" "

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4717 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 8 August 2023**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[TABLE OF CONTENTS i](#_Toc142473695)

[PRESENT: 1](#_Toc142473696)

[OPENING OF MEETING: 1](#_Toc142473697)

[APOLOGY: 1](#_Toc142473698)

[MINUTES: 2](#_Toc142473699)

[QUESTION TIME: 2](#_Toc142473700)

[CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS: 16](#_Toc142473701)

[ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE 16](#_Toc142473702)

[A PURCHASE OF LAND LOCATED AT 362 WATERFORD ROAD, WACOL, FOR BUSHLAND PURPOSES 35](#_Toc142473703)

[B CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JUNE 2023 36](#_Toc142473704)

[ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE 44](#_Toc142473705)

[A STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BEAMS ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 1 57](#_Toc142473706)

[B APPOINTMENT OF JULIA DIXON AS COUNCILLOR FOR HAMILTON WARD AND ALTERATIONS TO COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 58](#_Toc142473707)

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE 63](#_Toc142473708)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE’S ECONOMIC UPDATE: POST-COVID FINDINGS AND SUPPORT 63](#_Toc142473709)

[TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 66](#_Toc142473710)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE METRO END OF TRIP CHARGING 68](#_Toc142473711)

[INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE 69](#_Toc142473712)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – RITCHIE ROAD CORRIDOR UPGRADE STAGE 1B – WADEVILLE STREET AND PARKWOOD DRIVE 71](#_Toc142473713)

[CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE 72](#_Toc142473714)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 240 MARGARET STREET, BRISBANE CITY (A006244346) 76](#_Toc142473715)

[B PETITION – REQUEST COUNCIL REMOVE THE HERITAGE PROTECTION OF THE TEMPORARY LOCAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT FROM THE MOOROOKA WAR WORKERS’ HOUSING ESTATE 77](#_Toc142473716)

[C PETITION – REQUEST COUNCIL REJECT THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR 92 HOUSING LOTS AT 76 KOOYA ROAD, MITCHELTON (APPLICATION REFERENCE A006105111), AS IT IS NON COMPLIANT WITH THE MITCHELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 80](#_Toc142473717)

[ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 82](#_Toc142473718)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – MT COOT-THA RESERVE MOUNTAIN BIKE CONCEPT PLAN 89](#_Toc142473719)

[B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REMOVE SILT AND OVERGROWN VEGETATION AT OXLEY CREEK TO PREVENT FUTURE FLOODING 90](#_Toc142473720)

[C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT SIGNAGE TO HONOUR PAST BROTHERS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB AT CORBETT PARK, GRANGE 92](#_Toc142473721)

[D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL RENAME THE OPEN SPACE AT 39 SWEETS ROAD, PALLARA, AS ‘FOGOLAR FURLAN PLACE’ 94](#_Toc142473722)

[E PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL NAME THE ENTRANCE AREA OF THE HOOP PINE PICNIC AREA, MT COOT-THA, AS ‘PRIVATE ALEXANDER LESLIE PLACE’ 95](#_Toc142473723)

[F PETITION – REQUEST TO RELOCATE THE DOG OFF-LEASH AREA FROM JAMES WARNER PARK TO CAPTAIN BURKE PARK, KANGAROO POINT 97](#_Toc142473724)

[CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 98](#_Toc142473725)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – YELLOW CRAZY ANT LOCAL ERADICATION 99](#_Toc142473726)

[COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE 99](#_Toc142473727)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE FESTIVAL 2023 104](#_Toc142473728)

[FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 105](#_Toc142473729)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND REPORT – NET BORROWINGS – CASH INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING – JUNE 2023 105](#_Toc142473730)

[B COMMITTEE REPORT – BANK AND INVESTMENT REPORT – MAY 2023 105](#_Toc142473731)

[C COMMITTEE REPORT – BANK AND INVESTMENT REPORT – JUNE 2023 107](#_Toc142473732)

[CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON MOTION – LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT ON VENNER ROAD, ANNERLEY: 108](#_Toc142473733)

[CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON MOTION – KOALA AND FAUNA FENCING ALONG BOUNDARY ROAD, CAMP HILL: 123](#_Toc142473734)

[PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS: 137](#_Toc142473735)

[GENERAL BUSINESS: 138](#_Toc142473736)

[QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN: 144](#_Toc142473737)

[ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN: 145](#_Toc142473738)

## PRESENT:

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER) – LNP

The Chair of Council, Councillor Steven TOOMEY (The Gap) – LNP

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LNP Councillors (and Wards)** | **ALP Councillors (and Wards)** |
| Krista ADAMS (Holland Park) (Deputy Mayor)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Fiona HAMMOND (Marchant)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Clare JENKINSON (Paddington)  Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge) (Deputy Chair of Council)  James MACKAY (Walter Taylor)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Angela OWEN (Calamvale)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Lucy COLLIER (Morningside) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)  Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake)  Sara WHITMEE (Wynnum Manly) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillor (and Ward)**  Trina MASSEY (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair, Councillor Steven TOOMEY, opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I’m just seeking some clarity on the additional E&C (Establishment and Coordination Committee) reports that were provided. This is from the meeting of yesterday, 7 August. Just, my staff are having trouble locating the document that contains the commercial-in-confidence figures for the Beams Road item. Could you please advise the reference by which that goes, Clause A, Attachment A, or whatever it might be, please?

Chair: Sure. Can I get some information to you before E&C? Thank you.

Councillor HUTTON, apologies, please.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair.

## APOLOGY:

**27/2023-24**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Kim MARX, and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY.

Chair: Minutes please, Councillor HUTTON.

## MINUTES:

**28/2023-24**

The Minutes of the 4716 meeting of Council held on 1 August 2023, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or Civic Cabinet Chair of any Standing Committee?

Councillor LANDERS.

**Question 1**

Councillor LANDERS: My question is to the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES, we have been fighting for the Federal Government to honour their commitment to the Beams Road upgrade. Can you update the Chamber on the status of this and other Federal road projects in Brisbane?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair, and can I thank Councillor LANDERS for her keen and ongoing interest? I know that both she and her predecessor, Councillor Cooper, were deeply committed to delivering for the northside and ensuring that people who lived in that community, the Bracken Ridge community, were able to get home sooner and safer on a safe and efficient road network, and part of that has been—part of the encumbrance on that that has limited that ability is the current state of Beams Road, but we have long worked with the Federal Government to deliver an upgrade to that road.

We are working with the State Government for their crossing, which still is in limbo, and while they are having trouble getting confirmation from the Federal Government—and I can share with the room that to get the sign-off from the Federal Minister last week was a real—and then, to work with the tenderer to be able to get these contracts in order has been a real effort to keep ourselves balanced on the beams, as it was, that we have to—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: —we have to work—we’ve been working with the Federal Government. It has been really disappointing. They have put at risk hundreds of millions of dollars of roadworks across the State of Queensland, and in particular, Brisbane at both Council and State level, and that we—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: —and the fact that the Minister came and was able to give us comfort, a letter of comfort which arrived last Wednesday, disappointingly after there was a great deal of media interest in the fact that her decision and Prime Minister Albanese’s decision to delay the work. Now, it’s important to remember that, had that delay continued, because of our probity policies, we would have had to go to retender, which would have cost money in the internal tendering process. It would have meant that—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: It would have meant—I appreciate the interjection. Labor was trying to botch our project, but we have got it through.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: I’ll tell you, the Labor Party have been committed, the Labor Party have been committed to scotching Beams Road for some time. The State Government, in particular, has been committed to delaying our project—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment.

Councillor WINES: —to make their project look better.

Chair: Councillor WINES, just one moment.

Come on. There is a bit too much chatter. I’m having trouble hearing Councillor WINES, and I’m sure if I’m having trouble, there’s going to be others within the Chamber. Can we please afford the Chair some courtesy and let him respond to the question?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Now, while the State has been slow-walking necessary works for our project, we have got that secured, as well. What was it that we needed from them? We needed land, from both the economic development branch of the State Government and from the Department of Energy. Both of those have been acquired, but very late Mr Chair, very late. It would almost be as if the State Government was working to delay our work to make the delays on their work appear passably okay, and that is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: That is absolutely a rubbish move by the State Government. Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY. I know that he’s committed to this project. I know that he wants this built, so I call on him to stop carping, to stop bagging the project, and vote for it today when it comes through—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: —and to hassle—and to ask Minister Anika Wells why she and the government of which she is a Member were comfortable delaying this project? Were comfortable engaging in activities that increased the cost of this project? Why Ms Wells was comfortable engaging in activities that lengthened the time of delivery? I think that they are all questions that should be asked of the Minister and the Member for Lilley, but no, the Labor Party in this place won’t ask that because they don’t want this project delivered. In fact, they don’t want any roads in this city delivered, and then, when they’re not delivered because of their efforts, they want to be able to criticise us. It is a deeply, deeply cynical move by them, but rest assured, Mr Chair, that this Council, the Schrinner Council, will always get on with the job and always work to make our communities even better.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: There is no better example than the fact that, today, we’ll be voting on the SCP (significant contracting plan) to allow the officers to move to the tender process and sign the contract with the tenderer this week so we can get this show on the road.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: We are—now, I want Councillors to remember that this project was initially in three sections, Beams Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3. Stage 1 was just to the east of Cowie Road to Handford intersection in Taigum or Zillmere. Taigum?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Taigum. Now, Stage 1A, which is what we’ll be talking about, is the west of the State’s work on the Beams Road open level crossing to east of Cowie Road. That is Stage 1A. That’s always been Stage 1A, and that is what we will be commencing on first. Then, once 1A is complete, we’ll move to 1B, and then ultimately to 1C, but we were always starting in that Dorville precinct. We were always starting in the old QUT (Queensland University of Technology) Carseldine precinct.

