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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 28 July 2026

Confirmed by Council on 25 August 2026

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



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

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

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

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

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



English

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

Arabic

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

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

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

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

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

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản 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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CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.02PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

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

Council Officers

Anne Howard - Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community Life
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager Governance and Communications
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure and Operations
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Emma Geier - Head of Governance and Risk

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis, opened the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land. I recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and pay my respects to Elders past, present, and future leaders; and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.

3. APOLOGIES

Cr. Connie Boglis OAM.

STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis, made the following statement:

Before we move on, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Barry Dickins on the 13th July 2026, and express our deepest condolences to Barry's family, friends and community. Barry was an Australian author, playwright, and artist, who was born and raised in Reservoir and deeply connected with the community.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

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

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 June 2026 and the Special Meeting of Council held on 30 June 2026 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis, made the following statement:

It's fantastic to see everyone here this evening. Darebin is committed to ensuring psychologically safe, respectful, inclusive meetings, and that all participants, attending in person or online, feel safe both physically and emotionally. We have a shared responsibility for collaborative discussions which respect diverse opinions and responsibilities and remain fair, objective, courteous and respectful.

For members of the public who are in attendance tonight, we kindly ask you to be respectful of one another and to maintain a civil tone when addressing the meeting, and remind you that members of the gallery must remain silent at all times during a Meeting, unless you are invited to address the Meeting.

If anyone does engage in conduct that is improper or disorderly, the Chairperson can 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, or make a verbal submission, at an Ordinary Council meeting must register to do so by submitting their questions and registering before 12 noon on the day before the meeting.

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

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

- **Meiyan Lin**

Question 1:

Council made a commitment that people could use the toilets in Donath West. Now it is being pointed out that lighting is required, why does the Council not want to help its residents?

Question 2

Mayor, could you please advise why Donath West is assessed as a lower priority for lighting when Council has just spent nearly \$400,000 on Donath East and \$300,000 on Dole Reserve as what is asked for is the safety of people who use the toilets in the park?

The Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis, advised that Question 3 was disallowed and advised the following:

In regard to Meiyan's third question we require further clarity around the details of the question being asked. I understand an officer has tried to reach out on Monday, and an officer will follow up again to assist with responding to this question. You are also welcome to re-submit your question at the next Council Meeting.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Meiyan I am aware you have asked questions about this several times over the past 10 months. We understand your concern is the lack of public toilets at Keon Park Station, which has led some commuters to request access to toilets in nearby businesses.

Council advocated for a toilet during the station redevelopment and wrote to the State Government again in May 2026 following Council's resolution earlier this year.

The nearest public toilets are at the Donath West Pavilion, approximately 700 metres away from the shops. They are open daily until 6pm in winter and 8pm in summer, and while they're available for public use, we recognise that many commuters may prefer to continue home rather than detour to these facilities.

This location remains a low priority for additional lighting because the toilets are largely open during daylight hours, the route to them is lit by street lighting, and because many commuters are likely to prefer to return home instead. Council has a very tight financial outlook and competing priorities, it is unlikely funding will be available for this project in the foreseeable future.

- **Daniel Scoullar**

Question 1

Why has it taken so long for the popular big kids slide in Edwardes Lake Park to be replaced?

Question 2:

Why was the replacement for this slide not planned in advance so a quick changeover could occur?

Question 3:

When will the new slide be ready for people to use?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Council removed the slide at Edwardes Lake after it was damaged and wasn't safe anymore. We do know how much it was loved.

The damage was accidental and unplanned, and so a quick changeover wasn't possible.

We aim to replace the slide during the 2026-27 financial year. It is possible we'll need longer. The previous slide was custom-built. We are looking at several options, but if Council decides to replace it with another custom slide we expect to need a longer timeframe.

- **George Collins**

Question 1:

I was hoping to hear whether or not the council had strong metrics for success outlined for plant survivorship, habitat connectivity, vegetation structure and species richness, for the Rewilding program, and if such KPIs were met over the past few years. Specifically, I'd like to know if there was a survivorship count throughout the large planting on Cheddar Rd following the community and contractor plantings approximately 2 years ago.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

For the Rewilding Darebin Program which ran between 2020–2025, Council didn't undertake a specific 'survivorship count'. What we did was assess success with inspections of vegetation over time. We assessed species diversity and vegetation structure, with the aim of improving ecological connectivity.

At Cheddar Road, plantings have occurred in several stages since 2021, including a planting day with the community in 2023. Some smaller wildflower and grass species didn't survive as well, other species established well. That's why recent plantings at Cheddar Road have focused more on robust local tussocks and shrubs.

- **Nicholas Silberstein**

Question 1:

In relation to green and white e-bicycles, my question is as to how long the electric cycles will be permitted in Darebin?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your question Nicholas, the current six-month micromobility trial will come to an end on 4 August. It is proposed to submit a report to Council, to consider the findings of the trial, at the 25 August Council meeting.

- **Angela Denton**

Question 1:

Has City of Darebin been notified by the union that connected and supported living workers are engaging in protected workplace action?

Question 2:

What will City of Darebin management do about protecting residents from the harmful affects of workers unprotected industrial action?

Response From General Manager Community Life

Thank you, Angela, for the questions. The advice that I provide will respond to the two questions that are being asked.

Firstly Angela, we apologise for the difficulties you experienced with your service on the 21st of July. We have provided advice to you via email on the 24th of July that included our follow up in relation to all the concerns that you raised. This advice responds in a detailed way to all of the matters you mentioned.

We can also confirm that the events were not related to staff engaging in protected workplace action.

We have reviewed our records for the 10th of July and understand that full service was provided by your regular staff member with no concerns raised.

- **David Schulze**

Question 1:

I would like to know why patrons of Reservoir Leisure Centre have to wait till Easter 2027 to have the hot water fixed - why can't it be done straight away? It has been known for 12 months that it needs replacing.

Response From General Manager Community Life

Thank you for your questions, David. I can confirm there is hot water at RLC but it is intermittent and it does get affected by usage, and distance from pipes.

Council has a capital works project to address the hot water issues at RLC and in its changerooms. It is a major project that will result in a full replacement of the hot water system including conversion from gas to electricity. The project is important and it is in train, with a lead design consultant appointed and initial design work complete.

Once the full design, planning and costs are finalised, the project will go to tender to appoint a construction contractor to deliver it. Construction will commence after peak-season to minimise disruption during the busy summer period. It is a major project and needs to be designed, planned and constructed.

