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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 28 July 2025

Released to the public on 4 August 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. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP	1
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS.....	1
3. APOLOGIES.....	1
4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	1
5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS	2
6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES	2
7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME	2
8. PETITIONS	9
8.1 TABLING OF PETITION	9
9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS	11
9.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP - 2 WINGROVE ST, ALPHINGTON.....	11
9.2 LEASE TO ACACIA ENERGY - NEIGHBOURHOOD BATTERY AT 2 WINGROVE STREET ALPHINGTON	16
9.3 ADOPTION OF COUNCILLOR SUPPORT AND EXPENSES POLICY 2025	18
9.4 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 2025	19
9.5 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION	27
9.6 DAREBIN LIBRARIES PROCUREMENT AUSTRALIA CONTRACT	28
9.7 CT202459 - CONTRACT AWARD BULK FUELS & FUEL CARDS (PA CONTRACT 2703/0110)	30
10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED	33
11. NOTICES OF MOTION	34
11.1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT 80TH ANNIVERSARIES OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI.....	34
12. URGENT BUSINESS.....	36
13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL	36
14. CLOSE OF MEETING.....	36

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL, MONDAY 28 JULY 2025

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.00PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. 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

Anne Howard - 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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Kristine 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. APOLOGIES

Cr. Connie Boglis OAM is on an approved leave of absence.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-119

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 June 2025, the Special Council Meeting held at 5.45pm, 30 June 2025 and the Special Council Meeting held at 6pm, 30 June 2025, be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. 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, in person or online, feels safe both physical and emotionally.

It's great to see everyone here this evening. I would like to remind everyone in attendance to be respectful of each other and to maintain a civil tone when addressing the meeting.

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.

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at an Ordinary Council meeting must register to do so by submitting their questions before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

Questions that are not lodged by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting will not be accepted, and no questions will be taken from the floor the night of the Meeting.

Responses were provided to the following questions as submitted for Public Question Time.

John Gorman

1. On page 11 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes of 24 June 2024, there appears to be a recommendation (at paragraph 5(b)) for the "Removal of E-scooter project: \$50,000". Does this refer to the money being used for the e-scooter trial and if so, how did it come to return to the budget?

2. Is Darebin Council aware of Yarra Council reporting in the ABC that its own e-scooter trial ended up costing an estimated \$750,000 in the 2024 financial year? Does Darebin Council expect a trial here to cost no more than \$50,000?

3. What procurement policies or other guidance would Darebin Council have to follow in order to subsidise multinational companies?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your questions, John.

1. Regarding your first question, this was an officer recommendation for Council to note the item had been amended since the draft budget.

The item was amended by Council to “Addition of \$50,000 to commence the E-scooter Trial project in 2025” and adopted as part of the 2024/25 Annual Budget. \$50,000 was spent on planning work for the trial.

2. The City of Yarra’s circumstances are unique and involve an ongoing VCAT case. The publicly reported costs of their e-scooter trial do not reflect the information we’ve obtained regarding typical expenditure for shared e-scooter trials in Victoria.

Council is not procuring e-scooters for the trial. They are owned and operated by private companies who pay a daily fee to Council.

The following individuals submitted questions relating to the protection of significant trees in Darebin: Margaret Flierman, Louisa Lim, Cathy Dodson, Rebecca Hart, Gavin Ashley, Jill Robertson, Marie Geary, Melanie Del Monaco, and Annette Kalkbrenner.

- **Matthew Piper**

1. Can Council please explain why nature strip trees are not getting protected during construction with tree protection zones?

A recent audit of around 30 sites found that over 95% of sites were not compliant, how many fines have been issued in the last 12 months for sites not having tree protection zones?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

Thank you for the many questions on Tree Protection and the feedback from several people seeking stronger tree protection controls. I will respond to all the questions in one answer. The main way significant trees on Private Property in Darebin are protected is under the Tree Protection on Private Property Local Law. This applies to all trees over 8 metres in height with a trunk more than 1 metre around when measured at 1.4 metres above ground level. Tree removal is considered a last resort.

Decisions regarding tree removal permits consider:

- Risks or damage to people or property, including considering the health, structural integrity and age of a tree.
- Environmental and amenity impacts of loss of a tree, and
- Needs of a landowner
- Feasibility of other options such as pruning

The main advantage of the local law is it applies to all trees. This was brought in to protect trees in 2019 after the need for stronger rules was identified in the 2013 Urban Forest Strategy, although at the time the strategy suggested a significant tree register. Instead, our local law defines what a significant tree is.

The local law uses notices and fines, it does not use the same methodology as City of Melbourne; flood risk is considered at a city-wide level not at an individual tree level, as the structural safety considerations are more significant.

Some properties also need planning permits, and/or or Asset Protection Permit for trees on the nature strip. In these cases, builders have to put up temporary fencing to protect nature strip trees. Authorised officers do at least two inspections during works.

Since 2019, Council has received 716 applications for Tree Protection Permits of which 523 permits have been approved. Council is continuing to work on ways to strengthen tree protection.

Council has steadily increased tree canopy on public land. Approximately 13,500 trees were planted in parks and streets over the last 6 years. Canopy cover on public land increased from 13.8% in 2018 and by end 2023-24 to 18.5% and is continuing to grow. Council used new methodology to calculate this in 2023-24, which is suitable for the job but better value for money. What we don't have is an update of the canopy cover on private property. We understand overall canopy cover is decreasing as the density of housing is increasing.

- **Flis Marlowe**

1. Would Council consider joining the Rainbow Cities Network?
2. Will Council continue the trans and gender diverse swim nights at Reservoir Leisure Centre?
3. What amount of funding will be provided to implement the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan after it is adopted by Council in November?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thanks for the question Flis.

