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AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

To be held online on Thursday 1 February 2024 at 6.00pm.

This meeting will be livestreamed and may be accessed from Councils website ww.darebin.vic.gov.au.



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 xiriiir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کا ایجنڈا ہے۔ ایجنڈے کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

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

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Agenda

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

5. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

5.1 DETERMINATION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION OF THE ARBITER IN THE MATTER OF NEWTON & DIMITRIADIS

That in accordance with Section 147(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Arbiter's decision and statement of reasons is to be tabled and will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

This report will be published separately.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

6.1 RESERVOIR LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor: Gaetano GRECO

NoM No.: 01/2024

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes the 2023/24 budget allocated funds for a scoping study which has yet to be completed.*
- (2) *With urgency commits to complete a comprehensive scoping study focusing on the future features of a new rebuilt RLC to achieve the outcomes previously resolved by Council.*
- (3) *Receives a report in March 2024 on:*
 - (a) *High-level costing estimates for different options on a new rebuilt RLC.*
 - (b) *Funding strategy using Council's own sourced funds and external State and Federal government funding.*
 - (c) *Establishing a specific Future Fund for the redevelopment and rebuild of a new RLC in the near future.*
 - (d) *Steps and processes on Council committing to and achieving the building a new RLC in the coming years.*

Notice Received: 25 January 2024

Notice Given to Councillors 25 January 2024

Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024

Attachments

Nil

6.2 AGED CARE ASSESSMENT**Councillor: Gaetano GRECO****NoM No.: 02/2024**

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes with great concern (as highlighted by COAG back in February 2020) the increasing tendency to privatise aged care assessment services due to the recent announcement from the Australian Government about their implementation plans to establish a Single Assessment System for aged care in Australia from 1 July 2024 and the consequential impacts of this reform on publicly run Regional Assessment Services of which Council has been a proud, trusted, and respected provider for many years.*
- (2) *Notes with great concern the streamlined single assessment system for older people but welcomes the new development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assessment service in 2025 and calls on the Commonwealth and State Governments to make sure that the new assessment system does not constrain access for older people to the goods and services they need to age well in their local communities; that the quality and performance of new assessment providers, particularly non - government providers is monitored to make sure that older vulnerable people (CALD, LGBTIQA+, people ageing with disability, and carers, Forgotten Australians) can express their needs, and be matched to the services they need to age well and that the Care Finder program continues to be extended and expanded, to protect access to assessment and aged care for these cohorts.*
- (3) *Immediately writes to the relevant State and Federal Government ministers (with copies to members of parliament covering the Darebin area) to:*
 - a. *Oppose the increasing privatisation of aged care assessment services as highlighted by COAG in February 2020.*
 - b. *Invite Victorian Local Governments to perform a role delivering assessment alongside Aged Care Assessment Teams as part of the Victorian government negotiated arrangements with the Commonwealth to deliver assessments under the new Single Assessment System.*
 - c. *Request, in addition to its negotiated role with the Commonwealth government, that it competes with industry in an open tender AND extends an invitation to local government to participate in the new Single Assessment System.*
- (4) *Immediately writes to with other North West Regional Council (NWRC) partners seeking to form a delegation to advocate that the State Government takes positive action in respect to points 3 a, b and c above.*
- (5) *Acknowledges and thanks Council assessment service staff for their dedication, professionalism, and the high-quality public service they have provided to the Darebin community over a number of years.*

Rationale:

Age care services are increasingly being privatised as Federal, State and Local Governments are vacating the space of providing direct service delivery, including aged care assessment services. This is due to ongoing *market driven reforms* being implemented by the Australian Government which was also highlighted by COAG back in February 2020.

As a consequence of these *market reforms* many local councils have decided to no longer deliver proud, trusted quality aged care or assessment services they once provided to their residents with guaranteed government backed funding.

The federal government’s latest plans to establish a Single Assessment System for aged care in Australia from 1 July 2024 on *market principles* will now force Council’s to commercially compete with a broader pool of private providers in an open market system.

Publicly run Council Regional Assessment Services are therefore under threat of losing their funding to retain their well-respected Age Care Assessment services, should they decide to not compete or are unsuccessful against the commercial bids of large private providers.

Notice Received: 25 January 2024
Notice Given to Councillors 25 January 2024
Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024

Attachments

Nil

6.3 RESERVOIR BOATHOUSE

Councillor: Lina MESSINA

NoM No.: 23/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes its commitment in its 2021-25 Council Plan to activate Edwardes Lake Boat House in Reservoir and that Council has been working towards finding a commercial lease to bring it to life as a venue or business.*
- (2) *Notes that Council has progressed work towards this including planning for works at the site in 2025-26 to make it suitable for an operator by including toilets, air conditioning, plumbing, new windows and doors to the deck, and deck extension.*
- (3) *Notes that in its due diligence work, Council has identified an old covenant on the land that would not allow an operator to serve alcohol. Council is currently seeking to have this removed, however the timeframe for this, and whether the covenantor will ultimately agree to removal is uncertain and not in Council’s control.*
- (4) *Calls for a report about what options Council has for progressing further at this time towards its aim of finding a commercial operator to bring the Boathouse to life as a venue or business, including:*
 - a. *The option of calling for expressions of interest in 2024 for operators of the venue on the basis that they would invest in any necessary works to the building*

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024

Rationale:

Rationale for Elevating Reservoir Boathouse to an Iconic Destination

1. Historic Significance:

Cultural Heritage: The Reservoir Boathouse stands as a testament to the cultural and historical heritage of the area. Elevating it to an iconic destination provides an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the local history, creating a bridge between the past and the present.

2. Potential as a Hub for Leisure:

Idyllic Location: Situated amidst picturesque parklands, the Reservoir Boathouse has the potential to become a hub for leisure and relaxation. Its serene surroundings make it an ideal location for people to dine, unwind, and enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

3. Economic and Social Impact:

Community Hub: Transforming the boathouse into an iconic destination can stimulate economic growth by attracting visitors to the area. This, in turn, can support local businesses and create job opportunities. Additionally, it can become a social hub, fostering community engagement and a sense of togetherness.

4. Overcoming Historical Constraints:

Old Covenant Discovery: The recent discovery of an old covenant has posed a challenge to the progress of improving the boathouse. However, by addressing this hurdle transparently and responsibly, we can demonstrate a commitment to historical preservation while still moving forward with the necessary improvements.

5. Cultural and Culinary Experience:

Dining and Celebration Venue: The Reservoir Boathouse has the potential to be a unique dining destination, offering a blend of culinary delights and cultural experiences. By curating events and celebrations, it can attract people from both the local community and beyond, becoming a sought-after venue for various occasions.

6. Transparency and Accountability:

Ensuring Progress: This report emphasizes the importance of transparency and adherence to due process. By outlining a clear plan and addressing any historical constraints openly, we aim to ensure that the community is well-informed about the efforts being made to bring the boathouse to life.

7. Collaboration for Success:

Community Involvement: Involving the community in the revitalization of the boathouse is crucial. Collaborative efforts, including public consultations and engagement, can generate ideas, garner support, and contribute to the success of the project.

Conclusion:

The Reservoir Boathouse, with its historical significance and idyllic location, holds immense potential to become an iconic destination for dining, leisure, and celebration. Overcoming challenges transparently, fostering community involvement, and highlighting the cultural and economic benefits will ensure the success of this endeavor. By elevating the boathouse to an iconic status, we not only enhance the local landscape but also create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Attachments

Nil

6.4 ECONOMIC FORUM**Councillor: Lina MESSINA****NoM No.: 24/2023**

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Congratulates the attendees on the success of the Economic roundtable discussions and the Economic Forum held on November 30th.*
- (2) *Notes that outputs from the roundtables and forum will be used to inform a new Economic Development strategy for the City of Darebin*
- (3) *Requests that the CEO completes an evaluation report of the Economic roundtable and forum and presents this back to Council as part of the briefings on the new Economic Development strategy with the evaluation report to include:*
 - a. *Analysis of feedback from the events.*
 - b. *An overview of the benefits of continuing a forum for the business community.*
 - c. *An overview of future strategies that could be implemented to strengthen our business community within Darebin.*
- (4) *Thanks staff for their work in conducting the round tables and forum.*

Notice Received: 4 December 2023**Notice Given to Councillors 4 December 2023****Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024****Rationale:**

Establishing economic chamber of commerce for a municipality is crucial for fostering local growth and prosperity. These platforms serve as vital conduits, facilitating collaboration between local businesses, government entities, and community stakeholders. By providing a platform for dialogue, Darebin Council can identify and address economic challenges, formulate strategic plans, and implement policies that promote and foster inclusion, address challenges and bring our business along any engagement process with council.

Furthermore, a platform that includes our business community play a pivotal role in attracting and supporting businesses. Through networking events, workshops, and resource-sharing, they create an environment that nurtures entrepreneurship and innovation. This collaborative approach enhances the overall business climate, encouraging investment and job creation, which, in turn, contributes to the municipality's economic vitality.

