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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12 May 2025

Released to the public on 14 May 2025

**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.



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

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
1. PRESENT	1
2. APOLOGIES.....	1
3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	1
4. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES	2
5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.....	3
5.1 2023-24 ANNUAL OUTCOMES REPORT - LEISURE CONTRACTS	3
5.4 GOVERNANCE REPORT - APRIL 2025.....	4
5.5 DECLARATION OF A SPECIAL CHARGE : SOLAR SAVER ROUND 4.2 (BATCH 6)	17
5.2 DRAFT 2025-26 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK), DRAFT 10 YEAR FINANCE PLAN, DRAFT 10 YEAR ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN, DRAFT 2025-26 TO 2028-29 REVENUE & RATING PLAN AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS	20
5.3 DRAFT OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29 AND DRAFT OUR ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2025-26	33
6. URGENT BUSINESS.....	40
7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL	40
8. CLOSE OF MEETING	40

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON, MONDAY 12 MAY 2025**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 3.39PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Council Officers

Michael Tudball - Interim Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager, Governance, Risk, Communications & Engage
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

Municipal Monitor

June Anstee

2. APOLOGIES

Cr. Connie Boglis OAM.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris, 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.

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:

- *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).*
- *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.*
- *Anyone attending a Meeting must not utter any offensive, indecent, insulting, or objectionable words, including words that are racist, sexist or homophobic, or interject or gesticulate offensively in the Council Chamber.*
- *If anyone 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.*

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council amends the order of business to consider the agenda items in the following order:

- (1) 2023-24 Annual Outcomes Report - Leisure Contracts
- (2) Governance Report – April 2025
- (3) Declaration of a Special Charge: Solar Saver Round 4.2 (Batch 6)
- (4) Draft 2025-26 Budget (Incorporating the 4 Year Financial Outlook), Draft 10 Year Finance Plan, Draft 10 Year Asset Management Plan, Draft 2025-26 To 2028-29 Revenue & Rating Plan and Associated Documents
- (5) Draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and Draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 2023-24 ANNUAL OUTCOMES REPORT - LEISURE CONTRACTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When Council awarded the following management and operations contracts to Clublinks, annual reporting of key performance indicators (KPIs) and performance outcomes to Council was included as an expectation:

- Narrandjeri Stadium and Darebin Community Sports Stadium [CT2021163 – 22 November 2021]
- Bundoora Park Public Golf Course [CT2021156 – 26 April 2022]
- Northcote Public Golf Course [CT202243 – 14 November 2022]
- Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre [CT202249 – 20 March 2023]

An annual report detailing achievements, performance and financial results for each contracted facility are attached to this report (**Appendix A**). All five contracted facilities are showing positive improvements to performance, including participation, attendance, financial results and diversity of programs and events offered.

Profit-share arrangements for 2023-24 are contributing positively to Council's financial performance:

- Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre – \$1,520,394 excl GST
- Northcote Public Golf Course – \$30,028 excl GST
- Bundoora Park Public Golf Course – \$41,785 excl GST

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-045

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council notes the 2023-24 Annual Outcomes Report – Leisure Contracts at **Appendix A**.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.4 GOVERNANCE REPORT - APRIL 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors. (**Appendix A**)
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Extension of Advisory Committees sunset date
- Instruments of Delegation from Council
- Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC) election report for the Darebin City Council

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – April 2025.
- (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) Extends the sunset period for all current Community Advisory Committees and Reference Groups from 30 June 2025 to 31 December 2025 to enable a comprehensive review to be undertaken that aligns with Council's adopted Council Plan 2025-29 and incorporates processes that ensure their success.
- (5) In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation, resolves:
 - (a) To delegate to the person holding the position, acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the 'Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer (S5)' (**Appendix B**) subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument of Delegation.
 - (b) To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the 'Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6)' (**Appendix D**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
 - (c) To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the 'Instrument of Delegation under the Environment Protection Act (S18)' (**Appendix F**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
 - (d) To adopt and affix Council's Common Seal to the following Instruments of Delegation provided as attachments to this report:
 - Instrument of Delegation from Council to the CEO (S5) (**Appendix B**);
 - Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council Staff (S6) (**Appendix D**);

- Instrument of Delegation under Environment and Protection Act 2017 (S18) (**Appendix F**).
- (e) That these instruments come into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed to each instrument.
- (6) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 47 of the Act may by instrument of delegation, delegate any power, duty or function of Council that has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by the Council to (a) a member of Council staff, or (b) the members of a Community Asset Committee, if any.
- (7) Notes the Victorian Electoral Commission's election report for the Darebin City Council general election held on 26 October 2024 (**Appendix H**).

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – April 2025.
- (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 **with the following amendment:**
- a) **Inserts Cr Tsalkos's surname in the Summary of Councillor Attendance at Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and Other Informal Meetings of Councillors record of the Councillor Briefing held on 14 April 2025.**
- (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) Extends the sunset period for all current Community Advisory Committees and Reference Groups from 30 June 2025 to 31 December 2025 to enable a comprehensive review to be undertaken that aligns with Council's adopted Council Plan 2025-29 and incorporates processes that ensure their success.
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- (7) Notes the Victorian Electoral Commission's election report for the Darebin City Council general election held on 26 October 2024 (**Appendix H**) **which reveals a lower-than-average voter turnout compared to other Victorian Councils (excepting Melbourne City Council), with the lowest voter turnout in Darebin being recorded among people aged 25-44, and in South Central Ward, and;**
- a) **Calls on the Mayor to write to the Victorian Electoral Commission requesting that the VEC engage in consultation with local councils on plans to improve voter turnout in these areas, in particular requesting information on any plans the VEC has for greater engagement with:**
- i) **people aged 25-44**
 - ii) **renters and apartment residents**
 - iii) **other marginalised groups and those least represented in voter turnout**
 - iv) **options to increase the time for enrolment prior to an election.**

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND READ AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-046

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – April 2025.
- (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 **with the following amendment:**
 - a) Inserts Cr Tsalkos's surname in the Summary of Councillor Attendance at Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and Other Informal Meetings of Councillors record of the Councillor Briefing held on 14 April 2025.
- (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) Extends the sunset period for all current Community Advisory Committees and Reference Groups from 30 June 2025 to 31 December 2025 to enable a comprehensive review to be undertaken that aligns with Council's adopted Council Plan 2025-29 and incorporates processes that ensure their success.