Consultation and engagement activities to develop the LGBTIQA+ action plan have shown that the community is aware of the benefits and opportunities of Council's involvement in a range of partnerships, advocacy and networks to support LGBTIQA+ people, their allies and their support systems.

Consideration of Council's membership and investment in networks and partnerships will be made during the next stage of the LGBTIQA+ action plan development.

Response From General Manager Community

Thank you for your questions, Flis

In regard to trans and gender diverse swim nights at Reservoir Leisure Centre, Council recognises these swim nights were valued by our community, and we are eager to see them recommence at RLC. Officers are currently working towards restarting these during the upcoming summer season.

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Council's LGBTQIA+ action plan is currently under development. Consultation and engagement activities are in the final stages to understand the needs, aspirations and opportunities that could form actions within the plan.

The plan will be a whole-of-organisation plan and have actions delivered by various Council services. Once the draft actions have been prioritised and costed, Council will consider the funding allocation to deliver the plan.

An annual budget of \$40,000 has been allocated to the LGBTIQA+ action plan delivery that will be used for selected actions from the plan.

The total funding allocation across the whole plan will be understood when the LGBTIQA+ action plan is adopted.

- **Ben Hjorth**

This question is directed to Councillors (as a whole), rather than Council officers. In the wake of the tragic passing of former Councillor Greco, which I know touched many of us very deeply including Councillors and Council staff, what steps is Council taking, planning or considering, to memorialise his legacy in Darebin, and to continue the crucial intercultural, community-focussed work of which his career in the City of Darebin was such a shining example?

Response From Mayor Olaris OAM

Thank you for the question, Ben.

On Saturday 5 July, many Councillors and officers joined Cr Greco's family and friends at Northcote Town Hall to celebrate the life and contribution of Cr Greco.

The planning for this large community event was led by Cr Greco's family and Council was pleased to support their wishes.

Councillors are aware that there is interest in the community for Council to find a way to further recognise his important contribution to Darebin. We are still coming to terms with Cr Greco's passing and have yet to consider further initiatives.

- **Angus Cook**

1. Was the local community consulted about the approval of a McDonald's restaurant in this location, and if so, what feedback was received?

2. How does Council assess the impact of fast-food chains on the local economy, particularly in areas with a high concentration of small, independent food businesses?

3. What planning considerations were given to traffic, litter, and noise impacts associated with a 24-hour fast-food venue in a residential and retail precinct?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you everyone for your questions about this application.

The application for 323 High Street was received by Darebin on 2 July 2025 and is under initial assessment.

Council does not own the land. But there is a legal agreement between Council and the owner of the site to provide and maintain a public walkway and toilets.

In assessing the application, Council will consider the matters which are relevant to each of the triggers for the planning permit, as well as the relevant zone, overlay/s and policies within the planning scheme. If the application is advertised, Council will also consider all submitted objections.

It is important to note that the site is within the Commercial 1 Zone, and that no permit is required to use land for a convenience restaurant. In other words, the use of the land is as-of-right.

A decision on the application is still some months away.

Thank you to Salar Tavakoli Manshadi who also submitted questions regarding this topic.

- **Angela Denton**

1. If it takes three business days to respond to an “urgent” parking compliance matter, how long does it take for officers to respond to a non-urgent parking compliance complaint?

Residents in Oldis Avenue who are only entitled to one parking permit because they have off street parking have been issued with, and are using, year long temporary visitor permits for ongoing residential parking.

2. Can council clarify the use of temporary visitor parking permits. Why did council issue a year long temporary visitors permit and is this an ongoing new type of parking permit?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your questions, Angela

1. The service level for actioning reports of illegal parking is 3 business days.
2. Council endorsed an update to the Parking Permit Policy in November 2023.

When the updated policy was endorsed, there were changes to:

- Permit types
- which properties are eligible for permits and
- how many permits eligible properties can access.

The decision of Council also allowed the use of transferrable resident permits until visitor permits are made available.

We haven't made the short-term visitor permits available yet, so the year-long transferrable permits are still in use. These transferrable permits can be used by residents for their own cars or for their visitors.

- **Darren Tides**

Can the Council please explain why these particular clubs have received funding over others with more urgent needs, and how these decisions were made?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

I understand this question to be partly a comment about the budget decision.

Every year Council receives many more requests for improvements than it can fund, and it needs to make difficult choices about what to prioritise.

In making these decisions, it considers community feedback, the condition of grounds, the age of facilities, and where population growth is expected amongst other things. In regard to both the initiatives you've mentioned in the information you sent in, Council received community submissions when it was consulting community on its budget, and this was considered in its decision.

We are keen to work well with all clubs. An officer will reach out to you this week to discuss.

- **Manuel Goncalves**

1. Why doesn't council allow me to take photo evidence of OHS issues, when council claims that WorkSafe found me to be wrong every time?

Response From General Manager

Thank you for your question, Manuel.

We've tried to reach out to you today to clarify the question as we're not entirely sure if we've understood it correctly. We'll take a look at the details when we've received further information. It's generally helpful when residents send photos and we are very happy to continue to receive them.

- **John Nugent**

Mayor, could you please advise, why the new subsidy performance policy was not introduced to Council in June 2025 when promised by then General Manager in the Council meeting on 16/12/24

1. Does this mean small junior clubs and disability clubs who cannot meet the criteria will be disadvantaged again this financial year?

2. Mayor could you please advise why grounds such as Pitcher reserve, McDonnell Park and Moore park on the same rating as Donath west reserve grounds, have a good healthy covering of grass all over them, while Donath west grounds doesn't have?

3. Mayor, now that the NFNL have vacated the Preston City Oval will this Council look after the shoppers, residents and shop owners with the parking at the Preston Market.

Response From General Manager Community

1. Thank you for your question, John.

As advised at the 16 December 2024 Council Meeting, on 29 April 2024, Council endorsed the continuation of the current Performance Subsidy Program and a wholistic review of the Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy in 2025. In preparation for this wholistic review, we have undertaken a survey of clubs.

I can also reconfirm; junior clubs are eligible to participate in the current Performance Subsidy Program which does have a criteria relating to junior teams and encouraging and rewarding participation by people with a disability.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

2. Thank you for your question regarding the condition at Donath Reserve.

The grounds are recovering well from some issues over summer. At Donath West, two irrigation failures occurred over summer - a pump failure and a mainline blowout near the pavilion.

To help the turf recover, we've irrigated, aerated and fertilised the ground.

We're pleased with the progress and expect it to continue to recover to its normal standard.

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

3. Preston Market management control what parking restrictions are used at the Preston Market site. Council does not get involved in compensation when market conditions change, including when organisations move venues.

- **Matthew Zammit**

1. Now that Darebin City Council has spent the allocated \$50,000 in selecting the sites/locations proposed for the e-scooter trial, what are the locations that have been selected and how can the public access this information?

2. What is the aggregate dollar figure which represents the cost to Darebin City Council for all legal fees, disbursements, arbitrated awards, and other settlements (to individuals or body corporates) in relation to all legal advice, proceedings, legal matters or complaints involving Darebin City Council for the 2024-25 financial year?

3. What internal actions will Darebin City Council be taking in light of the recently published decision of the FWC which made a finding of unfair dismissal against Darebin City Council - how will costly outcomes and reputational damage such as this be prevented in future?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Prior to installing any physical dedicated bays for the e-scooter trial, nearby properties and business will be engaged for consultation. This is scheduled to occur through September. Once this work is completed, further information will be released about the parking bay locations.

Response From General Manager Customer and Corporate

Thanks for your questions.

2. To provide transparency of legal costs they are reported at the aggregate level in our annual report.

We are still in the process of closing off the 24/25 financial year so we don't have the figure finalised, but you will be able to refer to it in the annual report when published.

3. While we do not comment on individual employment matters, Council remains committed to maintaining robust and fair processes in all employment-related decisions. Council will review the FWC's findings to inform our continuous improvement processes.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION - PROTECT TWO SIGNIFICANT TREES AT 148 BALLANTYNE ST THORNBURY, AND IMPROVE DAREBIN COUNCIL'S TREE PROTECTION POLICIES

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-120

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That the petition: "Protect Two Significant Trees at 148 Ballantyne St Thornbury, and Improve Darebin Council's Tree Protection Policies" which reads as follows:

"We call on Darebin City Council to take immediate action to protect two large, significant native trees (Eucalyptus cladocalyx) located at 148 Ballantyne Street, Thornbury. These trees have trunk girths of approximately 3.7 metres and 3.9 metres, qualifying them as significant under Darebin's Private Tree Protection policy. Their ecological, environmental, aesthetic and community values are substantial and irreplaceable. These mature native trees:

- *Support local biodiversity and provide essential habitat for wildlife*
- *Offer urban heat mitigation and help manage stormwater runoff in this flood prone area*
- *Contribute to neighbourhood character, amenity, and heritage value;*
- *Embody the community's connection to nature and our urban forest*

We are deeply concerned that the trees are at imminent risk with an application for their removal already lodged. We believe this sets a dangerous precedent. In light of this, we respectfully demand that Darebin Council:

- (1) *Immediately commission Independent ecological, heritage, and arboricultural assessments of the trees at 148 Ballantyne St and share these findings.*
- (2) *Ensure that any removal application is paused until a fully independent ecological, heritage and arboricultural assessment has been undertaken.*
- (3) *Ensure any application process undergoes a transparent, evidence-based assessment, with public visibility and community consultation.*
- (4) *Investigate opportunities for Darebin Council, Melbourne Water or other entities to acquire the land to enable the protection of the trees, and possible creation of pocket park connected to the Bracken Avenue Open Space corridor.*
- (5) *Review Darebin's current tree protection policies and planning requirements to ensure they are robust, effective and enforced consistently across the municipality. We urge Darebin to look at stronger planning controls and tree protection mechanisms like those adopted by Moonee Valley and Boroondara councils, together with the establishment of a Significant Tree Register for this City.*
- (6) *Treat removal of significant trees only as a last resort after all other options have been fully exhausted.*

This is not just about two trees. This is about preserving our urban forest, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining community trust in the Council's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

We urge the Darebin Council to act decisively and uphold its obligations to protect trees of significance and the values they represent."

be tabled and referred to the CEO for consideration and response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Melanie Del Monaco, as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.1.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP - 2 WINGROVE ST, ALPHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) for the site at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, a location of high community interest and strategic importance. The CRG will enable community and stakeholder voices to be meaningfully represented through the planning and development stages for the site.

Given the complexity of the site and interest in it, it is essential to establish clear guiding principles for any future representative group. These principles will help ensure transparency, inclusivity, and effectiveness in community engagement.

A range of engagement models and options have been considered. Following this review, the recommended approach is to form a CRG that aligns with key project milestones, enabling timely and relevant input from a broad cross-section of the community.

Key features of the proposed CRG include:

- Broad representation to reflect the diversity of community interests and perspectives.
- Structured engagement aligned with project phases to maximise relevance and impact.
- Guiding principles to support respectful dialogue, shared understanding, and collaborative problem-solving.

