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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 6 April 2020

Released to the public on Tuesday 14 April 2020



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 COUNCIL CHAMBER,
DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON MONDAY 6 APRIL 2020**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.00PM

WELCOME

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

“I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand here today, the Wurundjeri people, and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, as well as to Elders from other communities who may be with us today.”

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Kim Le Cerf

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Sue Wilkinson - Chief Executive Officer

Sam Hewett - General Manager Operations and Capital

Rachel Ollivier - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Stephen Mahon - Coordinator Governance, Council Business and Civic Services

Chad Berbari – IT Project Officer

2. APOLOGIES

Cr. Tim Laurence

(Note – Refer Item 8.1 Minutes No. 20-033)

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-032

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

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 March 2020 and the Special Meeting of Council held on 27 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

- **Maria Poletti, DADA President**

According to 2016 Australian Census data, the number of families living in apartments increased by 56% between 2011 and 2016. Despite its growing popularity, there is evidence that apartment dwellings are not meeting the needs of Australian families.

Unlike suburban families who could spend more time in their own homes, families living in apartments depend on local environments due to the limited space within apartment complexes.

DADA is very concerned that Council voted to seek, through Amendment C186, State Government permission to charge developers an open space levy of only 10%, just over half required to replace the loss of open space in Darebin.

1. If the levy is only 10% at the most, how does Council plan to make up the difference?
2. Is Council planning to use rates or are you planning to continue the legacy of overdevelopment in Darebin and the consequent lack of open space, condemning residents to a severe lack of amenity so that developers, who have not contributed to a Developers Contribution Levy for many years, will continue to line their pockets at our expense?

Thank you.

Response from Chairperson, Mayor Rennie

Thanks for the question.

Although the overall projected need for open space in Darebin is 18.2%, it's intended that this need would be met in a number of different ways, not just through the open space levy.

This would include things like getting government grants for new open space, negotiating with developers on strategic sites, new joint access agreements, and working with other landowners such as VicTrack and the Level Crossing Removal Project to create new public open space.

A 10% levy in an established area like Darebin is unprecedented and any higher levy is unlikely to be accepted by the State Government. We're prepared to be bold in what we're asking for because we know that's what's needed.

Our projections suggest that a significant increase of the levy from 2-5% to 10% will be enough to maintain a good standard of open space as Darebin grows.

Our officers are very happy to talk through the detail of how open space planning will work in the municipality as the population grows and will be in touch to talk it through in more detail.

6. PETITIONS

Nil.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Motion

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

That an Item of Urgent Business regarding the calling for a report to the next Council Meeting on the options to provide rate relief to local traders affected by the COVID-19 crisis be admitted and considered as an item of Urgent Business.

The motion was put and lost.

LOST

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8.1 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - CR. TIM LAURENCE

Author: Coordinator Governance, Council Business & Civic Services

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cr Laurence has requested leave of absence from the 26 March 2020 to the 30 April 2020.

Leave of Absence is a formal permission granted by way of Council resolution to a Councillor excusing them from attending Council Meetings for the duration of the leave.

The Local Government Act 1989 (Section 69) makes provision for Council to approve 'leave of absence' for a Councillor when a Councillor is likely to be absent from 4 consecutive Ordinary Council Meetings, which if this occurs creates an extraordinary vacancy i.e. the Councillors cease to be a Councillor.

The Act specifically states that 'the Council must not unreasonably refuse to grant leave' (Section 69 (2))

The Chief Executive Officer will inform Councillors of the circumstances associated with Cr Laurence's request for leave of absence.

Recommendation

That Cr Tim Laurence be granted leave of absence from the 26 March 2020 to the 30 April 2020.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. K Le Cerf
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That the recommendation to Council be adopted.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: -

That Cr Laurence's requested leave of absence be amended to from 26 February 2020 to the 24 April 2020.

