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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 26 August 2024

Released to the public on 2 September 2024

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



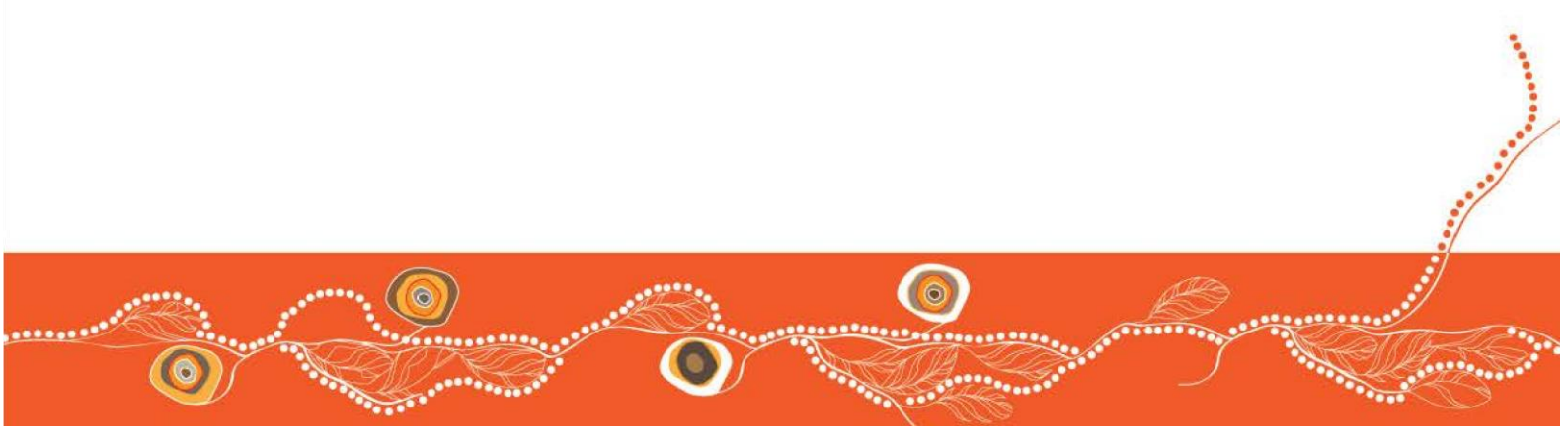
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

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

Vietnamese

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

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 26 AUGUST 2024

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.04PM

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

Mayor Newton also made the following acknowledgement of Council's Welcoming Cities Accreditation:

In 2017 Darebin City Council made a commitment to inclusion by becoming a member of Welcoming Cities network. An action in our four-year Council Plan was to continue to implement the Welcoming Cities Standards, with the aim of becoming a 'Mentoring' level Council. Across the organisation we set to undertake a rigorous process reporting on six categories of the Welcoming Cities Standards, and several indicators under each category.

I am pleased to announce earlier this month Darebin City Council was accredited as a Welcoming City at the Excelling level, with an overall score of 4.7 out of a possible 5. This is the first time in Australia a local government has received this level of accreditation.

The accreditation is proof of our commitment to welcoming practices, and to the ongoing implementation work to support diversity and inclusion. While this accreditation is a celebration, it is also a call to action. Welcoming Cities found that there is much to be celebrated, there is also room for growth and I am sure this great work will continue.

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis – 6.08pm

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Trent McCarthy – 6.06pm

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Rachel Ollivier – Acting Chief Executive Officer

Kylie Bennetts - General Manager Community

Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Enna Giampiccolo - Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate

Felicity Walsh - Interim Manager Governance and Communications

Michael Pogemiller – Manager Parks and Open Space

Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

Municipal Monitors

June Anstee

Ross Millard

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, 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 and pay my respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and also show my support for Treaty Victoria.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Vanessa Petrie, disclosed that she had a general conflict of interest which has previously been disclosed to the Chief Executive Officer in relation to item 9.7 Electric Vehicle Charging Implementation and item 9.8 Year One Performance of Wat Djerring Animal Facility.

Cr. Susanne Newton disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Governance Report as she has mentored one of the selected applicants to the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee and that applicant is also a Greens candidate for Central Ward in the 2024 Council elections.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the following Meeting Minutes be confirmed as a correct records of business transacted:

- a) Ordinary Council Meeting held of 22 July 2024
- b) Special Council Meeting held on 29 July 2024
- c) Special Council Meeting held at 5:30pm on 14 August 2024
- d) Special Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on 14 August 2024

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-132

MOVED: Cr. J Williams
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That the following Meeting Minutes be confirmed as a correct records of business transacted:

- a) Ordinary Council Meeting held of 22 July 2024 (with an amendment to note that Cr. Gaetano Greco was on an approved leave of absence).
- b) Special Council Meeting held on 29 July 2024
- c) Special Council Meeting held at 5:30pm on 14 August 2024
- d) Special Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on 14 August 2024

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, 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.

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:

- *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.*
- *Any member of the public physically attending a Meeting must not utter any offensive, indecent, insulting, or objectionable item or words, including words that are racist, sexist or homophobic, or interject or gesticulate offensively in the Council Chamber.*
- *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).*
- *If any member of the public 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

The General Managers responded to the following questions submitted for Public Question Time.

