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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 26 May 2026

Released to the public on 29 May 2026

**LIVE STREAMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON
COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.**



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 future leaders.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

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

Vietnamese

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

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 26 MAY 2026

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.03PM.

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis 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. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM
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 and Communications
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 Dimitriadis, 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, present and future leaders.

today is National Sorry Day, a time to reflect and acknowledge Australia's Stolen Generation and to acknowledge the truth of that history and the ongoing intergenerational impacts that harmful policies and practices of the past continue to have every day.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Jelley disclosed a general conflict of interest in *Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements* as she is a member of a neighbourhood house that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. O'Brien disclosed a general conflict of interest in *Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements* as she was a member of a neighbourhood house, until recently, that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. Tsalkos disclosed a material conflict of interest in *Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements* as he is a board member of a neighbourhood house that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. Dimitriadis disclosed an interest in *Item 9.10 Proposed Deaccessioning of Fairfield Pavement Mosaics* as she was involved in the creation of the mosaics along Station Street, Fairfield while a student at Fairfield Primary School.

ANNE HOWARD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DISCLOSE A MATERIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN *ITEM 13.2 CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW* AS THE MATTER HAS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO HER EMPLOYMENT.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-070

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2026 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.

- **Pete Venticich**

Question 1.

Dear Councillors, as per my email correspondence (May 2026), in my personal capacity, I would like to ask if the Mayor has written to the Minister for Health in support for maintaining the full funding and independence of VicHealth, as requested in the February motion, and/or whether Council has received a reply. If not, why not and when will this occur? If so, may I request a copy of this correspondence be made public?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

The Mayor has written to the Minister for Health and as yet has not received a response.

- **Chanelle Calderwood**

Question 1.

Why is Installing a raised zebra crossing on Clarendon Street, east of High Street, Installing a raised zebra crossing on Newcastle Street, south of Young Street, and Installing intersection traffic signals at Breavington Street marked as High Priority. BUT Install raised crossing at Raleigh Street and two speed humps towards the roundabout at St David Street NOT priority. When residents have seen children nearly been hit on multiple occasions.

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

These projects were identified through Council's Your Street Your Say – Group B program. Community consultation, along with a review of technical data, helped confirm which locations need upgrades and informed the development of the concept plans. Council will consider a report tonight about Managing Transport Services that includes an approach to consider the long list of projects that have been endorsed for delivery. This work may result in a proposed reordering of projects that will be considered at the July Council meeting.

Question 2.

How will you avoid putting speeding measures on those other roads not increasing the speeding down Raleigh Street, a street with two childcare centers?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

There is a raised pedestrian crossing project on Clarendon Street near High Street identified in the Group B priority list. Even after this crossing is built, it is unlikely that drivers coming from Normanby Avenue would use Raleigh Street if choosing to continue towards Victoria Road. However, I acknowledge Raleigh Street is one of the only streets in this section of Thornbury without speed humps, which may attract some drivers.

Our data shows that drivers using Raleigh Street are travelling under the current speed limit of 50km/h. I'm also pleased to share that our safer speeds program will introduce a safer speed of 40km/h in this neighbourhood over the next few months. Previous safer speed changes in Darebin have been shown to reduce speeds and improve safety.

- **Cat Drysdale**

Question 1.

I would like to know the intention behind Council's proposal for an 800% increase in the lease fee to Northcote Tennis for the tennis courts on Victoria Road? A fee increase of this magnitude, even when staggered over a couple of years, raises serious concerns about the long-term future of this community facility. I would appreciate a transparent and detailed response

Response from General Manager Community

As outlined in the Council Report being considered this evening, when the license agreement and fee was established in 2021 with Northcote Tennis Academy, the fees were unfortunately not set in line with Council's policy by the operator of the courts. Officers are bound by Council policy when setting fees and charges. Council will consider this matter tonight.

- **Stephen Murray**

Question 1.

The current portable toilet at Northcote Tennis services not only coaching participants, but also general public court users.

Can Council clarify why responsibility for providing toilet amenities at the Northcote Tennis Courts has effectively fallen to the coaching operator, despite the facility being a shared public facility where Council retains all casual court hire revenue? Additionally, given the facility is publicly accessible and intended for broad community participation, how does Council consider the current portable toilet arrangement.

Response from General Manager Community

It is our understanding that Northcote Tennis Academy chose to provide the current portable toilets at Northcote tennis courts. When proposing fee arrangements to Northcote Tennis Academy for the site, the costs associated with the provision of toilets is proposed to be recognised through an annual discount to Northcote Tennis Academy's fees.

Question 2.

Given Council's own agenda papers acknowledge that Northcote Tennis Courts continue to require significant infrastructure investment and external grant funding support, how does Council justify applying a high commercial market-rent framework to a shared-use community facility that still has acknowledged infrastructure and amenity limitations?

Response from General Manager Community

Council's independent valuation report takes into account Northcote Tennis Academy's proposal along with the current condition of and infrastructure provision at the shared-use tennis courts. Under the proposed license agreement, Council would remain responsible for the maintenance and replacement of the courts when they reach end-of-life.

- **Hannah Fox**

Question 1.

Can Council clarify whether community initiatives delivered by Northcote Tennis — including the not-for-profit Junior Competition, inclusion programs, Pride events, girls participation initiatives, support for neurodivergent participants and fundraising support for local schools — were considered or given recognised value within Council’s proposed licence fee structure?

Response from General Manager Community

As outlined in the Council Report being considered this evening, the “community benefit provided by Northcote Tennis Academy in promoting tennis to encourage health and wellbeing in the Northcote community” was recognised under Council’s policy when categorising Northcote Tennis Academy as a commercial business with community benefit, (category 2). Under the policy, this means the basis for rental calculation is market rental with no discount.

Question 2.

Can Council clarify how casual court hire revenue at Northcote Tennis Courts has changed since 2019, whether increased public participation at the site is recognised as being linked to the activation and programming created by Northcote Tennis, and how this revenue has been reinvested back into the facility?

Response from General Manager Community

Participation at the Northcote tennis courts has been high for a number of years. Council does not collect information on why people are playing tennis in Darebin as part of its casual booking process. Council increased evening public access to the courts last year and recognises that Northcote Tennis Academy has contributed to the promotion and activation of tennis activation in Northcote. This is recognised in the categorisation of Northcote Tennis Academy as a commercial business with community benefit. Tennis Australia has also increased their promotion of tennis. Revenue from a Council service is not directly tied to investment in that service. Instead, through its annual budget process, Council prioritises and allocates funding to its services and facilities across the municipality.

Question 3.

Can Council clarify how the not-for-profit district Junior Competition facilitated by Northcote Tennis and largely volunteer run by local parents has been considered relative to other Council supported junior sporting programs that receive subsidy support?

Response from General Manager Community

In accordance with its policy, Council provides subsidies to not-for-profit sporting clubs. It is our understanding that the Northcote Tennis Academy is not a registered, not-for-profit tennis club, and is, therefore, not eligible for Council subsidy under the policy.

- **Katerina Craven**

Question 1.

Can Council clarify what planned facility improvements or infrastructure investments are proposed at Northcote Tennis Courts to justify the significant increase in licence fees being sought from the coaching operator?

This includes consideration of:

- permanent toilet facilities
- accessible amenities
- player change facilities/ club rooms
- drainage issues affecting court usability
- parking and safe access for families and children

Response from General Manager Community

The proposed license fee is based on Northcote Tennis Academy's proposal along with the current condition of and provision of infrastructure. Council recently upgraded a number of the court lights to LED and is considering the upgrade to the remaining lights to LED in 2026-27. Under the proposed license agreement, Council would remain responsible for ongoing general maintenance including replacement of the courts when they reach end-of-life. As mentioned in response to a separate question, Council prioritises and allocates funding to its services and facilities across the municipality annually, through its budget process.

- **Melanie Wheeler**

Question 1.

Given the "market valuation" underpinning the proposed licence fee has remained confidential, can Council clarify what comparable facilities and assumptions were used in determining this rental figure, including assumptions relating to infrastructure, amenities, hours of exclusive access and facility condition, and whether those comparisons reflected shared-use public coaching facilities rather than exclusive commercial tenancy arrangements?

Response from General Manager Community

Council engaged an independent valuer to assess the market rent valuation for Northcote Tennis Academy's specific proposal, as well as the current condition of and provision of infrastructure, at the shared-use tennis courts. Benchmarking was undertaken against a range of different tennis facilities by the valuer, and separately by officers.

Question 2.

Can Council clarify why Northcote Tennis is being assessed under a commercial market-rent framework despite operating within a shared-use public facility where courts remain publicly accessible and Council retains all casual court hire revenue?

Response from General Manager Community

As outlined in the Council Report being considered this evening, the Northcote Tennis Academy was categorised as a commercial business with community benefit (category 2). Under the policy, this means the basis for rental calculation is market rental with no discount. If no community benefit was recognised, operators would be charged full market rent plus an allowance for the loss of community benefit. Northcote Tennis Academy's specific proposal for these shared-use courts was used to calculate the market rent valuation.

Question 3.

Can Council clarify whether there is scope for further discussions regarding alternative long-term licence models that recognise the unique shared-use and community-based nature of Northcote Tennis?

Response from General Manager Community

Benchmarking with other Australian tennis court facilities indicates the model at Northcote tennis courts is not unique. As outlined in the report, generally there are 3 models for tennis court management, and the current approach of Council managed facilities like that at Northcote tennis courts is one of those. Council is considering this matter tonight.

- **Meiyan Lin**

Question 1.

Mayor - Could you advise why is the Council dragging their feet on a public toilet at Keon Park. Council advised that people should use the Pavilion in Donath West if they want to use a public toilet. Now, it has been pointed out to Council that the elderly, women, disabled & children would use there facilities at night & lighting would be required. it appears Council are backing away from helping the people in Johnston Street as Council would have to provide a safe environment. is this correct?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Council has not made a commitment to the installation of toilets at Keon Park. Toilet facilities are available to use at the Donath West Pavillion should people choose to use them.

Question 2.

Mayor- Could you please advise if there is any update from Nathan Lambert, MP, re toilets at Keon Park? It should be noted that people are still asking shop owners to use their toilets.

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Council has received a response, and this will be shared in the Governance report at next months meeting. Council does not expect shop owners to provide private toilets for public use.

Question 3.

Mayor - Could you confirm that Council was asked to put lighting through Donath West many years ago and if so, why hasn't this been done?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Council is aware of previous requests for lighting at Donath West. These requests have been considered and assessed alongside other lighting and sportsground priorities in accordance with Council's Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework. Through this process, Donath West has been assessed as a lower priority relative to other competing projects across the municipality. As a result, lighting at this site is not currently included in the draft capital works program. Council continues to review and prioritise projects as part of its ongoing planning and budget processes, and this site may be reconsidered in future assessments.

- **Matthew Zammit**

Question 1.

The Darebin Council Governance Rules at clause 2.2.1 states that "before making a decision that affects a person's rights, Council will identify whose rights may be affected and provide an opportunity for that person to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views". The recent Municipal Monitors' report (page 30) highlights that the use of Contact Plans "restrict access to some Council services" and that "the rights of the customer are impacted by the Council decision making" in this regard. Does Darebin Council accept it has subjected residents to Contact Plan restrictions in circumstances where those affected were not contacted beforehand to understand effects of these restrictions on their right to access publicly funded services?

Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate

Council manages contact plan restrictions in accordance with its Complex Customer Behaviour Policy, adopted in June 2025. This policy sets out a structured and transparent approach for responding to situations where customer behaviour becomes challenging or impacts staff safety, service delivery, or other customers. It outlines when a contact plan may be applied and the steps Council will follow before doing so. It also explains what customers can expect, including how arrangements will be communicated and managed. The policy is designed to ensure all customers continue to have access to Council services, while maintaining a safe, respectful and efficient service environment.

Question 2.

What is the timeframe for the updating of the Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and annual action plan, and how will people living with disability in Darebin have their voices heard in this process?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Officers plan to table a report for Council consideration at the July meeting. The proposed approach to community engagement will also be considered at this point. Delivering an inclusive and accessible engagement process is a priority.

Question 3.

Given it has been confirmed that Darebin Council falsely claimed to me that the Mayor had determined questions I submitted to the December meeting were in breach of Governance Rules (when in fact the Mayor had not even seen my questions, which were ultimately not in breach of the Governance Rules), has Council undertaken a Governance audit to check if there have been any similar instances of this occurring?

Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate

The process for reviewing and determining the admissibility of public questions was reviewed following this matter being raised in December. The Mayor and relevant officers now meet prior to any final determination, in accordance with the Governance Rules. This revised practice has been in place for the past three months and is operating as intended.

- **Agapi Pashos**

Question 1.

I have three questions about the Darebin Community grants program. The aim of the program is to support projects that make Darebin a healthier, sustainable and inclusive place to live. I am aware that other councils have a condition of their Community Grants program that the applicants must be located in the municipality. I would like to know if grants have been awarded to individuals and organizations not based in Darebin and if so, what is the justification for awarding grants to individuals and organisations that are not based in Darebin?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Current grant guidelines stipulate that applicants must be located or deliver activities within the City of Darebin. The eligibility is based on where the event or activity is implemented, in order to best benefit the Darebin community.

Question 2.

My follow up question - what is the proportion of funds that have been awarded to individuals and organizations not based in Darebin?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

The majority of successful applicants are based in Darebin. For example, in 2025 out of 119 successful grant recipients, 92% were based in Darebin, 8% were located outside of Darebin. Those outside of Darebin delivered grant-funded activities in collaboration with Darebin-based community members or an organisation with local offices or programs based in Darebin.

Question 3.

My final question - What checks and balances have been put in place to ensure there is adequate probity and equity for all applicant to ensure that grant program participants are not 'double dipping' by obtaining grant funding from multiple council grant programs?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Current grant guidelines stipulate that *applicants who have current Darebin funding agreements/grant and/or sponsorship programs for activities and services are ineligible for a grant.*

- **Karen Large**

Question 1.

How many Darebin residents have received information and assistance about electrifying their homes and improving energy efficiency from the Darebin Energy Upgrades program - a key initiative of the Climate Emergency Plan - since the program's launch in February this year?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Since commencement of the program in February the program has received:

- 333 households interested in both receiving information and assistance in electrifying their homes. All are eligible to receive energy advice and a no obligation quote to receive energy upgrades.
- The program has assisted 56 households receive energy upgrades, 38 of whom have been identified as low income and have received financial assistance.
- A total of 110 energy saving products have been installed in those 56 households.

Question 2.

Given that the Solar Savers program operated for over 10 years, why is there no allocation of funds for the Energy Upgrades program in the 2026-27 budget?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

The Energy Upgrades program was established as a 1-year program. You may like to make a submission to the draft budget exhibition, which closes tomorrow.

Question 3.

Has Council estimated the impact that this funding cut will have on low-income and vulnerable residents in terms of their ability to avoid energy poverty and the health consequences of living in poor quality housing, especially from extreme heat conditions?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

In addition to the Energy Upgrades program, Council provides support to low income and vulnerable residents through its Heat Health program to help educate all community members to stay safe in heatwaves and heat related climate events.

This program works with community service organisations to identify residents most in need and provide direct interventions and support for vulnerable community members.

Cr Arturi left the meeting at 6.31pm and returned at 6.32 pm.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – 6.33PM

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien**SECONDED:** Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)**That** Public Question Time continue after 6.37pm for 30 minutes**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- **Lesley Walker**

Question 1.

Has Council made a decision to limit the Darebin Energy Upgrades program to one year?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Council endorsed the allocation of \$200,000 to the Energy Support Program at the Council meeting of June 30, 2025, and at the November 2025 Council meeting approved this being delivered over a 12-month period starting no later than March 2026.

Question 2.

If so, what is the rationale for this decision, given Council's long-standing commitment to reduce carbon emissions in Darebin and help low-income residents reduce their energy costs at a time of great hardship?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

The Energy Upgrades program was established as a 1 year program. You may like to make a submission to the draft budget exhibition, which closes tomorrow.

- **Margaret Newton**

Question 1.

When does council intend on making an upgrade to RLC? the state of the centre is 3rd world.

Response from General Manager Community

Council is currently working on a significant upgrade to the hot water provision and change rooms at RLC which is expected to be delivered in 2026-27. Council has been progressively improving conditions at the centre over the past few years. From a longer-term perspective, Council is continuing activities to support the redevelopment of RLC. A business case is currently being developed. In 2026-27, the next step is to develop a funding and advocacy plan to identify and position appropriate partnerships given the significant funding required to redevelop RLC.

Question 2.

What is the council doing about safety around Edwardes Street, Reservoir? I have concerns for my and others safety, there are many people loitering who are intoxicated and effected by other substances, there have been thefts & assaults, does council have a plan to improve safety for residents, traders & other who use the area?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Council is one organisation of many that has a role in community safety and is aware of concerns around Reservoir. We are pleased Victoria Police is taking a proactive response, and we are considering how to best work with them. If you feel unsafe, we encourage you to report non-urgent incidents to the Police Assistance Line (131 444) and for emergency or immediate threats please call the Police (000).

Question 3.

It's a great welcome to have Hands on Health come to the area, with the move into Edwardes Street, what measures is Council doing to support this organisation, given that council financially supports other organisations.

Response from General Manager Community.

In 2025, through Council's Property EOI process, Hands-On Health Australia's proposal to lease the former police station at 25 Edwardes Street, Reservoir, was adopted by Council. The lease is at peppercorn rates for 5 years with a further 2x 5-year options. This arrangement is a strong demonstration of Council's commitment, afforded to Hands-On Health Australia due to the community value of the service offering. Council has also supported Hands-On Health Australia through its Community Partnership Grants Funding every year over the last four years since 2022-2023. Alongside these commitments, officers are also exploring cross promotional opportunities of Hands on Health offerings across relevant Council services like RLC, Get Active in Darebin, Darebin Libraries.

- **John Nugent**

Question 2.

In the interest of transparency could Council advise the names, who supply the 2 Batteries in the Alphington area and Darebin reimbursement from these projects?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

This information can be found on Council's website in the public minutes of Council's meetings of 26 May 2025 and 28 July 2025. The two organisations Council has leased land for the purpose of installing a battery are Village Power, which is a not for profit organisation, and Jemena, which is an electricity distribution company.

Question 3.

Could you please advise if the \$15,000 has been repaid to the Council, if not when will it be repaid by the Falcons?

Response from General Manager Community

Thank you for the question, there is no requirement for the Darebin Falcons to pay Council.

- **Warwick Blackmur**

Question 1.

With reference to the Community Amenity Local Law 2025 of Darebin City Council clauses 11(1), 11(2)©, and 11(2)(g), how many enforcement actions (as described in Part 9) has Council taken under these clauses since this law was enacted?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your time over the phone yesterday. 55 Infringements have been issued under clause 11 of the Local Law since July 1 2025.

Question 2.

With reference to the Community Amenity Local Law 2025 of Darebin City Council clause 12, how many enforcement actions (as described in Part 9) has Council taken since this law was enacted?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

No enforcement action has been taken under this clause. When required, matters concerning the structural condition of a building are generally managed through the issuing of a Building Order under the provisions of the Building Act (1993).

Question 3.

Would Council be open to liaising with Yarra Trams with the goal of installing rubbish bins at all tram stops?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

There are bins near some tram stops in Darebin. Depending on the land ownership at the specific site, some are managed by Council and some by the State Government or their contractors. Generally we focus on Council sites and the State Government is best contact for their sites, although in some locations responsibility may be mixed. Council considers each location on a case by case basis and not all sites have bins. That's because bins are not always the best way to minimize litter. Perhaps surprisingly, in some circumstances bins can 'attract' litter as people may feel like they have a 'right' to leave litter near by. Council also considers level of use and costs.

If there is a particular location you are concerned about, please get in touch with Council Customer Service centre.

- **Leanne Coughlin**

Question 1.

Could Council please amend the recommendation for a 4 year lease to a 4 by 4 year lease in line with our discussions over the last 12 months with Council staff and in line with the length of our previous lease agreement (which was a 3 by 5 year lease)?

Response from General Manager Community

Council is considering this matter this evening, the report recommends alignment between neighbourhood house lease agreement tenure and funding agreement tenure, at 4 years. The report includes the clear preference of neighbourhood houses to continue with long-term lease arrangements. Council will consider this in their deliberations on the report.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION - UPGRADE OF SCHOOL CROSSING FOR RESERVOIR EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL ON YARRA AVE, RESERVOIR

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-071

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)

That the petition:

“We, the undersigned, call on Darebin City Council to upgrade the existing school crossing on Yarra Avenue, Reservoir, outside Reservoir East Primary School.

The current crossing does not adequately support the safety of students, families and community members during school pick-up and drop off times. Traffic volumes and vehicle speeds create safety risks and make it difficult to manage school drop-off and pick-up, particularly given the misalignment between the crossing location and the school's main entry gate.

Upgrading the crossing to a raised platform crossing and realigning it closer to the school's main entry gate will improve safety and visibility, calm traffic in the area, support safer school operations, and encourage more students to walk or ride to school.

We urge Council to prioritise this upgrade in the interests of student and community safety.”

be tabled and referred to the CEO for response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 TABLING OF PETITION - WEST PRESTON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PETITION TO IMPROVE FACILITIES

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-072

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That the petition:

“The West Preston Football Netball Club is seeking help from Darebin Council to improve club facilities including internal bathrooms & showers. Also scope to improve access roadways from gate to clubrooms. This has been an ongoing issue, and we have been trying to address these issues since 2005 as attached petitions & letters from federal, state government & local councils.”

be tabled and referred to the CEO for response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3

**TABLING OF PETITION - PROPOSED PERMANENT
REMOVAL OF ON-STREET PARKING – ARTHURTON
ROAD, NORTHCOTE (MERRI CREEK TO HERBERT
STREET) FOR PROTECTED BIKE LANES**

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-073

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)

That the petition:

“We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who respectfully urge our leaders to act now to:

- 1. Retain on-street parking outside of already existing peak clearway hours;*
- 2. Not impose any further extension of clearway hours;*
- 3. Investigate alternative bike lane solutions;*
- 4. Conduct meaningful consultation with residents and the kindergarten community.*

Arthurton Road serves families, children, and long-term residents. Any changes should prioritise safety, accessibility, and community amenity for all users — not reduce essential access. We urge Council to reconsider this proposal.”

be tabled and referred to the CEO for response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions were made from the following people in relation to items on the Agenda:

9.1 Northcote Tennis Courts Licence Agreement

- Sue Spafford (in person)
- David De Witt (in person)
- Katherine Ventoruzzo (in person)
- Jason Gasper (in person)
- Hannah Fox (in person)
- Finlay Hammond (in person)
- Elisa Molina Angulo (virtually)
- Shane Scrutton (in person)
- Andy Jones (virtually)
- John Jones (virtually)

9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements

Cr. Jelley disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements as she is a member of a neighbourhood house that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. O'Brien disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements as she was a member of a neighbourhood house, until recently, that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. Tsalkos disclosed a material conflict of interest in Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements as he is a board member of a neighbourhood house that is being considered for council funding.

Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Tsalkos left the meeting at 7.19pm.

- Leanne Coughlin (in person)

Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Tsalkos returned to the meeting at 7.23pm.

9.3 Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Service Funding Agreement

- Christina Dipierdomenico (in person)

9.8 Approach to Managing Transport Services

- Karen Bayly (virtually)

9.9 Your Street Your Say Group C Round 2 Consultation Results and Proposed Concept Plans

- Sally Jessop (in person)
- Sally Moxham (virtually)
- Jim Round (virtually)

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 NORTHCOTE TENNIS COURTS LICENSE AGREEMENT

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis vacated the Chair to enable her to move a motion in relation to this item.

Deputy Mayor Arturi assumed the Chair.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Officers have exclusively negotiated with Northcote Tennis Academy (NTA) to understand their proposed license/lease terms at the Northcote tennis courts following Council's Resolution in May 2025 to remove the site from the Property Expression of Interest process.

In alignment with Council's *Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy (2024) (Appendix A)*, NTA were assessed as a commercial business with community benefit (Category 2). This means the basis for the rental calculation is market rental with no discount.

A market rent assessment was sought (Confidential **Appendix B**). Council's proposed licence agreement terms are outlined in Confidential **Appendix C**.

NTA submitted three alternative proposals for consideration, offering financial returns well below market rent for dedicated bookings during peak periods ranging from 92 hours per week to 168 hours per week. Officers reviewed these proposals in line with Council's policy and communicated the relevant fee requirements. NTA has not agreed to terms aligned with Council's policy.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Northcote Tennis Academy is a commercial business offering tennis coaching services.
- (2) Notes the community benefit provided by Northcote Tennis Academy in promoting tennis to encourage health and wellbeing in the Northcote community.
- (3) Approves the licence agreement terms and fees for Northcote Tennis Academy at the Northcote tennis courts, set as market rent in alignment with Council's *Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy* as outlined in Confidential **Appendix C**.
- (4) Endorses an open market expression of interest campaign seeking interested parties to lease/licence, manage/operate and/or invest in the Northcote tennis courts, should Northcote Tennis Academy decline Council's licence agreement terms and fees offer.

Motion**MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)****SECONDED: Cr. C Boglis OAM****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Northcote Tennis Academy is a commercial business offering tennis coaching services.
- (2) Notes the community benefit provided by Northcote Tennis Academy in promoting tennis to encourage health and wellbeing in the Northcote community.
- (3) Approves the license agreement terms and fees (ex GST) for Northcote Tennis Academy at the Northcote tennis courts as follows:
 - a) Tenure: 3-year license agreement (commencing 1 July 2026, review at end of term).
 - b) Annual License Fees as follows:
 - i. Year 1: \$25,000;
 - ii. Year 2: \$35,000;
 - iii. Year 3: \$45,000
 - c) A yearly electricity contribution of \$3,500
 - d) A yearly deduction of \$6,000 for each year that the Northcote Tennis Academy provides toilets.
 - e) Court Allocation as follows
 - i. School Holiday Program (12 weeks): 92 hours/week across 5 days and 4 courts
 - ii. Competition Program (34 weeks): 12 hours/week on Saturdays and 2 courts
 - iii. At other times (40 weeks): 118.5 hours/week across 6 days and 6 courts
 - f) Outside these times, courts remain available for public use/bookings.
 - g) Maintenance obligations will continue to be Council's responsibility as per current agreement.
- (4) Endorses an open market expression of interest campaign seeking interested parties to lease/license, manage/operate and/or invest in the Northcote tennis courts, should Northcote Tennis Academy decline Council's license agreement terms and fees offer.

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 26-074****MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)****SECONDED: Cr. C Boglis OAM****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Northcote Tennis Academy is a commercial business offering tennis coaching services.

- (2) Notes the community benefit provided by Northcote Tennis Academy in promoting tennis to encourage health and wellbeing in the Northcote community.
- (3) Approves the license agreement terms and fees (ex GST) for Northcote Tennis Academy at the Northcote tennis courts as follows:
 - a) Tenure: 3-year license agreement (commencing 1 July 2026, review at end of term).
 - b) Annual License Fees as follows:
 - i. Year 1: \$25,000;
 - ii. Year 2: \$35,000;
 - iii. Year 3: \$45,000
 - c) A yearly electricity contribution of \$3,500
 - d) A yearly deduction of \$6,000 for each year that the Northcote Tennis Academy provides toilets.
 - e) Court Allocation as follows
 - i. School Holiday Program (12 weeks): 92 hours/week across 5 days and 4 courts
 - ii. Competition Program (34 weeks): 12 hours/week on Saturdays and 2 courts
 - iii. At other times (40 weeks): 118.5 hours/week across 6 days and 6 courts
 - f) Outside these times, courts remain available for public use/bookings.
 - g) Maintenance obligations will continue to be Council's responsibility as per current agreement.
- (4) Endorses an open market expression of interest campaign seeking interested parties to lease/license, manage/operate and/or invest in the Northcote tennis courts, should Northcote Tennis Academy decline Council's license agreement terms and fees offer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION – ADJOURNMENT 7.47PM

Council Resolution

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

That the meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting resumed at 7.54pm.

9.2 DAREBIN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE FUNDING AND LEASE AGREEMENTS

The Mayor, Cr Dimitriadis, resumed the Chair.

Cr. Jelley disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements as she is a member of a neighbourhood house that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. O'Brien disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements as she was a member of a neighbourhood house, until recently, that is being considered for council funding.

Cr. Tsalkos disclosed a material conflict of interest in Item 9.2 Darebin Neighbourhood House Funding and Lease Agreements as he is a board member of a neighbourhood house that is being considered for council funding.

Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Tsalkos left the meeting at 7.55pm.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Funding Agreements and Lease Agreements with Darebin's Neighbourhood Houses (NHs), are due to expire on 30 June 2026.

This report outlines Council's proposed approach to renewing the Darebin NHs Funding and Lease Agreements beyond that date.

The Darebin NHs operate within an increasingly competitive funding environment, where securing resources remains a significant challenge. Each NH is affiliated with Neighbourhood House Victoria and receives State Government funding through the Department of Health and Human Services' Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP). This funding varies across the sector with Houses receiving between 10 and 40 hours per week for a NH Coordinator role, at an average of \$130,000 per House per annum. NHs however rely heavily on additional funding including through Council, short-term grants, project based funding, and philanthropic contributions to maintain essential programs.

Darebin NHs have had funding from Council under several different models since 2004 (Appendix A). The current longer-term Funding Agreement model (5 years + 3 years) was developed in 2018 to support stability in operational planning, resource management and service continuity for the community, ensuring funds are administered effectively and aligned with Council's strategic objectives.

Officers have identified the need to strengthen transparency of funding arrangements, service performance, funding model approaches and processes. This includes benchmarking against other councils, reviewing service levels, geographic coverage, and clarifying how Council's contribution can best complement other funding sources such as the State Government's Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP).

Given the short timeframe, it is recommended that Council renew the Funding Agreements and Lease Agreements to ensure service continuity for partner agencies and the community, many of whom are vulnerable, while allowing sufficient time to undertake this review.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Approves a 4-year Funding Agreement in line with existing funding levels, for each Darebin Neighbourhood House as listed below, subject to annual funding review:
 - a. Reservoir Neighbourhood House - ABN: 66 571 493 753
 - b. Prace (Preston/Reservoir Adult Community Education) - ABN: 93 736 262 050.
 - c. Bridge Darebin (Preston/Thornbury) - ABN: 66 801 857 062
 - d. Span Community House - ABN: 52 526 420 312
 - e. Alphington Community Centre - ABN: 64 831 331 597
 - f. Jika Jika Community Centre - ABN: 16 321 101 846
- (2) Approves a total funding amount in 2026-2027 for Neighbourhood House renewed funding agreements of \$591,353.
- (3) Approves the Lease Agreement tenure (for NHs) to align according to the tenure of the Funding Agreement.
- (4) Continues to support the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses in their advocacy as part of the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign seeking increased State Government funding.

Motion**MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM****SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster****That Council:**

- (1) Approves 4-year Funding Agreements for Darebin Neighbourhood House:
 - a) As listed below:
 - i. Reservoir Neighbourhood House - ABN: 66 571 493 753
 - ii. Prace (Preston/Reservoir Adult Community Education) - ABN: 93 736 262 050.
 - iii. Bridge Darebin (Preston/Thornbury) - ABN: 66 801 857 062
 - iv. Span Community House - ABN: 52 526 420 312
 - v. Alphington Community Centre - ABN: 64 831 331 597
 - vi. Jika Jika Community Centre - ABN: 16 321 101 846
 - b) With funding amounts for 2026-27 to be aligned to the existing and historic proportionate breakdown between Darebin Neighbourhood Houses, with Reservoir Neighbourhood House receiving \$99,617, Bridge Darebin receiving \$163,912 (for two sites) and all other Neighbourhood Houses receiving equal amounts of \$81,956 each, which totals \$591,353 in 2026–27 and increased annually by CPI until the end of these agreements.
 - c) That the Funding Agreements include an additional four-year extension option, subject to a governance review, alignment to strategic directions, sound financial practices and Council approval, to provide long-term continuity and certainty for the Neighbourhood Houses.

- (2) Approves that new Lease Agreements tenure for the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses will be established, with the lease period aligned to Funding Agreement in point (1) of this resolution, including an additional four-year extension option to support continuity of community services and organisational stability.
- (3) Continues to support the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses in their advocacy as part of the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign seeking increased State Government funding.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-075

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Approves 4-year Funding Agreements for Darebin Neighbourhood House:
 - a) As listed below:
 - i. Reservoir Neighbourhood House - ABN: 66 571 493 753
 - ii. Prace (Preston/Reservoir Adult Community Education) - ABN: 93 736 262 050.
 - iii. Bridge Darebin (Preston/Thornbury) - ABN: 66 801 857 062
 - iv. Span Community House - ABN: 52 526 420 312
 - v. Alphington Community Centre - ABN: 64 831 331 597
 - vi. Jika Jika Community Centre - ABN: 16 321 101 846
 - b) With funding amounts for 2026-27 to be aligned to the existing and historic proportionate breakdown between Darebin Neighbourhood Houses, with Reservoir Neighbourhood House receiving \$99,617, Bridge Darebin receiving \$163,912 (for two sites) and all other Neighbourhood Houses receiving equal amounts of \$81,956 each, which totals \$591,353 in 2026-27 and increased annually by CPI until the end of these agreements.
 - c) That the Funding Agreements include an additional four-year extension option, subject to a governance review, alignment to strategic directions, sound financial practices and Council approval, to provide long-term continuity and certainty for the Neighbourhood Houses.
- (2) Approves that new Lease Agreements tenure for the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses will be established, with the lease period aligned to Funding Agreement in point (1) of this resolution, including an additional four-year extension option to support continuity of community services and organisational stability.
- (3) Continues to support the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses in their advocacy as part of the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign seeking increased State Government funding.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Tsalkos returned to the meeting at 8.05pm.

9.3 DAREBIN INFORMATION VOLUNTEER AND RESOURCE SERVICE FUNDING AGREEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Funding Agreement with the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service (DIVRS), is due to expire on 30 June 2026.

This report outlines Council's proposed approach to renewing the Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Service's Funding Agreement beyond that date.

DIVRS operates in an increasingly competitive funding environment, where securing resources remains a significant challenge. It functions as an independent, not-for-profit organisation while maintaining affiliation with Community Information & Support Victoria (CISVic), the peak body representing community information and support agencies across the state. The service relies heavily on Council funding, short-term grants, project-based funding, philanthropic contributions, and substantial in-kind support from its volunteer workforce and students.

DIVRS applies for its core grant through a competitive tender process with the Federal Department of Social Services, a system that provides no guarantee of ongoing funding.

DIVRS has been funded by Council under several different models since 2004 (Appendix A). The current longer-term Funding Agreement model (5 years + options 3) was developed in 2018 to support stability in operational planning, resource management and service continuity for the community, ensuring funds are transferred effectively and aligned with Council's strategic objectives.

Officers have identified the need to strengthen transparency of funding arrangements, service performance, funding model approaches and processes. This includes reviewing current arrangements, benchmarking against other councils, assessing service scope and clarifying how Council's contribution complements other funding sources such as the Department of Social Services.

Given the short timeframe, it is recommended that Council renew the DIVRS Funding Agreement to ensure service continuity for partner agencies and the community, particularly those who experience disadvantage, discrimination and/or are at risk, (which are the cohorts that DIVRS supports), while allowing sufficient time to undertake the funding model review.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Approves a 2-year Funding Agreement to the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service - ABN: 80 927 699 259, with a further two-year option at Council's discretion subject to the outcome of a review in the first two-year term.
- (2) Approves a total funding amount in 2026-2027 for the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service renewed funding agreement of \$150,892, with a provision in the 2027-2028 budget of \$154,654.
- (3) Notes that the Funding Agreement is separate to any support for lease arrangements.

Motion**MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM****SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster****That Council:**

- (1) Approves a four-year Funding Agreement with Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service - ABN: 80 927 699 259 as follows:
 - a. In 2026-27 the amount will be \$150,892;
 - b. In 2027-28 the amount will be \$154,654;
 - c. In 2028-29 the amount will be increased on the prior year being 2027-28, by an amount equivalent to CPI;
 - d. In 2029-30 the amount will be increased on the prior year being 2028-29, by an amount equivalent to CPI.
- (2) That the Funding Agreements include an additional four-year extension option, subject to a governance review, alignment to strategic directions, sound financial practices and Council approval, to provide long-term continuity and certainty for DIVRS.
- (3) Notes that the Funding Agreement is separate to any support for accommodation arrangements.
- (4) Continues to support DIVRS to find accommodation that better meets their needs, and in their advocacy to secure increased and more stable funding from other levels of government.

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 26-076****MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM****SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster****That Council:**

- (1) Approves a four-year Funding Agreement with Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service - ABN: 80 927 699 259 as follows:
 - a. In 2026-27 the amount will be \$150,892;
 - b. In 2027-28 the amount will be \$154,654;
 - c. In 2028-29 the amount will be increased on the prior year being 2027-28, by an amount equivalent to CPI;
 - d. In 2029-30 the amount will be increased on the prior year being 2028-29, by an amount equivalent to CPI.
- (2) That the Funding Agreements include an additional four-year extension option, subject to a governance review, alignment to strategic directions, sound financial practices and Council approval, to provide long-term continuity and certainty for DIVRS.
- (3) Notes that the Funding Agreement is separate to any support for accommodation arrangements.
- (4) Continues to support DIVRS to find accommodation that better meets their needs, and in their advocacy to secure increased and more stable funding from other levels of government.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION – ADJOURNMENT AND CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS – 8.17PM

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes.
- (2) Change the order of business to consider Item 9.9 before Item 9.4.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 8.17pm

The meeting resumed at 8.22pm

9.9 YOUR STREET, YOUR SAY GROUP C ROUND 2 CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PROPOSED CONCEPT PLANS

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis vacated the Chair to enable her to move a motion in relation to this item.

Deputy Mayor Arturi assumed the Chair.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report to Council:

- provides a summary of community consultation feedback, and
- recommends proposed concept projects for the 'Your Street, Your Say' Group C area.

The second round of community engagement was undertaken between 27 January and 8 March 2026. As well as being invited to provide feedback on 20 draft concept plans, the community were asked about proposed speed limit changes and installing speed treatments through the road resurfacing program on local roads with high vehicle speeds.

A total of 748 people participated across all engagement activities. This included more than 2,000 individual pieces of feedback.

Feedback from the community was used to consider whether any changes were required to the draft concept plans. As a result, officers are recommending:

- some changes to several concept projects, and
- further targeted engagement for one project prior to seeking Council endorsement.

This report recommends that Council endorse the changes to the road network as shown in the concept plans. The changes will then be progressively considered for delivery through capital works programming.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the *Your Street, Your Say Group C* concept plans shown at **Appendix A** and considers them for design and delivery through capital works programming.
 - (2) Endorses the commencement of additional consultation for the Walker Street concept project, to be reported back to Council in November 2026 for consideration. Feedback will be sought regarding a 12-month trial including:
 - a. the closure of Cunningham Street at High Street
 - b. opening the road closure of the High Street Service Road
 - c. introducing a one-way traffic arrangement at Walker Street and McLachlan Street intersection to allow improved access to the bridge across the creek.
 - (3) Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and funding availability, as well as successful grant applications.
 - (4) Makes the *Your Street, Your Say Group C round 2 engagement summary* with recommended projects at **Appendix B** publicly available via the Darebin website.
-

- (5) Endorses the implementation of safer speeds of 40km/h on local roads, and 30km/h around activity centres and schools in the Group C area.
- (6) Thanks community members for their feedback and participation throughout the two rounds of consultation for *Your Street Your Say Group C*.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Your Street, Your Say Group C concept plans shown at Appendix A with the exception of Project 13 to extend clearway operating times from Merri Creek to Herbert Street on Arthurton Rd, Northcote and considers them for design and delivery through capital works programming.
- (2) Endorses the commencement of additional consultation for the Walker Street concept project, to be reported back to Council in November 2026 for consideration. Feedback will be sought regarding a 12-month trial including:
 - a) the closure of Cunningham Street at High Street
 - b) opening the road closure of the High Street Service Road
 - c) introducing a one-way traffic arrangement at Walker Street and McLachlan Street intersection to allow improved access to the bridge across the creek.
- (3) Prepares a further briefing to Council on a safe, connected cycling route between High Street Northcote and Merri Creek that is consistent with relevant design guidelines, noting that this may be addressed when developing a new Integrated Transport Strategy.
- (4) Continues to support implementation of the State Government's Strategic Cycling Corridors strategy to provide a safe, well-connected cycling network.
- (5) Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and funding availability, as well as successful grant applications.
- (6) Makes the Your Street, Your Say Group C round 2 engagement summary with recommended projects at Appendix B publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (7) Endorses the implementation of safer speeds of 40km/h on local roads, and 30km/h around activity centres and schools in the Group C area.
- (8) Thanks community members for their feedback and participation throughout the two rounds of consultation for Your Street Your Say Group C.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-077

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Your Street, Your Say Group C concept plans shown at Appendix A with the exception of Project 13 to extend clearway operating times from Merri Creek to Herbert Street on Arthurton Rd, Northcote and considers them for design and delivery through capital works programming.

- (2) Endorses the commencement of additional consultation for the Walker Street concept project, to be reported back to Council in November 2026 for consideration. Feedback will be sought regarding a 12-month trial including:
 - a) the closure of Cunningham Street at High Street
 - b) opening the road closure of the High Street Service Road
 - c) introducing a one-way traffic arrangement at Walker Street and McLachlan Street intersection to allow improved access to the bridge across the creek.
- (3) Prepares a further briefing to Council on a safe, connected cycling route between High Street Northcote and Merri Creek that is consistent with relevant design guidelines, noting that this may be addressed when developing a new Integrated Transport Strategy.
- (4) Continues to support implementation of the State Government's Strategic Cycling Corridors strategy to provide a safe, well-connected cycling network.
- (5) Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and funding availability, as well as successful grant applications.
- (6) Makes the Your Street, Your Say Group C round 2 engagement summary with recommended projects at Appendix B publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (7) Endorses the implementation of safer speeds of 40km/h on local roads, and 30km/h around activity centres and schools in the Group C area.
- (8) Thanks community members for their feedback and participation throughout the two rounds of consultation for Your Street Your Say Group C.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor resumed the Chair.

9.4 2026-27 LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Officers are preparing for Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to open the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) grant program.

The program is expected to be highly competitive; there is no guarantee Council will be successful with any application. Council can submit multiple applications; however, significant documentation is required for each 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 are seeking a Council decision on projects for submission to the 2026-27 LSIF.

A range of projects in Council's draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program were considered. Officers recommend the following three projects for 2026-27 LSIF applications:

- Design Mayer Park Sportsground Renovation – Planning Stream
- Construct Northcote Tennis Courts LED Upgrade – Community Sports Lighting Stream
- Construct Reservoir Leisure Centre Hot Water Upgrade (Changerooms) – Community Sports Facilities Stream

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-078**MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)****SECONDED: Cr. A Villella****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the following projects for submission to 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund:
 - (a) Design Mayer Park Sportsground Renovation to be submitted under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Planning Stream, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$75K.
 - (b) Construct Northcote Tennis Courts LED Upgrade to be submitted under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Community Sports Lighting Stream, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$80K.
 - (c) Construct Reservoir Leisure Centre Change Rooms Renewal to be submitted under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Community Sports Facilities Stream, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$1M.
- (2) Pre-allocates funds to meet its contributions to these three projects in the 2026-27 Capital Works Program Budget to demonstrate Council's commitment to delivery.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit applications for the endorsed projects to the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and enter into a funding agreement and execute the required documents for successful grant applications.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 26/27

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a recommended structure for the delivery of the Community Grants Program.

The development of the proposed Community Grant Program structure involved identifying opportunities:

- for better alignment to Council’s strategic objectives;
- for administrative efficiencies;
- to respond to community feedback received during the Community Grants Review process (specifically regarding their prioritisation of Council’s strategic objectives and feedback about clarity, simplification and accessibility of the grants program); and
- to encourage community groups to apply for funds to address community division.

The proposed structure involves incorporating all existing annual grants into a single Community Grants program that aligns with the five community-facing strategic directions outlined in the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029*. Grants would open twice per year – in July and February. Proposed categories and recommended funding allocation for the Community Grant program is shown below:

Community Grant Program categories	Proportion of Community Grants Program budget (%)
Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge	25%
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	25%
Health and Wellbeing	25%
Climate Leadership and Response	12.5%
Vibrant Places and Economy	12.5%
Total	100%

The proposed Community Grants Program structure is strongly aligned with the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029*, is easier to understand and navigate for community, delivers significant administrative efficiencies for Council, is more responsive to community need and feedback and enables significant investment in initiatives that address community division and discrimination.

Officer Recommendation

That Council

- (1) Endorses the proposed Community Grants Program structure and criteria to commence in 2026-2027, including:
 - a. The five grant categories, and, the percentage allocation of community grants budget to each category as follows:

- i. Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge – 25%
 - ii. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – 25%
 - iii. Health and Wellbeing – 25%
 - iv. Climate Leadership – 12.5%
 - v. Response and Vibrant Places and Economy – 12.5%.
- b. The suite of sub-program allocations to further direct the grant focus areas (**Appendix A**).
 - c. There are three core criteria for all projects being need, benefits and delivery, which are sufficient to provide strategic alignment *Our Darebin 2025-29* balanced with flexibility to enable a variety of opportunities to be assessed.
 - d. Providing the community with two opportunities a year to access the program.
- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee operational delivery of the program in accordance with the amended Community Grants Program guidelines that will more explicitly reflect Council's commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*.

<p style="text-align: center;">Revised Officer Recommendation</p>

That Council

- (2) Endorses the proposed Community Grants Program structure and criteria to commence in 2026-2027, including:
- a. The five grant categories, and, the percentage allocation of community grants budget to each category as follows:
 - i. Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge – 25%
 - ii. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – 25%
 - iii. Health and Wellbeing – 25%
 - iv. Climate Leadership and Response – 12.5%
 - v. Vibrant Places and Economy – 12.5%.
 - b. The suite of sub-program allocations to further direct the grant focus areas (**Appendix A**).
 - c. There are three core criteria for all projects being need, benefits and delivery, which are sufficient to provide strategic alignment *Our Darebin 2025-29* balanced with flexibility to enable a variety of opportunities to be assessed.
 - d. Providing the community with two opportunities a year to access the program.
- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee operational delivery of the program in accordance with the amended Community Grants Program guidelines that will more explicitly reflect Council's commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*.

Motion**MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM****SECONDED: Cr. A Villella****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the proposed Community Grants Program structure and criteria to commence in 2026-2027, including:
 - a) The five grant categories, and, the percentage allocation of community grants budget to each category as follows:
 - i. Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge – 25%
 - ii. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – 25%
 - iii. Health and Wellbeing – 25%
 - iv. Climate Leadership and Response – 12.5%
 - v. Vibrant Places and Economy – 12.5%.
 - b) The suite of sub-program allocations to further direct the grant focus areas (**Appendix A**).
 - c) There are three core criteria for all projects being need, benefits and delivery, which are sufficient to provide strategic alignment *Our Darebin 2025-29* balanced with flexibility to enable a variety of opportunities to be assessed.
 - d) Providing the community with two opportunities a year to access the program.
- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee operational delivery of the program in accordance with the amended Community Grants Program guidelines that will more explicitly reflect Council's commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*
- (3) Prioritises community groups, neighbourhood organisations, volunteer-led associations and CALD groups that are based within Darebin and directly serve Darebin residents.
- (4) Where funding applications are received from organisations located outside Darebin, consideration is to be given to:
 - a) Demonstrated benefit to Darebin residents;
 - b) Evidence of local participation and community reach within Darebin;
 - c) Partnerships with local community groups, neighbourhood houses or community centres.
- (5) Promotes the grants program that engages with the broader CALD community and provide support through capacity-building assistance so they can continue to access funding opportunities.

Amendment**MOVED: Cr. R Jelley****SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)****That Council amend the motion as follows:**

- (1) Adjust the distribution of funds to be 20% for each of the categories.
- (2) Add the following point as 1(e):

If, in any funding round, a grant category receives fewer applications than budgeted as per point 1a of this motion, the remaining budget is to be redistributed to any other category/categories that are oversubscribed. If there are multiple oversubscribed categories, redistributed grants will be determined under the delegation of the CEO, based on the scoring of applications.

CARRIED

For

Against

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

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor)
 Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
 Cr. Angela Villella

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

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed Community Grants Program structure and criteria to commence in 2026-2027, including:
 - a) The five grant categories, and, the percentage allocation of community grants budget to each category as follows:
 - i. Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge –20%
 - ii. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – 20%
 - iii. Health and Wellbeing – 20%
 - iv. Climate Leadership and Response – 20%
 - v. Vibrant Places and Economy – 20%.
 - b) The suite of sub-program allocations to further direct the grant focus areas (**Appendix A**).
 - c) There are three core criteria for all projects being need, benefits and delivery, which are sufficient to provide strategic alignment *Our Darebin 2025-29* balanced with flexibility to enable a variety of opportunities to be assessed.
 - d) Providing the community with two opportunities a year to access the program.
 - e) If, in any funding round, a grant category receives fewer applications than budgeted as per point 1a of this motion, the remaining budget is to be redistributed to any other category/categories that are oversubscribed. If there are multiple oversubscribed categories, redistributed grants will be determined under the delegation of the CEO, based on the scoring of applications.

- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee operational delivery of the program in accordance with the amended Community Grants Program guidelines that will more explicitly reflect Council's commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*
- (3) Prioritises community groups, neighbourhood organisations, volunteer-led associations and CALD groups that are based within Darebin and directly serve Darebin residents.
- (4) Where funding applications are received from organisations located outside Darebin, consideration is to be given to:
 - a) Demonstrated benefit to Darebin residents;
 - b) Evidence of local participation and community reach within Darebin;
 - c) Partnerships with local community groups, neighbourhood houses or community centres.
- (5) Promotes the grants program that engages with the broader CALD community and provide support through capacity-building assistance so they can continue to access funding opportunities

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-079

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed Community Grants Program structure and criteria to commence in 2026-2027, including:
 - a) The five grant categories, and, the percentage allocation of community grants budget to each category as follows:
 - i. Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge –20%
 - ii. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – 20%
 - iii. Health and Wellbeing – 20%
 - iv. Climate Leadership and Response – 20%
 - v. Vibrant Places and Economy – 20%.
 - b) The suite of sub-program allocations to further direct the grant focus areas (**Appendix A**).
 - c) There are three core criteria for all projects being need, benefits and delivery, which are sufficient to provide strategic alignment *Our Darebin 2025-29* balanced with flexibility to enable a variety of opportunities to be assessed.
 - d) Providing the community with two opportunities a year to access the program.
 - e) If, in any funding round, a grant category receives fewer applications than budgeted as per point 1a of this motion, the remaining budget is to be redistributed to any other category/categories that are oversubscribed. If there are multiple oversubscribed categories, redistributed grants will be determined under the delegation of the CEO, based on the scoring of applications.

- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee operational delivery of the program in accordance with the amended Community Grants Program guidelines that will more explicitly reflect Council's commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*
- (3) Prioritises community groups, neighbourhood organisations, volunteer-led associations and CALD groups that are based within Darebin and directly serve Darebin residents.
- (4) Where funding applications are received from organisations located outside Darebin, consideration is to be given to:
 - a) Demonstrated benefit to Darebin residents;
 - b) Evidence of local participation and community reach within Darebin;
 - c) Partnerships with local community groups, neighbourhood houses or community centres.
- (5) Promotes the grants program that engages with the broader CALD community and provide support through capacity-building assistance so they can continue to access funding opportunities.

CARRIED

For

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

Against

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor)
Cr. Angela Villella

9.6 PROPOSED AWARDING OF DELIVERED MEALS CONTRACTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supported and Connected Living's delivered meals service to eligible community members has been subcontracted for several years. The current contracts will expire on 30 June 2026. For the new contract (CT20262) an open and transparent Request for Tender process was undertaken.

In accordance with Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy (Procurement Policy) and Instrument of Financial Delegation awarding of new contract CT20262: Supply of Delivered Meals must be approved by Council.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-080

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

That Council:

- (1) Approves the awarding of Contract CT20262: Supply of Delivered Meals to the suppliers recommended in **confidential Appendix A**
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contracts and any associated documentation required to give effect to this resolution, and to release the supplier's names in due course when it is no longer required to be confidential.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute any required extensions and variations during the life of the Contract subject to satisfactory performance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**EXTENSION OF TIME**

Council Resolution

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

That the Council meeting continue after 9.03pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 NORTHERN RESERVOIR TRUCK MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council endorsement to progress with stakeholder engagement with businesses, the freight industry and residents on the draft Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan. The draft Plan is shown in **Appendix A**. A report with engagement results and proposed next steps will be returned to Council for consideration.

The Northern Reservoir Truck Management Project was endorsed by Council through the Your Street, Your Say Group A projects in 2022. Progress has now been made in understanding heavy vehicle demand, options, and Department of Transport and Planning's process for implementing area-wide truck controls.

Merri-bek Council, Maribyrnong Council, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Department of Transport and Planning have been consulted to inform the officer recommended approach.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan (**Appendix A**) to be used for engaging the freight industry and Darebin community.
- (2) Receives a report before the end of 2026 that tables consultation feedback and recommended options for managing trucks in relation to safety in the Northern Reservoir area.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan (**Appendix A**) to be used for engaging the freight industry and Darebin community.
- (2) Receives a report before the end of 2026 that tables:
 - a) Consultation results, and how these results have been considered in recommending options for managing trucks in relation to safety in the Northern Reservoir area.
 - b) Recommended options for managing trucks in relation to safety in the Northern Reservoir area and include the following:
 - i. Options for various ban times on Edwards Street
 - ii. Safety outcomes for pedestrians and cyclists across all route options.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-081

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM**SECONDED:** Cr. A Villella**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the draft Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan (**Appendix A**) to be used for engaging the freight industry and Darebin community.
- (2) Receives a report before the end of 2026 that tables:
 - a) Consultation results, and how these results have been considered in recommending options for managing trucks in relation to safety in the Northern Reservoir area.
 - b) Recommended options for managing trucks in relation to safety in the Northern Reservoir area and include the following:
 - iii. Options for various ban times on Edwards Street
 - iv. Safety outcomes for pedestrians and cyclists across all route options.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8 APPROACH TO MANAGING TRANSPORT SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report considers how Council can provide an uplift in transport service improvements across Darebin over the coming years in a way that is both realistic in the current financial environment and transparent for our community members.

Council officers have reviewed the current approach to transport improvement planning and delivery in Darebin and identified the need for a more sustainable and customer-centred framework.

Council has an extensive portfolio of transport projects endorsed for design and delivery as funding becomes available. The list has been developed across six programs since 2018. The total program significantly exceeds expected funding levels over the next decade across all levels of government, and it would take more than 30 years to implement.

There are also opportunities to improve transport safety and access through operational changes and better alignment of planning activities.

This report recommends a new transport improvement approach focused on three areas:

1. **Improving how we deliver transport services;** including accelerating the rollout of safer speeds of 40km/h on local roads by 2028, reviewing the parking change process and positioning the Transport Unit as an early adopter of the new Customer Experience Strategy.
2. **Resetting how we deliver and prioritise capital improvements;** including refining the list of projects endorsed for design and delivery to align with the capacity of Council's capital works budget by prioritising projects using the Road Safety Investment Framework and safety criteria (**Appendix A**) and seeking external funding for Northern Trails Strategy projects.
3. **Improving how we plan transport projects;** including developing a new Integrated Transport Strategy, pausing major network studies until the next Council Plan term, and introducing an annual internal transport safety review to identify and manage emerging risks.

These recommendations aim to deliver transport improvements in Darebin efficiently, transparently and aligned with Council's long-term strategic direction.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that since 2018 Council has endorsed transport improvements projects with a total estimated cost of \$55,008 million for the purpose of prioritising funding when available.
- (2) Notes that a recent review of the overall transport improvement projects has identified that the total program significantly exceeds expected funding levels over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (3) Supports in-principle the development of a revised, prioritised list of Council-endorsed capital transport improvement projects for delivery over the next four to six years, aligned to the capacity of Council's capital works budget.

- (4) Endorses the prioritisation framework for recommending projects to form the revised Council-endorsed list of capital transport improvement projects at **Appendix A**.
- (5) Receives a report at the July 2026 Council meeting, recommending a revised list of capital transport improvement projects within the capacity of Council's capital works budget and using the prioritisation framework at **Appendix A**.
- (6) Supports the Chief Executive Officer to deliver transport service improvements that focus on safety, access and improved customer experience, prioritising parking change requests and accelerating the rollout of Council-endorsed speed reductions.
- (7) Receives a report no later than February 2027 that includes a scoping paper for the new Transport Strategy.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Notes that since 2018 Council has endorsed transport improvements projects with a total estimated cost of \$55,008 million for the purpose of prioritising funding when available.
- (2) Notes that a recent review of the overall transport improvement projects has identified that the total program significantly exceeds expected funding levels over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (3) Supports in-principle the development of a revised, prioritised list of Council-endorsed capital transport improvement projects for delivery over the next four to six years, aligned to the capacity of Council's capital works budget.
- (4) Endorses the prioritisation framework for recommending projects to form the revised Council-endorsed list of capital transport improvement projects at **Appendix A** with a criterion added to address child safety, assigning an additional one point to projects within 150 metres of an early childhood centre, kindergarten or primary school.
- (5) Receives a report at the July 2026 Council meeting, recommending a revised list of capital transport improvement projects within the capacity of Council's capital works budget and using the prioritisation framework at **Appendix A**.
- (6) Supports the Chief Executive Officer to deliver transport service improvements that focus on safety, access and improved customer experience, prioritising parking change requests and accelerating the rollout of Council-endorsed speed reductions.
- (7) Receives a report no later than February 2027 that includes a scoping paper for the new Transport Strategy.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-082

MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Notes that since 2018 Council has endorsed transport improvements projects with a total estimated cost of \$55,008 million for the purpose of prioritising funding when available.

- (2) Notes that a recent review of the overall transport improvement projects has identified that the total program significantly exceeds expected funding levels over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (3) Supports in-principle the development of a revised, prioritised list of Council-endorsed capital transport improvement projects for delivery over the next four to six years, aligned to the capacity of Council's capital works budget.
- (4) Endorses the prioritisation framework for recommending projects to form the revised Council-endorsed list of capital transport improvement projects at **Appendix A** with a criterion added to address child safety, assigning an additional one point to projects within 150 metres of an early childhood centre, kindergarten or primary school.
- (5) Receives a report at the July 2026 Council meeting, recommending a revised list of capital transport improvement projects within the capacity of Council's capital works budget and using the prioritisation framework at **Appendix A**.
- (6) Supports the Chief Executive Officer to deliver transport service improvements that focus on safety, access and improved customer experience, prioritising parking change requests and accelerating the rollout of Council-endorsed speed reductions.
- (7) Receives a report no later than February 2027 that includes a scoping paper for the new Transport Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.10 PROPOSED DEACCESSIONING OF FAIRFIELD PAVEMENT MOSAICS

Cr. Dimitriadis disclosed an 'interest' in this item as she was involved in the creation of the mosaics along Station Street, Fairfield while a student at Fairfield Primary School.

Cr Dimitriadis left the meeting at 9.17pm and Deputy Mayor Arturi assumed the Chair.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its October 2025 meeting, Council endorsed the Darebin Guidelines for Deaccessioning Public Art (**Appendix A**). At this meeting, officers identified the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics as a public artwork that should be considered for deaccessioning due to its age and condition. Council requested full community consultation be undertaken to inform decision-making around this artwork. This report provides detail on the outcomes of the consultation and options for Council to consider.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-083

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. K Olaris OAM

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the Community Consultation raised awareness of the mosaics and has informed this report.
- (2) Approves the recommended approach for the future management of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics (Option 1).
- (3) Notes the proposed implementation strategy will include a small community event to celebrate the mosaics, prior to their removal, in addition to the installation of a plaque or display to record and commemorate the legacy of this long-standing public artwork.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Dimitriadis returned to the meeting and resumed the chair at 9.22pm.

9.11 2025-26 Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT (FINANCIAL & NON FINANCIAL) ENDING 31 MARCH 2026 FINAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the 2025-26 Q3 Performance Report (Financial & Non-Financial) ending 31 March 2026.

This integrated mid-year report includes:

- (1) Non-financial performance, including Our Darebin Action Plan progress (**see Appendix A**) including Health & Wellbeing Update, Customer Experience Performance and Service Performance.; and
- (2) Financial performance, presenting 2025-26 Year-to-date (YTD) financial performance results for period ending 31 March 2026 and the full year forecast for the 2025-26 financial year (see **Appendix B**), for the purposes of:
 - Ensuring transparent and accountable financial management in line with public transparency principles and legislative requirements.
 - Continually assessing financial performance to evaluate cost pressures, risks and opportunities as the financial year progresses. Regular forecast reviews are critical for identifying new risks and considering if adjustments to the full year plan is needed.

The *2025-26 Our Darebin Action Plan* outlines Council's performance in delivering the year one actions that contribute to achieving the Initiatives set out in the *Our Darebin Plan 2025–29*. At the end of the third quarter, overall performance remains positive, with the majority of actions progressing. Out of the 94 actions, 72 (77%) are on target and 11 actions (12%) have been completed, reflecting continued delivery against planned commitments. Nine actions (9%) are off target, while two actions (2%) have been discontinued. Detailed commentary for all actions is provided in **Appendix A**.

The financial results for quarter ending 31 March 2026 indicate that Council's financial position remains stable, however requires continuous monitoring to improve underlying unallocated cash over the long term. Whilst higher than budgeted savings has been forecast at Q3, year-end unallocated cash is still projected to be deficit of \$3.6M highlighting structural budget challenges.

Further analysis of achieved savings is currently being undertaken to assess if any amendments could be considered in the 2026-27 draft budget including revaluation of future saving targets. Results of this analysis will be presented to ELT and Councillors in May 2026 for final budget consideration.

Refer to **Appendix B** for detailed financial analysis of YTD performance and full year Q3 forecast results.

This report includes:

- The **2025-26 Year To Date (July – March 2026) Financial Performance Report**. This summarises YTD financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 compared to budget. This reports on income received, expenditure incurred and cash management and includes progress of the Capital Works & Operating Projects Program.

- The **forecast for the full 2025-26 financial year as at the end of Q3 (31 March 2026)**; also referred to as *the Q3 forecast*. This outlines management projections of financial results for the full 2025-26 financial year. This forecast was undertaken as at 31 March 2026 and it accounts for: new or emerging cost pressures, and any new information arising from the YTD (Year To Date) results

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-084

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Q3 Performance Report (non-financial) at **Appendix A**.
- (2) Defers action '6.4.2.1 Update the Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen how well it helps achieve best value for community balancing financial, social and sustainability objectives' and reschedule in the context of Council's policy review project.
- (3) Notes the Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2026 at **Appendix B**.
- (4) Notes the quarter three update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix C**.
- (5) Notes the quarter three update of the Operating Projects program at **Appendix D**.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.12

PROJECT AND INITIATIVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every year Council delivers capital works projects, operating projects and other initiatives to support community, reform policy, renew and improve a wide range of community assets such as drainage, buildings, roads, footpaths, cycle lanes, parks, and more.

Occasionally, it becomes necessary to revisit initial project budget allocations to ensure projects remain aligned with their intended scope and objectives. In keeping with Council's commitment to transparency and responsible financial stewardship, any recommended adjustments to project budgets are outlined in Table 1 and Table 2 of this document.

To enable Council's consideration of project budget adjustments each month, two 'project accounts' (within the financial system) have been established that have the effect of quarantining returned or unallocated program budget funds – one for Capital Works Program funds and one for unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives funds. A key purpose of quarantining these funds is to enable Council to respond should projects encounter budget challenges or unplanned needs or to consider time critical initiatives that may arise outside of the annual budget cycle.

If Council approves the recommended adjustments, the quarantined funds would be:

- Unallocated Capital Works Program Account: \$196,376
- Unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program Account: \$135,000

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 26-085**

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Project Budget updates and **approves** adjustments for the Capital Works Program as per Table 1 of this report.
- (2) Notes the Project Budget updates and **approves** adjustments for the Operating Projects as per Table 2 of this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.13

GOVERNANCE REPORT - MAY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committee 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 28 April 2026 Council Meeting (**Appendix B**)
- Status of petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to April 2026) (**Table A**)
- 2025-26 Q3 Councillor Expenses (**Appendix C**)
- Quarterly reporting of Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics (FY 25/26, to date). (**Table B**).
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 (**Appendix D**).

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 26-086**

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – May 2026.
- (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 provided at **Appendix B** public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 28 April 2026.
- (5) Notes the status of petitions tabled during the current Council term (November 2024 to April) (**Table A**).
- (6) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table B**, for the current financial year FY 2025/26 to 31 March 2026 (Q3).
- (7) Notes the Councillor Expenses for Q3 FY 2025/26 - 1 January to 31 March 2026 (**Appendix C**).
- (8) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2026 (**Appendix D**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXTENSION OF TIME – 9.28PM

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. A Villella**SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley**

That the Council meeting continue after 9.30pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 26 MAY 2026**REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS (MAYOR)**

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

29 April 2026 - MOSS: Sisters and Missus Singing Group Performance

30 April 2026

- NCA – Mayors and CEO Meeting
- Citizenship Ceremony

1 May 2026 - Councillor Dynamics Workshop

3 May 2026 - Kev's Pool Hub Launch at Reservoir Leisure Centre

3 May 2026 - Protomayia Festival – Hellenic Women's Federation of Victoria

4 May 2026

- Meeting with Department of Education, Early Childhood Education regarding City of Darebin & Kindergarten Expansion, Funding and Reform, DE
- Meeting with CEO & Nathan Lambert MP

5 May 2026 Councillor Briefing Session

6 May 2026

- Visit to Jika Jika Community Centre
- NCA Cross-Council Professional Development session for Councillors

7 May 2026 - SPAN AGM 2026 – Pub Quiz Community Assembly

8 May 2026

- Meeting with Fairfield Traders & Village Greening
- Visit to John Cain Memorial Park with CEO
- May 2026 - Mother's Day Planting at Merri Park with Friends of Merri Park
- 12 May - Councillor Briefing Session

13 May 2026

- Lunch at Thornbury Pensioners Club
- Victorian Sports Awards

15 May 2026

- Pathway to Clean Indoor Air (Burnet Institute) – City of Darebin site visit and tour
- 2026 Mother’s Day Cantonese Opera Community Event
- CEO Employment Matters Committee: Mid-Year Review
- GAS Mentoring Program Kick off: Melbourne

16 May 2026

- 2026 VFLW Season Kick off & Falcons Pride Cup Season Launch
- Northern Falcons All Abilities Match Day at Hayes Park

17 May 2026 - DIVRS 50th Celebration

18 May 2026

- Weaving Class at Darebin Intercultural Centre
- Meeting with Cr Boglis
- Citizenship Ceremony

19 May 2026

- City of Darebin LGBTIQA+ Action Plan Launch
- Councillor Briefing Session

20 May 2026 - Preston Scout Hall Opening

22 May 2026

- Meeting with Cr O’Brien
- City of Darebin Conversations with Councillors at Preston Market
- Darebin celebrates National Volunteer Week 2026
- Official Battle of Crete Commemorative Reception, Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne

24 May 2026

- Preston Bullants Junior Football Club – Sir Doug Nicholls Round
- Darebin Chess Tournament
- Kataklysmos/Penticosti 2026

25 May 2026 - Walk in Her Shoes Exhibition & Panel Event at Northcote Townhall

26 May 2026 - National Sorry Day 2026 (internal staff event)

Weekly meetings

- CEO/Mayor Monday Review
- CEO/Mayor Weekly Catch up on Tuesday

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

- 28 April 2026 - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 1 May 2026 – Councillor Workshop
- 5 May 2026 – Councillor Briefing
- 6 May 2026 – North Council Alliance’s Professional Development for Councillors
- 8 May 2026 – Preston Cricket Club Presentation Night
- 11 May 2026 – DCMC Board Induction Meeting
- 11 May 2026 – Meeting with Mayor and CEO
- 12 May 2026 – Councillor Briefing
- 15 May 2026 – Meeting with the CEO
- 15 May 2026 – CEO Employment Matters Committee Meeting
- 18 May 2026 – Darebin Citizenship Ceremony
- 22 May 2026 – DCMC Board Meeting
- 22 May 2026 – Conversations with Councillors at Preston Market

REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS

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

- 29 & 30 April 2026 - Women Deliver 2026 Conference
- 1 May 2026 - Councillor Dynamics workshop
- 5 May 2026 - Councillor briefing
- 6 May 2026 - Councillor professional development
- 8 May 2026 - Preston Cricket Club
- 12 May 2026 - Councillor briefing
- 15 May 2026 - CEO employment matters committee
- 16 May 2026 - Darebin Falcons Pride game
- 17 May 2026 - DIVRS 50th anniversary event
- 19 May 2026
 - LGBTIQ+ Action Plan Launch
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Councillor briefing
- 20 May 2026 -Preston Scout Hall opening
- 22 May 2026
 - Conversations with Councillors at Preston Market
 - Darebin National Volunteer Week celebrations

- 25 May 2026 - Walk in Her Shoes exhibition and panel event

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

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

- 1 May 2026 - Councillor Dynamics Workshop
- 5 May 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 6 May 2026 - NCA Cross Cr Training
- 12 May 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 17 May 2026 - PLFC Woman's Courtier Event
- 19 May 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 24 May 2026 - Zwar Park – Preston Bullants Game
- 25 May 2026 - Drop in to visit HOHA

REPORT OF CR. ANGELA VILLELLA

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

- 2 April 2026
 - Cr Gaetano Greco memorial meeting with officer
 - Palestinian Flag lowering ceremony
- 7 April 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 14 April 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 15 April 2026 - Advisory Committee Feedback Session
- 16 April 2026 - Advisory Committee Feedback Session
- 17 April 2026 - Catch up with CEO
- 21 April 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 23 April 2026 - Mental Health Wellbeing Forum
- 28 April 2026 - Council Meeting

Responding to resident matters by phone and email

- 01 May 2026 - Councillor Dynamic Workshop Northcote Library
- 05 May 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 07 May 2026 - Mayoral and Councillor Asylum Seeker Taskforce
- 12 May 2026 - Councillor Briefing
- 19 May 2026

- Edgars Creek and Edwards Lake task force

- Councillor Briefing

- 20 May 2026 - DEEC Steering Committee meeting

Responding to residents matters by phone and email

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

Council meetings:

- Ordinary Council meeting, 28 April
- Councillor briefings: 5 May, 12 May, 19 May

Committee meetings as Darebin Council representative

- Metropolitan Transport Forum, 13 May
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Executive, 15 May
- CEO Employment Matters Committee, 15 May

Other meetings & events attended as Councillor

- Meeting with CEO Anne Howard, 15 May
- Conversation with residents about Tipping Point campaign advocates
- Conversation with residents about Arthurton Road Clearway proposal
- Information session for Councillors about City of Sydney's ALGA motion on Polluter Pays campaign
- Meeting with Deputy Mayor Cr Arturi
- Meeting with representative from Fair Growth Thornbury
- Darebin Council internal staff event: National Sorry Day ceremony

Professional development

- Councillor Dynamics Workshop, 1 May
- Northern Councils Alliance Councillor Professional Development, 6 May
- VLGA Lunch & Learn: Successfully Navigating a CEO Performance Review Process, 15 May

Other:

- Various correspondence with residents

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

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

- 31-Mar - Professional Development
- 2-Apr - Palestinian Flag Lowering Ceremony
- 7-Apr - Councillor Briefing Session
- 7-Apr - Councillor Briefing Session
- 7-Apr - Councillor Briefing Session
- 1-May – Councillor Dynamics Workshop
- 5-May – Councillor Briefing Session
- 6-May – NCA Cross-Council Professional Development session for Councillors

- 12-May – Councillor Briefing Session - Absent due to illness
- 16-May – Meeting with Arthurton Road residents about clearway
- 16-May – Meeting with Tipping Point campaign advocates
- 19-May – Launch of LGBTQIA+ Action Plan
- 19-May – Councillor Briefing Session
- 20-May – Online info session for Councillors about City of Sydney’s ALGA motion on Polluter Pays campaign
- 22-May – Meeting with the Mayor
- 22-May – Conversations with Councillors @ Preston Market
- Various emails/conversations about matters including: Northcote Tennis Academy, local climate action, safe active transport, fast food impacts on our health and suburbs, neighbourhood house challenges and benefits, transport strategy, concerns about State developments at Little Sisters Monastery, diversity and inclusion, draft budget concerns.

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- Attended Full day Councillor Dynamics Training
- Site visit to Hands on Health
- Interfaith Meeting
- Inter- Council Training
- DCMC Briefing
- DIVRS 50th Birthday Event
- AGL Climate- Tax the Polluters Meeting
- DCMC Board Meeting
- Meeting with Fair Growth Thornbury
- All Council Briefings
- Correspondence with community members
- All readings

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

Cr. Tsalkos did not submit a report.

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

CLOSE OF MEETING

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)

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 Strategic Biodiversity Corridor Opportunity

This item is confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act.

13.2 CEO Mid-Year Performance Review

This item is confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released and 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) (a) and (f) of the Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was closed to the members of the public at 9.31pm

The Council considered and resolved on Report Items 13.1 and 13.2 which had been circulated to Councillors with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. A Villella

SECONDED: Cr. C Boglis OAM

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 9.36pm.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 9.36pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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