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

The amended motion was put and carried unanimously.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-033

MOVED: Cr. K Le Cerf
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Cr Laurence's requested leave of absence be amended to from 26 February 2020 to the 24 April 2020

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 PROPOSED SALE OF DISCONTINUED ROAD REAR 63 TO 69 SOUTHERNHAY STREET AND 58 TO 64 KING WILLIAM STREET, RESERVOIR

Author: Property Officer

Reviewed By: Property Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2019, Council received an enquiry from an adjacent owner of the 3.66-metre-wide former road adjoining the rear of 63-69 Southernhay Street and 58-64 King William Street, Reservoir, who was seeking to purchase the land abutting their property, being part of the unsold land from a previously discontinued road.

The land shown hatched on the site plan in **Appendix A** is known as Lots 4, 5 and 7 on Title Plan 896344C shown in **Appendix B**, and in orange in the aerial view in **Appendix C**.

Consultation with abutting property owners confirmed the feasibility of the proposed sale, with the property owners of 62 King William Street, Reservoir indicating their interest by signing an in-principle agreement to purchase the land from the discontinued road at market value, as well as meeting all reasonable costs associated with the statutory process.

It is therefore recommended that Council commences the statutory process to sell the land from this former road and to take title of any unsold land.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-034

MOVED: Cr. J Williams

SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

That Council:

- (1) Commences the statutory procedures under Section 189 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ('the Act') to:
 - a) Sell the land from the discontinued road adjoining the rear of 62 King William Street, Reservoir shown as Lot 5 on Title Plan 896344C in **Appendix B**, to the owners of 62 King William Street, Reservoir.
 - b) Take title to the land shown as Lot 4 and 7 on Title Plan 896344C in **Appendix B** in accordance with Council Policy.
- (2) Gives public notice under Sections 189, 82A and 223 of the Act of the proposed sale in the appropriate newspapers and on Council's website, and in such notice, state that Council proposes to:
 - a) Sell the land from the former road to the owners of 62 King William Street, Reservoir by private treaty.
 - b) Transfer to itself any land that remains unsold.

CARRIED

8.3 INTENTION TO DECLARE A SPECIAL CHARGE: SOLAR SAVER RESIDENTIAL BATCH 2**Author:** Coordinator Solar Saver**Reviewed By:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Solar Saver program is a key action in Council's Climate Emergency Plan. The proposed Special Charge scheme would include 21 residential properties (for a total of 94.71kW solar). This is the second batch of residential Special Charges for the 2020 round of the Solar Saver program.

The value of the proposed Special Charge scheme is: \$124,084.05 (\$183,755.05 gross including GST and pre STC claim).

These costs will be paid back to Council through the Special Charge scheme over 10 years. No interest is charged. Annual repayments are more than offset by participants' savings on their energy bills, and therefore the program provides financial and environmental benefits to participants.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-035**MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. K Le Cerf****That Council**

- 1) Hereby gives notice of its intention to declare a Special Charge in accordance with section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* as follows:
 - (a) Council declares a Special Charge for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.
 - (b) We declare this Special Charge for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of solar energy systems on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers is or will be a special benefit to those persons or organisations required to pay the Special Charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and
 - ii. Arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - (c) The total:
 - i. Costs of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution are: \$124,084.05
 - ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$124,084.05 or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution

- (d) We declare the Special Charge in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as Appendix A to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
- (e) Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution is the basis of the Special Charge.
- (f) The Special Charge will be assessed and levied as follows:
 - i. Each Special Charge is calculated by reference to the size of the solar energy system being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Owner Agreement has been executed, totalling \$124,084.05 being the total cost of the scheme to Council;
 - ii. The Special Charge will be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
- (g) Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, it is recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will, subject to a further resolution of Council, pay the Special Charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
 - i. Payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. Payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- 2) Council considers that there will be a special benefit to the persons or organisations required to pay the Special Charge because there will be a benefit to those persons or organisations that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to persons or organisations who are not subject to the proposed Special Charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the Special Charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of a solar energy system being installed.
- 3) For the purposes of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
 - (a) Council considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the Special Charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and
 - (b) Formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2) (a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Special Charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.
- 4) Council will give public notice in the *Northcote Leader* and *Preston Leader* newspapers of Council's intention to declare, at its ordinary meeting to be held on 18 May 2020, the Special Charge in the form set out above.

