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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 27 October 2025

Released to the public: 31 October 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, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la 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 27 OCTOBER 2025

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.05PM

The Chairperson, Mayor 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. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos
Cr. Angela Villella

Council Officers

Anne Howard - Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager, Governance, Risk, Communications & Engagement
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris, 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

Cr. Ruth Jelley.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Connie Boglis disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item Notice of Motion 11.1 Proposed Trial of E-Scooter Program, as one of the e-scooter providers that may apply for a contract to Council is known to her.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at an Ordinary Council meeting must register to do so by submitting their questions before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

Questions that are not lodged by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting will not be accepted, and no questions will be taken from the floor the night of the Meeting.

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

- **Norm Khzam**

1. After repeated long term vandalism to our business premises, the issue of vandalism is an obvious wider spread issue along High St. The repairs not only come at a cost to the business, but the perception of patrons will undoubtedly have an impact on the business's performance.

What is/can be done to ensure the "Coolest Strip in the World" does not regress at the rate that it is from an aesthetics perspective which will have a flow on effect to the overall performance and drawing power.

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Our Department Manager has spoken to Norm and understands the vandalism he is concerned about is graffiti which is a challenge for lots of property owners including Council. Our Manager ran through what Council is doing to try and reduce the graffiti challenges including taking it off our own assets like benches and bins. Reaching out to utility companies and looking at our options under the local law.

- **Meiyan Lin**

1. To the Chairperson, I am the operator of a business called Royal Garden Body Care at Johnson Street, Reservoir, directly opposite the Keon Park railway station. Here are my questions for the Council to consider.

The new station opposite does not have any public toilets for commuters & others to use which I find very strange. My & other shops have been approached by people wanting to use our toilets. Will the council build toilet facilities in the vicinity for public use?

2. With the new station, vehicle traffic has increased up & down Johnson Street. Can the Council place speed humps to control the speed of vehicles?
3. Shop operators & their staff are finding it is very difficult to find all day parking. Can the Council provide something similar to a permit system for shop owners?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your question.

1. The Station development was delivered by the State Government rather than Council, and while Council played a role in advocating for particular design aspects it did not deliver the project. There is no current proposal to install public toilets at Keon Park Station.

2. Johnson Street is located in Group C of Council's *Your Street, Your Say* program. It is planned to bring a report to Council that considers the second stage of community engagement, next month. At the time the Station project was developed, Council advocated to the State Government for a range of traffic management measures, but unfortunately this was not successful.

3. Council's current parking policy does not include provisions for trader permit parking.

Council is open to reviewing parking arrangements around local shops to help improve turnover and better support access for customers. A senior transport officer will call you tomorrow to discuss this process.

- **Walter Franz**

1. Will Council seriously consider restricting Entries in any and all Art Competitions and Prizes to Darebin Residents only
2. Will Council seriously consider reinstating the Darebin Indigenous Aboriginal only Arts Prize
3. Will Council seriously consider application to the Office of Geographic Names (OGN) of a legally compliant and acceptable name change to the still legal Batman Park inappropriate and unacceptably named, according, to the OGN, Gumbri and for that purpose propose Jessie Hunter.

Response from General Manager Community

1. Thank you for raising these questions. I note we are meeting with you soon to discuss a number of your queries.

Darebin Council runs a biennial Art Prize for Darebin-only residents, this is known as the A1 Darebin Art Salon. This is an inclusive art award that provides an opportunity for all members of our community to have their work exhibited at Darebin's public art gallery, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, at no cost. In line with most other local councils across Victoria, including Nillumbik, Wyndham, Banyule, Moonee Valley, and a number of others, Darebin Council also runs a national art award known as the Darebin Art Prize, dedicated to excellence in contemporary art. We believe the balance of both local and national art awards is invaluable and ensures Darebin remains a vibrant creative city and a leader in the arts.

2. Darebin Council has previously run an Aboriginal art prize known as the Gumbri White Dove Award. This prize was delivered in partnership with RMIT's Indigenous Art course up until 2012. Unfortunately, when RMIT closed its Indigenous Art course, which ran from 1999 to 2012, Council had to discontinue the partnership award. Council's biennial local art prize, the A1 Darebin Art Salon, is an inclusive art award open to all members of our community. A great deal of direct outreach to local Aboriginal-run organisations is undertaken in the lead up to this prize, to encourage participation from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members.

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

3. Thank you for raising this, Council has been aiming to move away from the name Batman Park. There isn't work specifically on this underway at the moment, but we'll keep this in mind.

- **Marc Dalla Torre**

1. As residents of Glenvale Rd, we've raised concerns about illegal rat running via the partial closure for over 15 years. Council's traffic counts showed 200 cars a day illegally entering Glenvale Rd to avoid major roads.

Council then consulted on a full closure, but after feedback—mainly from rat runners—has instead resolved to reopen the closed entry on a “trial basis,” without improving kerbing or sightlines.

If 200 cars use it illegally now, how many will when it's legal? What safeguards and monitoring will Council implement during this trial?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. The partial closure of Glenvale Road was introduced to reduce non-local traffic heading to Gilbert Road. Since then, land uses have changed, and travel patterns have shifted. A recent consultation showed 70% of respondents did not support a full closure. Officers also noted that a full closure could unintentionally redirect traffic and increase unsafe driving near the 'No Entry' zone by Reservoir West Primary School. During the upcoming trial period, officers will continue to monitor traffic to better understand how travel patterns and driver behaviour evolve. Once the trial concludes, we'll share the findings with residents.

- **James Patto**

1. Given the significant weight the Government will place on Council's response to the Thornbury Activity Centre plan, how does Council justify undertaking no community engagement, ignoring submissions like that from Fair Growth Thornbury representing over 950 residents, and rushing its response through on a limited timeline that gave the public almost no chance to comment?
2. How does Council justify supporting “inner catchment” classifications for areas it identified only two months ago in its own Housing Strategy as increased change zones of up to 3 storeys—now allowing 6—when there's been no change in circumstances, no engagement, and when “outer catchment” would better align with Council's own strategy?
3. And how has Council reflected the clear community priorities from Phase 1, the CRG, and FGT's petitions of nearly 1,000 residents calling to protect Thornbury's residential streets and preserve High Street's low-rise, village-like character and historic (not just heritage) shopfronts?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions, James.

The Thornbury Activity Centre Plans is the State Government's project. Like the community, Council had a short time to prepare a submission when the information was released and must lodge its submission by tomorrow. Council drew on its existing strategic work to inform the submission, including the recently adopted Housing Strategy that was informed by two phases of community engagement. Community engagement for the Thornbury Activity Centre Plan has been carried out by the State Government. Council Officers attended and observed.

2. Council's Housing Strategy identifies areas suitable for increased and substantial change.

The State Government's Activity Centre Program has broader goals involving significant growth in these centres. The draft submission that will be tabled tonight adopts a balanced approach to these two frameworks, while asking for the State's plans to align more closely with Council's Housing strategy for a more nuanced approach.

3. The draft submission requests that new built form controls protect heritage buildings, with sensitive transitions to low-rise and heritage precincts through setbacks and stepped massing, while minimising overshadowing of neighbouring properties. It also requests removal of existing neighbourhood residential zones and heritage precincts from catchment areas.

- **Marie Geary**

1. It is very clear in any of the housing consultations (state level or council) completed in regards to Thornbury that residents want to retain the heritage and village feel of their community so why have you not considered the impact of your housing strategy and its blanket catchments on heritage houses built in the 1910's that are still intact and in a row along Harold and Smith st between st. George's road and the rail line?
2. What road infrastructure will be provided in already congested, narrow quiet residential streets in Smith St and Harold St between St Georges Rd and the railway line with the addition of 6 stories apartment blocks?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. The Darebin Housing Strategy seeks to direct housing growth to the most sustainable locations, with good access to services, facilities and transport, while also reflecting constraints to growth such as special characteristics protected under the Heritage Overlay.

Council's draft submission to the State Activity Centre Program asks that the State's plans align more closely with Council's Housing strategy for a more nuanced approach.

2. The draft submission is seeking better east-west walking and cycling links between St Georges Road and High Street, supported by traffic calming measures. It is also asking for State-funded upgrades to tram and bus routes, including Route 86, to improve reliability, accessibility and pedestrian safety.

We expect that further information around infrastructure planning will be announced by the State government at a later date.

- **Carmel Davies**

1. In 2024 High street was named coolest street in the world due to its 'vibrant diverse atmosphere, strong community feel, and independent local businesses.' A notable exception to this is the Dundas High St corner where unchecked shoddy high rise has left a gloomy wind tunnel. Is the council truly considering destroying High St by approving State government's plans?

2. Council prides itself that 'In Darebin, we're committed to putting the community first.' Why then was this Activity Centre submission rushed, and can you delay your submission to get a proper community informed review?
3. The CRG statement of advice and a petition over 1000 residents have called for a strict 6 story-high cap along High Street, classification of all residential streets as outer catchment and a commitment to diverse housing types, rather than top down one size fits all. Why has council failed to highlight these priorities in its submission?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. The draft submission celebrates the unique culture of High Street, Thornbury and requests that the state government's plan protect and enhance it. The draft submission supports mid-rise growth of six to eight stories to respect heritage significance, with fine grain commercial shopfronts to support small business and creative industries. Taller buildings on larger master planned sites are only supported on very large sites and where tied to a public benefits framework.
2. I refer to the response given to James earlier. This is a project run by the State. Council had a short time to prepare a submission which must be lodged tomorrow.
3. The draft submission tabled tonight recommends six to eight storey height limits for High Street's core areas. Taller buildings on larger master planned sites are only supported on very large sites and where tied to a public benefits framework. The draft submission asks for housing growth to meet diverse household needs, including affordable and accessible homes and better aligning the catchment areas with Council's Housing Strategy.