- (5) In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation, resolves:
- (a) To delegate to the person holding the position, acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the 'Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer (S5)' (**Appendix B**) subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument of Delegation.
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 - (c) To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the 'Instrument of Delegation under the Environment Protection Act (S18)' (**Appendix F**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
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- (7) Notes the Victorian Electoral Commission's election report for the Darebin City Council general election held on 26 October 2024 (**Appendix H**) which reveals a lower-than-average voter turnout compared to other Victorian Councils (excepting Melbourne City Council), with the lowest voter turnout in Darebin being recorded among people aged 25-44, and in South Central Ward, and;
- a) Calls on the Mayor to write to the Victorian Electoral Commission requesting that the VEC engage in consultation with local councils on plans to improve voter turnout in these areas, in particular requesting information on any plans the VEC has for greater engagement with:
 - i) people aged 25-44
 - ii) renters and apartment residents
 - iii) other marginalised groups and those least represented in voter turnout
 - iv) options to increase the time for enrolment prior to an election.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GOVERNANCE REPORT – APRIL 2025 | APPENDIX A AMENDED

SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing
	Date:	14 April 2025
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor) (Chairperson) online Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) – 3.50pm Cr. Matt Arturi Cr. Gaetano Greco - online Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos
	Council Staff:	Michael Tudball Interim CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate (item 4.3, 4.4) Nina Cullen, General Manager Community Lee McKenzie, Acting General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (item 4.4) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy (item 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6) Jody Brodribb, Coordinator Governance Services Lorna Pettifer, Coordinator Climate & Environment (item 4.1) Allan Middlemast, Manager City Futures (item 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) Lisa Wheelhouse, Manager Customer & Corporate Performance (item 4.3) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (item 4.3, 4.4) Dean Gibbons, Coordinator Financial Planning and Analysis (item 4.3, 4.4) Kassia Gibbs, Coordinator Corporate Strategy & Performance (item 4.3, 4.4) Julie Wyndham, Corporate Strategy & Performance Lead (item 4.3, 4.4) Melanie McCarten, Manager Recreation & Libraries (item 4.3, 4.4) Chad Griffiths, Manager City Development (item 4.5, 4.6) Neil Cooney, Head of Statutory Planning (item 4.5)
	External Attendees:	June Anstee, Municipal Monitor - online Ross Millard, Municipal Monitor
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Connie Boglis OAM

The Meeting commenced at 3.33pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.0	Briefing Agenda Overview - Mayor	No disclosures were made.
4.1	Declaration of a special charge - Solar Saver Round 4.2 (batch 6)	No disclosures were made.
4.2	Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path Feasibility Scoping Report	No disclosures were made.
4.3	Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and Annual Action Plan 2025-26 - Adopt draft documents	No disclosures were made.
4.4	Adoption of Draft 4 Year budget and 10 Year LTFP Including OP & Cap Projects & R&R	No disclosures were made.
4.5	Overview of Recent Victorian Government Planning Scheme Changes - Townhouse and Lowrise Code	No disclosures were made.
4.6	Keon Parade Level Crossing Removal Project: Ownership of new community assets	No disclosures were made.
5.1	Progress update for the LGBTIQA+ action plan and Cultural Diversity and Inclusion action plan development	No disclosures were made.
5.2	2 Wingrove Street Alphington - Community Engagement Plan	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 7.20pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Jody Brodribb
	Officer Title:	Coordinator Governance Services

ACTIVITY REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 12 MAY 2025**REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS OAM (MAYOR)**

Mayor Olaris reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Monday 24th of March:
 - CEO & Mayor Weekly Meeting
 - Mayoral Running Sheet Check in with Governance
 - Council Meeting
- Tuesday 25th of March:
 - Prespa Macedonian
 - CEO & Mayor Meeting
 - LGBTIQA Advisory Committee Meeting
- Friday 28th of March:
 - Losing Ground: Melbourne International Garden Show
- Saturday 29th of March:
 - Volunteer Expo (Darebin City Council)
 - Filipinos Multicultural festival
- Monday 31st of March:
 - Mayor & CEO Weekly Meeting
 - Council Plan & Budget Workshop
- Wednesday 2nd of April:
 - Meeting with constituent
 - Community Safety Forum Briefing
 - Celebrating International Women's Day
- Thursday 3rd of April:
 - Darebin CEO First Round Interviews
 - Community Safety Forum
- Sunday 6th of April:
 - Greek Festival
 - Dance for Parkinsons
- Monday 7th of April:
 - Stormwater Control briefing
 - Mayor & CEO weekly meeting
 - Councillor Briefing Session
- Tuesday 8th of April:
 - Darebin CEO Second Round Interviews

- Wednesday 9th of April:
 - Meeting with Co-Founder of Global Leadership
 - MOSS Introduction
 - Darebin Community Awards
- Thursday 10th of April:
 - Stormwater Control Meeting
 - Ex Serviceman's Greek Elderly Group
 - VIP Preview Event
- Saturday 12th of April:
 - 2025 Presidents Lunch Season Opening
- Monday 14th of April:
 - Mayor & CEO weekly meeting
 - Councillor Briefing Session
- Tuesday 22nd of April:
 - Prespa Macedonian Group Event
 - Councillor Briefing Session
- Thursday 24th of April:
 - Council Plan Meeting
 - Filming with Comms team
 - Weekly events meeting
- Saturday 26th of April:
 - AMARI Gala 2025
- Sunday 27th of April:
 - Walk for Truth
- Monday 28th of April:
 - Keon Park visit
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Council Meeting (Short meeting out of respect)
- Tuesday 29th of April:
 - Meeting with monitors
 - Meeting with Kat Theophanous MP
- Thursday 1st of May:
 - Northern Council alliance meeting with CEO
 - Citizenship ceremony
- Friday 2nd of May:
 - Preston Mosque visit

- Monday 5th of May:
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Councillor briefing meeting
- Tuesday 6th of May:
 - Meeting with Nathan Lambart MP
 - Aboriginal Women and girls sport wellness centre visit
 - Span community house visit AGM
- Wednesday 7th of May:
 - Kids undercover meeting with constituent
- Thursday 8th of May:
 - Pony club gym visit
 - Islamic Museum of Australia Tour

