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# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 8 July 2019

Released to the public on Thursday 11 July 2019





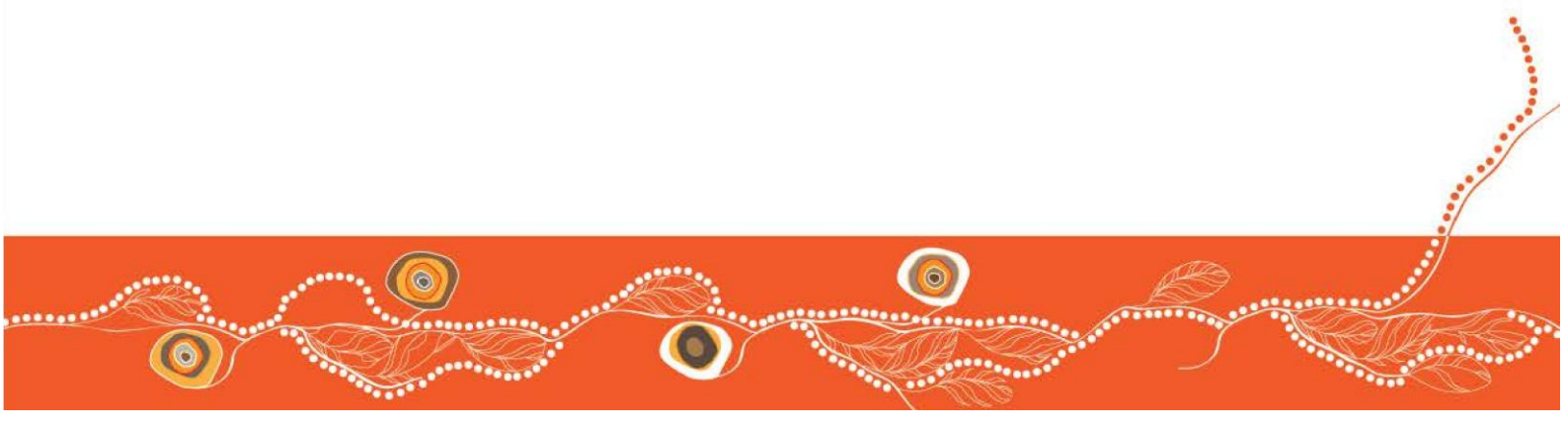
## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council also 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 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 8888 8470.

**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 MEETING OF THE  
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,  
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2019**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.01PM**

**1. PRESENT**

***Councillors***

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)  
Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr. Steph Amir  
Cr. Tim Laurence  
Cr. Trent McCarthy  
Cr. Lina Messina  
Cr. Julie Williams (6.02pm)

***Council Officers***

Sue Wilkinson - Chief Executive Officer  
Ingrid Bishop - General Manager Governance and Engagement  
Cathy Henderson - General Manager Community  
Felicity Leahy – Acting General Manager Operations and Capital  
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy  
Melinda Viksne - Manager Governance and Performance  
Ralph Anania - Acting Coordinator Governance, Council Business and Civic Services  
Karlee Ferrante - Council Business Officer  
Georgina Steele - Council Business Officer

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received for Cr. Gaetano Greco and Cr. Kim Le Cerf.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

*Cr. Julie Williams entered the meeting at 6.02pm.*

## 4. ITEM LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION

### 4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An item of Urgent Business regarding the Local Government Bill was raised by Cr Newton at the Council meeting held on 24 June 2019.

The meeting admitted the following motion from Cr Newton –

**That Council:**

- (1) Notes with grave concern that:
  - a) several significant changes are proposed to the Local Government Bill 2018, intended to be introduced into parliament later this year, without warning and without consultation, with only one month to provide feedback by 17 July 2019;
  - b) the proposed changes include changes to the voter franchise, blanket single-member wards for all councils and removing the multi-member wards as an option which has been strongly supported by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and introducing a petition process (requiring 25% of voters) which could lead to dismissing Councillors, which is undemocratic.
- (2) Notes that the VEC is about to commence its representation review of Darebin City Council, with submissions opening 26 June 2019 and noting that in its last review in 2007, the VEC recommended that Darebin move from single-member to multi-member wards, which has led to greater diversity of Councillors and representation; and single-member wards could reverse this outcome.
- (3) Authorise the CEO to write to:
  - a) the Minister for Local Government expressing Council's concerns about his proposed changes and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector and seeking clarification of proposed community consultation and parliamentary tabling timelines and details of the proposed Bill;
  - b) the Premier, Local State Members of Parliament, the Opposition State Minister for Local Government, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) as above, expressing Council's concerns about the Minister's proposed changes and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector.
- (4) Authorise the CEO to work with other Councils in seeking the Minister to reconsider his proposed changes.
- (5) Authorise the CEO to prepare a submission to the proposed changes by the Minister for Local Government (due 17 July), on the grounds that Council objects to the proposed changes in terms of 1 and 2 above in the strongest possible terms, including that:
  - a) Voter petitions with support from more than 25% of voters within a municipality will lead to a Commission of Inquiry (Col), and where the Col finds a Councillor has caused or contributed to a failure of the Council's good

- governance, the Councillor will be disqualified for four years; and Councils will have to meet the costs for the Col;
- b) Single-member wards will be mandated except where a Ministerial exemption is granted for an un-subdivided municipality based on a small population and large geographic area;
  - c) Simplified voter franchise requiring non-resident property owners to apply to vote rather than automatically included from the Council's rates records.

**Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 19-121**

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

**That Council:**

- (1) Notes with grave concern that:
  - a) several significant changes are proposed to the Local Government Bill 2018, intended to be introduced into parliament later this year, without warning and without consultation, with only one month to provide feedback by 17 July;
  - b) the proposed changes include blanket single-member wards for all councils and the removal of multi-member wards as an option, when multi-member wards have been strongly supported by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and introducing a petition process (requiring 25% of voters) for dismissing Councillors, which is undemocratic;
- (2) Notes that the VEC has commenced its representation review of Darebin City Council, with submissions opening 26 June 2019 and noting that in its last review in 2007, the VEC recommended that Darebin move from single-member to multi-member wards, which has led to greater diversity of Councillors and representation, and single member wards could reverse this outcome;
- (3) Authorise the CEO to write to:
  - a) the Minister for Local Government to express Council's concerns about his proposed reforms and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector and to seek clarification of the proposed community consultation and parliamentary tabling timelines;
  - b) the Premier, Local State Members, the Opposition State Minister for Local Government, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Government Association expressing Council's concerns about the Minister's proposed reforms and the lack of warning and genuine consultation with the local government sector;
- (4) Authorises the CEO to:
  - a) work with other councils in seeking the Minister to reconsider his proposed reforms; and
  - b) prepare a submission to the proposed reforms by the Minister for Local Government (due 17 July), on the basis that while Council is supportive of several reforms, it does strongly object to reforms 1 and 2, and has major concerns with reform 6.
- (5) Proposes that the Minister pursue passage of the Local Government Act 2018, the result of years of consultation and any other matters such as the six proposed additions be considered at a later date following proper consultation and



consideration of the evidence.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Laurence and Cr Williams requested to be recorded as having voted against the motion.*

## **5. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.17pm.

consideration of the evidence.


**CARRIED**

*Cr. Laurence and Cr Williams requested to be recorded as having voted against the motion.*

## **5. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.17pm.

I, Cr. Rennie Mayor  
of Darabin City Council  
certify that these  
minutes have been  
confirmed as a true and  
correct record of the  
business transacted.




**CITY OF  
DAREBIN**

274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
**T** 8470 8888 **F** 8470 8877  
**E** mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au  
darebin.vic.gov.au

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