- **Adam Jeffery**

1. I'm writing as a concerned parent of Raleigh Street Community Children's Centre. Relating to the Thornbury Activity Center assessment of changes relating to council land. One of the areas of land is 2A Raleigh Street which is the Raleigh Street Community Center Kindergarten Building and is being proposed to be rezoned to Commercial 1 Zone.

Has council considered having 2a Raleigh Street and 1 Clarendon Street as Public Use zone, and then rezoning the other properties to Commercial to ensure the Kindergarten and park is protected long-term and aligning with current community uses. Has Council considered the impact on families if services were relocated or disrupted?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Thank you for your question Adam. Council will make a decision about this tonight.

I can confirm that the state government's proposed rezoning would allow the site to continue to be used as a kinder. Irrespective of the rezoning, this building was built in 1979 and has around 20-30 years of life. At the end of its life, council will need to consider how to redevelop the building. A commercial zone allows multiple options for how to continue to deliver Kindergarten and park services including incorporating them into redevelopment on the site or expanding or improving another nearby site. A public use zone would also enable kindergarten use to be considered, it is a more restrictive zone and so there would be fewer options open to Council at the time of redevelopment about how to achieve this, and therefore it is overall expected to have less community benefit.

- **Ke Chong Kuok**

1. Through the Chair, can Council explain why Keon Park Soccer Club, with over 330 participants, over 240 Juniors, and over 80 female players, loses access to JC Donath East Pavilion and grounds for six months each year to one cricket team, and how this aligns with obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020, Local Government Act 2020 and the State Victorian Government Fair Access Policy Roadmap?

Response from General Manager Community

Thank you for your question, Ke Chong.

Each year, Council allocates sports grounds and pavilions from 1 April to 30 September for winter sports and from 1 October to 31 March for summer sports. This approach is based on the *Victorian cricket and football seasons agreement* coordinated by Sports and Recreation Victoria and signed by the Minister for Community Sport. This approach gives certainty to sports clubs and competitions in relation to facility access. Accordingly, Donath Reserve East pavilion and ovals 6, 7 and 8 are allocated to Keon Park Soccer Club during the winter season. A further 6 days of access is provided between November and December each year to support trials and selection activities for soccer clubs. Between January and March, access on two days per week is provided to assist with pre-season activities. This is in line with the equitable allocation approach provided to all community soccer clubs. In summer, Donath Oval 6 is used by Donath Cricket Club, the North Metropolitan Cricket Association and Nepalese Association Cricket Clubs. In 2024, Council developed a Gender Impact Self-Assessment Toolkit and is working with all Darebin sports clubs to support and encourage gender inclusive participation.

- **Darby Fullerton**

1. Is council willing to submit an application for a Henderson park upgrade through the pick my park program?
2. Will council resurface and improve the heavily used area of Henderson Park to adequately perform its role in the growing community?
3. Will council engage with the community and Thornbury Primary school regarding how the park is used and areas for improvement?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

- 1 & 2 Thanks for your suggestions. The State government has shared with us community feedback that they've gathered from people across Darebin. Officers are reviewing this at the moment. We haven't yet developed recommendations but will not be able to apply for all of the sites community has shared ideas about. The next step is for council officers to put a proposed application to councillors to consider. After that the State Government will consider applications.
2. It won't be possible with the state government application timelines for Council to consult before submitting an application, although we are reviewing the feedback community have already provided the state government. Generally council consults neighbours before works.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council Resolution

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

6.37pm - That Public Question Time be extended for up to 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **Serena O'Meley**

1. Given the efficiencies and consistency that multi-employer bargaining provides to employers, why is Darebin Council opposing a multi-employer agreement with seven other councils that is supported by the majority of its workforce?
2. How much money has Darebin Council spent on legal costs in opposing the ASU's claim for multi-employer bargaining?

Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. Darebin is one of 10 councils subjected to an application to the Fair Work Commission to be joined into a multi-employer enterprise agreement. Darebin is fully participating in this process. Darebin's direction is informed by our people. The seven councils who have consented to a multi-employer bargaining process have done so after running a ballot and each of the seven received a result a majority of their employees supported that approach. Darebin ran a ballot in April and didn't get to the same outcome, which is why we were waiting on instructions from the Fair Work Commission. Delays in the process have led us to decide to run another ballot as soon as possible so we have certainty about how our employees want us to move forward.
2. As previously stated, Darebin is one of 10 councils responding to the application to the Fair Work Commission. Darebin is fully engaged in the process and does not oppose the application.

- **Tallulah Jane**

1. Over the past two years, many in our community have raised concerns about the divisive impact of flying the Palestinian flag at Darebin Council buildings. Given that a ceasefire is now in place, why does Darebin Council continue to fly the Palestinian flag?
2. It is now eight months since Darebin Council publicly stated that its flag policy is under review. When will the Council make a decision on this matter, and what is causing the delay?
3. What action is Darebin Council taking to address the growing number of vacant shopfronts covered with political and ideological messaging on High Street — many which are divisive and make members of the community feel unwelcome?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your question, Tallulah.
Council resolved to fly the Palestinian flag at its 18 December 2023 Council meeting.

A decision of Council is required to change this resolution.

2. Council has been working on the development of the Flag Policy. The Policy will be presented to council, but this will not happen before November.
3. Graffiti is a difficult challenge and needs work from multiple parties to address it. While generally Graffiti on private property is not removed by council, we do assist with removal of offensive graffiti because of the impact it can have on our community.

We encourage residents to report offensive graffiti to council. If it is offensive we can assist. In other cases we can provide free graffiti removal kits to property owners to assist in the removal.

If necessary, council may take enforcement action to require property owners address problems with their property being unsightly.

- **David Taylor**

1. Recently Banyule Council moved to maintain arrangements with DCMC, bringing to an end a desire to outsource. During the debate, a key criticism of DCMC centred around its arms-length relationship to Council. As an incorporated association, it was improperly deemed to be beyond the control of Darebin or any other member Council. In light of this, what steps will Darebin now take to ensure this criticism is addressed via the only available mechanism - the DCMC Rules?
2. The DCMC kerfuffle also had implications for MCMC. It is noted that all of MCMC's office-bearing positions are occupied by representatives of one organisation - the Friends. This suggests that Councils are not exercising their responsibilities to sufficiently own the organisation via occupying office-bearing roles. Is not inconsistent to argue that these incorporated associations are beyond the control of Councils, when Councils do not seek to become office-bearers to ensure shared member control and sound conduct?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Council values its partnership with and membership of DCMC and the work it does as a not for profit organisation. We do not have concerns about DCMC's status as an incorporated association. Changing the DCMC Rules is generally a matter for DCMC and its board, although as a member, Council does have the power to propose amendments at the AGM that would then be voted on by members. Council has no plans to propose a change to DCMC's rules.
2. Council values the work MCMC does as a not for profit organisation and we are confident in MCMC's work for community. MCMC's governance is generally a matter for MCMC board members and Council has nominated a councillor to sit on the MCMC board.

- **Matthew Zammit**

1. Given the VCAT finding of 11 September against Yarra City Council, confirming that Council DOES owe a duty to provide clear access on roads and pathways, does Darebin Council wish to change any aspect of any previous public comments or responses to public questions relating to Darebin Council's proposed shared e-scooter trial?
2. Does Darebin Council accept the findings from a City of Melbourne survey of people using shared e-scooters, which found that only 3% of e-scooter trips replaced private car trips?
(Survey link: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/sift/viz/e-scooterdashboard/Summary>)

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Maintaining clear footpaths for pedestrians and persons with limited mobility has been, and will continue to be a priority and considered carefully throughout the trial. Darebin is proposing a fully restricted e-scooter parking model that designates areas where e-scooters can park, thereby addressing the issues experienced in other municipalities. We are aware of the VCAT determination.
2. We are aware that previous trials in Melbourne have resulted in e-scooters replacing previous walking, public transport and car trips. We note the survey and uptake in other municipalities with consideration to their context, other transport options and population. We have undertaken research specific to Darebin to inform this trial and anticipate a high uptake. The trial will improve transport choice for the community, especially for those that do not have a car, or can easily access public transport.

SUBMISSIONS

The following community members made verbal submissions in relation to Item 9.2 Thornbury Activity Centres (High St & St Georges Rd) Submission:

1. *James Patto*
2. *Alex Stol*
3. *Melanie Del Monaco*

The following community member made a verbal submission in relation to Item 9.5 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Grant Applications:

1. *Ke Chong Kuok*

The following community member made a verbal submission in relation to Item 9.8 Governance Report – October 2025:

1. *Serena O'Meley*

7.03pm Cr Boglis left the meeting

7.03pm Cr Boglis returned to the meeting

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION: AGAINST MCDONALDS AT 323 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-160

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

That the petition: "Against McDonalds at 323 High Street, Northcote" which reads as follows:

"We the undersigned DO NOT WANT to see the development of a 24-hour McDonald's fast-food restaurant on High Street Northcote"

be tabled and referred to the CEO for consideration and response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Andy Miller, as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.1.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. A Villella
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council amend the order of business to consider the following items first 9.1, 9.2, 11.2 before the remaining agenda items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Section 98) requires each Council in Victoria to prepare an Annual Report for the previous financial year which contains a report of operations, the audited financial and performance statements, and a copy of the Auditor's report on the financial statements.

This is the third Annual Report following the full implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). To increase transparency in reporting, Council has aligned the Annual Report 2024/2025 against the six sets of principles incorporated in the Act, whilst ensuring compliance with legislative reporting requirements and best practice.

The Annual Report 2024/2025 contains Darebin City Council's audited Financial and Performance Statements ('Statements') which were subject to an earlier Council report at the September Council meeting. These Statements provide information about Council operations and services delivered to and for the Darebin community for the 2024/2025 financial year. The Statements have been presented to, and considered by, the Audit and Risk Committee. The Financial and Performance Statements and the Auditor-General reports will be included in the Annual Report 2024/2025.

The Annual Report 2024/2025 (**Appendix A**) contains the key highlights and achievements of Darebin Council for the fourth year of the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-25. Since the commencement of the Act, the previous legislative requirement for Council to submit the annual report to the Minister has been repealed therefore no longer a requirement.

A summary of the Annual Report is currently in development to include as content on the Council website to inform the community Darebin Council's achievements over the past year. The full Annual Report will also be available on the website to view or download.

Officer Recommendation

That Council

- (1) Notes the Darebin City Council Annual Report 2024/2025, attached at **Appendix A**, in accordance with s98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- (2) Notes that a summary of the Annual Report 2023/2024 will be available in digital format on Council's website, to increase transparency and accessibility, along with a full copy of the Annual Report 2023/2024 for community members to download.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That Council

- (1) Notes the Darebin City Council Annual Report 2024/2025, attached at **Appendix A**, in accordance with s98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

- (2) Notes that a summary of the Annual Report **2024/2025** will be available in digital format on Council's website, to increase transparency and accessibility, along with a full copy of the Annual Report **2024/2025** for community members to download.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-161

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council

- (1) Notes the Darebin City Council Annual Report 2024/2025, attached at **Appendix A**, in accordance with s98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- (2) Notes that a summary of the Annual Report 2024/2025 will be available in digital format on Council's website, to increase transparency and accessibility, along with a full copy of the Annual Report 2024/2025 for community members to download.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, Dimitriadis, O'Brien, Sangster, Tsalkos, Villella and Olaris (7)
Abstained: Cr. Boglis (1)

9.2

THORNBURY ACTIVITY CENTRES (HIGH ST & ST GEORGES RD) SUBMISSION**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The State Government's Activity Centre Program is planning for more homes in and around 60 train and tram zone activity centres across Melbourne.

Thornbury is one of these 60 centres, and the State Government has developed draft plans for St Georges Road and High Street (called the 'Thornbury Cluster'), and adjacent residential areas. The State Government is seeking feedback on these draft plans.

This report:

- provides an overview of the State Government's proposals for Thornbury, and
- presents a draft submission for Council's consideration (**Appendix A**).

The draft submission welcomes the State's planning response for more homes in the Thornbury Cluster's well-serviced locations. Key asks include:

- providing adequate infrastructure investment to improve transport, community facilities, open space and the public realm
- ensuring alignment with Council's housing strategy to better reflect the area's capacity for change and response to heritage and environmental constraints
- improvements to address affordable housing, design quality and sustainable design to improve climate resilience and deliver quality built form and vibrant land use outcomes, and
- ensuring transparent processes with further consultation with Council and the community when finalising the plans.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Expresses its support for the intent of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement and Activity Centre Program to update planning controls to ensure that more good quality homes can be built in two Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres in High Street and St Georges Road, Thornbury (the Thornbury Cluster).
- (2) Adopts the submission in response to the Activity Centre Program's proposed plans for the Thornbury Cluster (**Appendix A**).
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to make any minor corrections and clarifications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution, and subsequently to lodge the submission with the Victorian Government no later than 28 October 2025.
- (4) Writes to the Minister for Planning to:
 - a. share Council's priorities outlined in the submission at **Appendix A**
 - b. welcome the opportunity to work further with the Victorian Government to support detailed planning controls and infrastructure investment into the Thornbury Cluster.
 - c. request that the State Government provides information about funding streams to Council and other State Government funding contributions.

- d. request that the State Government's proposed list of infrastructure projects remains confidential until such time that the State Government and Council have reached agreement.
- (5) Writes to relevant State Members of Parliament to share Council's priorities outlined in the submission at **Appendix A**.
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to prepare and submit further responses to additional documentation that the Victorian Government may release to support its planning scheme amendment process, consistent with Council's priorities outlined in the submission.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Expresses its support for the intent of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement and Activity Centre Program to update planning controls to ensure that more good quality homes can be built in two Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres in High Street and St Georges Road, Thornbury (the Thornbury Cluster).
- (2) Adopts, **with the following amendments, Council's** submission in response to the Activity Centre Program's proposed plans for the Thornbury Cluster (**Appendix A**), **by including the following key asks:**
 - a. **That the State Government ensures the inner catchment of the Thornbury Activity Centre is not treated as a single, uniform zone, but instead recognises the distinct character, constraints, and access limitations of individual streets.**
 - b. **That the State Government continue to plan for primary and secondary school capacity to accommodate the projected increase in families and children resulting from future housing development in the area.**
 - c. **Maintain mid-rise development across High Street and St Georges Road cores, capped at 6 stories, except in specific circumstances that meet the additional criteria set out in the submission.**
 - d. **Allow taller buildings, only considered on large, master-planned sites and supported by a robust public benefits framework under the Built Form Overlay, but have a maximum height of 10 storeys on such sites.**
 - e. **That the State Government works with Council to develop a social/public/affordable housing target of at least 5-10% in the Activity Centre cores.**
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to make any **other** minor corrections and clarifications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution, and subsequently to lodge the submission with the Victorian Government no later than 28 October 2025.
- (4) Writes to the Minister for Planning to:
 - a. Share Council's priorities outlined in the submission **represented in draft form** at Appendix A.

- b. **Request** the opportunity to work further with the Victorian Government to support detailed planning controls and infrastructure investment into the Thornbury Cluster.
- c. **Request that the State Government engage further with the community as planning progresses, enabling genuine feedback on proposals.**
- d. **Request that the State Government provide information on available funding streams and contributions to support local infrastructure delivery; and**
- e. Request that the State Government's proposed list of infrastructure projects remains confidential until such time that the State Government and Council have **thoroughly collaborated and** reached agreement
- f. Writes to relevant State Members of Parliament to share Council's priorities as outlined in the **finalised amended** submission **represented in draft form at Appendix A.**
- g. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to prepare and submit further responses to any additional documentation released by the Victorian Government in support of its planning scheme amendment process, consistent with Council's adopted priorities.**

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-162

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

That Council:

- (1) Expresses its support for the intent of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement and Activity Centre Program to update planning controls to ensure that more good quality homes can be built in two Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres in High Street and St Georges Road, Thornbury (the Thornbury Cluster).
- (2) Adopts, with the following amendments, Council's submission in response to the Activity Centre Program's proposed plans for the Thornbury Cluster (Appendix A), by including the following key asks.
 - a. That the State Government ensures the inner catchment of the Thornbury Activity Centre is not treated as a single, uniform zone, but instead recognises the distinct character, constraints, and access limitations of individual streets.
 - b. That the State Government continue to plan for primary and secondary school capacity to accommodate the projected increase in families and children resulting from future housing development in the area.
 - c. Maintain mid-rise development across High Street and St Georges Road cores, capped at 6 stories, except in specific circumstances that meet the additional criteria set out in the submission.
 - d. Allow taller buildings, only considered on large, master-planned sites and supported by a robust public benefits framework under the Built Form Overlay, but have a maximum height of 10 storeys on such sites.
 - e. That the State Government works with Council to develop a

social/public/affordable housing target of at least 5-10% in the Activity Centre cores.

- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to make any other minor corrections and clarifications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution, and subsequently to lodge the submission with the Victorian Government no later than 28 October 2025.
- (4) Writes to the Minister for Planning to:
- a. Share Council's priorities outlined in the submission represented in draft form at Appendix A.
 - b. Request the opportunity to work further with the Victorian Government to support detailed planning controls and infrastructure investment into the Thornbury Cluster.
 - c. Request that the State Government engage further with the community as planning progresses, enabling genuine feedback on proposals.
 - d. Request that the State Government provide information on available funding streams and contributions to support local infrastructure delivery; and
 - e. Request that the State Government's proposed list of infrastructure projects remains confidential until such time that the State Government and Council have thoroughly collaborated and reached agreement
 - f. Writes to relevant State Members of Parliament to share Council's priorities as outlined in the finalised amended submission represented in draft form at Appendix A.
 - g. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to prepare and submit further responses to any additional documentation released by the Victorian Government in support of its planning scheme amendment process, consistent with Council's adopted priorities.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, Boglis, Dimitriadis, O'Brien, Sangster, Tsalkos, and Olaris (7)

Against: Cr Villella (1)

11.2**UPGRADE OF JC DONATH EAST PAVILLION KEON PARK FOOTBALL CLUB**

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 October 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council

- (1) Notes the following funding breakdown for the JC Donath East Pavilion for Keon Park Football Club
 - i. In 2022, the state Labor government committed \$600,000 to JC Donath east pavilion for female-friendly facilities for Keon Park Football Club.
 - ii. In mid-2023, in its published 4-year Capital Works Program, Council included funds for the upgrade of the JC Donath east pavilion. This included \$250,000 for JC Donath East Pavilion in 2025-26 and \$1.2M for 2026-27. In June 2025, Council's adopted Annual Budget and Financial Outlook 2005-26 to 2028-29, added the \$600 000 State grant into its total.
 - iii. Council committed to contribute the balance of the cost (i.e. the remaining \$1.45m) with design in 2025-2026 but construction would not start until 2026-2027.
 - iv. Council allocated \$250,000 in the 2025-26 budget for design.
 - v. Once council has completed the design work (funded in this financial year), it is anticipated the State Government and Council will sign a funding agreement based on assessing that design work and agreeing scope and deliverables.
- (2) Notes that the club has not been able to meet the demand for a female team due to lack of appropriate facilities.
- (3) Notes that the long timeline in constructing the new change rooms results in further disadvantaging interested girls from participating.
- (4) Notes that in addition to the long timeline and the significant cost, the proposed council upgrade for gender inclusive changerooms is to consider that both the cricket club and the soccer club require access to the changerooms during the summer as soccer is played all year round. Practical options for facility sharing are to be explored (in consultation with the clubs) as the pavilion scope and priorities are confirmed and finalised.
- (5) Requests a report at the December ordinary council meeting exploring cheaper and more efficient construction options for this project and others going forward, that would deliver all year round change rooms and a larger space such as the purpose-built modular constructions used by other councils e.g. Hobsons Bay Council's Altona Hockey Pavillion, Maroondah City Council's Dorset Pavillion and the City of Moonee Valley's Moonee Valley Change Rooms.
- (6) Requests that when exploring other construction options as noted in point 5 – that Keon Park committee members are invited to engage in the consultation process and provide feedback.
- (7) Notes that the Club and Nathan Lambert MP expressed concern regarding the lengthy timeline to get the pavilion rebuilt.
- (8) Requests an update of where the project at the November ordinary council meeting.