- **Patricia Corelli**
 1. What actions is the council taking to address our concerns about the contaminated soil dumped on our site, which is approximately 100 metres from the creek and directly affecting the stormwater system?
 2. Has the council submitted our request for a heritage overlay to the Minister to help prevent the deceptive attempts to demolish our site, and if not, why?
 3. What measures are being implemented by the council to ensure the protections of our site and the surrounding environment, given the ongoing issues with attempts to demolish our 67 year old Club and the potential impacts on the community?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

1. Thank you for the questions, and I note you have shared the site that your questions refer to with officers. Council understands that the Environment Protection Authority is aware of alleged contamination and are investigating. As the site is privately owned, Council notes concerns about contaminated soil and will consider this information as part of any future proposal to redevelop the premises, in line with the relevant legislation.
2. Council is currently evaluating the request and whether the site satisfies the HERCON heritage criteria to justify the application of the Heritage Overlay.

3. Following the fire and damage to the property in February this year, the structures remain unsuitable for occupation. There is a Building Order prohibiting occupation until the premises is sufficiently repaired and returned to a condition that meets the relevant regulations. To date, no section 29A application for demolition has been received for the site, so there appears no urgent, immediate threat to the structures on site.

- **Ruth Jelley**

1. What response has Council had from the Department of Transport and Planning to its Destination High Street advocacy Plan?
2. Is there state budget allocation for detailed design and construction of the tram stops?
3. Has Darebin Council allocated budget funds to streetscape upgrades to coincide with the tram stop upgrades along High Street from Separation Street to the Plenty Road junction?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions. The State Government has provided written acknowledgement of Council's submission to the Route 86 project. The correspondence points to ongoing collaboration with Council to progress the next phase of the project.
2. At this stage, we understand that State Government funding has only been committed for the development phase.
3. No, Council has not allocated capital funds. Any future consideration of funding will occur through Council's budget process.

- **Geraldine Wood**

1. Council Budget for 2024 to 2025 and 2025 to 2026, there are allocations for KP Hardiman Reserve for a total of \$3 million, for a pavilion upgrade. Has any of this money come from any state or federal grants funding or sporting club contributions, or has the money come entirely from the council, with no other assistance?
2. Please advise what other community or sporting organisation currently use these facilities, other than LaTrobe University?

Response from General Manager Community

1. No state/federal funding or external contributions have been budgeted to support the redevelopment of KP Hardiman in 2024/25 and 2025/26. Just over \$1M has been allocated in 2024/25 with the balance \$1.98M in 2025/26 from Council funds. A grant submission was made to the Australian Government Play our Way program and Council was advised in August that its application was unsuccessful. In 2022 the project was successful in receiving a \$30K Local Sports Infrastructure Grant from the State Government for the planning and design phase of the project.
2. The hockey pitch and pavilion has been seasonally licensed to long-term tenant La Trobe University Hockey Club for more than 30 years. The turf area of the reserve also accommodates local sporting clubs during AFL and soccer pre-season, including:
 - Preston Bullants Amateur FC
 - Preston Bullants Junior FC
 - Fitzroy Stars FC
 - Darebin Women's Sports Club

- Northern Falcons FC
- Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Parish FC

Anecdotally, the turf area of the reserve is known to be accessed by residents for recreational activities such as dog walking, and other active recreation opportunities.

- **John Nugent**

1. Mayor during in the 23/24 financial year I asked this question several times on the policy of subsidies of fees. I was constantly advised that the officers were developing a new policy and will be introduced next financial year. Once again, Council failed to keep its promise to develop a new policy, thus allowing junior and disability clubs to be discriminated again this financial year. Mayor – why wasn't this new policy developed when it was promised and Mayor, why hasn't this Council increased their charges on other items in the budget where juniors pay less than seniors?
2. Mayor, at the last Council Meeting I asked 2 questions: what is Council paying for council meals prior to council meetings and what is council going to spend on trees and shrubs in this budget. Mayor in the answer given both answers will be refer to next year's budget. Mayor, to me this is saying we are going to do nothing?
3. Mayor could you please provide the following information: What did Council Pay consultants for the 2023/24 financial year? Also do the general Managers meet with each other to discuss their projects problems without getting a consultant thus making our general managers multi skilled and less money spent elsewhere?

Response from General Manager Community

1. Thank you for the questions and feedback John. In terms of policy development, you are correct it had been officers' intention to undertake a major review of this policy in 2025. This work was delayed as the area leading this work had new priorities it needed to respond to for Council because of a range of Council decisions passed in late 2023 / early 2024 that it needed to attend to. This was in addition to needing to respond to a range of service delivery matters. Officers highlighted in a report to Council in April 2024 the status and next steps related this policy, including a review in 2025. In August 2024 council approved some minor changes to this policy to meet State Government requirements. In terms of fees and charges more generally, council reviews these each year as part of its budget process. Council considers a range of factors when looking at these each year when it makes its final decision around fees and charges.

Response from Manager Parks and Open Space

2. Hi John, thank you for your question. We answered part of your question at the last Council meeting and took the part of your questions on notice. We wrote to you recently to answer your question about costs associated with trees and shrubs. The current year's budget includes around \$750K for tree planting and \$300K for rewilding, which is understory planting. In regards to your question about the costs of meals, I'm sorry we did not realise this needed to be taken on notice after the last meeting. We will follow this up and write to you with the answer. Council is planning to next review its future budgets over the first half of 2025 as part of its annual budgeting process. It is possible for changes to be made before then, although there aren't plans for this. We will take your question about why can't funding be stopped sooner than next year's budget as feedback.

Response from General Manager Operations and Finance

3. Thank you for the question. Council is currently finalising its annual accounts, however our interim figures show that Council Spent in 2023-24 consultancy costs at \$2.58M which is about 1.3 per cent of Council's total budgeted expenses for 2023-24, and one third less than the consultancy costs for 2022-23. Consultants were used in a wide range of areas including to provide specialist skills in engineering, IT, town planning to compliance.