- 5) Council will send separate letters, enclosing a copy of: this resolution; **Appendix A** to this report; and the public notice referred to in Paragraph 4 of this resolution, to the owners of the properties included in the scheme, advising of Council's intention to levy the Special Charge, the amount for which the property owner will be liable, the basis of calculation of the Special Charge, and notification that submissions and/or objections in relation to the proposal will be considered by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act.
- 6) Council will convene a meeting of the Hearing of Submissions Committee, at a date and time to be fixed, to hear persons or organisations who, in their written submissions made under section 223 of the Act, advise that they wish to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting in support of their submission.
- 7) Council authorises the Manager Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport to carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under sections 163A, 163(1A), (1B) and (1C), 163B and 223 of the Act.

CARRIED

8.4 BUNDOORA HOMESTEAD BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FUTURE GOVERNANCE MODEL

Author: Acting Gallery Director

Reviewed By: General Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bundoora Homestead Board of Management has made an excellent contribution to securing a healthy future for the Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre. Board members have contributed great expertise, energy, time and creativity to help steer the gallery, and to set strategy for the future.

However, the governance structure for the Board needs to change, as changes to the Local Government Act will affect the membership and conduct of meetings of the Board (along with changes to many other governance matters such as conflict of interest requirements).

Board members and officers are keen to support the continued strategic input from the Board into the strategy and policy for Bundoora Homestead Art Centre and Darebin's visual arts community offering. However, circumstances have changed (including changes to the Local Government Act) and therefore a brief review of the governance structure has taken place.

Members of the Board of Management have workshopped the options and most members support the transition of the Board of Management to being an **advisory panel**.

The Council Plan 2017-21 includes an action to grow the reach of the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre and growth has occurred, in part through the support and advice of the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management. While the current format as a Section 86 Special Committee is no longer a suitable model for this committee, the transition to an advisory panel would allow for this group of experienced professionals from diverse backgrounds to continue to support the delivery of art and heritage experiences to the Darebin community.

Darebin Council has also adopted a new community engagement strategy and considered a review of advisory panels. With these matters in mind, it is an appropriate time to review the governance structure of Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Newton

SECONDED: Cr. S Amir

That Council:

- (1) Moves to dissolve the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management Special Committee and transitions to an Art & Heritage Advisory Panel.
 - (2) Notes the draft Terms of Reference for the Art & Heritage Advisory Panel and adopts them.
 - (3) Notes the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management's outgoing Value Proposition for the future of Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.
 - (4) Invites current members of the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management to become
-

the inaugural members of the Art & Heritage Advisory Panel.

- (5) Tasks Council officers to deliver and Expression of Interest to fill vacant positions within the new Art & Heritage Advisory Panel.

It was moved by Cr Greco that an additional point 6 be added to read –

- (6) In consultation with the Arts and Heritage Advisory Panel Members Council reviews the new Advisory Committee arrangements within 12 months of them taking effect.

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

The amended motion was put and carried.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-036

MOVED: Cr. S Newton
SECONDED: Cr. S Amir

That Council:

- (1) Moves to dissolve the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management Special Committee and transitions to an Art & Heritage Advisory Panel.
- (2) Notes the draft Terms of Reference for the Art & Heritage Advisory Panel and adopts them.
- (3) Notes the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management's outgoing Value Proposition for the future of Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.
- (4) Invites current members of the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management to become the inaugural members of the Art & Heritage Advisory Panel.
- (5) Tasks Council officers to deliver and Expression of Interest to fill vacant positions within the new Art & Heritage Advisory Panel.
- (6) In consultation with the Arts and Heritage Advisory Panel Members Council reviews the new Advisory Committee arrangements within 12 months of them taking effect.

CARRIED

**8.5 NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE
CONCEPT DESIGN****Author:** Project Manager**Reviewed By:** General Manager Operations and Capital

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warren and Mahoney Architects has been engaged to prepare the design documentation for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC) located at 180 Victoria Road, Northcote. The concept design was developed in close consultation with the Project Working Group (PWG) and Project Control Group (PCG) consisting of senior staff across the organisation.

Consultation with Office of Victorian Government Architects (OVGA), leisure management companies and external stakeholders has also informed the concept design.

Engagement with key project stakeholders will continue to inform the design process and the engagement plan will be updated at each stage of the project. Officers will now complete engagement with external stakeholders, community, residents and key Council advisory committees.