The CRG will provide a platform for ongoing dialogue between Council, stakeholders, and the community, helping to shape outcomes that reflect shared values and priorities. Its establishment aims to build trust and work towards the long-term success of the 2 Wingrove Street site.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) for 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to support inclusive and transparent engagement.
- (2) Endorses the proposed community and stakeholder working group model for the CRG as described in this report, including the purpose, selection criteria, membership composition, and duration.
- (3) Authorises the CEO (or delegate) to commence the expression of interest process for CRG members and to progress implementation.
- (4) Notes that the opportunity to participate in the CRG will be promoted widely to the local community including via a range of active local community networks and via letter to local residents and businesses.
- (5) Notes that a report is scheduled for the November 2025 Council Meeting to provide an update on community engagement activities, feasibility study outcomes, and the establishment of the CRG for 2 Wingrove St.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) **consisting of 12-15 members** for 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to support inclusive and transparent engagement.
- (2) **The recruitment of members to the CRG should occur in the following manner:**
 - a. **Invitations to be extended to each of the following under the following categories:**
 - i. **Nearby businesses – as follows:**
 - Reground,
 - Circuiti,
 - Sporadical City Mushrooms, and
 - Fabrication, Design and Creation (FDC).
 - ii. **Key interest/community groups - as follows**
 - Alphington Commons,
 - Melbourne Farmers Market, and
 - Alphington Community Centre.
 - iii. **Individuals/organisations with relevant skills and interests, - as follows:**
 - Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC),
 - Friends of Darebin Parklands, and
 - Village Power.
 - b. **An invitation will be extended to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to participate in the CRG, and also to identify how to best engage with them throughout the project.**
 - c. **Following acceptance (or otherwise) of invitations for roles on the CRG, the number of remaining roles will be determined (up to 15). Council will call for applications to fill these via an open Expression of Interest process open to anyone (eg, resident, business or community organisations). Evaluation of applications will be in line with the selection process outlined in the Council report.**
- (3) Endorses the proposed community and stakeholder working group model for the CRG as described in this report **with amendments to reflect point (2) above**, including the purpose, selection criteria, membership composition, and duration.
- (4) Authorises the CEO (or delegate) to commence the expression of interest process for CRG members and to progress implementation, **including finalising appointments to the CRG, noting point (2) above.**
- (5) Notes that a report is scheduled for the November 2025 Council Meeting to provide an update on community engagement activities, feasibility study outcomes, and the establishment of the CRG for 2 Wingrove St.

Cr Jelley proposed the following amendments to point (2) a. of the motion which were not accepted by the mover and seconder:

(2) The recruitment of members to the CRG should occur in the following manner:

- a. Invitations to be extended to each of the following to nominate one representative for each of the following categories under the following categories from each of to represent each of the following categories:
 - i. Nearby businesses – as follows invitations to be extended to:
 - Reground,
 - Circuiti,
 - Sporadical City Mushrooms, and
 - Fabrication, Design and Creation (FDC).
 - ii. Key interest/community groups - as follows invitations to be extended to
 - Alphington Commons,
 - Melbourne Farmers Market, and
 - Alphington Community Centre.
 - iii. Individuals/organisations with relevant skills and interests, - as follows invitations to be extended to:
 - Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC),
 - Friends of Darebin Parklands, and
 - Village Power.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) consisting of 12-15 members for 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to support inclusive and transparent engagement.
- (2) **The recruitment of members to the CRG should occur in the following manner:**
 - a. **Invitations to be extended to each of the following to nominate one representative for each of the following categories under the following categories from each of to represent each of the following categories:**
 - i. Nearby businesses – as follows **invitations to be extended to:**
 - Reground,
 - Circuiti,
 - Sporadical City Mushrooms, and
 - Fabrication, Design and Creation (FDC);
 - ii. Key interest/community groups - as follows **invitations to be extended to**
 - Alphington Commons,
 - Melbourne Farmers Market, and

- Alphington Community Centre;
 - iii. Individuals/organisations with relevant skills and interests, - as follows
invitations to be extended to:
 - Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC),
 - Friends of Darebin Parklands, and
 - Village Power.
 - b. An invitation will be extended to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to participate in the CRG, and also to identify how to best engage with them throughout the project.
 - c. Following acceptance (or otherwise) of invitations for roles on the CRG, the number of remaining roles will be determined (up to 15). Council will call for applications to fill these via an open Expression of Interest process open to anyone (eg, resident, business or community organisations). Evaluation of applications will be in line with the selection process outlined in the Council report.
- (3) Endorses the proposed community and stakeholder working group model for the CRG as described in this report with amendments to reflect point (1) above, including the purpose, selection criteria, membership composition, and duration.
- (4) Authorises the CEO (or delegate) to commence the expression of interest process for CRG members and to progress implementation, including finalising appointments to the CRG, noting point (1) above.
- (5) Notes that a report is scheduled for the November 2025 Council Meeting to provide an update on community engagement activities, feasibility study outcomes, and the establishment of the CRG for 2 Wingrove St.

LOST

For

Cr. Ruth Jelley

Cr. Julie O'Brien

Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Against

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Matt Arturi

Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-121

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) consisting of 12-15 members for 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to support inclusive and transparent engagement.
- (2) The recruitment of members to the CRG should occur in the following manner:
- a. Invitations to be extended to each of the following under the following categories:

- i. Nearby businesses – as follows:
 - Reground,
 - Circuiti,
 - Sporadical City Mushrooms, and
 - Fabrication, Design and Creation (FDC);
 - ii. Key interest/community groups - as follows
 - Alphington Commons,
 - Melbourne Farmers Market, and
 - Alphington Community Centre;
 - iii. Individuals/organisations with relevant skills and interests, - as follows:
 - Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC),
 - Friends of Darebin Parklands, and
 - Village Power.
- b. An invitation will be extended to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to participate in the CRG, and also to identify how to best engage with them throughout the project.
 - c. Following acceptance (or otherwise) of invitations for roles on the CRG, the number of remaining roles will be determined (up to 15). Council will call for applications to fill these via an open Expression of Interest process open to anyone (e.g. resident, business or community organisations). Evaluation of applications will be in line with the selection process outlined in the Council report.
- (3) Endorses the proposed community and stakeholder working group model for the CRG as described in this report with amendments to reflect point (2) above, including the purpose, selection criteria, membership composition, and duration.
 - (4) Authorises the CEO (or delegate) to commence the expression of interest process for CRG members and to progress implementation, including finalising appointments to the CRG, noting point (2) above.
 - (5) Notes that a report is scheduled for the November 2025 Council Meeting to provide an update on community engagement activities, feasibility study outcomes, and the establishment of the CRG for 2 Wingrove St

CARRIEDFor

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Matt Arturi

Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Against

Cr. Julie O'Brien

Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Abstained

Cr. Ruth Jelley

9.2

**LEASE TO ACACIA ENERGY - NEIGHBOURHOOD
BATTERY AT 2 WINGROVE STREET ALPHINGTON****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to grant a new lease to Acacia Energy, (as commercial partner to Village Power), for the installation of a neighbourhood battery at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington (**Attachment A - Site Plans - Neighbourhood Battery and Licensed Areas**).

On 16 December 2024, Council resolved to approve in principle a commercial lease with Flow Power for a period of 9 years at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington. Flow Power were to be the commercial partner (on behalf of Village Power) taking on ownership and insurance of the battery.

In February 2025, Flow Power informed Village Power that it would no longer be involved in the project. In April 2025, Village Power appointed Acacia Energy - to take on ownership and insurance of the battery, in the place of Flow Power.

Acacia Energy will operate the community battery using a commercial model which aims to stabilise and maximise the commercial return. The operating profit will be available to share with local energy consumers. Subscribers will be able to remain with their current electricity provider under the Acacia Energy agreement.

Acacia Energy will pay Village Power a fixed proportion of the operating profit of the battery on a quarterly basis. Village Power will use part of this funding to make payments to subscribers as an incentive for changing their electricity consumption behaviour.

This incentive mechanism replaces the previous retailer Flow Power's approach and is underpinned by Village Power's ability to influence residents to change their behaviours associated with energy consumption.

This new subscription model will be known as the 100% Local Renewable Energy (LRE) Program as outlined below.

The proposed Council lease would be conditional upon DEECA approval of the commercial partnership between Acacia and Village Power.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-122**

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes that Flow Power withdrew from its partnership arrangement with Village Power with respect to the ownership and operation of the community battery at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington.
- (2) Grants a new lease to Acacia Energy to occupy part of Council's land located at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, for the establishment of the community battery in partnership with Village Power. The lease will be drafted to include the following key terms and conditions:
 - a) Initial Lease term of 9 years with no option for a further term.

- b) Reasonable Market Rental Value as determined by Council's valuer.
 - c) Rent increases: 3% per annum.
 - d) Lease Area – Approximately 15 square metres.
 - e) Break Date – Council will have the right to terminate the lease at any time after six years from the commencement date of the lease at no penalty to Council.
 - f) Community benefit reporting – Village Power to provide Council with annual reports on the benefit this battery installation is providing to the community and the environment. Lease conditions to incorporate this obligation.
 - g) All parties to be responsible for their own Legal Fees.
- (3) Notes there is no requirement for community consultation to establish a lease for Council property in accordance with *Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020*.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and finalise all other terms and conditions of the lease.
- (5) Notes that Acacia Energy intends to deliver the battery and have it operational by a date no later than June 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3

**ADOPTION OF COUNCILLOR SUPPORT AND EXPENSES
POLICY 2025****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Pursuant to section 41 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) Council is required to adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees.

The current 'Councillor Support and Expenses Policy' (the Policy) was adopted on 28 June 2021, with a requirement that the policy be reviewed within 12 months of each general election unless the Council determines that an earlier review is required.

Officer Recommendation

That Council adopts the 'Councillor Support and Expenses Policy 2025' attached at **Appendix A** to this report.

**Revised Officer
Recommendation**

That Council adopts the 'Councillor Support and Expenses Policy 2025' attached at Appendix A to this report, **with the following amendment to Point 18.1.1 of the policy:**

- (a) **Replace the paragraph "Councillor Conduct Expenses (where Council has supported the facilitation of a mediation or arbitration process) will be reported as a total Council figure per quarter" with "Councillor Conduct expenses to support working relationships between Councillors, including but not limited to mediation and arbitration, will be reported as a total Council figure per quarter".**

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-123**

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council adopts the 'Councillor Support and Expenses Policy 2025' attached at Appendix A to this report, with the following amendment to Point 18.1.1 of the policy:

- (a) Replace the paragraph "Councillor Conduct Expenses (where Council has supported the facilitation of a mediation or arbitration process) will be reported as a total Council figure per quarter" with "Councillor Conduct expenses to support working relationships between Councillors, including but not limited to mediation and arbitration, will be reported as a total Council figure per quarter".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4

GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 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.
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held 23 June 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- 2024-25 - Q4 Councillor Expenses (**Appendix C**).
- Minor amendment to the Election Advertising Signage and Electioneering Policy (**Appendix D**).
- Extension of Independent Audit and Risk Committee Member.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 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.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the Councillor Expenses for Quarter 4 FY 2024/25 - 1 April – 30 June 2025 (**Appendix C**).
- (6) Approves the Election Advertising Signage and Electioneering Policy (**Appendix D**) to achieve consistency with the Darebin Community Amenity Local Law and notes that this supersedes previous versions of this policy.
- (7) Endorses the extension of the appointment of Jonathan Kyvelidis as an independent member on Council's Audit and Risk Committee to June 2028.

Revised Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 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.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (Appendix B).