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS (DEPUTY MAYOR)

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

- Ordinary Council meeting
- Councillor briefings
- Council Plan and Budget workshop
- National Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) meeting
- CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting
- Meeting with CEO and Mayor
- Meeting with Mayor
- CEO Interviews - first and second round
- Laying a wreath at the Darebin RSL ANZAC service
- Speech at the 2025 Bridge Darebin Annual General Meeting
- Meeting with Minister Stoikos at Preston Library
- Attended Greek Ex-Servicemen's Elderly Citizens Club luncheon
- Attended Darebin Energy and Sustainability Institute AGM
- Attended Saint George Holy Greek Orthodox Church in Thornbury to mark the Feast of Saint George
- Attended the Vicki Cleary End Men's Violence Against Women Day
- Attended 20th Anniversary of the Arhondises dance group at SPAN community centre
- Attended Governing in the Climate Emergency workshop hosted by Climate Emergency Australia

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

- 24 March 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 31 April 2025 – Council Plan and Budget Workshop
- 3 April 2025 – Attendance at Community Safety Forum in Reservoir East
- 6 April 2025 – Attendance at Greek Day at Preston Market
- 7 April 2025 – Councillor Briefing
- 8 April 2025 – CEO Second Round Interviews
- 12 April 2025 – Attendance at President's Season Launch Lunch at Fitzroy Stars Football Club
- 13 April 2025 – Attendance at Darebin RSL's ANZAC Day March Ceremony
- 14 April 2025 – CEO Employment Matters Committee Meeting
- 14 April 2025 – Councillor Briefing
- 17 April 2025 – Meeting with Minister for Local Government, the Hon Nick Staikos
- 17 April 2025 – Special Council Meeting
- 22 April 2025 – Councillor Briefing
- 25 April 2025 – Darebin RSL's ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- 28 April 2025 – Budget Discussion with Councillors
- 28 April 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 29 April 2025 - Donating blood at Darebin Lifeblood PopUp
- 5 May 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 6 May 2025 - MAV Delegate Induction Session (online)
- 8 May 2025 - Meeting with Municipal Monitors.

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS OAM

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

- March 31st Our Darebin meeting - All Councillors & Executive
- April 3rd Aging Communities Committee Meeting – Darebin conference room
- April 8th CEO interviews CBD
- April 12th Taste of Reservoir Festival
- April 13th RSL Reservoir March and wreath laying ceremony
- April 13th APEX Warehouse Preston "Roots & Reclamation" showcase.
- April 14th CEO matters meeting online – All Councillors
- April 21st Weeding Friends of Edwardes Lake

- April 25th RSL Reservoir – Dawn service speech and wreath laying
- April 27th Yoorrook Justice Commission Walk around Edwardes Lake
- April 28th Meeting with Monitors
- April 28th meeting with Community Executive Council

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

- Committee meetings:
 - Metropolitan Transport Forum 2 April - appointed MTF Ambassador for Cycling
 - CEO recruitment interviews x2
 - CEO employment matters committee 14 April
 - Metropolitan Transport Forum 7 May
- Professional development:
 - VLGA 'lunch and learn' - Gender Impact Assessments
 - Governing in the Climate Emergency session #1, 2 May
 - Meeting with leadership consultant 12 May
- Other:
 - Meeting with Monitor June Anstee 6 June
 - Various calls and correspondence with residents and local business owners
 - Meeting with Friends of Edwardes Lake 11 April
 - Palm Sunday rally for refugees 13 April
 - Meeting with Minister Staikos 17 April
 - Frank's Hairdressing 50-year anniversary celebration 2 May

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

Cr. O'Brien reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Councillor Briefing Meetings x 3
- Council Meeting – Amended Agenda
- CEO Recruitment – Interviews and Decision Meetings
- Special Council Meeting – Progressing CEO Recruitment
- Meeting with the Mayor
- Climate Emergency Australia 'Governing in the Climate Emergency' Training session
- Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration, Women in Art
- Meeting with President of Friends of Edwardes Lake

- Attending Fitzroy Stars Presidents Lunch
- Attending Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees
- Reading and analysis of papers for all meetings, briefings, training etc.
- Contact (in person/online) with residents on various matters including:
 - Noise complaints – dog, residential equipment and business related,
 - Street tree choices and maintenance,
 - Pedestrian safety on Separation St near Northcote Plaza,
 - Homelessness support in the community,
 - Property leasing,
 - Graffiti management,
 - Car parking enforcement,
 - Fuel spill at a construction site,
 - Merri Common feedback,
 - Tree removal concerns.

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- Attended Anzac Day Dawn Service
- Met with Monitors.
- Attended launch of Stable One- exploring options for rough sleepers in Darebin
- Spoke at launch of The Midwives House - new medical/maternal health clinic in Thornbury
- Correspondence with residents and community members about various concerns
- Participated in recruitment process for engaging new CEO
- Attended Launch of All Stars Season Lunch
- Attended Darebin Roots Arts Event
- Met with representative of Edwardes Lake to hear concerns and hopes for future
- Met with representatives of the Save the Preston Market Group to hear concerns and hopes for the future
- Participated in all planning and briefing meetings

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

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

- 24 March - Council Meeting
- 26 March - Darebin CEO Meeting

- 29 March - Latrobe Retirement Village in Reservoir
- 29 March - Meeting with Broadway Shopping Strip Traders
- 30 March - Meeting with Residents
- 31 March - Council Plan and Budget Workshop
- 1 April - Meeting with Fairfield Traders Association
- 3 April - Darebin CEO First Round Panel Interviews
- 3 April - Community Safety Forum in East Reservoir
- 6 April - Greek Day at Preston Market
- 7 April - Councillor Briefing Session
- 8 April - Darebin CEO Second Round Interviews
- 12 April - Fitzroy Stars Season Launch
- 13 April - Darebin RSL ANZAC Commemorative March
- 14 April - CEO Employment Matters Committee Meeting
- 14 April - Councillor Briefing Session
- 17 April - Special Council Meeting
- 18 April - Visit to iceHQ in Reservoir
- 22 April - Councillor Briefing Session
- 25 April - ANZAC Day dawn service
- 27 April - Commemoration Service for the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Kalamata

**5.5 DECLARATION OF A SPECIAL CHARGE : SOLAR SAVER
ROUND 4.2 (BATCH 6)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council declare a Special Charge Scheme under Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the purposes of defraying expenses relating to the provision of The Goods on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver program. No objections were received in response to the public notification process.