Chair: Councillor WINES, your time has expired, and also, Councillor WINES, can I remind you, if you’re going to respond to other Councillors in the Chamber, that you do that through the Chair? Thank you.

Councillor COLLIER, how are you? You have a question?

**Question 2**

Councillor COLLIER: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

Tracey Price, Labor’s Lord Mayoral candidate, has announced that we would spend an additional $25 million a year over the next four years, over and above the current funding, that would see 2,000 broken and dangerous footpaths fixed and an additional 200 kilometres of new footpaths constructed.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor OWEN: Mr Chair, just in accordance with the Meetings Local Law, a question must be asked without statement—

Chair: Councillor OWEN—

Councillor OWEN: —and be asked succinctly.

Chair: Councillor OWEN, there’s two minutes to ask the question. I don’t uphold your point of order.

Councillor COLLIER, please continue.

Councillor COLLIER: Since then, we have heard nothing from you about how you would tackle the lack of accessibility in our city and our suburbs. With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and August being Queensland Walks Month, LORD MAYOR, why won’t you match Labor and Tracey Price’s commitment to a more accessible Brisbane?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, Mr Chair, that’s an interesting question. Look, I’m certainly not aware of any new policies being released, but I am aware of a one-page document that was released weeks and weeks and weeks ago in a rear-guard action, following our Walkable Brisbane strategy release. I am aware that, once again, Labor was caught with no policies, with no policies, and so they came up in a dog-ate-my-homework way and put out a one-pager and they said it’s a policy. Just happened to be the same failed policy they took to the last election, which was also a one-pager.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: If you want to see a real strategy when it comes to making Brisbane more walkable, have a look at our Walkable Brisbane strategy, because it’s all in there. It is all in there. The only thing missing is any kind of real policy approach from the Australian Labor Party, any kind of real policy approach. What we see is Labor making one-page announcements and trying to pass them off as actual policies. What we see is they’re making promises which they know they won’t keep, because their record in office shows that they failed dismally when it comes to investment in walkability, in footpaths. We know that every single year of this Administration and its predecessors, we have outspent Labor massively when it comes to footpaths, every single year.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We hear the continued lies being peddled by the other side, the lies being peddled—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and they have been discredited again and again and again, but unfortunately continue to be peddled, but the people of Brisbane can see through this.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think the question asked the LORD MAYOR whether he would agree to spend an extra $25 million per year on footpaths. I have people who have accessibility issues that want to know.

Chair: That is—Councillor GRIFFITHS, you well know that the LORD MAYOR has a period of time to answer the question. There is plenty of time for the LORD MAYOR to answer his question.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I think it’s incumbent on Labor Councillors, if they’re going to suggest that an extra $25 million will be spent, to actually come up with a list of which streets it’ll be spent in because we know from what they’ve said in the past in this Chamber that residents will no longer get a say on where footpaths are built. Any street that doesn’t have a footpath, regardless of whether residents want one or not, Labor’s coming with the bulldozers, with the concrete trucks.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: They want to pave paradise—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

LORD MAYOR: —to put up a footpath—

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —whether you like it or not.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, your point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Under Council policy, they’re entitled to one if it’s about accessibility.

Chair: That is not a valid point of order.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: You’re absolutely right, Mr Chair, it was not a valid point. The reality is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: No one puts any weight in anything that Labor says, but if they want a shred of credibility, come up with the list. You tell me where you think that money should be spent, because—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —for every—

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, just under the Meetings Local Law, the LORD MAYOR is required to actually answer the question. It was very simple, whether he would match Labor’s commitment for an additional $25 million being spent on making Brisbane more accessible. There’s a list of 6,000 streets—

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor CASSIDY: There’s a list of 6,000 streets without footpaths.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS—Councillor CASSIDY, sorry.

Councillor CASSIDY: So, maybe he could just start the work.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY. Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Start the job.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you know when I speak, you are to stop. You know that. Now, when I start speaking, you stop. That is not a valid point of order and you do not debate points of order at all. You’re well aware of that. You’ve been in this place long enough.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Now, I’ve heard that there’s a list of streets, apparently. I’d like Councillor CASSIDY to table this list and I’m happy to do the consultation for him. I’m happy to ride out to those streets to let those residents know that Labor wants to put a concrete footpath in your street, and do you support that or not? I’m also happy to point out the current funding that Labor Councillors have available to build footpaths, when they choose not to time and time and time again. As I said repeatedly, you cannot—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —you cannot put any credibility in anything these people say because they are hypocrites. They have money allocated to them year-in, year-out, which they fail to spend on footpaths. See, what they want—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —what they want is to spend money on other things, and they want someone else to fix up the footpaths. That’s what they want. That’s what they really want. What they want is to say—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —there should be a footpath—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

Chair: Just—oh, sorry. Councillor WHITMEE, I apologise. I couldn’t hear over the—

Councillor WHITMEE: That’s okay. Yes, no, fair enough.

Chair: —rest of the noise in the Chamber.

Councillor WHITMEE: Once again, on relevance, the LORD MAYOR is not answering the question.

Chair: I don’t uphold your order. I think it is very relevant and he is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. What I can do is I can confirm that I do not support Labor’s policy of removing consultation from the footpath program. I do not support that. I do not support Labor’s proposal to remove consultation from the construction of footpaths in streets across the city, because it is right and appropriate that people get a say on this, because these are the same people that, in so many respects—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: The LORD MAYOR is required to answer the question. Does he support it or not? He’s trying to say no without actually saying no, but he’s required to actually answer the question.

LORD MAYOR: Mr Chair—

Chair: That’s not a point of order, Councillor.

LORD MAYOR: —they don’t have a policy, so I can’t say whether I support it or not. What they released is a one-pager. It’s actually embarrassing for them. So, I don’t support their proposal of removing consultation, because in so many cases, these are the residents that actually take a great deal of pride in maintaining the nature strip.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They look after it. They maintain it. They go the extra step to make sure that the nature strip is looking good. So, it is right that we ask them whether they would like a footpath or not. Look—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor JENKINSON.

**Question 3**

Councillor JENKINSON: My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, can you please update the Chamber on how Council is working with the State Government on planning initiatives to address housing demand in Brisbane, both now and over the long term?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Look, I know certain Councillors missed me in Question Time last week, and I was in fact attending a briefing organised by the Deputy Premier of all the Mayors of South East Queensland on the new Regional Plan. Now, I have to say that I am grateful and appreciative of this opportunity because, in the past, we have not been afforded the opportunity to be briefed on a plan before it was released. So, we requested that this could occur and the Deputy Premier did the right thing and agreed to that, and I commend him for the way in which he has approached this process. Obviously, we would like a little bit more notice next time than a one-day notice, but having said that, it is a significant improvement and I appreciate the fact that the Deputy Premier invited us for that briefing.

Obviously, as I’ve said repeatedly, Brisbane is now the fastest growing capital city in Australia. We are growing at a rate that’s three times faster than Sydney and twice as fast as Melbourne. Population growth is our big challenge as we go forward, and ensuring that we have a consolidated, comprehensive plan across the region on how these extra people will be housed is really, really important. This is something that the Mayors of South East Queensland have been calling for, for a significant period of time, because in the end, each Council gets given a housing target which they are asked by the State Government to meet.

The last time the Regional Plan was updated was before the population boom that we have seen. It was before the pandemic. It was before a whole range of changes, and it was before the fact that we became the fastest growing capital city in Australia. So, what we have now is a new set of targets, new population projections, and a framework in which all councils can now work constructively to make sure we can accommodate the people that are moving to our city over the coming years. The new timeframe takes us out to 2046 and, across the region, an extra 900,000 homes will be required by 2046 to house an extra 2.2 million people across the region. Now, Brisbane’s share of that is significant and, in fact, the Regional Plan points out that we will need to find 209,000 new homes across the city between now and 2046 to accommodate 457,000 new or extra residents.

