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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 24 March 2025

Released to the public on 28 March 2025

**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, παρακαλείσθε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriir 8470 8888.

Spanish

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

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی روداد کے نقاط ہیں۔ روداد کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

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

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 24 MARCH 2025

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.10PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Gaetano Greco (online)
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Council Officers

Michael Tudball - Interim Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager, Governance, Risk, Communications & Engage
Felicity Walsh - Governance Specialist
Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

Municipal Monitors

June Anstee
Ross Millard

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM, opened the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land. I recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN KOCANI

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM, opened the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to express Darebin Council's deepest condolences to the Macedonian Community following the devastating nightclub fire in Kocani.

This recent tragic incident took the lives of at least 59 people and left nearly 200 others injured, most of whom are young people. It has deeply shaken the community—both in Kocani and here in Darebin. The grief is especially heavy as so many young lives were cut short.

Darebin is home to a large and close-knit Macedonian community, and Cr Boglis and I have had many residents reach out who are deeply hurting.

On behalf of the Darebin Council, I want to acknowledge the profound impact and far-reaching nature of this tragedy, including here in Darebin, and let you know that we share your pain.

I would also like to thank the Victorian government for lighting up Federation Square and the NGV in Macedonian red and yellow, and Nathan Lambert, member for Reservoir and Preston who acknowledged the tragic incident in Parliament.

Our thoughts are with the Macedonian community at this incredibly sad and difficult time. In times of sorrow, it's so important that we stand together in support and solidarity

*Councillor Greco left the meeting at 6:13pm.
Councillor Greco returned to the meeting at 6:14pm.*

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Standing Orders be suspended to observe one minute's silence in recognition of the recent tragedy in Kocani where 59 people were killed in a nightclub fire.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

One minute's silence was observed.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council resolve to resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-033

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 3 March 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris, made the following statement:

Council has an occupational health and safety responsibility to ensure anyone attending tonight's meeting, feels safe both physical and emotionally.

It's great to see everyone here this evening. I would like to remind everyone in attendance to be respectful of each other, and as outlined in our Governance Rules, please note the following:

- *Silence must be preserved by the gallery at all times during a Meeting (other than by a person in the gallery who is invited to address the Meeting).*
- *A Councillor or any other person who addresses a Meeting must do so in a courteous and respectful manner and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called on to do so.*
- *Anyone attending a Meeting must not utter any offensive, indecent, insulting, or objectionable words, including words that are racist, sexist or homophobic, or interject or gesticulate offensively in the Council Chamber.*
- *If anyone engages in conduct that is improper or disorderly, the Chairperson may direct that person to cease their conduct and the person must comply with that direction*

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

- **Sandra Li**

Is Council aware of the results from the recent Amplify study on housing reform, where 94% of respondents were shown to approve of upzoning?

Does Council intend to act with greater conviction and urgency on this and similar studies, which show both that the majority of residents are in favor of increasing housing density, housing availability, and public transport access, and that increasing housing density and reducing sprawl would overwhelmingly be a net positive for the city and the majority of its residents?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thank you for the questions, Sandra. I wasn't aware of the Amplify Study, thank you for sharing it. Last year Council consulted the community on its Draft Darebin Housing Strategy. Housing continues to be a priority for Council through its own planning work and through advocacy.

Council's draft Housing Strategy aims to increase housing growth and diversity in the most accessible parts of the municipality close to existing services, facilities, and public transport. Amongst other things, the strategy recommends upzoning land in these locations to increase residential densities in existing urban areas.

• **Barbara Trauer**

I have a question about agenda item 9.5 'Submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the redevelopment of Public Housing'

Darebin Council's proposition for 'more public housing' does not challenge the government's demolition policy which is environmentally and economically unsound.

Will Darebin Council express opposition to the demolition of the Holmes Street public housing tower unless there is an independent and cost-quantified structural, engineering and architectural assessment of the suitability of the Holmes Street tower for retrofitting refurbishment of the building - coupled with an additional infill of new dwellings?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thank you for your question, Barbara. This is a topic that will be considered by Council tonight.

• **Nicole Brown**

1. Can the feasibility study for Edwardes Street, Henty Street, and Gilbert Road be expedited, given ongoing concerns about pedestrian safety and heavy traffic in the area?
2. Will the study aim to address resident concerns regarding the lack of safe pedestrian crossing options near Edwardes Lake and JE Moore Park, as well as traffic management updates - including the removal of the Henty St/Gilbert Rd roundabout, speed reductions, and/or the installation of speed bumps on Henty Street?
3. Could you clarify how proposed pedestrian safety measures, like walk crossings or traffic lights, might impact traffic flow, and what alternatives are being considered to balance pedestrian safety with traffic efficiency? Residents are particularly concerned that child and family safety is being compromised for the sake of maintaining driver convenience in an area with high pedestrian traffic

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thank you for your questions, Nicole.

1. Council will consider its draft capital works budget for 2025/26 in April. community can make a submission during May.
2. The type and location of road safety improvements is typically done through Council's Your Street, Your Say program. The Gilbert/Henty Street roundabout has been identified for improvements. There is currently no endorsed project to install speed humps along Henty Street.
3. Council is working to improve safety for everyone. This is being achieved by introducing safer speeds and making changes on the road where people are crossing.

A number of questions were received about issues at Edwardes Lake Park, including fishing and electric bikes. In line with our Governance Rules, the first person to submit the 'like question' was permitted to ask their question, with all other like questions grouped together and an overall response provided.

- **Natali Barnett**

I would like to know what the council plans to do about illegal fishing at Edwardes Lake, as I personally have seen the devastating consequences it is having on the wildlife.

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Council officers routinely patrol Edwardes Lake Park both inside and outside of business hours to ensure compliance with the Local Law and Domestic Animals Act 1994. There are signs which prohibit fishing Edwardes Lake Park, but we know from feedback that the signage related to fishing and motorised vehicles is inadequate. Council is working on this. A small number of infringements have been issued in Edwardes Lake Park in the last 12 months. Officers prefer to educate park visitors.

Tonight, Council is considering a draft Local Law to go out for public exhibition. If adopted, fishing will be explicitly prohibited and Council will have more tools to enforce the Local Laws. Council will support the new Local Law with a community education campaign.

Thank you to the following people who submitted questions regarding Edwardes Lake Park: Julie Atkinson, Rachel Dean, Matthew Piper, Edwina Berry, Felicity Lathrop, Rachel Unicomb, Carolyn Shurey, Shau Teo, Carmen Lahiff-Jenkins, Aws Salloum, Christian-Paul Stenta, Mary Parlalis, Brittany Anderson, Jacqui Evans, David Gifford, Carly Dober, Jessie Hetherington, Rodney Nethercote, Erin Brereton, Kate Jost, Barbara Reade, Leroy Whyte, Stephanie Rich, Erin Brereton.

Councillor Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) left the meeting at 6:30pm.

- **David Taylor**

1. The Local Government Act at section 110 refers to Councils being able to become a member of a corporation such as DCMC and make payment of subscription fees. At its Rule 11 and elsewhere, DCMC is allowed to apply membership subscription fees. This derives from Schedule 1 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

In the view of Council, would the levying of an annual subscription by DCMC on Darebin Council fall outside Council's Procurement Policy because it would not amount to procurement, and therefore also not infringe the 2022 VAGO recommendation regarding recurrent grant recipients?

2. Can Council, in its investigation of options under the resolution of 24 February 2025 at Point 3, also investigate the option of DCMC being funded to its current extent via annual subscription fees, perhaps with industry benchmarking, rather than the recurrent grant arrangement that VAGO has deemed insufficiently transparent?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure &, Operations & Finance

Thanks for the question David.

1. We haven't specifically considered your question and therefore haven't formed a particular view about it. It's quite a different approach to the current arrangement in place through which Council funds DCMC's work. Council can and does pay several subscriptions or membership fees to organisations – for example Council is a member of the Municipal Association of Victoria. However the examples I'm aware of are at much lower levels of funding than Council's current funding for DCMC's work and the nature of services quite different.
1. 2 - In regards to your suggestion that this be investigated as an option, yes we'll test whether paying a subscription fee would be able to be legally considered by Council, if DCMC were to charge one. The report to Council on options has been scheduled for August 2025.

For those watching, it's worth being clear that DCMC is a legally separate organisation from Council, albeit one that Council is a member of and which Council has supported and partnered with for a long time. DCMC's committee is the decision maker on some of the matters being asked about tonight.

• Carmen Lahiff-Jenkins

Does council intend to ramp up actions against cat owners who do not control the wanderings of their pets. I have recently seen a letter drafted to local community in the Moonee Valley LGA regarding cats and the curfew, and cats who persistently annoy other homes. It was very persuasive, and I implore council to review it and this strategy and apply more rigorous safeguards for wildlife.

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thanks for the question Carmen Darebin has a night time cat curfew in place, which applies from 7pm – 7am, 7 days a week, year round. We are always looking at ways to encourage compliance with local and state laws.

This year Council will undertake consultation for the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which guides Councils animal management activities for the next four years. We would encourage residents to engage with that consultation process and provide feedback to their experiences with domestic animals in Darebin.

- **Jacqui Evans**

Are Council aware of young people who are riding motorised bikes in and around Edwardes lake park?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Council is aware of activity which would breach the Local Law involving motorised vehicles in Edwardes Lake Park. Council officers routinely patrol Edwardes Lake Park, both during the week and after hours. Council is considering a new Local Law, which is on the agenda for tonight's meeting. This Draft Local Law addresses activities in reserves, like the use of these vehicles and provides more tools to address unsafe behaviour.

- **Matthew Zammit**

1. Has Darebin Council consulted with the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee in relation to the decision to trial hire e-scooters on Darebin streets?
2. Does Darebin Council retain records of how many "Contact Plans" it issues as part of its Complaints Handling Policy, and if so, how many such Contact Plans were issued by Darebin Council between 1 January 2021 and 1 January 2025?
3. It appears as though a segment of the Darebin ordinary Council meeting of 29 April 2024 has been edited out of the meeting video - just after the public question time. What is the reason for this editing of the meeting video and what reasons or powers does Council have to edit or redact video transcripts of meeting proceedings that otherwise appeared on the livestream of the meeting?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thanks for the question, Matthew.

1. Officers are currently working on implementing Council's decision on the e-scooter trial, and they recently discussed their work with the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee.
2. Council's current Complaints Handling Policy has a section about "dealing with unreasonable complainant behaviour". Based on this policy, Council may establish restrictions in the way someone can access Council officers or premises, for safety purposes. At present, there is no centralised record for the whole of Council as to how many restrictions have been put in place under this policy. We can share that three formal restrictions on access have been created through the Office of the EO. Council is soon to implement a new Complex Customer Behaviour Policy which provides for the establishment of Contact Plans, with centralised recording.
3. Council edited the livestream recording following a request by a member of the community. This request was assessed by officers and deemed appropriate given the circumstances. Council has various powers incl. those under the LG Act, when it comes to managing council meetings. Decisions like these are made on a case-by-case basis.

Councillor Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) returned to the meeting at 6:37pm.

- **Warwick Blackmur**

Has Council considered or investigated the installation of physical litter traps or netting to protect our local waterways from rubbish washed into them through storm water drains?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure &, Operations & Finance

Thank you for the question, Warwick. Darebin has 26 gross pollution traps, varying in size and servicing different catchments across the municipality.

- **Leon Zembekis**

1. In 2023 I requested Darebin libraries purchase Helen Joyce's book *Trans, When Ideology Meets Reality*. I was told this book was removed from the shelves to be repaired after being vandalised. I asked to be shown the vandalised book and then I asked for it to be repurchased. Both requests were denied. I believe the City of Darebin has censored this book. I would like my previous written requests answered. This attitude of censorship needs to be stopped, and Helen Joyce's book *'Trans, When Ideology Meets Reality'* to be reinstated on the library shelves.
2. Carp are killing Darebin's native water species in our waterways. The Friends of Edwards Lake and Darebin Greens have argued carp be left alone in our waterways against federal and state laws to have carp eradicated. Why is Darebin Council protecting carp and not responding to my written concerns?

** Please note that question 2 has been edited as it did not comply with the section 15.3(1)(b) of the Governance Rules.*

Response From General Manager Community

Thank you for your question, Leon.

A library representative will provide a response to you on your specific request by the end of this week. Darebin Libraries' Collection Development Guidelines are used when selecting material for the collection. Selection criteria include:

- relevance and appeal to our community
- authority and reputation of author
- currency and accuracy of content
- cost
- date of publication and availability, and
- existing subject coverage in the collection.

The library receives many customer requests and considers these in accordance with the outlined criteria. Items not purchased may be obtained via inter-library loan if available at another library service. Darebin City Council is proud of the many LGBTIQ+ people, their families and communities who live, work and play in our municipality.

Our Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework guides Council's work in addressing barriers to equity and inclusion in the community. It goes above and beyond our legislated responsibilities and places Council at the forefront in tackling disadvantage, inequity and exclusion.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations & Finance

I'm sorry you haven't had a response from us, an officer will contact you this week.

We agree that carp are a problematic pest, however Darebin doesn't allow fishing at Edwardes Lake Park. Some of the key reasons are because the water isn't safe to enter and fish is not safe to eat.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council Resolution

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

That Public Question Time be extended for up to 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **Susanne Newton**

1. Will Council be removing posters on Council-owned childcare centres such as Merri Community Child Care Centre that are currently advertising the state MP for the area?
2. What context has changed since April 2024 when officers were open to Council endorsing the Plant Based Treaty?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thanks for the questions Susanne.

1. In relation to your first question, thank you for bringing this matter to our attention – the team will investigate
2. Regarding your second question, the officer's report included in tonight's agenda shares growing concerns and challenges for our community accessing food.

Councillor Boglis OAM left the meeting at 6:50pm.

- **Timmee Grinham**

As noted in the Council Officers' report to this meeting: 'No feasibility studies or technical reports have been provided to demonstrate that full redevelopment is the most appropriate or necessary option, including for 1 Holmes Street.'
Furthermore: It is unclear if alternative approaches such as refurbishment or retrofitting were explored.

1. Can the Council please explain how the Darebin Council's focus on 'more public housing' actually challenges the government's policy to demolish the tower at Holmes St?

2. Can the Council also please explain whether the focus on 'more public housing' without acknowledging the need to oppose the government's policy to demolish the 44 Public Housing towers is in accordance with the wishes of the Darebin community and the current residents of the Holmes St towers?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thank you for your question, Timmee. This is a topic that will be considered by Council tonight.

Councillor Boglis OAM returned to the meeting at 6:51pm.

• **John Nugent**

3. Mayor Could you please advise when this Council will do some improvements to the gardens on the corners of High St and Cramer St outside the Council building. The gardens look untidy there is only patchy grass. This garden was the pride of the Preston central business district
4. Could you please advise me when the unsealed pavement will receive some overdue maintenance on it. The weeds are over growing the pathway and need widening again. When will this work be done? Mayor don't forget there was a petition with 125 signatures who requested this pathway to be sealed and there is 4.8 million dollars in the development fund.
5. My question is about ovals 3 and 5 on Donath west. These ovals have very little grass on them, they also look very dry and dusty. What are Council going to do to bring these ovals back into good playing order?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure &, Operations & Finance

1. Thank you for the question John. These native gardens include several local species that are often mistaken for weeds. While the grass could be greener and plantings refreshed more often, the level of maintenance is a good standard and balances the service level with cost-effectiveness.
2. At this site there is a three-week weed control cycle, last done on March 11–13. Pruning and debris clearing occur weekly, last scheduled today. The teams worked on the granitic sand track at Donath reserve from July to September 2024 to rectify. This task is generally completed annually and will be completed again in July to September 2025. The petition you previously tabled was responded to in May 2024 and council position has not changed since this was shared.
3. These grounds were dry for a short period this summer due to an irrigation failure, which has been fixed. During this time, temperatures exceeded 35°C for the week. With irrigation restored and cooler weather ahead, the grass should establish. The team will monitor the recovery and adjust watering and management as needed. Generally, the grounds meet Council's expected standard and there are ongoing maintenance programs in place to keep them in good shape.

Councillor Arturi left the meeting at 6:55pm.

Councillor Arturi returned to the meeting at 6:57pm.

This public question was submitted on the day of the Council Meeting, however due to administrative oversight the question was not addressed at the Council Meeting.

- **Peter Thomson**

1. Prior to the Corona virus period indigenous peoples who served their country through the armed services were recognised on the 11 of the 11 at the City of Darebin War Memorial. Has a dedication plaque been affixed to the Monument to attest to this ? If not why not ? Given the Darebin RSL has done so at their site!
2. The Social Housing site at the corner of Kelvin Grove and Townhall Avenue with limited availability of Resident vehicle parking spaces on site what provision is or can be made who are left without this simple need ?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your question Peter, Council supports recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served their country through the work of the RSL and the Aborigines Advancement League (which runs an ANZAC day service and works closely with the Shrine of Remembrance). These institutions have tended to take a leading role on this for the community.
2. The social housing development on the corner of Kelvin Grove and Townhall Avenue, Preston doesn't provide on-site parking for residents. As part of the planning permit, several provisions were included to address resident parking. The development includes a secured resident only bike cage provides 24 bicycle parking spaces, with three additional ground-mounted spaces, promoting cycling as a viable option. There are 3 car share bays to be installed in the public car park below and a fourth on street in Townhall Avenue. Finally the development's central location to the Preston Activity Centre and access to public transport reduces the reliance on personal vehicles, making it suitable for tenants who do not own cars.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That the order of business be amended to consider Item 8 Petitions before hearing Submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION – REVIVE JOHNSON PARK: LET’S BRING IT BACK TO LIFE

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-034

MOVED: Cr. O'Brien
SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That the petition:

Revive Johnson Park: Let’s Bring it Back to Life - requests Council to consider upgrades to Johnson Park, including:

- new masterplan design to ensure all improvements work toward a cohesive vision that meets community needs
- resowing all the grass areas (this can be staggered if concerns about disruption to user access is a concern)
- planting and maintenance strategies for garden beds
- new plantings to anticipate future tree loss
- improved long term watering strategies
- improved and regular mulching of existing trees
- more engaging adventurous play experiences such as cubbies and waterplay, in addition to existing playground
- increased seating/ picnic facilities adjacent to the rotunda and BBQ
- noise-softened basketball halfcourt

be tabled and referred to the CEO for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Councillor Greco left the meeting at 6:59pm.
Councillor Greco returned to the meeting at 7:00pm.*

Ruth Clare as the petitioner made a 2 minute submission.

Councillor O'Brien left the meeting at 7:03pm.

SUBMISSIONS

Susanne Newton made a 2-minute submission to Item 9.6 Plant Based Treaty and Food Resilience Scoping Study Update.

Michael Tudball, CEO left the meeting at 7:04pm

Councillor O'Brien returned to the meeting at 7:05pm.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 2 WINGROVE STREET ALPHINGTON - FUTURE USE OF CONCRETE SLAB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Melbourne Farmers Market ('**MFM**') has approached Council requesting use of the large concrete slab ('**Slab**') which was installed at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington by C Fulton Pty Ltd ('**Fulton**'). Fulton installed and currently own the Slab and are responsible for its removal and make good of the site to bring it to its original condition. Removal is costly and complex due to the site being a former landfill with cost estimates of several hundred thousand dollars (\$366,600) depending on the conditions under the slab. Removal will be required within the next 5 to 20 years as the slab is not in good condition and depending on the outcomes of Council's work to develop a masterplan, although there is not an immediate practical need for removal.

This report seeks a decision of Council as to whether or not to grant the request from MFM for use of the slab and thereby also to release Fulton of their current responsibility to make good.

This is an unusual situation because granting a new licence without a commitment by a new licensee to remove the slab would transfer significant to Council associated with future removal of the slab. This would require Council to allocate funding of several hundred thousand dollars for making good and these funds could not be used for other purposes. Considering this opportunity cost, it is recommended that Council maintain the requirement of the outgoing licensee to make good unless any new licensee is willing and able to take on the make good requirements.

MFM currently operate a farmers' market, food hub, commercial onsite café and community meeting space in the South-Western corner of 2 Wingrove Street under a licence with Council. The market is highly valued by the local community. MFM have requested use of the Slab to facilitate the farmers' market, as their current space is smaller and faces some issues with dust and mud. They have indicated that they would relocate the Market to the slab and off the current location.

MFM have indicated that they do not have the financial capacity to consider taking on removal of the slab and it is not regarded as realistic to seek that they cover the very high costs, although it is would be technically possible to offer them a licence on the basis that they took on responsibility for future removal.

Following the Council decision on 16 December 2024, all decisions relating to short, mid and long-term use of 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, including establishment or conclusion of licences, are to be reported to Council for decision. Accordingly, a Council decision is sought on MFM's request for a licence for the area covered by the Slab.

Michael Tudball, CEO returned to the meeting at 7:06pm

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-035

MOVED: Cr. Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Notes that a concrete slab was installed and is owned by Fulton, an outgoing Licencee at 2 Wingrove St to facilitate their business operations while they were using the site and that they are required remove the slab to 'make good' the site.
- (2) Notes that the slab is not in good condition and that it is costly and complex to remove the slab due to the history of the site as a landfill; costs estimate for removal are just under \$370K depending on ground conditions under the slab.
- (3) Recognises the community benefits that Melbourne Farmers Market ('MFM') provide in operating the Market at the 2 Wingrove site and confirms Council's support for the market.
- (4) Acknowledges MFM's request to use the slab for the purposes of relocating the market, noting that this request is on the basis that MFM would not be able to undertake the 'make good' obligations, and therefore the future costs of removing the slab would need to be borne by Council and would not be available to fund other community infrastructure.
- (5) Writes to MFM:
 - a. thanking them for their request and interest in improving their operations;
 - b. confirming Council's continued support of MFM at 2 Wingrove Street; and
 - c. advising that Council would be able to consider licencing the slab to MFM but only on the basis that it would take on slab ownership and make good obligations including providing a security in the form of a bank guarantee to the estimated value of removal of the slab; the location of the licence within the 2 Wingrove St site would be varied.
- (6) If MFM confirms they would like to proceed with licencing the slab on the basis outlined in 5c, authorises the Manager Buildings, Property & Capital to
 - a. negotiate a variation to MFM's licence at 2 Wingrove St to give effect to the change, including to allow for an orderly transition of Market operations from one location to another.
 - b. negotiate any variations to the licence Fulton have to enable an orderly transition from one licensee to another.
- (7) If MFM advise they do not wish to proceed with licensing the slab on the basis outlined in 5c
 - a. Ensures that the current owner of the concrete slab complies with all obligations of their licence including those concerning removal of the concrete slab and make good of the site.
 - b. Authorises the release of the current owner's bank guarantee upon completion of their obligations.

CARRIED

For

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)

Cr. Matt Arturi

Cr. Connie Boglis OAM

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Ruth Jelley

Cr. Julie O'Brien

Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Abstained

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

9.2 LEASING OF KINDERGARTENS AND CHILDCARE CENTRES

Cr. Greco declared a general conflict of interest in relation to this item due to his partner being a casual employee for the Clifton Street Childcare Centre and left the meeting at 7:21pm.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is seeking clarification of the resolution made by Council at its meeting on 18 December 2023.

On 18 December 2023, reflecting Council's long-standing and deep commitment to high quality Early Years Services, and taking into account submissions received from the community, Council resolved to enter into new leases with each of 18 (not-for-profit) Early Years Services Associations (**'EYS Providers'**), for an initial five-year term with a further five-year term at the EYS Provider's option (**'New Leases'**).

The decision included the following elements on which this report is seeking clarification (emphasis added):

- (4) *Enters into a five-year lease commencing 1 January 2024, with a 5 year option for a further lease term (at the tenants option) with each of the 18 (not-for-profit) Early Years Services Associations on the following terms and conditions for the provision of Kindergarten and Childcare services at the various 18 Council-owned premises:*
- a. *An annual rent of \$104 per annum plus GST that is fixed for the term of the Lease.*
 - b. *The tenant's lease conditions relating to liability towards outgoings costs **will remain the same at its current agreement.***
 - c. *The tenant's lease conditions relating to obligations and liability for maintenance costs **will remain the same as its current agreement.***

Since the above decision, it has been identified that not all conditions of the previous leases which ran from 2014-2023 (**'2014 Leases'**) were enforced in practice during the final term. This was an administrative control issue which resulted in some costs not being passed on as they should have been and as had been agreed by all parties in the conditions of the lease.

In regard to the lease terms moving forward, this report seeks clarification as to whether Council's decision is to proceed with the relevant lease terms and conditions as previously agreed *in writing* by all parties in the 2014 Leases, or if it is the intention to proceed with the lease terms *as enforced* during the last term of the lease.

Given the nature of the highly valued and impactful community services and the disruption that it would cause, it is not recommended that Council pursue recouping of costs under the previous lease term.

*Councillor Sangster left the meeting at 7:18pm.
Councillor Sangster returned to the meeting at 7:19pm.*

*Councillor Tsalkos left the meeting at 7:19pm.
Councillor Tsalkos returned to the meeting at 7:21pm.*

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1) Reaffirms its long-standing commitment to supporting kindergarten and childcare services within the municipality.
- 2) Notes and confirms it has already resolved at its ordinary meeting of 18 December 2023 (Item 9.3 Property Matters - Leasing Of Kindergartens & Childcare Centres) to lease the 18 separate Council owned premises to 18 Early Years Services Associations, on a peppercorn rental basis which is inclusive of a full rental subsidy to support the services.
- 3) Notes that the previous lease agreements at the 18 sites expired on 31 December 2023 and are currently continuing on an overholding basis. This provides Tenants the security of having a current lease in place while new lease documentation is finalised.
- 4) Notes that it has been identified that the previous Lease conditions were not implemented correctly nor as agreed by all parties during the previous lease period and this resulted in several minor costs not being passed on to Tenants that should have been.
- 5) Confirms that Council will not seek to recoup costs from Tenants associated with the prior Lease term where such costs relate to lease terms that were not operated correctly.
- 6) Clarifies that the intent of Council's resolution of 18 December 2023, clauses 4b and 4c is that these:

EITHER

- a) remain the same as the current agreement as they were written and agreed in the prior Lease term, noting that these were not operated correctly in the prior Lease term and that Council would commence operating these conditions as agreed from 1 July 2025.

OR

- b) remain the same as the current agreement as they were written and agreed in the prior Lease term, noting that these were not operated correctly in the prior Lease term AND:
 - (i) provides a long transition period by waiving the costs of security and insurance premiums not previously recouped until 1 July 2027

OR

- c) remain the same as the current agreement as they were operated during the prior Lease term, noting that these were not operated correctly in the prior Lease term and that this therefore will require a change in the written wording of these lease conditions.
- 3) Writes to the 18 EYS Providers advising them of the outcome of this decision and the impact on their service.
- 4) Finalises the lease agreements and issues them to the 18 EYS Providers as a matter of priority.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council:

- 1) Reaffirms its long-standing commitment to supporting kindergarten and childcare services within the municipality.
- 2) Notes and confirms it has already resolved at its ordinary meeting of 18 December 2023 (Item 9.3 Property Matters - Leasing Of Kindergartens & Childcare Centres) to lease the 18 separate Council owned premises to 18 Early Years Services Associations, on a peppercorn rental basis which is inclusive of a full rental subsidy to support the services.
- 3) Notes that the previous lease agreements at the 18 sites expired on 31 December 2023 and are currently continuing on an overholding basis. This provides Tenants the security of having a current lease in place while new lease documentation is finalised.
- 4) Notes that it has been identified that the previous Lease conditions were not implemented correctly nor as agreed by all parties during the previous lease period and this resulted in several minor costs not being passed on to Tenants that should have been.
- 5) Confirms that Council will not seek to recoup costs from Tenants associated with the prior Lease term where such costs relate to lease terms that were not operated correctly.
- 6) Clarifies that the intent of Council's resolution of 18 December 2023, clauses 4b and 4c is that these:
 - c) remain the same as the current agreement as they were operated during the prior Lease term, noting that these were not operated correctly in the prior Lease term and that this therefore will require a change in the written wording of these lease conditions.
- 3) Writes to the 18 EYS Providers advising them of the outcome of this decision and the impact on their service.
- 4) Finalises the lease agreements and issues them to the 18 EYS Providers as a matter of priority.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-036

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council:

- 1) Reaffirms its long-standing commitment to supporting kindergarten and childcare services within the municipality.
- 2) Notes and confirms it has already resolved at its ordinary meeting of 18 December 2023 (Item 9.3 Property Matters - Leasing Of Kindergartens & Childcare Centres) to lease the 18 separate Council owned premises to 18 Early Years Services Associations, on a peppercorn rental basis which is inclusive of a full rental subsidy to support the services.

- 3) Notes that the previous lease agreements at the 18 sites expired on 31 December 2023 and are currently continuing on an overholding basis. This provides Tenants the security of having a current lease in place while new lease documentation is finalised.
- 4) Notes that it has been identified that the previous Lease conditions were not implemented correctly nor as agreed by all parties during the previous lease period and this resulted in several minor costs not being passed on to Tenants that should have been.
- 5) Confirms that Council will not seek to recoup costs from Tenants associated with the prior Lease term where such costs relate to lease terms that were not operated correctly.
- 6) Clarifies that the intent of Council's resolution of 18 December 2023, clauses 4b and 4c is that these:
 - c) remain the same as the current agreement as they were operated during the prior Lease term, noting that these were not operated correctly in the prior Lease term and that this therefore will require a change in the written wording of these lease conditions.
- 7) Writes to the 18 EYS Providers advising them of the outcome of this decision and the impact on their service.
- 8) Finalises the lease agreements and issues them to the 18 EYS Providers as a matter of priority

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Greco returned to the meeting at 7:24pm.

9.3

25 EDWARDES STREET RESERVOIR (FORMER POLICE STATION) - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST OUTCOME**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is for Council to consider a proposal to establish a new lease for 25 Edwardes Street, Reservoir (**“the Property”**), with (**“the Applicant”**) being the preferred applicant for an Expression of Interest process (**‘EOI’**) conducted in 2023, subject to a successful completion of community consultation as required under Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council’s Community Engagement Policy.

The Applicant is proposing to undertake capital investment in the Property to make it fit for purpose, by leveraging from Government grant programs. This would bring the currently vacant building into a condition that is fit for use. This investment in a Council facility, as well as the proposed use of the building itself, have been assessed as providing benefit to the Darebin community and in recognition of this, the proposal is that the lease would be on a peppercorn rental basis.

This information is confidential due to its commercial nature. It is recommended that the name of the Applicant and other potentially identifying details remain confidential unless Council resolves to go out to community engagement, at which point the name of the Applicant will be made public as part of the notice and in any future decisions of Council.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-037****MOVED: Cr. Boglis OAM****SECONDED: Cr. Arturi****That Council:**

- (1) Notes that an Expression of Interest (**‘EOI’**) campaign to lease 25 Edwardes Street, Reservoir (**“the Property”**) was open for submissions from 10 July 2023 to 18 August 2023.
- (2) Notes that Council received two submissions in response to the EOI with one submission being withdrawn by one of the parties during the evaluation process.
- (3) Endorses the proposal to enter a new lease arrangement with the preferred applicant (Hands on Health) for the purposes of consulting with community.
- (4) Endorses a community engagement program in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* of Council’s intention to enter into a lease to the Applicant incorporating the below key terms:
 - a. Initial Term – 5 years
 - b. Further Terms – 2 further terms of 5 years subject to the Applicant meeting set conditions
 - c. Rent - \$104.00 per annum plus GST
- (5) Notes that any submissions made will be heard by Council’s Hearing of Submissions Committee at a meeting to be held in the Council Chamber on Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm.
- (6) Receives a further report following the Hearing of Submissions, to enable Council to make a decision on endorsing the lease, having consideration to any submissions heard.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 LOCAL LAW DRAFT - EXHIBITION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the draft Community Amenity Local Law 2025 to be released for public submission in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Receives the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 at **Attachment B**.
- (2) Authorises commencement of the statutory process for the making of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* by:
 - a. giving public notice in a local newspaper and on Council's website of its intention to make Community Amenity Local Law 2025
 - b. stating the objectives and intended effect of the proposed local law.
- (3) Makes a copy of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 available for inspection at Darebin City Council's Customer Service Centres and on Council's website.
- (4) Authorises the CEO to make minor legal administrative changes that may be required following independent legal review of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Receives the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 at **Attachment B with the following amendments:**
 - a. **Deletion of**
 - i. **Clause 39 – Smoking in a Smoke Free Area or at a Smoke Free Event**
 - ii. **Clause 40 – Smoking on Council Land**
 - iii. **Clause 82(2) – Delegations**
- (2) Authorises commencement of the statutory process for the making of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 **(with the amendments noted in point (1))** in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* by:
 - a. giving public notice in a local newspaper and on Council's website of its intention to make Community Amenity Local Law 2025
 - b. stating the objectives and intended effect of the proposed local law.
- (3) Makes a copy of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 available for inspection at Darebin City Council's Customer Service Centres and on Council's website.

- (4) Authorises the CEO to make minor legal administrative changes that may be required following independent legal review of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-038

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Receives the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 at Attachment B with the following amendments:
 - a. Deletion of
 - i. Clause 39 – Smoking in a Smoke Free Area or at a Smoke Free Event
 - ii. Clause 40 – Smoking on Council Land
 - iii. Clause 82(2) – Delegations
- (2) Authorises commencement of the statutory process for the making of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 (with the amendments noted in point (1)) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* by:
 - a. giving public notice in a local newspaper and on Council's website of its intention to make Community Amenity Local Law 2025
 - b. stating the objectives and intended effect of the proposed local law.
- (3) Makes a copy of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025 available for inspection at Darebin City Council's Customer Service Centres and on Council's website.
- (4) Authorises the CEO to make minor legal administrative changes that may be required following independent legal review of the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING – 7.37PM

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes to allow for technical issues to be addressed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting resumed at 7.51pm

9.5

**SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO
THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides a proposed Council submission (submission) to the Victorian State Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne's public housing towers. The redevelopment project includes the 1 Holmes Street Tower in Northcote.

The submission is informed by lessons from previous social housing redevelopments in Darebin and prior advocacy efforts that prioritise housing affordability and tenant protections. The proposed submission includes:

- seeking commitments from the State Government to retain and expand social housing, including in Darebin
- seeking information to be publicly released that:
 - demonstrates refurbishment was considered before demolition was determined as the most feasible option, including for 1 Holmes Street, Northcote.
 - considers delivery models like the ground lease model that retains land in public ownership.
 - considers social and economic long-term impacts of gradually replacing public housing with private and community housing.
 - demonstrates how the project will meet the community's needs, including dwelling typology, and access and inclusion needs.
- early planning and inclusive engagement involving existing residents, the community and local government to mitigate impacts of dislocation and consider return pathways for residents.
- assurance of high-quality dwellings, urban design, environmentally sustainable design and consideration of local context.

If Council supports making a submission, Council Officers will lodge a submission prior to the 31 March 2025 closing date in alignment with Council's decision.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers.
- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our submission.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers.

- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our submission.

Cr Sangster proposed the following amendments to the motion as follows:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers, **contingent on:**
- a. **The following wording change in the second recommendation under Terms of Reference D on page 194 (page 3 of Appendix A):**
- Any delivery model should **include like-for-like replacement of public housing for public housing, as well as an** ~~prioritise a significant increase in net social housing dwellings, with those dwellings retained in public ownership for long-term affordability.~~*
- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our ~~submission~~ **concerns about:**
- a. **the impact of the proposed demolition of public housing on the current community residing at 2 Holmes St Northcote**
- b. **lack of community consultation and sharing of information on timelines and development plans,**
- c. **the impact of relocation of elderly residents, and;**
- d. **the government's preference for demolition over refurbishment, reiterating that the perceived benefits are likely to be outweighed by the loss of established homes from the community, and by the carbon impact of demolition.**

The mover, Cr. Arturi, accepted the amendment to point (1) but not point (2). Cr. Sangster withdrew the amendment to point (2).

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Amended Motion

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers, contingent on:
- a. The following wording change in the second recommendation under Terms of Reference D on page 194 (page 3 of Appendix A):
- Any delivery model should **include like-for-like replacement of public housing for public housing, as well as an increase in net social housing dwellings, with those dwellings retained in public ownership for long-term affordability.***
- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our submission.

Cr Greco proposed the following amendments to the motion, which were not accepted by the mover and seconder:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers, **emphasising the following points:**

- a. Council opposes the demolition of the towers of the 44 public housing towers noting that the Victorian government and its housing agency Homes Victoria have so far refused to release the relevant reports or documents explaining their reasoning.
 - b. Council is disappointed that residents have had to lodge a class action lawsuit and are still awaiting a legal ruling on whether the government should be forced to release documents justifying demolition over retrofitting.
 - c. The 44 towers represent substantial embodied carbon. This is the carbon dioxide (CO₂) already emitted in extracting, manufacturing, transporting, installing and eventually disposing of existing concrete, bricks and other reusable materials.
 - d. The fact a building does not meet current regulatory standards is not in itself a reason for demolition. More than 80% of the city's buildings would fail to meet these standards, including everything built in the 19th and 20th centuries.
 - e. Relocation of public housing tenants will push poor people, refugees and migrant communities out of the inner city compounding inner city gentrification.
 - f. State government makes a formal apology to public housing tower residents for the distress and alarm that has been caused by the announcement of the tower demolitions, and for the lack of respect and care shown to residents by its delivery.
- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our submission.
 - (3) **Conducts a thorough survey of residents at 12 Holmes Street on whether their housing towers should be demolished as announced by the state government or retrofitted, refurbished and infilled instead.**

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers, emphasising the following points:
 - a. Council opposes the demolition of the towers of the 44 public housing towers noting that the Victorian government and its housing agency Homes Victoria have so far refused to release the relevant reports or documents explaining their reasoning.
 - b. Council is disappointed that residents have had to lodge a class action lawsuit and are still awaiting a legal ruling on whether the government should be forced to release documents justifying demolition over retrofitting.
 - c. The 44 towers represent substantial embodied carbon. This is the carbon dioxide (CO₂) already emitted in extracting, manufacturing, transporting, installing and eventually disposing of existing concrete, bricks and other reusable materials.
 - d. The fact a building does not meet current regulatory standards is not in itself a reason for demolition. More than 80% of the city's buildings would fail to meet

these standards, including everything built in the 19th and 20th centuries.

- e. Relocation of public housing tenants will push poor people, refugees and migrant communities out of the inner city compounding inner city gentrification.
 - f. State government makes a formal apology to public housing tower residents for the distress and alarm that has been caused by the announcement of the tower demolitions, and for the lack of respect and care shown to residents by its delivery.
- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our submission.
 - (3) Conducts a thorough survey of residents at 12 Holmes Street on whether their housing towers should be demolished as announced by the state government or retrofitted, refurbished and infilled instead.

With leave of the Chairperson, Points (1) and (3) were voted on separately.

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers, emphasising the following points:
 - a. Council opposes the demolition of the towers of the 44 public housing towers noting that the Victorian government and its housing agency Homes Victoria have so far refused to release the relevant reports or documents explaining their reasoning.
 - b. Council is disappointed that residents have had to lodge a class action lawsuit and are still awaiting a legal ruling on whether the government should be forced to release documents justifying demolition over retrofitting.
 - c. The 44 towers represent substantial embodied carbon. This is the carbon dioxide (CO₂) already emitted in extracting, manufacturing, transporting, installing and eventually disposing of existing concrete, bricks and other reusable materials.
 - d. The fact a building does not meet current regulatory standards is not in itself a reason for demolition. More than 80% of the city's buildings would fail to meet these standards, including everything built in the 19th and 20th centuries.
 - e. Relocation of public housing tenants will push poor people, refugees and migrant communities out of the inner city compounding inner city gentrification.
 - f. State government makes a formal apology to public housing tower residents for the distress and alarm that has been caused by the announcement of the tower demolitions, and for the lack of respect and care shown to residents by its delivery.

LOST

For

Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Against

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (3) Conducts a thorough survey of residents at 12 Holmes Street on whether their housing towers should be demolished as announced by the state government or retrofitted, refurbished and infilled instead.

LOST

For

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Against

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-039

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed submission (**Appendix A**) to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of public housing towers, contingent on:
- a. The following wording change in the second recommendation under Terms of Reference D on page 194 (page 3 of Appendix A):
- Any delivery model should include like-for-like replacement of public housing for public housing, as well as an increase in net social housing dwellings, with those dwellings retained in public ownership for long-term affordability.*
- (2) Endorses the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister for Housing on behalf of Council regarding our submission.

CARRIED

For

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Ruth Jelley

Abstained

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Julie O'Brien

Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

9.6 PLANT BASED TREATY AND FOOD RESILIENCE SCOPING STUDY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Research shows that food insecurity is growing across Darebin. The Food Resilience Scoping Study will support Council to better understand this risk and the options it has to strengthen community food resilience.

Council endorsed the Plant Based Treaty in April 2024. The Treaty a grassroots initiative creating bottom-up pressure for the negotiation of a global Plant Based Treaty as a companion to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. No work has started to implement the treaty, but a number of existing Council initiatives are aligned to the Treaty.

This report puts forward two options for considering the Food Resilience Scoping Study and the Plant Based Treaty.

Officer Recommendation

That Council confirms its endorsed way forward for considering the Food Resilience Scoping Study and the Plant Based Treaty:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council continues its work to help address food insecurity in Darebin through its delivery of the Food Resilience Scoping study and withdraws its commitment to the Plant Based Treaty to enable a focus of resources supporting community where there is the most need.

Or

Option 2:

That Council continues its work to help address food insecurity in Darebin through its delivery of the Food Resilience Scoping study, puts delivery of the Plant Based Treaty on hold, and revisits it once the Scoping study is completed and has identified key priorities and actions.

Councillor Greco left the meeting at 8:47pm.

Motion

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

That Council continues its work to help address food insecurity in Darebin by:

- (1) Delivering the Food Resilience Scoping study no later than the 15 December 2025 Council meeting, (as per amendment carried at 24 February 2025 meeting).
- (2) Pausing the Plant Based Treaty until after the Food Resilience Scoping Study has been tabled at Council, and
- (3) Uses the Food Resilience Scoping Study to inform a review of the Plant Based Treaty, including how the Treaty's proposals could address community food security and related health, environmental and climate challenges identified through the Scoping Study, and

- (4) Tabling the Plant Based Treaty review at Council no later than the 23 February 2026 Council meeting.

LOST

For

Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra
Sangster

Against

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy
Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Abstained

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM
(Mayor)

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council continues its work to help address food insecurity in Darebin through its delivery of the Food Resilience Scoping study and withdraws its commitment to the Plant Based Treaty to enable a focus of resources supporting community where there is the most need.

LOST

For

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis
(Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Against

Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Abstained

Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM
(Mayor)

Motion

MOVED: Cr. O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council continues its work to help address food insecurity in Darebin through its delivery of the Food Resilience Scoping study, puts delivery of the Plant Based Treaty on hold, and revisits it once the Scoping study is completed and has identified key priorities and actions.

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-040**

MOVED: Cr. O'Brien)
SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council continues its work to help address food insecurity in Darebin through its delivery of the Food Resilience Scoping study, puts delivery of the Plant Based Treaty on hold, and revisits it once the Scoping study is completed and has identified key priorities and actions.

CARRIEDFor

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM
(Mayor)

Cr. Matt Arturi

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Ruth Jelley

Cr. Julie O'Brien

Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Against

Cr. Connie Boglis OAM

Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Abstained

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis
(Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Greco returned to the meeting at 9:05pm during debate on the above motion.

EXTENSION OF TIME**Council Resolution**

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Boglis OAM

That the Council meeting continue after 9pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7

GOVERNANCE REPORT - MARCH 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors.
- Activity reports by Mayors and Councillors
- Amendment to Public Question Time from 24 February 2025
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes of the special meeting held on 7 February 2025
- Motions to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (ALGA NGA)
- Councillor nominations to attend the ALGA NGA in Canberra 24-27 June 2025
- Property Matters – Update regarding: 3KND and Flow Power
- Amendments to Advisory Committee annual reports relating to Councillor appointments for 2025.
- Darebin Animal Management Reference Group Annual Report.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – March 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report,
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the amendment to the PQT responses of the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held on 24 February 2025 (**Appendix B**) to reflect that the CEO provided the responses, rather than the General Managers and a clarification to the response provided to Adam Mills.
- (5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2025 (**Appendix C**).
- (6) Endorses the following motion for submission (**Appendix D**) to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly:
“This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:
 - Confirm its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of Agenda 2030.
 - Deliver a program to support local governments to adopt the UN SDG Framework and integrate consideration of the Goals into Council Plans and other key strategic documents.
 - Deliver a grant program to support local governments to fund actions aligned with the SDG commitments developed through their strategic objectives.
 - Create a reporting framework that local government can participate in to record and demonstrate the collective action on the SDGs across the country”.

- (7) Endorses the motion to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly outlined in **Appendix E** to be jointly moved with partner Councils of the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum of which Darebin is an executive member.
- (8) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve any minor administrative changes to the ALGA motions should the need arise.
- (9) Nominates the following Councillors to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 24-27 June 2025:

a.

b.

c.
- (10) Notes that Flow Power formally notified Council that they will not be proceeding with the endorsed lease for part of the Council-owned land at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate delivery of a community battery (**Appendix F**).
- (11) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 16 December 2024 and 18 December 2023 regarding Council’s intention to provide a lease at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate the installation and operation of a community battery (**Appendix G**).
- (12) Notes that 3KND has advised Council that they will not be proceeding with the lease/relocation and rebuild of the former Preston Police Station as per **Appendix H**.
- (13) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 27 June 2022, 23 September 2019, 24 September 2018 and 7 August 2017 regarding Council’s intention to provide 3KND with a lease for the former Preston Police Station land and building at 59B Roseberry Avenue, Preston as per **Appendix I**.
- (14) Notes that corrections have been made to the councillor appointments listed in the Annual Reports for the following Advisory Committees (**Appendix J**):

(a) Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee Annual Report

(b) Darebin Art and Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report

(c) Darebin Education network Annual Report

(d) Darebin Community Awards Selection Annual Report

(e) Gender Equity Advisory Committee Annual Report.
- (15) Notes the Annual Report from the Darebin Animal Management Reference Group. (**Appendix K**).

Motion

MOVED: Cr. O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – March 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report,
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.

- (4) Notes the amendment to the PQT responses of the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held on 24 February 2025 (**Appendix B**) to reflect that the CEO provided the responses, rather than the General Managers and a clarification to the response provided to Adam Mills.
- (5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2025 (**Appendix C**).
- (6) Endorses the following motion for submission (**Appendix D**) to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly:
- “This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:
- Confirm its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of Agenda 2030.
 - Deliver a program to support local governments to adopt the UN SDG Framework and integrate consideration of the Goals into Council Plans and other key strategic documents.
 - Deliver a grant program to support local governments to fund actions aligned with the SDG commitments developed through their strategic objectives.
 - Create a reporting framework that local government can participate in to record and demonstrate the collective action on the SDGs across the country”.
- (7) Endorses the motion to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly outlined in **Appendix E** to be jointly moved with partner Councils of the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum of which Darebin is an executive member.
- (8) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve any minor administrative changes to the ALGA motions should the need arise.
- (9) Nominates the following Councillors to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 24-27 June 2025:
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
- (10) Notes that Flow Power formally notified Council that they will not be proceeding with the endorsed lease for part of the Council-owned land at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate delivery of a community battery (**Appendix F**).
- (11) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 16 December 2024 and 18 December 2023 regarding Council’s intention to provide a lease at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate the installation and operation of a community battery (**Appendix G**).
- (12) Notes that 3KND has advised Council that they will not be proceeding with the lease/relocation and rebuild of the former Preston Police Station as per **Appendix H**.
- (13) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 27 June 2022, 23 September 2019, 24 September 2018 and 7 August 2017 regarding Council’s intention to provide 3KND with a lease for the former Preston Police Station land and building at 59B Roseberry Avenue, Preston as per **Appendix I**.
- (14) Notes that corrections have been made to the councillor appointments listed in the Annual Reports for the following Advisory Committees (**Appendix J**):
- (a) Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee Annual Report
 - (b) Darebin Art and Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report
 - (c) Darebin Education network Annual Report
-

- (d) Darebin Community Awards Selection Annual Report
- (e) Gender Equity Advisory Committee Annual Report.
- (15) Notes the Annual Report from the Darebin Animal Management Reference Group. **(Appendix K)**.

Cr Emily Dimitriadis proposed an amendment to points (9) and (11) to the motion as follows which were accepted by the mover and seconder:

(9) Nominates the Mayor and three (3) Councillors to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 24-27 June 2025.

(11) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 16 December 2024 and 18 December 2023 regarding Council's intention to provide a lease at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate the installation and operation of a community battery **(Appendix G)** and receives a report at the May 2025 council meeting with options to facilitate the installation and operation of the community battery at the 2 Wingrove Street Alphington site, including options for council to insure the community battery.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – March 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report,
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the amendment to the PQT responses of the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held on 24 February 2025 **(Appendix B)** to reflect that the CEO provided the responses, rather than the General Managers and a clarification to the response provided to Adam Mills.
- (5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2025 **(Appendix C)**.
- (6) Endorses the following motion for submission **(Appendix D)** to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly:

"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

- Confirm its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of Agenda 2030.
- Deliver a program to support local governments to adopt the UN SDG Framework and integrate consideration of the Goals into Council Plans and other key strategic documents.
- Deliver a grant program to support local governments to fund actions aligned with the SDG commitments developed through their strategic objectives.
- Create a reporting framework that local government can participate in to record and demonstrate the collective action on the SDGs across the country".

- (7) Endorses the motion to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly outlined in **Appendix E** to be jointly moved with partner Councils of the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum of which Darebin is an executive member.
- (8) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve any minor administrative changes to the ALGA motions should the need arise.
- (9) Nominates the Mayor and three (3) Councillors to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 24-27 June 2025.
- (10) Notes that Flow Power formally notified Council that they will not be proceeding with the endorsed lease for part of the Council-owned land at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate delivery of a community battery (**Appendix F**).
- (11) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 16 December 2024 and 18 December 2023 regarding Council's intention to provide a lease at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate the installation and operation of a community battery (**Appendix G**) and receives a report at the May 2025 council meeting with options to facilitate the installation and operation of the community battery at the 2 Wingrove Street Alphington site, including options for council to insure the community battery.
- (12) Notes that 3KND has advised Council that they will not be proceeding with the lease/relocation and rebuild of the former Preston Police Station as per **Appendix H**.
- (13) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 27 June 2022, 23 September 2019, 24 September 2018 and 7 August 2017 regarding Council's intention to provide 3KND with a lease for the former Preston Police Station land and building at 59B Roseberry Avenue, Preston as per **Appendix I**.
- (14) Notes that corrections have been made to the councillor appointments listed in the Annual Reports for the following Advisory Committees (**Appendix J**):
 - (a) Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee Annual Report
 - (b) Darebin Art and Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report
 - (c) Darebin Education network Annual Report
 - (d) Darebin Community Awards Selection Annual Report
 - (e) Gender Equity Advisory Committee Annual Report.
- (15) Notes the Annual Report from the Darebin Animal Management Reference Group. (**Appendix K**).

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-041

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – March 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.

- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the amendment to the PQT responses of the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held on 24 February 2025 (**Appendix B**) to reflect that the CEO provided the responses, rather than the General Managers and a clarification to the response provided to Adam Mills.
- (5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2025 (**Appendix C**).
- (6) Endorses the following motion for submission (**Appendix D**) to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly:
- “This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:
- Confirm its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of Agenda 2030.
 - Deliver a program to support local governments to adopt the UN SDG Framework and integrate consideration of the Goals into Council Plans and other key strategic documents.
 - Deliver a grant program to support local governments to fund actions aligned with the SDG commitments developed through their strategic objectives.
 - Create a reporting framework that local government can participate in to record and demonstrate the collective action on the SDGs across the country”.
- (7) Endorses the motion to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly outlined in **Appendix E** to be jointly moved with partner Councils of the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum of which Darebin is an executive member.
- (8) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve any minor administrative changes to the ALGA motions should the need arise.
- (9) Nominates the Mayor and three (3) Councillors to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 24-27 June 2025.
- (10) Notes that Flow Power formally notified Council that they will not be proceeding with the endorsed lease for part of the Council-owned land at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate delivery of a community battery (**Appendix F**).
- (11) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 16 December 2024 and 18 December 2023 regarding Council’s intention to provide a lease at 2 Wingrove Street, Alphington, to facilitate the installation and operation of a community battery (**Appendix G**) and receives a report at the May 2025 council meeting with options to facilitate the installation and operation of the community battery at the 2 Wingrove Street Alphington site, including options for council to insure the community battery.
- (12) Notes that 3KND has advised Council that they will not be proceeding with the lease/relocation and rebuild of the former Preston Police Station as per **Appendix H**.
- (13) Notes the former resolutions of Council on 27 June 2022, 23 September 2019, 24 September 2018 and 7 August 2017 regarding Council’s intention to provide 3KND with a lease for the former Preston Police Station land and building at 59B Roseberry Avenue, Preston as per **Appendix I**.
- (14) Notes that corrections have been made to the councillor appointments listed in the Annual Reports for the following Advisory Committees (**Appendix J**):
-

- (a) Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee Annual Report
 - (b) Darebin Art and Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report
 - (c) Darebin Education network Annual Report
 - (d) Darebin Community Awards Selection Annual Report
 - (e) Gender Equity Advisory Committee Annual Report.
- (15) Notes the Annual Report from the Darebin Animal Management Reference Group. **(Appendix K).**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME - PROGRESS UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is a State Government Program designed to encourage people to recycle their used drink containers. Users receive a 10-cent refund for every eligible drink can, carton and bottle they return. The program commenced on 1 November 2023.

Darebin has long advocated for a program like this to improve sustainability outcomes and reduce littering and it welcomed the State Government's announcement.

Visy Recycling is the scheme operator in Darebin and is responsible for establishing and maintaining refund collection points.

In October 2023, Council confirmed its commitment to the Container Deposit Scheme, endorsing its commitment to identifying suitable sites for the scheme. Council also committed to assist in the roll out of the CDS by promoting the scheme to the broader community, as well as sporting clubs, businesses and community groups.

In 2024, Council successfully assisted in the delivery of a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) to the Council-owned Ray Bramham Garden's Carpark, located behind the Darebin Art's Centre in Preston. This site is now leased to Visy Recycling.

Over the past year, Council has been in discussions with Visy about the best locations for refund points. Visy and Council both concur that commercial centres are the highest priority sites, given co-benefits of helping bring people into commercial areas, and by providing the best access for community.

Recently, Visy have reported that the sites currently available to the Darebin community, as well two proposed sites through private retail offer the needed access for the Darebin community, and thus they are currently not seeking any further Council sites.

Visy and Council have done work on several potential sites, and if this was needed in future, the preliminary work would be revisited by the two organisations working together.

The purpose of this report is to note Council's ongoing support for the CDS, highlight the current CDS network across Darebin and to present a summary of Council's work undertaken on the feasibility of potential RVM sites in Darebin.

Any decisions about leasing Council land on the identified sites would come to a future Council Meeting for consideration in due course.

Officer Recommendation

That Council reconfirms its commitment to the Container Deposit Scheme and:

- (1) Notes Council's ongoing commitment to promoting the scheme to the broader community, as well as ensuring clubs, businesses and community groups are aware of how they can participate.
- (2) Notes the current access that the Darebin community have to Container Deposit Scheme refund points, with a variety of refund methods available.

- (3) Notes the list of potential Darebin sites suggested by Visy, council officers, and community members, and each site's viability, garnered from feedback from internal council teams.
- (4) Removes the currently unsupported sites from the list of potential Darebin sites.
- (5) Notes that currently, Visy do not wish to progress any Council owned sites, and, if this changes, officers will return to Council to endorse any leasing arrangements.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council reconfirms its commitment to the Container Deposit Scheme and:

- (1) Notes Council's ongoing commitment to promoting the scheme to the broader community, as well as ensuring clubs, businesses and community groups are aware of how they can participate.
- (2) Notes the current access that the Darebin community have to Container Deposit Scheme refund points, with a variety of refund methods available.
- (3) **Notes the popularity of the scheme across Darebin and that there are fewer refund points in Darebin compared to neighbouring council areas.**
- (4) Notes the list of potential Darebin sites suggested by Visy, council officers, and community members, and each site's viability, garnered from feedback from internal council teams.
- (5) Removes the currently unsupported two sites from the list of potential Darebin sites, **i.e. HL Oulton Reserve and McDonell Park Carpark.**
- (6) Notes that currently, Visy do not wish to progress any Council owned sites, and, if this changes, officers will return to Council to endorse any leasing arrangements.
- (7) **Council writes to Visy to advocate for additional CDS refund points across the city, in particular in Northcote, Thornbury and Bundoora, with a view to improve equity of access across the municipality.**
- (8) **Provide an update on this advocacy to Council by way of a Councillor briefing in June 2025.**

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-042

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. Jelley

That Council reconfirms its commitment to the Container Deposit Scheme and:

- (1) Notes Council's ongoing commitment to promoting the scheme to the broader community, as well as ensuring clubs, businesses and community groups are aware of how they can participate.
- (2) Notes the current access that the Darebin community have to Container Deposit Scheme refund points, with a variety of refund methods available.

- (3) Notes the popularity of the scheme across Darebin and that there are fewer refund points in Darebin compared to neighbouring council areas.
- (4) Notes the list of potential Darebin sites suggested by Visy, council officers, and community members, and each site's viability, garnered from feedback from internal council teams.
- (5) Removes the currently unsupported two sites from the list of potential Darebin sites, i.e. HL Oulton Reserve and McDonell Park Carpark.
- (6) Notes that currently, Visy do not wish to progress any Council owned sites, and, if this changes, officers will return to Council to endorse any leasing arrangements.
- (7) Council writes to Visy to advocate for additional CDS refund points across the city, in particular in Northcote, Thornbury and Bundoora, with a view to improve equity of access across the municipality.
- (8) Provide an update on this advocacy to Council by way of a Councillor briefing in June 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXTENSION OF TIME

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That the Council meeting continue after 9:30pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 MELBOURNE WATERWAY - BIKE PATH PROPOSAL

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 24 March 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

1. *Notes the significant community interest and the need for improved active transport infrastructure in the Reservoir area, particularly the demand for safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and families with prams.*
2. *Notes that the 2022 Northern Trails Strategy includes investigating a new section of the Pipe trail from High Street along the vacant pipe reserve to the Merri Creek Trail at Murray Road as one of the top ten priorities for Darebin.*
3. *Acknowledges the potential to create a bike, pram, and walking trail, which could connect several key streets, including:*
 - a. *Powell Street*
 - b. *Cameron Street*
 - c. *Dunstan Street (only one side)*
 - d. *Jacka Street and George Street*
 - e. *The laneway behind Benambra Street f. North Street*
4. *Requests that a scoping report is prepared and tabled at the 28th April 2025 Council meeting, addressing what would be needed to prepare a detailed feasibility study for the development of a bike, pram, and walking trail along the vacant Melbourne Water pipe reserve in 1 of 2 Reservoir and Preston, including:*
 - a. *Improving connectivity for residents by creating a safe, continuous route for active transport.*
 - b. *Technical work needed to prepare the feasibility study including:*
 - i. *A detailed assessment of the potential for opening the Melbourne Waterway underground access and the costs involved.*
 - ii. *An evaluation of the environmental impact and safety considerations, particularly around existing water infrastructure.*
 - c. *Indicative costs for building and maintaining the trail, and potential funding options for the project, including state or federal grants and any possible collaboration with Melbourne Water.*
 - d. *The approach to ensure residents' input is considered during the planning process.*
 - e. *An indicative timeline for the project and any potential challenges or logistical considerations.*
 - f. *How this trail could be integrated into Darebin's broader active transport network and support the city's goals of sustainable, accessible urban development.*

Notice Received: 5 March 2025

Notice Given to Councillors 5 March 2025

Date of Meeting: 24 March 2025

Motion

That Council:

1. Notes the significant community interest and the need for improved active transport infrastructure in the Reservoir area, particularly the demand for safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and families with prams.
2. Notes that the 2022 Northern Trails Strategy includes investigating a new section of the Pipe trail from High Street along the vacant pipe reserve to the Merri Creek Trail at Murray Road as one of the top ten priorities for Darebin.
3. Acknowledges the potential to create a bike, pram, and walking trail, which could connect several key streets, including:
 - a. Powell Street
 - b. Cameron Street
 - c. Dunstan Street (only one side)
 - d. Jacka Street and George Street
 - e. The laneway behind Benambra Street f. North Street
4. Requests that a scoping report is prepared and tabled at the 28th April 2025 Council meeting, addressing what would be needed to prepare a detailed feasibility study for the development of a bike, pram, and walking trail along the vacant Melbourne Water pipe reserve in 1 of 2 Reservoir and Preston, including:
 - a. Improving connectivity for residents by creating a safe, continuous route for active transport.
 - b. Technical work needed to prepare the feasibility study including:
 - i. A detailed assessment of the potential for opening the Melbourne Waterway underground access and the costs involved.
 - ii. An evaluation of the environmental impact and safety considerations, particularly around existing water infrastructure.
 - c. Indicative costs for building and maintaining the trail, and potential funding options for the project, including state or federal grants and any possible collaboration with Melbourne Water.
 - d. The approach to ensure residents' input is considered during the planning process.
 - e. An indicative timeline for the project and any potential challenges or logistical considerations.
 - f. How this trail could be integrated into Darebin's broader active transport network and support the city's goals of sustainable, accessible urban development.

Cr Jelley proposed amending point (4) and adding points (5) and (6) to the motion as follows, which was not accepted by the mover and seconder.

- (4) Requests that a **scoping** report is prepared and tabled at the ~~28th April~~ **May** 2025 Council meeting, addressing what would be needed to prepare a detailed feasibility study for the development of a bike, pram, and walking trail along the vacant Melbourne Water pipe reserve in 1 of 2 Reservoir and Preston, including:

.....

- (5) Notes that the pipe trail extension is listed as priority 6 for the Northern Pipe/St Georges Rd/Cheddar Trail as outlined in the 2022 Northern Trails Strategy, and requests that the report includes an update on what action/investment is needed to progress:
- a. Priority action items 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Northern Pipe/St Georges Rd/Cheddar Trail
- (6) Calls for a further report to be tabled no later than July 2025 to consider how to progress with previously endorsed transport projects identified through programs such as Streets for People, Octopus School and Your Street Your Say.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council

1. Notes the significant community interest and the need for improved active transport infrastructure in the Reservoir area, particularly the demand for safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and families with prams.
2. Notes that the 2022 Northern Trails Strategy includes investigating a new section of the Pipe trail from High Street along the vacant pipe reserve to the Merri Creek Trail at Murray Road as one of the top ten priorities for Darebin.
3. Acknowledges the potential to create a bike, pram, and walking trail, which could connect several key streets, including:
 - a. Powell Street
 - b. Cameron Street
 - c. Dunstan Street (only one side)
 - d. Jacka Street and George Street
 - e. The laneway behind Benambra Street f. North Street
4. Requests that a report is prepared and tabled at the May 2025 Council meeting, addressing what would be needed to prepare a detailed feasibility study for the development of a bike, pram, and walking trail along the vacant Melbourne Water pipe reserve in 1 of 2 Reservoir and Preston, including:
 - a. Improving connectivity for residents by creating a safe, continuous route for active transport.
 - b. Technical work needed to prepare the feasibility study including:
 - i. A detailed assessment of the potential for opening the Melbourne Waterway underground access and the costs involved.
 - ii. An evaluation of the environmental impact and safety considerations, particularly around existing water infrastructure.
 - c. Indicative costs for building and maintaining the trail, and potential funding options for the project, including state or federal grants and any possible collaboration with Melbourne Water.
 - d. The approach to ensure residents' input is considered during the planning process.
 - e. An indicative timeline for the project and any potential challenges or logistical considerations.

- f. How this trail could be integrated into Darebin's broader active transport network and support the city's goals of sustainable, accessible urban development
- (5) Notes that the pipe trail extension is listed as priority 6 for the Northern Pipe/St Georges Rd/Cheddar Trail as outlined in the 2022 Northern Trails Strategy, and requests that the report includes an update on what action/investment is needed to progress:
 - a. Priority action items 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Northern Pipe/St Georges Rd/Cheddar Trail
- (6) Calls for a further report to be tabled no later than July 2025 to consider how to progress with previously endorsed transport projects identified through programs such as Streets for People, Octopus School and Your Street Your Say.

LOSTFor

Cr. Gaetano Greco
 Cr. Ruth Jelley
 Cr. Julie O'Brien
 Cr. Alexandra Sangster

Against

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
 Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
 Cr. Matt Arturi
 Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
 Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-043**

MOVED: Cr. Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

1. Notes the significant community interest and the need for improved active transport infrastructure in the Reservoir area, particularly the demand for safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and families with prams.
2. Notes that the 2022 Northern Trails Strategy includes investigating a new section of the Pipe trail from High Street along the vacant pipe reserve to the Merri Creek Trail at Murray Road as one of the top ten priorities for Darebin.
3. Acknowledges the potential to create a bike, pram, and walking trail, which could connect several key streets, including:
 - a. Powell Street
 - b. Cameron Street
 - c. Dunstan Street (only one side)
 - d. Jacka Street and George Street
 - e. The laneway behind Benambra Street f. North Street
4. Requests that a scoping report is prepared and tabled at the 28th April 2025 Council meeting, addressing what would be needed to prepare a detailed feasibility study for the development of a bike, pram, and walking trail along the vacant Melbourne Water pipe reserve in 1 of 2 Reservoir and Preston, including:

- a. Improving connectivity for residents by creating a safe, continuous route for active transport.
- b. Technical work needed to prepare the feasibility study including:
 - i. A detailed assessment of the potential for opening the Melbourne Waterway underground access and the costs involved.
 - ii. An evaluation of the environmental impact and safety considerations, particularly around existing water infrastructure.
- c. Indicative costs for building and maintaining the trail, and potential funding options for the project, including state or federal grants and any possible collaboration with Melbourne Water.
- d. The approach to ensure residents' input is considered during the planning process.
- e. An indicative timeline for the project and any potential challenges or logistical considerations.
- f. How this trail could be integrated into Darebin's broader active transport network and support the city's goals of sustainable, accessible urban development.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

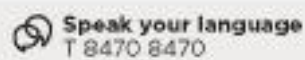
The meeting closed at 9.37pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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