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# AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on Monday 8 January 2024 at 6:00 PM

**This meeting will be held virtually.**

**This meeting will also be livestreamed and may be accessed from Councils website [www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.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

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## **1. MEMBERSHIP**

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor)  
Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor) (Chairperson)  
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis  
Cr. Gaetano Greco  
Cr. Tom Hannan  
Cr. Trent McCarthy  
Cr. Lina Messina  
Cr. Susan Rennie  
Cr. Julie Williams

## **2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

## **3. APOLOGIES**

## **4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

## **5. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES**

**6. NOTICES OF RECISSION**

**6.1 NOTICE OF RECISSION OR AMENDMENT - ITEM 9.9  
YOUR STREET YOUR SAY GROUP B**

**Councillor:** Emily DIMITRIADIS

**NoM No.:** Recission 01/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2024, it is my intention to move:

*That Council rescind the resolution – Item 9.9 Your Street Your Say Group B that was decided at the Council meeting on the 18 December 2023 and allow these items to be heard at the Council Meeting.*

Rationale:

The resolution needs to be rescinded because there was insufficient debate on Item 9.9 and this breaches the Meeting Procedures because the Mayor did not give adequate consideration to allow Councillors to debate the issues before closing the debate and putting the item to vote.

In addition, before closing the debate the Mayor did not take into account that I had an amendment, which I had circulated to all Councillor prior to the meeting, as per the Governance Rules. The Mayor was aware of this amendment but I was not given an opportunity for my amendment to be even considered. Further, before hearing Item 9.9, the Mayor prevented all questions to be asked about this Item to Officers.

**Notice Received:** 18 December 2023

**Notice Given to Councillors** 19 December 2023

**Date of Meeting:** 8 January 2024

**Attachments**

Nil

**6.2 NOTICE OF RECISSION OR AMENDMENT - ITEM 9.8 MIGRATION PUBLIC ARTWORK**

**Councillor:** Susan RENNIE

**NoM No.:** Recission 02/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2024, it is my intention to move:

*That Council rescind the previous resolution on item 9.8 Migration Public Artwork decided at the Council Meeting on 18 December 2023.*

Rationale:

- 1. There was a lack of clarity on what was being voted on – it was apparent from questions that there was confusion and no understanding about the nature of the changes being proposed to the officer recommendation.
- 2. There was clear advice that the staff could not deliver the project with the amendments which were made and that the quality of the project would be seriously compromised.
- 3. The project is too important to be compromised in this way.

**Notice Received:** 18 December 2023

**Notice Given to Councillors** 19 December 2023

**Date of Meeting:** 8 January 2024

**Attachments**

Nil

## 7. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 7.1 VICTORIAN FOOD SYSTEMS CONSENSUS STATEMENT, TOWARDS A HEALTHY, REGENERATIVE AND EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM IN VICTORIA

**Councillor:** Susanne NEWTON

**NoM No.:** 19/2023

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2024, it is my intention to move:

**That Council:**

- (1) *notes that this motion moves to confirm support for the Victorian Food Systems Consensus Statement, Towards A Healthy, Regenerative and Equitable Food System in Victoria, facilitated by VicHealth and in carriage with Sustain: The Australian Food Network.*
- (2) *brings forward a report that considers options for Darebin to:*
  - a. *affirm a commitment to the leverage points laid out in the Consensus Statement, including:*
    - i. *The legislation of the Right to Food in Victoria*
    - ii. *Establishing a governmental food systems committee to undertake a food systems inquiry and subsequently develop a Victorian food systems plan*
    - iii. *The advancement of a comprehensive food systems monitoring framework*
    - iv. *Regenerative and agroecological food production*
    - v. *The creation of a local food investment fund*
    - vi. *That all public sector food procurement and retail is healthy and sustainable*
    - vii. *Strengthening food literacy in schools in collaboration with educators*
    - viii. *Resourcing and empowerment of local councils to lead food system strategies*
    - ix. *The revision of the Victorian planning provisions legislation to promote health*
    - x. *Improving dignified access to healthy food through the food relief sector*
  - b. *undertake the VicHealth “building better food systems for healthier communities” module.*
- (3) *supports the Food Systems and Food Security Working Group's advocacy efforts to lobby state politicians to begin a Food Systems Inquiry similar to the Food Production and Supply Inquiry in NSW (2021-22), including writing to the Victorian Minister for Health. This motion will be used for this end.*



