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# MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 28 April 2025

Released to the public on 1 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, παρακαλείσθε 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.	OPENING OF MEETING.....	5
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS.....	5
3.	MEMBERSHIP .....	5
4.	URGENT BUSINESS.....	8
	FLYING FLAGS AT HALF MAST IN HONOUR OF CR GAETANO GRECO .....	8
5.	CLOSE OF MEETING.....	9

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025

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THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.03PM

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

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

### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM, 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. I recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and pay my respects to Elders past and present.*

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

#### **Councillors**

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)  
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr. Matt Arturi  
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM  
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 Monitors**

June Anstee  
Ross Millard

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM made the following statement:

*I would like to welcome and acknowledge all Councillors, our Executive Leadership Team, staff and the Municipal Monitors who joining us this evening.*

*Tonight, we are missing a key member of Council. For those who aren't aware, Cr Gaetano Greco sadly passed away over the weekend. Cr Greco was a Darebin City Councillor from 2008 – 2025 and served as Mayor in 2013-2014.*

*Throughout his long and dedicated career serving the people of Darebin, Cr Greco was a tireless advocate for social justice, community wellbeing, and inclusive governance.*

*Cr Greco always made time to listen and respond to requests or concerns from the community, and he championed decision making that was informed by community voices and views. His commitment to the community was unwavering, even as recently as last week continuing to work from his hospital bed.*

*We thank Cr Greco for the remarkable legacy he leaves in making Darebin a better place and our thoughts and condolences are with his partner Susana and family and friends at this sad and difficult time.*

*I would now like to invite Deputy Mayor, Cr Emily Dimitriadis, who served on Council with Cr Greco since 2020, to provide a Statement of Condolence on behalf of Council.*

**Councillor Emily Dimitriadis made the following statement of condolence:**

*It is with a profoundly heavy heart that I stand before you tonight to honour and farewell a giant among us - my dear friend, mentor and colleague, Cr Gaetano Greco, who passed away two days ago after a courageous and relentless battle with cancer.*

*To his beloved partner Susana, his cherished family and his many friends - I extend my deepest condolences. Thank you for entrusting me with the immense privilege of speaking tonight on behalf of all who loved and admired him.*

*Gaetano was not just a Councillor. He was the living embodiment of what it means to serve - not for title, not for recognition - but because justice demanded it.*

*Elected to Darebin Council in 2008, Councillor Greco gave over 16 years of his life, heart, soul and every ounce of strength to this community. But Gaetano didn't just represent Darebin. He carried Darebin - its struggles, its hopes, its diversity and its fight for fairness - on his shoulders every single day.*

*His leadership was never about comfort or convenience. Gaetano stood where it mattered most - on the frontlines of justice. For our multicultural communities, for First Nations people, for those whose voices were too often ignored or silenced - Gaetano was their unwavering champion. He understood, deeply, that true leadership is measured not by popularity, but by the courage to confront injustice, especially when it's hard, especially when you stand alone.*

*When Council threatened to privatise aged care, Gaetano didn't hesitate - he stood with our elders, safeguarding their dignity.*

*When developers circled Preston Market, ready to erase a cultural and community icon, Gaetano led from the front - not just to save buildings, but to protect the heart of a community where migrant stories were told in every stall.*

*When prejudice surfaced in decisions - like denying a 50-meter pool at Reservoir Leisure Centre because "new migrants may not have experienced swimming" - Gaetano called it out, demanding better, demanding respect!*

*This was Gaetano Greco - a man of unyielding integrity, a truth-teller who never flinched in the face of power, and whose compass was permanently set towards justice.*

*Even as illness took hold, Gaetano's spirit remained indomitable. Days before his passing - as others might have sought rest - Gaetano was still leading - sending us three final instructions, not for himself, but for us, for you, for this community:*

- 1. To continue the hard, necessary conversations he began in 2020 - to return land to First Nations people. Because reconciliation without action is hollow!*
- 2. To pursue the public acquisition of Preston Market. Because communities should never have to beg to keep their heritage and livelihoods intact.*
- 3. To remember Gaza. To remember that while headlines fade, the suffering of over 50,000 lives lost demands that we, as a Council, as human beings, stand firm in solidarity - consulting with the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network and the community before any decision to lower the Palestinian flag he fought so fiercely to see raised.*

*These were not requests. They were Gaetano's final calls to conscience - his reminder that leadership is a trust bestowed upon us by those who believe in a fairer world.*

*For me, Gaetano was far more than a colleague. He was my anchor in turbulent times, the voice of wisdom when the easy path tempted us away from the right one. He mentored me, believed in me, and stood beside me through battles that tested every fibre of our resolve. Together, we fought for aged care, for community dignity, for equity - and every victory was a testament to his relentless drive.*

*Tonight, we are bereft. His absence is a chasm that words cannot fill. I will miss his counsel, his fire, his unwavering belief that local government is not a bureaucracy -but a battleground for justice.*

*But if Gaetano taught us anything, it is this - grief must never turn to silence. Mourning must give rise to action.*

*Cr Gaetano Greco's legacy is not just etched into Darebin - it is etched into each of us who had the honour to witness his leadership. His voice may be gone, but his message is clear:*

*Stand up. Speak out. Fight on!*

*For our multicultural communities.*

*For First Nations justice.*

*For every person who dares to believe that equity is worth the struggle.*

*Vale Cr Gaetano Greco. Your vision, your courage and your uncompromising commitment to justice will echo through these chambers, through Darebin and far beyond - for generations to come.*

*Now, it is our turn to carry the torch. Let us not fail him.*

*Thank you.*

*I would also ask that we all stand and observe a minute's silence to pay our respects to Cr Greco.*

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. Tsalkos**SECONDED:** Cr. Arturi

That Council amend the order of business to immediately consider Urgent Business.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. URGENT BUSINESS****ADMISSION OF URGENT BUSINESS**

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)**SECONDED:** Cr. Boglis OAM

**That** Council admits to the agenda, an urgent business item related to the passing of Cr Gaetano Greco.

**CARRIED**

**FLYING FLAGS AT HALF MAST IN HONOUR OF CR  
GAETANO GRECO**

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 25-044**

**MOVED:** Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)**SECONDED:** Cr. O'Brien

**That** Council:

- 1) In honour of Cr Gaetano Greco's recent passing, flies the Australian National Flag and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at half-mast at all five of its Civic Flagpole sites in Darebin on Tuesday 29 April 2025.
- 2) Flies the Australian National Flag and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at half-mast at all five of its Civic Flagpole sites in Darebin on the same day as Cr Greco's celebration of live event at a date to be determined in the future.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. Sangster

**SECONDED:** Cr. Tsalkos

**That** Council defers all remaining business on the agenda for tonight's Council meeting to a date to be determined.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. CLOSE OF MEETING**

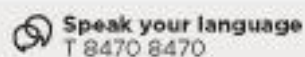
The meeting closed at 6.17pm.

## CITY OF DAREBIN

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National Relay Service.



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