There are 36 installations enabled through this special charge declaration batch. The value of this proposed Special Charge declaration is \$304,924.26 excluding GST. This price is calculated pre-rebate, but after STC and VEECs claim and excl. GST. (The gross amount, pre-rebate, pre-STC, pre-VEECs and incl. GST is \$411,953.92). If all expected rebates are provided, the Special Charge amount will be \$246,754.26 excl. GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee (after the Small Technology Certificate (STC) claim, Victoria Energy Efficiency Certificate VEEC and Solar Victoria rebate).

If supported, Council will pay the upfront cost for installation and supply of The Goods at properties as listed in **Appendix A**. Council will be repaid these costs, as detailed in confidential **Appendix B**. Around 30-40% of the gross cost is returned to Council at the point that works are invoiced for the STCs and VEECs generated by The Goods. Most participants are eligible for State Government rebates, and this will reduce the upfront cost to Council and the amount charged to participants. The value of Solar Victoria rebates is estimated to be \$55,400.00 excluding GST.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-047

MOVED: Cr. O'Brien
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, declares a Special Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:
 - a. A Special Charge is declared 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. The Special Charge is declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of The Goods on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons 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. Cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution is \$304,924.26 excl. GST; and

- ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$304,924.26 excl. GST, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
 - d. The Special Charge is declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as confidential Appendix B to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
 - e. The following list is specified as the criteria that form the basis of the Special Charge so declared:
 - Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
 - f. The following is specified as the manner in which the Special Charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. A Special Charge calculated by reference to the size of The Goods being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Agreement has been executed, totalling \$304,924.26 (excluding GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee) for the residential batch, being the total cost of the scheme to Council
 - ii. To 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, let it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will 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) Considers that there will be a special benefit to those required to pay the Special Charge *because* there will be a benefit to them that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to those 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 The Goods being installed.
- (3) For the *purposes* of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
- a. 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 those who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.
- (4) Directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Charge are that:
- a. There is no objection to the Scheme, and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and occupiers.

- b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the *Local Government Act 1989*, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its 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. All those who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of The Goods being installed at the property.
- d. Where a participant wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, agrees to such withdrawal where the participant has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the participant's Goods.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 DRAFT 2025-26 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK), DRAFT 10 YEAR FINANCE PLAN, DRAFT 10 YEAR ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN, DRAFT 2025-26 TO 2028-29 REVENUE & RATING PLAN AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that the Council endorse the following draft budget documents to proceed to community exhibition inviting feedback:

- Draft 2025-26 budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook), **(Appendix A)**
- Draft 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), **(Appendix E)**
- Draft 4-year Revenue and Rating Plan **(Appendix F)**; and
- Draft 10-year Asset Management Plan **(Appendix G)**.

The process of developing these budget documents has included consultation with stakeholders which included expert Committee members, and the Darebin community through deliberative engagement panels as noted by the Council in its meeting on 24 February 2025.

The budget parameters and key budget envelopes endorsed by Council on 3 March 2025 have formed the basis of development of the draft budget and the draft Long Term Financial Plan. Financial sustainability has remained a key focus given the continuing financial impacts of inflation, the rates cap and high construction costs over the last four years. This financial challenge is not unique to Darebin, but similar to the cost-of-living challenges faced by other Councils, other levels of government and households.

The draft budget has been carefully considered to deliver the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and to provide ongoing funding to deliver vital community services and infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

The draft budget proposes significant investment in improvements of infrastructure including expansion of kindergartens to support the expansion of three-year-old funded kindergarten, as well as improvements in road safety, drainage, footpaths, open space and sports infrastructure, and in increasing the tree canopy in streets and parks. The draft budget and draft capital works program have been proposed to benefit community in accordance with the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (Statements and Pillars).

Prudent long term financial management for the Council has also required a built-in savings and/or revenue target of \$3.2M in year one, \$9.7M per year by year four and \$14.7M over the 10-year period which will need to be implemented progressively. Council received a Financial Sustainability options report at its ordinary Council meeting on 24 February 2025 and this has been considered in preparation of this draft budget.

The draft budget is proposed to be a deficit budget which means that Council is proposed to draw down on some of its accumulated surplus (savings) to fund investment in long term efficiencies including work to identify new revenue streams, redevelop Council property and updating critical digital tools. These investments will improve basic services, address cyber security risks and improve efficiency thereby maximising funds available for community services. This investment is expected to leave community and council better off overall, and to achieve significant annual savings that can be used to fund community services.

The draft budget ensures that the majority of key financial sustainability indicators are forecast to remain stable and in the Low/Medium risk category indicating a responsible and stable financial and asset management strategy. There are two categories that are forecast to be high risk: the underlying surplus (between 2025-26 to 2028-29) and the capital replacement ratio. This is due to planned underlying deficits and the total capital works program compared to annual depreciation expense (as a measure of total capital works program).

The Financial Plan allocates \$244M for asset renewals (Building, Parks & Open Space, Transport & Drainage assets) against the required asset demand projections of \$295M, resulting in a funding gap of \$51M over the next 10 years. The funding is medium risk in the short to medium term but beyond that the asset renewal gap grows as assets continue to age and deteriorate. It will be important to reassess this gap and review long term funding at the next review of the Asset Plan and Financial Plan. There are several strategies progressing to help address the forecast renewal gap. These strategies include:

- Work to increase several developer levies that can be collected to contribute to asset and infrastructure costs including the Open Space Levy, the Developer Contributions Plan and a voluntary levy for Water Sensitive Urban Design infrastructure.
- Review of major procurements and contracts to secure the best value for money and ensure renewal and maintenance funds achieve as much as possible.
- Review of Council properties and facilities to identify opportunities to secure partners or tenants to invest in improvements at Council properties, or to sell unused, poorly located properties that are not in good locations for future community services.
- Further strengthening of asset condition data, renewal modelling and community need data which is necessary for efficient and cost-effective planning of renewal and maintenance works.
- Development of a Strategic Major Facilities Redevelopment Fund Reserve to ensure the long-term sustainability and functionality of critical infrastructure, facilitate strategic renewal, upgrades and modernization, manage significant capital expenditures, and promote responsible asset management. By accumulating funds over time, Council mitigates the financial impact of large-scale redevelopment projects, including renewal, preventing sudden and disruptive budget strain.