Rationale:

The Keon Park Football Club, like so many in our municipality, is experiencing growth in both boys and girls teams. However, the facilities need a significant upgrade to meet the demand and not disadvantage female participation. Currently, the girls changeroom is an old boys toilet with a urinal. Such upgrades are expensive, and take a long time. It is incumbent on council to explore more economical options if they are available and meet all required standards. It is worthwhile exploring what other councils have achieved in meeting financial challenges of pavilion upgrades.

Notice Received: 1 October 2025

Notice Given to Councillors 1 October 2025

Date of Meeting: 27 October 2025

Motion

That Council

- (1) Notes the following funding breakdown for the JC Donath East Pavilion for Keon Park Football Club
 - i. In 2022, the state Labor government committed \$600,000 to JC Donath east pavilion for female-friendly facilities for Keon Park Football Club.
 - ii. In mid-2023, in its published 4-year Capital Works Program, Council included funds for the upgrade of the JC Donath east pavilion. This included \$250,000 for JC Donath East Pavilion in 2025-26 and \$1.2M for 2026-27. In June 2025, Council's adopted Annual Budget and Financial Outlook 2005-26 to 2028-29, added the \$600 000 State grant into its total.
 - iii. Council committed to contribute the balance of the cost (i.e. the remaining \$1.45m) with design in 2025-2026 but construction would not start until 2026-2027.
 - iv. Council allocated \$250,000 in the 2025-26 budget for design.
 - v. Once council has completed the design work (funded in this financial year), it is anticipated the State Government and Council will sign a funding agreement based on assessing that design work and agreeing scope and deliverables.
- (2) Notes that the club has not been able to meet the demand for a female team due to lack of appropriate facilities.
- (3) Notes that the long timeline in constructing the new change rooms results in further disadvantaging interested girls from participating.
- (4) Notes that in addition to the long timeline and the significant cost, the proposed council upgrade for gender inclusive changerooms is to consider that both the cricket club and the soccer club require access to the changerooms during the summer as soccer is played all year round. Practical options for facility sharing are to be explored (in consultation with the clubs) as the pavilion scope and priorities are confirmed and finalised.
- (5) Requests a report at the December ordinary council meeting exploring cheaper and more efficient construction options for this project and others going forward, that would deliver all year round change rooms and a larger space such as the purpose-built modular constructions used by other councils e.g. Hobsons Bay Council's Altona Hockey Pavillion, Maroondah City Council's Dorset Pavillion and the City of Moonee Valley's Moonee Valley Change Rooms.

- (6) Requests that when exploring other construction options as noted in point 5 – that Keon Park committee members are invited to engage in the consultation process and provide feedback.
- (7) Notes that the Club and Nathan Lambert MP expressed concern regarding the lengthy timeline to get the pavilion rebuilt.
- (8) Requests an update of where the project at the November ordinary council meeting.

Cr. Tsalkos proposed the following amendments shown to point (5) shown in bold below and to remove point(8) of the motion.

- (5) *Requests a report at the December ordinary council meeting ~~exploring that~~ **provides an update on where the project is at, and explores** cheaper and more efficient construction options for this project and others going forward, that would deliver all year round change rooms and a larger space such as the purpose-built modular constructions used by other councils e.g. Hobsons Bay Council's Altona Hockey Pavillion, Maroondah City Council's Dorset Pavillion and the City of Moonee Valley's Moonee Valley Change Rooms.*

~~(8) — Requests an update of where the project at the November ordinary council meeting.~~

THE AMENDMENTS WERE ACCEPTED BY THE MOVER AND THE SECONDER AND BECAME THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS:

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. A Villella
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes the following funding breakdown for the JC Donath East Pavilion for Keon Park Football Club
 - i. In 2022, the state Labor government committed \$600,000 to JC Donath east pavilion for female-friendly facilities for Keon Park Football Club.
 - ii. In mid-2023, in its published 4-year Capital Works Program, Council included funds for the upgrade of the JC Donath east pavilion. This included \$250,000 for JC Donath East Pavilion in 2025-26 and \$1.2M for 2026-27. In June 2025, Council's adopted Annual Budget and Financial Outlook 2005-26 to 2028-29, added the \$600 000 State grant into its total.
 - iii. Council committed to contribute the balance of the cost (i.e. the remaining \$1.45m) with design in 2025-2026 but construction would not start until 2026-2027.
 - iv. Council allocated \$250,000 in the 2025-26 budget for design.
 - v. Once council has completed the design work (funded in this financial year), it is anticipated the State Government and Council will sign a funding agreement based on assessing that design work and agreeing scope and deliverables.
- (2) Notes that the club has not been able to meet the demand for a female team due to lack of appropriate facilities.
- (3) Notes that the long timeline in constructing the new change rooms results in further disadvantaging interested girls from participating.

- (4) Notes that in addition to the long timeline and the significant cost, the proposed council upgrade for gender inclusive changerooms is to consider that both the cricket club and the soccer club require access to the changerooms during the summer as soccer is played all year round. Practical options for facility sharing are to be explored (in consultation with the clubs) as the pavilion scope and priorities are confirmed and finalised.
- (5) Requests a report at the December ordinary council meeting that provides an update on where the project is at, and explores cheaper and more efficient construction options for this project and others going forward, that would deliver all year round change rooms and a larger space such as the purpose-built modular constructions used by other councils e.g. Hobsons Bay Council's Altona Hockey Pavillion, Maroondah City Council's Dorset Pavillion and the City of Moonee Valley's Moonee Valley Change Rooms.
- (6) Requests that when exploring other construction options as noted in point 5 – that Keon Park committee members are invited to engage in the consultation process and provide feedback.
- (7) Notes that the Club and Nathan Lambert MP expressed concern regarding the lengthy timeline to get the pavilion rebuilt.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-163

MOVED: Cr. A Villella
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes the following funding breakdown for the JC Donath East Pavilion for Keon Park Football Club
 - i. In 2022, the state Labor government committed \$600,000 to JC Donath east pavilion for female-friendly facilities for Keon Park Football Club.
 - ii. In mid-2023, in its published 4-year Capital Works Program, Council included funds for the upgrade of the JC Donath east pavilion. This included \$250,000 for JC Donath East Pavilion in 2025-26 and \$1.2M for 2026-27. In June 2025, Council's adopted Annual Budget and Financial Outlook 2005-26 to 2028-29, added the \$600 000 State grant into its total.
 - iii. Council committed to contribute the balance of the cost (i.e. the remaining \$1.45m) with design in 2025-2026 but construction would not start until 2026-2027.
 - iv. Council allocated \$250,000 in the 2025-26 budget for design.
 - v. Once council has completed the design work (funded in this financial year), it is anticipated the State Government and Council will sign a funding agreement based on assessing that design work and agreeing scope and deliverables.
- (2) Notes that the club has not been able to meet the demand for a female team due to lack of appropriate facilities.
- (3) Notes that the long timeline in constructing the new change rooms results in further disadvantaging interested girls from participating.

- (4) Notes that in addition to the long timeline and the significant cost, the proposed council upgrade for gender inclusive changerooms is to consider that both the cricket club and the soccer club require access to the changerooms during the summer as soccer is played all year round. Practical options for facility sharing are to be explored (in consultation with the clubs) as the pavilion scope and priorities are confirmed and finalised.
- (5) Requests a report at the December ordinary Council meeting that provides an update on where the project is at, and explores cheaper and more efficient construction options for this project and others going forward, that would deliver all year round change rooms and a larger space such as the purpose-built modular constructions used by other councils e.g. Hobsons Bay Council's Altona Hockey Pavillion, Maroondah City Council's Dorset Pavillion and the City of Moonee Valley's Moonee Valley Change Rooms.
- (6) Requests that when exploring other construction options as noted in point 5 – that Keon Park committee members are invited to engage in the consultation process and provide feedback.
- (7) Notes that the Club and Nathan Lambert MP expressed concern regarding the lengthy timeline to get the pavilion rebuilt.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3

THORNBURY ACTIVITY CENTRES (HIGH STREET AND ST GEORGES ROAD) - ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES RELATING TO COUNCIL LAND**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Victorian Government's Activity Centre Program (ACP) is seeking feedback on draft plans for two new Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres in Thornbury. There are several Council properties proposed for rezoning. This report considers these changes from the perspective of Council as a landowner.

Most sites are proposed to be rezoned to similar zones and the assessment found this has neutral or marginally beneficial effect and will not trigger payment of the State Government Windfall Gains Tax.

One site comprising 3 properties is proposed to change to a Commercial 1 Zone from a mix of General Residential and Public Park and Recreation Zone and this would trigger payment of the State Government Windfall Gains Tax. The effect of this change has been assessed and to have a beneficial effect – that is, Council would be able to deliver greater value to community in the long term if the land is rezoned. Council's options would increase, it would gain an opportunity to consider leveraging the value of this land to help fund community infrastructure, and it would retain flexibility about how, when and if to consider changes at the site, and it retains the option to continue to use the site for its current purposes. The change would resolve a current misalignment between the use of the site and the PPRZ zone.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-164**

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the Victorian Government's proposed plan for the Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres in High Street and St Georges Road, Thornbury includes changes to zones covering Council owned properties; and
- (2) Notes an assessment undertaken in relation to properties at 2a Raleigh St and 1-5 Clarendon St, Thornbury indicates the proposed rezoning would enable Council to provide greater community future benefit to the Darebin community; and
- (3) Determines to defer the payment of Windfall Gains Tax, if the State Government proceeds with rezoning, until a time when it formally considers a change in use or ownership of the properties, up to 30 years, noting there is no urgency for this consideration to occur and Council will always have the option to use the site as it currently does.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - ADOPTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed Road Management Plan 2025 (**Appendix A**) provides a framework for the safe, efficient, and transparent management of Darebin's extensive local road network, supporting all road users including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The Road Management Plan 2025 (RMP) has been updated following an internal review and community consultation to align inspection and repair timeframes with Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) model standards and sector best practice, ensuring improved safety outcomes and deliverable maintenance standards.

Key changes in the RMP 2025 include:

- More frequent inspections of high-use pedestrian networks, reducing risk and improving maintenance.
- Reduced repair timeframes for roads, footpaths, kerb and channel, and pit lids.
- Introduction of new response categories for signage, vegetation, and other minor hazards.
- Enhanced clarity on shared pathways, school crossings, and the delineation of Council and VicRoads responsibilities.

Community consultation demonstrated broad support for the technical improvements. Feedback (**Confidential Appendix B**) focused on improving clarity of the document, explaining which active transport infrastructure is covered more explicitly, and strengthening the connection between road management and broader community liveability outcomes. All relevant feedback has been incorporated into the final RMP without requiring additional financial or operational resources. **Appendix C** shows, as highlighted text, all recommended wording changes compared to the draft RMP that was released for consultation.

Adoption of the RMP 2025 will ensure Darebin Council continues to meet its legislative obligations under the Road Management Act 2004, maintains deliverable and transparent service standards, and provides a safe, accessible, and sustainable transport network for the community.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the *Road Management Plan 2025* as shown in **Appendix A**.
- (2) Advertises Council's adoption of the *Road Management Plan 2025* in the *Victorian Government Gazette* and in a newspaper, in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*.
- (3) Publishes the adopted *Road Management Plan 2025* on the Council website, in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. A Villella
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Road Management Plan 2025 as shown in **Appendix A with the inclusion of additional sections under Part 1 of the Plan (Introduction) as follows:**
 - a) **Amend section 1.1 and 1.3, to explain in more depth how this plan integrates with Council's strategies, policies and plans relating to integrated water management, climate emergency, streetscape design and management, liveability, urban amenity, walkability and city presentation.**
 - b) **Include information at section 1.3 that sets out the financial value of the transport assets and its importance as a key asset class within the management of Darebin's assets, especially alongside the open space asset.**
- (2) Advertises Council's adoption of the Road Management Plan 2025 in the Victorian Government Gazette and in a newspaper, in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.
- (3) Publishes the adopted Road Management Plan 2025 on the Council website, in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-165

MOVED: Cr. A Villella
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Road Management Plan 2025 as shown in Appendix A with the inclusion of additional sections under Part 1 of the Plan (Introduction) as follows:
 - a) Amend section 1.1 and 1.3, to explain in more depth how this plan integrates with Council's strategies, policies and plans relating to integrated water management, climate emergency, streetscape design and management, liveability, urban amenity, walkability and city presentation.
 - b) Include information at section 1.3 that sets out the financial value of the transport assets and its importance as a key asset class within the management of Darebin's assets, especially alongside the open space asset.
- (2) Advertises Council's adoption of the Road Management Plan 2025 in the Victorian Government Gazette and in a newspaper, in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.
- (3) Publishes the adopted Road Management Plan 2025 on the Council website, in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5

LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) has opened the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) which offers funding to Victorian Councils for community sports and active recreation infrastructure.

Officers expect the grant program to be highly competitive; there is no guarantee Council will be successful. Council can submit multiple applications; however, significant documentation is required with any application, for each grant application, often including designs and confirmed cost estimates. Furthermore, Council would be competing against itself (and others) and would be unlikely to receive multiple grants in one category. Officers recommend submitting one application per funding stream, and continue to work on a forward pipeline of possible projects based on Council's current and projected capital works program.

Officers considered a range of projects for submission and recommend the following two projects for application to the 2025-26 LSIF in December 2025:

- Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade
- Preston City Oval Sports Field Lighting Upgrade

Other projects, while worthy, could be considered by Council at the relevant time for future funding rounds.

Officer Recommendation

That Council

- 1) Endorses the following projects for submission to the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund in December 2025:
 - a. Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade
 - b. Preston City Oval Sports Field Lighting Upgrade

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the following projects for submission to the 2025-26 Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund in December 2025:
 - a. Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade (Community Sports Facilities Stream)
 - b. Preston City Oval Sports Field Lighting Upgrade (Community Sport Lighting Stream)
 - c. **Edwardes Lake Athletics Track Lighting Plan (Planning Stream)**
- (2) **Note that if successful, the Edwardes Lake Athletic Track would expand scope of the 2025-26 Operational Project to include feasibility, consultation and detailed**

design (to deliver a funding-ready project) and requires co-contribution which will come from the existing \$30,000 allocation already committed by Council in its 2025-26 budget.

- (3) In the event that its application to the 2025-26 Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund is unsuccessful, agrees to prioritise the successful delivery of the Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade by:
- Establishing an alternative source for the balance of funds during the 2025-26 financial year; or
 - Including a further project allocation (estimated to be between \$260,000 and \$450,000) in the 2026-27 Budget, noting that this may require and makes adjustment elsewhere in the capital works program.
- (4) Given \$500,000 has already been allocated in the 2025/2026 budget for the Pitcher Park Ground upgrade, will continue to undertake all the necessary works to deliver this project, including designs and going out to tender before the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.
- (5) Ensures that new coaches boxes and the sealing of the car park at Pitcher Park will still be delivered by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year as per the funding allocation provided in the 2025/2026 budget.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-166

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the following projects for submission to the 2025-26 Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund in December 2025:
- Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade (Community Sports Facilities Stream)
 - Preston City Oval Sports Field Lighting Upgrade (Community Sport Lighting Stream)
 - Edwardes Lake Athletics Track Lighting Plan (Planning Stream)
- (2) Note that if successful, the Edwardes Lake Athletic Track would expand scope of the 2025-26 Operational Project to include feasibility, consultation and detailed design (to deliver a funding-ready project) and requires co-contribution which will come from the existing \$30,000 allocation already committed by Council in its 2025-26 budget.
- (3) In the event that its application to the 2025-26 Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund is unsuccessful, agrees to prioritise the successful delivery of the Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade by:
- Establishing an alternative source for the balance of funds during the 2025-26 financial year; or
 - Including a further project allocation (estimated to be between \$260,000 and \$450,000) in the 2026-27 Budget, noting that this may require and makes adjustment elsewhere in the capital works program.

- (4) Given \$500,000 has already been allocated in the 2025/2026 budget for the Pitcher Park Ground upgrade, will continue to undertake all the necessary works to deliver this project, including designs and going out to tender before the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.
- (5) Ensures that new coaches boxes and the sealing of the car park at Pitcher Park will still be delivered by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year as per the funding allocation provided in the 2025/2026 budget.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, Dimitriadis, O'Brien, Sangster, Tsalkos, Villella and Olaris (7)

Abstained : Cr Boglis (1)

9.6

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* stipulates that all local governments must develop and maintain a Community Engagement Policy which meets community engagement requirements under the Act and provides guidance on best practice community engagement.

Darebin's Community Engagement Policy was scheduled for review in February 2025. The current policy, developed in 2021 and updated in 2023, meets the requirements of the Act. An update of the policy was also included as an action in the *Community Engagement Improvement Plan* adopted by Council in August 2024, with a particular focus on the minimum standards of engagement.

Specific attention was dedicated to the review of the minimum standards of engagement with a range of underrepresented communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The minimum standards were updated with input from community members and officers who work and have relationships with these communities. This is in line with achieving the goals of our *Community Engagement Improvement Plan* of ensuring diverse representation is addressed through the application of our minimum standards of engagement.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-167

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council endorses the updated Community Engagement Policy 2025 and the timeline for its rollout.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7

**2026 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL AND DELEGATED
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Council's *Governance Rules 2020*, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings. The schedule of Council Meetings must be published in publications that are distributed throughout the municipality (including Council publications) and on Council's website at least once each year or with such greater frequency as the Chief Executive Officer determines.

Officer Recommendation

That Council resolves that:

- (1) Ordinary meetings of the Council be held in the Council Chamber at Darebin Civic Centre (or other venue as determined) at 6.00 pm on:
 - Tuesday 24 February 2026
 - Tuesday 24 March 2026
 - Tuesday 28 April 2026
 - Tuesday 26 May 2026
 - Tuesday 23 June 2026
 - Tuesday 28 July 2026
 - Tuesday 25 August 2026
 - Tuesday 22 September 2026
 - Tuesday 27 October 2026
 - Tuesday 24 November 2026
 - Tuesday 15 December 2026
 - (2) A special meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be held at the Preston City Hall at 6.00 pm on Thursday 19 November 2026.
 - (3) Meetings of the Planning Committee be held in the Council Chamber at Darebin Civic Centre at 6.30 pm on
 - Tuesday 10 February 2026
 - Tuesday 10 March 2026
 - Tuesday 14 April 2026
 - Tuesday 12 May 2026
 - Tuesday 9 June 2026
 - Tuesday 14 July 2026
 - Tuesday 11 August 2026
 - Tuesday 8 September 2026
 - Tuesday 13 October 2026
 - Tuesday 10 November 2026
 - Tuesday 8 December 2026
-

- (4) Meetings of the Hearing of Submissions Committee will be scheduled as required and that public notice of those meetings be given in accordance with relevant provisions.
- (5) Unless otherwise specified, Council, Planning and Hearing of Submissions Committee meetings will be held as hybrid meetings, which provides for attendance both in person and virtually.
- (6) The date, time and location of a Council or Planning Committee Meeting may be altered by Council resolution, or the Chief Executive Officer, may change the date, time and location of, or cancel, any Meeting which has been fixed and must provide notice of the change to the public.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council resolves that:

- (1) Ordinary meetings of the Council be held in the Council Chamber at Darebin Civic Centre (or other venue as determined) at 6.00 pm on:
 - Tuesday 24 February 2026
 - Tuesday 24 March 2026
 - Tuesday 28 April 2026
 - Tuesday 26 May 2026
 - Tuesday 23 June 2026
 - Tuesday 28 July 2026
 - Tuesday 25 August 2026
 - Tuesday 22 September 2026
 - Tuesday 27 October 2026
 - Tuesday 24 November 2026
 - Tuesday 15 December 2026
- (2) A special meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be held at the Preston City Hall at 6.00 pm on Thursday 19 November 2026.
- (3) Meetings of the Planning Committee be held in the Council Chamber at Darebin Civic Centre at 6.30 pm on
 - Tuesday 10 February 2026
 - Tuesday 10 March 2026
 - Tuesday 14 April 2026
 - Tuesday 12 May 2026
 - Tuesday 9 June 2026
 - Tuesday 14 July 2026
 - Tuesday 11 August 2026
 - Tuesday 8 September 2026
 - Tuesday 13 October 2026

- Tuesday 10 November 2026
 - Tuesday 8 December 2026
- (4) Meetings of the Hearing of Submissions Committee will be scheduled as required and that public notice of those meetings be given in accordance with relevant provisions.
- (5) Unless otherwise specified, Council, Planning and Hearing of Submissions Committee meetings will be held as hybrid meetings, which provides for attendance both in person and virtually.
- (6) The date, time and location of a Council or Planning Committee Meeting may be altered by Council resolution, or the Chief Executive Officer, may change the date, time and location of, or cancel, any Meeting which has been fixed and must provide notice of the change to the public.
- (7) **The change from Monday to Tuesday for Councillor Briefings and Public Meetings will be assessed in July 2026 to ensure it is effectively meeting the practical needs of Council staff, Councillors and facilitating improved engagement with the community.**

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-168

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council resolves that:

- (1) Ordinary meetings of the Council be held in the Council Chamber at Darebin Civic Centre (or other venue as determined) at 6.00 pm on:
- Tuesday 24 February 2026
 - Tuesday 24 March 2026
 - Tuesday 28 April 2026
 - Tuesday 26 May 2026
 - Tuesday 23 June 2026
 - Tuesday 28 July 2026
 - Tuesday 25 August 2026
 - Tuesday 22 September 2026
 - Tuesday 27 October 2026
 - Tuesday 24 November 2026
 - Tuesday 15 December 2026
- (2) A special meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be held at the Preston City Hall at 6.00 pm on Thursday 19 November 2026.
- (3) Meetings of the Planning Committee be held in the Council Chamber at Darebin Civic Centre at 6.30 pm on
- Tuesday 10 February 2026
 - Tuesday 10 March 2026
 - Tuesday 14 April 2026

- Tuesday 12 May 2026
 - Tuesday 9 June 2026
 - Tuesday 14 July 2026
 - Tuesday 11 August 2026
 - Tuesday 8 September 2026
 - Tuesday 13 October 2026
 - Tuesday 10 November 2026
 - Tuesday 8 December 2026
- (4) Meetings of the Hearing of Submissions Committee will be scheduled as required and that public notice of those meetings be given in accordance with relevant provisions.
- (5) Unless otherwise specified, Council, Planning and Hearing of Submissions Committee meetings will be held as hybrid meetings, which provides for attendance both in person and virtually.
- (6) The date, time and location of a Council or Planning Committee Meeting may be altered by Council resolution, or the Chief Executive Officer, may change the date, time and location of, or cancel, any Meeting which has been fixed and must provide notice of the change to the public.
- (7) The change from Monday to Tuesday for Councillor Briefings and Public Meetings will be assessed in July 2026 to ensure it is effectively meeting the practical needs of Council staff, Councillors and facilitating improved engagement with the community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8

GOVERNANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**).
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held 22 September 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- Status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 22 September 2025) (**Appendix C**).
- Instruments of Delegation from Council (**Appendix D**)
- Revocation of Community Complaints about a Councillor Policy
- Administrative amendments to Councillor Media and Social Media Policy (**Appendix G and H**)
- Revocation of the Christmas Decorations for Darebin's Retail Centres Policy 2011-2015.
- Appointment of temporary Chairperson and principal spokesperson of Council.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – October 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, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 22 September 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 22 September 2025) (**Appendix C**).
- (6) In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation, resolves:
 - a. To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the 'Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6)' (**Appendix D**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
 - b. To adopt and affix Council's Common Seal to the following Instruments of Delegation provided as attachments to this report:
 - Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council Staff (S6) (**Appendix D**)
 - c. That this instrument comes into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed to each instrument.

- (7) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 47 of the Act may by instrument of delegation, delegate any power, duty or function of Council that has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by the Council to (a) a member of Council staff, or (b) the members of a Community Asset Committee, if any.
- (8) Notes the 2025-26 Quarter 1 Councillor Expenses for 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 (**Appendix F**).
- (9) Revokes the Community Complaints about a Councillor Policy and notes that the process is now embedded in the central 'Complaints Handling Policy'.
- (10) Endorses the administrative amendments made to Councillor Media and Social Media Policy (**Appendix G and H**).
- (11) Revokes the *Christmas Decorations for Darebin's Retail Centres Policy 2011-2015*.
- (12) Notes that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will both be on leave from 2 to 4 November 2025.
- (13) Appoints _____ as a temporary chairperson to chair any Council meetings that might occur between 2 and 4 November 2025.
- (14) Authorises _____ to act as the principal spokesperson of Council between 2 and 4 November 2025.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – October 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, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 22 September 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 22 September 2025) (**Appendix C**).
- (6) In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation, resolves:
 - a. To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the 'Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6)' (**Appendix D**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
 - b. To adopt and affix Council's Common Seal to the following Instruments of Delegation provided as attachments to this report:
 - Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council Staff (S6) (**Appendix D**)

- c. That this instrument comes into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed to each instrument.
- (7) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 47 of the Act may by instrument of delegation, delegate any power, duty or function of Council that has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by the Council to (a) a member of Council staff, or (b) the members of a Community Asset Committee, if any.
- (8) Notes the 2025-26 Quarter 1 Councillor Expenses for 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 (**Appendix F**).
- (9) Revokes the Community Complaints about a Councillor Policy and notes that the process is now embedded in the central 'Complaints Handling Policy'.
- (10) Endorses the administrative amendments made to Councillor Media and Social Media Policy (**Appendix G and H**).
- (11) Revokes the *Christmas Decorations for Darebin's Retail Centres Policy 2011-2015*.
- (12) Notes that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will both be on leave from 2 to 4 November 2025.
- (13) Appoints **Cr Matt Arturi** as a temporary chairperson to chair any Council meetings that might occur between 2 and 4 November 2025.
- (14) Authorises **Cr Matt Arturi** to act as the principal spokesperson of Council between 2 and 4 November 2025.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-169

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – October 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, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 22 September 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 22 September 2025) (**Appendix C**).
- (6) In the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Delegation, resolves:
- a. To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the 'Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6)' (**Appendix D**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
- b. To adopt and affix Council's Common Seal to the following Instruments of

Delegation provided as attachments to this report:

- Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council Staff (S6) (**Appendix D**)
- c. That this instrument comes into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed to each instrument.
- (7) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 47 of the Act may by instrument of delegation, delegate any power, duty or function of Council that has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by the Council to (a) a member of Council staff, or (b) the members of a Community Asset Committee, if any.
- (8) Notes the 2025-26 Quarter 1 Councillor Expenses for 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 (**Appendix F**).
- (9) Revokes the Community Complaints about a Councillor Policy and notes that the process is now embedded in the central 'Complaints Handling Policy'.
- (10) Endorses the administrative amendments made to Councillor Media and Social Media Policy (**Appendix G and H**).
- (11) Revokes the *Christmas Decorations for Darebin's Retail Centres Policy 2011-2015*.
- (12) Notes that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will both be on leave from 2 to 4 November 2025.
- (13) Appoints Cr Matt Arturi as a temporary chairperson to chair any Council meetings that might occur between 2 and 4 November 2025.
- (14) Authorises Cr Matt Arturi to act as the principal spokesperson of Council between 2 and 4 November 2025.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, Dimitriadis, O'Brien, Sangster, Tsalkos, Villella and Olaris (7)
Abstained : Cr Boglis (1)

ACTIVITY REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 27 OCTOBER 2025

REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS MAYOR

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

Monday, 22 September

- Council Meeting

Tuesday, 23 September

- Good Cup Launch at Arthur St Café (by Village Greening)
- Citizenship Ceremony

Wednesday, 24 September

- Activity Centres Program – Phase 2: Sharing our draft maps (Thornbury online info session)

Thursday, 25 September

- Meeting with Nathan Lambert MP

Tuesday, 30 September

- Meeting with Kat Theophanous MP
- Meeting with Northcote Cricket Club

Wednesday, 1 October

- Official opening of Darebin Senior's Month at Preston Market
- Darebin Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Thursday, 2 October

- Cooper Community Connect: Safe Streets, Stronger Community at Preston Library
- Preston Lions in Business Australian Championship Exclusive Launch

Friday, 3 October

- M9 Meeting with Minister Clare O'Neil

Sunday, 5 October

- 2025 Chinese National Day & the Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival (hosted by NEMCA)
- Sylvester Hive – Spring into Spring event

Monday, 6 October

- Councillor Briefing Session

Wednesday, 8 October

- Activity Centres Program – Phase 2: Sharing our draft maps (Thornbury drop-in session)
- Darebin Community Awards Committee Meeting Selection of 2025 Award Winners

Thursday, 9 October

- 2025 MAV Annual Conference & Councillor Service Award's Dinner

Friday, 10 October

- Circus Nexus Fringe Performance - Chuckle Troupers

Saturday, 11 October

- Preston Bullants Amateur Football Club 2025 Presentation Night

Sunday, 12 October

- 2025 Multicultural Moon Festival Celebrations (hosted by the Victorian Elderly Chinese Welfare Society)

Monday, 13 October

- Welcome speech - Darebin LGBTI+ Fun Day Out (A Seniors Month Event)
- Hearing of Submissions Committee - Draft Road Management Plan
- Councillor Briefing Session

Tuesday, 14 October

- Northern Council Alliance (NCA) Delegation to Vic Parliament

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) Workshop

Wednesday, 15 October

- Citizenship Ceremony
- NCA Meeting with Hon Ged Kearney - Assistant Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

Thursday, 16 October

- Darebin Real Industry Job Interview events for presentation of Certificates
- Bowls Australia & Outback Academy Meeting
- MAV Leadership in Advancing Gender Equality (online)

Saturday, 18 October

- Activity Centres Program – Phase 2: Sharing our draft maps (Thornbury drop-in session)
- Islamic Museum of Australia - Annual Gala Dinner

Sunday, 19 October

- Anemones - 25 years of dancing, social & community

Monday, 20 October

- GOODSERCLE - for Commonwealth funding under the Work Foundations Paid Employment Pathways Pilot
- Meeting with Cr Jelley
- Councillor Briefing Session

Tuesday, 21 October

- Opening of Eighth Darebin Schools' NAIDOC Yarning Conference
- Distress Support Service Launch
- Meeting with Deputy Mayor, Cr Dimitriadis

Wednesday, 22 October

- Meeting with Cr Villella
- Maryborough Ave Kindergarten Expansion - Site Walk Through
- DIVRS Darebin L2P 15th Anniversary

Thursday, 23 October

- Training - Governing in the Climate Emergency Session 1 (Climate Emergency Australia)
- Meeting with Cr O'Brien
- Citizenship Ceremony

Saturday, 25 October

- Sahara Vic Association - Diwali Celebration
- North West Fiji Senior's Club Vic - Diwali Celebration

Weekly meetings

- CEO/Mayor Monday Review
- CEO/Mayor Weekly Catch Up

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS DEPUTY MAYOR

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

- Ordinary Council meeting
- Councillor briefings
- CEO Employment Matters Committee
- Meeting with CEO and Mayor
- Meeting with West Preston Soccer Club
- Best and Fairest presentation for Preston Bullants
- Vic Premier Multicultural Dinner
- CEO Employment Matters
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) workshop
- Presentation of Certificates to volunteers of the INLLEN Real Industry Job Interview program at the Aborigines Advancement League
- Hearing of Submissions meeting – Draft Road Management Plan
- Fairfield Greek Festival launch
- Islamic Museum of Australia Annual Gala
- Thornbury Greek Elderly Citizens Club
- Meeting at HLT Oulton with West Preston Soccer Club, Football Victoria and officers
- Launch of Safe and Supported at Work by Workplace Matters

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

- 22 September 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 1 October 2025 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 2 October 2025 – Preston Lions Australian Championship Launch Event
- 6 October 2025 – Councillor Briefing
- 9 October 2025 – MAV Councillor Services Awards Dinner
- 10 October 2025 – MAV State Council Meeting, representing Darebin as delegate
- 11 October 2025 – Opening of Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre Season 4
- 13 October 2025 – Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting
- 13 October 2025 – Councillor Briefing
- 15 October 2025 – Citizenship Ceremony
- 16 October 2025 – Fairfield Traders Association Philhellenica Festival Launch Event
- 18 October 2025 – IMA Annual Gala Dinner

- 19 October 2025 – 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Greek Women of the Northern Suburbs “Anemones”
- 20 October 2025 – Councillor Briefing
- 22 October 2025 – Visit to Maryborough Avenue Kinder Construction Site
- 23 October 2025 – Citizenship Ceremony
- 24 October 2025 – Preston Lions v Avondale Heights – Australian Championship Match

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

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

- September 22nd – Council Meeting 6pm
- September 23rd -Bridge Darebin catch up
- October 6th – Council briefing
- October 9th – MAV Conference
- October 12th – RSL Community lunch event
- October 13th – Submissions hearing committee, councillor training, briefing
- October 15th – meeting with community member
- October 20th – Briefing
- October 21st – Launch ERHMA365 Brief distress support program
- Meeting with community – HOHA, RSL, Reservoir Traders, Council
- October 22nd – Darebin NW Uniting Church – Vigil 7pm
- October 27th – AHAA Meeting – 2-3.30pm
- Council meeting 6pm

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

Council meetings:

- Ordinary Council meeting, 22 September
- Councillor briefings: 6 October, 13 October, 20 October
- Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, 13 October

Committee meetings as Darebin Council representative

- Metropolitan Transport Forum & MTF Research Sub-committee, 1 October
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Ambassador catch up, 13 October

Events attended as Darebin Council representative:

- Omarang Day Celebration – Omarang Federal Community Association of Australia, 27 September

Professional Development:

- Climate Emergency Australia Climate Cafe, 30 September

Other

- Various correspondence with residents

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

Cr. O'Brien reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- 22-Sep – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 30-Sep – Community Meeting – Bill Lawry Oval Redevelopment
- 3-Oct – Community Meeting – Petition Discussion
- 6-Oct – Councillor Briefing Meeting
- 8-Oct – Committee Meeting – Friends of Baucau
- 11-Oct – Community Working Bee – Northcote Stationeers/Thin Green Line/Northcote Community Garden
- 13-Oct – Hearing of Submissions – Road Management Plan
- 13-Oct – Councillor Briefing Meeting
- 17-Oct – Committee Discussion – LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group
- 20-Oct – Councillor Briefing Meeting
- 23-Oct – Meeting with the Mayor
- 23-Oct – Council Citizenship Ceremony
- 24-Oct – Community Meeting – Petition Discussion
- 24-Oct – Meeting with Planning Officer
- 24-Oct – Meeting with the CEO
- Reading and analysis of papers for all meetings, briefings, training etc.
- Contact (in person/online) with residents on various matters including:
 - State Government Activity Centres – Concerns Of Overdevelopment And Limited Community Consultation
 - Safe Transport - Infrastructure Issues And Fear Of Safety For Cyclists
 - Planning Matter - Community Concerns About McDonalds Planning Application
 - Safe Transport - Rat Running And Potential Interventions To Solve This
 - Enforcement Issues - Abandoned Vehicles
 - Community Amenity - Graffiti Issues On High Street
 - Property Queries - Street Crossover Issues

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- On leave from 1st October to 21st October.
- Attended a meeting with DCAN
- Facilitated a session for the Merri Merri Way Community Day

- Received phone calls and responded to community concerns particularly to do with the upcoming Council Agenda.

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

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

- Council Meeting - Monday 22nd September 2025
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – Wednesday 1st October 2025
- Councillor Briefing Session – Monday 6th October 2025
- Holy Trinity Cricket Club – Thursday 9th October 2025
- Hearing of Submissions Meeting – Monday 13th October 2025
- Councillor Briefing Session – Monday 13th October 2025
- Meeting with officials from the Hellenic Republic – Thursday 16 October 2025
- Islamic Museum of Australia – Annual Gala Dinner – Saturday 18th October 2025
- Anemones 25-year Celebrations – Sunday 19th October 2025
- Councillor Briefing Session – Monday 20 October 2025
- Citizenship Ceremony – Thursday 23rd October 2025
- Meeting with the CEO – Friday 24th October 2025
- National Day of Remembrance of the 28th of October 1940 – Sunday 26th October 2025

REPORT OF CR. ANGELA VILLELLA

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

- Oct 1 Meeting with Preston Lions
- Oct 6 Council Briefing
- Oct 8 Darebin Community Awards Selection of 2025 Award Winners
- Oct 13 Hearing of Submissions and Councillor Briefing
- Oct 15 Citizen Ceremony
- Oct 20 Councillor Briefing
- Oct 21 Attended the opening of the new school track and field and garden at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School
- Oct 22 Meeting with the Mayor
- Oct 22 Meeting with North East Citizen Advocacy
- Oct 25 Meeting with residents to discuss speed hump concerns on McFadzen Ave

9.9

DEACCESSIONING PUBLIC ART IN DAREBIN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Art Collections & Marketing Unit is seeking endorsement from Council on the draft *Deaccessioning Guidelines for Public Art in Darebin*. The Guidelines have been developed in response to identified risks (health and safety, financial, and reputational) arising from the current absence of such a policy or guidelines.

Many of the public art assets in our collection are nearing or are beyond end-of-life, and are rapidly degrading. Due to the absence of a deaccessioning strategy, these artworks have been left in situ beyond an advisable timeframe, leading to poor outcomes for community and the artists, unsafe situations, as well as inefficient use of Council's financial resources in the continued maintenance of aged and obsolete assets.

The removal of select artworks from the public realm when they meet the deaccessioning criteria laid out in these guidelines will resolve these risks while ensuring that Council is following national industry standards for public art management.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Deaccessioning Guidelines for Public Art in Darebin
- (2) Notes the significant role the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics have played in Darebin's cultural landscape for the past thirty years and thanks the artist for his contribution.
- (3) Authorises officers to begin the Deaccessioning process for the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Deaccessioning Guidelines for Public Art in Darebin
- (2) Notes the significant role the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics have played in Darebin's cultural landscape for the past thirty years and thanks the artist for his contribution.
- (3) **Authorises officers to undertake consultation in relation to the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics, including engagement with the Fairfield Traders and community.**
- (4) **Receives a report with the outcome of the consultation prior to any decision being made about the removal of Fairfield Pavement Mosaics.**

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-170

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Deaccessioning Guidelines for Public Art in Darebin
- (2) Notes the significant role the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics have played in Darebin's cultural landscape for the past thirty years and thanks the artist for his contribution.
- (3) Authorises officers to undertake consultation in relation to the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics, including engagement with the Fairfield Traders and community.
- (4) Receives a report with the outcome of the consultation prior to any decision being made about the removal of Fairfield Pavement Mosaics.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 PROPOSED TRIAL OF E-SCOOTER PROGRAM

Cr. Connie Boglis disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 11.1 Notice of Motion - Proposed Trial of E-Scooter Program, as one of the e-scooter providers that may apply for a contract to Council is known to her.

8.14pm - Cr. Boglis left the meeting.

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 October 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the previous Council voted to implement an e-scooter trial as part of adopting the 2024-25 budget.
- (2) Notes that up until this point (October 2025) there has been no information to the public regarding the following:
 - i. How the trial will proceed e.g. the number of scooters, where the trial will take place, where the stations will be positioned
 - ii. A risk assessment to maximise public safety, ensure compliance, and establish legal liability costs
 - iii. The total cost of implementing and managing the trial
 - iv. The methodology used to evaluate the trial. Possible aspects to measure may include, usage and adoption, accessibility and coverage, safety, environmental impact, public perception and community impact.
 - v. The ongoing cost of managing the adoption of e-scooters, if permanently adopted
 - vi. Details of the contractual arrangement with the e-scooter companies
- (3) Places the e-scooter trial on hold until the information listed in point 2 (above) is presented to Council by way of a report at the November 2025 council meeting. The report will detail how the trial will respond to community safety and accessibility concerns.
- (4) Notes that:
 - i. The draft 2024-25 Budget that was exhibited for community consultation included \$50,000 for commencing implementation of an e-Scooter trial from January 2025
 - ii. There was no community consultation about the details of how the e-scooter trial would be implemented.
- (5) Notes that a petition against the e-scooter trial was submitted to Council and now has over 850 signatures.

Rationale

The issue of e-scooters presents a plethora of safety concerns and financial pressures for Councils. Shared e-scooters were withdrawn from City of Melbourne and Yarra due to safety and amenity risks.

Regarding safety issues, a Melbourne University report* states there have been 37 fatalities since January 2020 and scores of injuries across Australia. Councils are vulnerable to

financial, reputational and accessibility risks, as demonstrated by the recent VCAT ruling against the City of Yarra.

E-scooters are legal to ride in Victoria and many privately owned-scooters are currently used in Darebin and other municipalities.

Notice Received: 1 October 2025

Notice Given to Councillors 1 October 2025

Date of Meeting: 27 October 2025

Motion

MOVED: Cr. A Villella

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the previous Council voted to implement an e-scooter trial as part of adopting the 2024-25 budget.
- (2) Notes that up until this point (October 2025) there has been no information to the public regarding the following:
 - i. How the trial will proceed e.g. the number of scooters, where the trial will take place, where the stations will be positioned
 - ii. A risk assessment to maximise public safety, ensure compliance, and establish legal liability costs
 - iii. The total cost of implementing and managing the trial
 - iv. The methodology used to evaluate the trial. Possible aspects to measure may include, usage and adoption, accessibility and coverage, safety, environmental impact, public perception and community impact.
 - v. The ongoing cost of managing the adoption of e-scooters, if permanently adopted
 - vi. Details of the contractual arrangement with the e-scooter companies
- (3) Places the e-scooter trial on hold until the information listed in point 2 (above) is presented to Council by way of a report at the November 2025 council meeting. The report will detail how the trial will respond to community safety and accessibility concerns.
- (4) Notes that:
 - i. The draft 2024-25 Budget that was exhibited for community consultation included \$50,000 for commencing implementation of an e-Scooter trial from January 2025
 - ii. There was no community consultation about the details of how the e-scooter trial would be implemented.
- (5) Notes that a petition against the e-scooter trial was submitted to Council and now has over 850 signatures.

Cr. Tsalkos proposed the following amendment to the motion to insert a new point (3) as

follows:

- ~~(3) Places the e-scooter trial on hold until the information listed in point 2 (above) is presented to Council by way of a report at the November 2025 council meeting. The report will detail how the trial will respond to community safety and accessibility concerns.~~
- (3) *Updates its website with full details of the trial including where the trial will take place, the number of e-scooters and e-bikes, how community concerns with access and safety will be addressed, and how people can participate and provide feedback to Council.*

The amendment was not accepted by the mover and the seconder.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Affirms Notes that the previous Council voted to implement an e-scooter trial as part of adopting the 2024-25 budget.
- (2) Notes that up until this point (October 2025) there has been no information to the public regarding the following:
 - i. How the trial will proceed e.g. the number of scooters, where the trial will take place, where the stations will be positioned
 - ii. A risk assessment to maximise public safety, ensure compliance, and establish legal liability costs
 - iii. The total cost of implementing and managing the trial
 - iv. The methodology used to evaluate the trial. Possible aspects to measure may include, usage and adoption, accessibility and coverage, safety, environmental impact, public perception and community impact.
 - v. The ongoing cost of managing the adoption of e-scooters, if permanently adopted
 - vi. Details of the contractual arrangement with the e-scooter companies
- (3) **Updates its website with full details of the trial including where the trial will take place, the number of e-scooters and e-bikes, how community concerns with access and safety will be addressed, and how people can participate and provide feedback to Council.**
- (4) Notes that:
 - i. The draft 2024-25 Budget that was exhibited for community consultation included \$50,000 for commencing implementation of an e-Scooter trial from January 2025
 - ii. There was no community consultation about the details of how the e-scooter trial would be implemented.
- (5) Notes that a petition against the e-scooter trial was submitted to Council and now has over 850 signatures.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, O'Brien, Sangster, Tsalkos, Olaris (5)

Against : Cr Dimitriadis, Villella (2)

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION:

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. A Villella

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Affirms Notes that the previous Council voted to implement an e-scooter trial as part of adopting the 2024-25 budget.
- (2) Notes that up until this point (October 2025) there has been no information to the public regarding the following:
 - i. How the trial will proceed e.g. the number of scooters, where the trial will take place, where the stations will be positioned
 - ii. A risk assessment to maximise public safety, ensure compliance, and establish legal liability costs
 - iii. The total cost of implementing and managing the trial
 - iv. The methodology used to evaluate the trial. Possible aspects to measure may include, usage and adoption, accessibility and coverage, safety, environmental impact, public perception and community impact.
 - v. The ongoing cost of managing the adoption of e-scooters, if permanently adopted
 - vi. Details of the contractual arrangement with the e-scooter companies
- (3) Updates its website with full details of the trial including where the trial will take place, the number of e-scooters and e-bikes, how community concerns with access and safety will be addressed, and how people can participate and provide feedback to Council.
- (4) Notes that:
 - i. The draft 2024-25 Budget that was exhibited for community consultation included \$50,000 for commencing implementation of an e-Scooter trial from January 2025
 - ii. There was no community consultation about the details of how the e-scooter trial would be implemented.
- (5) Notes that a petition against the e-scooter trial was submitted to Council and now has over 850 signatures.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-171

MOVED: Cr. A Villella

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)**That Council:**

- (1) Affirms Notes that the previous Council voted to implement an e-scooter trial as part of adopting the 2024-25 budget.
- (2) Notes that up until this point (October 2025) there has been no information to the public regarding the following:
 - i. How the trial will proceed e.g. the number of scooters, where the trial will take place, where the stations will be positioned
 - ii. A risk assessment to maximise public safety, ensure compliance, and establish legal liability costs
 - iii. The total cost of implementing and managing the trial
 - iv. The methodology used to evaluate the trial. Possible aspects to measure may include, usage and adoption, accessibility and coverage, safety, environmental impact, public perception and community impact.
 - v. The ongoing cost of managing the adoption of e-scooters, if permanently adopted
 - vi. Details of the contractual arrangement with the e-scooter companies
- (3) Updates its website with full details of the trial including where the trial will take place, the number of e-scooters and e-bikes, how community concerns with access and safety will be addressed, and how people can participate and provide feedback to Council.
- (4) Notes that:
 - i. The draft 2024-25 Budget that was exhibited for community consultation included \$50,000 for commencing implementation of an e-Scooter trial from January 2025
 - ii. There was no community consultation about the details of how the e-scooter trial would be implemented.
- (5) Notes that a petition against the e-scooter trial was submitted to Council and now has over 850 signatures.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Arturi, O'Brien, Sangster, Tsalkos, Olaris (5)

Against : Cr Dimitriadis, Villella (2)

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Cr. Boglis returned to the meeting.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**CLOSE OF MEETING**

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-172

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

That in accordance with section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the meeting be closed to members of the public to consider the following items on the basis that these matters are confidential for the following reasons :

13.1 Darebin Community Awards Outcome 2025

This item is confidential because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was closed to the members of the public at 8.31pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 13.1 which had been circulated to Councillors with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-173

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was re-opened to the members of the public at 8.35pm.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

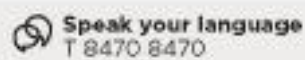
The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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If you are deaf, or have
a hearing or speech
impairment, contact
us through the
National Relay Service.



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