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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 23 June 2025

Released to the public on 27 June 2025

**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 emerging.

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

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

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



English

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

Arabic

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

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

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

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

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

Vietnamese

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

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2025

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.05PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

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

Council Officers

Michael Tudball - Interim Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager, Governance, Risk, Communications & Engage
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Felicity Walsh - Governance Specialist

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

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

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

3. APOLOGIES

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy, disclosed a material conflict of interest in relation to Item 9.4 Partnership Grant Options 2025/26.

Cr. Matt Arturi disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Property Matters - Sale of Minor Assets - 139 Dundas Street, Preston, 29 Barry Street, Reservoir and 148 North Road, Reservoir.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-080

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 May 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris, made the following statement:

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

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

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

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

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

The following questions were submitted and addressed.

- **Jaynie Papakonstantinou**

1. Why are semi-trailer trucks still allowed to drive down Broadhurst Avenue from Radford Road?
2. Why haven't speed humps been installed between Massey Ave and Radford Road on Broadhurst Ave?
3. Why is council claiming that these issues are not their problem after numerous emails have been sent about trucks taking down powerlines on Broadhurst Avenue?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for the question, Jaynie

1. Semi-trailer trucks do not require a permit to drive on local roads in Darebin, including Broadhurst Avenue. However, to improve the safety on local roads, Council has started the Reservoir Truck Management Project. Following detailed assessment, approval has been requested from the National Truck Regulator. Once this is received, the next step will be community engagement, and then final approval. This project is likely to be completed later this year.
2. A raised zebra crossing was installed on Broadhurst Avenue near Radford Road in 2022.
Also in 2022, the Your Street, Your Say program identified the need for improved safety at the intersection of Massey Avenue and Broadhurst Avenue, and the management of heavy vehicles in this area. This means that when this project is finished, you will see traffic signals at this intersection of Massey Avenue and a restriction on the size of trucks using some streets of Reservoir. Speed humps are not planned for Broadhurst Avenue.
3. It is the responsibility of a driver to ensure their vehicle is compliant with size standards and suitable for the conditions on their journey, including low hanging cables. If you are concerned about the size of vehicles, please contact the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. If you have experienced damage to the power cable to your home, please contact the company or person that caused the damage or Victoria Police

- **Angela Denton**

1. What processes, timeframes and priority systems are in place to respond to reports of non-compliance and what key performance measures are used to monitor the effectiveness of this reactive approach to enforcement of parking regulations?
2. What is the quantum of potential loss in revenue which this reactive approach to parking compliance is costing council and its residents?
3. Would Council consider the possibility of implementing a regular, scheduled parking compliance system across the municipality as a means of encouraging compliance and also supplementing revenue? If not, why not?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Hi Angela, thank you for your questions about our parking service.

The parking enforcement service mostly responds to customer requests.

Parking complaints are usually actioned within three business days, and customers are then updated with the outcome. Urgent safety concerns, such as vehicles obstructing the flow of traffic or blocking driveways, are triaged and attended to as soon as practicable.

The City of Darebin appreciates the impact low vehicle turnover and poor parking compliance may have on local businesses in addition to affecting the liveability of the municipality.

Council is reviewing opportunities to improve its parking service, with a specific focus on improving customer experience, access and safety.

Thanks for your suggestion.

- **Metta Kezkiropoulos**

1. Why is this battery on this site?
2. What are the health (risks) for residents?
3. Why is it not placed elsewhere?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

Hi Metta, Thanks for your question – We have assumed you are referring to the Jemena Battery to be located at Pitcher Park in Alphington.

Council decided to lease this site to the utility company that manages the power grid at this site, Jemena, after they made a request and undertook community consultation.

Council is not aware of any adverse health impacts relating to the battery's installation or operation.

The Pitcher Park site was selected after extensive site investigation by Jemena and Council. Jemena was seeking a site in Alphington specifically because the power grid in this area is constrained and the battery will help the grid's stability and performance. This site was the only one that also met all Council's criteria and in particular it allows all the normal functions of the park to continue.

- **David Schulze**

1. Why doesn't Darebin council have the Australian Flag on their website, the Tiwi islands flag from 400km away is there.

Response From General Manager Customer and Corporate

Hi David and thanks for your question. The two flags on the website are pictured as part of our Acknowledgement of Country. Council flies the Australian, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Island flags above our Municipal Building.

- **Frank Crupi**

During the 2024 Darebin council elections, each elected counsellor committed to a feasibility study towards the public acquisition of Preston Market through the Save The Preston Market scorecard questions, as reflected by community sentiment.

In regard to the feasibility study that was tabled in the 25/26 budget, will that be specifically to determine the viability of public acquisition of the whole market site.

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your question, Frank. We have also received a similar question from Chris Erlandsen. In accordance with our Governance rules, we will consolidate these questions and provide a collective response.

The draft budget includes an allocation of \$30,000 to fund the Preston Market Feasibility Study.

If the study is confirmed in the adopted budget, the Preston Market Feasibility Study will look into a range of options for Council and the government to support the continued operation and affordability of the market, including potential purchase options.

- **Parmpreet Singh Brar**

This is Parmpreet Singh Brar, new owner of Everest Indian Restaurant Fairfield. I have applied for a Transfer of Liquor Licence (Liquor application 25455A066) months ago Jan 2025 and I still have not received any update yet. The application was applied through my lawyer, who was looking after all the documents and information, but he has no updates on the application at all. My business is not doing well because I can't offer drinks at my premises. I have approached my lawyer several times and I have called Victoria Liquor many times but no one is able to give an update yet. I have no clue where my application is and why I am not receiving any updates or decision. I also gave my and my manager's direct contact details to Victoria Liquor to contact us for further process but no updates so far with anything. Please advise me what should I do and where should I seek for help, my business is going down since we took over from the previous owners. [stet]

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Hi Parmpreet, thank you for your question. I am sorry to hear about this delay. Council does not have a role in issuing liquor licences.

There are no planning permit requirements in place for this zone, so all Liquor License enquires are managed by the Victorian Liquor Commission. More information can be found on their website (<https://www.vic.gov.au/liquor-licensing>).

Should you wish to escalate your concerns, you may raise a dispute with the Victorian Ombudsman. (<https://www.vic.gov.au/complaints-liquor-industry>).

- **Simon Batterbury**

This question refers to the building known as Pioneers Retreat in Batman Park, Northcote, South West Ward, the space is currently occupied by WeCycle (since 2016). In March this year, the lease entered 'overhold' and the property has been reclassified as a Category 3 which gives a higher weighting to commercial purposes.

1. Can we ask what was the basis in classifying the property this way since it has always been used by community organisations to our knowledge, and WeCycle works there with Council to provide services to the Darebin community including free monthly bike checks?
2. Can this property be reclassified back as property for community use, potentially as a category 1 property as per the recent definition to ensure the organisation can continue to support the Darebin and wider community?

Response From General Manager Community

Hi Simon, Thank you for your question.

Pioneers Retreat was assessed as having potential for either community or commercial uses, which is why it has been listed in Category 3. As you mentioned, the lease for Pioneers Retreat is currently in overholding which means the original term of the lease had expired, which is why it has been included in the upcoming EOI process – so that there is a pathway for establishing a future lease term at this site. WeCycle is eligible to apply for this site and/or any others that you are interested in.

The process of running an EOI is one that council puts careful governance around to ensure it is transparent and equitable and therefore we need to proceed on the basis of the current classification. We can confirm that community organisation applications are eligible. The EOI will be formally promoted from July and following applications and evaluation a report will come back to Council to consider.

• Mark Redston

What's happening with the junction at Victoria Road and Separation Street?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your question, Mark. The intersection of Victoria Road and Separation Street has traffic signals and is managed by Council. It is clear the growing number of vehicles and congestion on our roads is impacting the way you and others move around.

A senior officer will call you tomorrow to discuss your concerns.

• John Nugent

1. Could you please advise when the following policies be released to the general public for comments
 - Subsidy Performance policy
 - Flag Policy
2. Council are putting in a solar battery at pitcher reserve in the south of the city. Council are intending to put in another solar battery in the city. Could Council advise will this battery be placed in the north of city to help its residences?
3. Could you please advise how much this Council has spent on consultants this financial year from 1/7/24 – 31/5/25.

Response From General Manager Community

Thank you for your questions John. To confirm, and in line with what was earlier provided in response to this question in December 2024, Council is undertaking a holistic review of the Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy, which includes the Performance Subsidy, in 2025.

A draft policy will be released for consultation later this calendar year, the consultation was not intended to be completed by June 2025.

Regarding the Flag Policy, a draft policy will also be released for public consultation later this year.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

2. Hi John, thank you for your questions. In both cases, Council has been approached by a third party seeking to lease land for a Battery. If we were approached about land in the North of the City we would consider the request at that time. We understand the reason that Jemena sought an Alphington site is because the electricity grid is constrained in this area, which is not the case in all parts of Darebin. Village Power are the other organisation seeking to establish a battery. We understand they are interested in this location partly because of high uptake of solar power in the local area which allows them to trial a new operational model for use of batteries.
3. For the 2024-25 year for 11 months to end May, Council has spent \$1.3M on consultants. Consultants are engaged primarily to provide expertise in the delivery of IT services, statutory planning, transport, and other services.

- **Maria Moustakas**

My name is Maria Moustakas, and I have been the owner and resident on Purinuan Road, Reservoir for over 40 years. I am here to raise serious concerns regarding an ongoing administrative error that has resulted in multiple newly built units, located approximately 500 metres away and originally part of 75 Cheddar Road, being assigned the same street address as my home. This has led to dangerous confusion with emergency services, incorrect billing, and severe personal distress. Despite raising this issue with Council multiple times, no resolution has been provided.

Given the public safety risks and emotional harm caused by this ongoing misidentification, can the Mayor and Councillors advise what immediate action Darebin Council will take to correct the addressing error, ensure my property is uniquely and properly recognised, and prevent further endangerment to my safety and wellbeing?"

Response From General Manager Community

Hi Maria, Thank you for your question. As you mentioned, you have raised this with our officers in the past. We have looked closely at this and Council is satisfied that the numbers in this area are all different and distinct and that the numbering of the new development is in line with the joint Australian/New Zealand standard for rural and urban addressing (AS/NZS 4819:2011). This issue has been thoroughly reviewed over the last few years, including by external parties from the Land Victoria Complex Street Addressing team previously part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action who have confirmed compliance to Standard.

I understand you are not satisfied with the outcome, there aren't any appeal options at Council, but if you wish to take it further you can consider contacting VCAT.

- **Julie Williams**

1. In recognition of the upcoming Celebration of Life for the late Cr Gaetano Greco, I wish to raise concerns that residents have raised with me regarding the choice of venue to be held at Northcote Town Hall, which has a much smaller limited capacity compared to other council facilities such as Preston Town Hall or the Darebin Arts Centre.

Cr Greco dedicated his life to serving the Darebin community, particularly advocating for equitable access and inclusion for residents from migrant backgrounds and for those without access to the internet. One of the key principles he stood for was ensuring that all members of the community, regardless of language, digital access, or socio-economic background were included and informed.

Many residents were not aware of the online ticketing process due to digital barriers, and as a result, have missed the opportunity to attend this important event for them personally.

Given these circumstances, will Council consider relocating the event to a larger venue or providing an alternative way for those without internet access to attend or participate? If not, what accommodations will be made to ensure the event is truly accessible to all members of the community Gaetano so passionately served?

Response From General Manager Customer and Corporate

Thank you for the question, Julie. Council is working very closely with Cr Greco's family to coordinate an event that is in-line with their wishes. The Northcote Town Hall offers the biggest capacity of our available venues in July.

The family will record the event, which will be posted on Cr Gaetano Greco's Facebook page as soon as possible after the event. Thanks again for your feedback, we will pass it onto Cr Greco's family for consideration.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – 6.35PM

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-081

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **Julie Williams**

2. There has been no community consultation or formal communication from either Council or Yarra Trams regarding the reinstatement of the Tyler Street tram stop, given our growing and aging population, can council tell residents if the new tram stop will be fully accessible to all users, including those with prams, shopping trolleys, mobility scooters, and wheelchairs?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thanks for your question, Julie. The reinstatement of tram stops including any relocation is carried out by the Department of Transport who consult with Yarra Trams, the community and Council.

A Council Officer will be in contact you to provide you with contact details for the Department of Transport to seek further information.

- **Matthew Zammit**

1. What will Darebin Council do significantly differently to other municipalities in its upcoming e-scooter trial, so as to expect a significant different outcome to those trials elsewhere?
2. Does Darebin Council expect to spend any more than \$50,000 on its e-scooter trial?
3. What accessibility and compliance activities will Darebin Council conduct during the e-scooter trial?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your questions, Matthew. Darebin's trial will only allow people to park scooters in approved areas. People hiring a scooter are charged per minute. If people don't park the scooter in an approved area, they will continue to be charged per minute. This will avoid blocked footpaths and reduce clutter.

People hiring scooters will also not be able to ride on footpaths and in parks. If they try to, the scooter will lose power and stop, and the person hiring the scooter will need to push it.

Council does not need further funding to deliver the trial. The \$50,000 allocated for 2024-25 has already been spent.

E-scooters are permitted under Victoria law and instances of illegal riding are matters for police enforcement. Operators will be responsible for promptly resolving accessibility issues.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION: RUBIE THOMSON RESERVE

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-082

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)**SECONDED:** Cr. M Arturi

That the petition: "Rubie Thomson Reserve" which reads as follows:

"May we please have a basketball ring at Rubie Thomson Reserve? Here are the reasons why:

- 1. Everyone can play with it.*
- 2. There are no basketball rings nearby that are safe to walk to (Fairfield Primary School or Pitcher Park are the closest).*
- 3. There is a lot of space of Rubie Thomson that is not used.*
- 4. It will get kids outside and being active.*

Thank you for considering this idea."

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ella, as the submitter of the petition, and her father Chad Oughton, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.1.

8.2 TABLING OF PETITION: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON WOOD STREET, PRESTON

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-083

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

That the petition: "Pedestrian Safety on Wood Street, Preston" which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to improve the safety of Wood Street, Preston. Wood Street (between Plenty Road and High Street) needs improved signage, traffic obstacles and permanent safe crossing points to create a safe environment for locals. The street houses both a playground and a childcare centre which both open directly onto Wood Street as well as being crossing points to access Walter Reserve and Preston Primary School."

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jourdan, as the submitter of the petition made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.2.

8.3 TABLING OF PETITION: SUMNER ESTATE TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-084

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

That the petition: "Sumner Estate Traffic Concerns" which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned residents of the Sumner Estate and broader community, petition Darebin City Council to:

- 1. Conduct a comprehensive traffic and safety assessment of the Sumner Estate and surrounding areas.*
- 2. Address the risks posed by increasing congestion, especially at intersections near St Georges Road, Sumner Avenue, and Arthurton Road and along Sumner Avenue and Shakespeare Grove.*
- 3. Ensure community consultation is held at a suitable local venue.*
- 4. Commit to investment to keep people safe and add to the amenity of the Sumner Estate in the 2025-26 budget.*

We submit this petition due to inadequate community notification about the "Your Street, Your Say" process and the lack of opportunities for local input on these safety concerns."

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Zoe Austin-Crowe, as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.3.

8.4 TABLING OF PETITION: CONCERNING PIONEERS RETREAT & COMBINED WECYCLE PETITIONS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-085

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That the petition: "Concerning Pioneers Retreat & Combined WeCycle Petitions" which reads as follows:

"Support WeCycle: Give a long community lease for the Pioneer's Retreat, Batman Park, Northcote."

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Simon Batterbury as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.4.

8.5

**TABLING OF PETITION: TO FULLY FUND DAREBIN'S
CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN**

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-086

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

That the petition: "To fully fund Darebin's Climate Emergency Plan" which reads as follows:

"We are proud of Darebin's history of leadership on climate action but deeply concerned that Council is de-funding the Climate Emergency Plan. Council has scrapped its Solar Savers program without replacement and has dropped its commitment to supporting households and businesses to move from gas to clean electricity. In its draft annual plan and budget for 2025-26.

The Darebin community overwhelmingly supports urgent action on climate changes. That's why it is a pillar of the Community Vision Darebin 2041. It was an emergency when Darebin made the first emergency declaration in the world in 2016, and it's even more serious now.

In recent years, we've seen some of the worst fires, floods, heatwaves, and droughts in Australia's history, as global temperatures hit irreversible levels. We need to switch to clean energy as soon as possible, and all levels of government need to play their part.

While the federal and state governments have introduced incentives for electric appliances (following Darebin's Solar Savers program), this is not enough. Council's have a critical role to play in supporting people at the local level to make the switch.

The 2024-2030 Darebin Climate Emergency Plan (CEP) recognised this. Following two years of consultation with the community and expert advice, the CEP includes a target of engaging 1,000 households every year with tailored support to electrify their homes and transport.

We strongly urge Council to fully fund delivery of the Climate Emergency Plan in 2025-26, and in every year of the Darebin Strategic Plan, as an ongoing part of Council's core business.

We implore Darebin Councillors to once again play a leading role, and work in partnership with federal and state governments in making a safer city for future generations."

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fiona Nelson, as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to item 8.5.

8.6

**TABLING OF PETITION: STOP THE WASTE: SCRAP
DAREBIN COUNCIL E-SCOOTER TRIAL****Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 25-087**

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

That the petition: "Stop the Waste: Scrap Darebin Council E-Scooter Trial" which reads as follows:

We call on Darebin Council to stop the waste, start treating our ratepayers with respect and scrap this pointless e-scooter trial.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Matthew Zammit, as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.6.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 25-088**

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

That Council adjourn the meeting for a break.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.11pm – The Meeting adjourned for a break.

7.18pm – The meeting resumed.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 PROPERTY MATTERS - SALE OF MINOR ASSETS - 139 DUNDAS STREET, PRESTON, 29 BARRY STREET, RESERVOIR AND 148 NORTH ROAD, RESERVOIR

Cr. Arturi disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Property Matters - Sale of Minor Assets - 139 Dundas Street, Preston, 29 Barry Street, Reservoir and 148 North Road, Reservoir, specifically in relation to Barry Street.

7.19pm – Cr. Arturi left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is seeking Council to authorise the commencement of statutory procedures for the sale of discontinued roads adjoining the following three properties:

- 139 Dundas Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix A**),
- 29 Barry Street, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix B**) and
- 148 North Road, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix C**).

This report recommends that Council endorses the proposed sale of the discontinued roads to the owners of these properties noting that a further community engagement process will be undertaken by officers and that any objection or submission received by Council will be presented to Council to consider the findings and advise its decision on the sale of the discontinued roads to the adjoining landowners.

If community submissions are received, a further report would be put to a Council meeting for final decision. If no community submissions are received, the matter would be referred to the CEO who will formalise the sale of the discontinued roads under delegation.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-089

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Commences the statutory procedures under section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020 to sell the land from the discontinued roads adjoining 139 Dundas Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix A**), 29 Barry Street, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix B**) and 148 North Road, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix C**), to the owners, by private treaty in accordance with Council's Sale of Minor Assets Policy May 2022.
- (2) Gives notice of its intention to sell the land on Council's website and in such notice, states, that Council proposes to sell the land from the former roads to the owners of 139 Dundas Street, 29 Barry Road and 148 North Road, by private treaty, in accordance with Council policy.
- (3) Invites written submissions on the proposed sales and deal with any submissions received in line with the principles set out in section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (4) Notes that where any submissions are received, a further report will be presented to Council to consider the findings and advise its decision on the sale of the discontinued road to the adjoining landowner.

- (5) Notes that if no submissions are received, a further report will be presented to the Chief Executive Officer, to confirm acceptance of the delegated responsibilities and to complete the statutory procedures for the sale of the land to the owners of 139 Dundas Street, 29 Barry Street and 148 North Road and sign all necessary documents for the sale of the land under delegation.
- (6) Notes that in the event that submissions are received from other adjoining property owners or interested parties, Council reserves the right to reallocate the manner in which the land is to be sold in accordance with Council's Sale of Minor Assets Policy May 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.21pm - Cr. Arturi returned to the meeting.

9.2

**DRAFT ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to begin community engagement on the draft Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan (AAP) (**Appendix A**).

Proposed community engagement will focus on Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) and services. This is an important opportunity for Council to engage with Aboriginal organisations and reestablish or create connection, as a necessary precursor to future partnership opportunities. This will demonstrate best practice Aboriginal community engagement and help strengthen Council capability.

The draft AAP has been developed under the guidance of the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC). Consultation has occurred with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation through the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Policy and Partnership Sub-Committee.

In this report, 'Aboriginal' is meant to be inclusive of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the context of Aboriginal land.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-090**

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

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan at **Attachment A** to be released for community engagement.
- (2) Authorises the CEO to make minor administrative changes to the Draft Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3

YOUR STREET YOUR SAY - GROUP A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a response to the Council decision of 26 May 2025 that called for a report that:

“...details the current status of the following 'Your Street, Your Say' Group A projects, and includes a timeline for their completion, along with an advocacy plan for projects on State Government roads. The report should also outline options for delivering projects that have been submitted for grant funding, in the event the grant applications are not successful.”

Six priority projects from Your Street, Your Say (YSYS) Group A have been completed and three are yet to commence.

Officers have estimated that the YSYS Group A projects are likely to be delivered between 2030-31 and 2033-34. Officers have made several assumptions to make this estimate, and these are outlined in the report.

Ongoing advocacy will be important for achieving improvements on State Government controlled roads, and for seeking grant opportunities to bring forward delivery of priority projects not yet started.

The options for continuing work - if the expected TAC grant funding is not allocated to eligible Group A projects - are to refer the projects to other grant opportunities or use Council funding.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the status and estimated timeline for the delivery of projects endorsed through the Group A areas of the Your Street, Your Say program (**Appendix B**).

Motion

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Notes the status and estimated timeline for the delivery of projects endorsed through the Group A areas of the Your Street, Your Say program (Appendix B).
- (2) **Notes an allocation has been made in the draft capital works program for 2025/26 for progressing the design work at Gilbert Rd / Henty Street and Gilbert Rd / Edwardes Street intersections.**
- (3) **Council allocates funding to the capital works program for the following projects to achieve full delivery within the term of this Council:**
 - a) **Gilbert Road / Henty Street Intersection.**
 - b) **Gilbert Road / Edwardes Street Intersection.**

Cr. Jelley proposed the following amendment which was not accepted by the mover and seconder:

- (3) Council allocates funding to the capital works program for the following projects to achieve full delivery within the term of this Council:

c) Oakover Road bike lanes

Amendment

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the status and estimated timeline for the delivery of projects endorsed through the Group A areas of the Your Street, Your Say program (Appendix B).
- (2) Notes an allocation has been made in the draft capital works program for 2025/26 for progressing the design work at Gilbert Rd / Henty Street and Gilbert Rd / Edwardes Street intersections.
- (3) Council allocates funding to the capital works program for the following projects to achieve full delivery within the term of this Council:
- a) Gilbert Road / Henty Street Intersection.
- b) Gilbert Road / Edwardes Street Intersection.
- c) Oakover Road bike lanes**

LOST

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien Cr. Alexandra Sangster	Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor) Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Matt Arturi Cr. Connie Boglis OAM Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos	

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-091

MOVED: Cr. C Boglis OAM
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Notes the status and estimated timeline for the delivery of projects endorsed through the Group A areas of the Your Street, Your Say program (Appendix B).
- (2) Notes an allocation has been made in the draft capital works program for 2025/26 for progressing the design work at Gilbert Rd / Henty Street and Gilbert Rd / Edwardes Street intersections.

- (3) Council allocates funding to the capital works program for the following projects to achieve full delivery within the term of this Council:
- a) Gilbert Road / Henty Street Intersection.
 - b) Gilbert Road / Edwardes Street Intersection.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4**PARTNERSHIP GRANT OPTIONS 2025/26**

7.53pm - Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy, disclosed a material conflict of interest in relation to Item 9.4 Partnership Grant Options 2025/26 and left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has been delivering its grant program to the community since 2009. The grants program supports not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects that make Darebin a better, healthier, sustainable and more inclusive place. Grant making is an important and impactful way of partnering with community groups.

This report recommends that Council undertakes a review of its full grant making program, with the aim of ensuring grant making is aligned to the new Council Plan and priorities, achieves best value for the community, supports grant recipients to successfully deliver their funded projects, and is an effective program aligned with requirements under the Local Government Act 2020.

The current three-year partnerships are due to sunset on 30 June. Officers are recommending that Council defers opening applications for the next round of three-year partnerships grants until after the review finishes and Council considers and endorses its approach for grant-making. This is likely to be June 2026.

Recognising that this delay might have an impact on organisations wanting to apply for a three-year partnership grant or similar opportunity, officers are recommending Council establishes an interim grant-making round with a funding envelope of \$150,000.

An alternative option for managing the delay between the conclusion of current three-year partnership grants and opening applications for the next or similar round of grants is to:

- Extend the current three-year partnership grants for 12 months, or
- Extend the current three-year partnership grants for 6 months, and undertake a limited scope grants program review that is only informed by a desk-top review.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses a review of Darebin's grant-making program to align the program to the Council Plan 2025-29, where:
 - (a) The review considers the value achieved for grantees and to the broader Darebin community, contemporary best-practice approaches to grant-making, and benchmarking against comparable Councils.
 - (b) Is informed by community engagement, including feedback from past and present grant recipients, and organisations who have an interest.
 - (c) Options and recommendations for strengthening the grant program is tabled at Council by May 2026.

- (2) Endorses:
- (a) Deferring the second round of the three-year partnerships grants until after Council considers the grant program review and endorses its revised approach to grant-making.
 - (b) Delivering an interim, one year grant round for 2025-26 to meet urgent community needs within a funding envelope of \$150,000, with priorities and eligibility reflecting cost-of-living, housing affordability and security, homelessness, mental health and wellbeing, and community connectedness.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. C Boglis OAM

That Council:

- (1) Endorses a review of Darebin's grant-making program to align the program to the Council Plan 2025-29, where:
- (a) The review considers the value achieved for grantees and to the broader Darebin community, contemporary best-practice approaches to grant-making, and benchmarking against comparable Councils.
 - (b) Is informed by community engagement, including feedback from past and present grant recipients, and organisations who have an interest.
 - (c) **Workshop options with council by November 2025, with a report to be tabled in March 2026 on recommendations to strengthen all council grant programs.**
- (2) Endorses:
- (a) Deferring the second round of the three-year partnerships grants until after Council considers the grant program review and endorses its revised approach to grant-making.
 - (b) **Endorses the extension of the current partnership grants for 12 months.**

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-092

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. C Boglis OAM

That Council:

- (1) Endorses a review of Darebin's grant-making program to align the program to the Council Plan 2025-29, where:
- (a) The review considers the value achieved for grantees and to the broader Darebin community, contemporary best-practice approaches to grant-making, and benchmarking against comparable Councils.
 - (b) Is informed by community engagement, including feedback from past and present grant recipients, and organisations who have an interest.

- (c) Workshop options with council by November 2025, with a report to be tabled in March 2026 on recommendations to strengthen all council grant programs.
- (2) Endorses:
 - (a) Deferring the second round of the three-year partnerships grants until after Council considers the grant program review and endorses its revised approach to grant-making.
 - (b) Endorses the extension of the current partnership grants for 12 months.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.04pm – Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy returned to the meeting.

9.5 DECLARATION OF A SPECIAL CHARGE : SOLAR SAVER ROUND 4.2 (BATCH 7)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council declare a Special Charge Scheme under Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the purposes of defraying expenses relating to the provision of The Goods on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver program. No objections were received in response to the public notification process.

There are 45 installations enabled through this special charge declaration batch. The value of this proposed Special Charge declaration is \$369,270.88 excluding GST. This price is calculated:

- pre-rebate, but
- after Small-scale technology certificates (STC) and Victorian Energy efficiency certificates (VEECs) claim, and
- excludes. GST. (The gross amount, pre-rebate, pre-STC, pre-VEECs and incl. GST is \$496,408.09).

If all expected rebates are provided, the Special Charge amount will be \$303,320.37 excluding GST, but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee (after the Small Technology Certificate (STC) claim, Victoria Energy Efficiency Certificate VEEC and Solar Victoria rebate).

Note that the proposed Special Charge scheme approved by the CEO on Friday 23 May 2025 total was \$380,900.63 excl. GST. The current Special Charge has reduced its total value by \$11,629.75. This change is because of withdrawals and quote reductions. There is no increase in liability by over 10% to any one particular person as defined in the Local Government Act.

If supported:

- Council will pay the upfront cost for installation and supply of The Goods at properties as listed in **Appendix A**.
- Council will be repaid these costs, as detailed in confidential **Appendix B**. Around 30-40% of the gross cost is returned to Council at the point that works are invoiced for the STCs and VEECs generated by The Goods.
- Most participants are eligible for State Government rebates, and this will reduce the upfront cost to Council and the amount charged to participants. The value of Solar Victoria rebates is estimated to be \$62,600.00 excluding GST.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, declares a Special Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:
 - a. A Special Charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.

- b. The Special Charge is declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of The Goods on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and
 - ii. Arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
- c. The total:
 - i. Cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution is \$369,270.88 excl. GST; and
 - ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$369,270.88 excl. GST, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
- d. The Special Charge is declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as confidential **Appendix B** to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
- e. The following list is specified as the criteria that form the basis of the Special Charge so declared:
 - Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
- f. The following is specified as the manner in which the Special Charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. A Special Charge calculated by reference to the size of The Goods being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Agreement has been executed, totalling \$369,270.88 (excluding GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee) for the residential batch, being the total cost of the scheme to Council.
 - ii. To be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
- g. Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, let it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will pay the Special Charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
 - i. Payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. Payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- (2) Considers that there will be a special benefit to those required to pay the Special Charge *because* there will be a benefit to them that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to those who are not subject to the proposed Special Charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the Special Charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of The Goods being installed.
- (3) For the *purposes* of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
 - a. Considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition

of the Special Charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and

- b. Formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Special Charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to those who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.
- (4) Directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Charge are that:
- a. There is no objection to the Scheme, and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and occupiers.
 - b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the Local Government Act 1989, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. All those who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of The Goods being installed at the property.
 - d. Where a participant wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, agrees to such withdrawal where the participant has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the participant's Goods.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, declares a Special Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:
- a. A Special Charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.
 - b. The Special Charge is declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of The Goods on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and
 - ii. Arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. The total:
 - i. Cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution is \$369,270.88 excl. GST; and

- ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$369,270.88 excl. GST, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
- d. The Special Charge is declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as confidential **Appendix B** to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
- e. The following list is specified as the criteria that form the basis of the Special Charge so declared:
 - Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
- f. The following is specified as the manner in which the Special Charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. A Special Charge calculated by reference to the size of The Goods being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Agreement has been executed, totalling \$369,270.88 (excluding GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee) for the residential batch, being the total cost of the scheme to Council.
 - ii. To be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
- g. Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, let it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will pay the Special Charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
 - i. Payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. Payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- (2) Considers that there will be a special benefit to those required to pay the Special Charge *because* there will be a benefit to them that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to those who are not subject to the proposed Special Charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the Special Charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of The Goods being installed.
- (3) For the *purposes* of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
 - a. Considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the Special Charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and
 - b. Formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Special Charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to those who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.
- (4) Directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Charge are that:
 - e. There is no objection to the Scheme, and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and

occupiers.

- f. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the Local Government Act 1989, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
- g. All those who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of The Goods being installed at the property.

Where a participant wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, agrees to such withdrawal where the participant has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the participant's Goods.

(5) Notes two written submissions were received requesting inclusion in the current Batch 7 declaration and

- a. **Acknowledges that due to administrative error, these two eligible participants and one additional applicant were not included in the batch despite having completed all required steps in good faith.**
- b. **Notes that under the Local Government Act 1989, Council cannot include either property in this declaration, as doing so would increase an individual liability by more than 10%, which is not permitted after public notification.**
- c. **Extends the Solar Saver program beyond 30 June 2025 by two months, to enable the creation of a new and final Batch 8, to only include these three participants.**
- d. **Confirms that the current declaration for Batch 7 should proceed as scheduled.**

Motion

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, declares a Special Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:
 - a. A Special Charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.
 - b. The Special Charge is declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of The Goods on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and
 - ii. Arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. The total:

- i. Cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution is \$369,270.88 excl. GST; and
 - ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$369,270.88 excl. GST, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
- d. The Special Charge is declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as confidential **Appendix B** to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
- e. The following list is specified as the criteria that form the basis of the Special Charge so declared:
 - Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
- f. The following is specified as the manner in which the Special Charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. A Special Charge calculated by reference to the size of The Goods being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Agreement has been executed, totalling \$369,270.88 (excluding GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee) for the residential batch, being the total cost of the scheme to Council.
 - ii. To be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
- g. Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, let it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will pay the Special Charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
 - i. Payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. Payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- (2) Considers that there will be a special benefit to those required to pay the Special Charge *because* there will be a benefit to them that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to those who are not subject to the proposed Special Charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the Special Charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of The Goods being installed.
- (3) For the *purposes* of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
 - a. Considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the Special Charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and
 - b. Formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Special Charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to those who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.
- (4) Directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Charge are that:

- a. There is no objection to the Scheme, and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and occupiers.
 - b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the Local Government Act 1989, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. All those who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of The Goods being installed at the property.
 - d. Where a participant wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, agrees to such withdrawal where the participant has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the participant's Goods.
- (5) Notes two written submissions were received requesting inclusion in the current Batch 7 declaration and
- a. Acknowledges that due to administrative error, these two eligible participants and one additional applicant were not included in the batch despite having completed all required steps in good faith.
 - b. Notes that under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council cannot include either property in this declaration, as doing so would increase an individual liability by more than 10%, which is not permitted after public notification.
 - c. Extends the Solar Saver program beyond 30 June 2025 by two months, to enable the creation of a new and final Batch 8, to only include these three participants.
 - d. Confirms that the current declaration for Batch 7 should proceed as scheduled.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-093

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. J Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, declares a Special Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:
 - a. A Special Charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.
 - b. The Special Charge is declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of The Goods on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge (and who are described in succeeding

- parts of this resolution); and
- ii. Arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
- c. The total:
- i. Cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution is \$369,270.88 excl. GST; and
 - ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$369,270.88 excl. GST, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
- d. The Special Charge is declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as confidential **Appendix B** to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
- e. The following list is specified as the criteria that form the basis of the Special Charge so declared:
- Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
- f. The following is specified as the manner in which the Special Charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
- i. A Special Charge calculated by reference to the size of The Goods being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Agreement has been executed, totalling \$369,270.88 (excluding GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee) for the residential batch, being the total cost of the scheme to Council.
 - ii. To be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
- g. Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, let it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will pay the Special Charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
- i. Payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. Payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- (2) Considers that there will be a special benefit to those required to pay the Special Charge *because* there will be a benefit to them that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to those who are not subject to the proposed Special Charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the Special Charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of The Goods being installed.
- (3) For the *purposes* of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
- a. Considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the Special Charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and
 - b. Formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Special Charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates

(including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to those who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.

- (4) Directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Charge are that:
- a. There is no objection to the Scheme, and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and occupiers.
 - b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the Local Government Act 1989, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. All those who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of The Goods being installed at the property.
 - d. Where a participant wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, agrees to such withdrawal where the participant has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the participant's Goods.
- (5) Notes two written submissions were received requesting inclusion in the current Batch 7 declaration and
- a. Acknowledges that due to administrative error, these two eligible participants and one additional applicant were not included in the batch despite having completed all required steps in good faith.
 - b. Notes that under the Local Government Act 1989, Council cannot include either property in this declaration, as doing so would increase an individual liability by more than 10%, which is not permitted after public notification.
 - c. Extends the Solar Saver program beyond 30 June 2025 by two months, to enable the creation of a new and final Batch 8, to only include these three participants.
 - d. Confirms that the current declaration for Batch 7 should proceed as scheduled.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6

**COUNCILLOR INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION
PROCEDURE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* includes a framework for internal dispute resolution within councils, which was recently amended by the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2024*. These reforms aim to strengthen councillor conduct, improve early intervention, and enhance dispute resolution processes. The framework is designed to address councillor conduct issues quickly, fairly, and with minimal formality.

As part of these reforms, an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure is required to manage complaints between Councillors. This process was formerly incorporated into the previous Councillor Code of Conduct and the introduction of the Model Code of Conduct across the sector has necessitated a stand-alone procedure, attached at **Appendix A** for Council adoption.

Under the reforms, the procedure must be adopted by Council by 1 July 2025.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-094

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council adopts the Councillor Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure pursuant to Regulation 12A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2024*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 CT 20257 INSURANCE BROKING AND RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND INSURANCE RENEWAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Issue**

Council's current agreement for the general and financial lines of insurance, expires on 30 June 2025.

In addition, Council has its annual public and products liability and professional indemnity insurance to renew under the MAV LMI Scheme (see Background section below for further information regarding this scheme).

General and Financial Lines

Council has participated in a joint tender process with six other councils to appoint a new broker for a two-year period and further 1-year optional extension for the general and financial lines of insurance. The tender was undertaken on behalf of councils by Procurement Australia as they provide subject matter expertise of the insurance sector and to achieve economies of saving on behalf of the collaborative group of metropolitan councils.

Council has evaluated the submissions, and this report outlines the recommendation to award the contract (refer **Appendix A**).

Decision for Council

An update on the tender process for general and financial lines insurance broking services is provided in this report and it is recommended that Council delegates the final appointment of a broker to the Chief Executive Officer, for the 2025-26 general and financial lines insurance program, to be confirmed before the expiry of Council's insurance policies on 30 June 2025 and to approve the renewals for all insurances both public and products liability and professional indemnity and general and financial lines.

General and Financial Lines – Aggregated Premiums

The main component of the services is for the appointed broker to negotiate and place the insurances. To enable Council to assess the quality of the services, the prospective service providers have been asked to set out their placement proposal for Council's current insurance lines. These figures are not final and may change but any change is not expected to be material. The total estimated premium cost for the general and financial lines of insurance is between \$1.2m and \$1.3m for the next year. A similar premium can be expected for the second year of the program.

Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Provisional Annual Renewal

The renewal invitation with the provisional cost for this renewal is expected in the next few days and payment of insurances in line with the renewal term commencing July 2025 will be required.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the update on the tender process for general insurance and brokerage services.
- (2) Approves the appointment of _____ as the broker for brokerage services including placement of general insurances at a cost of up to \$_____ per annum for a fixed period of 2 years.
- (3) Approves the appointment of _____ for general and industrial special risks insurances.
- (4) Approves the placement of Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance cover with the Municipal Association of Victoria through the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme provided by _____.
- (5) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve annual general insurance renewals, including public and products liability and professional indemnity insurance cover referred to at point 4 above, to an aggregated total value of up to \$_____ (including GST and Stamp duty) for a fixed term of 2 years.
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation for the brokerage services including placement of general insurances.
- (7) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve a maximum one-year extension for brokerage service and general insurance renewals, subject to service and performance indicators.

Amended Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the update on the tender process for general insurance and brokerage services.
- (2) Approves the appointment of _____ as the broker for brokerage services including placement of general insurances at a cost of up to \$_____ per annum for a fixed period of 2 years.
- (3) Approves the appointment of _____ for **placement of** general and industrial special risks insurances.
- (4) Approves the placement of Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance cover with the Municipal Association of Victoria through the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme **with risk services** provided by _____.
- (5) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve annual general insurance renewals, to an aggregated total value of up to \$_____ (including GST and Stamp duty) for a fixed term of 2 years, **and public and products liability and professional indemnity insurance renewal cover referred to at point 4 above, to a value of up to \$_____ (including GST and Stamp Duty) for 1 (one) year commencing 1 July 2025, in accordance with the allowance and provision for insurances made in Council's budget.**
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation for the brokerage services including placement of general insurances.
- (7) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve a maximum one-year extension for brokerage service and general insurance renewals, subject to service and performance indicators.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Notes the update on the tender process for general insurance and brokerage services.
- (2) Approves the appointment of **JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd** as the broker for brokerage services including placement of general insurances at a cost of up to **\$32,000** per annum for a fixed period of 2 years.
- (3) Approves the appointment of **JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd** for placement of general and industrial special risks insurances.
- (4) Approves the placement of Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance cover with the Municipal Association of Victoria through the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme with risk services provided by **JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd**.
- (5) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve annual general insurance renewals, to an aggregated total value of up to **\$2.5 million** (including GST and Stamp duty) for a fixed term of 2 years, and public and products liability and professional indemnity insurance renewal cover referred to at point 4 above, to a value of up to **\$1.6 million (including GST and Stamp Duty)** for 1 (one) year commencing 1 July 2025, in accordance with the allowance and provision for insurances made in Council's budget.
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation for the brokerage services including placement of general insurances.
- (7) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve a maximum one-year extension for brokerage service and general insurance renewals, subject to service and performance indicators.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-095

MOVED: Cr. V Tsalkos

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Notes the update on the tender process for general insurance and brokerage services.
- (2) Approves the appointment of JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd as the broker for brokerage services including placement of general insurances at a cost of up to \$32,000 per annum for a fixed period of 2 years.
- (3) Approves the appointment of JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd for placement of general and industrial special risks insurances.
- (4) Approves the placement of Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance cover with the Municipal Association of Victoria through the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme with risk services provided by JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd.

- (5) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve annual general insurance renewals, to an aggregated total value of up to \$2.5 million (including GST and Stamp duty) for a fixed term of 2 years, and public and products liability and professional indemnity insurance renewal cover referred to at point 4 above, to a value of up to \$1.6 million (including GST and Stamp Duty) for 1 (one) year commencing 1 July 2025, in accordance with the allowance and provision for insurances made in Council's budget.
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation for the brokerage services including placement of general insurances.
- (7) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve a maximum one-year extension for brokerage service and general insurance renewals, subject to service and performance indicators.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8

GOVERNANCE REPORT - JUNE 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors. (**Appendix A**)
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held 26 May 2025 (**Appendix B**)
- Bi-annual Confidential Resolutions Review for the period of 1 December 2024 to 1 June 2025 (**Table A**)
- Proposal to sell the discontinued road between 182 and 184 High Street and 1 Butler Street, Northcote

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-096

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – June 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 28 April 2025. (**Appendix B**)
- (5) Notes the confidential items considered by Council from 1 December 2024 to 1 June 2025 listed in **Table A**, that have been reviewed and released to the public / or are required to remain confidential.
- (6) Notes the original interested parties have both withdrawn their interest in purchasing the discontinued road at 182 and 184 High Street and 1 Butler Street, Northcote.
- (7) Notes the discontinued road at 182 and 184 High Street and 1 Butler Street, Northcote will remain under the ownership of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 23 JUNE 2025

REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS (MAYOR)

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

- Monday 28th of April 2025
 - Keon Park visit
 - Meeting with CEO

- Council Meeting (Short meeting out of respect)
- Tuesday 29th of April 2025
 - Meeting with monitors
 - Meeting with Kat Theophanous MP
- Thursday 1st of May 2025
 - Northern Council alliance meeting with CEO
 - Citizenship ceremony
- Friday 2nd of May 2025
 - Preston Mosque visit
- Monday 5th of May 2025
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Councillor briefing meeting
- Tuesday 6th of May 2025
 - Meeting with Nathan Lambart
 - Aboriginal Women and girls sport wellness centre visit
 - Span community house visits AGM
- Wednesday 7th of May 2025
 - Kids undercover meeting with Stephen Nash
- Thursday 8th of May 2025
 - Pony club gym visit
 - Islamic Museum of Australia Tour
- Monday 12th of May 2025
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Special Council meeting
 - Hearing of submission meeting
- Tuesday 13th of May 2025
 - IDAHOBIT Flag raising ceremony
 - Meeting with Deputy Mayor
- Wednesday 14th of May 2025
 - Hellenic Women's group Mother's Day celebration
 - 2024 Victorian Sports awards
- Thursday 15th of May 2025
 - MAV Mayors and CEO dinner gala
- Friday 16th of May 2025
 - Northern College of the Arts and Technology Tour
 - Darebin Solidarity with first peoples meeting
- Monday 19th of May 2025
 - Meeting with CEO

- Meeting with Cr. Boglis
- Council briefing session
- Tuesday 20th of May 2025
 - Meeting with Mayor and Bowls Australia
 - Darebin Aboriginal Advisory committee meeting
- Wednesday 21st of May 2025
 - IC Cultural Diversity orientation
- Friday 23rd of May 2025
 - Victorian State budget address
- Saturday 24th of May 2025
 - VINC 40th Birthday visit
- Monday 26th of May 2025
 - National Sorry Day Ceremony.
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Council Meeting
- Tuesday 27th of May 2025
 - Meeting with Cr. Sangster
 - Meeting with Cr. Boglis
- Friday 30th of May 2025
 - Friends of bracken creek meeting
 - Meeting with Cr. O'Brien
 - Meeting with the chairman of Preston Cricket Club
- Saturday 31st of May 2025
 - Aunty Lesley North First Nation Netball association competition
- Monday 2nd of June 2025
 - Councillor Briefing Session
 - Meeting with CEO
- Thursday 5th of June 2025
 - Opening of Raleigh Street Kindergarten room
 - Introduction to new future Manager
- Friday 6th of June 2025
 - Council Workshop with Councillors and Global Leadership Foundation
 - Meeting with Cr. O'Brien
- Tuesday 10th of June 2025
 - Eat Well, Live Well Project launch
 - Meeting with Cr. Dimitriadis and CEO
 - Councillor Briefing Session
- Wednesday 11th of June 2025

- Meeting with Cr. Tsalkos
- Thursday 12th of June 2025
 - M9 Meeting
 - Presentation from commissioner for gender equality.
- Friday 13th of June 2025
 - Bundoora Homestead visit with Colin Brooks MP with Cr. Arturi
- Saturday 14th of June 2025
 - BHAC Opening event
- Sunday 15th of June 2025
 - Greek and Cypriot Kataklysmos/Penticosti event
- Monday 16th of June 2025
 - Councillor briefing session
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Budget Hearing submission committee meeting
- Tuesday 17th of June 2025
 - Meeting with Cr. Boglis
- Wednesday 18th of June 2025
 - Yoorrook Justice Commission Walk for Truth
- Thursday 19th of June 2025
 - Citizenship ceremony
 - Gender equity advisory committee meeting
- Friday 20th of June 2025
 - Safe routes to School Parade - Grand opening of legs lane.
 - Darebin Business Mayor and CEO Lunch event
- Saturday 21st of June 2025
 - Activity Centres Community group workshop
- Sunday 22nd of June 2025
 - McDonell Park upgrades opening

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS (DEPUTY MAYOR)

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

- Ordinary Council meeting
- Councillor briefings
- Governing in the Climate Emergency: session 3
- Raleigh Street Community Children's Centre Kindergarten room opening celebration
- Climate Emergency Darebin (CED) Advisory Group meeting
- Workshops 1 – Councillors and Global Leadership Foundation
- Meeting with Mayor and CEO

- Meeting with Mayor
- Budget Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting
- Celebration of Northcote Junior Football Club's 60th Anniversary
- Opening of the new facilities at Mc Donnell Park

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

- 26 May - Ordinary council meeting
- 3 June - Darebin Disability Advisory Committee meeting
- 6 June - Councillor Leadership workshop
- 10 June - Councillor Briefing
- 13 June - Visit to Bundoora Homestead with Mayor and Minister Colin Brooks MP
- 14 June - Bundoora Homestead Winter Exhibition Opening
- 16 June - Councillor Briefing
- 16 June - Budget Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

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

- June 1st PLFC – Woman's lunch Marnong Estate
- June 5th Northern business awards breakfast
- June 5th Raleigh St Kindergarten upgrade launch
- June 5th AHAAC meeting council building
- June 6th Donald St Reservoir – Senior citizens group visit
- June 6th Global Leadership workshop – all councillors
- June 16th Meeting with Exec Community
- June 17th Meeting with Mayor
- June 18th DECC

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

- Council meetings Ordinary Council meeting, 26 May
 - Councillor briefings: 2 June, 10 June & 16 June
- Committee meetings as Darebin Council representative
 - Metropolitan Transport Forum, 4 June
 - Darebin Education Network, 19 June
- Events attended as Councillor:
 - Yoorrook Justice Commission Walk for Truth; final leg to Parliament House, 18 June
 - Meeting with La Trobe Students Union representatives, 20 June
- Other meetings

- Briefing: Darebin Education Network, meeting # 2 agenda finalisation, 13 June
- Professional development
 - Governing in the Climate Emergency session # 3, 30 May
 - Councillor workshop facilitated by Global Leadership, 6 June
 - Governing in the Climate Emergency session # 4, 13 June
- Other:
 - Various correspondence with residents

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

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

- Councillor Briefing Meetings x 3 (Mon 2nd, 9th & 16-Jun-25)
- Hearing of Submissions Meeting (Mon 16-Jun-25)
- Meeting with the Mayor (Fri 6-Jun-25)
- Training - Leadership Development (Fri 6-Jun-25)
- Attending Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Group meeting (Wed 4-Jun-25)
- Attending Friends of Baucau Committee Meeting
- Attending Melbourne Creek Management Committee Meeting
- Attending Yoorook Justice Commission Walk for Truth
- Reading and analysis of papers for all meetings, briefings, training etc.
- Contact (in person/online) with residents on various matters including:
 - Climate emergency commitment in future council plans and budget
 - Transparency and accessibility of information in council plans and budget and ongoing reporting
 - Traffic safety concerns – pedestrian, cyclist and general road issues
 - Concerns about removal of Victoria Rd feasibility work from future budget
 - Parklet application by local business
 - Street cleaning and maintenance approaches
 - Planning – impacts on local residents/streets/amenity
 - Noise complaints – residential equipment and dog barking
 - Street tree canopy improvements
 - Homelessness support in the community
 - Concerns about far-right activity in Darebin
 - Traffic management changes/trials in local areas

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- Attended Treaty Walk
- Attended Bundoora Arts: Taking back Language Launch
- Councillor Leadership Workshop

- Attended Friends of Bracken Creek Meeting
- Chaired Interfaith Community
- Met with community members, responded to emails and phone calls from residents
- Regular Monday Briefings

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

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

- 28 April 2025 - EV Matter Meeting
- 28 April 2025 - Councillor Only Meeting
- 28 April 2025 - Council Meeting
- 05 May 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 06 May 2025 - East Reservoir - Community Forum
- 12 May 2025 - Special Council Meeting
- 12 May 2025 - Planning committee meeting
- 12 May 2025 - Hearing of submissions committee meeting
- 19 May 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 22 May 2025 - Meeting with Global Leadership
- 26 May 2025 - Council Meeting
- 03 June 2025 - Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee Meeting
- 06 June 2025 - Councillors Workshop
- 10 June 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 14 June 2025 - Hellenic Cultural Association of Melbourne " O Perkilis" - 10 Year Dinner Dance
- 16 June 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 16 June 2026 - Public Submissions

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 REDIRECTION OF FUNDS FROM A MAYORAL EVENT TO A RAINBOW CROSSING

In accordance with 3.1(2) of the Governance Rules, the Deputy Mayor, Cr. Dimitriadis to assumed the Chair, to enable Mayor Olaris to move her Notice of Motion.

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Supports that \$15,000 currently allocated for a Mayoral event in the 2025/2026 budget be repurposed to fund a Rainbow Pedestrian crossing*
 - (2) Receives advice on project scope including materials and suitable locations, preferably in or around the Preston civic precinct*
 - (3) Notes that the Draft Capital Works Budget already includes funding for a pedestrian crossing in Preston and that the result of this motion is therefore to free up that amount for potential allocation to another item.*
-

Rationale

Under Council Policy, the Mayor of the Day has discretion to host one Mayoral Event during their term. This is generally held in Sept/Oct and \$15,000 is allocated to the event.

The event is to celebrate community leadership and enable the Mayor to thank and recognise up to 200 Darebin citizens for their contributions. While acknowledging the value of this opportunity, I believe that in the current tight fiscal environment, these funds could be better spent to deliver a lasting, visible symbol of inclusion and support for our community.

The draft Council Budget for 2025/2026 currently includes funding for a pedestrian crossing in Preston. By allocating the funds from the Mayoral event to this Rainbow crossing (representing the progressive pride flag), there will also be some funds freed up in the budget for spending on other priorities.

An Australian made, environmentally sustainable and durable product has recently been used by other councils and its use would mean the crossing would have a likely lifespan of between 5 – 10 years, offering long-term impact far beyond a one-off event. It would bring significant community benefit, particularly to members of LGBTIQA+ communities, their families and allies.

Darebin is home to one of the largest LGBTIQA+ communities in Victoria, many of whom continue to face discrimination, social exclusion, and mental health challenges. A rainbow crossing would send a powerful message of acceptance, safety, and pride. It would serve as an important symbol of Council's ongoing commitment to building and celebrating equity, diversity and inclusion.

It's location in Preston, preferably in the Preston civic centre precinct or nearby, would make it highly visible and would highlight the link to Council's leadership and values; reinforce community trust in Council as a safe and welcoming institution, especially for young people, families and marginalised residents; and complement other civic activities, such as IDAHOBIT, Pride Month, and Trans Awareness Week, which are often commemorated by activities in or around the Preston Town Hall.

This proposal is consistent with Council's Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework, *Towards Equality*.

It represents a fiscally responsible decision that maximises community benefit while upholding our shared values.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-097

MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM (Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Supports that \$15,000 currently allocated for a Mayoral event in the 2025/2026 budget be repurposed to fund a Rainbow Pedestrian crossing.
- (2) Receives advice on project scope including materials and suitable locations, preferably in or around the Preston civic precinct.
- (3) Notes that the Draft Capital Works Budget already includes funding for a pedestrian crossing in Preston and that the result of this motion is therefore to free up that amount for potential allocation to another item.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.23pm - Mayor Olaris resumed the chair.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

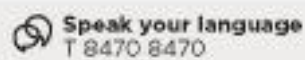
The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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