We understand and fully appreciate the frustration with inconsistent and intermittent hot-water supply.

Regular updates will continue to be provided to RLC members and users as the project progresses.

Question 2:

When is the Council going to fix the start of Cheddar Rd (near Reservoir station) properly instead of just adding patch upon patch? Some potholes have six or more patches and there are more potholes by the day.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Council prioritises road renewal works largely based on road condition, traffic volumes, road function. Our most recent condition assessments mean that we're indicatively expecting road resurfacing works in this area in the 2027-28 financial year and that's for a section of southbound Cheddar Road and part of northbound Cheddar Road. Council will confirm the 2027-28 work program when it considers its budget in June 2027.

For the area we have been asked about - we have checked it. It is compliant with Darebin's Road Management Plan (RMP). Maintenance works, including the pothole repairs, have been undertaken to ensure the road remains safe and serviceable, and if needed we'll keep undertaking repairs until resurfacing works are done.

- **Sarah Mathews**

Question 1:

In relation to Agenda Item 9.3, I would like to understand why the High Street to Plenty Road section of Tyler Street has not been included in the priority projects, whereas the other two section of Tyler Street listed in the endorsed Your Street Your Say (YSYS) documents are?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you Sarah for your question. All of Council's projects were assessed against the safety criteria that was endorsed at the May Council meeting, in order to sort the projects into priority order. This forms officer's recommendations to Council.

Tyler Street between High Street and Plenty Road already has safety treatments. This means the road safety risk is lower than areas where treatments are yet to be installed.

- **Marina Giannakoulakos**

Question 1:

Would the Council consider putting up a large visible 'Tram Terminus' sign before the corner of Gilbert Road and Regent Street (in both directions)?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you Marina for your question and suggestion as well. We work closely with our State Government counterparts, and this matter will be raised with them to see if they have a solution to the issues you have raised.

- **Calista Sim**

Question 1:

In relation to Has Council commissioned a formal independent safety assessment of this specific layout, including its effect on sightlines, passive surveillance, lighting, concealed spaces and safe access to the public women's toilet?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Safety has been considered independently by the architect as part of developing the concept design. At this stage of the project, a range of things are considered including site functionality, accessibility and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. This considers passive surveillance, sightlines, lighting and public safety. An additional stand-alone assessment or study has not been undertaken and would not normally be done at this stage of a project.

Council is considering which concept design to proceed with tonight. The report in tonight's meeting agenda includes information about the main ways the options differ, including in regards to safety.

Question 2:

If such an assessment has been completed, has the full assessment, including its findings and recommendations, been shared with both clubs that use the facility and have they been given an opportunity to respond before the design is approved?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

As part of the concept design process, the project architect, with Council officers, met with club representatives and the designs including safety elements were discussed. This included a range of aspects. Both the current tenant clubs have provided written feedback to Council about this project and this has been provided in full to Councillors

- **Glenn Cisar**

Question 1:

A survey was recently advertised which asked questions about the trial of Lime e-scooters and bikes. The survey offered credits which can be used on Lime products. Does Darebin Council accept that such an evaluation approach is likely to create statistical bias - just yes, or no?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

The purpose of the rider site surveys is to help Council better understand why, how and when e-scooters and e-bikes are being used. This information assists us in assessing the overall performance of the trial. It is not a statistical evaluation and the results are assessed qualitatively. There has been a range of other data collected to assess the trial.

It is proposed to submit a report to Council, to consider the findings of the trial, at the 25th of August Council meeting.

Question 2:

There have been many instances demonstrated of Lime e-scooters and bikes parked well outside of designated spots, and in parts of Darebin as well as outside of the trial area itself. These devices show up as available to hire on the Lime app. How does Darebin Council explain this?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

As part of the current trial agreement, all e-scooter and e-bike trips are required to end in a designated parking area. Any devices found parked outside these areas, or outside the trial boundary, are referred to Lime for collection.

- **Jenny Woodly**

Question 1:

Is expenditure on external consultants included in the adopted 2026–27 Budget, and if so, what are the specific budget line item(s) and the total budgeted amount?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

\$1.6M of consultancy spend has been budgeted for 2026-27 financial year. The specific budget line item is in the “Other Services” under “Materials and Services” in Section 4.1.8 of the budget.

Question 2:

What is the total amount spent, or committed to be spent, on external consultants to date this term, and where is this expenditure publicly reported?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

In 2024-25, \$1.8M was spent on consultants and was disclosed in the 2024-25 audited financial report under Note 4.2 “Materials and Services”.

Interim and unaudited spend for 2025-26 is approximately \$1.8M. The final spend for the year will be disclosed in the 2025-26 annual report.

Question 3:

If Council will not provide the consultant costings or budget line items, what specific legislation or Council policy prevents their disclosure?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

All requested details have been disclosed above.

- **Matthew Zammit**

Question1

The first question relates to the municipal monitors report findings around administrative compliance.

The Monitors found that this did not comply with the Local Government Act and recommended that a new complaints policy be put before Council for endorsement - when will this occur?

Question 2:

Darebin Council has never highlighted 'procedural fairness' as a theme needing to be addressed, why not?

Question 3:

It's Disability Pride Month, does Darebin Council accept that contact restrictions are likely to disproportionately impact people with disability?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thank you for your questions. The Monitors' Report did not call for a new policy. It asked for a review to ensure alignment with the Local Government Act and to ensure accessible communications in relation to the complaint management. At the February Council Meeting, the Governance Action Plan was adopted in response to the Municipal Monitor's report, addressing these two actions.

A review regarding alignment with s107 of the Act is complete. The second action is scheduled for next month.

In response to Questions 2 and 3.

The introduction of the Complex Customer Behaviour Policy in June last year addresses procedural fairness and provides Council with the framework to reduce the risk of disproportionate impacts experienced by people with disability.

- **Lisa Oakley**

Question 1:

On Thursday, 25 June, Showers Street (between St Georges Road and Railway Place west) had been converted to a one-way street and that a No Left Turn restriction had been introduced from St Georges Road. These traffic changes directly impact us - why was there no communication, and still no communication, provided to residents?

Signage refers to "Authorised Vehicles Excepted." What is considered an Authorised vehicle and are residents who hold parking permits or who reside within the affected section of Showers Street considered authorised vehicles? 21 business days to respond to the urgency of this enquiry is insufficient.