• Lisa Lapadula

1. Why is the often very long grass at the beautiful Bundoora Park not cut and maintained on a regular basis?
2. Do you the City of Darebin have enough money within your budget to pay for extra workers to fulfill Bundoora Park work and maintenance that is often not completed?
3. Is there a plan in place to update and redevelop most of Bundoora Park in many ways?

Response from Manager Parks and Open Space

1. The mowing cycles for Bundoora Park are variable based on specific areas. Generally, most of the areas run on a 4 to 6-week cycle throughout the year, but the open space area in the NE section of the park is closer to a 6-to-8-week cycle. The maintenance is subject to weather, suitable ground conditions and if there are any events planned for that area. For example, we may delay the mowing of the area to just prior to a cross-country running event to ensure the course is in good condition.
2. The adopted 24/25 budget allows for the current frequency of maintenance, as I've just described, to continue ongoing.
3. Council has a plan in place to renew assets at the end of their lives, including those at Bundoora Park. At the moment, Council's plans are to keep Bundoora Park substantially as it is. Council will next consider priorities for improvements across the City in the first half of 2025 when it sets a new Council Plan and Long Term Financial Plan - we welcome and value community ideas and feedback. A key challenge is the recent inflation which has been very high in the construction sector – construction costs have rapidly increased and put significant pressure on Council's budget. Higher costs of keeping parks and community facilities as they are has squeezed out budgets for improvements or redevelopment. Overall, Council has very limited funding for major redevelopment in parks. We will need to focus on opportunities to better use our parks and facilities in highly cost effective ways.

• Ben Hjorth

1. My questions concern financial probity and specifically the first two questions concern the meeting that was held on the 14th of August, the 6pm meeting. Specifically therein item 5.10 upcoming procurement tender evaluation process options and authorisations to commence procurement activity. I remind the chamber including the audience that this item was in response to a resolution from the 26th of February of this year in which Council had resolved to direct officers to review and update Council's social and sustainability procurement policy, specifically in relation to companies that benefit from illegal occupations, international military forces and human rights abuses.

So my first question is in relation to the contracts that Council resolved at that meeting to put to tender, despite the fact that such a review had not yet occurred and specifically the fact that the contracts which were to be put to the tender were not included, were kept confidential from the public.

Is it not the case that which contracts are to go to tender, not who is applying for the tenders or the information that those tenderers might submit in the process of their tendering but what the tenders are for, is it not the case that this is public information under the Local Government Act and that it is highly unusual to not provide even the information of which contracts are out to tender? Why was this rushed through before the review of the procurement policy that Council had previously ordered and why were the contracts kept confidential and what are those contracts that are now being put out to tender that's my first question.

Response from Acting CEO Rachel Ollivier

1. Thank you Ben for the question. Certainly some of what you've shared in your question tonight is a bit different to what I've received as the question today so I will certainly seek to respond. The report to Council from that meeting is available on the website and essentially it set out that the reason it was important for the tendering of those services to be considered is that the services are essential and there are serious business continuity and financial risks with further delay. It essentially means that if we don't proceed to find a supplier there are risks we might not be able to continue some of our functions or services and that there may be additional costs to providing those functions or services or to fix issues arising from that and delays so far have already increased the risk. Council decided how it wished to proceed and that includes an open tender process so Council is working on running that open tender process at the moment. What I can say is that we've made an assessment of confidentiality ahead of putting that report to Council in August using the tests under the Local Government Act. So we've made that assessment that some of that information needed to be kept confidential that's probably the extent that I can go to. The thing I can reiterate is that Council's decided to use an open tender process so that will be the process that Council uses.

- **Ben Hjorth**

2. Can Council clarify the timeline and the process for this so called open tender process and can Council clarify what assurances the community can be given that option 1b, which was chosen, which is that any submission to this process, any tenderer will have to make a declaration about whether or not they are complicit in war crimes and illegal occupation and will be scored as a 10 for making a submission or a 0 for making no submission and that, that score of 10% will form part of the overall 25% of social sustainability weighting. What assurances can Council provide the community that any company complicit in war crimes or illegal occupation is 11% cheaper than its closest competitor and loses 10% because it cannot lie and say that it is not complicit would win that process under the current option?

Response from Acting CEO Rachel Ollivier

2. So Ben again there's a lot of detail in the question you've asked live that's a bit different to what was received earlier.

So the question that certainly we've considered in preparing for tonight is: What's the timeline for the tender process and what assurances can Council give the community that companies complicit, as you say, will not win the tenders? I am seeking to be clear that some of the context you're providing is new and I don't have all of the detail on hand that would relate to that. So I might take your second question first about assurances. Certainly what I can say is that Council's decision on the 14th of August was about which process to use to best implement that resolution from February 2024 that you referred to early on and it was for the purposes of the two urgent tenders. Council's decision has included requiring any tenderers to make a declaration and certainly the minutes of that decision and the report to Council have the process that Council's decided to use.

We do have some copies available here if there are people who haven't had a chance to look at those but really that is the process that as an organisation we will implement and follow through and it will be that process that results in an outcome. In regards to the timeline I had understood the question originally as meaning the whole process of tendering and evaluation which we would expect to take about two to three months all up. It depends on what happens during that process in terms of the various due diligence steps but hearing your question tonight about when will the tender be released I can say I would expect that to be pretty soon and we publish tenders on our website. I haven't specifically asked the team about that timing in the lead up to today so it would be something I would need to check.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – 6.45PM

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That Public Question Time be extended for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. With the CEO of Darebin resigning two years into a five-year contract, and my understanding being that the CEO's salary was well in excess of \$400,000 annually and by the end of the 5-year contract, would have been in excess of \$500,000, will the Council consider and commit to reducing CEO salaries going forward and redistribute those funds to the community that it is supposed to be serving?

Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate

3. Thanks for the feedback Ben. This would be a decision for the Council as they go through the process of selection and appointment of a new CEO.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-133

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan**SECONDED:** Cr. S Rennie**That** the petition:

We, the undersigned, ask of the City of Darebin the removal/overpainting of the Mural on the corner of High and Mitchell Streets.

The Mural is an extreme political statement that is disturbing and offensive. It is divisive to our community.

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

CARRIED**For:** Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, Laurence and Williams (7)**Against:** -**Abstained:** Crs Dimitriadis and Greco (2)

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - AUGUST 2024

Cr. Newton disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Governance Report as she has mentored one of the selected applicants to the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee and that applicant is also a Greens candidate for Central Ward in the 2024 Council elections. Mayor Newton left the meeting at 7.01pm.

7.01pm - Deputy Mayor Laurence assumed the Chair.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**).
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics for the financial year 2023-24.
- Councillor expenses for the quarter 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024 (**Appendix B**).
- Bi-annual CEO Credit Card transactions and reimbursements report – 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2024.
- Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee – Appointment of new community members.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – August 2024.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (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 Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics for the financial year 2023-24 (**Table 1**).
- (5) Notes the Councillor Expenses Report for the period of 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024 (**Appendix B**) to this report.
- (6) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions or reimbursements for the period of 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024.
- (7) Endorses the appointment of two (2) community members to the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee (CED AC) as recommended in confidential **Appendix C** in accordance with the CED AC Terms of Reference (**Appendix D**).

With leave of the Chairperson, the motion was split to vote on points 1 – 6 and then on point 7.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-134

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – August 2024.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (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 Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics for the financial year 2023-24 (**Table 1**).
- (5) Notes the Councillor Expenses Report for the period of 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024 (**Appendix B**) to this report.
- (6) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions or reimbursements for the period of 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-135

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (7) Endorses the appointment of two (2) community members to the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee (CED AC) as recommended in confidential **Appendix C** in accordance with the CED AC Terms of Reference (**Appendix D**).

CARRIED

For: Crs Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina and Laurence (5)

Against: Cr Dimitriadis (1)

Abstained: Crs Greco and Hannan (1)

7.11pm – Mayor Newton returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair.

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 26 AUGUST 2024**REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON, MAYOR**

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

- Greek and Cypriot Social/Welfare Centre Dormition of the Virgin Mary event at Preston Shire Hall - attendance and speech
- The Age interview and photoshoot about e-scooters

- ABC news interview about e-scooters
- Guardian interview about e-scooters
- Filming interview with Allara Briggs-Pattison for Ganbu Gulin
- Meeting with Preston MP Nathan Lambert
- Parliament House delegation to Canberra with the Northern Councils Alliance Mayors and CEOs:
- Meeting with Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and Member for Cooper
- Meeting with Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training; Maria Vamvakinou, Member for Calwell; Kate Thwaites, Member for Jaga Jaga and Rob Mitchell, Member for McEwen
- Meeting with Darren Chester, Member for Gippsland
- Meeting with Justine Elliot, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence.
- Question Time, Senate and House of Representatives
- Friends of Baucau meeting
- Meeting of the Darebin LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee
- Northcote Festival and church service at Archdiocesan church of Our Lady Axion Estin
- Funeral of Sarah Carter, Councillor at Maribyrnong
- Thailand-Australia Education Cooperation Networking Reception
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) board meeting
- Special Council Meeting
- Speaking on 'Gen V' panel event
- Meeting with Agape and Hanh from Darebin Ethnic Communities Council to discuss upcoming event
- Ganbu Gulin promotional filming at Bundoora Park
- Victorian Lebanese Community Council (VLCC) 17th anniversary dinner
- 2024 Boite Schools Chorus
- Launch of Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) Transport Advocacy Campaign at Upfield station with NCA Mayors
- Citizenship Ceremony
- 'Our Darebin' engagement session at Regent Village
- Pathways to Politics lunch for mentors and mentees
- Opening of Callisto Place Retirement Village - speech
- 'Mayor's Guide to a Compassionate City' organised by Mayor of Ballarat
- Local Women Leading Change - launch of handbook (featured in handbook) and panel session
- Meeting with year 11 William Ruthven students
- Planning Committee meeting
- Weekly Councillor briefings

- CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings
- Weekly meetings with CEO/Acting CEO
- Weekly meetings with General Manager Customer & Corporate
- Weekly meetings with Cr Hannan
- Visit to new mural on Victoria Street with the artist Ling

REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA

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

- CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings x 4
- Several Meetings with Acting CEO
- Councillor Briefings
- Meeting with Mayor
- Multicultural Gala event
- Meeting with Bill Shorten via M9 at Canberra
- Canberra Dinner Only NLGA
- Round table launch Darebin Economic Framework
- Councillor and ELT Meetings
- Community queries
- Northland Pop Up meeting
- Discussions with Furlan Club
- Discussions re Preston Major Activity Centre -Director
- Planning Meeting
- Meeting with resident and business owner
- Meeting with Deputy Mayor
- Discussions with Local State Member for Preston Nathan Lambert MP
- Discussions with Upper House Northern region member Evan Mullholland MP and State Liberal Leader of the Opposition John Pesutto MP
- Discussions with Multicultural Commissioner Viv Nguyen
- Discussions with Preston Lions President

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

Cr. Greco did not submit an activity report.

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Councillor Briefings
- Councillor meeting
- Councillor planning meeting
- Taste of India Concert Greensborough

- M9 Meeting with Minister of housing at Melbourne
- Meeting with Springthorpe residents on parking
- Consultation with residents in mt Cooper re planning
- Exhibition opening Bundoora Homestead Art Gallery
- Consultation with residents in reservoir regarding disable access

REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS

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

- Councillor Briefing Sessions
- Pre-Council Briefings
- Monthly Council Meeting
- Special Council Meeting
- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- RAS farewell afternoon tea
- Catch up meeting with the monitors
- MTF – Metropolitan Transport Forum
- Assisting residents on complaints regarding food truck vans, rubbish, graffiti

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

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

- Council Meeting
- CEO Employment Matters Committee x 2
- Councillor Briefing sessions
- Special Council meeting
- Welcoming Cities Accreditation celebration
- Planning Committee Meeting
- MAV networking event
- Meeting with Kelly Grigsby, MAV CEO
- MAV State Council meeting

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

Cr. McCarthy did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

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

- Attended Council briefings
- Attended Councillor-only meetings
- Attended Official Council meeting
- Chaired the Gender Equity Advisory Committee meeting
- Attended Darebin Creek Management Committee meeting

- Meeting with Craig Bishop from EV Automotive at 2 Wingrove St Alphington
- Meeting with Village Greening
- Attended the Treaty Cup between Koorie Academy Basketball and First Peoples Assembly Basketball teams
- Attended Fairfield Hellenic Seniors and Careers luncheon
- Attended the VLGA “Local Women Leading Change” Handbook launch
- Attended roundtable with Minister for Children
- Meeting with DIVRS CEO
- Attended the Australian Greek Ex-Servicemen Northcote Senior Citizenship Club luncheon
- Held a stall at the Alphington Farmers Market
- Attended two Special Council meetings
- Attended Indian Independence Day celebrations by Northern Region Indian Seniors Association (NRISA)
- Attended the Northcote Festival by Holy Monastery Axion Estin
- Attended Annie Dennis childcare announcement and tour
- Attended Parkside’s Volunteer Night at Pitcher Park
- Attended Darebin Parklands planting day by the Friends of Darebin Parklands

REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN

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

- Contact (phone / online) with residents and businesses about their concerns, e.g., building and developments, street art, EV charging, conflict in Israel / Gaza, parking, parklets.
- CEO Employment Matters Committee
- Councillor briefings
- Meetings with Mayor
- Planning Committee meeting
- Ordinary Council meeting
- Special Council meeting

9.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND POLICY REVIEW- ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consultation on Darebin's new Community Engagement Improvement Plan and the existing Community Engagement Policy ran from 4 June to 2 July 2024.

The project received 419 feedback responses from 253 people (some people responded through multiple methods) through a mix of online and face-to-face activities.

The project sought to understand community sentiment on:

- Proposed actions in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan
- The aims and minimum standards for engagement in our Community Engagement Policy

The feedback shows strong support for many of the actions in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan and broad support and suggestions for the aims and minimum standards of the Community Engagement Policy. Based on the feedback, we recommend proceeding to implement the actions listed in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan and finalising the Community Engagement Policy review before its adoption in early 2025.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community, stakeholders and staff for providing valuable feedback on this engagement and notes that the Community Engagement team will close the loop with all involved.
- (2) Endorses the community engagement team to implement the actions in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next three years.
- (3) Notes that some of the actions in the plan can be implemented right away using existing resources, while other actions require further research and additional resources which will be considered through individual business cases.
- (4) Notes that the goals and approach of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan have already been incorporated into upcoming engagements including the 'Our Darebin' campaign and will continue to influence all future engagements.
- (5) Notes that the Community Engagement team will continue with planned engagement with Advisory Groups and other stakeholders prior to bringing the revised Community Engagement Policy to Council for adoption in early 2025.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. L Messina

SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community, stakeholders and staff for providing valuable feedback on this engagement and notes that the Community Engagement team will close the loop with

all involved.

- (2) Endorses the community engagement team to implement the actions in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next three years.
- (3) Notes that some of the actions in the plan can be implemented right away using existing resources, while other actions require further research and additional resources which will be considered through individual business cases.
- (4) Notes that the goals and approach of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan have already been incorporated into upcoming engagements including the 'Our Darebin' campaign and will continue to influence all future engagements.
- (5) Notes that the Community Engagement team will continue with planned engagement with Advisory Groups and other stakeholders prior to bringing the revised Community Engagement Policy to Council for adoption in early 2025
- (6) Notes that at a function over the weekend, the Premier Jacinta Allen, announced a new Multicultural Framework initiative and delegates to the CEO to assess whether this community engagement improvement plan could be strengthened through this work.

Cr Greco proposed adding point (7) to the motion as follows which was accepted by Crs Messina and Williams:

- (7) Receives an annual update on the implementation of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next 3 years.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Amended Motion

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community, stakeholders and staff for providing valuable feedback on this engagement and notes that the Community Engagement team will close the loop with all involved.
- (2) Endorses the community engagement team to implement the actions in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next three years.
- (3) Notes that some of the actions in the plan can be implemented right away using existing resources, while other actions require further research and additional resources which will be considered through individual business cases.
- (4) Notes that the goals and approach of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan have already been incorporated into upcoming engagements including the 'Our Darebin' campaign and will continue to influence all future engagements.
- (5) Notes that the Community Engagement team will continue with planned engagement with Advisory Groups and other stakeholders prior to bringing the revised Community Engagement Policy to Council for adoption in early 2025.
- (6) Notes that at a function over the weekend, the Premier Jacinta Allen, announced a new Multicultural Framework initiative and delegates to the CEO to assess whether this community engagement improvement plan could be strengthened through this work.
- (7) Receives an annual update on the implementation of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next 3 years.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-136**MOVED: Cr. L Messina****SECONDED: Cr. J Williams****That Council:**

- (1) Thanks the community, stakeholders and staff for providing valuable feedback on this engagement and notes that the Community Engagement team will close the loop with all involved.
- (2) Endorses the community engagement team to implement the actions in the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next three years.
- (3) Notes that some of the actions in the plan can be implemented right away using existing resources, while other actions require further research and additional resources which will be considered through individual business cases.
- (4) Notes that the goals and approach of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan have already been incorporated into upcoming engagements including the 'Our Darebin' campaign and will continue to influence all future engagements.
- (5) Notes that the Community Engagement team will continue with planned engagement with Advisory Groups and other stakeholders prior to bringing the revised Community Engagement Policy to Council for adoption in early 2025.
- (6) Notes that at a function over the weekend, the Premier Jacinta Allen, announced a new Multicultural Framework initiative and delegates to the CEO to assess whether this community engagement improvement plan could be strengthened through this work.
- (7) Receives an annual update on the implementation of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan over the next 3 years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3

DAREBIN ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a draft of the Darebin Economic Framework (the Framework) **Appendix A** to guide Council's investment, support and program delivery to enhance the health, wealth and prosperity of the Darebin community. The draft Economic Framework delivers on a range of key actions in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

An extensive consultation, research and development period commenced in October 2023 and has contributed to the understanding articulated in the draft Framework with the goal to assist prioritisation and decision-making for Council's activities in economic development.

Given the impending 2024 caretaker and general election period, it is recommended that Council adopts the draft Framework, with consultation on the draft Framework occurring at the conclusion of this period with findings presented to Council in 2025.

More generally, the Framework is intended to provide long-standing direction, within which rolling annual action planning can occur to strategically respond to emergent needs within the business community, developing opportunities and resourcing, and ongoing Council program and service reviews.

The Framework itself can be updated during its lifetime to remain a source of information and direction for Darebin's economy and the businesses and partnerships working within it.

To ensure that business views are well represented in the development of the Darebin Business Network Structure it is proposed to establish a project working group with business representatives.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-137**

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence

That Council:

- (1) Notes and thanks those members of the Darebin business community and key stakeholders who participated in the development of the draft Economic Framework.
- (2) Endorses the draft Economic Framework as outlined in **Appendix A** for consultation and delegates to the Chief Executive or delegate the ability to make minor editorial changes that do not materially alter the content of the Framework to enable it to be published.
- (3) Notes that engagement on the draft Economic Framework will not commence until after the 2024 caretaker and general election period.
- (4) Notes that feedback received in part 3, together with input from Council will be used to further refine the Framework and develop an inaugural annual Economic Action Plan and that both will be presented to Council in 2025.
- (5) Requests the Chief Executive Officer or delegate convenes a Project Working Group with business representatives for a 3-month period to inform the development of a Darebin Business Network.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.4 FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN STRATEGY - REPORT
BACK FROM STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT AND PROPOSED
FINAL STRATEGY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents feedback from the stage 2 community engagement on the Families, Youth and Children Strategy, and the proposed final draft of the Strategy for consideration and adoption.

The development of a Families, Youth and Children Strategy is an action in the 2021-2025 Council Plan. A draft Strategy was endorsed by Council in May to go to Stage 2 engagement, and feedback from the community and stakeholders has been incorporated into an updated draft (**provided at Appendix A**).

The proposed Families, Youth and Children Strategy has been developed with input from more than 1000 community members and stakeholders through an extensive, two-stage community engagement process. Feedback during Stage 2 engagement was generally very positive, but also included many constructive suggestions which have been incorporated into an updated draft.

The proposed Strategy is intended to present a high-level framework for action by Council and partners on a set of strategic aims across five action areas, underpinned by four guiding principles.

Following adoption of the Strategy, Council and partners will continue to collaborate on the development of an initial Council and Partner Action Plan.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-138

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the proposed final Families, Youth and Children Strategy at **Appendix A** and delegates to the CEO the ability to make minor editorial amendments that do not materially alter the Strategy to finalise its publication.
- (2) Notes the Families, Youth and Children Strategy Stage 2 community engagement summary report at **Appendix B** and thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 2 community engagement.
- (3) Thanks, the Families, Youth and Children Strategy Reference Group and the Young Citizen's Jury for their invaluable guidance and contribution at each stage of the development of this project.
- (4) Notes that following adoption of the Families, Youth and Children Strategy, public facing versions of the document will be developed for dissemination across the community, including a child-friendly version of the document.
- (5) Notes that following adoption of the Families, Youth and Children Strategy, Council and partners will continue their ongoing collaborative work to develop the first Council and Partner Collective Action Plan to implement the Strategy. This Action Plan will be brought back to Council for consideration and approval in due course.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 PLAN FOR VICTORIA AND HOUSING TARGETS SUBMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victorian Government is currently conducting consultation (closing 30 August) ahead of preparing a new state-wide planning strategy: 'Plan for Victoria' (the Plan). The Plan will replace the *Plan Melbourne* strategy and will include regional areas and introduce state-wide *Housing Targets*.

In the new Plan, the Victorian Government (State) has significantly shifted its focus towards increasing housing supply, coinciding with a series of recent reforms released along with *Victoria's Housing Statement* to address the acute housing crisis facing Victoria and the nation.

The Plan is proposed to be based on the four pillars of: (i) affordable housing and choice, (ii) equity and jobs, (iii) thriving and liveable suburbs and towns, and (iv) sustainable environments and climate action.

The Council's draft submission broadly welcomes the State's focus on increasing housing supply to combat the housing crisis facing Victoria and the nation. Drawing from Council's existing strategies, long-standing positions on planning advocacy and reform, the draft submission (**Appendix A**) responds to the four pillars and the draft Housing Targets. The submission addresses the following key issues:

- Safeguard the role of the community in planning decisions and place-making for vibrant centres.
- Require affordable housing in new development and address inequitable access to housing.
- Ensure that as suburbs and centres become denser, funding is available to local government to ensure services and infrastructure can keep pace with additional demand.
- Maintain liveability through quality design, climate adaptive and resilient development.
- Maintain an urban form that supports biodiversity and health and wellbeing, including access to open space.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the submission on Plan for Victoria (Appendix A) and lodges the submission by 30 August 2024.
- (2) Authorises Manager, City Futures, to make minor corrections and clarifications to the submission prior to lodgement.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the submission on Plan for Victoria (Appendix A) and lodges the submission by 30 August 2024.

- (2) Authorises the CEO (or their delegate), to make minor corrections and clarifications to the submission prior to lodgement.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-139

MOVED: Cr. T Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the submission on Plan for Victoria (**Appendix A**) and lodges the submission by 30 August 2024.
- (2) Authorises the CEO (or their delegate), to make minor corrections and clarifications to the submission prior to lodgement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.48pm – Cr Dimitriadis left the meeting.

7.54pm – Cr Dimitriadis returned to the meeting.

**9.6 DECLARATION OF A SPECIAL CHARGE : SOLAR SAVER
ROUND 4.2 (BATCH 5)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Solar Saver program is an action of the Council Plan 2021-25. A target of 150 system installations has been set in the Council Plan Action Plan for 2024/25 for the Solar Saver program.

There are 15 installations enabled through this special charge declaration batch. The value of this proposed Special Charge declaration is \$90,716.73 excluding GST. This is the last batch that will be processed prior to applying a 5% processing fee as per the Council decision on 24 June.

If supported, Council will pay the upfront cost for installation and supply of the solar power systems and split systems for heating and cooling 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 Small Technology Certificates (STCs) generated by the solar systems. 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 \$17,818.22 excl. GST.

No interest is charged to participants on Special Charge repayments. Annual repayments are more than offset by participants' savings on their energy bills. Therefore, the program provides the upfront financial supported for those that need it most environmental benefits.

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 solar energy systems and other energy efficient appliances on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver program. No objections were received in response to the public notification process.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-140

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

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 solar energy systems 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 \$90,716.73 excl. GST; and
 - ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$90,716.73 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 solar energy system 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 \$90,716.73 excl. GST 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 a solar energy system 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 a solar energy system 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 solar system.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.14pm - Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy left the meeting.

9.7 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING IMPLEMENTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report includes the outcomes from a recent expression of interest (EOI) seeking electric vehicle (EV) charging providers to install, operate and maintain EV chargers on Council's land.

Four submissions were received to the EOI. Some submissions have included the council nominated locations, and one has nominated additional charging locations.

Officers have assessed the EOIs and are recommending Council enter into partnership with recommended preferred provider(s).

The process to arrive at a lease agreement will include community consultation and relevant planning permit processes where required.

Future locations for electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be considered between Council and endorsed provider(s). This will enable a continued expansion of the EV charging network, which will align with Darebin's Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and support the transition to low emissions vehicles.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Enters into agreements with the following providers to supply and maintain with electric vehicle charging infrastructure at sites within Darebin determined by Council:
 - a. _____, and
 - b. _____.
- (2) Prohibits the advertising of tobacco, gambling (including lotteries and scratch tickets), alcohol, and fossil fuels in electric vehicle charging infrastructure lease agreements.
- (3) Authorise officers to run a new EOI process once provider(s) have installed 20 EV Chargers, or, five years have elapsed since the Council resolution, whichever comes first.
- (4) Delegates to the CEO (or their delegate) the authority to negotiate and execute agreements with endorsed provider(s) as required to implement Council's decision.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Enters into agreements with the following providers to supply and maintain with electric vehicle charging infrastructure at sites within Darebin determined by Council:
 - a. Evie Networks, and

- b. JOLT Charge Pty Ltd.
- (2) Prohibits the advertising of fast food chains, tobacco, gambling (including lotteries and scratch tickets), alcohol, and fossil fuels in electric vehicle charging infrastructure lease agreements.
- (3) Authorise officers to run a new EOI process once provider(s) have installed 20 EV Chargers, or, five years have elapsed since the Council resolution, whichever comes first.
- (4) Delegates to the CEO (or their delegate) the authority to negotiate and execute agreements with endorsed provider(s) as required to implement Council's decision.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-141

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Enters into agreements with the following providers to supply and maintain with electric vehicle charging infrastructure at sites within Darebin determined by Council:
 - a. Evie Networks, and
 - b. JOLT Charge Pty Ltd.
- (2) Prohibits the advertising of fast food chains, tobacco, gambling (including lotteries and scratch tickets), alcohol, and fossil fuels in electric vehicle charging infrastructure lease agreements.
- (3) Authorise officers to run a new EOI process once provider(s) have installed 20 EV Chargers, or, five years have elapsed since the Council resolution, whichever comes first.
- (4) Delegates to the CEO (or their delegate) the authority to negotiate and execute agreements with endorsed provider(s) as required to implement Council's decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.8 YEAR ONE PERFORMANCE OF WAT DJERRING ANIMAL FACILITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 26 September 2022 Council resolved to enter into contract with Whittlesea to deliver an in-house service for animal welfare services at its Epping facility for 5 years, with an expenditure of up to \$2.2 million.

This in-house contract between Whittlesea, Merri-Bek and Darebin was developed in alignment with the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which emphasises a partnership model involving not-for-profit and community groups with 84Y agreements for accepting animals from the facility. In-house adoption services are also provided at the facility.

This report presents the performance of the first year of operations (October 2022 – October 2023).

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-142

MOVED: Cr. J Williams
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council notes Year one performance of the wat djerring Animal Facility (Oct 2022-Oct 2023).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.29pm - Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy returned to the meeting.

8.29pm – Cr Dimitriadis left the meeting.

8.33pm – Cr Dimitriadis returned to the meeting.

9.9 **2023/24 Q4 PERFORMANCE REPORT (NON-FINANCIAL)
ENDING 30 JUNE 2024**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required by the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to prepare a Council Plan containing the strategic objectives of Council, strategies for achieving those objectives, and indicators to monitor the achievement of those objectives.

The 2023-24 Q4 performance report includes: the 2023/24 Council Plan Action Plan (CPAP) Capital Works Program, Council Resolutions, and Procurement (**Appendix A**). The 2023-24 CPAP provides an overview of Council's performance in delivering the year three actions that will contribute to the completion of the (revised) 2021-25 Council Plan.

As of 30 June 2024, the CPAP had 63.8% (51) of actions completed, 33.8% (27) of actions were not completed, and 2.5% (2 actions) were deferred, as detailed in **Appendix A**.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-143

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes the quarter four results for the 2023/24 Council Plan Action Plan at **Appendix A**.
- (2) Notes the quarter four update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix A**.
- (3) Notes the quarter four update on Council Resolutions contained within this report for the financial year 2023/24.
- (4) Notes the quarter four Procurement update contained within this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.10 ADOPTION OF PROVISION OF PROACTIVE TREE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES - CT202358**

PURPOSE

This report seeks the endorsement of Council to award the Contract CT202358 – Provision of Proactive Tree Management Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Darebin is responsible for managing the urban forest consisting of street, park and bushland trees. There are around 75,000 trees (65,000 street trees and close to 10,000 parks trees) that require regular maintenance to ensure ongoing resilience, compliance with regulations and amenity to the community.

Due to the specialised nature, legislation and scale of work, there is a requirement to engage a suitably qualified and experienced contractor who can provide proactive tree management services on behalf of the City of Darebin.

This report outlines the tender recommendation and process used to identify potential contractors and select a preferred. A competitive open tender process was run and a tender evaluation panel has evaluated the tenders and recommends awarding the contract to the preferred tenderer. The proposed contract is a fixed sum contract. Works are programmed to commence in September 2024 for 4 years.

Since the previous contract was awarded in 2020, there has been a significant increase in prices. Council increased its budget by 40% in the 2024/2025 budget, however the price increase is significantly more than that. A shortfall of \$1.4 Million in 2024-25 is now expected. Officers have tested if prices are reasonable and have explored options for service scope adjustments with the aim of minimising cost increases, however this work has not identified ways to reduce this shortfall without incurring high risk. Options for some offsetting budget savings have been identified. These options, along with any other options on a whole of Council basis will be reported to Council as part of the Q1 financial review to consider.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract CT202358 for the Provision of Proactive Tree Management Services to _____ for the contract value of _____ (GST inclusive) over the entire 6 year term of the contract (should the extension be exercised).
- (2) Enters into the initial contract term of 4 years commencing 1 September 2024 to 30 June 2028.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation on behalf of the Council.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve the contract extension term of one (2) year option, subject to performance reviews.
- (5) Notes the 2024-25 cost of this contract is expected to be greater than the adopted budget and notes that the higher costs will be included in the Quarter 1 financial report to Council for consideration. This Report will outline options for managing the

financial impact of this higher cost including potential offsetting savings Council could consider.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract CT202358 for the Provision of Proactive Tree Management Services to Lucas Tree Service for the contract value of \$20,095,512.80 (GST inclusive) over the entire 6 year term of the contract (should the extension be exercised).
- (2) Enters into the initial contract term of 4 years commencing 1 September 2024 to 30 June 2028.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation on behalf of the Council.
- (4) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve the contract extension term of one (2) year option, subject to performance reviews.
- (5) Notes the 2024-25 cost of this contract is expected to be greater than the adopted budget and notes that the higher costs will be included in the Quarter 1 financial report to Council for consideration. This Report will outline options for managing the financial impact of this higher cost including potential offsetting savings Council could consider.

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-144**

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract CT202358 for the Provision of Proactive Tree Management Services to Lucas Tree Service for the contract value of \$20,095,512.80 (GST inclusive) over the entire 6 year term of the contract (should the extension be exercised).
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CARRIED

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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