This economic chamber of commerce also serve as advocates for businesses, representing their interests in policy discussions and working to remove obstacles to growth. By fostering a symbiotic relationship between the public and private sectors, economic chamber become catalysts for positive change, driving the economic well-being of the municipality and its residents. In essence, they are indispensable in creating a thriving, resilient, and inclusive local economy.

Attachments

Nil

6.5 DAREBIN COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY**Councillor: Lina MESSINA****NoM No.: 25/2023**

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Requests the CEO to provide information via a Council briefing on existing service levels and performance levels for street cleaning, maintenance of greenery, waste collection services, toilet cleaning in parks and civic spaces including the existing schedules and frequency of service provision, to inform Council's consideration of options for funding and improving service levels within the 24/25 Budget development process, including:*
 - a. *Identifying areas where service frequency can be optimised or enhanced cleanliness*
 - b. *Implementing more regular cleaning cycles in high-traffic and sensitive areas*
 - c. *Investigating the feasibility of implementing sustainable practices that contribute to cost reduction*
 - d. *Exploring technological solutions and innovative methods to improve service efficiency and effectiveness*
 - e. *Investigating partnerships with local businesses or community groups for collaborative efforts in street cleanliness projects.*
 - f. *Options within the upcoming review of Local Laws to better manage unsightly, poorly maintained and unhealthy conditions on private property within the municipality.*
 - g. *Identifying possible costs savings that could be achieved to fund the an increase in service levels in these priority areas.*

Notice Received: 4 December 2023**Notice Given to Councillors 4 December 2023****Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024****Rationale**

The rationale behind prioritising effective service delivery, particularly in keeping our streets clean, is deeply rooted in the well-being and cohesion of a community. A clean and well-maintained environment is more than just an aesthetic concern; it directly impacts the quality of life for residents. Clean streets contribute to public health by reducing the risk of diseases, enhancing air and water quality, and fostering a safe and pleasant atmosphere for community members.

Moreover, a commitment to keeping streets clean reflects a sense of civic pride and responsibility. It instils a positive community ethos, encouraging residents to take pride in

their surroundings and actively participate in maintaining a tidy environment. This collective effort not only enhances the physical appearance of the community but also strengthens social bonds, as neighbours work collaboratively towards a common goal.

Clean streets are also integral to economic development. A well-maintained community attracts businesses and investors, creating a positive first impression and contributing to the overall appeal of the area. In essence, it is the basic core of our service delivery, our community expect clean streets. As custodian of rate payers valued monies, cleaning streets is an investment and they expect that the service frequency delivery is effective.

Attachments

Nil

6.6 PLACEMAKING

Councillor: Lina MESSINA

NoM No.: 26/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes that the Council has a number of people on staff who have experience and expertise in placemaking.*
- (2) *Requests the CEO to provide a workshop for Councillors to explore options for accelerating placemaking within the Municipality including options for “quick win” actions and actions that that can be considered for funding as part of the 2024/25 budget development process, including cost savings that could be adopted to fund these placemaking options.*

Notice Received: 4 December 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 4 December 2023

Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024

Rationale:

Placemaking is a collaborative and community-driven approach to urban planning and design that focuses on creating vibrant, people-centered public spaces. It involves transforming ordinary spaces into lively, engaging environments that reflect the unique identity and needs of a community. The process often incorporates the input of residents, businesses, and local stakeholders to shape public spaces in ways that enhance social interaction, cultural expression, and overall well-being.

The benefits of placemaking for a municipality are numerous. Firstly, it strengthens the sense of community by providing spaces that encourage social interaction and a shared sense of identity. Placemaking can also boost local economies by attracting businesses, tourists, and residents, contributing to increased foot traffic and economic activity. Additionally, well-designed public spaces can improve the overall quality of life, promote physical and mental health, and enhance the environmental sustainability of an area. Ultimately, placemaking is a powerful tool for creating resilient, connected, and thriving municipalities.

Attachments

Nil

6.7 WAIVING LICENCING FEES FOR SPORTING CLUBS**Councillor:** Emily DIMITRIADIS**NoM No.:** 27/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes that sporting clubs are required to pay Council for the use of sporting pavilions and sporting grounds.*
- (2) Notes that many clubs experience financial stress in maintaining the viability of their clubs.*
- (3) Notes that for many years Council has sought to increase the participation of under-represented groups in sport, such as women and girls, people from CALD backgrounds, people with a disability, people from socioeconomic disadvantaged backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ people and First Nations peoples.*
- (4) Receives a report at the February 2024 council meeting about waiving the licensing fees to commence from the FY 2023/2024 for sporting clubs that can demonstrate in future years a significantly increase in participation rates of the above mentioned diverse groups.*

Notice Received: 4 December 2023**Notice Given to Councillors** 4 December 2023**Date of Meeting:** 1 February 2024**Rationale:**

Local sporting clubs provide many benefits to the Darebin Community. However, participation rates in sport by diverse groups has consistently been low. Given Council's commitment to significantly improving participation rates of under-represented groups in sport, an opportunity exists for Council to provide a strong financial incentive to sporting clubs by waiving their licensing fees, if they can demonstrate increased participation rates of diverse groups.