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Regarding your question about the lack of communication - a permit was issued to the builder working at the corner of Showers Street and St Georges Road for Showers Street to be converted to one-way.

Their conditions included to notify residents of the change. It came to our attention that this important condition had not been met so the signs marking the street one-way were covered over.

Council has instructed the builder to satisfy all conditions, including notifying residents and I've just heard you say that you haven't been notified yet so please leave that with me. Authorised Vehicles refers to trucks accessing the construction site, not the residential parking permit holders.

Regarding the question around 21 days you refer to I note that action was taken earlier to reinstate the previous access along Showers Street with a request for the builder to notify residents but Council officers should have contacted you earlier, and I'm sorry that this was not the case and we will review why this was the case, to improve our processes.

Question 2:

I have been advised a 19m semi-trailer can safely enter/exist the Assemble development site at 47 Showers Street (Preston) onto a residential street in Showers Street and I have great concerns over my car and visitor's cars outside my house at 46 Showers Street - How was this assessment made?

Question 3:

Can the swept path assessments within the permit be provided to residents?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Negotiations with builders on their access requirements are informed by technical diagrams, including swept path assessments. Council officers review the information and then under delegation provide permits with conditions.

Swept path diagrams which are used for considering these permits are not shared. What I will do is ask for a senior officer to call you tomorrow as it sounds like there might be a few other matters that we need to potentially support you with.

- **Geraldine Wood**

Question 1:

National Tree Planting day, has just been celebrated - are site inspections carried out by Arborists, where a planning permit is being sought, and if not, why not?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Assessment requirements where a planning permit is being sought vary depending on the proposal, on the planning zone and the planning overlays that apply to a property.

If required, applications are referred to Council's arborist, and if needed, site inspections are undertaken.

Not all applications require a separate arborist site inspection. For example, sometimes the planning scheme is clear that development is permitted or not permitted, and other times sufficient information can be obtained from photos or other records without a site inspection.

Question 2:

Taking into account trees provide shelter for animals & shade they also store Carbon, what is the criteria that Council uses to decide whether a tree should be retained or not?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

In terms of the criteria that Council applies - it is a complex answer, so I'll do my best. In general, where the Planning Scheme applies, Council must assess applications against the relevant planning controls –these vary site by site. For example, a property could have a Vegetation Protection Overlay or Significant Landscape Overlay and there are other elements of the planning scheme that apply. The State Government introduced a clause 52.37, in September last year, and that can also trigger a planning permit requirement. In some cases though, the Planning Scheme doesn't apply and Council's Local Law applies instead. In that case, assessments are guided by Council's Management of Tree Protection on Private Property Policy. Generally that policy sets direction to retain trees unless they are unsafe or there are exceptional circumstances that cannot reasonably be addressed other ways, such as significant infrastructure impacts or specific medical needs.

Question 3:

If a mature native tree (or any tree) is located on the boundary of the site, where a planning permit is sought, is the position of the tree taken into account during the approval of the planning permit, if not why not?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Yes, the position of the tree is taken into account. It is considered as part of the planning permit assessment and its canopy spread, root zone requirements, condition of it, and significance of it may all be relevant factors in determining whether the proposal can appropriately accommodate and protect the tree.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – 6.36PM**Council Resolution**

MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM

SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Public Question Time continue after 6.36pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **John Nugent**

Question 1:

Could you please advise why the Darebin Falcons do not have to pay \$15,000 back to Council? Council advised on 28/04/26 that it was a short-term funding gap with their 2026 VFLW program?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

The contribution to the Falcons was a contribution rather than a loan, so like any grant or contribution to an organisation from Council it doesn't need to be paid back.

Question 2:

Mayor, could you please advise how much Council has spent on the Darebin Falcons in grants and infrastructure since 2018, and the breakdown of each?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

Council established a 2-year partnership agreement with the Falcons in 2018 and this was extended for a further 2years in 2021. The total funding provided through that partnership was \$300,000 over the 4-years.

The second part of your question was about infrastructure investment. We don't have that figure compiled. The infrastructure investments are available on Council's website in the Capital works budget and there are updates on progress available in the quarterly reports. Infrastructure investments are built to last for decades and to service many clubs over that time.

Question 3:

At the Council Meeting on 26th May 2026, I asked what the reimbursement for Council was to allow Village Power and Jemena to install batteries in Alphington. Village Power, which is a not-for-profit organisation, and Jemena were given no figures or amounts. Why?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure & Operations

The amount of the leases for the batteries. That question was answered at the May meeting. and the answer was this information can be found on Council's website. You should be able to find it in the public agenda of Council's meetings from the 26 May 2025 and 28 July 2025.

SUBMISSIONS

The following members of the public made 2-minute verbal submissions in relation to Items 9.2 and 9.3 on the Agenda:

Item 9.2 JC Donath East Pavilion Renovation - concept Design

1. Moona El-Masri
2. Emily Outsikas
3. Jessica Halabi
4. Tayla Xerri
5. Boushra El Khatib
6. Kaela Varrasso
7. Emine Denman
8. Chong Kuok

Item 9.3 Transport Priority Projects

1. Channelle Calderwood

8. PETITIONS

Nil.

PROCEDURAL MOTION – ADJOURNMENT 7.01PM

Council Resolution

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

That the meeting be adjourned for a break.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.07pm – the meeting resumed.

CONFIRMED

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 DAREBIN FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN STRATEGY - PROPOSED COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy \(FYC Strategy\)](#) was endorsed in August 2024, aimed at strengthening strategic alignment, partnership development, and collective action across the range of stakeholders and sectors who work with and support Darebin's children, young people and families. In order to implement the FYC Strategy over the coming two years, this report presents both a Draft Collaborative Governance Framework and Draft Collective Action Plan.