The facility is targeting a 6-star green star as built rating under the Green Building Council of Australia (understood to be the first in Australia) rating system and will accommodate a range of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) initiatives.

The project quantity surveyor has been engaged and initial cost planning has confirmed the concept design is within budget.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy**SECONDED:** Cr. S Amir**That Council:**

- (1) Endorse the concept design for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and continue engagement with key external stakeholders and community.

Amendment

It was moved by Cr Greco that a point 2 be added to read –

- (2) Council receive a Council report on the outcomes of the consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and community members.

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

The amended motion was put and carried unanimously.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-037

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

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the concept design for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and continue engagement with key external stakeholders and community.
- (2) Council receive a Council report on the outcomes of the consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and community members.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.6 EDWARDES LAKE WATER QUALITY**Author:** Environment Officer - Waste & Water**Reviewed By:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to point 3 of a resolution of Council in November 2019 to identify Council, State and Federal options to improve the water quality of Edwardes Lake to make it suitable for a wider range of recreational purposes.

The report notes that -

- (1) Water quality in the lake is poor, which is impacting on the ecological health and makes it unsuitable for swimming and boating activities.
- (2) The poor water quality is due to urban run-off, sewage and industrial pollution from upstream. This also makes it challenging and expensive to address.
- (3) Officers confirm their previous advice that improving water quality to the extent that would allow boating or swimming would require expensive capital works. It is also likely that it will not be feasible to improve water quality to that extent and could not be guaranteed in the long term.
- (4) Council officers will now use the findings from the water quality monitoring to review maintenance and management activities.
- (5) Officers will continue to advocate for the prioritisation of the Edwardes Lake Stormwater Quality Project in the Yarra IWM Forum's Priority Portfolio to leverage state government funding for further action.

Recommendation

That Council

- (1) Notes the findings of water quality monitoring at Edwardes Lake and that it is not currently feasible to improve water quality to a level that allows water-based recreation at Edwardes Lake and therefore to ensure public safety continues to manage the lake without recreation activities.
- (2) Makes adjustments to maintenance and management of water at the lake to improve water quality but notes that these would not enable recreation.
- (3) Continues to advocate for improved water quality outcomes in Darebin's waterways and waterbodies by working with other relevant agencies.

Motion

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

That Council

- (1) Endorses the recommendations of the “GHD - Edwardes Lake water quality monitoring, final report”.
- (2) Supports the findings of the report that demonstrate Edwardes Lake continues to have poor water quality affecting the overall health of the lake for both ecosystem and recreational interaction purposes.
- (3) Supports the conclusions arrived at in the GHD report that due to heavy metals and nutrients entering into Edwardes Lake potentially via different sources would require further investigation (including a catchment sanitary survey) to allow for future improvement of water quality in terms of ecological health and recreational use of the Lake.
- (4) Funds a specialist feasibility analyses and options assessment that also considers all the recommendations of “Edwardes Lake water quality monitoring - final report” to allow for future improvement of water quality in terms of ecosystem health and recreational use of the Lake.
- (5) Continues to advocate for improved water quality outcomes of the lake by working with other relevant agencies with the aid of further specialist report, as per point 3 above.
- (6) Continues to regularly and systematically monitor the water quality of the lake so Council has data at hand to measure future improvements in the water quality and in the event of an incident at the Lake.

The motion was put and lost.

LOST

Motion

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

That Council

- (1) Notes the findings of water quality monitoring at Edwardes Lake and that it is not currently feasible to improve water quality to a level that allows water-based recreation at Edwardes Lake and therefore to ensure public safety continues to manage the lake without recreation activities.
- (2) Makes adjustments to maintenance and management of water at the lake to improve water quality but notes that these would not enable recreation.
- (3) Continues to advocate for improved water quality outcomes in Darebin’s waterways and waterbodies by working with other relevant agencies.

Amendment

It was moved by Cr Greco that a point 4 be added to read -

- (4) Council conduct a catchment sanitary survey as recommended in the GHD report.

The mover and seconder did not consent to the amendment.

The motion lapsed through want of a seconder.

LAPSED

The motion before Council was put and carried.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-038

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

That Council

- (1) Notes the findings of water quality monitoring at Edwardes Lake and that it is not currently feasible to improve water quality to a level that allows water-based recreation at Edwardes Lake and therefore to ensure public safety continues to manage the lake without recreation activities.
- (2) Makes adjustments to maintenance and management of water at the lake to improve water quality but notes that these would not enable recreation.
- (3) Continues to advocate for improved water quality outcomes in Darebin's waterways and waterbodies by working with other relevant agencies.

CARRIED

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO PETITIONS, NOTICES OF MOTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 TACKLING WOODSMOKE POLLUTION

Author: Senior Environment Officer - Waste and Water

Reviewed By: General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 6 January 2020 Council received a petition signed by 71 people (not all Darebin residents), calling on Darebin to act on reducing harm from wood heater smoke. Smoke from wood heaters is a major pollution problem. The health impacts from wood smoke are well understood and the signatories of this petition are justified in their concerns. Council has received further requests on this matter in light of COVID-19, there is concern that exposure to this smoke could exacerbate the seriousness of the virus.

The petition calls for four key Actions which are discussed below:

1. Education campaign about the effects of wood smoke

This report recommends considering aspects of this measure. A well-executed education campaign is a low-cost way to effectively prevent harm and is within the Council's remit and capacity.

2. Increase air quality monitoring by Darebin Council

The responsibility for air quality monitoring sits with the State Government through the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). While there are significant gaps in the EPA air monitoring network across Victoria, Darebin has good coverage. It is instead recommended to call on the State Government to improve the network state-wide. Local Councils could assist the EPA by offering their assets to be used as monitoring locations.

3. Implementing stronger regulatory policies

There are policy options available which are shown to effectively reduce harm from wood smoke, however these would require policy and regulatory change at State and Federal level. Council can advocate for these changes and play a supporting role if they are brought in but does not have discretion to change these policies nor to implement local permit or license requirements.

4. Independent review into Council's response to wood smoke complaints

Officers don't recommend this for two main reasons: firstly, Council has a complaint review process to address any concerns about specific cases, and secondly, more broadly, taking stronger action on wood smoke would require a change in the State Government regulations and Council does not have the discretion to go beyond them when it is playing its enforcement role. Therefore, this report recommends advocacy rather than an independent review as it is recommended that it would be more benefit for the effort.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Provide an education and awareness campaign on existing Council platforms (such as social media) about the health and environmental impacts from wood heaters, cleaner ways to operate wood heaters, and information about alternative heating.
- (2) Call on the State Government to:
 - a. Expand EPA's Ambient Air Network to provide better coverage across Victoria, including sensors to provide more localised information
 - b. Take stronger action on wood smoke pollution
- (3) Work with the Municipal Association of Victoria to:
 - a. Coordinate a formal offer from Victorian councils to work with EPA to enable council land and assets to be used for air monitoring.

Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Provides an education and awareness campaign on existing Council platforms (such as social media, local paper, rates notices) about the health and environmental impacts from wood heaters, cleaner ways to operate wood heaters, and information about alternative heating and this should include targeting of residents who use wood heaters
- (2) Calls on the State Government to:
 - a. Expand EPA's Ambient Air Network to provide better coverage across Victoria, including sensors to provide more localised information.
 - b. Take stronger action on wood smoke pollution, including restricting the use of wood smoke heaters in urban and built up areas.
 - c. Support households with no other form of heating to rapidly switch to electric heater options through the introduction of a bulk-buy, subsidy or other incentive scheme.
- (3) Works with the Municipal Association of Victoria to coordinate a formal offer from Victorian councils to work with EPA to enable council land and assets to be used for air monitoring.
- (4) Receives a further report on:
 - a. Ways in which enforcement action to deal with breaches of the Local Law can be strengthened.
 - b. How the Local Law can be strengthened to make it an offence for wood smoke to enter a neighbouring property.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 20-039****MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. S Amir****That Council:**

- (1) Provides an education and awareness campaign on existing Council platforms (such as social media, local paper, rates notices) about the health and environmental impacts from wood heaters, cleaner ways to operate wood heaters, and information about alternative heating and this should include targeting of residents who use wood heaters
- (2) Calls on the State Government to:
 - a. Expand EPA's Ambient Air Network to provide better coverage across Victoria, including sensors to provide more localised information.
 - b. Take stronger action on wood smoke pollution, including restricting the use of wood smoke heaters in urban and built up areas.
 - c. Support households with no other form of heating to rapidly switch to electric heater options through the introduction of a bulk-buy, subsidy or other incentive scheme.
- (3) Works with the Municipal Association of Victoria to coordinate a formal offer from Victorian councils to work with EPA to enable council land and assets to be used for air monitoring.
- (4) Receives a further report on:
 - a. Ways in which enforcement action to deal with breaches of the Local Law can be strengthened.
 - b. How the Local Law can be strengthened to make it an offence for wood smoke to enter a neighbouring property.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 COVID 19 - CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT THE BUSINESS AND ARTS SECTORS

Councillor: Lina MESSINA

NoM No.: 470

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 6 April 2020, it is my intention to move:
'That Council

- (1) Receives advice on the consultative mechanisms that will be used to ensure that our support to the business and arts sectors is informed by their experiences and needs.
- (2) Receives advice from our Maternal and Child Health Service on the potential to ensure that vulnerable families have adequate supplies of nappies, paracetamol and baby formula as required during the COVID-19 Shutdown.
- (3) Advocate to the Federal Government for :
 - a) The expansion of supports available through Medicare for psychological services required as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic which is causing significant stress and anxiety in our community.
 - b) The provision of assistance with the current B.A.S payments due Q3 and Q4.
 - c) An Economic Stimulus package for Self Employed, Casual employees and Small Business.
 - d) For the people who have lost income, suspension with no interest on mortgages, loans, credit cards, essential services fees including utilities until the pandemic in Australia has ceased.
 - e) The enforcement of controls and limits on the purchase of continence aids, nappies, baby formula and Ventolin by individuals where these goods are being sent overseas,
 - f) Stronger oversight and controls on the ownership of land, businesses, water assets and utilities by overseas and foreign interests, and
- (4) That the Mayor write to the State Government, seeking the suspension and waiver for 12 months of liquor licensing fees for cafe's, restaurants and bars.'

Notice Received: 19 March 2020

Notice Given to Councillors 6 April 2020

Date of Meeting: 6 April 2020

Cr Messina sought leave of Council to amend her Notice of Motion.

Leave was granted.

Motion**MOVED: Cr. L Messina****SECONDED: Cr. S Newton****That Council**

- (1) Receives a regular report on the implementation of the Recovery Package including any consultative processes undertaken with the Darebin business and arts sectors.
- (2) Advocate to the Federal Government for:
 - a) The provision of assistance with the current Business Activity Statements B.A.S payments due Q3 and Q4.
 - b) For the people who have lost income, suspension with no interest on mortgages, loans, credit cards, essential services fees including utilities until the pandemic in Australia has ceased.
 - c) The enforcement of controls and limits on the purchase of continence aids, nappies, infant formula and Ventolin by individuals where these goods are being sent overseas
 - d) Provides more detail about the Federal Government recently announced Foreign Investment Review Framework to ensure it provides stronger oversight and controls on the ownership of land, business, water assets and utilities by foreign investment.
- (3) Endorses the Gender Equity Victoria joint statement calling for State and Federal Governments to recognise the gendered impacts of COVID-19, and writes to the Premier of Victoria, Dan Andrews, the Minister for Women, Gabrielle Williams, the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison and the Minister for Women, Marise Payne expressing Council's support for the 10 Things Government Can Do Now to address the impacts of COVID-19 on women and gender diverse people.

Amendment

It was moved by Cr Williams that Officers investigate potential funding sources to implement the following amendments to Notice of Motion 470, i.e -

That Council

- (4) Increase the City of Darebin economic stimulus package from \$10 to \$15 million until June 2021.
 - a) Subsidise or put on hold permits - tables/chairs, footpath trading, a-boards, cafe screens, Food Act registrations and street trading permits etc.
 - b) Subsidise the 2 - 4 Special Charge Scheme / special rates for the current financial year taking the burden off the business operator.
 - c) Look at options and formulas to subsidise rates.

- d) Put on their website clear communication relating to businesses being able to access government funding.
- e) Work with relevant government representatives who can negotiate a subsidy / reprieve period for water, gas and electricity.
- f) Officers to develop a strategy to open up communication with landlords, real estate agents and business operators to negotiate help with rent relief / subsidy including with:-
 - banks to freeze or subsidise loans.
 - insurance companies to do the same.
- g) Deliver a communication brochure, one for the businesses and one for the residents that provides: self-help tips, the right websites for business to visit for information, community information including tips to stay well, tips on self-isolation, rent relief and delivering services.
- h) Survey with the community and formulate a strategy to encourage locals to continue to support local businesses i.e. Look at a shop local event.
- i) Use discretion on parking fines around activity shopping centres.

The mover and seconded did not consent to the amendment.

Amendment

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

That Officers investigate potential funding sources to implement the following amendments to Notice of Motion 470 i.e -

That Council

- (4) Increase the City of Darebin economic stimulus package from \$10 to \$15 million until June 2021.
 - a) Subsidise or put on hold permits – tables / chairs, footpath trading, A-boards, cafe screens, Food Act registrations and street trading permits etc.
 - b) Subsidise the 2 - 4 Special Charge Scheme / Special Rates for the current financial year taking the burden off the business operator.
 - c) Look at options and formulas to subsidise rates.
 - d) Put on their website clear communication relating to businesses being able to Access government funding.
 - e) Work with relevant government representatives who can negotiate a subsidy / reprieve period for water, gas and electricity.

- f) Officers to develop a strategy to open up communication with landlords, real estate agents and business operators to negotiate help with rent relief / subsidy including with:-
 - banks to freeze or subsidise loans.
 - insurance companies to do the same.
- g) Deliver a communication brochure, one for the businesses and one for the residents that provides: self-help tips, the right websites for business to visit for information, community information including tips to stay well, tips on self-isolation, rent relief and delivering services.
- h) Survey with the community and formulate a strategy to encourage locals to continue to support local businesses i.e. Look at a shop local event.
- i) Use discretion on parking fines around activity shopping centres.

The amendment was put and lost.

LOST

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

7.50pm The meeting was adjourned for a 5 minute break.

7.51pm Cr LeCerf left the meeting and did not return.

RESUMPTION OF ADJOURNED MEETING

7.55pm The meeting was resumed.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. J Williams

SECONDED: -

That Officers investigate potential funding sources to implement the following amendments to Notice of Motion 470 i.e -

That Council

- a) Subsidise tables/chairs, footpath trading, A-boards, cafe screens, Food Act registrations and street trading permits etc.
- b) Subsidise Preston and Reservoir Special Charge Scheme / Special Rates.
- c) Write to the State and Federal government representatives to negotiate utility for businesses in the area.

- d) Council distribute a brochure for the businesses and residents that provides handy hints and tips, websites to visit for information, community information on rent relief, access government funding, Lifeline details and delivering services.
- e) Conduct a community survey and formulate a strategy to continue to support local businesses.

The mover and seconder did not consent to the amendment.

Amendment

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

That Officers investigate potential funding sources to implement the following amendments to Notice of Motion 470 i.e -

That Council

- a) Subsidise tables / chairs, footpath trading, A-boards, cafe screens, Food Act registrations and street trading permits etc.
- b) Subsidise Preston and Reservoir-Special Charge Scheme / Special Rates.
- c) Write to the State and Federal government representatives to negotiate utility for businesses in the area.
- d) Distribute a brochure for the businesses and residents that provides handy hints and tips, websites to visit for information, community information on rent relief, access government funding, Lifeline details and delivering services.
- e) Conduct a community survey and formulate a strategy to continue to support local businesses.

The amendment was put and lost.

LOST

Amendment

It was moved by Cr Greco that a point 4 be added to read –

That Council

- (4) Receive a report before the next Council Meeting:-
 - a) On mechanisms to absorb the Special Rate Charges for the last 6 months of 2019/20 and the whole of 2020/21, and
 - b) On Council matching \$ for \$ the Special Rate Charge applicable to shopping strips for the 2020/21 financial year to support traders.