Attachments

Nil

6.8 LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE**Councillor:** Emily DIMITRIADIS**NoM No.:** 31/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes that access to the local newspaper archive was removed in 2022 from Darebin Libraries and as of November 2023, Darebin has informed community members there is no time frame to restore access.*
- (2) *The importance that local community historians play in preserving and amplifying the history of the area after colonisation.*
- (3) *Receives a report at the March 2024 council meeting on options to restore local newspaper archive access to the community including community and professional historians.*

Notice Received: 4 December 2023**Notice Given to Councillors** 4 December 2023**Date of Meeting:** 1 February 2024**Rationale:**

The local newspaper archive was a highly valued resource that enabled a number of local historians to document and amplify the history of the area over many years. Access to this source was removed unexpectedly for historians and curious community members in 2022 and has not been restored.

Attachments

Nil

6.9 JCMP FEMALE FRIENDLY FACILITIES**Councillor: Emily DIMITRIADIS****NoM No.: 32/2023**

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2022, the State Government committed \$500,000 for the installation of Female-Friendly Facilities at John Cain Memorial Park in Thornbury.*
- (2) Notes that to date Councillors have not been updated about this project.*
- (3) Receives a report on the status of the installation of Female-Friendly Facilities at John Cain Memorial Park, including what works need to be done, where the contract with SRV is at, how council can work with Northcote City Football Club to make the project a success, the date of completion of the project and how council can accelerate the process.*

Notice Received: 4 December 2023**Notice Given to Councillors 4 December 2023****Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024****Rationale:**

In the FY 2023/2024 Victorian Government Budget, there is an allocation of \$500,000 for Female-Friendly Facilities at John Cain Memorial Park in Thornbury. Many members of the public are concerned about the project because no update has been provided to them or to Northcote City Football Club, whose home ground is at John Cain Memorial Park. Further, Councillors have not been update on the status of this project.

Attachments

Nil

6.10 FAIRFIELD VILLAGE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Councillor: Emily DIMITRIADIS

NoM No.: 03/2024

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes that Darebin has committed to supporting the arts, multiculturalism, local businesses, and community events.*
- (2) *Notes that the Fairfield Traders have reached out to Council for support and assistance with the Fairfield Village Multicultural Festival to be held in April/May 2024.*
- (3) *Notes that the last event organised by the Fairfield Traders at the Gillies Street carpark in October 2023, Council did not provide toilets, rubbish bins or other necessities such as tables, chairs, safety barriers, despite Council having these in storage for community events.*
- (4) *Supports the Fairfield Traders in hosting a multicultural festival at Fairfield Village along Station Street in Fairfield.*
- (5) *Receives a report at the March 2024 Council meeting outlining what Council can do to assist organisations that would like to host a community event and how organisations can access that assistance. The report should include, but not be limited to Council providing access to toilets, rubbish bins, safety barriers, tables, chairs, and advertising on Council’s social media platforms about community run events.*

Notice Received: 25 January 2024

Notice Given to Councillors 25 January 2024

Date of Meeting: 1 February 2024

Attachments

Nil

Rationale:

Fairfield Traders have often held community events that are a huge success with many community members attending. This motion requests that Council receive a report at the March 2024 council meeting, outlining how organisers of community events can access support and assistance from Darebin Council when wanting to host a community event.

6.11 HOUSING FOR DAREBIN COMMUNITY MEMBER

Councillor: Tim LAURENCE

NoM No.: 04/2024

This item will be published separately.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

In accordance with Section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council may resolve to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items, deemed to be confidential in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Act for the reasons indicated:

8.1 Commonwealth Single Assessment Tender Update

This item is designated confidential because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) and (g(ii)) of the Act.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Recommendation

That in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the items designated confidential on the basis that the matters are confidential in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Act.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

Recommendation

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


9. CLOSE OF MEETING

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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 **Speak your language**
T 8470 8470

العربية	Italiano	Soomalil
繁體中文	Македонски	Español
Ελληνικά	नेपाली	اردو
हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt