Council is supportive of several reforms, it does strongly object to reforms 1 and 2, and has major concerns with reform 6.
- (5) Proposes that the Minister pursue passage of the Local Government Act 2018, the result of years of consultation and any other matters such as the six proposed additions be considered at a later date following proper consultation and

consideration of the evidence.

CARRIED

Cr. Laurence and Cr Williams requested to be recorded as having voted against the motion.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 6.17pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

274 Gower Street, Preston
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072
T 8470 8888 **F** 8470 8877
E mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
darebin.vic.gov.au

 **National Relay Service**
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have
a hearing or speech
impairment, contact
us through the
National Relay Service.

 **Speak your language**
T 8470 8470

العربية	Italiano	Soomalii
繁體中文	Македонски	Español
Ελληνικά	नेपाली	اردو
हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt