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# MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 22 July 2024.

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON 26 JULY 2024.

LIVE STREAMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON  
COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.



## **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.



(2)

### 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 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.

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## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 22 JULY 2024

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### THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.03PM

The Chairperson, Mayor Susanne Newton advised that the meeting was being streamed live and that the recording would be made available on Council's website.

## 1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

### **Councillors**

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

### **Council Officers**

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer

Kylie Bennetts - General Manager Community

Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Enna Giampiccolo - Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate

Felicity Walsh - Interim Manager Governance and Communications

Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

### **Municipal Monitors**

June Anstee

Ross Millard

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

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

*I would like to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land and pay my deep respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and also show my support for Treaty Victoria.*

## 3. APOLOGIES

Cr. Gaetano Greco was on an approved leave of absence.

An apology was submitted by Cr. Julie Williams.

#### 4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer advised that he had a conflict of interest in a proposed item of Urgent Business which he would disclose if the matter was admitted to the agenda.

#### 5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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MINUTE NO. 24-113

**MOVED:** Cr. T Laurence  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S Rennie

**That** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 24 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, made the following statement:

*Council has an occupational health and safety responsibility to ensure anyone attending tonight's meeting, feels safe both physical and emotionally.*

*It's great to see everyone here this evening. I would like to remind everyone in attendance to be respectful of each other, and as outlined in our Governance Rules, please note the following:*

- A Councillor or any other person who addresses a Meeting must do so in a courteous and respectful manner and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called on to do so.*
- Any member of the public physically attending a Meeting must not utter any offensive, indecent, insulting, or objectionable item or words, including words that are racist, sexist or homophobic, or interject or gesticulate offensively in the Council Chamber.*
- Silence must be preserved by the gallery at all times during a Meeting (other than by a person in the gallery who is invited to address the Meeting).*
- If any member of the public engages in conduct that is improper or disorderly, the Chairperson may direct that person to cease their conduct and the person must comply with that direction.*

## 7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

The following questions were submitted and addressed.

- **Robin Vote**

1. What steps has Council taken to prepare to meet the requirements of the imminent introduction of the new Aged Care Support at Home program?
2. Can Council please explain why the Regional Aged Care Assessment staff lost their Council positions?
3. On what basis did Council decide not to tender to provide the new Single Aged Care Assessment Service for this area?

### Response from General Manager Community

1. Thank you for your questions, Robin. Council is actively working to ready its aged care services to ensure Council continues to be the aged care provider of choice for the Darebin community. The steps Council is taking include implementing a range of service improvements and working with KPMG to enable Council to have a sustainable aged care service model once the current Commonwealth Home Support Program becomes part of the Support at Home program in July 2027 (at the earliest depending on Australian Government announcements).
2. Council was subcontracted by the Victorian Department of Health to deliver the Regional Assessment Service within the City of Darebin. Earlier this year, the Department of Health provided advice that it was no longer continuing this arrangement with local government and the Commonwealth then conducted a limited tender for providers to deliver assessments in Victoria from July to December 2024, at which time the new Single Aged Care System will commence across Australia. Darebin Council submitted a tender for the Regional Assessment Service extension, however, was advised on June 19, 2024 that its submission was not successful. Council therefore ceased to deliver Commonwealth assessment services from 1 July and arrangements for assessment staff were implemented in line with Council's enterprise agreement. Assessment staff were kept informed and supported by Council through the process and the Manager, Supported and Connected Living participated in the Commonwealth RAS Transition Advisory Group to support the transition to the new providers of assessment services in Darebin.
3. The tender process for the new Single Aged Care Assessment Service is still live and as such Council's decisions in relation to this matter are confidential at this point for commercial in-confidence reasons. Once the tender process is complete Council will have further information it can share on this important topic.

- **Karen Large**

1. Under Pillar 3 Community Resilience Action 3.6.1 refers to the delivery of community education and capacity-building campaigns on energy literacy and efficiency, food resilience, and water saving, that reach at least 2,500 residents annually, prioritising people in Darebin who are most vulnerable to heat stress, food inequity and energy inequity. In the draft plan that went to Council in February this year and was put out for community consultation the target was 5,000 residents annually. Why has this target been halved to 2,500 residents annually?

2. The draft Climate Emergency Plan that went to Council in February included a box outlining Darebin Council's climate emergency principles on page 46. These principles are also referred to in a response box on page 262 of the Community Engagement Stage 2 Report. Why have the principles been left out of the proposed final plan?

#### **Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy**

1. Thank you for your question, Karen. The information received through the community consultation process has been critical in preparing the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan. Where new or changed actions have been included, the scope of other actions has been reviewed to ensure the plan remains achievable. The change from the consultation draft had the electrification campaign separated into a new action, item 2.2.2, and the target was adjusted to suit these updates.
2. The listed climate emergency principles have been integrated into the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan.

#### **• Carolyn Lunt**

1. Is the Darebin City Council aware of the amount of styrofoam that enters our waterways and if so what efforts are being undertaken to address this environmental disaster?
2. Will the council investigate and explore all avenues to prevent Styrofoam from entering our environment including a ban on the sale of styrofoam, including the small styrofoam balls found in bean bags?
3. Does Darebin Council have a facility similar to the City of Yarra where residents can have their styrofoam recycled?

#### **Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy**

1. Council does not specifically monitor this. Council services do not prevent or collect litter z Council does have 30 Gross Pollutant Traps across the City which help collect a range of larger pollutants and help prevent them entering the waterways.
2. Council does not have the power to ban sale of products – that's something to raise with the State or Federal governments. Council's plans to prevent styrofoam entering the environment include ongoing provision of disposal services for community, education about how to correctly dispose of these items, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the gross pollutant trap network. Council is also working with community groups through the Merri Creek Management committee to protect our creeks from litter. Programs include the Rapid Response to Litter initiative and Clean Up Australia day events
3. Darebin does not have a facility similar to that at the City of Yarra. Residents are advised to dispose of their styrofoam in their red-lidded garbage bin. We also work with a range of community groups to help collect and minimise litter including the Rapid Response to Litter Initiative and Clean Up Australia Day events.

#### **• Marion Attwater**

1. What is the estimated cost of the Victorian Electoral Commission services for conducting the 2024 Darebin Council election and for compulsory voting enforcement please?
2. Pages 318 and 366 of the Council agenda has conflicting information about when the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee commenced as Chairperson, but anyway they were first appointed to the committee in 2016, is there any recommended maximum period of tenure for independent members of this committee?

3. Can the Charter of the Audit and Risk Committee please be made available on the Council website?

**Response from General Manager Customer and Corporate**

1. Thanks for your questions, Marion. Estimates from the VEC for the 2024 election are as follows:

- Election Costs - \$766,300
- Compulsory Enforcement - \$178,428

The VEC's estimate is subject to a list of prescribed variations that will allow the cost to be varied based on actual candidacy, enrolment, and turnout. These variations will be applied for invoicing.

2. The Audit and Risk Committee charter at clause 4.1(5) states: "The external members are to be appointed for a three-year term, with an option for a further three-year term by mutual consent." Lisa Tripodi had been a member of the previous Audit Committee, but the current term is her first term with the newly constituted ARC, and therefore she is eligible for a further term and has provided her consent.
3. This question of tenure was considered at the time of her appointment to the new committee, and set out in the Governance Report for the Council meeting of 23 August 2021. Ms Tripodi's statement refers to her appointment to the previous Committee, which was an Audit Committee only. Her first appointment to the current Audit and Risk Committee commenced on 23 August 2021.
4. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter is available on Councils website: (<https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/About-council/Policies-and-transparency/Council-standing-committees-and-representation>).

• **Serena O'Meley**

1. The minutes of the last Darebin Council meeting originally omitted the surnames and suburbs of residents who had asked questions and made budget submissions. After I complained on public interest and transparency grounds, the full names for public question time we reinstated, in accordance with the governance rules, but the suburbs we not reinstated. I request that the suburbs be reinstated in the minutes. I'm still seeking an explanation for why the long-standing practice of publishing the full name and suburb was changed?
2. Can you please tell me the number and proportion (as a percentage) of Darebin Council's aged care staff who were employed as casuals in June 2023 and June 2024?

**Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate**

1. Thanks for the question, Serena. Council's Governance Rules (14.5(7) and 15.4(7) state that the name of the person submitting a public question or making a verbal submission is to be recorded in the minutes. (This information is also published on the Public Question/Submission webpage). Council strives to comply with the Governance Rules while also balancing compliance with privacy obligations – we must not hold or disclose any more information than is necessary to comply with our obligations. There is currently no basis in the Governance Rules for disclosing the suburb of a person who makes a submission. Once the lack of basis for disclosing the suburb of a submitter was identified, officers made the operational decision - in the interests of compliance - that the suburb of a submitter should not be included. As mentioned in our email response to you about this matter, Council is planning a review of its Governance Rules shortly, and we encourage your feedback and participation

**Response from General Manager Community**

2. Thank you for your question, Serena. Figures are for the whole of the Supported and Connected Living Department (which provide aged care service delivery) staffing:

- June 2023 – 2.8% percent employed as casual. (5 of 177 staff).
- June 2024 – 2.76% percent employed as casual. (5 of 181 staff).

\*Note: As of July 1, 2024, with the cessation of the Commonwealth Regional Assessment Service, the number of casual staff reduced to 3 of 170 staff) therefore 1.76%

- **John Nugent**

1. Mayor, could you please advise, what is the cost to the ratepayers of the city for planting trees and scrubs in the city, if Council are looking for savings in the budget it shouldn't plant the trees or scrubs as they are no longer looked after once they are planted, thus another saving in the budget?
2. Mayor, could you please advise if this Council is paying over 3 million dollars a year for consultants, then why do we need general managers? Thus another saving in the budget.
3. Mayor, If this Council really want to save money in the budget, and Councillors are receiving nearly half a million dollars in allowances then why are the ratepayers of this city paying for unnecessary perk of supplying meals before the Council meetings and what is this costing our ratepayers for this perk?

**Response from General Manager Infrastructure Operations & Finance**

1. Thanks for the suggestion John, this is a matter for Council to consider in its next budget. The question of cost to the ratepayers has been taken on notice and will be provided later.
3. Providing a modest dinner is a long standing practice because Council meetings often go late into the evening and follow a long day. Your suggestion about changing this is a matter for Council to consider in its next budget.

**Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate**

2. Thanks John, with regard to your second question about consultants, the local government sector is complex and, as with any organisation running more than 100 services, specialist advice is required from time to time. This often involves buying in expertise on issues that we don't have the capability for in-house so that we can solve challenging problems with fresh eyes. This approach is usually more cost effective than bringing new staff in-house and these costs are regularly reviewed during the annual budget process.

- **Kate Polglaze**

1. What support can council offer in the short term to ensure training remains accessible in inclement weather, and what are the long term plans to fix the grounds so they do not become unusable when it rains?

**Response from General Manager Community**

1. Thank you for your question, Kate. We appreciate the difficulties faced by sports clubs resulting from inclement weather. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence across many sportsgrounds and Councils in Victoria.

Best practice turf management is to manage access and ground usage to support ground conditions across the whole season and prioritise competition over training when necessary.

Extreme weather conditions last week meant officers needed to ask clubs to cancel training at all grounds, including Mayer Park, from Monday to Wednesday to prioritise weekend competition. In terms of support Council can provide, officers regularly work with clubs to provide access to alternative venues, where possible. However, this is not always possible, particularly when all outdoor venues are impacted by significant rainfall. Officers recently undertook minor turf works at Mayer Park to improve drainage and playing conditions. This meant at least one pitch at Mayer Park was available for training last Thursday. Council's Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework identifies sporting infrastructure needs, including sports field irrigation and drainage priorities, which supports the delivery of Council's longer-term capital works program. With a significant number of community assets to manage and maintain including more than 53 sports fields, Council has sought to balance these priorities with the need for financial sustainability. Council recognises the need for improved drainage at Mayer Park, however, other grounds are identified as higher priorities at this time. The new Council will consider priorities for the 2025/26 capital program and beyond.

- **Connie Boglis**

1. Residents are concerned about the safety of their children crossing Elizabeth Street and the need to improve the speed limit. What has council done to make this happen?
2. Edwardes Street businesses have told me that safety is an issue, especially trading late. Since the Police Station relocated, increased safety measures have been put in place by the local businesses and they have added their own cameras. However, there are many other factors, one being community services to be available for people seeking support along Spring, Edwardes St/Lake. Will council consider a peer support/outreach service to assist and direct people into services that they so desperately need?
3. Crispe Park is a much loved and utilised space for the community and for sports clubs inclusive. When will council invest in lighting upgrades to improve safety around the area as well as a dedicated change room for woman? The clubs and their presidents have been seeking your feedback for many years now with no avail

**Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy**

1. Thank you for your question, Connie. The section of Elizabeth Street between Bell Street and Murray Road is managed by Department of Transport and Planning. We have previously approached the Department to request funding to install a pedestrian operated signal near Raymond Street. Instead of funding, the Department has confirmed this project will be considered for development funding in a future year. Recently, the speed limit was changed on Merri Parade and Westgarth Street, Department of Transport and Planning managed roads, from 60km/h to 50km/h to improve safety. Officers will continue to request speed limit changes on other roads, including Elizabeth Street, in line with our Transport Strategy.

**Response from General Manager Community**

2. Thank you for the insight and question Connie. Council encourages anyone that feels there is a safety threat to contact Victoria Police immediately. Council works closely with Victoria Police to address safety concerns across the municipality including this activity centre and Edwardes Lake. As part of the Revitalisation program for this activity centre, the State Government provided time limited funding for additional outreach, support and connection to community services.

There are no funds allocated to undertake this within Council's budget in 2024/25. Council is currently in the process of developing a community safety framework to outline Council's role and response to community safety across the municipality. Consideration of your idea would be a matter for the new Council as part of the development of the community safety framework and the 2025/26 Council, Health & Wellbeing Plan and Budget.

Council's Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework identifies sporting infrastructure needs, including sports field lighting upgrades and gender inclusive change facilities, which supports the delivery of Council's longer-term capital works program. With a significant number of community assets to manage and maintain including more than 53 sports fields and 39 sports pavilions, Council has sought to balance priorities with the need for financial sustainability. Council recognises the need for improved lighting and gender inclusive change facilities at Crispe Park, however, both are listed as medium priorities in the Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework, when compared with other priorities. Prioritisation of the 2025/26 capital program and beyond is a matter for the new Council.

- **Geraldine Wood**

1. Could Council please provide details on the current users and community organisations that utilise the KP Hardiman Reserve facilities, And, will this change once the pavilion has been upgraded?

**Response from General Manager Community**

1. Thank you for your question, Geraldine. La Trobe University Hockey Club are the annual tenant at KP Hardiman Reserve. With 310 participants in 20 teams, 40% of participants are women and girls. Given the poor condition of the current pavilion, it has not been appropriate for others to use. The new pavilion will provide a fit-for-purpose facility tailored to meeting the gender-inclusive needs of the growing hockey club while also providing accessible and family-friendly public amenities to support spectators and recreational park users. When completed, Council will seek to activate the pavilion outside sporting use times to provide access to community groups with compatible activities to maximise the value of Council's investment in this facility.

- **Evikki Trica**

1. Who is responsible for mowing the lawn on nature strips in front of vacant land?

**Response from General Manager Infrastructure Operations & Finance**

1. Long established practice, which is common across Victoria, is that owners or occupiers take responsibility for mowing nature strips in front of their property. For a vacant block it would be the owner. This practice keeps costs for ratepayers lower. If there is a safety or fire safety issue because a strip hasn't been maintained, it can be reported to Council. Council will work with the owner or occupier to get it mowed and if needed Council will step in temporarily to ensure community safety.

## SUBMISSIONS

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, invited the following people to each make a 2 minute submission:

- **Serena O'Meley** – Item 9.2 Amendment C210Dare - Consideration of Submissions Following Exhibition
- **Karen Large** - Item 9.3 Climate Emergency Plan - Stage 2 Consultation Feedback and Proposed Final Plan
- **Christina DiPierdomenico** - Item 9.4 Property Matters – Lease – Darebin Information volunteer & Resource Service (DIVRS) – 285-287 High Street Preston

## 8. PETITIONS

Nil.

## 9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 9.1 DRAFT DAREBIN HOUSING STRATEGY: PART 1 AND 2

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report:

- seeks Council's endorsement of the Draft Darebin Housing Strategy:
  - Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design), Draft Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines, and
  - supporting documents

for the purpose of engagement with the community.

- responds to the 8 January Special Council meeting resolution that called for a report on:
  - policy and advocacy positions that could be adopted by Council to mitigate the risks and impacts of State Government initiative associated with the Housing Statement and to leverage opportunities to increase social housing in Darebin, and
  - recommendations for additional initiatives that could be implemented by Council to address the housing crisis, including amendments to the Darebin Housing Strategy.

Darebin's population is forecast to increase by 65,000 residents to 215,000 by 2041. An additional 28,700 dwellings will be required to accommodate these new residents. Darebin needs a new housing strategy to manage this change.

Council officers have prepared a draft strategy that sets out a vision and framework for managing population growth and residential development to 2041. It identifies preferred locations for increased housing growth and the type of housing that is required to meet the needs of our diverse and changing community. It also sets out new policy to guide well-designed development which provides high quality housing while respecting neighbourhood character.

The draft policy and actions contained within Parts 1 and 2 of the draft Housing Strategy will help Council improve housing outcomes for our community by:

- Increasing housing diversity to ensure Darebin remains a welcoming place for all.
- Enhancing community well-being by increasing access to community and health services and providing greater housing choice close to jobs and services.
- Greening our neighbourhoods and ensuring new development respects their existing character and further embedding design excellence.
- Elevating sustainable and climate resilient design and promoting a sustainable urban form.

Community engagement on the draft strategy is proposed to be held for a six-week period starting in August 2024. It will inform the community of the work that Council has been doing and provide them with the opportunity to comment and make suggestions on the proposed content.

This feedback will be used to finalise the strategy and inform the development of a planning scheme amendment to implement parts of the strategy during the next stage of the project.

The Draft Darebin Housing Strategy has come a time when the country is in the grips of a housing crisis. All levels of government are working to actively respond. Council, as Planning Authority, has an important responsibility to prepare and implement this draft strategy to ensure private housing built in Darebin meets the needs of our diverse and changing community.

An affordable housing strategy (Part 3 of the Strategy) is proposed to be developed next, to consider areas of Council's influence more broadly over the provision of affordable housing, including social housing, and homelessness services. It will be a comprehensive strategy that responds to the housing crisis in Darebin.

This upcoming engagement will hear from the community on all housing issues, including an affordable housing forum with industry and peak bodies and to understand how the housing crisis is affecting the Darebin community.

The State Government's housing reform agenda includes proposed housing targets for local governments. The Draft Housing Strategy (Parts 1 & 2) ensures Darebin is well-placed when responding to housing targets as proposed by the State. The draft strategy is seeking to increase the supply of housing in areas well-suited to sustainably accommodate population growth and can respond to any potential targets set in the next phase of development.

A recommended Council submission to the proposed State Government housing targets and Plan Victoria consultation will be tabled at the August Council meeting.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-114****MOVED: Cr. T Laurence****SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the Draft Darebin Housing Strategy: Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) (**Appendix A**), Draft Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines (**Appendix B**), and supporting documents (**Appendix C-D**), for the purposes of community consultation.
- (2) Notes the range of community engagement activities proposed to be undertaken as part consultation with the community.
- (3) Authorises the Manager City Futures to make minor changes and clarifications to documents and the engagement approach if the need arises.
- (4) Notes that a recommended Council submission to the proposed State Government housing targets and Plan Victoria consultation will be tabled at the August 2024 Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**9.2 AMENDMENT C210DARE - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOLLOWING EXHIBITION**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In late 2023 Council sought authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence a planning scheme amendment to implement changes to Darebin's existing open space contributions rates.

Amendment C210dare ('The Amendment') proposes to remove the 2 – 4% contribution rates for subdivisions that create two to four additional lots, allowing Council to determine a rate under the *Subdivision Act 1988* which could be up to 5%.

Following authorisation, the Amendment was publicly exhibited from 22 February to 22 March 2024.

Seven submissions were received, two supportive, three neutral and two requesting changes to the amendment to introduce a transitional provision and to make changes to the Darebin's adopted open space strategy ('Breathing Space').

The purpose of this report is to consider the submissions received and table recommendations regarding the next steps in the planning scheme amendment process.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-115**

**MOVED:** Cr. T McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S Rennie

**That** Council:

- (1) Formally considers all written submissions received in response to Amendment C210dare to the Darebin Planning Scheme.
- (2) Endorses the officer's response to submissions outlined in this report and attached at **Appendix B**.
- (3) Requests that the Minister for Planning appoint an independent Panel under Part 8 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to consider submissions to Amendment C170dare to the Darebin Planning Scheme.
- (4) Refers all submissions to the Panel to be appointed by the Minister for Planning.
- (5) Writes to all submitters to thank them for their contribution and inform them of Council's decision to proceed to the Panel stage.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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### 9.3 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN - STAGE 2 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND PROPOSED FINAL PLAN

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7.12pm - Deputy Mayor Tim Laurence assumed the Chair to allow Mayor Newton to move an amendment to this item.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents stage 2 community consultation feedback, and, the proposed final draft of the Climate Emergency Plan (CEP) for consideration and adoption.

This CEP builds on Darebin's Climate Emergency Declaration in 2016 and on the work of Darebin's inaugural (and world-first) Climate Emergency Plan. It tackles the challenges and opportunities in addressing the climate emergency and demonstrates the ambition and action that local governments can take to address climate change and its impacts. It supports the resilience of the community, centres First Nations people through self-determination and caring for Country, and identifies opportunities to transition to a new zero-carbon economy through innovation and partnerships. It brings an equity lens, recognising that those most at risk of experiencing severe climate change impacts are often those with the fewest resources.

The draft Climate Emergency Plan was available for community feedback from 4 March to 7 April 2024. The consultation included an online survey and engagement events that reached individuals and organisations with a reach of over 30,000 people. The key themes raised through the feedback were:

- Food security,
- Emissions reduction targets and energy efficiency, and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and gender and equity issues.

The consultation summary report is included with this report as **Appendix A**.

Some new actions and updated actions were made in response to feedback that reflects the voice of the community. The proposed final Climate Emergency Plan is included as **Appendix B**.

Officers are recommending moving away from being certified carbon neutral. Instead, officers recommend continuing to report on emissions and either invest in local emission reduction initiatives and or continue to buy carbon off-sets based on emerging research. This adjusted approach will ensure the highest value for the community and is included in the proposed final CEP.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan at **Appendix B**.
- (2) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 2 community engagement.
- (3) Makes the Climate Emergency Plan Round 2 community engagement summary report at Appendix A publicly available via the Darebin website.

- (4) Notes that the Climate Emergency Plan may need updates following finalisation and adoption of Darebin's Aboriginal Action Plan, and that if this is required, recommended adjustments for the Climate Emergency Plan will be put to Council for consideration when the final draft Aboriginal Action Plan is tabled.
- (5) Notes that the design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (6) Notes that Council's operational Environmentally Sustainable Design Building Policy will be made available on Council's website to support community members seeking to pursue best practice ESD.

<b>Motion</b>
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**MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy**

**SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie**

**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan at **Appendix B**.
- (2) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 2 community engagement.
- (3) Makes the Climate Emergency Plan Round 2 community engagement summary report at Appendix A publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (4) Notes that the Climate Emergency Plan may need updates following finalisation and adoption of Darebin's Aboriginal Action Plan, and that if this is required, recommended adjustments for the Climate Emergency Plan will be put to Council for consideration when the final draft Aboriginal Action Plan is tabled.
- (5) Notes that the design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (6) Notes that Council's operational Environmentally Sustainable Design Building Policy will be made available on Council's website to support community members seeking to pursue best practice ESD.

*Mayor Newton proposed the following amendments to the motion which were accepted by the mover and seconder:*

**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan at **Appendix B with the following amendments:**
  - a) **Replaces action 2.4.1 with "Develop a new Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy, to replace the current Darebin Transport Strategy by no later than 2026. The new strategy will include an accelerated pathway to achieve zero carbon transport emissions by 2030 through an uplift in active transport infrastructure including segregated bike lanes and programs, micro-mobility, lower speed limits and supporting the community to access and use electric transport, including public transport.**
  - b) **Under Community Resilience Action 3.6.1 changes the target of reaching 2500 residents to 5000 residents.**

- (2) Requests that a scoping study for an Integrated Land and Transport Strategy that includes a pathway to zero carbon transport emissions by 2030 is tabled at Council by June 2025, noting that the Australian Government has confirmed transport sector greenhouse gas emissions are projected to be the largest in Australia by 2030. The scoping study will also include the proposed approach to community engagement, addressing inclusivity and options for collaborating with businesses.
- (3) Requests that the rollout of shared micro-mobility in Darebin is staged, with an initial area in Fairfield, Alphington and Northcote serviced by June 2025, given the expansion of the rollout from the neighboring City of Yarra and that learnings from this area inform the municipal-wide rollout, by June 2026 subject to future budget consideration.
- (4) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 2 community engagement.
- (5) Makes the Climate Emergency Plan Round 2 community engagement summary report at **Appendix A** publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (6) Notes that the Climate Emergency Plan may need updates following finalisation and adoption of Darebin's Aboriginal Action Plan, and that if this is required, recommended adjustments for the Climate Emergency Plan will be put to Council for consideration when the final draft Aboriginal Action Plan is tabled.
- (7) Notes that the design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (8) Notes that Council's operational Environmentally Sustainable Design Building Policy will be made available on Council's website to support community members seeking to pursue best practice ESD.

7.29pm – *The Chairperson, Deputy Mayor Laurence adjourned the meeting.*

7.37pm – *The meeting resumed.*

*Cr Dimitriadis further proposed the following amendments to point (1) of the motion which were accepted by the mover and seconder:*

- b) Under Community Resilience Action 3.6.1 changes the target of reaching 2500 residents to 5000 residents, so that Council can deliver community education and capacity-building campaigns on energy literacy and efficiency, food resilience, and water saving, to at least 5000 residents annually, prioritising people in Darebin who are most vulnerable to heat stress, food inequity and energy inequity.
- c) Ensures the climate emergency decision-making principles are included in the final Climate Emergency Plan.

*Cr Messina further proposed the following amendment to point (1) of the motion which were accepted by the mover and seconder:*

- d) Amends Action item 3.6.2 – develop a scoping study on food resilience and security – to include addressing food waste and banning genetically modified food.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

**Substantive Motion****MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan at Appendix B, with the following amendments:
  - a) Replaces action 2.4.1 with “Develop a new Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy, to replace the current Darebin Transport Strategy by no later than 2026. The new strategy will include an accelerated pathway to achieve zero carbon transport emissions by 2030 through an uplift in active transport infrastructure including segregated bike lanes and programs, micro-mobility, lower speed limits and supporting the community to access and use electric transport, including public transport.
  - b) Under Community Resilience Action 3.6.1 changes the target of reaching 2500 residents to 5000 residents, so that Council can deliver community education and capacity-building campaigns on energy literacy and efficiency, food resilience, and water saving, to at least 5000 residents annually, prioritising people in Darebin who are most vulnerable to heat stress, food inequity and energy inequity.
  - c) Ensures the climate emergency decision-making principles are included in the final Climate Emergency Plan.
  - d) Amends Action item 3.6.2 – develop a scoping study on food resilience and security – to include addressing food waste and banning genetically modified food.
- (2) Requests that a scoping study for an Integrated Land and Transport Strategy that includes a pathway to zero carbon transport emissions by 2030 is tabled at Council by June 2025, noting that the Australian Government has confirmed transport sector greenhouse gas emissions are projected to be the largest in Australia by 2030. The scoping study will also include the proposed approach to community engagement, addressing inclusivity and options for collaborating with businesses.
- (3) Requests that the rollout of shared micro-mobility in Darebin is staged, with an initial area in Fairfield, Alphington and Northcote serviced by June 2025, given the expansion of the rollout from the neighboring City of Yarra and that learnings from this area inform the municipal-wide rollout, by June 2026 subject to future budget consideration.
- (4) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 2 community engagement.
- (5) Makes the Climate Emergency Plan Round 2 community engagement summary report at Appendix A publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (6) Notes that the Climate Emergency Plan may need updates following finalisation and adoption of Darebin’s Aboriginal Action Plan, and that if this is required, recommended adjustments for the Climate Emergency Plan will be put to Council for consideration when the final draft Aboriginal Action Plan is tabled.
- (7) Notes that the design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (8) Notes that Council’s operational Environmentally Sustainable Design Building Policy will be made available on Council’s website to support community members seeking to pursue best practice ESD.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-116**

**MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy**

**SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie**

**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the proposed final Climate Emergency Plan at Appendix B, with the following amendments:
  - a) Replaces action 2.4.1 with “Develop a new Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy, to replace the current Darebin Transport Strategy by no later than 2026. The new strategy will include an accelerated pathway to achieve zero carbon transport emissions by 2030 through an uplift in active transport infrastructure including segregated bike lanes and programs, micro-mobility, lower speed limits and supporting the community to access and use electric transport, including public transport.
  - b) Under Community Resilience Action 3.6.1 changes the target of reaching 2500 residents to 5000 residents, so that Council can deliver community education and capacity-building campaigns on energy literacy and efficiency, food resilience, and water saving, to at least 5000 residents annually, prioritising people in Darebin who are most vulnerable to heat stress, food inequity and energy inequity.
  - c) Ensures the climate emergency decision-making principles are included in the final Climate Emergency Plan.
  - d) Amends Action item 3.6.2 – develop a scoping study on food resilience and security – to include addressing food waste and banning genetically modified food.
- (2) Requests that a scoping study for an Integrated Land and Transport Strategy that includes a pathway to zero carbon transport emissions by 2030 is tabled at Council by June 2025, noting that the Australian Government has confirmed transport sector greenhouse gas emissions are projected to be the largest in Australia by 2030. The scoping study will also include the proposed approach to community engagement, addressing inclusivity and options for collaborating with businesses
- (3) Requests that the rollout of shared micro-mobility in Darebin is staged, with an initial area in Fairfield, Alphington and Northcote serviced by June 2025, given the expansion of the rollout from the neighboring City of Yarra and that learnings from this area inform the municipal-wide rollout, by June 2026 subject to future budget consideration.
- (4) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 2 community engagement.
- (5) Makes the Climate Emergency Plan Round 2 community engagement summary report at Appendix A publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (6) Notes that the Climate Emergency Plan may need updates following finalisation and adoption of Darebin’s Aboriginal Action Plan, and that if this is required, recommended adjustments for the Climate Emergency Plan will be put to Council for consideration when the final draft Aboriginal Action Plan is tabled.
- (7) Notes that the design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.

- (8) Notes that Council's operational Environmentally Sustainable Design Building Policy will be made available on Council's website to support community members seeking to pursue best practice ESD.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*7.56pm – Mayor Newton resumed the Chair.*

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**9.4 PROPERTY MATTERS – LEASE – DAREBIN INFORMATION VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE – 285-287 HIGH STREET PRESTON**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to for Council to consider its options in regards to support for the Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Centre ('DIVRS') following notice of intent to sell by the landlord at the High St building Council leases for DIVRS use.

Council currently rents the space at 285-287 High Street Preston (month-to-month overholding), and has been advised that the owner has decided to place the property on the market with a sale date of 19 July 2024. At the time of writing this report, it is not yet known if the property will be sold nor whether the current owner/purchaser would be open to a new lease.

It is timely for Council to consider options and community benefit going forward. The previous lease of the building was already beyond the term for which Council established the lease. As such, this report outlines options for Council consideration and with Council's dual roles in mind:

- Provider of community services for community benefit, including via partnering with other organisations who deliver community services.
- Steward of Council property and resources for the benefit of community and how to achieve high community benefit from Council's properties.

Council supports a range of community services by providing access to buildings at fully or partly subsidised rent. In this case what is unusual is that Council has been renting a building owned by another party rather than providing a Council building for DIVRS to use, and over time the cost of rent has increased substantially.

Council has provided DIVRS a building for a long time, and DIVRS delivers valuable community services. Broadly, the benefits DIVRS provides are high and while Council's financial sustainability requires careful management, DIVRS would be expected to be recommended as a priority partner because of its effectiveness, community connections and the strong strategic alignment of the services delivered.

Council also has a range of obligations to ensure it is fairly, openly and responsibly managing and Council resources for community benefit.

Key considerations in weighing options:

- Community benefit provided by the services of DIVRS
- Equity and fairness in providing opportunities to access Council funds, subsidies and properties, including the principles of the Local Government Act.
- Given that Council has an unused building that it manages available, it is more cost effective for Council to provide a Council managed building for community use than it is to rent at commercial rental levels a third party's building for the community use.
- Opportunity cost of providing resources for this service rather than others (whether in the form of rental payments, grants or provision of buildings at subsidised rent).

- Opportunities to maximise utilisation of the any premises. Where there are opportunities to share premises for use by multiple organisations, either at different times of day or because they can share facilities, this is provides a higher community benefit.

This paper outlines options for Council consideration including 3 broad options for continuing to support DIVRS via accomodation in an available Council managed building, or by continuing to lease the High St building (subject to Owner agreement and owner willingness to complete works), or instead through a grant. Generally these three options are provided for within the 2024-25 budget. Council also has the option not to extend its support to DIVRS.

This paper outlines Council's obligations to run a fair and open process and recommends that Council do this for consideration of long term support. In the short run (up to 3 years), a transition approach is recommended to support DIVRS in order to minimise disruption to a valued, effective and strategically aligned community service.

It is recommended that:

- Council seek DIVRS feedback in regards to two options for support for up to 3 years:
  - The option to either use an equivalent part of 59A Roseberry St at peppercorn rent for up to 3 years to October 2027 (this site is unused and Council has a lease on from the State Government at peppercorn rent) OR
  - The option of provision of a grant for the same period as a more flexible mechanism to access support, AND
- During the 3 year period above, DIVRS would be alerted to published EOI processes for Council buildings and properties and/or grant opportunities. These processes would be used to help DIVRS consider if Council locations are suitable for it in the longer term, and it would allow Council to demonstrate high standards of probity, fairness and equity.

Although Council has done so in the past, it is not recommended that Council enter a new arrangement to lease a third party building at commercial rent – it is not as cost effective as offering an available Council building and nor does it offer advantages to Council over a grant as a mechanism.

**The recommendation in this report was amended by Council officers for clarity on 22 July 2024. These changes do not change the intent or substance of the recommendation, but clarify details of recommendation. The amendments are shown marked up in this report for transparency.**

<b>Amended Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council:

- (1) Notes the valuable community services that DIVRS provides for the Darebin community.
- (2) Notes that for many years Council has supported DIVRS with accommodation first in a Council building and more recently by leasing, at commercial rent, a building for DIVRS to use. This building has been put up for sale by the owner. The original lease term had expired and Council needs to consider options going forward.

- (3) **Notes that Council works with DIVRS in a range of other ways including providing a range of other support and that this report and decision does not relate to nor change any other aspects of Council's work with DIVRS.**
- (4) Notes that Council has a range of obligations under the Local Government Act to ensure community benefit, including to ensure its processes for entering contracts are fair and open.
- (5) Seeks DIVRS feedback in regards to two options for ~~transitional~~ support (**equivalent to the support that has been provided in the past via provision of accommodation**) for ~~up to~~ 3 years:
  - a) The option to either use **Council accommodation via** an equivalent **sized** part of 59A Roseberry St at peppercorn rent for up to 3 years to October 2027 (this site is unused and Council holds a lease from the State Government **through to October 2027** at peppercorn rent) OR
  - b) The option of provision of grant for the same period as a more flexible mechanism to access support.
- (6) **To enable and consider longer term support for DIVRS, at the same time as demonstrating high standards of probity, fairness and equity,** offers available Council buildings for use ~~by community partners~~ via an **open** Expression of Interest process within 18 months and that DIVRS would be alerted to these opportunities, as well as available Council grant opportunities or relevant service contract opportunities. These mechanisms will provide a mechanism for DIVRS to consider if Council locations are suitable for it in the longer term. ~~and would allow Council to demonstrate high standards of probity, fairness and equity.~~
- (7) Requests a report come to a future Council meeting providing feedback from DIVRS, and further technical advice arising from legal and building condition checks, in order for Council to make a decision.
- (8) Seeks clarification from the Victorian Government as to their plans for the 59A Roseberry St property beyond 2027.

<b>Motion</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. T Hannan  
**SECONDED:** Cr. L Messina

**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the valuable community services that DIVRS provides for the Darebin community.
- (2) Notes that for many years Council has supported DIVRS with accommodation first in a Council building and more recently by leasing, at commercial rent, a building for DIVRS to use. This building has been put up for sale by the owner. The original lease term had expired and Council needs to consider options going forward.
- (3) Notes that Council works with DIVRS in a range of other ways including providing a range of other support and that this report and decision does not relate to nor change any other aspects of Council's work with DIVRS.
- (4) Notes that Council has a range of obligations under the Local Government Act to ensure community benefit, including to ensure its processes for entering contracts are fair and open.
- (5) Seeks DIVRS feedback in regards to two options for support (equivalent to the support that has been provided in the past via provision of accommodation) for 3 years:

- a) The option to either use Council accommodation via an equivalent sized part of 59A Roseberry St at peppercorn rent for up to 3 years to October 2027 (this site is unused and Council holds a lease from the State Government through to October 2027 at peppercorn rent) OR
  - b) The option of provision of grant for the same period as a more flexible mechanism to access support.
- (6) To enable and consider longer term support for DIVRS, at the same time as demonstrating high standards of probity, fairness and equity, offers available Council buildings for use via an open Expression of Interest process within 18 months and that DIVRS would be alerted to these opportunities, as well as available Council grant opportunities or relevant service contract opportunities. These mechanisms will provide a mechanism for DIVRS to consider if Council locations are suitable for it in the longer term.
  - (7) Requests a report come to a future Council meeting providing feedback from DIVRS, and further technical advice arising from legal and building condition checks, in order for Council to make a decision.
  - (8) Seeks clarification from the Victorian Government as to their plans for the 59A Roseberry St property beyond 2027.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-117**

**MOVED: Cr. T Hannan**  
**SECONDED: Cr. L Messina**

**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the valuable community services that DIVRS provides for the Darebin community.
- (2) Notes that for many years Council has supported DIVRS with accommodation first in a Council building and more recently by leasing, at commercial rent, a building for DIVRS to use. This building has been put up for sale by the owner. The original lease term had expired and Council needs to consider options going forward.
- (3) Notes that Council works with DIVRS in a range of other ways including providing a range of other support and that this report and decision does not relate to nor change any other aspects of Council's work with DIVRS.
- (4) Notes that Council has a range of obligations under the Local Government Act to ensure community benefit, including to ensure its processes for entering contracts are fair and open.
- (5) Seeks DIVRS feedback in regards to two options for support (equivalent to the support that has been provided in the past via provision of accommodation) for 3 years:
  - a) The option to either use Council accommodation via an equivalent sized part of 59A Roseberry St at peppercorn rent for up to 3 years to October 2027 (this site is unused and Council holds a lease from the State Government through to October 2027 at peppercorn rent) OR
  - b) The option of provision of grant for the same period as a more flexible mechanism to access support.

- (6) To enable and consider longer term support for DIVRS, at the same time as demonstrating high standards of probity, fairness and equity, offers available Council buildings for use via an open Expression of Interest process within 18 months and that DIVRS would be alerted to these opportunities, as well as available Council grant opportunities or relevant service contract opportunities. These mechanisms will provide a mechanism for DIVRS to consider if Council locations are suitable for it in the longer term.
- (7) Requests a report come to a future Council meeting providing feedback from DIVRS, and further technical advice arising from legal and building condition checks, in order for Council to make a decision.
- (8) Seeks clarification from the Victorian Government as to their plans for the 59A Roseberry St property beyond 2027.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**9.5 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE NET ZERO  
ROADMAP - COUNCIL SUBMISSION**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council endorsement on the proposed submission to the Australian Government's consultation on *Towards Net Zero for Transport and Infrastructure*.

The Australian Government has confirmed that Australia's transport sector is the third largest source of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, amounting to 21% of national emissions in 2023. Since 2005, transport sector greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 19% and are currently projected to be the largest in Australia by 2030.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DCCEEW) have released a Net Zero Plan that will lay out Australia's action on climate change. The Net Zero Plan will guide Australia's transition to the legislated target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

To support the Net Zero Plan, the Government is developing six sectoral plans which, between them, cover all major components of the economy. They are:

- Electricity and energy
- Transport
- Industry
- Agriculture and land
- Resources
- The build environment.

The emissions sector this report refers to is Transport.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-118**

**MOVED:** Cr. T McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S Rennie

**That** Council endorses the proposed consultation submission as attached in **Appendix A** and authorise Officers to submit it to the Federal Government's consultation on *Towards Net Zero for Transport and Infrastructure*.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

8.05pm – Peter Smith, CEO, temporarily left the meeting.

8.08pm – Peter Smith, CEO, returned to the meeting.

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**9.6 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 2024**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**).
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Adjustments to the allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors.
- Change of date to September Ordinary Council Meeting.
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes 20 March 2024 (**Appendix B**).
- Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report – June 2023 - November 2023 (**Appendix C**), Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report - December 2023 - May 2024 (**Appendix D**), Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Report 2023-24 (**Appendix E**).
- Audit and Risk Committee reappointment of the Chair.
- General Planning Information - Applications determined by VCAT FY 23 – 24, July 2024 (**Appendix F**).

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-119****MOVED: Cr. T Hannan****SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2024.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, 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 the activity 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 determination made by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal providing for an adjustment of 3.5% to the values of the allowances payable to Mayors (\$134,954), Deputy Mayors (\$67,477), and Councillors (\$40,769) effective from 1 July 2024.
- (5) Notes the determination made by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal providing for an adjustment of 3.5% to the values of the allowances payable to Mayors (\$138,506) and Deputy Mayors (\$69,252) effective from 18 December 2024.
- (6) Reschedules the Ordinary Council Meeting currently listed for 23 September 2024, to 6.00pm Monday 16 September 2024, to be held in the Council Chamber, 350 High Street Preston (hybrid meeting).
- (7) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2024 (**Appendix B**).
- (8) Endorses an increase in the fees for independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, based on the rate cap of 2.75%, from 1 July 2024 to \$2,182.71 per quarter for the Independent Chair and \$1,720.95 per quarter for the Independent Members in accordance with provisions in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

- (9) Notes the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report – June 2023 - November 2023 (**Appendix C**), Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report - December 2023 - May 2024 (**Appendix D**) and Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Report 2023-24 (**Appendix E**).
- (10) Endorses the re-appointment of the independent Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Lisa Tripodi, for three (3) years to 23 August 2027.
- (11) Notes the General Planning Information – Applications determined by VCAT FY 2023 - 24, July 2024 (**Appendix F**).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 22 JULY 2024**

### **REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON, MAYOR**

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

- Interview on ABC Radio about e-scooters and e-bikes
- 2024 Banyule Winter Masquerade Ball supporting Banyule Community Fund
- CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting
- Meeting with Municipal Monitors
- Weekly meetings with CEO
- Weekly meetings with Communications team
- Weekly meetings with General Manager Customer & Corporate
- Launch of 'Local Women Leading Change' campaign handbook with the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)
- Pre-Council meeting check-in with Councillors and Executive Leadership Team
- 'A Mayors Guide to a Compassionate City' with former Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, hosted by Mayor of Ballarat Des Hudson
- Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Meeting
- Meeting with Bridgid Canny from YLab (Foundation for Young Australians)
- Weekly Councillor briefings
- Vic NAIDOC Gala Ball
- NAIDOC Week flag raising at the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury
- School Crossings Victoria Award Night and welcome speech
- Speech and visit to Merri Community Child Care and Kindergarten with Northcote MP to view the construction works to expand the centre that Council is delivering
- Meeting and visit with Alex Dekker of Alex Makes Meals at Darebin Arts Centre
- Launch of Palestine through Time Exhibition at the Islamic Museum of Australia in Thornbury
- 2024 Australian Council of Local Government, Canberra
- Dinner at Parliament House, Canberra
- 2024 National General Assembly, Canberra
- M9 - Meeting with Minister Bill Shorten in Canberra

- Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum - meeting with Senator David Shoebridge
- Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum - meeting with Louise Miller-Frost, MP
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL) 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner
- Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Winter Season Launch - welcome speech
- Meeting with Welcome Cities - about Darebin Council accreditation
- Meeting about ArtsPay
- Farewell afternoon tea for departing Regional Assessment Team staff members
- Meeting with Felicity Rorke and Patricia Bergin about Good Samaritan Inn's New Housing Proposal in Preston
- Meeting with Allara Briggs Pattison FUSE curator-in-residence about Ganbu Gulin
- Meeting with CEO and Louise Kenny-Shen representing Preston MP Nathan Lambert
- Filming video for NAIDOC Week
- Filming video for 'Our Darebin'
- The Clean Bin Project film screening with 'Village Greening'
- Audit and Risk Committee meeting

**REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA**

Cr. Messina did not submit an activity report.

**REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO**

Cr. Greco did not submit an activity report

**REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE**

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

- Council Meeting - June 2024 Preston
- Councillor Briefing Sessions
- Bundoora Homestead Art Gallery Opening
- DECC Meeting Intercultural Centre Preston

**REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS**

Cr. Williams did not submit an activity report

**REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE**

Cr. Rennie did not submit an activity report.

**REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY**

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

- Council briefings
- Weekly councillor meetings
- NAIDOC Week events - various
- Various resident and trader matters

**REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS**

Cr. Dimitriadis did not submit an activity report.

**REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN**

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

- Contact (phone / online) with residents and businesses about their concerns, e.g., supporting people seeking asylum, traffic speed limits, street art, parking, Bill Lawry Oval redevelopment, laneways.
- Meeting with Welcoming Cities
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference
  - ALGA assembly forum and dinner - resolutions to be published once considered by the ALGA board
  - Australian Council of Local Governments (ACLG) dinner
  - Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum – exhibition stall and event
  - Net Zero event by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Audit and Risk Committee
- CEO Employment Matters Committee
- Councillor briefings
- Councillor only meetings
- Meetings with Mayor
- Ordinary Council meeting

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**9.7 CONTRACT CT202427 - TRUCK PURCHASE VIA LOCAL BUY/MAV**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report recommends that Council endorse our participation in collaborative MAV / Local Buy Contracts (NPN1.23) for the purchase of Trucks, Buses, specialised Trucks, and Bodies. This report outlines the procurement process, evaluation methodology and assessment criteria utilised to assess.

Council has been provided an opportunity to participate in a collaborative tendering and contracting process through the Local Buy-National Procurement Network (NPN). This procurement opportunity has enabled local Councils across Victoria to pool their expenditure to achieve greater economies of scale, resulting in improved efficiencies and cost savings across the sector.

Utilising the Local Buy contract satisfies and complies with the Darebin Social and Sustainable Procurement policy. The expected aggregated cost to Darebin over 9 years is estimated to be between \$15M - \$20M. This estimate is based on extrapolation of Council's annual Heavy Vehicle Renewal budget of \$1.5M and its annual spare parts costs of \$600K. The actual expenditure under this contract will be determined through future Council decisions to set annual budget allocations and by heavy vehicle fleet renewal demand and/or improvement plans during the contract term.

The advantages of accessing this contract include:

1. Compliance with the Local Government Act 2020.
2. Ongoing support and assistance from MAV/ Local Buy for the duration of the contract.
3. Competitive pricing, which would not be available if solely tendered by Darebin City Council.
4. One panel of contracts to meet the council's varying needs and requirements.
5. Streamlined procurement process with each of the panel suppliers thereby reducing the procurement costs.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-120**

**MOVED:** Cr. T Hannan  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S Rennie

**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the accessing of qualified suppliers from the MAV/Local Buy Contract NPN1.23 (Trucks, Buses, specialised Trucks, and Bodies) and spare parts for a period of three years ending 31 January 2027 with two (2) optional extension periods of up to thirty-six (36) months each.
- (2) Authorises the CEO (or delegate), to review and approve two (2) optional extension periods of up to thirty-six (36) months each.
- (3) Delegates to the CEO (or delegate), review and approve variations arising from changes in specialised heavy plant and vehicle technologies throughout the contract term, to the extent that the costs of these do not exceed in total the CEO's financial delegation.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.8 CONTRACT AWARD CT20244 – FOOTPATH, KERB AND CHANNEL RECONSTRUCTION WORKS PANEL**

**PURPOSE**

This report seeks Council endorsement to award Contract No. CT20244 - Footpath, Kerb and Channel Reconstruction Works. This contract will provide path maintenance services via a panel arrangement for an initial contract term of three (3) years and with a possible extension of a one (1) year period, at Council’s discretion.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The construction of the footpaths, kerb & channel across the City of Darebin is an essential service of the Council. Council is committed to maintaining and improving its infrastructure assets to facilitate safety, accessibility, and reliable movement of people and to support broader service delivery in and around the municipality with a growing population. To achieve this, the council is required to maintain, reconstruct, and improve the path network to ensure the quality and serviceability of our assets and to meet required legislation and community expectations.

City of Darebin initiated a public tender process to engage suitably qualified, experienced, responsive, and reliable contractors for the reconstruction of footpaths, kerbs & channel, and other infrastructure within Darebin under a panel arrangement. The appointed panel of contractors will work closely with the council teams to ensure that Darebin footpath, kerb & channel and other infrastructure assets are well maintained and renewed on time.

**Officer Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- (1) Awards contract CT20244 for Footpath, Kerb & Channel Reconstruction Works via a panel arrangement for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 September 2024 (fixed cost with annual adjusted CPI) to:
  - .....
  - .....
  - .....
  - .....
  - .....
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the council and to exercise options for an extension at its discretion based on the performance review.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to delegate approval of works to officers under the contract CT20244 subject to a head agreement.

**Motion**

**MOVED:** Cr. S Rennie  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T McCarthy

**That Council:**

- (1) Awards contract CT20244 for Footpath, Kerb & Channel Reconstruction Works via a panel arrangement for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 September 2024 (fixed cost with annual adjusted CPI) to:
  - Luciana Civil Construction
  - Rezcon Concreting Australia
  - Prestige Paving Pty Ltd
  - New Horizon Construction
  - S&A Piccirillo Paving
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the council and to exercise options for an extension at its discretion based on the performance review.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to delegate approval of works to officers under the contract CT20244 subject to a head agreement.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 24-121**

**MOVED:** Cr. S Rennie  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T McCarthy

**That Council:**

- (1) Awards contract CT20244 for Footpath, Kerb & Channel Reconstruction Works via a panel arrangement for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 September 2024 (fixed cost with annual adjusted CPI) to:
  - Luciana Civil Construction
  - Rezcon Concreting Australia
  - Prestige Paving Pty Ltd
  - New Horizon Construction
  - S&A Piccirillo Paving
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the council and to exercise options for an extension at its discretion based on the performance review.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to delegate approval of works to officers under the contract CT20244 subject to a head agreement.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

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## 11. NOTICES OF MOTION

*As Cr Greco was an apology for this meeting, he requested that the following Notices of Motion be withdrawn from the agenda:*

**11.1                      CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF KEON PARK RESIDENTS  
AFFECTED BY THE NEW KEON PARK STATION**

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**11.2                      PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PUBLIC ACQUISITION OF  
PRESTON MARKET**

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## 12. URGENT BUSINESS

8.23pm - Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer declared a conflict in relation to the item of urgent business as it related to the membership of the CEO Employment Matters committee which deals with matters relating to his employment and left the meeting.

### ADMISSION OF URGENT BUSINESS

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. T McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. L Messina

**That** an Urgent Business item relating to CEO Employment Matters Membership appointment' be admitted to the agenda and be heard at Item 12.1.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 12.1 CEO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENT

<b>Motion</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. L Messina  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T McCarthy

**That** Council appoints Cr. Susan Rennie to the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

THE MOTION AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 24-122**

**MOVED:** Cr. L Messina  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T McCarthy

**That** Council appoints Cr. Susan Rennie to the CEO Employment Matters Committee

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**

Nil.

**14. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

**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](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
[darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)

 **National Relay Service**  
[relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

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