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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 29 May 2023

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON 5 JUNE 2023

LIVE STREAMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON
COUNCIL'S INTERNET SITE.



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 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 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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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 29 MAY 2023,
HYBRID MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 350 HIGH
STREET PRESTON**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.04PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Julie Williams (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco (*6.12pm – joined the meeting virtually*)

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

Council Officers

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer

Jodie Watson - General Manager Governance and Engagement

Sam Hewett - General Manager Operations and Capital

Vicky Guglielmo – Acting General Manager Community

Rachel Ollivier - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Jacinta Stevens - Manager Corporate Governance

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

3. APOLOGIES

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Hannan disclosed a conflict of interest in the Urgent Business Item, in relation to Energy Safe Victoria as this relates to his area of employment.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 MUNICIPAL MONITOR REPORT AND DIRECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a letter dated 7 April 2022, the former Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shaun Leane MP, informed Council that a municipal monitor would be appointed in accordance with section 179 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

On 22 April 2022, the former Minister for Local Government appointed John Watson as Municipal Monitor for Darebin Council effective from that date and ending 31 January 2023 (approximately 9 months). An overview of the Terms of Reference is provided on p. 20 of **Appendix A**.

John Watson, appointed Municipal Monitor, attended Council meetings, Councillor briefings, Councillor only sessions, Good Governance sessions, CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings and Audit and Risk Committee meetings throughout the course of his term with Council.

On 7 February 2023, the Municipal Monitor submitted his report to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP (**Appendix A**).

On 21 April 2023, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP, provided Council with the report from the Municipal Monitor (**Appendix A**) accompanied by correspondence containing Governance Directions from the Minister in accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The correspondence required response from Council no later than 24 April 2023 and outlined a series of actions requiring action from Council in the coming months with information to be provided within 4 weeks and 12 weeks in addition to quarterly reporting on Good Governance actions.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-029

MOVED: Cr. S Newton
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Note on 22 April 2022 the former Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shaun Leane MP, informed Council of the appointment of John Watson as Municipal Monitor and confirmed the terms of reference, effective from that date ending 31 January 2023
- (2) Note the Terms of Reference for the appointment of the Municipal Monitor required a final report be provided to the Minister for Local Government after the end of the period of appointment, which outlined:
 - a. any steps or actions taken by the Council to improve its governance and the effectiveness of these steps and actions
 - b. any recommendations in relation to the exercise of any Ministerial power

under the Act

- (3) Note the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP, provided Council a copy of the report prepared by John Watson, Municipal Monitor on 21 April 2023 (**Appendix A**) and that a copy of this report is available on the Local Government Victoria website
- (4) Note the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP provided Direction to Council on 21 April 2023 in accordance with section 175 of the *Local Government Act 2020* relating to Council's financial status and governance processes, directing Council to:
 - a. Inform the Minister within 12 weeks how the council intends to address concerns raised by the Municipal Monitor about prioritising investment in information technology and suitable staff accommodation;
 - b. Provide the Minister with quarterly reports on the implementation of the Council's Good Governance Action Plan until the actions contained in the Plan are complete; and
 - c. Prepare and submit to the Minister within 4 weeks:
 - i. Financial statements in respect of the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022;
 - ii. A detailed financial projection for the next 10 years of the Council's borrowing capacity and unrestricted cash; and
 - iii. An action plan on how Council proposes to address the financial sustainability issues contained in the report
- (5) Note the Mayor was required to provide a response to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP, no later than 24 April. A response was provided confirming Council's intention to comply with the governance directions and confirming
- (6) Note that Councillors have prepared an Action Plan in accordance with the Minister's governance direction, this Action Plan is due to be provided to the Minister on 18 May 2023 and will be published publicly as an Appendix to this report after submission
- (7) Note the Minister for Local Government has confirmed they are considering options to implement the eight recommendations that have sector-wide implications through Local Government Victoria's future work program and legislative proposals and has noted one recommendation requires action from the Victorian Auditor-General and has provided a copy of the report to his effect
- (8) Formally thank John Watson for his support to Council and Councillors during the term of his appointment as Municipal Monitor, through a letter from the Mayor
- (9) Note the cost of the Municipal Monitor appointment to Council for the 1-2 days per week required during the term of appointment from 22 April 2022 to 31 January 2023 was \$100,958 incl. GST
- (10) Note Minister Horne's Governance Direction and copy of the Municipal Monitor report was presented to Audit and Risk Committee at a special meeting on 10 May 2023
- (11) Note the Audit and Risk Committee will receive status updates in relation to Minister Horne's governance Direction at their scheduled meetings

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 PARKING MANAGEMENT OPERATING PROCEDURES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Council report:

- Provides information about Council's parking management operating procedure
- Recommends updating Council's procedure to:
 - Improve clarity about how decisions are made, while mitigating safety risks associated with parking demand.
 - Establish two distinct processes, depending on the level of parking demand in a street over a 4-hour period.
- Responds to two Council resolutions that called for reports that outline Council's current approach to parking management, provide advice for specific alternative options, and called for other alternatives to be considered.

Effectively managing on-street parking improves safety, access and the performance of Darebin's transport network.

In almost all cases, when officers consider parking changes, the affected community is asked for their input. Decisions are guided by what legislation requires Council to consider and do, by nationally accepted road management standards and codes, and by relevant Council policies and strategies (for example, the *Darebin Transport Strategy* and *Community Engagement Policy*).

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-030

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council

- (1) Notes this report
- (2) Authorises the CEO to update the existing internal parking change operating procedure to:
 - a) Ensure clear and transparent consultation and communication when engaging the community about parking issues and potential parking changes
 - b) Update the process to align with *Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 11: Parking*, so that when parking demand is measured at or above 85% for a 4-hour period, a change will be made to parking controls to mitigate safety risks and access challenges
 - c) Introduce a new process to support community-initiated changes to on-street parking where there is moderate demand, comprised of the following steps:
 - i. at least 2 properties on the affected street requests a parking change
 - ii. parking demand is measured, and if between 70% and 84% of parking spaces over a 4-hour period are occupied, an initial survey is sent to immediately affected properties asking if consideration of a change to parking is supported, and what parking issues are being experienced
 - iii. *immediately affected properties* are defined to be those properties within

- 100m of the proposed changes to parking
- iv. if at least $\geq 25\%$ of immediately affected properties respond to the survey and, $\geq 60\%$ of respondents confirm they would like a parking change, Council will prepare one parking change proposal option. If this response rate and level of support is not achieved, further consideration of a parking change would not proceed
 - v. If the test above is met, a second survey that puts forward the parking change proposal and asks if this change is supported or not, is sent to all immediately affected properties
 - vi. Council will implement the proposed parking change if $\geq 25\%$ of all immediately affected properties respond to the second survey, and, $\geq 60\%$ of survey respondents support the change
- (3) Ensure that Council's Transport Engineers continue to have discretion to investigate road safety and access risks, and to implement any transport and parking controls that are required to address safety risks

CARRIED

For: Cr's Dimitriadis, Laurence, Messina, Greco and Williams (5)

Against: Cr's Hannan and Newton (2)

Abstained: Cr's Rennie and McCarthy (2)

5.3

GOVERNANCE REPORT MAY 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of attendance at Councillor Briefings (**Appendix A**)
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Councillor Expenses Report for the quarter from 1 January to 31 March 2023 (**Appendix B**)
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes (**Appendix C**)
- Attendance at the ALGWA National Conference by Mayor, Cr. Julie Williams
- Changes to Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 13 June 2023 and Council meeting on Monday 24 July 2023
- Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting – Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 7.30pm
- Change to location of Council meeting – 24 July 2023
- Review of S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (**Appendix D**)

At the Ordinary Council Meeting 29 May 2023, Cr. Messina proposed an amendment to the officer recommendation, which included an additional point (13). Cr. Messina withdrew her amendment and the substantive motion became the Council Resolution as follows:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 23-031**

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – May 2023
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Councillor Briefings at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting
- (3) Notes that 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 Councillor Expenses Report for the quarter from 1 January to 31 March 2023 at **Appendix B** to this report
- (5) Notes the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes at **Appendix C** to this Report
- (6) Notes the attendance of Mayor, Cr. Julie Williams at the ALGWA National Conference held from 17 to 20 May 2023 at a total cost of \$2342, comprised of \$1400 conference fee and \$942 accommodation
- (7) Notes that a fully virtual Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting will be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 13 June 2023 to hear submitters in relation to the proposed discontinuance and sale of the road at the rear of 34 to 54 May Street and 29 to 47 Bayliss Street and adjoining 2 Clara Street, Preston
- (8) Resolves that the Planning Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 6.30pm be amended to be held as a fully virtual meeting
- (9) Resolves to hold the Council meeting on 24 July 2023 at 6pm, in the Council Chamber

as a hybrid meeting

- (10) In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation, resolves:
- a) To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the '*Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6)*' (**Appendix D**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument
 - b) Adopts and affix Council's Common Seal to the following Instrument of Delegation provided as an attachment to this report:
 - Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council Staff (S6) (**Appendix D**);
 - c) That this instrument come into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed
- (11) Resolves to hold a Special Council Meeting on Monday 29 May 2023 at 6pm in the Council Chamber as a hybrid meeting to consider a report relating to 'Preston City Oval Cricket Nets' and to allow submissions to be made prior to the item being considered

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 22 MAY 2023

REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS, MAYOR

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

- 3 x Councillor Briefing sessions
- 4 x Councillor only meetings
- 2 x Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO
- 2 x Mayor/Deputy Mayor catch up
- Monthly Council meeting
- Mayor and CEO weekly meeting
- ANZAC Memorial Service & Gun Fire breakfast
- Budget Briefing
- LXR William Street Residents and Minister
- Meeting with John Nugent (local member)
- Photo for National Road Safety Week – High Street
- Meeting - Safe Access Over Bell Street Bridge for Everyone (SABBE)
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Meeting
- Northern Councils Alliance Meeting with Deputy Premier
- Visit La Trobe University Hockey Club
- Victorian Local Governance Association Connect Interview: Mayor Darebin
- Planning Committee Meeting

- Sports Lighting Project Openings – Preston - Mott Reserve
- Social Enterprise Support Fund - Project Documentary Thornbury Picture House
- Special Audit and Risk Committee
- Advocacy photo opportunity with Nathan Lambert MP regarding Boldrewood Parade and Broadway, Reservoir East
- Sports Lighting Project Openings – Reservoir - JE Moore Park
- Public Meeting - Save Preston Market
- Vicki Cleary Day - Coburg vs Preston Bullants
- La Trobe University Hockey Club - Women's 3 Game – KP Hardiman Reserve
- Meeting to discuss Launch of Eighty Six Festival
- 3 x Governance weekly meeting
- NGC - Evening Meet and Greet
- International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) - Flag raising
- International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) - Preston Town Hall - Panel discussion
- International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) - Story time - Northcote Library
- International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) - Story time - Preston Library
- Australian Local Government Women's Association Conference
- VICSES Heidelberg Unit - Inaugural Open Day

REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON, DEPUTY MAYOR

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

- Weekly Councillor meetings
- CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor regular catch up
- Mayor and Deputy Mayor regular catch up
- Chairing Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Taskforce meeting
- Williamson Community Leadership Program immersive in Shepparton
- Appointed as Ambassador for Trams through Metropolitan Transport Forum - first meeting with MTF executive and other ambassadors
- Welcoming Cities Symposium
- Speech at North West Fiji Seniors Club - A Tribute to 144 years of Girit Divas
- Meeting with Preston Cricket Club re nets
- Planning Committee
- Councillor Briefing Sessions weekly
- Speech at Welcome Meet and Greet for Art & Heritage Advisory Panel Members, Bundoora Homestead

- Meeting with business owner about safety and traffic calming at Gilbert and Regent streets
- Meeting with resident about playground in Preston
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) board meeting
- Councillor Budget Briefing

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

Cr. Dimitriadis did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- AHACC meeting
- Weekly Councillor catch-ups
- Councillor Briefings
- Budget Briefings

REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA

Cr. Messina did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- North west senior citizens FIJI association dinner in honour of the Indian indentured labourers who served the Fiji Nation and is now recognised as a national holiday 14 May.
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- Weekly Councillor Briefing sessions
- Planning Committee meeting
- Meeting about Capital Works
- Council meeting

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

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

- Council meeting
- Council briefings
- Weekly informal meetings of councillors
- Planning Meeting
- MAV State Council
- IDAHOBIT Day celebrations
- Rainbow Storytime at Preston
- Meeting with CFO re 10 year financial plan
- Meetings, phone calls and emails with residents

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Weekly Councillor Briefing Sessions
- Meeting with Gladstone Ave residents regarding street trees at risk of removal
- Councillor Budget Briefings
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive Meeting and Advocacy Working Group Meeting
- Climate Emergency Australia Meetings
- Safe Access Across Bell Street Bridge Meetings
- Safe Access Across Bell Street Bridge Protests
- Sports Lighting at Mott Reserve, Preston Launch Event

REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN

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

- Contact (phone / online) with residents about their concerns, e.g. footpaths, laneways, building works, crime and safety, drainage.
- Opening of 'De-fence against loneliness' project at Jika Jika Community Centre
- Attended Australian Institute of Company Directors Course (AICD) online
- Budget briefing
- Councillor briefings
- Councillor only meetings
- Planning Committee meeting
- Council ordinary meeting

5.4 PRESTON CITY OVAL CRICKET NETS

Submissions

The following people made verbal submissions in relation to Item 5.4 – Preston City Oval Cricket Nets:

- Michael Hayes, President of the Preston Cricket Club
- David Smith

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2020, Council adopted *Preston Reconnected*, which has informed advocacy in relation to design objectives for the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) in Preston. *Preston Reconnected* included an objective to relocate the cricket nets as the Preston City Oval cricket net site was temporarily occupied for the construction of the Preston LXRP.

An agreement has been reached with LXRP to relocate the nets. The terms of this agreement are confidential and referenced in confidential **Appendix C**.

Design of new cricket nets commenced in 2020-21 with the intention to construct in 2021-22. As outlined in this report, the project has been delayed for a range of reasons including the time required to select and assess a new location for the cricket nets given a range of site constraints. Assessment and due diligence activities identified one viable location: the southeast corner at Bruce and Mary Streets. Designs were finalised and the project went to tender for construction earlier this year. The tender is currently paused while Council considers the project.

Communication informing residents about the changes and anticipated construction timeframes resulted in community feedback and concerns about the removal of the playground, impact on the use of public space, removal of trees, installation of cricket nets and the impact on community safety and amenity of Bruce and Mary Streets. Officers have sought to understand community concerns while balancing the needs of the Preston Cricket Club and Preston City Oval's joint purpose as a sports field and public open space.

Key considerations for Council:

- Should the cricket nets be rebuilt at Preston City Oval?
Cricket Australia guidelines indicate 'outdoor training nets are a core facility component across all levels of cricket... The primary function of cricket nets is to enable both batter and bowler skill and technique development.'
- Location of the cricket nets and proposed playground removal
A range of locations were explored and assessed. With safety as the most important consideration, aligning with Cricket Australia Guidelines around pitch orientation and shadowing, officers have assessed that the only viable option is the southeast corner.
The removal of the play equipment and park is offset by the new playground and open space at the end of Bruce Street.
- Cost of the project and the number of cricket nets provided
There has been a significant increase in costs since the project was originally scoped. Three options, with different funding requirements, are provided for Council in this report.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the outcome of site investigations undertaken by officers to replace the Preston City Oval cricket net site that was temporarily occupied for the Preston Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) from 2021-2023
- (2) Notes the Preston Cricket Club need for cricket nets and the impact that not having these facilities onsite at Preston City Oval for an extended period is having on club operations
- (3) Notes concerns by some members of the community about the project, particularly the location of the cricket nets in the southeast corner, removal of a playground and park, and the associated impact on local amenity
- (4) Notes the petition opposing the demolition of mature trees and removal of publicly accessible open green space for the purpose of enclosed cricket nets submitted to Council at its meeting held on 22 May 2023
- (5) Endorses the southeast corner of Preston City Oval as being the only viable option available for cricket nets at this site given the range of site constraints
- (6) Notes that the only viable option in the southeast corner requires the removal of play equipment and a park located at the corner of Bruce and Mary Streets and the removal of trees
- (7) Notes that since Council initially estimated costs, market testing has identified costs are expected to be higher than the original estimates
- (8) Given Council's current financial position, requests the Chief Executive Officer re-scope the project (option 2) and seek competitive market design and construct proposals to enable Council to consider funding requirements of this project alongside other capital projects as part of finalising the 2023-24 Budget in June 2023
- (9) Requests the Chief Executive Officer explore ways to minimise the number of trees that would need to be removed on the southeast corner of the site and opportunities to smooth the edges of the project, should Council agree to allocate funding to this project when it finalises its 2023-24 budget
- (10) Endorses the confidential recommendation in Appendix C
- (11) Requests the Chief Executive Officer advise Preston Cricket Club and the lead petitioner of Council's decision

Cr. Messina moved an alternate motion to the officer recommendation, which included a new point (10) to be inserted as follows:

- (10) *Requests the Chief Executive Officer convene a stakeholder session with relevant stakeholders (interested Councillors, Preston Cricket Club representatives, local residents and petition signatories) to discuss the retention of trees, the tree replacement program and softening the visual boundary interface. The session should also inform participants about design, cost and timeframe constraints and parameters*

Alternate Motion

MOVED: Cr. L Messina

SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Notes the outcome of site investigations undertaken by officers to replace the Preston City Oval cricket net site that was temporarily occupied for the Preston Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) from 2021-2023
- (2) Notes the Preston Cricket Club need for cricket nets and the impact that not having these facilities onsite at Preston City Oval for an extended period is having on Club operations
- (3) Notes concerns by some members of the community about the project, particularly the location of the cricket nets in the southeast corner, removal of a playground and park, and the associated impact on local amenity
- (4) Notes the petition opposing the demolition of mature trees and removal of publicly accessible open green space for the purpose of enclosed cricket nets submitted to Council at its meeting held on 22 May 2023
- (5) Endorses the southeast corner of Preston City Oval as being the only viable option available for cricket nets at this site given the range of site constraints
- (6) Notes that the only viable option in the southeast corner requires the removal of play equipment and a park located at the corner of Bruce and Mary Streets and the removal of trees
- (7) Notes that since Council initially estimated costs, market testing has identified costs are expected to be higher than the original estimates
- (8) Given Council's current financial position, requests the Chief Executive Officer re-scope the project (option 2) and seek competitive market design and construct proposals to enable Council to consider funding requirements of this project alongside other capital projects as part of finalising the 2023-24 Budget in June 2023
- (9) Requests the Chief Executive Officer explore ways to minimise the number of trees that would need to be removed on the southeast corner of the site and opportunities to smooth the edges of the project, should Council agree to allocate funding to this project when it finalises its 2023-24 budget
- (10) Requests the Chief Executive Officer convene a stakeholder session with relevant stakeholders (interested Councillors, Preston Cricket Club representatives, local residents and petition signatories) to discuss the retention of trees, the tree replacement program and softening the visual boundary interface. The session should also inform participants about design, cost and timeframe constraints and parameters**
- (11) Endorses the confidential recommendation in Appendix C
- (12) Requests the Chief Executive Officer advise Preston Cricket Club and the lead petitioner of Council's decision

Cr. Newton proposed the following amendments to the motion, to replace point (8);

~~(8) Given Council's current financial position, requests the Chief Executive Officer re-scope the project (option 2) and seek competitive market design and construct proposals to enable Council to consider funding requirements of this project alongside other capital projects as part of finalising the 2023-24 Budget in June 2023.~~

(8) *Endorse Option 1: Construct like-for-like cricket nets with two synthetic and six turf pitches.*

And remove point (10);

~~(10) Requests the Chief Executive Officer convene a stakeholder session with relevant stakeholders (interested Councillors, Preston Cricket Club representatives, local residents and petition signatories) to discuss the retention of trees, the tree replacement program and softening the visual boundary interface. The session should also inform participants about design, cost and timeframe constraints and parameters.~~

Following advice from the CEO, Peter Smith, Cr. Newton made an additional amendment to point (10), to read as follows:

- (10) **Endorses the confidential recommendation in Appendix C and amend point (8)a of the confidential recommendation to endorse option 1.**

The amendments were not accepted by the mover and seconder, and were then put to vote and lost.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. S Newton

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council:

- (1) Notes the outcome of site investigations undertaken by officers to replace the Preston City Oval cricket net site that was temporarily occupied for the Preston Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) from 2021-2023
- (2) Notes the Preston Cricket Club need for cricket nets and the impact that not having these facilities onsite at Preston City Oval for an extended period is having on Club operations
- (3) Notes concerns by some members of the community about the project, particularly the location of the cricket nets in the southeast corner, removal of a playground and park, and the associated impact on local amenity
- (4) Notes the petition opposing the demolition of mature trees and removal of publicly accessible open green space for the purpose of enclosed cricket nets submitted to Council at its meeting held on 22 May 2023
- (5) Endorses the southeast corner of Preston City Oval as being the only viable option available for cricket nets at this site given the range of site constraints
- (6) Notes that the only viable option in the southeast corner requires the removal of play equipment and a park located at the corner of Bruce and Mary Streets and the removal of trees
- (7) Notes that since Council initially estimated costs, market testing has identified costs are expected to be higher than the original estimates
- ~~(8) Given Council's current financial position, requests the Chief Executive Officer re-scope the project (option 2) and seek competitive market design and construct proposals to enable Council to consider funding requirements of this project alongside other capital projects as part of finalising the 2023-24 Budget in June 2023~~
- (8) Endorse Option 1: Construct like-for-like cricket nets with two synthetic and six turf pitches**
- (9) Requests the Chief Executive Officer explore ways to minimise the number of trees that would need to be removed on the southeast corner of the site and opportunities to smooth the edges of the project, should Council agree to allocate funding to this project when it finalises its 2023-24 budget
- ~~(10) Requests the Chief Executive Officer convene a stakeholder session with relevant stakeholders (interested Councillors, Preston Cricket Club representatives, local residents and petition signatories) to discuss the retention of trees, the tree replacement program and softening the visual boundary interface. The session should also inform participants about design, cost and timeframe constraints and parameters~~
- (10) Endorses the confidential recommendation in Appendix C and amend point (8)a of the confidential recommendation to endorse option 1**
- (11) Requests the Chief Executive Officer advise Preston Cricket Club and the lead petitioner of Council's decision

LOST

For: Cr's Dimitriadis, Newton and Laurence (3)

Against: Cr's Hannan, Rennie, McCarthy, Messina, Greco and Williams (6)

7.22pm – The Meeting adjourned for a break to resolve the technical issues which were preventing Cr. Greco's audio from being heard on the livestream.

7.40pm – The meeting resumed, however the audio issues were unable to be resolved. Cr. Greco was able to be heard in the Council Chamber throughout the meeting, however he was not able to be heard on the livestream recording.

Cr. Greco proposed the following amendment, to add point (13) to the alternate motion (as moved by Cr. Messina):

- (13) Write to the LXRP, responsible Ministers and Local MPs requesting funding to cover the full cost of the replacement of the cricket nets.*

The amendment was accepted by the mover and the seconder and became the motion as follows:

Motion

That Council:

- (1) Notes the outcome of site investigations undertaken by officers to replace the Preston City Oval cricket net site that was temporarily occupied for the Preston Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) from 2021-2023
- (2) Notes the Preston Cricket Club need for cricket nets and the impact that not having these facilities onsite at Preston City Oval for an extended period is having on Club operations
- (3) Notes concerns by some members of the community about the project, particularly the location of the cricket nets in the southeast corner, removal of a playground and park, and the associated impact on local amenity
- (4) Notes the petition opposing the demolition of mature trees and removal of publicly accessible open green space for the purpose of enclosed cricket nets submitted to Council at its meeting held on 22 May 2023
- (5) Endorses the southeast corner of Preston City Oval as being the only viable option available for cricket nets at this site given the range of site constraints
- (6) Notes that the only viable option in the southeast corner requires the removal of play equipment and a park located at the corner of Bruce and Mary Streets and the removal of trees
- (7) Notes that since Council initially estimated costs, market testing has identified costs are expected to be higher than the original estimates
- (8) Given Council's current financial position, requests the Chief Executive Officer re-scope the project (option 2) and seek competitive market design and construct proposals to enable Council to consider funding requirements of this project alongside other capital projects as part of finalising the 2023-24 Budget in June 2023
- (9) Requests the Chief Executive Officer explore ways to minimise the number of trees that would need to be removed on the southeast corner of the site and opportunities to smooth the edges of the project, should Council agree to allocate funding to this project when it finalises its 2023-24 budget

- (10) Requests the Chief Executive Officer convene a stakeholder session with relevant stakeholders (interested Councillors, Preston Cricket Club representatives, local residents and petition signatories) to discuss the retention of trees, the tree replacement program and softening the visual boundary interface. The session should also inform participants about design, cost and timeframe constraints and parameters
- (11) Endorses the confidential recommendation in Appendix C
- (12) Requests the Chief Executive Officer advise Preston Cricket Club and the lead petitioner of Council's decision
- (13) **Write to the LXR, responsible ministers and Local MPs requesting funding to cover the full cost of the replacement of the cricket nets**

The motion was put and carried and became the Council Resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-032

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Notes the outcome of site investigations undertaken by officers to replace the Preston City Oval cricket net site that was temporarily occupied for the Preston Level Crossing Removal Project (LXR) from 2021-2023
- (2) Notes the Preston Cricket Club need for cricket nets and the impact that not having these facilities onsite at Preston City Oval for an extended period is having on Club operations
- (3) Notes concerns by some members of the community about the project, particularly the location of the cricket nets in the southeast corner, removal of a playground and park, and the associated impact on local amenity
- (4) Notes the petition opposing the demolition of mature trees and removal of publicly accessible open green space for the purpose of enclosed cricket nets submitted to Council at its meeting held on 22 May 2023
- (5) Endorses the southeast corner of Preston City Oval as being the only viable option available for cricket nets at this site given the range of site constraints
- (6) Notes that the only viable option in the southeast corner requires the removal of play equipment and a park located at the corner of Bruce and Mary Streets and the removal of trees
- (7) Notes that since Council initially estimated costs, market testing has identified costs are expected to be higher than the original estimates
- (8) Given Council's current financial position, requests the Chief Executive Officer re-scope the project (option 2) and seek competitive market design and construct proposals to enable Council to consider funding requirements of this project alongside other capital projects as part of finalising the 2023-24 Budget in June 2023
- (9) Requests the Chief Executive Officer explore ways to minimise the number of trees that would need to be removed on the southeast corner of the site and opportunities to smooth the edges of the project, should Council agree to allocate funding to this project when it finalises its 2023-24 budget
- (10) Requests the Chief Executive Officer convene a stakeholder session with relevant stakeholders (interested Councillors, Preston Cricket Club representatives, local residents and petition signatories) to discuss the retention of trees, the tree

replacement program and softening the visual boundary interface. The session should also inform participants about design, cost and timeframe constraints and parameters

- (11) Endorses the confidential recommendation in Appendix C
- (12) Requests the Chief Executive Officer advise Preston Cricket Club and the lead petitioner of Council's decision
- (13) Write to the LXP, responsible ministers and Local MPs requesting funding to cover the full cost of the replacement of the cricket nets

CARRIED

For: Cr's Hannan, Rennie, Newton, McCarthy, Laurence, Messina and Williams (7)

Abstained: Cr's Dimitriadis (1)

(Due to technical difficulties, Cr. Greco was not in attendance on screen therefore his vote was not included).

6. URGENT BUSINESS

6.1 OPTIONS TO RETAIN TREES IN GLADSTONE AVENUE, NORTHCOTE

Cr. Hannan declared a conflict of interest in relation to the Urgent Business Item "Options to Retain Trees in Gladstone Avenue, Northcote" due to this relating to Energy Safe Victoria, as this is his area of employment.

7.48pm – Cr. Hannan left the Meeting.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO ADMIT URGENT BUSINESS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council consider the matter of 'Options to retain trees in Gladstone Ave, Northcote' to be admitted as Urgent Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-033

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Council calls for a report at the June Council Meeting on options to retain trees in Gladstone Ave, Northcote that have been identified for removal, following an audit by Energy Safe Victoria. The report should consider and advise on a range of options, including physical infrastructure (eg. brackets to reposition electricity lines), requests for exemption by Energy Safe Victoria, reassessment by Energy Safe Victoria and/or an independent assessment by a qualified professional, and appropriate action by the Minister for Energy and Resources
- (2) Council writes to the Minister for Energy and Resources to request that in the next review of the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations and incorporated Code of Practice, consideration be given to maintaining and increasing tree canopy in urban settings, such as Darebin

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.57pm – Cr. Hannan returned to the Meeting.

7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

8. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 7.58pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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