The background section provides detail on the intent of the FYC Strategy and its development, including the significant community engagement process undertaken, and how the key elements of the adopted FYC Strategy inform both the Draft Collaborative Governance Framework (Appendix A) and Draft Collective Action Plan (Appendix B). The report then proposes an approach to implementation that best supports and realises the intent of the FYC Strategy.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-106

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

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Draft Collaborative Governance Framework (**Appendix A**) in order to commence implementation of the FYC Strategy.
- (2) Notes that the Draft Collective Action Plan (**Appendix B**) is an operational document not requiring Council endorsement due to it being subject to change through ongoing and evolving partner collaboration.
- (3) Supports that the delivery of the Draft Collective Action Plan be the responsibility of the FYC Strategy Steering Group.
- (4) Receives annual updates on the effectiveness of the Draft Collaborative Governance Framework and progress of actions in the Draft Collective Action Plan, with the first annual update to be received before end of July 2027.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 JC DONATH EAST PAVILION RENOVATION - CONCEPT DESIGN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The JC Donath East Pavilion Renovation project is being delivered through Council's Capital Works Program across financial years 2025-26 and 2027-28. The project is co-funded by Council and State Government, with allocations of \$1.45 million and \$0.60 million respectively. The pavilion serves Keon Park Football (soccer) Club (12 teams, 315 players; 39% female) and Donath Cricket Club (2 teams, 44 players; 13% female).

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the concept design for the project. The report outlines options for consideration. This decision is time critical to inform a grant funding application that is due in August 2026.

Three main options have been identified through the concept design and user group consultation process.

The key decision for Council is how to balance the respective advantages and disadvantages of each option and determine which outcomes should be prioritised in order to select a concept design option.

Council officers' assessment is that overall community benefit is greatest for Option 1 (est Location) and therefore officers recommend proceeding with this (as shown in **Appendix A**)

Conversely, Option 2 or 3 (East Locations) are the strongly preferred outcomes by Keon Park Football Club which is one of two user groups at this site. Detailed feedback from the Club has been shared with councillors, which together with this report provides information for Council to consider and make a decision.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Keon Park Football Club and Donath Cricket Club for their valuable feedback and participation throughout the stakeholder consultation process.
- (2) Notes that the scheduling and licensing matters raised by stakeholders are being considered separately through the appropriate Council processes, as they fall outside the scope of the construction project which is the subject of this decision.
- (3) Endorses Option 1 – West Location as the preferred design option and supports the progression of the project on this basis.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to negotiate, finalise and execute all agreements and documentation necessary to progress the project through the detailed design and construction procurement (tender) stages.
- (5) Notes that the award of any construction contract remains subject to a future Council decision following consideration of the tender outcomes.

Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Keon Park Football Club and Donath Cricket Club for their valuable feedback and participation throughout the stakeholder consultation process:
- (2) Notes that the scheduling and licensing matters raised by the stakeholders are being considered separately through the appropriate Council processes, as they fall outside the scope of the construction project which is the subject of this decision
- (3) Endorses OPTION 2.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate to negotiate, finalise and execute all agreements and documentation necessary to progress the project through the detailed design and construction procurement (tender) process
- (5) Notes that the award of any construction contract remains subject to a future Council decision following consideration of the tender outcome.
- (6) Authorises the CEO or delegate to redirect any savings during construction towards the refurbishment budget for the existing change rooms.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-107

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

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Keon Park Football Club and Donath Cricket Club for their valuable feedback and participation throughout the stakeholder consultation process:
- (2) Notes that the scheduling and licensing matters raised by the stakeholders are being considered separately through the appropriate Council processes, as they fall outside the scope of the construction project which is the subject of this decision
- (3) Endorses OPTION 2.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate to negotiate, finalise and execute all agreements and documentation necessary to progress the project through the detailed design and construction procurement (tender) process
- (5) Notes that the award of any construction contract remains subject to a future Council decision following consideration of the tender outcome.
- (6) Authorises the CEO or delegate to redirect any savings during construction towards the refurbishment budget for the existing change rooms.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3

TRANSPORT PRIORITY PROJECTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to Council's request to apply the Road Safety Investment Framework and Safety Criteria to sort and prioritise a list of endorsed transport safety improvement projects to be progressively delivered through annual budget processes and grant funding.

As an outcome of applying the framework and criteria, this report recommends a list of transport priority projects for design and delivery over the next 4 to 6 years.

Since 2018 transport safety improvement projects have been identified and developed through various programs involving community engagement. The rate of project identification and commitment to deliver changes has outpaced construction.

As of May 2026, there were over 150 projects waiting to be funded and/or delivered. At the current rate of investment these would have taken more than 30 years to construct.

In May 2026 Council endorsed the Road Safety Investment Framework and Safety Criteria with an additional point for projects within 150 metres of an early childhood centre, kindergarten or primary school. This additional point sought to elevate projects that would contribute to safety of younger children.

Officers have applied this framework and criteria to the list of undelivered transport projects to recommend which projects to deliver over the next 4 to 6 years. The priority projects recommended for delivery are included in **Appendix A**.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that it has already recognised that the overall portfolio of potential transport improvement projects endorsed by Council since 2018, with a total estimated construction value of \$55 million, far exceeded reasonable funding expectations over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (2) Notes that Council adopted the Road Safety Prioritisation Framework and Safety Criteria at its meeting on 26 May 2026 shown as **Appendix B**.
- (3) Adopts the priority list of transport capital improvement projects in **Appendix A** for progressive delivery through annual budget processes and grant funding.

In accordance with Governance Rule 4.1 (f), the Chairperson, Mayor Dimitriadis, advised that she wished to move a motion in relation to this item and called on the Deputy Mayor, Cr. Matt Arturi to take the chair.

7.26pm - Mayor Dimitriadis left the Chair, and Deputy Mayor Arturi assumed the Chair.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Notes that it has already recognised that the overall portfolio of potential transport improvement projects endorsed by Council since 2018, with a total estimated construction value of \$55 million, far exceeded reasonable funding expectations over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (2) Notes that Council adopted the Road Safety Prioritisation Framework and Safety Criteria at its meeting on 26 May 2026 shown as Appendix B.
- (3) Adopts the priority list of transport capital improvement projects in Appendix A for progressive delivery through annual budget processes and grant funding.
- (4) Agrees that as part of the 2027-28 budget process, it explores increasing the funding allocation to transport safety projects so projects in Table 4 of Appendix A can be delivered over the next four years.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council amends the motion as follows:

- (1) Removes point (4) of the substantive motion.
- (2) Inserts a new point (3) as follows:
Notes the Safety Criteria scores for transport safety projects listed in Appendix A.
- (3) Adds a new point (5) as follows:
Recognises that external funding programs and any increased funding capacity may enable Council to accelerate the funding and delivery of highly-scored projects in Table 4 of Appendix A.

LOST

For: Cr's O'Brien, Jelley, and Sangster (3)

Against: Cr's Dimitriadis, Olaris, Tsalkos, Villella, and Arturi (5)

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Notes that it has already recognised that the overall portfolio of potential transport improvement projects endorsed by Council since 2018, with a total estimated construction value of \$55 million, far exceeded reasonable funding expectations over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (2) Notes that Council adopted the Road Safety Prioritisation Framework and Safety Criteria at its meeting on 26 May 2026 shown as Appendix B.
- (3) Adopts the priority list of transport capital improvement projects in Appendix A for progressive delivery through annual budget processes and grant funding.
- (4) Agrees that as part of the 2027-28 budget process, it explores increasing the funding

allocation to transport safety projects so projects in Table 4 of Appendix A can be delivered over the next four years.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-108

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Notes that it has already recognised that the overall portfolio of potential transport improvement projects endorsed by Council since 2018, with a total estimated construction value of \$55 million, far exceeded reasonable funding expectations over the next decade across all levels of government.
- (2) Notes that Council adopted the Road Safety Prioritisation Framework and Safety Criteria at its meeting on 26 May 2026 shown as Appendix B.
- (3) Adopts the priority list of transport capital improvement projects in Appendix A for progressive delivery through annual budget processes and grant funding.
- (4) Agrees that as part of the 2027-28 budget process, it explores increasing the funding allocation to transport safety projects so projects in Table 4 of Appendix A can be delivered over the next four years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 MERRI COMMON AND SURROUNDS OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - PROJECT UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Merri Common and Surrounds Open Space Improvement Project.

On 28 April 2026, Council resolved to:

“Seek clarification on whether the Victorian Government is still open to a fee-for-service model for Council to maintain Merri Common, and

a) if the Victorian Government is open to this, authorises the Chief Executive Officer to proceed in line with Council’s resolution of 15 December 2025;

b) if the Victorian Government is not open to this, seeks clarification from the Victorian Government about the nature of the proposed agreement and the particular maintenance activities and risks they are proposing Council undertake, and notes that this will be reported to a future Council meeting for decision.”

Officers subsequently wrote to the Victorian Government seeking clarification on those matters.

In a letter dated 26 June 2026, the Minister for Environment advised that the matter had been referred to the Regional Director responsible for the Better Parks and Playgrounds Program to provide a formal response. The Minister’s correspondence also noted that a lease arrangement with Vic Track was being explored as an alternative delivery model.

To date, Council has not received a formal response addressing the matters raised in its April 2026 resolution. However, several meetings and discussions have taken place between Council officers and representatives of the Victorian Government regarding the project.

As project timeframes continue to extend, there is an increasing risk of cost escalation. Informal discussions with Victorian Government representatives have indicated that, should project costs increase due to delays, the preferred approach would be to reduce the scope of works rather than seek additional project funding.

All Council-managed components of the project have now been completed. The remaining works are currently on hold pending confirmation of future maintenance arrangements and the receipt of all necessary approvals required to proceed.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that a formal response has not yet been received from the Victorian Government about the clarifications Council’s sought following its resolution of 28 April 2026.
- (2) Notes that direction from Council will be sought via a future report to be presented after the State Government has provided the required clarifications and information.
- (3) Notes that ongoing delays are impacting the project delivery timeframe, are likely to

result in higher costs for construction, and it is likely that the project scope will need to be reduced to remain within the available funding.

- (4) Notes that officers will continue to work with relevant Victorian departments and agencies to progress the Merri Common and Surrounds project in line with Council's directions.

**Revised Officer
Recommendation**

That Council:

- (1) Notes that since the meeting Agenda was published, a formal response has been received from the Victorian Government on 24 July 2026 about the clarifications Council's sought following its resolution of 28 April 2026 and that some time is needed for Council to assess this response and to be ready to make a decision about this.
- (2) Notes that direction from Council will be sought via a future report to be presented at its August 2026 ordinary Council meeting.
- (3) Notes that ongoing delays are impacting the project delivery timeframe, are likely to result in higher costs for construction, and it is likely that the project scope will need to be reduced to remain within the available funding.
- (4) Notes that officers will continue to work with relevant Victorian departments and agencies to progress the Merri Common and Surrounds project in line with Council's directions.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes that since the meeting Agenda was published, a formal response has been received from the Victorian Government on 24 July 2026 about the clarifications Council's sought following its resolution of 28 April 2026 and that some time is needed for Council to assess this response and to be ready to make a decision about this.
- (2) Notes that direction from Council will be sought via a future report to be presented at its August 2026 ordinary Council meeting.
- (3) Notes that ongoing delays are impacting the project delivery timeframe, are likely to result in higher costs for construction, and it is likely that the project scope will need to be reduced to remain within the available funding.
- (4) Notes that officers will continue to work with relevant Victorian departments and agencies to progress the Merri Common and Surrounds project in line with Council's directions.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-109

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes that since the meeting Agenda was published, a formal response has been received from the Victorian Government on 24 July 2026 about the clarifications Council's sought following its resolution of 28 April 2026 and that some time is needed for Council to assess this response and to be ready to make a decision about this.
- (2) Notes that direction from Council will be sought via a future report to be presented at its August 2026 ordinary Council meeting.
- (3) Notes that ongoing delays are impacting the project delivery timeframe, are likely to result in higher costs for construction, and it is likely that the project scope will need to be reduced to remain within the available funding.
- (4) Notes that officers will continue to work with relevant Victorian departments and agencies to progress the Merri Common and Surrounds project in line with Council's directions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIRMED

9.5 FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS INSPECTION MAINTENANCE, INSTALLATION & INSPECTION - CONTRACT AWARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's current contract for the provision of Fire Safety Systems Inspections, Maintenance & Installation panel CT2019182 is set to expire on 13 August 2026

Council initiated a public tender seeking Fire Safety Systems service providers capable of performing a wide range of building refurbishments and maintenance works. The Request for Tender (RFT) for CT20264 Fire Safety Systems Inspections, Maintenance & Installation Panel was advertised publicly on 9 May 2026 and closed on 28 May 2026. A total of seven submissions were received.

A three-stage evaluation methodology was implemented. Stage one centred on ensuring that shortlisted tenderers met a number of compliance requirements and minimum quality standards on a pass-fail basis before being eligible to proceed to stage two where a qualitative review of each of the compliant submissions was undertaken by the panel followed by a price analysis of the shortlisted tenderers to progress to stage three where a final round of checks and validations were undertaken by the panel.

The provision of works under the contract is structured with two distinct service packages:

- Package A: Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals – Multi-provider panel.
- Package B: Preventative and Cyclical Maintenance and Inspections Single provider.

Package A establishes a limited pre-approved panel for sharing reactive maintenance work and quoting capital works, while Package B will be delivered by a single contractor responsible for all legislative Essential Safety Solutions Measures (ESM) testing and inspections across the municipality.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-110

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Awards CT20264 – Fire Safety Systems Inspection, Maintenance & Installation Panel to **“Supplier 1”** for the provision of **Preventative Maintenance (Package B)** and **Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals (Package A)** for an initial contract term of three (3) years commencing 14 August 2026, with two (2) one-year options to extend, with services provided in accordance with the tendered Schedule of Rates, subject to applicable CPI adjustments.
- (2) Awards CT20264 – Fire Safety Systems Inspection, Maintenance & Installation Panel to **“Supplier 5”** for the provision of **Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals (Package A)** for an initial contract term of three (3) years commencing 14 August 2026, with two (2) one-year options to extend, with services provided in accordance with the tendered Schedule of Rates, subject to applicable CPI adjustments.
- (3) Notes that the resulting panel arrangement will comprise:
 - a) A multi-provider arrangement for Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals (Package A); and

- b) A single-provider arrangement for Preventative Maintenance (Package B).
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of Council.
- (5) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve the exercise of any extension options, subject to satisfactory contractor performance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIRMED

9.6

PROPERTY MATTERS - SALE OF MINOR ASSETS - 183 TYLER STREET PRESTON, 45 NORTHERNHAY STREET RESERVOIR, 24 HARKER STREET ALPHINGTON AND 4/9 BISCHOFF STREET PRESTON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is seeking Council to authorise the commencement of statutory procedures for the sale of discontinued roads adjoining the following four properties, with estimated sales proceeds of approximately \$117,000 (Excl. GST):

- 183 Tyler Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix A**),
- 45 Northernhay Street, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix B**) and
- 2 Lots at 24 Harker Street Alphington (**shown in Appendix C**)
- 4/9 Bischoff Street Preston (**shown in Appendix D**)

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 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.

Land declared surplus under the Sale of Minor Council Property Assets Policy is to be offered to *adjoining* property owners. We seek Council's approval for a slight deviation from this policy – whereby:

- 24 Harker Street Alphington – an Applicant seeks to purchase a second lot which does not directly adjoin their property but however connects to their right of way (ROW). While this proposal differs from Council's usual practice of selling surplus land only to adjoining property owners, officers recommend the sale of this additional parcel as there is currently a willing purchaser and the land is unlikely to be sold independently. If Council does not proceed with its sale to the interested party, the second land parcel would likely remain as surplus land for which Council has no current or foreseeable operational or strategic need (refer site map below).

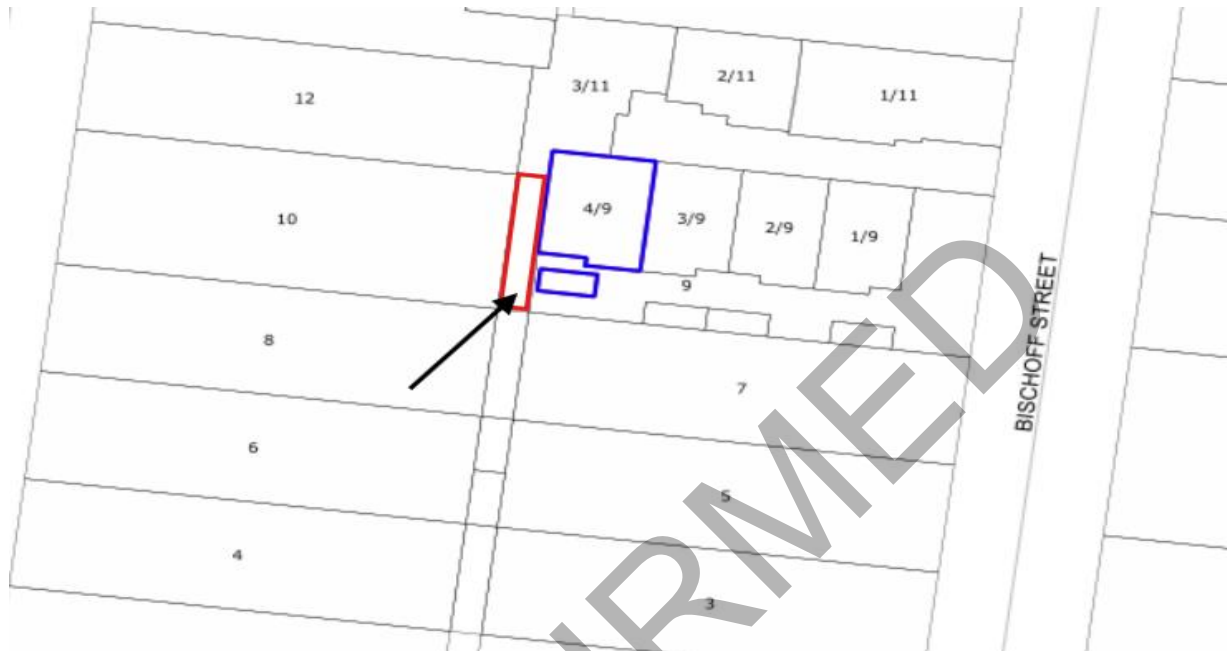


Site Map 1: 24 Harker Street

- 4/9 Bischoff Street Preston – the Applicant has expressed interest to purchase the entire lot, part of which does not directly adjoin their property. Officers recommend the sale of the parcel as a whole as the most practical and cost-effective option.

Should Council instead sell only a portion of the land to the adjoining property owner, a further subdivision would be required to create two separate lots, resulting in additional costs for both the purchaser and Council.

Furthermore, this option would create a landlocked parcel with no direct access. There are already a number of landlocked parcels within the area, and Council is seeking to avoid creating further parcels of this nature due to the constraints they place on future access, use and development opportunities.



Site Map 2: 4/9 Bischoff Street Preston

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 26-111

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

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 183 Tyler Street Preston, (**shown in Appendix A**), 45 Northernhay Street (**shown in Appendix B**), 2 Lots at 24 Harker St Alphington (**shown in Appendix C**), and 4/9 Bischoff Street Preston (**shown in Appendix D**), to the adjacent property 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 183 Tyler Street Preston, 45 Northernhay Street Reservoir, 24 Harker Street Alphington and 4/9 Bischoff Street Preston, by private treaty, in accordance with Council policy.
- (3) Invites written submissions on the proposed sales and deals with any submissions received in line with the principles set out in section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (4) A further report will be presented to Council to consider its decision on the sale of the discontinued roads to the adjoining landowners.

- (5) Notes that in the event that submissions are received from other adjoining property owners or interested parties, Council reserves the right to reallocate the way the land is to be sold in accordance with Council's Sale of Minor Assets Policy May 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIRMED

9.7

PROPERTY MATTERS - SALE OF MINOR ASSETS - 124E BROADHURST AVENUE RESERVOIR, 62 RENE STREET, PRESTON AND 11 CHARLES STREET, PRESTON**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report recommends Council proceed with sale of discontinued roads adjoining the following three properties (Subject Roads), estimated to return around \$60,000 in sales proceeds at settlement:

- 124E Broadhurst Avenue, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix A**),
- 62 Rene Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix B**) and
- 11 Charles Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix C**)

Council has completed key statutory procedures including public notice of the proposal to sell the Subject Roads to the owners of these properties, by private treaty, in accordance with Council's Sale of Minor Assets Policy ('the Policy').

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 26-112****MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM****SECONDED: Cr. A Villella****That Council:**

- (1) Notes that following public notice there were no submissions received in relation to the proposal to sell the Subject Roads adjoining 124E Broadhurst Avenue, Reservoir (**shown in Appendix A**), 62 Rene Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix B**) and 11 Charles Street, Preston (**shown in Appendix C**), to the owners, by private treaty in accordance with Council's Sale of Minor Assets Policy May 2022.
- (2) Authorises that the land from the Subject Roads be sold by private treaty to the owners of the adjoining properties in accordance with the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Sale of Minor Assets Policy.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documents to give effect to the sale and transfer of any land from the Subject Roads to the owners of the adjoining properties.
- (4) Directs that the sale of the Subject Road will not affect any right, power or interest held by Melbourne Water and Darebin City Council, in the roads in connection with any pipes under the control of Melbourne Water and Darebin City Council in or near the roads.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8

GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committee Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**)
- Activity reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Public Questions taken on notice
- Status of petitions tabled during the current Council term (November 2024 to 30 June 2026) (**Table A**)
- Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report (**Appendix B**) and Annual Performance Report (**Appendix C**)
- Annual adjustments to the fees payable to the Independent Chair and Independent Members of the Audit and Risk Committee
- Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6) (**Appendix D**)
- Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987) (**Appendix E**)
- General Planning Information - Applications determined by VCAT (to 30 June 2026) (**Appendix F**)
- Council insurance renewal costs for 2026-2027
- 2026-27 Living Libraries Infrastructure Program Grant Application
- Amendment to clause 6.1 of the Darebin Art Collection Policy 2023 (**Appendix G**)

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 26-113****MOVED: Cr. K Olaris OAM****SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2026.
- (2) Notes the Summary of Councillor 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 that there were no public questions taken on notice at the 16 June 2026 Council meeting.
- (5) Notes the status of Petitions tabled during the current Council term (November 2024 to 30 June 2026) (**Table A**).
- (6) Notes the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report (**Appendix B**) and Annual Performance Report (**Appendix C**).
- (7) Endorses an increase in the fees for independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, based on the rate cap of 2.75%, from 1 July 2026 to \$2,373.54 per meeting for the Independent Chair and \$1,871.42 per meeting for the Independent Members in accordance with provisions in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

- r
- (10) Notes the General Planning Information - Applications determined by VCAT attached as **Appendix F**.
- (11) Notes total insurance cost for 2026-27 for all insurance policies was \$3,017,626 and the contracts were executed under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the resolution made by Council on 16 June 2026.
- (12) In relation to the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program:
- Ratifies the submission of the Implement Extra Access at Fairfield Library to the 2026-27 Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$125,400.
 - Pre-allocates funds to meet its contribution to the Implement Extra Access at Fairfield Library project in the 2027-28 Capital Works Program Budget to demonstrate Council's commitment to delivery.
 - Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a funding agreement and execute the required documents for a successful 2026-27 Living Libraries Infrastructure Program grant application.
- (13) Endorses the amendment to clause 6.1 of the Darebin Art Collection Policy 2023 (**Appendix G**) as follows:
- 'The [Acquisitions] Panel is made up of two arts industry professionals who have significant visual arts expertise and who live or work in the City of Darebin, together with the Art, Collections and Marketing Unit Coordinator and Curator.'*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 28 JULY 2026

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS (MAYOR)

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

16 June 2026

- Meeting with CEO
- Council Meeting

17 June 2026

- Canberra Delegates Briefing – Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum
- Darebin Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

18 June 2026

- Darebin Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Launch

19 June 2026

- Meeting at Raleigh St Community Children's Centre
- Refugee Week Night 2026

20 June 2026

- NSSC Social Club Presents Disco Night (Thornbury Pensioner's Club)

21 June 2026

- Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) 2026 (Canberra)

22 June 2026

- ALGA NGA: Urban Forum (Canberra)
- ALGA NGA: Welcome Reception (Canberra)

23 June 2026

- ALGA NGA: Day 1 (Canberra)
- Back Your Neighbour Morning Tea at National General Assembly 2026
- Meeting Steve Georganas MP (Parliament Canberra)

24 June 2026

- ALGA NGA: Day 2
- Back Your Neighbour meeting with Basem Abdo MP, Member for Calwell

27 June 2026

- Village Power Community Event to Launch the Battery

28 June 2026

- Preston Market - Sri Lankan Day Festival

29 June 2026

- CEO, Deputy Mayor and Mayor Meeting
- U3A Darebin - Men's Choir Afternoon Tea (drop in visit)

30 June 2026

- Meeting with Nathan Lambert MP
- Meeting with CEO
- Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel (LGMAP) - MAV pre-brief
- Special Council Meeting

1 July 2026

- Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel – Meeting 2

2 July 2026

- Christmas in July with the Reach Community Church Seniors Citizen Group (Keenagers)

3 July 2026

- Minister Paul Hamer visit to Fairfield Library
- National Wheelchair Basketball, NAIDOC event at Narrandjeri Stadium
- Meeting with Cr Jelley