- (5) Notes the Councillor Expenses for Quarter 4 FY 2024/25 - 1 April – 30 June 2025 (Appendix C).
- (6) **Defers until after the by-election, the approval of** ~~Approves~~ the Election Advertising Signage and Electioneering Policy (Appendix D) to achieve consistency with the Darebin Community Amenity Local Law and notes that this supersedes previous versions of this policy.
- (7) Endorses the extension of the appointment of Jonathan Kyvelidis as an independent member on Council's Audit and Risk Committee to June 2028.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-124

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 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.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (Appendix B).
- (5) Notes the Councillor Expenses for Quarter 4 FY 2024/25 - 1 April – 30 June 2025 (Appendix C).
- (6) Defers until after the by-election, the approval of the Election Advertising Signage and Electioneering Policy (Appendix D) to achieve consistency with the Darebin Community Amenity Local Law and notes that this supersedes previous versions of this policy.
- (7) Endorses the extension of the appointment of Jonathan Kyvelidis as an independent member on Council's Audit and Risk Committee to June 2028.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 28 JULY 2025**REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS MAYOR**

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

- Monday, 23 June
 - Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 24 June – Friday, 27 June
 - Australian Local Government Association Conference
- Wednesday, 25 June
 - Darebin Audit & Risk Committee Meeting (online)
- Sunday, 29 June
- Monday, 30 June
 - Special Council Meeting
 - Special Council Meeting - Budget and Council plan
- Tuesday, 1 July
 - Exploring Women's Health Through a Feminist Lens – at Darebin Intercultural Centre
- Wednesday, 2 July
 - Briefing: Nathan Lambert MP
 - Briefing for the meeting with Minister Sonya Kilkenny
- Thursday, 3 July
 - Meeting with Northern Bullants President Neil Howard and Board member Aggie Vlahos
 - Mayor & CEO Meeting
 - Meeting with Minister Sonya Kilkenny
- Saturday, 5 July
 - Fitzroy Stars Football and Netball Club NAIDOC week celebrations
 - Darebin Basketball Association - BigV Indigenous Youth League Round in partnership with Red Dust Healers
- Monday, 7 July
 - Mayor & CEO Meeting
 - Ged Kearney MP Briefing
 - Councillor Briefing Session

- **Tuesday, 8 July**
 - Meeting with Ged Kearney MP
 - Executive Coaching
 - Darebin Libraries Extra Access comms video - FILMING
- **Wednesday, 9 July**
 - Victoria Police Chief Commissioner NAIDOC Lunch 2025
- **Thursday, 10 July**
 - Aboriginal Housing Victoria's NAIDOC family day
 - Meeting with Nathan Lambert MP
 - Mayor and CEO Meeting
- **Friday, 11 July**
 - Launch of Quest Connect - Bridge Darebin's new community service
 - Vic NAIDOC MARCH
- **Monday, 14 July**
 - Councillor Briefing Session
 - Planning Committee Meeting
- **Tuesday, 15 July**
 - Darebin Community Award Briefing
- **Wednesday, 16 July**
 - Darebin Community Awards Selection Committee Meeting
- **Thursday, 17 July**
 - Interview re Bridge Darebin's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan
 - Filming with Mayor for Northern Councils Alliance
- **Friday, 18 July**
 - Mayor and CEO Meeting
 - Mayor and Cr Jelley Meeting
- **Saturday, 19 July**
 - Darebin Falcons VFL Game
 - Northside Lions Masters FC Indigenous Round
- **Monday, 21 July**
 - Mayor and CEO Meeting

- Councillor Briefing Session
- Tuesday, 22 July
 - Northland Meeting with Darebin CEO, Simon and Barnaby from Vicinity
 - DIVRS interview re DIVRS's strategic planning
- Thursday, 24 July
 - Northern Councils Alliance – Mayor and CEO Meeting
 - Dysons Bundoora Depot Electrification Launch
- Friday, 25 July
 - Monthly meeting with Cr O'Brien
- Saturday, 26 July
 - Open House Melbourne at BHAC
- Sunday, 27 July
 - Ladies day at Northern Bullants FC

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS DEPUTY MAYOR

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

- Ordinary Council meeting
- Councillor briefings
- Special Council meetings
- Planning meeting
- Meeting with CEO
- Cr Gaetano Greco's Celebration of Life at Northcote Town Hall
- Indigenous Youth League Round – wheelchair basketball at Narrandjeri Stadium in Thornbury
- Fairfield Traders meeting
- Alphington Fairfield Civic Association meeting
- Attended Circus Nexus in Thornbury
- Meeting with local residents about installation of a basketball ring at Rubie Thomson Reserve in Northcote
- Northern Bullants Football Club Ladies Day celebration at Genis Steel Oval, Preston

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

- 23/7 - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 24/7 to 27/7 - Australian Local Government Association National Congress
- 30/6 - Special Council Meeting
- 30/6 - Special Council Meeting (Budget)
- 5/7 - NAIDOC Week Lunch at Fitzroy Stars FC
- 5/7 - Cr Greco Memorial
- 7/7 - Councillor Briefing
- 14/7 - Councillor Briefing
- 14/7 - planning committee meeting
- 17/7 - meeting with North West Italian seniors club
- 17/7 - DECC meeting
- 21/7 - Meeting with Anne Howard (CEO)
- 21/7 - Councillor Briefing

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

Cr. Boglis did not submit an activity report.

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

- Special Council meeting, 30 June
- Councillor briefings: 7 July, 14 July & 21 July
- Planning Committee 14 July

Committee meetings as Darebin Council representative

- Metropolitan Transport Forum:
 - Ambassadors catch-up 30 June
 - July meeting, 2 July

Events attended as Councillor:

- QUESTConnect launch, Bridge Darebin 11 July

Other meetings

- Meeting with CEO Anne Howard 14 July
- Meeting with Mayor Olaris 18 July

- Meeting with constituents 18 July, 28 July
- Climate Emergency Australia AGM 22 July

Other:

- Various correspondence with residents

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

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

- Special Council Meeting - 30-Jun – Council Plan & Budget Finalisation
- Councillor Briefing Meetings x 2
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Meeting with the Mayor
- Meeting with Manager, Climate & Equity
- Meeting with Board Members of Original Eumundi Markets
- Attending Climate Emergency Australia AGM
- Participating in Merri Creek Management Committee/City of Yarra National Tree Day planting event
- Reading and analysis of papers for all meetings, briefings, training etc.
- Contact (in person/online) with residents on various matters including:
 - Community concerns about McDonalds planning application
 - Residential planning processes (various)
 - Local business dumping/illegally parking cars
 - House numbering issue
 - Significant tree protection
 - Private EV charging options
 - Maintenance of retaining wall in laneway
 - Car parking permits and enforcement (various)

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- Attended all council briefings and meetings.
- Corresponded with residents and community members via phone, email and in person.
- Attended and given a speech at the Citizenship ceremony.
- Met with Merri Merri Way to help organise the community day.
- Attended Tree Planting Event.
- Attended Project launch at Bridge.