**Notice Received:** 13 November 2023

**Notice Given to Councillors** 13 November 2023

**Date of Meeting:** 8 January 2024

### **Rationale**

A commitment to these actions and leverage points will lead to a better food system for the LGA and more Victoria more broadly. A food system that is healthy, regenerative and equitable for the decades to come. One that guarantees a right to food for all and fosters a resilient, thriving community. Amid the sky-rocketing cost of living crisis and speculation on vital agricultural land in Victoria, it is imperative that we commit to strategies that enable access to food for all, protect our food production industries and regenerate the land.

Victoria's food system is in urgent need of an overhaul. We are currently facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity amidst the worst cost of living crisis in recent memory, an escalating ecological catastrophe and an uncertain global geopolitical stage.

A core component of the cost-of-living crisis is the unchecked inflation of food prices. Over the last year, the price of staple groceries has increased between 5%-15%, with quarterly inflation still at 8%. In conjunction with mortgage and rent payments, energy bills, and transportation costs all increasing, more and more households are becoming financially unstable.

These cost of living pressures are a primary cause of the alarming 21% rise in Food Bank distributions over the 2021-2022 period, with demand for food relief growing every month. Additionally, Over 365,000 children in Victoria have experienced severe food insecurity, drastically impacting their ability to engage and learn at school in the same period. FoodBank data shows that 70% of those facing food insecurity also experience high levels of psychological distress, particularly among parents. With the RBA interest rate increases continuing, and inflation showing little sign of slowing, these statistics are likely to undervalue the current state of food insecurity.

The cost-of-living crisis has only added to already high levels of food insecurity in part due to the devastating fires, floods, and droughts experienced over large parts of Australia in the last 5 years. With the climate crisis accelerating, these disasters are likely to become more prevalent, further plunging the food system into catastrophe. The events affect not only our food producing land, but also supply and distribution chains, leading to shortages in isolated areas.

Lastly, the current global geopolitical environment is one of high volatility and uncertainty. The ongoing consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has drastically increased the price of wheat (a core ingredient in many staple and processed foods, as well as livestock feed), fertilisers (on which our current agricultural system is reliant), and fuel (used for farm machinery and freight). All of these factors lead to shortages and price increases, which in turn reduce access to food for a large number of Victorians.

We need a food system that is resilient to these shocks, one that will ensure food security to all for generations to come. Fortunately, in the last few years, high quality research led by food systems practitioners, community organisers, councils and academics, has been conducted to address these challenges. In particular, the Victorian Food Systems Consensus Statement (<https://vicfoodsystem.org.au/> ) and the Melbourne Food System Resilience Report ([https://science.unimelb.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/4128795/Foodprint-Resilience-Report-2022\\_double\\_page.pdf](https://science.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/4128795/Foodprint-Resilience-Report-2022_double_page.pdf)) .

They call for the following actions:

1. Legislate the Right to Food in Victoria
2. Establish a government food systems enquiry to further the existing research and implement recommendations
3. Support First Nations Foodways and Sovereignty
4. Advance a comprehensive food systems monitoring framework
5. Shift to regenerative and agroecological food production – soil, carbon, health, profit
6. Create a local food investment fund
7. That all public sector food procurement and retail is healthy and sustainable
8. Strengthen food literacy in schools in collaboration with educators
9. Resource and empower local councils to lead food system strategies
10. Revise the Victorian planning provisions legislation to promote health
11. Improve dignified access to healthy food through the food relief sector
12. Protect peri-urban agricultural land from development and speculation
13. Diversify the Victorian food system – (locations of production, storage, retail; scale of enterprises involved in the systems, increased biodiversity – crops, forestry, livestock; distribution networks)
14. Strengthen local and regional food production rather than rely on imports
15. Decentralise food production, storage and retail options
16. Create a circular economy in which waste is put back into the system

A food system that incorporates all of these evidenced based best practices will create an environment in which all Victorians can thrive. we will be resilient to climate, economic, and geopolitical stresses. It will foster a closer connection between humans and the ecology of which we are a part. Communities will be stronger and more resilient, and we will be physically and mentally healthier.

I acknowledge the work of Nick Rose and Sustain (and the incredible example of the Oakhill Food Justice Farm on the border of Preston and Reservoir) in shaping this motion.

### **Attachments**

Nil

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**7.2 ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS****Councillor: Susanne NEWTON****NoM No.: 20/2023**

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2024, it is my intention to move:

***That Council***

- (1) *Acknowledges that the diversity of Darebin is our greatest strength, and that we must do all we can to ensure that people of all backgrounds and incomes are able to live and thrive in Darebin, and that providing housing to those in need is crucial to maintaining the rich diversity of the Darebin community now and into the future.*
- (2) *Acknowledges we are in a housing crisis and reaffirms its commitment to addressing housing affordability, social housing needs and homelessness.*
- (3) *Calls on the Victorian Government to increase public, social housing, affordable housing and homeless services in Darebin and across the state to help reduce the long waitlist of 65,195 people in Victoria seeking housing (June 2023 figure from the Applications on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR)).*
- (4) *Notes the recent State Government announcement to demolish and redevelop 44 public housing towers across the state, including the tower in Darebin at 1 Holmes Street, Northcote and seeks information from the Minister for Housing about the timeline for when the residents of 1 Holmes Street Northcote are to be relocated and when the tower is due to be demolished.*
- (5) *Notes that two of the key risks of public housing redevelopment, include:*
  - 5.1 *The risk of existing tenants not being relocated back into the community and consequently, losing their existing community support and social networks; and*
  - 5.2 *The risk of reduced Public Housing yield due to the sell-off of public land to developers to fund the redevelopment through private housing when greater yield could be achieved through direct funding of new public housing by the State Government.*
- (6) *Notes the State Government's recent Housing Statement, included a number of measures that remove planning powers from Council and reduce local government's role in influencing development, and limit and reduce the community's ability to participate in engagement and object to applications.*
- (7) *Requests the CEO to review the impacts of these announcements, brief Council on these impacts and provide a report to Council in early 2024, including:*
  - 7.1 *Recommendations for revised or amended policy and advocacy positions that could be adopted by Council to mitigate the risks and impacts of State Government initiatives and to leverage opportunities to increase social housing in Darebin.*
  - 7.2 *Recommendations for additional initiatives that could be implemented by Council to address the housing crisis, including recommended amendments to the Darebin Housing Strategy.*

<b>Notice Received:</b>	<b>13 November 2023</b>
<b>Notice Given to Councillors</b>	<b>13 November 2023</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8 January 2024</b>

### **Rationale**

The Victorian Government should be increasing public housing to address the housing crisis. Instead, the Victorian Housing Statement ([https://content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/DTP0424\\_Housing\\_Statement\\_v6\\_FA\\_WEB.pdf](https://content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/DTP0424_Housing_Statement_v6_FA_WEB.pdf)) shows the Victorian Government plans to demolish 44 public housing towers, increase the amount of people living on the sites from 10,000 to 30,000 and to replace public housing with social and private housing, on public land. The housing statement mentions it wants to “Expedite zoning, planning and land release for social and affordable housing” but misses an opportunity to mandate inclusionary zoning.

The Good Decisions, Made Faster reforms will make it much harder for local people and communities and local governments to participate in decision making around planning, and reduce their ability to oppose developments. The changes will also make it harder to implement Darebin’s good design guide.

The Victorian Government has not consulted adequately on these major changes.

We must consider the implications of these major changes on the growing level of homelessness in Victoria that this plan will further exacerbate, the disregard of the tenants’ human rights to a secure and permanent home, and the removal of Council’s statutory authority role in the planning of Darebin’s future development.

### **Further reading**

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/northcote-housing-development-creates-two-classes-of-resident-20190613-p51xc5.html>

<https://www.homes.vic.gov.au/applications-victorian-housing-register-vhr>

### **Attachments**

Nil

**7.3**                      **86 FESTIVAL****Councillor:**            **Lina MESSINA****NoM No.:**                **21/2023**

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2024, it is my intention to move:

***That Council***

- (1) *Congratulates the Festival producers on the success of the 86 Festival held in October 2023, showcasing the vibrant live music precincts of Darebin.*
  - (2) *Writes to the Minister for Creative Industries to:*
    - a. *Thank the State Government for the funding support it provided to enable the inaugural 86 Festival to be held in October 2023*
    - b. *Call on the State Government to provide future funding to Festival producers to enable them to deliver future events in Darebin in 23/24*
  - (3) *Writes to Festival producers, Principal Partner Creative Victoria and event sponsor Yarra Trams to thank them for their role in delivering this unique event within Darebin*
  - (4) *Requests that the CEO completes an evaluation report of the 86 Festival and presents this back to Council at the earliest possible with the report to include:*
    - a. *Analysis of the economic impact within Darebin from 86 Festival visitation and local spend*
    - b. *An overview of the benefits of the 86 Festival for Darebin*
    - c. *An overview of the lessons learned (eg noise impacts, waste dumping, communications etc) and future mitigation strategies that could be implemented to improve large scale events and Festivals within Darebin*
- 

**Notice Received:**                      **13 November 2023****Notice Given to Councillors**                      **13 November 2023****Date of Meeting:**                      **8 January 2024****Rationale**

Rationale for Celebrating Arts and Culture in our Local Community

**1. Enriching Cultural Fabric:**

Community Identity: The vibrant arts and cultural scene on high streets like St, Station St, Plenty Rd, Edwards, Broadway, Gilbert Rd, and Murray Rd contributes significantly to shaping the identity of our municipality. It fosters a sense of pride and belonging among residents, creating a unique and memorable community character.

**2. Economic Benefits:**

Local Business Growth: The presence of artistic and cultural activities attracts visitors, contributing to increased foot traffic and economic activity for local businesses.

This, in turn, stimulates economic growth and fosters entrepreneurship, making these areas hubs of culinary and artistic delights.

### 3. Community Engagement:

**Social Cohesion:** Arts and cultural events provide opportunities for community members to come together, fostering social cohesion and interaction. Shared cultural experiences promote understanding, tolerance, and unity among diverse groups within the community.

### 4. Need for Clear Policies:

**Permitting Process:** Establishing a clear and well-defined permitting process is crucial for sustaining the vibrancy of these cultural hubs. Such a process should consider the interests of business owners, residents, and visitors alike.

**Waste Management:** A robust policy should address waste management to ensure that events and businesses do not negatively impact the local environment. Proper disposal and recycling measures can mitigate the environmental footprint of cultural activities.

### 5. Balancing Interests:

**Noise Levels and Operating Hours:** Striking a balance between celebrating culture and respecting the needs of residents requires clear guidelines on noise levels and operating hours. A thoughtful policy should consider the diverse needs of both business owners and residents, promoting harmony within the community.

### 6. Supporting Local Businesses:

**Community Support:** A well-crafted policy should not only regulate but also actively support local businesses. This includes providing resources, assistance, and incentives to ensure that these cultural hubs continue to thrive and contribute positively to the local economy.

### 7. Showcasing Community Diversity:

**Colour and Sound of 86 Festival:** Events like the 86 Festival exemplify the diversity and creativity within our community. A clear policy framework can elevate and celebrate these cultural expressions, encouraging further participation and investment in local arts and cultural initiatives.