The Revenue and Rating Plan has been reviewed as required under s93 Part 4 – Planning and Financial Management of the Local Government Act, 2020 for the next 4 years 2025-29.

No changes to the current rating structure have been proposed for 2025/26 and the calculation methodology will be applied to the new capital improved valuations for new rating period, commencing 1 July 2025.

Effective 1 July 2025, the Victorian State Government proposes amending the relevant legislation to replace the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) with the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF). This change is pending the passage of the relevant Bill through the Victorian State Parliament at the time of this document's drafting.

The proposed fund is designed to support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).

The average financial impact on residential rate payer (primary place of residence) in the 2025-26 financial year is as follows:

- Variable rate component (cents per \$1,000 CIV):

- Current: 8.7c x CIV
- Proposed: \$17.3c x CIV
- Impact: 8.6c x CIV
- Fixed charge component:
 - Current: \$132 per property
 - Proposed: \$254 per property
 - Impact: \$122 per property

For more information regarding the proposed Essential Services Victoria Fund, please visit <https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/emergency-services-and-volunteers-fund> or contact Department of Treasury & Finance.

The draft 10 Year Asset Management Plan has been reviewed as required under s92 – Part 4 – Planning and Financial Management of the Local Government Act, 2020 (**Appendix G**). The Asset Plan provides a 10-year strategic and financial view of the \$1.68B assets (at 30 June 2024) and how they integrate with the Darebin 2041 Community Vision, draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and the draft 10 Year Financial Plan. The preparation of the Asset Plan was informed by the deliberative engagement approach, and diverse members of the community provided a set of principles that has been incorporated into this Asset Plan. A total investment of \$650M is planned over the next 10 years to ensure assets and infrastructure remain fit for purpose, safe and support the delivery of services to the community.

Once endorsed by Council, the draft documents listed above will be made available for community exhibition for 21 days from 14 May 2025 to 3 June 2025. After having considered community feedback, Council will consider the adoption of its 2025-26 budget, the Revenue and Rating Plan, 10- Year Long Term Financial Plan and the 10-Year Asset Plan at the end of June 2025 at its ordinary Council meeting.

Officer Recommendation

That Council

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition:
 - a) the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (**Appendix A**) and associated fees and charges (**Appendix B**), Capital Works Program (**Appendix C**) and Operating Projects (**Appendix D**), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan,
 - b) the draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 (**Appendix E**).
 - c) the draft revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 (**Appendix F**).
 - d) the draft 10-Year Asset Plan (**Appendix G**).
- (2) Authorises the CEO to amend the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) and/or the draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and/or draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 being considered on 12 May 2025.
- (3) Note that the draft 2025-26 Budget Documents will be considered for adoption at a Council meeting to be held at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025.

- (4) Gives notice in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to grant, at its ordinary Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm at the end of June 2025:
- a) A concession for residential properties with a Capital Improved Value (CIV) value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - c) A Council Pensioner Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
 - d) A Council Pensioner Rebate of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.
 - e) A concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing, in accordance with s169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework'.
- (5) Gives notice in accordance with section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to declare, at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025:
- a) A service rate for Public Waste Services in the 2025-26 year levied in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Collection Services in the 2025-26 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
- (6) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the following proposed documents, rates, charges or rebates may be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.00pm on 16 June 2025:
- a) draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook);
 - b) draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2025-26 -2034-35;
 - c) draft 10-Year Asset Management Plan;
 - d) draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 – 2028-29;
 - e) declaration of the public waste service rate;
 - f) declaration of the service charge for kerbside collection services;

- g) granting of the three concessions aligned to equity principles to support waste cost recovery charges;
 - h) granting of a Council Pensioner Rebate within general rates, aligned to equity principles, for pensioners who are not eligible for the Kerbside Waste Collection Charge Pensioner Concession;
 - i) granting of a 100% concession for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing; and
- (7) Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96(1)(b) of the Act, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
- (8) Notes that in accordance with Section 94 of the 2020 Act and Regulation 8 of the Regulations, detailed information concerning General Rates and Charges is included in **Appendix A**.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition:
- a) The draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (Appendix A) and associated fees and charges (Appendix B), Capital Works Program (Appendix C) and Operating Projects (**Appendix D**), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, **with the following amendments:**
 - i. **The Preston City Oval lighting project be brought forward to year 2 from year 4 at a total Council contribution of \$690,000 which represents substantial funding towards this project; and to make this possible, requests that the CEO identify options for deferral of \$690,000 of funding from year 2 to other years to be considered by Council as part of its budget consideration in June 2025. (Proposed by Cr Arturi)**
 - ii. **Allocate \$45,000 to in the 2025–26 Operating Projects budget to fund the delivery of the detailed Feasibility Study for the proposed Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path between Elizabeth Street and the Mernda Rail line in Reservoir. (Proposed by Cr Dimitriadis)**
 - iii. **Removal of the following projects:**
 - **Program Reference 337: Feasibility design Victoria Road South Crescent to Separation Street;**
 - **Program Reference 338: Feasibility design Victoria Road Separation Street to Darebin Road. (Proposed by Cr Dimitriadis)**
 - iv. **Allocate \$30,000 of the 2025–26 Operating Project budget to fund the Preston Market feasibility study. (Proposed by Cr Dimitriadis)**
 - v. **Allocates any unallocated capital works funds from Program Reference 401 to Your Street Your Say projects, to progress delivery in 2025-26. (Proposed by Cr Jelley)**
 - b) The draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 (Appendix E).

- c) The draft revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 (Appendix F).
- d) The draft 10-Year Asset Plan (Appendix G).
- (2) Authorises the CEO to amend the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) and/or the draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and/or draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 being considered on 12 May 2025.
- (3) Notes that the draft 2025-26 Budget Documents will be considered for adoption at a Council meeting to be held at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025.
- (4) Gives notice in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to grant, at its ordinary Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm at the end of June 2025:
 - a) A concession for residential properties with a Capital Improved Value (CIV) value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - c) A Council Pensioner Concession of ~~\$200~~ **\$250** for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only. *(Proposed by Cr Tsalkos)*
 - d) A Council Pensioner Rebate of ~~\$200~~ **\$250** for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer. *(Proposed by Cr Tsalkos)*
 - e) A concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing, in accordance with s169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework'.
- (5) Gives notice in accordance with section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to declare, at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025:
 - a) A service rate for Public Waste Services in the 2025-26 year levied in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Collection Services in the 2025-26 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan **updated to incorporate the amendment to the Pensioner Concession (clause 4.c above) which is expected to increase the service charge by \$5.82 per property for 2025-26 (from \$342.42 to \$348.24 per property).** *(Proposed by Cr Tsalkos)*

- (6) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the following proposed documents, rates, charges or rebates may be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.30pm on 16 June 2025:
- a) draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook);
 - b) draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2025-26 -2034-35;
 - c) draft 10-Year Asset Management Plan;
 - d) draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 – 2028-29;
 - e) declaration of the public waste service rate;
 - f) declaration of the service charge for kerbside collection services;
 - g) granting of the three concessions aligned to equity principles to support waste cost recovery charges;
 - h) granting of a Council Pensioner Rebate within general rates, aligned to equity principles, for pensioners who are not eligible for the Kerbside Waste Collection Charge Pensioner Concession;
 - i) granting of a 100% concession for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing; and
- (7) Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96(1)(b) of the Act, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
- (8) Notes that in accordance with Section 94 of the 2020 Act and Regulation 8 of the Regulations, detailed information concerning General Rates and Charges is included in Appendix A.

With leave of the Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM, each amendment was voted on separately as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-048

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition noting that decisions relating to projects or activities considered in clause 1 (above) have already been made and the decision relating to this clause does not revisit these:
- a) the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (Appendix A) and associated fees and charges (Appendix B), Capital Works Program (Appendix C) and Operating Projects (Appendix D), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, with the following amendment:
 - i. The Preston City Oval lighting project be brought forward to year 2 from year 4 at a total Council contribution of \$690,000 which represents substantial funding towards this project; and to make this possible, requests that the CEO identify options for deferral of \$690,000 of funding from year 2 to other years to be considered by Council as part of its budget consideration in June 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-049**

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition noting that decisions relating to projects or activities considered in clause 1 (above) have already been made and the decision relating to this clause does not revisit these:
 - a) the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (Appendix A) and associated fees and charges (Appendix B), Capital Works Program (Appendix C) and Operating Projects (Appendix D), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, with the following amendment:
 - ii) Allocate \$45,000 to in the 2025–26 Operating Projects budget to fund the delivery of the detailed Feasibility Study for the proposed Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path between Elizabeth Street and the Mernda Rail line in Reservoir.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-050**

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition noting that decisions relating to projects or activities considered in clause 1 (above) have already been made and the decision relating to this clause does not revisit these:
 - a) the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (Appendix A) and associated fees and charges (Appendix B), Capital Works Program (Appendix C) and Operating Projects (Appendix D), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, with the following amendment:
 - iii) Removal of the following projects:
 - Program Reference 337: Feasibility design Victoria Road South Crescent to Separation Street;
 - Program Reference 338: Feasibility design Victoria Road Separation Street to Darebin Road.

CARRIED

For: Crs Arturi, Dimitriadis, Tsalkos and Olaris (4)

Against: Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Sangster (3)

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-051**

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition noting that decisions relating to projects or activities considered in clause 1 (above) have already been made and the decision relating to this clause does not revisit these:
 - a) the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (Appendix A) and associated fees and charges (Appendix B), Capital Works Program (Appendix C) and Operating Projects (Appendix D), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, with the following amendment:
 - iv) Allocate \$30,000 of the 2025–26 Operating Project budget to fund the Preston Market feasibility study.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**Motion**

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition noting that decisions relating to projects or activities considered in clause 1 (above) have already been made and the decision relating to this clause does not revisit these:
 - a) the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (Appendix A) and associated fees and charges (Appendix B), Capital Works Program (Appendix C) and Operating Projects (Appendix D), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, with the following amendment:
 - v) Allocates any unallocated capital works funds from Program Reference 401 to Your Street Your Say projects, to progress delivery in 2025-26.

LOST

For: Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Sangster (3)

Against: Crs Arturi, Dimitriadis, Tsalkos and Olaris (4)

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-052**

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (5) Gives notice in accordance with section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to grant, at its ordinary Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm at the end of June 2025:

- a) A concession for residential properties with a Capital Improved Value (CIV) value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - c) A Council Pensioner Concession of \$250 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
 - d) A Council Pensioner Rebate of \$250 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.
 - e) A concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing, in accordance with s169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework'.
- (6) Gives notice in accordance with section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to declare, at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025:
- a) A service rate for Public Waste Services in the 2025-26 year levied in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Collection Services in the 2025-26 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan updated to incorporate the amendment to the Pensioner Concession (clause 4.c above) which is expected to increase the service charge by \$5.82 per property for 2025-26 (from \$342.42 to \$348.24 per property).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THE FINAL SUBSTANTITVE MOTION UPON THE COMPLETION OF VOTING ON ALL AMENDMENTS, WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-053**