- Attended Service of Lament for Victims of suicide bombing in Syria at St George Cathedral.
- Attended Flag Raising for NAIDOC Week at the Aboriginal Advancement League.

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

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

- 24 June 2025 - Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force
- 25-27 June 2025 – Australian Local Government Association National Congress
- 25 June 2025 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 30 June 2025 – Special Council Meeting
- 30 June 2025 – Special Council Meeting (Budget)
- 05 July 2025 – NAIDOC Week Lunch at Fitzroy Stars FC
- 05 July 2025 – Cr Greco's Memorial
- 05 July 2025 – Indigenous Youth League Round – Wheelchair Basketball at Narrandjeri Stadium
- 7 July 2025 – Councillor Briefing Session
- 14 July 2025 – Councillor Briefing Session
- 14 July 2025 – Planning Committee Meeting
- 21 July 2025 – Councillor Briefing Session
- 26 July 2025 – Open House Preston Reservoir

9.5 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council endorsement to start the first stage of community engagement for developing the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) requires all councils in Victoria to develop a DAMP every four years. A DAMP guides how councils fulfil their obligations as a regulator of domestic animals.

The DAMP must outline Council services, programs and policies needed to address the administration of the Act, and Council's management of cat and dog issues in the community.

Darebin's current DAMP 2022-25 was adopted by Council on the 28 February 2022. A new DAMP must now be prepared.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-125

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

That Council

- (1) Endorses undertaking the first phase of community engagement to inform the draft Darebin Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29.
- (2) Notes that an extension of time will be sought from the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to enable a comprehensive review of the Darebin Domestic Animal Management Plan to be completed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6

**DAREBIN LIBRARIES PROCUREMENT AUSTRALIA
CONTRACT****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Procurement Australia (PA) completed a national public tender (2706/0848) for Library Collections, Furniture, Equipment and Associated Requirements for 2025-29, on behalf of interested organisations, including Darebin City Council.

The tender evaluation report was released on 26 May 2025 and outlines the evaluation process and panel of suppliers Council can engage under the contract. The contract has been awarded by PA to commence from 1 July 2025.

The contract establishes a panel of providers for library services and products. The contract period is from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027, with two 1-year options to extend through to 30 June 2029.

This report recommends Council authorise access to the panel of suppliers and authorises awarding of contracts, as needed, to individual suppliers. Contracts with individual suppliers would be based on the schedule of rates they submitted in the tender. Not all suppliers are expected to be awarded contracts, however, the authorisation provides for any of the suppliers to be awarded a contract allowing flexibility for the best supplier to be selected to meet Council's needs at the time.

Anticipated expenditure through the PA panel contract is up to \$5.96M including GST over four years (capital and operational projected expenditure). The contract does not commit Council to spending a specific amount through these panel arrangements.

7.33pm – Cr. Tsalkos left the meeting.

7.34pm - Cr. Tsalkos returned to the meeting.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-126**

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Resolves to access Procurement Australia contract 2706/0848 to purchase library collection items, furniture and technology equipment and solutions as and when required for the initial two-year contract term (commencing 29 July 2025 to 30 June 2027) with optional extension periods of 2 x 1 year.
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate) to notify Procurement Australia (PA) of Council's formal endorsement to access PA contract 2706/0848 as required.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate) to award an individual contract to any supplier listed in Section 8 of confidential Appendix A, as required, noting that any contracts will be on the basis tendered and in line with the tendered schedule of rates.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate) to perform all roles of the Principal for these contracts including approval of options to extend the contract term for a further 2 x 1 year subject to satisfactory performance of suppliers under Procurement Australia contract 2706/0848.

- (5) Authorises publishing the name of any contractors who are awarded individual contracts appointed from this panel for the provision of these services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7

CT202459 - CONTRACT AWARD BULK FUELS & FUEL CARDS (PA CONTRACT 2703/0110)**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council's approval to opt into the Procurement Australia (PA) contract 2730/0110: Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards contract.

The recommended new contract will replace the previous PA contract 2403-0109 (Council reference CT202225) and CT202137 which expired in March 2025. Council's participation in this contract complies with both Darebin's procurement processes and the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

By opting into the PA contract, Council can join a collective of participating members to aggregate fuel purchases. This collective approach delivers greater economies of scale, resulting in improved operational efficiency and cost savings across the local government sector.

Key benefits of accessing this contract include:

1. Compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Fixed discounted pricing not achievable through a stand-alone tender by Darebin Council.
3. Ongoing support and assistance from Procurement Australia throughout the contract term.
4. Reliable long-term fuel supply to support operational continuity.
5. Enhanced fuel management and improved record-keeping practices.

As the aggregated contract value (including extension options) will exceed operational financial delegation limits, a Council resolution is required to formally award the contract.

Council continues to transition its fleet toward electric and hybrid vehicles to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, with a long-term goal of achieving a fully fossil-free fleet. In the interim, fuel remains necessary to support core operations. It is important to note that Council offsets all fuel-related emissions and maintains a carbon-neutral status.

Subject to Council endorsement, the new contract would commence on 1 September 2025, or earlier, pending formal adoption.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses Procurement Australia (PA) Contract 2730/0110 (Darebin reference No. CT202459) 'Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards' and awards contracts for the following supply categories and suppliers for the initial term ending 31 March 2027 with optional extension periods of 2 x 1 - year – noting the use of these suppliers is not based on minimum volume or minimum fleet number requirements:
 - a. Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Deliverables: _____ Pty Ltd as primary supplier of Bulk Fuel.
 - b. Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Deliverables: _____

Pty Ltd and _____ Pty Ltd as secondary suppliers of Bulk Fuel in the event that the primary supplier is unable to fulfill its operational requirements or provide satisfactory performance.

- c. Category 2.1 – Multi Branded Fuels Cards: _____
Pty Ltd and _____ Pty Ltd, as primary suppliers of Fuel Cards.
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to formally notify Procurement Australia (PA) and contracted suppliers, to opt into and utilise the PA contract 2703/0110 as required.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review and approve options for the 2 x 1-year optional extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and operational requirements.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review and approve pricing variations arising due to fluctuations in international oil pricing during the contract term including optional extension terms exercised by Council.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses Procurement Australia (PA) Contract 2730/0110 (Darebin reference No. CT202459) 'Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards' and awards contracts for the following supply categories and suppliers for the initial term ending 31 March 2027 with optional extension periods of 2 x 1 – year – noting the use of these suppliers is not based on minimum volume or minimum fleet number requirements:
- a) Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Deliverables: **Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd** as primary supplier of Bulk Fuel.
- b) Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Deliverables: **Pacific Fuel Solutions Vic Pty Ltd** and **Business Fuel Cards Pty Ltd** as secondary suppliers of Bulk Fuel in the event that the primary supplier is unable to fulfill its operational requirements or provide satisfactory performance.
- c) Category 2.1 – Multi Branded Fuels Cards: **Business Fuel Solutions Pty Ltd** and **Chevron Australia Downstream Fuels Pty Ltd**, as primary suppliers of Fuel Cards.
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to formally notify Procurement Australia (PA) and contracted suppliers, to opt into and utilise the PA contract 2703/0110 as required.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review and approve options for the 2 x 1-year optional extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and operational requirements.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review and approve pricing variations arising due to fluctuations in international oil pricing during the contract term including optional extension terms exercised by Council.

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-127****MOVED: Cr. A Sangster****SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses Procurement Australia (PA) Contract 2730/0110 (Darebin reference No. CT202459) 'Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards' and awards contracts for the following supply categories and suppliers for the initial term ending 31 March 2027 with optional extension periods of 2 x 1 – year – noting the use of these suppliers is not based on minimum volume or minimum fleet number requirements:
 - a) Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Deliverables: Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd as primary supplier of Bulk Fuel.
 - b) Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Deliverables: Pacific Fuel Solutions Vic Pty Ltd and Business Fuel Cards Pty Ltd as secondary suppliers of Bulk Fuel in the event that the primary supplier is unable to fulfill its operational requirements or provide satisfactory performance.
 - c) Category 2.1 – Multi Branded Fuels Cards: Business Fuel Solutions Pty Ltd and Chevron Australia Downstream Fuels Pty Ltd, as primary suppliers of Fuel Cards.
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to formally notify Procurement Australia (PA) and contracted suppliers, to opt into and utilise the PA contract 2703/0110 as required.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review and approve options for the 2 x 1-year optional extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and operational requirements.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review and approve pricing variations arising due to fluctuations in international oil pricing during the contract term including optional extension terms exercised by Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT 80TH ANNIVERSARIES OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 28 July 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council

- a) *Acknowledges the 80th anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th, 1945. We honour the 210,000+ victims of these attacks, and the Hibakusha and Hibaku Nisei who continue to live with the legacy of nuclear weapons.*
 - b) *Notes that any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.*
 - c) *Notes that Darebin is the home of Nobel Peace Prize winners Dimity Hawkins and Dave Sweeney. The organisation they co-founded in 2006, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and we recognise their ongoing contribution to the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.*
 - d) *Notes the contribution of Yankunytjatjara Elder Yami Lester, recognised in the mural on the side of the Preston Library, whose activism against nuclear testing was an inspiration and call to action for the ICAN co-founders.*
 - e) *Notes the Darebin communities deep historical commitment to standing up to the international threat that Nuclear weapons pose and to renew our commitment to this stand -to ensure that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat*
 - f) *Calls on the Federal Government to sign and ratify the international campaign.*
-

Rational:

By acknowledging the 80th anniversary we are honouring the memory of the victims, reaffirming our commitment to peace and nuclear disarmament and standing in solidarity with global movement working to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated. Peace is both a local and global issue and Local Government can play a role in shaping and guiding the values of our community. This motion asks us to reflect on the past in order to ensure that we do not repeat the horror of nuclear war in the future.

Notice Received: 8 July 2025

Notice Given to Councillors 8 July 2025

Date of Meeting: 28 July 2025

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-128**MOVED: Cr. A Sangster****SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi****That Council,**

- a) Acknowledges the 80th anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th, 1945. We honour the 210,000+ victims of these attacks, and the Hibakusha and Hibaku Nisei who continue to live with the legacy of nuclear weapons.
- b) Notes that any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.
- c) Notes that Darebin is the home of Nobel Peace Prize winners Dimity Hawkins and Dave Sweeney. The organisation they co-founded in 2006, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and we recognise their ongoing contribution to the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.
- d) Notes the contribution of Yankunytjatjara Elder Yami Lester, recognised in the mural on the side of the Preston Library, whose activism against nuclear testing was an inspiration and call to action for the ICAN co-founders.
- e) Notes the Darebin communities deep historical commitment to standing up to the international threat that Nuclear weapons pose and to renew our commitment to this stand -to ensure that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat
- f) Calls on the Federal Government to sign and ratify the international campaign.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

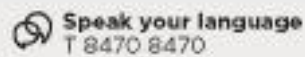
The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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If you are deaf, or have
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