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

Amendment

It was moved by Cr Greco that a point 5 be added to read –

That Council

- (5) Advocate as a matter of urgency to the Federal Government to extend the wage subsidy to casual workers who have worked for an employer for less than 12 months and temporary visa holders affected by COVID-19.

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

Amendment

It was moved by Cr Greco that a point 6 and 7 be added to read –

That Council

- (6) Provides an extended payment plan for residents to pay their fines with an extension until June 2021.
- (7) Receive a report on extending a rate rebate (similar to the \$150 pensioner rate rebate) to residents entitled to the Federal Government's Job Seeker and Job Keeper Programs.

The mover and seconder did not consent to the amendment.

Amendment

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

That a point 6 and 7 be added to read –

That Council

- (6) Provides an extended payment plan for residents to pay their fines with an extension until June 2021.
- (7) Receive a report on extending a rate rebate (similar to the \$150 pensioner rate rebate) to residents entitled to the Federal Government's Job Seeker and Job Keeper Programs.

The further amendment was put and lost.

LOST

The substantive motion before Council was put and carried unanimously.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 20-040**

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

That Council

- (1) Receives a regular report on the implementation of the Recovery Package including any consultative processes undertaken with the Darebin business and arts sectors.
- (2) Advocate to the Federal Government for:
 - a) The provision of assistance with the current Business Activity Statements B.A.S payments due Q3 and Q4.
 - b) For the people who have lost income, suspension with no interest on mortgages, loans, credit cards, essential services fees including utilities until the pandemic in Australia has ceased.
 - c) The enforcement of controls and limits on the purchase of continence aids, nappies, infant formula and Ventolin by individuals where these goods are being sent overseas
 - d) Provides more detail about the Federal Government recently announced Foreign Investment Review Framework to ensure it provides stronger oversight and controls on the ownership of land, business, water assets and utilities by foreign investment.
- (3) Endorses the Gender Equity Victoria joint statement calling for State and Federal Governments to recognise the gendered impacts of COVID-19, and writes to the Premier of Victoria, Dan Andrews, the Minister for Women, Gabrielle Williams, the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison and the Minister for Women, Marise Payne expressing Council's support for the 10 Things Government Can Do Now to address the impacts of COVID-19 on women and gender diverse people.
- (4) Receive a report before the next Council Meeting -
 - a) On mechanisms to absorb the Special Rate Charges for the last 6 months of 2019/20 and the whole of 2020/21, and
 - b) On Council matching \$ for \$ the Special Rate Charge applicable to shopping strips for the 2020/21 financial year to support traders.
- (5) Advocate as a matter of urgency to the Federal Government to extend the wage subsidy to casual workers who have worked for an employer for less than 12 months and temporary visa holders affected by COVID-19.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Nil

12. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

12.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Welcome Cities Reference Group – 25 February 2020
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee – 4 March 2020
- Darebin Interfaith Council – 12 March 2020
- Councillor Briefing – 25 March 2020

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-041

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 25 February and 4, 12 and 25 March 2020 and attached as **Appendix A** to this report, be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

CARRIED

CLOSE OF MEETING**Council Resolution****MOVED:** Cr. L Messina**SECONDED:** Cr. J Williams

8.45pm That the meeting be closed to the public consider Confidential Item 14.1 – Proposed Transfer of Ownership of Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd.

CARRIED**RE-OPENING OF MEETING****Council Resolution****MOVED:** Cr. T McCarthy**SECONDED:** Cr. S Amir

8.46pm That Council resolve that the meeting be open to the public to consider Item 13 – Reports by Mayor and Councillors.

CARRIED**13. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS****Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 20-042****MOVED:** Cr. T McCarthy**SECONDED:** Cr. G Greco

That Council note the Reports by Mayor and Councillors.

CARRIED

14. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**CLOSE OF MEETING**

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

8.47pm That in accordance with section 89(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following item designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer.

14.1 Proposed Transfer of Ownership of Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd.

CARRIED

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 14.1 which had been circulated to Councillors with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

Council Resolution

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

8.51pm That the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

CARRIED

15. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 8.52 pm

**CITY OF
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