4 July 2026

- Fitzroy Stars Senior Football game

5 July 2026

- Victorian Football Grandfinals
- Wheelchair Basketball Game - two Victorian teams

6 July 2026

- Meeting with CEO
- Meeting with Ged Kearney MP

7 July 2026

- Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Meeting
- Meeting with CEO
- Councillor Briefing Session

8 July 2026

- Aboriginal Housing Victoria – NAIDOC Family Day

13 July 2026

- MAV Pre-Brief | Circular Economy Council Roundtable/Minister Erdogan
- CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor Meeting
- Mayor visit to VIC SES Heidelberg Unit

14 July 2026

- NAIDOC Community Lunch at SPAN Community House
- Circular Economy Council Roundtable/Minister Erdogan
- Meeting with CEO
- Councillor Briefing Session

17 July 2026

- Meeting with Cr Jelley

18 July 2026

- 25 Year Celebration - Preston Bullants Football Club
- Know your work rights forum – DECC workshop presented with the Migrant Workers Centre

21 July 2026

- Meeting with CEO
- Councillor Briefing Session

23 July 2026

- M9 Meeting
- Meeting with CEO
- Citizenship Ceremony

24 July 2026

- Meeting with Cr O'Brien

26 July 2026

- DCMC National Tree Planting Day

27 July 2026

- CEO, Deputy Mayor and Mayor meeting

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

16 June 2026

- Ordinary Council Meeting

24 June 2026

- Preston Garden Club Trivia Night

30 June 2026

- Special Council Meeting – Budget Meeting

4 July 2026

- Opening of Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre Exhibition

7 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

14 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

21 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

22 July 2026

- MAV Northern Regional Meeting

23 July 2026

- Northern Councils Alliance Meeting
- Citizenship Ceremony

27 July 2026

- Meeting with CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS OAM

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

16 June 2026

- Pre Council Meeting
- Council Meeting

17 June 2026

- Darebin Audit and Risk Committee Meeting (part)

18 June 2026

- VLGA Gender Equality Roundtable

19 June 2026

- Refugee Week Night 2026

24 June 2026

- Darebin Community Awards Committee thank you event

27 June 2026

- Alphington Community Battery Launch

28 June 2026

- Sri Lankan Day Preston Market

30 June 2026

- Pre- Council meeting
- Special Council meeting

7 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

14 July 2026

- Meeting with CEO
- Councillor Briefing

20 July 2026

- Meeting with CEO DIVRS

21 July 2026

- Meeting with GM Infrastructure & Operations
- Councillor Briefing

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

Cr. Boglis was an apology for the meeting and did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. ANGELA VILLELLA

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

16 June 2026

- Council Meeting

19 June 2026

- Refugee Week event at Shire Hall

30 June

- Special Council Meeting

26 June

- Budget briefing

General

- Meeting with residents regarding Johnson St Development
- Meeting with residents regarding Donath Reserve
- Replying to emails from residents

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

16 June 2026

- Pre-council meeting
- Ordinary Council meeting

19 June 2026

- Metropolitan Transport Forum Executive

30 June 2026

- Pre-council meeting
- Special Council meeting

7 July 2026

- Councillor briefing session

8 July 2026

- Metropolitan Transport Forum, as Darebin delegate

14 July 2026

- Councillor briefing session

17 July 2026

- Metropolitan Transport Forum Executive
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Ambassadors catch-up
- Meeting with Mayor Dimitriadis

18—25 July 2025

- On approved leave of absence.

16 June to 17 July 2026

- Correspondence and phone calls with residents

26 July 2026

- Correspondence and phone calls with residents

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- DCMC Meeting
- Council Refugee Night Dinner
- ALGA Conference 4 days interstate
- Attended all briefings including Budget meetings
- Met with residents in person and answered all phone and email correspondence

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

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

16 June 2026

- Council Meeting

17 June 2026

- Friends of Baucau AGM

30 June 2026

- Special Council Meeting

3 July 2026

- Meeting with CEO

7 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing Session

14 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing Session

17 July 2026

- Meeting with Mayor

21 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing Session

24 July 2026

- Meeting with Tipping Point Campaign group members

General

- Various emails/conversations about matters including: management of rewilding nature strip, community support for local business extension of hours, street cleaning, building concerns and house titling process, and footpath conditions.

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

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

28 April 2026

- Councillor Briefing

03 May 2026

- Hellenic Women's Federation of Victoria | Protomayia Festival

05 May 2026

- Councillor Briefing

06 May 2026

- Northern Council Alliance Professional Development for Councillors

12 May 2026

- Councillor Briefing

13 May 2026

- Thornbury Pensioners Club Lunch

16 May 2026

- Darebin Falcons VFLW

17 May 2026

- Commemorating the Genocide of the Greeks of Pontos

18 May 2026

- Citizenship Ceremony

19 May 2026

- Councillor Briefing

22 May 2026

- Meeting with the CEO
- Conversations with Councillors at Preston Market
- Darebin Celebrates National Volunteer Week

23 May 2026

- Battle of Crete & Greece Wreath Laying Ceremony

26 May 2026

- Pre-Council Meeting Check in
- Council Meeting

31 May 2026

- Australia's Biggest Moring Tea Celebrating – Saint Theraponta

2 June 2026

- Councillor Briefing

4 June 2026

- Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee Meeting

9 June 2026

- Councillor Briefing
- 2026-27 Budget Hearing of Submissions Meeting
- Councillor Briefing and Council Meeting Review Meeting

16 June 2026

- Pre Council Meeting Check in
- Council Meeting

17 June 2026

- Audit and Risk Committee meeting

21 June 2026

- MOSS – Light in the longest Night Dinner

24 June 2026

- Preston Garden Club Trivia Night

27 June 2026

- Village Power Community Event to Launch Community Battery

30 June 2026

- Pre Council Budget Meeting
- Special Council Meeting

7 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

10 July 2026

- Meeting with the CEO

14 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

21 July 2026

- Councillor Briefing

General

- Email and phone contact with community members about Darebin issues.

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

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

Council Resolution

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

That in accordance with Section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the meeting be closed to members of the public to consider the following item, on the basis that this matter is confidential for the following reason:

13.1 State Government first right of refusal offer for a property in an Activity Centre Zone

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was closed to the members of the public at 8.12pm.

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

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

CONFIRMED

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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