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the following draft 2025-26 Budget Documents to proceed to community exhibition:
 - a) The draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) (**Appendix A**) and associated fees and charges (**Appendix B**), Capital Works Program (**Appendix C**) and Operating Projects (**Appendix D**), to resource the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan, with the following amendments:
 - i. The Preston City Oval lighting project be brought forward to year 2 from year 4 at a total Council contribution of \$690,000 which represents substantial funding towards this project; and to make this possible, requests that the CEO identify options for deferral of \$690,000 of funding from year 2 to other years to be considered by Council as part of its budget consideration in June 2025.
 - ii. Allocate \$45,000 to in the 2025–26 Operating Projects budget to fund the delivery of the detailed Feasibility Study for the proposed Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path between Elizabeth Street and the Mernda Rail line in Reservoir.
 - iii. Removal of the following projects:
 - Program Reference 337: Feasibility design Victoria Road South Crescent to Separation Street;
 - Program Reference 338: Feasibility design Victoria Road Separation Street to Darebin Road;
 - iv. Allocate \$30,000 of the 2025–26 Operating Project budget to fund the Preston Market feasibility study.
 - b) The draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 (**Appendix E**).
 - c) The draft revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 (**Appendix F**).
 - d) The draft 10-Year Asset Plan (**Appendix G**).
- (7) Authorises the CEO to amend the draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) and/or the draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2035 to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and/or draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 being considered on 12 May 2025.
- (8) Notes that the draft 2025-26 Budget Documents will be considered for adoption at a Council meeting to be held at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025.
- (9) Gives notice in accordance with section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to grant, at its ordinary Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm at the end of June 2025:
 - a) A concession for residential properties with a Capital Improved Value (CIV) value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

- b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - c) A Council Pensioner Concession of \$250 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
 - d) A Council Pensioner Rebate of \$250 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.
 - e) A concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing, in accordance with s169 (1d) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework'.
- (10) Gives notice in accordance with section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to declare, at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025:
- a) A service rate for Public Waste Services in the 2025-26 year levied in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Collection Services in the 2025-26 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan updated to incorporate the amendment to the Pensioner Concession (clause 4.c above) which is expected to increase the service charge by \$5.82 per property for 2025-26 (from \$342.42 to \$348.24 per property).
- (11) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the following proposed documents, rates, charges or rebates may be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.30pm on 16 June 2025:
- a) draft 2025-26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook);
 - b) draft 10-Year Long Term Financial Plan 2025-26 -2034-35;
 - c) draft 10-Year Asset Management Plan;
 - d) draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 – 2028-29;
 - e) declaration of the public waste service rate;
 - f) declaration of the service charge for kerbside collection services;
 - g) granting of the three concessions aligned to equity principles to support waste cost recovery charges;
 - h) granting of a Council Pensioner Rebate within general rates, aligned to equity principles, for pensioners who are not eligible for the Kerbside Waste Collection Charge Pensioner Concession;

- i) granting of a 100% concession for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing; and
- (12) Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96(1)(b) of the Act, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
- (13) Notes that in accordance with Section 94 of the 2020 Act and Regulation 8 of the Regulations, detailed information concerning General Rates and Charges is included in Appendix A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3 DRAFT OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29 AND DRAFT OUR ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2025-26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to public exhibition.

The draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (the draft Plan) integrates the 4-year Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and has been developed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (the draft Action Plan) includes the first-year actions that Council will deliver toward achieving its 4-year Plan.

The draft Plan is underpinned by extensive community engagement, culminating in the Our Darebin Community Panel, who provided recommendations to Council to consider in the development of the Plan.

The draft Plan addresses the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (the Vision), revised by the community in 2024 and adopted by Council at its meeting on 24 February 2025.

The draft Plan and draft Action Plan will be on public exhibition for a period of 21 days from 14 May to 3 June 2025. During this time, the community are invited to provide feedback to Council and can choose to speak to their feedback at a Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting on 16 June 2025. The Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and Annual Action Plan 2025-26 will be presented to a Special Council Meeting for adoption on 30 June 2025.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition.
- (2) Authorises the CEO to amend the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and/or the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the draft 2025-26 Budget being considered on 12 May 2025.
- (3) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Our Darebin Plan and/or the draft 2025-26 Annual Action Plan may be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.00pm on 16 June 2025.
- (4) Notes that a draft copy of the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 will be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Health under section 27 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act* for the purposes of seeking an exemption from producing a standalone municipal public health and wellbeing plan by including the public health and wellbeing matters required under section 26(2) in the Our Darebin Plan.
- (5) Notes the adoption of the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and the draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 will be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting on Monday 30 June 2025.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition, **including the following amendments:**

- (a) **Initiative 5.3.1 as follows:**

“Continue to proactively protect Preston Market’s social, cultural and historical value for generations to come through advocacy, community and stakeholder engagement, support of the Preston Market Traders and participating in future planning decisions including the development plan and planning permit decisions.” *(Proposed by Cr Dimitriadis)*

- (b) **That Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:**

That Council:

- (1) **Adopts the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a high-level framework to strengthen strategic alignment, measurement, and reporting across Council’s work.**
- (2) **Ensures that the new Plan reflects how these global sustainability principles are relevant and actionable in the local context, and highlights Council’s role in delivering on shared priorities such as equity, inclusion, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.**
- (3) **Requests a briefing on this in June to clarify the proposed approach and authorises the CEO to amend the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025–29 to reflect this alignment, including articulating Darebin’s high-level alignment with the SDGs across the strategic directions, as a first step toward embedding global sustainability principles in a local context.**
- (4) **Includes a Year 1 action under Strategic Direction 6 to assess Darebin’s contribution to and alignment with the SDGs, with an initial focus on areas where Council has the most impact, and to develop a set of meaningful metrics and indicators to guide implementation, measurement, and reporting from Years 2–4.**
(Proposed by Cr O’Brien)
- (c) **That Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:**
- That Council restates its support and commitment for the Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2024-30, and requests advice on how the final Council Plan and Budget can implement the Climate Emergency Plan.**
(Proposed by Cr O’Brien)
- (d) **That Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:**

That Council will:

- (1) **To achieve the Objective of this Strategic Direction 2 Aboriginal**

Culture and Knowledge:

- **Commit to a journey of Self-Determination with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.**
 - **Preserve, celebrate and educate the Darebin community about Aboriginal heritage and living culture.**
 - **Build a culturally safe Council and organization to deliver inclusive and culturally safe spaces and services.**
- (2) **Formally release a position of support on the Statewide Treaty and deliver community education events on the Statewide Treaty, in collaboration with First Peoples' Assembly.**
- (3) **Complete stage one of Truth Telling project, opening a Truth-Telling display in Bundoora Park Farm to the public.**
- (4) **Finalize Aboriginal Action Plan and deliver year 1 activities.**
- (5) **Continue Aboriginal grants program.**
- (6) **To undertake discussions with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, through developing a partnership agreement, to explore entering into Treaty negotiations with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples. (Proposed by Cr Sangster)**
- (2) Authorises the CEO to amend the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and/or the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the draft 2025-26 Budget being considered on 12 May 2025.
- (3) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Our Darebin Plan and/or the draft 2025-26 Annual Action Plan may be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.00pm on 16 June 2025.
- (4) Notes that a draft copy of the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 will be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Health under section 27 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act for the purposes of seeking an exemption from producing a standalone municipal public health and wellbeing plan by including the public health and wellbeing matters required under section 26(2) in the Our Darebin Plan.
- (5) Notes the adoption of the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and the draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 will be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting on Monday 30 June 2025.

With leave of the Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM, each amendment was voted on separately as follows:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-054**

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition, including the following amendment:
- (a) Initiative 5.3.1 as follows:

“Continue to proactively protect Preston Market's social, cultural and historical value for generations to come through advocacy, community and stakeholder engagement, support of the Preston Market Traders and participating in future planning decisions including the development plan and planning permit decisions.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-055

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition, including the following amendment:
 - (b) **That** Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a high-level framework to strengthen strategic alignment, measurement, and reporting across Council's work.
- (2) Ensures that the new Plan reflects how these global sustainability principles are relevant and actionable in the local context, and highlights Council's role in delivering on shared priorities such as equity, inclusion, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.
- (3) Requests a briefing on this in June to clarify the proposed approach and authorises the CEO to amend the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025–29 to reflect this alignment, including articulating Darebin's high-level alignment with the SDGs across the strategic directions, as a first step toward embedding global sustainability principles in a local context.
- (4) Includes a Year 1 action under Strategic Direction 6 to assess Darebin's contribution to and alignment with the SDGs, with an initial focus on areas where Council has the most impact, and to develop a set of meaningful metrics and indicators to guide implementation, measurement, and reporting from Years 2–4.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-056

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition, including the following amendment:
 - (c) **That** Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:

That Council restates its support and commitment for the Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2024-30, and requests advice on how the final Council Plan and Budget can implement the Climate Emergency Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-057

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition, including the following amendment:

- (d) That Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:

That Council will:

- (1) to achieve the Objective of this Strategic Direction 2 Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge:
 - Commit to a journey of Self-Determination with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
 - Preserve, celebrate and educate the Darebin community about Aboriginal heritage and living culture
 - Build a culturally safe Council and organization to deliver inclusive and culturally safe spaces and services
- (2) formally release a position of support on the Statewide Treaty and deliver community education events on the Statewide Treaty, in collaboration with First Peoples' Assembly.
- (3) Complete stage one of Truth Telling project, opening a Truth-Telling display in Bundoora Park Farm to the public.
- (4) Finalize Aboriginal Action Plan and deliver year 1 activities.
- (5) Continue Aboriginal grants program.
- (6) To undertake discussions with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, through developing a partnership agreement, to explore entering into Treaty negotiations with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THE FINAL SUBSTANTITVE MOTION UPON THE COMPLETION OF VOTING ON ALL AMENDMENTS, WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-058****MOVED: Cr. Jelley****SECONDED: Cr. Arturi****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 (Appendix A) and the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Appendix B) to proceed to community exhibition, including the following amendments:

- (a) Initiative 5.3.1 as follows:

“Continue to proactively protect Preston Market's social, cultural and historical value for generations to come through advocacy, community and stakeholder engagement, support of the Preston Market Traders and participating in future planning decisions including the development plan and planning permit decisions.”

- (b) **That** Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a high-level framework to strengthen strategic alignment, measurement, and reporting across Council's work.
 - (2) Ensures that the new Plan reflects how these global sustainability principles are relevant and actionable in the local context, and highlights Council's role in delivering on shared priorities such as equity, inclusion, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.
 - (3) Requests a briefing on this in June to clarify the proposed approach and authorises the CEO to amend the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025–29 to reflect this alignment, including articulating Darebin's high-level alignment with the SDGs across the strategic directions, as a first step toward embedding global sustainability principles in a local context.
 - (4) Includes a Year 1 action under Strategic Direction 6 to assess Darebin's contribution to and alignment with the SDGs, with an initial focus on areas where Council has the most impact, and to develop a set of meaningful metrics and indicators to guide implementation, measurement, and reporting from Years 2–4.
- (c) **That** Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:

That Council restates its support and commitment for the Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2024-30, and requests advice on how the final Council Plan and Budget can implement the Climate Emergency Plan.

- (d) **That** Council authorises the CEO to reflect the following amendment into Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 prior to adoption:

That Council will:

- (1) To achieve the Objective of this Strategic Direction 2 Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge:
 - Commit to a journey of Self-Determination with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
 - Preserve, celebrate and educate the Darebin community about

Aboriginal heritage and living culture.

- Build a culturally safe Council and organization to deliver inclusive and culturally safe spaces and services.
- (2) Formally release a position of support on the Statewide Treaty and deliver community education events on the Statewide Treaty, in collaboration with First Peoples' Assembly.
 - (3) Complete stage one of Truth Telling project, opening a Truth-Telling display in Bundoora Park Farm to the public.
 - (4) Finalize Aboriginal Action Plan and deliver year 1 activities.
 - (5) Continue Aboriginal grants program.
 - (6) To undertake discussions with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, through developing a partnership agreement, to explore entering into Treaty negotiations with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples.
- (2) Authorises the CEO to amend the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and/or the draft Our Annual Action Plan 2025-26 to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the draft 2025-26 Budget being considered on 12 May 2025.
 - (3) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Our Darebin Plan and/or the draft 2025-26 Annual Action Plan may be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.00pm on 16 June 2025.
 - (4) Notes that a draft copy of the Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 will be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Health under section 27 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act for the purposes of seeking an exemption from producing a standalone municipal public health and wellbeing plan by including the public health and wellbeing matters required under section 26(2) in the Our Darebin Plan.
 - (5) Notes the adoption of the draft Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 and the draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 will be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting on Monday 30 June 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

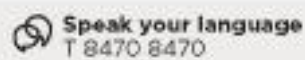
The meeting closed at 4.49pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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