### Conclusion:

Celebrating arts and culture is not just about entertainment; it is about nurturing a vibrant, inclusive, and economically thriving community. A well-defined policy for permits, waste management, and community support is essential to ensure that our cultural hubs continue to flourish, providing a rich tapestry of experiences for residents and visitors alike. By fostering a dynamic and supportive environment, we can strengthen the cultural identity of our municipality and create lasting benefits for all stakeholders.

### Attachments

Nil

**7.4 ENGAGEMENT OF POST-WAR MIGRANTS BY COUNCIL****Councillor:** Lina MESSINA**NoM No.:** 22/2023

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2024, it is my intention to move:

***That** Council calls for a report at the earliest possible opportunity on ways that Council can enhance the way it engages with post-war migrants so their views and experiences are incorporated in Council programs, services and projects including the Migration Monument, Country of Origin Signage and Place naming projects.*

**Notice Received:** 13 November 2023**Notice Given to Councillors** 13 November 2023**Date of Meeting:** 8 January 2024**Rationale**

Rationale for Elevating Post-War Migration Voices in Council Decision-Making

**1. Rich Multicultural Fabric:**

Diversity as an Asset: Our community is woven with the threads of diverse cultures, particularly those of post-war migrants who have significantly contributed to shaping the local identity. Recognizing and elevating these voices adds richness to the cultural tapestry that defines our municipality.

**2. Historical Contribution:**

Legacy of Post-War Migrants: Post-war migrants have played a pivotal role in building and sustaining our community. Their experiences, perspectives, and contributions have left a lasting imprint on our society, making it essential to include their voices in decision-making processes.

**3. Inclusivity and Representation:**

Reflecting the Population: Council decisions impact all members of the community, and a diverse range of voices ensures that decisions are reflective of the entire population. Inclusivity in decision-making promotes a sense of belonging and representation for all, fostering social cohesion.

**4. Unique Insights and Experiences:**

Diverse Perspectives: Post-war migrants bring unique insights and experiences that can offer fresh perspectives on various issues. Their distinct cultural backgrounds can contribute to more comprehensive and nuanced decision-making, addressing the needs of a broader range of residents.

**5. Strengthening Social Bonds:**

**Building Bridges:** Elevating the voices of post-war migrants in decision-making processes can help bridge any existing gaps between different communities. It fosters understanding, tolerance, and unity, creating a stronger and more connected local society.

**6. Addressing Invisibility:**

**Overcoming Silence:** Despite the richness of our multicultural fabric, the voices of post-war migrants often remain unheard. Elevating these voices acknowledges their significance and actively works towards addressing historical invisibility in decision-making forums.

**7. Community Empowerment:**

**Empowering Communities:** Involving post-war migrants in decision-making empowers these communities to actively participate in shaping the future of the municipality. It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, encouraging ongoing engagement in civic affair.

**In conclusion**

Elevating the voices of post-war migration communities in council decision-making processes is not just a matter of diversity; it is a strategic imperative for building a stronger, more inclusive, and harmonious municipality. By actively involving these voices, we not only honour the historical contributions of post-war migrants but also ensure that our decisions are informed by the diverse experiences that enrich our community.

**Attachments**

Nil



**7.5 RESERVOIR BOATHOUSE**

**Councillor:** Lina MESSINA

**NoM No.:** 23/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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:** 8 January 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

**7.6 ECONOMIC FORUM**

**Councillor:** Lina MESSINA

**NoM No.:** 24/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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:** 8 January 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

**7.7 DAREBIN COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY**

**Councillor: Lina MESSINA**

**NoM No.: 25/2023**

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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: 8 January 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

**7.8 PLACEMAKING**

**Councillor:** Lina MESSINA

**NoM No.:** 26/2023

Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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:** 8 January 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

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

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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, LGBTIQA+ 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: 8 January 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

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

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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:** 8 January 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



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

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Take notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 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: 8 January 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

## 8. URGENT BUSINESS

## 9. 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 by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Act for the reasons indicated:

### 9.1 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 by the Chief Executive Officer 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.


## 10. CLOSE OF MEETING

**CITY OF  
DAREBIN**

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 **Speak your language**  
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