We can do it. We can do it because we have a clear housing strategy, our Sustainable Growth Strategy, which sees new growth put in the right areas, areas like Kurilpa. Despite the fact that Labor Councillors, a Greens Councillor voted against this, the Labor State Government gave it a big tick of approval. They supported our proposal because they know, they know deep down inside their hearts—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —they know—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY. Councillor CASSIDY.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, this is a place of debate. If you want to debate it, you debate it in General Business. At this point in time, the LORD MAYOR is speaking. Give him the courtesy of being heard in silence.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Look, the Labor State Government knows, deep down inside their hearts, that the Kurilpa strategy is the right strategy, and that’s why they supported it. That’s why they supported it. In fact, the Kurilpa strategy is one of the most significant planning changes to any suburb in Brisbane in the history of the city, and it is not—it was never a given that the State Government was going to support it. In fact, I expected, I must admit, I expected in the early days that they’d be taken hold of in the grips of the NIMBYs (not in my backyard) that would encourage them to oppose this, and that they would be pandering to the Greens’ anti-development agenda and anti-housing agenda.

So, I commend the Deputy Premier for doing the right thing, the right thing, and supporting Kurilpa as part of the announcement on the South East Queensland Regional Plan, but obviously, the plan includes more than just Kurilpa. One of the things, or two things that were highlighted in the plan that was released last week were their support for Kurilpa and the way we’d approach Kurilpa, but secondly, their support for our build-to-rent incentive program. In fact, it was called out as a case study in the draft Regional Plan of how to actively promote the provision of more build-to-rent accommodation in our community. So, they took the opportunity to single out what we were doing as an example for other councils in the region to support the provision of more rental accommodation.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor WHITMEE.

**Question 4**

Councillor WHITMEE: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

You have proudly claimed that you kept rates down in your recent budget. However, there are 13 suburbs across Brisbane where rates have increased by more than seven per cent, $100 a year more these people need to scrape together when every dollar is counting in a cost-of-living crisis. LORD MAYOR, how long do you expect these households to be able to keep their heads above water with increases like this?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I know Councillor WHITMEE hasn’t been here for very long, but there are 190 suburbs in Brisbane, and every year, we make it very clear on what the average rate increase is for households right across the city—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —not just for a small number of suburbs, but for the entire city as an aggregate. It’s what we have always done and, in fact, that’s the way that Labor administrations also provided their rate increase. What would happen in past years would be Labor administrations would say rates on average are going up by six per cent this year.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Rates are going up by six per cent this year under Labor, and what do you think that means? If that’s an average across the city, do you think that there would have been any suburbs going up by more than six per cent?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: More than six per cent? Absolutely. Look, Councillor CASSIDY said this is in the 90s. Well, it was in a period when inflation was very, very low. It was in a period where the economy was booming, and so if Labor—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: When inflation is low—

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: My question was very clear. It was about how long he expects these families to keep their heads above water.

Chair: So, your point of order is on relevance? Thank you.

LORD MAYOR, you still have one minute 15.

LORD MAYOR: So, in a period of incredibly low inflation, strong economic growth, Labor still couldn’t manage their budget and had to put up rates by six per cent on four occasions, and they want everyone—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of—

LORD MAYOR: They want everyone to believe that somehow—

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —they’re going to be better next time.

Councillor CASSIDY: It’s on relevance, Chair.

Chair: Just one moment.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, just one moment.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, just on relevance. The LORD MAYOR is talking about stuff that happened 15, 20 years ago. The question was about the rates increase this year—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —and how families are going to deal with this cost-of-living crisis.

Chair: Thank you.

Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR, can I bring you back to the context of the question, please?

LORD MAYOR: To all residents across Brisbane who are struggling with challenging conditions with the cost of living, I will simply say this, we have the lowest rates in South East Queensland, and our rate increase was one of the lowest, if not the lowest in South East Queensland, and it was less than half the rate of inflation. So, they can be sure that we’ve got their back to keep costs down when times are tough, because under Labor, we know it would have been six per cent, seven per cent, eight per cent. If Labor was in, it would have been six per cent, seven per cent, eight per cent, not just across a few suburbs, but across every suburb. So, we will continue working hard to manage the finances responsibly so we can keep rates as low as possible.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor HAMMOND.

**Question 5**

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you. Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the Chair of City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN, the State Government South East Queensland’s Regional Plan projects that the population of South East Queensland will balloon to six million people in 2046. Can you please inform the Chamber of how critical it will be to plan to boost housing supply to build the homes to accommodate Brisbane’s growing population?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you to Councillor HAMMOND for the question. A little bit of a struggle to get that out, but thank you, all the same. Mr Chair, last week, the State Government released the draft South East Queensland Regional Plan for community consultation. The South East Queensland Regional Plan helps to guide the region by providing a framework for delivering urban and suburban residential growth, whilst also ensuring this is undertaken in a sustainable manner while protecting our prosperity and liveability. As the LORD MAYOR indicated earlier, it is expected that six million people, or six million additional people, will call South East Queensland home by 2046, an increase of 2.2 million people.

In the context of Brisbane, we’re expected to grow by 457,000 people by 2046. To put that into context, we’re going to require 209,000 additional dwellings over that 23-year horizon. As a local government, we’ve been seeking this update and, certainly, we acknowledge that the previous data provided in 2017 has become largely redundant. Since that time, our region has experienced rapid population growth with interstate and overseas migration adding to our organic growth. This has resulted in increased demand for additional housing.

A key theme of our own housing strategy, *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy*, is one of the right housing in the right locations, and this could not be more important than in Brisbane, as we have limited new greenfield opportunities in this city. So, for Brisbane, with an increase in population, there will be a need to increase density, but in areas where this density can be supported. The Deputy Premier, in releasing the draft plan, reinforced this same sentiment, and I quote the Deputy Premier, ‘This plan doesn’t mean growth everywhere. It plans for growth in suburbs that can cater for growth.’

The draft plan reflects what local governments have continually voiced, the need to support additional housing around existing infrastructure along with planned infrastructure aligned to the South East Queensland Regional Plan. Our focus is on areas that can facilitate development with access to existing and planned transport and other infrastructure. This will be delivered by ensuring that City Plan is dynamic and responsive to the challenging conditions in which we operate. Renewal opportunities, such as the suburban renewal precincts program, aims to unlock opportunities for underutilised land to provide new homes and jobs, ensure quick and responsive planning outcomes, and deliver locally relevant outcomes. Work has already begun to complete a review of 70 hectares of land across the city, land that we believe lends itself to a mixed-use outcome.

The draft plan also identifies the need to support regional economic clusters, with a balanced approach to be taken on how land is prioritised for both residential and employment uses. We know our major centres have attracted significant housing and employment growth over the last 20 years, with the integration of transport and community infrastructure providing an efficient form for suburban growth. That is why we have already commenced a review and analysis of our major centres at Carindale, Chermside, Garden City, Indooroopilly, Toombul, and Toowong to consider the housing opportunities in those locations.

The draft South East Queensland plan also acknowledges our work to date by outlining our positive approach to housing initiatives and incentives, and as the LORD MAYOR indicated earlier, the build-to-rent incentive and our special assessment unit to support that form of housing has been acknowledged by the State. Mr Chair, I quote directly from the draft South East Queensland Regional Plan, and they advise that this presents a targeted approach to delivering new housing models that support the delivery of affordable housing outcomes.

As a local government, we are focused on facilitating latent housing supply. This will be achieved through continually reviewing our planning framework, giving consideration to precinct planning, urban renewal, neighbourhood plans or other processes, but it’s important to note that the planning system is only one contributing factor to housing supply. There are many other very significant factors that sit outside the planning system that impact supply of housing, such as land ownership and acquisition, accessing financing and funding, construction costs and supply chain issues, and the public attitude towards development, but we—

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, your time has expired.

Other further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 6**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS, the Councillor for Doboy was with the LORD MAYOR last week, spruiking a golf course, and Councillor ATWOOD said at the time, and I quote, ‘genuinely the first question I get asked everywhere I go is, when is the golf course opening?’ When I held the mobile office in Hemmant earlier this year, the first question I was asked was when Council would fix critical drainage issues in the local area. So, Councillor DAVIS, how was Councillor ATWOOD so out of touch with her community?

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Well, thank you very much for the— Mr Chair, thank you for the question, and let me tell you, Councillor ATWOOD is an amazing local Councillor who is entirely in touch with her community. In fact, a couple of weeks ago, I had the great opportunity of visiting the Doboy Ward where Councillor ATWOOD gave me a tour of the brand-new Colmslie Beach Reserve playground, which was opened by the LORD MAYOR last Friday. My understanding in the feedback I got, that people were extraordinarily happy with what was being delivered in the Doboy Ward.

I know that Councillor ATWOOD will continue to have communications with her community and understand the things that are of interest to her. I did not hear or see those comments that Councillor CASSIDY has reported, but based on previous reports of what Councillor CASSIDY chooses to share with this Chamber, I’m not inclined to necessarily accept that that was what was said, and particularly in which context it might be said.

Mr Chair, this Council is doing a great deal of work in the space of drainage. We spend significant amounts of money each year upgrading drainage across the city on a range of particular matters, whether it’s stormwater, whether it’s backflow. It’s identifying the locations and prioritising those particular projects, and we go to a great deal of effort to make sure that those projects that can be done straight away, that gives most benefit to the local communities, most people are looked at as a priority in terms of our scheduling of those works.

We had a great issue, of course, back when we had the floods here in Brisbane. Lots of work was done to desilt the drainage that we had or the stormwater that was through the community, an enormous effort which was done, making sure that we had our drains cleaned and desilted. Happily, it was not as significant as what we had thought it was going to be, nonetheless important work that was done. Post that, we revisited the different projects that needed to be looked at in terms of priority, and we will get on with doing that work.

Mr Chair, what I would say is thank you to Councillor ATWOOD, through you, for the work that she is doing in her ward, for providing feedback to all the Chairs about the things that are of interest to her community, and we will just get on with the job.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further questions?

Councillor HUTTON.

**Question 7**

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR, last week, the State Government gave their conditional approval for Council’s proposed use of a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) for the Kurilpa precinct. Can you please update the Chamber on how this will boost housing supply and benefit the local community?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON, for the question. It has been a very big week for Brisbane and South East Queensland on the planning front and, as we’ve heard, the release of the updated Regional Plan and, with that, the green light for the Kurilpa Sustainable Growth Precinct TLPI, there’s plenty of work to be done here in Brisbane. We’ve been working closely with the State on how we plan for a future in a sensible and sustainable way. Our city and our region are booming, and with Brisbane set to provide nearly a quarter of the new housing needed to support South East Queensland’s expected population growth, we need to be smart about how and where we plan for this growth. We’ve always said up, not out, and this has now been echoed by the State Government, especially for Brisbane.

We’ve just heard from Councillor ALLAN about the suite of initiatives planned to unlock new housing and revitalise some of those underutilised suburban areas. We also know that the inner city has got a big role to play and will do a lot of the heavy lifting. The inner city is the driving force behind our rise as a global city. It’s where art meets industry. It’s where knowledge powers enterprise, ideas are transformed into innovation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’ll take the interjection. Councillor COLLIER thinks Council should now be building schools, as well. How much do we have to support the State Government?

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I apologise, Councillor COLLIER. I agree with you. The State Government are hopeless at building new schools. Take your pick.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Local talent, of course, finds a global audience. We have a city that is rich in character and steeped in history, and it’s no stranger to change. We’ve seen that over the last 40 years, and the past 25 years in particular, significant urban renewal that’s created some places and precincts which are now the most loved by Brisbane residents. Newstead, Teneriffe, Howard Smith Wharves, South Bank after Expo 88. We need to embrace growth to shape the next evolution of Brisbane’s inner city.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, Councillors, I’m having a little bit of trouble hearing the LORD MAYOR. Can we—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Oh sorry, DEPUTY LORD MAYOR.

Can we please exercise a little bit of quiet?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. More and more people are choosing the inner city lifestyle and close to where they work, close to public transport, and with nothing short of something to see and do nearly every night. More housing is needed, more than ever before, and giving people more choice in where they live and delivering that right housing to suit their needs is our biggest priority. Our Kurilpa plan is an anti‑sprawl approach, and that will continue to deliver homes with this well‑connected part of the city over a long term while preserving Brisbane’s low density and character suburbs. The Kurilpa plan will set a new benchmark for sustainable growth, where owning a car is optional and everything you need is right on your doorstep.

By allowing new buildings to go taller, they will also need to go above and beyond what they deliver for the community. Taller buildings will need to be accredited with five-star Green Star ratings. They will need to meet new minimum green plot ratios. So, not only will they be more sustainable and energy efficient, but more aesthetically green, as well. Design excellence is a must, championing our city’s subtropical design values that complement our uniquely Brisbane lifestyle. The Kurilpa precinct is the cultural epicentre of Brisbane, but we have bigger aspirations. We want Kurilpa to be the cultural epicentre of Australia. We’re already the nation’s sporting capital. We can expand that to our cultural epicentre, as well.

Building off the fantastic arts and lifestyle offerings in this precinct, working with the creative industry to get new and exciting opportunities for the local creative sector to flourish. We’ve seen great successes with this approach in the past. West Village set the bar for what a mixed-use precinct can achieve when they brought Metro Arts back to West End, West End’s first new live theatre in 25 years. This same model can be replicated in unique ways across the Kurilpa precinct and we’re excited to start working with local creatives on what could be next. Our city is growing and growth brings opportunity.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: We will be working with the State—

Chair: Please continue.

DEPUTY MAYOR: We’ll be working with the State to finalise the TLPI, ensuring there is a strong emphasis on housing diversity and affordability to support this growing community. It’s an absolutely exciting opportunity for Brisbane and I thank the Deputy Premier for seeing the foresight of the opportunity that it’s going to bring to a time in Brisbane where housing is at crisis stage. I look forward to bringing this plan back through the Chamber in coming weeks and getting full support right across the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further questions?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair.

Chair: My pleasure.

**Question 8**

Councillor MASSEY: My question is to Councillor MURPHY, the Chair of Transportation.

In 2019, the LORD MAYOR announced five green bridges, stating two things, construction within five to 10 years and that Council would, at minimum, contribute at least 75% to the completions.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor MASSEY, please—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Please continue.

Councillor MASSEY: It’s now four years later and we barely have one, the Toowong and West End and St Lucia and West End bridges are pretty much on a standstill. With this LNP Administration walking back election promises and diverting blames to other level of government for funding the green bridges, the future of the green bridges projects, can you confirm to the residents of West End, St Lucia and Toowong that these bridges will actually be delivered within the next six years and not fall to the wayside?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you very much, Chair, and thank you to Councillor MASSEY for the question. I think it’s important to reflect on just how far the LORD MAYOR’s Green Bridges Program has come. Don’t forget that it was this LORD MAYOR that arrived into the mayoralty, and the first commitment that he made was to this Green Bridges Program. We have two of those green bridges under construction right now.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Now, on the first one, the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, this is a bridge that has been talked about since the late 1800s. The State Government has, from time to time, committed to it. Council from time to time has shown interest in it. It will be this Schrinner Council that will deliver it and open it next year. Now, what other bridge that started construction long before the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, but has still not yet opened, has happened? The Neville Bonner Bridge, still can’t cross on that one. Our bridge is now well over 50% complete and, as I said, will open next year, an extraordinary achievement of engineering for this Council to take that bridge from a concept in 2019 to be opening in 2024.

That bridge is an exceptional asset for our city. It will take 80,000 cars off the road every year. It will connect the City Botanic Gardens with Kangaroo Point and it will enable over 6,000 pedestrian and cyclist trips each and every day—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: –with the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor MURPHY.

Point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment.

Councillor JOHNSTON, there’s no point interrupting Councillor MASSEY during her point of order.

Councillor MASSEY, your point of order.

Councillor MASSEY: The question was about the West End-Toowong and the West End-St Lucia bridge.

Chair: So, your point of order is on relevance?

Councillor MASSEY: Yes.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MURPHY, I draw you back to the context of the question.

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, let’s talk about the Toowong to West End bridge. This is a bridge where we have had significant change of the landowner in recent memory, and we have had to undertake a negotiated buyout of the corridor for that bridge to ensure that we are able to deliver and build that bridge into the future. That process has only recently concluded with the land being acquired by Council and coming into our possession. We remain committed to that bridge, but as the LORD MAYOR said in his well-timed interjection before, this Council committed $550 million to a program of delivering green bridges, and it’s a program where we have had extremely productive discussions with Infrastructure Australia (IA).

It’s the first time in the history of this country that any active transport program has been supported by Infrastructure Australia, who have actually said our Green Bridges Program is a high priority project. No other city, not Sydney, not Melbourne, no one has been able to achieve getting active transport on Infrastructure Australia’s radar. So, we know that, with that vote of confidence that IA has put in the LORD MAYOR’s Green Bridges Program, that there will be future funding available for completion of that link and other links in the program, but I mean, I don’t know what the Greens want out of us here.

We have progressed very significantly with the program of work that we set out with less than four years ago, and we know that wherever we have progressed with a green bridge, they have tried to claim that as their win, something that they have done, something that—oh, you know, isn’t it great that the LORD MAYOR has finally listened to us? We’ve been going on about green bridges for years. No, they haven’t. No, they haven’t. The first time—you go and have a look at what happens to Google hits on green bridges. Adrian SCHRINNER gets into office and it goes through the roof, because all of a sudden, we committed to the program.

We are the ones who are actually building them, but like Greens do with a lot of things, Chair, they come in and they take credit for the work that others have done and they try to claim their achievements as their own because they are a protest party and that is what they do, because they never have to do the hard work of being in government, of actually making difficult decisions, of progressing projects from concept to design to then land acquisition and then construction. Believe me, things have not always been easy over this program. There are always decisions that you have to make about what’s value for money, how to proceed down certain roads, what to do with the actual design element itself, and community consultation.

We know that, for example, Labor’s approach with the Toowong to West End Green Bridge was to put buses over it, against the will of that community, against Councillor Sri’s wishes. When we did consultation, your community, Councillor MASSEY, told us that they didn’t want to see buses over that bridge. I’m interested to know if that’s still a Labor policy, to put buses over the Toowong to West End Green Bridge because, if the Greens hold office with Labor after the next election, which is the only way that Labor can hold office, we know—

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: —that will be a really interesting friction point for the Greens and the Labor Party, to decide whether they will have buses or not.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY. Your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Councillors, that is the end of Question Time.

Now, before we move to E&C—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—can I have a bit of quiet, please? Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON, thank you. The addendum for the second report has been emailed to your office this afternoon. It was also uploaded on LG Hub and all ward offices were notified yesterday afternoon at 5.27pm. The documents that you are seeking are also available in the LG Hub within the E&C files that were uploaded, and I can also confirm that the officers have resent those documents to your office again at 1.09pm. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: All I asked for was the name of the commercial-in-confidence attachment and you didn’t provide that.

Chair: They are within those documents, Councillor JOHNSTON. You can have a look for them yourself.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I would like to know the name of the attachment, just so I’ve got it.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, my—

Councillor JOHNSTON: We have to download it off this my iHub thing you’ve got, so I just would like to know the name of the attachment. That was my question, Mr Chair. It’s not an unreasonable one.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, it’s in the documents that have been emailed to your office. You can look them up. Thank you.

LORD MAYOR, E&C.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: After hours last night, buried within an email about an agenda, we were told about the additional E&C papers. Now—

Chair: Sorry, what’s your point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, my point of order is that, as a matter of procedural fairness, as a matter of reasonableness, I have asked you a simple question which is, what is that addendum? Is it a Clause A, Attachment A? What is the name of it so I can identify it in the documents? That was my question and I would appreciate an answer.

Chair: The answer is, Councillor JOHNSTON, if you look at the email that was sent to your office at 5.27pm yesterday afternoon, you’ll find the answer that you’re looking for. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s definitely not in the email sent to me at 5.27pm, Mr Chair, and that’s why I’m asking the question. Can you please provide—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am not the—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —the designation for the attachment—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —for the E&C papers.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, the documents are available to you. They are available to every Councillor in this place on LG Hub. You were notified yesterday afternoon that they were there. If you cannot do your job—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you. I am not taking any more point of orders on this matter and I’ll rule all further matters on this invalid.

LORD MAYOR, E&C.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Procedural motion – Motion of dissent**

**29/2023-24**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent was declared **lost** on the voices.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, E&C.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 31 July 2023, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I’m seeking the additional following information with respect to item B, the contracts and tendering report, contract 21, the provision of social media management solution. Council is proposing to spend a whopping $1.8 million on some sort of social media management solution, and given most platforms are free, could the LORD MAYOR please tell us the name of this social media management solution and/or names of any new software and provide a description of the new software that’s costing $1.8 million to manage—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —free platforms like Facebook and Instagram?

Chair: Councillor MACKAY.

Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Happy to repeat it, if you’d like.

Chair: No, no. I was just going to ask a question. Do you have the contract number, just for the rest—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Like I say, it’s contract 21.

Chair: Twenty-one, thank you.

Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Well, before I move on to other items, I did want to note with interest that it would be interesting to see how things would go with green bridges under a Green-Labor coalition, because on the one hand, you’ve got the Greens Councillor who seems to be supportive of the program, and on the other hand, you’ve got the Labor Party who now opposes the program. So, how is that going to work? It should be very, very interesting. Now, Councillor MASSEY referred to—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor MASSEY referred to some kind of election commitment in 2016, which nobody’s heard of, nobody’s heard of, but apparently the current program was a Greens’ idea. Well, in fact, green bridges—the first green bridge in Brisbane was built by this side of politics, this side of politics. I was proud to be part of the Administration that delivered the very first green bridge, so I’m not sure if the Greens want to claim credit for that one, as well, but I do remember, I do remember an election commitment from 2016. I do.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I am talking about the Eleanor Schonell Bridge.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, the 2016—Mr Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. This is the second time now that I have asked you to exercise some silence.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, so I do remember a policy on green bridges in 2016. It was actually from the Labor Party. Labor’s Lord Mayoral hopeful, Rod Harding, has vowed to fast‑track the construction of the Kangaroo Point bridge if elected. He said—now, I’ll go down to the bottom of the quote here. He said that the Council should go it alone without any State or Federal funding. It just needs to get done, paid for 100% by Council. So, isn’t it interesting that the Greens want to claim credit for a 2016 policy, the Labor Party announced that they would build and fund the Kangaroo Point bridge in 2016 and go it entirely alone, yet the Labor Party today is against the very same project, the very same project. I’ll tell you, it is a little bit different because we managed to get $61 million out of the Federal Government towards the Kangaroo Point bridge, right?

So, rather than going it alone, as was the Labor policy, we managed to get the support of the Federal Government. Why? Because they acknowledged that it was a very, very good project. Now, this is despite the fact that previous footbridges had been built by the State Government alone. The Goodwill Bridge, fully funded by the State Government. The Kurilpa Bridge, fully funded by the State Government. What have we got this current State Government putting towards the Kangaroo Point bridge, Councillor MURPHY? The current State Government, how much have they put towards the current Kangaroo Point bridge?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Not a sausage. Not a single cent. So, you can see who’s letting the team down here, but Councillor MASSEY, I want to put your mind at rest. You’ve quoted some inaccurate figures. We are putting $550 million towards green bridges in Brisbane. We will be doing that over the 10-year period that I announced in 2019. So, between now and 2029, there will be $550 million from the Council put towards green bridges. Now, there are two under construction. Both will be completed next year.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Both will be completed next year. We are then moving forward on the Toowong to West End bridge by—first step, acquiring the land, because you can’t build the bridge unless you’ve got somewhere to land it. We will—and I repeat—keep our commitment to invest $550 million in green bridges over that period of time. It is a commitment. We will stick to that commitment. The number of green bridges was always dependent on the level of support that we can get from other levels of government. We made it clear right from day one that we would put in up to $550 million and the number of bridges delivered would be dependent on who comes to the party to support us.

It is natural to expect the State Government would have come to the party, given that they were actually responsible for building footbridges. So far, we have received nothing. The Federal Government has put in $61 million and we’re looking forward to working towards planning and delivering the next round of green bridges beyond the ones that will be finished next year, but our commitment remains unchanged, $550 million over 10 years between 2019-2029. Two will be completed next year. The third one, we look forward to moving on.

Our commitment, our commitment to that bridge will take us up to the $550 million level that we have previously announced. So, we’re really excited about the opportunity. That bridge makes sense. You won’t see the chopping and changing from us that you’ve seen on the other side, where one election, they support the Kangaroo Point bridge, and the next election, they oppose it, and then they want to oppose it again at a third election. I mean, nobody can take these people seriously because they simply cannot stick to a single position. They don’t have any policies and, in fact, at this point in time, let me do the tally on policies.

A one-pager, a one-pager which they call a policy, a mobility plan which is a one‑pager with a few dot points on it. A policy of introducing 30 km/h speed limits on 90% of streets and roads across Brisbane, policy two.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Their third policy is to cut the red-top bin collection from weekly to fortnightly. So, there’s the current running tally. I will keep you up to date with any more policies or one-pagers that are released, but it is no wonder, it is no wonder that people do not take the Labor Party seriously. Now, I was talking about Labor’s rate increases before and Councillor CASSIDY was saying, well, that was 15, 20 years ago, yet when Councillor ADAMS was talking about development issues, Councillor CASSIDY was going, that’s a Labor legacy. That’s a Labor legacy.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, he was quite happy to talk about the past when Councillor Krista ADAMS was talking. Look, the sad thing is that the only thing the Labor Party will have is legacy issues because they don’t have a future in this place. They do not have a future without being subservient and reliant on the Greens. We know that. They have put themselves into a position where they are so out of touch with the people of Brisbane. They are so out of touch and they have so few policy positions that—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, I am. Yes, yes. Yes, I am, but—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —the sad reality is, because Labor has let everyone down, they’ve opened the door to the Greens, and that means—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: No, no, no, no, no. Mr Chair.

Chair: Hang on. Hang on. Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

We’re going to go back to a nice, quiet Chamber, please, because I am now starting—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, do you have a problem with that? Because I am having trouble hearing those speakers.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. There was a bit of cackling when I mentioned that Labor has opened the door to the Greens. I just have to correct the record here. This is how it all played out. A sitting Labor Councillor retired at the last minute, Helen Abrahams was her name, and she allowed a Green to get elected because Labor mismanaged their processes and—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well, Labor mismanaged their processes and now, after that big mistake that they made, they now face being the minority party in Brisbane City Council. That is the sad reality, thanks to the Labor Party. So, it is really tragic because what it means for the people of Brisbane is diabolical. It means an anti-housing agenda. It means an anti-progress agenda. It means anti-everything, but it means higher taxes and rates. That is genuinely a disappointing situation. So, the Labor Party can sling all the mud that they like at us, but they should be slinging it at the Greens, because the Greens are the real enemy to the progress of the City of Brisbane.

Going forward in about seven to nine months’ time, they will have a choice on whether they choose progress for the City of Brisbane or whether they choose a NIMBY, anti-progress approach. So, I look forward to that time when the people get to choose because I am very confident that the people of Brisbane will choose progress. They will choose progress and they will reject the divisive and backward and destructive agenda of the Green-Labor coalition, but, Mr Chair, I can confirm—Councillor MASSEY, because I know you’re concerned—our commitment to green bridges remains exactly unchanged, $550 million. We will continue to seek support from other levels of government. We are committed to delivering the next bridge at Toowong to West End.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**30/2023-24**

At that point, the LORD MAYOR was granted an extension of time on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I look forward to the day when we can really connect up those two exciting parts of the city, Toowong and West End, because the other thing it will do, it will significantly improve the transport connectivity, cut down traffic congestion on the road, it will encourage people in West End to get across the bridge and jump on the train in both directions. It will encourage the people in Toowong to move across and enjoy all the expensive greenspace available in West End and so many of the great facilities in the best serviced part of Brisbane when it comes to infrastructure, parkland and facilities. They will get to enjoy that, and maybe, maybe the Labor Government might even build a couple of new schools in that area, as well, if they get their act together.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, the people in Toowong can walk across the bridge with their kids and—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, yes, I look forward to that day, as does Councillor MACKAY and as does every Councillor in this place.

As I always do, I wanted to talk about the lighting up the Council assets that has occurred in recent times and will occur going forward. Last night, Tropical Dome at Mt Coot-tha Gardens, Sandgate Town Hall, Reddacliff Place and Brisbane City Hall were lit up in what colours? Green and gold. Why?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: The Matildas. Fantastic game with the Matildas last night. Unfortunately, I missed it, as did you, Mr Chair, because we were welcoming 600 new citizens here in City Hall, but you know what?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They’re excited about the green and gold, as well.

Chair: They are now, yes, that’s for sure.

LORD MAYOR: It was great to hear the news about the Matildas win. Both the Story Bridge and Victoria Bridge were lit in pink, green, white, blue, yellow and orange in celebration of the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Women’s World Cup.

Tonight, Council assets will be lit in blue and green to support National Stroke Week as part of the Stroke Foundation’s annual awareness campaign.

Tomorrow night, City Hall will be lit in red to recognise the 58th year of independence of the Republic of Singapore, and we’ll take this opportunity to wish the Singaporean community in Brisbane all the best.

This Thursday, the Story Bridge and Victoria Bridge will be lit blue to celebrate the 70th anniversary of BlueCare. As Councillors are aware, BlueCare is a Queensland icon and for 70 years, they’ve been providing aged care services in Queensland. I commend BlueCare on the terrific work they do in the community and congratulate them on this 70-year milestone.

Finally, commencing on Friday, Council assets will be lit in green to support the great Brisbane tradition. What is it? No? Any guesses? Green. What happens when the country comes to the city?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: The Ekka. Yes, so the Ekka obviously coming around the corner, and so we’ll be lighting up the assets in support of the Ekka.

Chair: Failed that question.

LORD MAYOR: Now, I heard Councillor CASSIDY say before that Council would prefer to invest money in a golf course than in drainage.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Oh no, apparently, he didn’t say that. He said that golf courses are more important than drainage. Well—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —how much money, Councillor ATWOOD, did we put into the Minnippi Golf Course?

Councillor ATWOOD: Zero.

LORD MAYOR: You’re right. It was actually zero. This golf course was fully funded by the private sector.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: This money was done through a deal which, back in the days where we had progressive Labor administrations, they actually came up with this deal in the first place. So, that’s a positive legacy that Labor has left, but they couldn’t deliver it. They couldn’t deliver it. They proposed it, we delivered it.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I suspect Councillor CASSIDY won’t be getting an invitation to the opening on Father’s Day, but he’ll be sitting there, sucking on lemons instead. This is a great outcome, a great outcome for the people of Brisbane and, particularly, the eastern suburbs to see the new golf course, the first new golf course in 70 years opening up and funded by the private sector, which is just fantastic. So, Council’s only contribution was to do landfill remediation, which was our liability, anyway. It was our landfill and the requirement to do that work. So, we invested in the landfill remediation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: $5 million was the figure. We invested in landfill remediation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. One more time—

LORD MAYOR: So, landfill—

Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

One more time, Councillor JOHNSTON, and I will go to the red tabs.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Landfill remediation had to be done before anything could be built on the site, regardless of whether it was a golf course, regardless of whether it was playing fields or whatever else might have been there, and that was our requirement. So, we invested in that and then the golf course itself and all the associated improvements were funded through the private sector. So, a great outcome. Councillor ATWOOD is excited. Councillor MURPHY is excited. I know that Alex Givney is excited, as well, and Allie Griffin is excited.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Who else is excited?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Councillor CUNNINGHAM is excited, mainly because it didn’t cost us any money.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Everyone is excited.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, there’ll be a great opening on Father’s Day of this new facility, and it will be more than just the golf course. It will very much operate as a community hub. The aim is to bring the community in as much as possible, and whether you’re a golfer or not, there’ll be plenty to do at the Minnippi Golf Course.

I did want to pay tribute to a couple of Council officers who are either retiring or leaving Council. Firstly, the incredible Shirley Amps. Shirley worked her last day in Council last Friday, and is taking some leave—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —is taking some leave before retiring from Council after 44 years of extraordinary service. Shirley joined Council in 1979, straight from school, and so a fantastic career. The entirety of her career with Brisbane City Council, which is just amazing. Last week, we had a presentation of the Commitment to Council awards, which acknowledged the long-serving Council officers who have contributed so much to the city, and we acknowledged those who had served for 35 years, 40 years, 45 years, and in fact, in one case, 55 years. That is the longest serving Council officer who’s currently in the organisation, has been serving us for 55 continuous years. Started, Mr Chair, as a tram conductor before Labor shut down the tram network, and has continued. Now, he’s a bus operator.

Yes, but Shirley, in terms of her contribution, right up there in terms of length of service, but also contribution. I know she’s done a fantastic job in so many different programs she’s been involved with, particularly, in a range of grant programs, also the Senior Celebration Donations, the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund. We wish Shirley all the best in her retirement.

This Friday, we’ll bid farewell to one of our senior managers, Tash Tobias, the Divisional Manager of Lifestyle and Community Services.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Mr Chair, that was an inappropriate interjection.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Tash joined us in 2019 and came out of the private sector with incredible experience in some big companies like Virgin and, unfortunately, as many of our good managers do, has been poached. Look, we expect this happens from time to time, particularly in a job market like this, but I particularly want to thank Tash for her leadership of what is an incredibly large and diverse division with a whole range of different focuses and priorities, and it has been an absolute pleasure working with Tash. I know also Councillor HOWARD feels the same way, as does Councillor MARX, but we certainly thank Tash for her work since 2019 and we wish her all the best for the future in the new role.

I did today also want to table the latest City of Brisbane Investment Corporation, CBIC Annual Report. Billy, thanks, that’s yours. The City of Brisbane Investment Corporation was established in 2008, and it has delivered for the people of Brisbane in many different ways. It was established originally with a cash injection of $123 million and $12 million in shares, which were part of Council’s ownership of a section of the Brisbane Airport.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, I’m afraid your time has expired.

**31/2023-24**

At that point, the LORD MAYOR was granted an extension of time on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. So, $123 million in cash, $12 million in shares in the Brisbane Airport, a total of $135 million initial seed investment. Now, this is something that was established by Lord Mayor Campbell Newman at the time. I was the Finance Chair at the time. It’s something I passionately believe in, because I do believe it is important to put away for the future and also generate an ongoing income source that doesn’t come from rates and charges. That’s the critical thing here, and so, since CBIC has existed, it has paid $181 million in dividends to the Council, $181 million that is not coming from rates or charges, $181 million coming directly to support the projects that we deliver. Obviously, since I became LORD MAYOR, this is going into parks and greenspace programs.

So, the dividend that comes in goes directly into what is our Green Future Fund, that is, to support investment in parks and greenspace in the City of Brisbane. So, the $181 million in dividend as of the annual report, which I’ve just tabled, the equity that we have in that company, effectively its position, its balance sheet, is $340 million circa. So, if you add the $340 million of equity that we have, you put on top of that the $181 million of dividends we have received, that’s over half a billion dollars of value generated for the ratepayers of Brisbane. $521 million of value that has been generated. So, let’s be clear, $135 million seed funding put in, $521 million of value generated on CBIC. Now, we know what Labor’s position on CBIC is. They see it—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They see it as a giant cookie jar that they want to get their hand into, but the cookie jar for Labor’s approach in here would have been spent years ago if Labor was in administration and there would be nothing to show for it, but now, we have over half a billion dollars’ worth of value generated for the people of Brisbane. We continue to be committed to CBIC and growing that for the long term, so that it can continue to provide ongoing returns to the people of Brisbane that don’t come from rates and charges. Now, if the Opposition were to get in and to shut CBIC down, as I said, the money would be gone in a quick period of time, very little to show for it, and then they’d come after your rates.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Then they would come after your rates. So, instead of the dividends coming in, the $181 million, they’d be dipping into your pocket to pay for their largesse.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MACKAY.

LORD MAYOR: Item A on the agenda is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: The dividend this year is over $9 million.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: Apparently, according to Councillor CASSIDY, it’s terrible that CBIC has delivered $9 million that didn’t come from ratepayers—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, I’ve explained this before, Mr Chair, and I’m happy to explain it again. When we rent accommodation, whether it’s an office building or a depot, we have to pay rent to someone. We have to pay rent to someone, and the question really is quite simple.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, if you have a question, you do a point of order. You don’t yell out across the Chamber. Is that clear?

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: My pleasure.

LORD MAYOR: It’s really a simple prospect. Would we prefer to pay rent to someone else or to our own investment fund? It’s a really simple question. So, if we have a look at some of the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: If we have a look at some of the facilities being delivered by CBIC, Councillor Cumming was a big fan of CBIC, because CBIC not only delivered a new library in Wynnum, but also a Woolworths supermarket for people, as well. So, right in the heart of Wynnum CBD, they’ve got the choice between Coles and Woolies—right there across the road, plus the new Council library. Guess what? Woolies pays rent to us as well, through CBIC. So it’s a great outcome, one example of the many great projects delivered by CBIC that delivers value for the people of Brisbane.

Item A is the purchase of land located at 362 Waterford Road, Wacol, for bushland purposes. This is a site of approximately 1.83 hectares. The property supports remnant endangered vegetation and forms part of the important ecological corridor linking Bullockhead Creek and Council’s Ronald Street Reserve. The area is known to provide important habitat for koalas, platypus as well, and other threatened species. The acquisition of the property will also provide the opportunity for further restoration of natural habitat. Obviously, this is one of the many properties that we have acquired over the years and one that I trust all Councillors will support us proceeding on.

Item B in the contracts and tendering report for June 2023, 25 out of 29 contracts have been awarded to local suppliers, being 86% of all contracts, once again exceeding our target of 80% of contracts going to local South East Queensland providers. So far this financial year, 232 contracts have been awarded to local suppliers, once again being 86% of all contracts, a total spend with local suppliers of $1.59 billion. So, that’s a fantastic outcome, an incredible injection into local business and local jobs, helping to put food on local tables at a time when it is really, really needed.

In here are contracts for the desilting of the stormwater drain at Castlemaine Street, Milton. The demolition and remediation of 10 properties acquired through the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program, Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Regional Coordinator services; quarry, mechanical and electrical maintenance services, CityCat fleet replacement for the CityCat number 30 and 31, as well, in this document and a number of other contracts. The question that was asked before on contract 21, the management solution apparently provides an integrated view across all social media channels to manage correspondence.

Now, Councillor JOHNSTON pointed out that these free channels and, yes, that is correct, but these free channels are being used increasingly by people to lodge requests with Council. You know, it’s an alternative to the old form of correspondence that we would get. So, this is about managing the sheer volume of traffic that comes through, where a resident posts on a social media channel, which is effectively a request of Council that requires a response, and it’s about managing our engagement with the customers.

So, I think all Councillors would agree that’s a pretty important thing to be doing, and if we can do it more efficiently and provide a better service and a response to the customers who are engaging with us on social media, that is a good thing. That is a good thing. So, that’s what that project is for. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair.

**S****eriatim – Clauses A and B**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause A, PURCHASE OF LAND LOCATED AT 362 WATERFORD ROAD, WACOL, FOR BUSHLAND PURPOSES; and Clause B, CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JUNE 2023, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much. On Clause A, the purchase of land at 362 Waterford Road, Wacol, this is something we support, but there doesn’t really seem to be much clear vision from the LNP, certainly not in the last few years on how the Bushland Acquisition program operates. This one, at least, is bushland, unlike the DEPUTY MAYOR’s one, that was the—remember that one?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: The tennis courts, yes, where the DEPUTY MAYOR bought tennis courts for koala habitat, and the two palm trees, I do remember that. When you look at this one, you know, it clearly has bushland on it. It’s clearly connected to other bits of bushland. Council has obviously, in their wisdom, said this should be protected, but how this has come to Council is the owner has approached Council and said they presumably didn’t want to sell it for development, they wanted to sell it to Council to be protected in the future, but it’s an island now that’s being protected amongst all of that other bushland that isn’t protected at all.

So, there’s nearly $7 million that the DEPUTY MAYOR spent in her own ward purchasing tennis courts and palm trees for a supposed koala habitat. Imagine if you’d been able to use that money to buy contiguous pieces of bushland, like the ones that are sitting alongside this piece of existing bushland. Just imagine. Imagine a time when the LNP weren’t in charge and they didn’t politicise the Bushland Acquisition program and they didn’t misuse the levies that they’re charging each and every single ratepayer. Imagine a time—well, we can imagine a time like that. After 16 March next year, when the LNP aren’t in charge, because they have—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s right. I’ll take that interjection, Councillor GRIFFITHS. He reminds me of this, and it’s an important one. Seventeen per cent of the money that’s taken in from ratepayers through a levy—and it’s on the rates notice, it’s itemised there alongside the State Government levy there, so it’s listed down as a Council levy on ratepayers for bushland preservation. Preserving bushland, acquiring bushland, but now, only 17—because you’d assume, when you look at that, you feel good about it. You go, well, we’re happy to pay that because we know we are protecting bushland here in Brisbane, protecting our amazing biodiversity here, but then—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: If only. Seventeen per cent, that’s the maximum amount of that money that’s spent on acquiring bushland, on acquiring bushland for protection. We know that we’re nowhere near the 40% of cover that we need to be at—of tree cover we need to be at. This is a small step in the right direction, this, but this is in isolation. It’s an island. It’s not part of any broad strategy this LNP Administration has to actually protect bushland, because their strategy is to protect themselves. You know, there are plenty of endangered species in Brisbane that need protecting, but we don’t think the LNP fall into that category. They do. They do. Clearly, they do, and they politicise everything they can, but we will support this item today because this is an important piece of bushland to protect, and the other bushland that sits alongside it should be protected as well, absolutely.

Moving on to contracts and tendering, again, there’s no—Councillor JOHNSTON raises a good point—there’s no opportunity for us to interrogate what’s in these contracts, apart from what the list is before us here today and they’re ticked off by—the LORD MAYOR often says, not by him, by someone else. He apparently has no oversight when it comes to the awarding of these contracts, but I suspect for some of them—well, he claims the credit for some, of course, though. He reads through a few select ones as if he is apparently then right across this.

So, the first one, the very first one, contract one, is for footpath and bikeway active transport network assessment consultancy services. So, Future Data Sense Technologies is getting this contract here, and this is not a bad one because this is actually assessing whether footpaths and bikeways and roads are in a good condition or not. It makes you wonder what the LNP have been doing to date.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: For 20 years. Now, sure, 20 years ago, this technology mightn’t have been available, but we’ve called the file before on the condition reports of our footpath and bikeway assets, and they’re listed in categories, whether it’s A or one, two, three in their condition, broadly speaking, but when you realise the LNP actually haven’t really been looking at the condition of these footpaths and bikeways and roads, you wonder how they actually came up with these condition reports. Then, you start to realise that when you get the list of broken and dangerous footpaths and the amount of time they’ve been waiting for a repair, or sometimes they accidentally slip right off that list because there’s not enough funding to carry out basic repairs and to construct new footpaths, you then realise that this LNP Administration, Chair, over the last 20 years, has been outsourcing the reporting of broken and dangerous footpaths and bikeways.

I’m not talking about the LNP’s traditional outsourcing here to a private operator. I’m talking about outsourcing this work to residents. So, the LNP have entirely been relying on people being proactive and reporting problems. I suppose it’s not really that surprising when the LORD MAYOR stands up here and says he has no idea where broken footpaths are. The LORD MAYOR has absolutely no idea and no interest where streets don’t have footpaths. He confirmed that today in Question Time. He said he doesn’t care which streets in Brisbane don’t have footpaths on them, and it’s really evident why, because they’ve done nothing about trying to find out where these problems are. You know, I was talking to a disability advocate just today in King George Square.

LORD MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted. Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: Talking to a disability advocate today in King Elisha Matthews George Square, Elisha Matthews. Elisha was telling us how difficult it is to get from Hamilton to the city. Now, you listen to the Administration over the last couple of years and they talk about the gold plating of Kingsford Smith Drive, as if that apparently solves all of the problems in the world for bikeway and footway accessibility. It is really, really, really difficult for people living with disability to get around this city, let alone people who are trying to teach their kids to ride a bike or push a pram down the road or themselves might not be entirely steady on their feet in the suburbs of Brisbane.

To hear this LORD MAYOR get up in Question Time today and just brush aside those concerns, the most basic, fundamental thing a Council can do is to provide a footpath in a street. He gets up and I lost count, I think he got to 60. I was keeping a tally of the amount of times he said the word Labor, but he doesn’t much like talking about getting the basics right in the suburbs, and that’s really disappointing, but I’m glad they’re finally getting some software to help them with this. It’s just if they would match Labor’s commitment to increasing funding for footpaths and bikeways and making our city more equitable and more accessible, that would pay dividends to the suburbs of Brisbane and the people who call them home.

A few other contracts in here are important for us to look at, and the next one of those is the contract that Councillor JOHNSTON mentioned. I did go and have a look at some of the things that that company does. The LORD MAYOR claims—this is Sprinklr Incorporated, for almost $1 million out of that $1.8 million. What they made clear on their website is that they are the experts in data harvesting. So, when your LORD MAYOR gets up and says it’s all just about management, social media management, I’m sure they’ll do some of that, but we know this LORD MAYOR’s addiction to advertising and we know the best way to get the best out of that advertising and using ratepayer money to advertise on every social media channel is to scrape that data, isn’t it?

So, it’s very interesting that the LORD MAYOR is spending $1 million now on a social media management solution with a company that is expert in data scraping, data harvesting.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, that’s right, must be an election coming up, hey, when we’re seeing these contracts coming through, because this LORD MAYOR is absolutely addicted to advertising.

There’s another important one that I just want to touch on here, Chair. The LORD MAYOR mentioned that, which was desilting of the stormwater drain at Castlemaine Street, Milton. So, you know, this is one that comes through quite regularly, quite often. Where are all the others? Where are all the others? You know, we’ve heard the LNP Councillor DAVIS, who’s in charge of drainage in the suburbs of Brisbane, get up and confirm that, in her view and the LORD MAYOR’s view and all the LNP Councillors’ views, that the golf course out at Minnippi is more important than delivering drainage infrastructure to the suburbs of Brisbane.

We heard that today. You know, the LORD MAYOR’s budget newsletter—I was a bit confused, the one that arrived in my ward, because it was supposedly for the 2023-24 financial year, ostensibly, the things were in there, but the projects that he had listed down for the 2023-24 financial year budget were actually projects from last year.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

**32/2023-24**

At that point, Councillor Jared CASSIDY was granted an extension of time on the motion of Councillor Lucy COLLIER, seconded by Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, can you please turn your microphone off?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Oh, sorry.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. There were these drainage projects listed, so I thought, oh, okay, good. It says big tidal drainage projects. Then, I realised they were the projects that were funded in the previous year, the previous year, but never delivered. So, that carried over. The two drainage projects the LORD MAYOR funded in the previous year, the previous year at Eighth Avenue, Sandgate, which is a tidal valve that had been broken for five years, had been broken for five years. The LORD MAYOR finally funded it last year, didn’t deliver it, so has reannounced it, reannounced it, and a simple drainage upgrade in Brighton Terrace, and reannounced that one, as well. Sure, this is ongoing work. This is a good project, but where are all those other drainage projects?

When you get an Administration that puts a higher priority on data scraping, social media data scraping, and this golf course that apparently was entirely free, didn’t cost ratepayers a cent except for the millions and millions of dollars, they put a higher priority on those things than they do on the basics. Whether it’s about delivering footpaths or whether it’s about delivering drainage, you can figure out everything you need to know about this Administration.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR, your misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you. Councillor CASSIDY misunderstood my comments earlier. He suggested that I didn’t know where broken footpaths were. What I in fact said was I was wanting to know where Labor would build new footpaths. I wanted the list.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the purchase of land located at 362 Waterford Road at Wacol. This area spans 18,302 square metres and it is such an ecologically significant corridor, connecting Bullockhead Creek to the north and Ronald Reserve. Now, it’s important to note that, in Coulson Street Park, which is where Bullockhead Creek is, we have actually got a known collection or paddle of platypuses, which is fantastic. Obviously, in Ronald Street Reserve to the south, we’ve got a colony of koalas, too. So, it’s fantastic to see our Bushland Acquisition program purchasing this part of Wacol. So, by adding this property, our Schrinner Council continue our unwavering commitment to the principles of environmental stewardship and biodiversity preservation.

I really want to conclude by extending my gratitude to the NEWS (Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability) branch, to Councillor DAVIS and to the LORD MAYOR for their visionary decision in supporting this acquisition. Together, we continue to affirm our dedication to the welfare of our environment, the protection of our biodiversity and the cultivation of a sustainable legacy that will endure for generations to come. I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I rise to speak on item A and item B. Firstly, with respect to item A, yes, as expected, another LNP-funded bushland buyback. I find it very interesting. I looked at the map and I can see maybe why this parcel is being bought back. It’s interesting. There seems to be a lot of disused, maybe semirural or industrial land around it, so I wonder if that’s going to get chockers full of houses under the new LNP strategy, but again, significant tracks of bushland in my ward are not being bought back. There’s no consideration being given to buying them back. Unfortunately, houses are being built in areas of high ecological significance.

Cliveden Avenue is a great example of that. A block that is covered by Council’s highest form of environmental protection and mapped within the State Government’s koala corridor, this Council is currently considering a DA (development application) to allow houses to be built on it. It’s wrong. It is just wrong. There’s no—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh, and it’s in a major landslip area. So, again, we see that special deals can be done here for LNP Councillors, while Councillors with significant land—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I believe the Councillor is imputing motive on Council officers. There are no special deals done.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, would you care to withdraw?

Councillor JOHNSTON: It is a special deal.

Chair: You’re aware that there’s no—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Of course I am, but special—

Chair: You’re aware that there’s—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —doesn’t mean that they’re corrupt, and someone engaged in corrupt conduct does it. If that’s what Councillor ADAMS thinks, she’s the one imputing motive, not me.

Chair: I’m just asking if you’re aware that there’s no protection in this place.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Right. Yes, I am.

Chair: Thank you. Continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: God. So, again, we see another special deal being done for LNP—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr—

Chair: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I take offence at the comments from Councillor JOHNSTON. The way she’s saying special is clearly imputing corrupt motives by Council officers on negotiations that have been done.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, can you please consider changing your language around the arrangements of the contracts?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Are you banning the word special in the Chamber, Mr Chair?

Chair: No, I’m not. I am just asking—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: It does sound like you want to ban the word special in the Chamber—

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m speaking. I’m just asking that you don’t insinuate that there are arrangements. Just be a little bit more kind, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s a special deal in an LNP ward again. Now, maybe if some of them started happening in other parts of the city, we’d see a little bit more accountability and transparency in the administration of this program, but we don’t. The extra special deal that got done for Councillor ADAMS in her area with no documentation, we know that—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: We know that.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Now you are imputing motive.

Councillor JOHNSTON: What?

Chair: Can you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Is extra special wrong, is it?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just checking.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am asking you to withdraw your statement.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That an extra special deal was done for Councillor ADAMS and there was no documentation for the acquisition?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s all true. That’s all true.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and, in accordance with section 21(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, I hereby request that you observe my orders in this place. When I ask you to withdraw something, could you please withdraw it and refrain—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I withdraw the word extra special.

Chair: —and refrain from exhibiting that conduct in the future?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Right.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you have the call.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I withdraw the word extra special, Mr Chairman. I appreciate that’s the first ruling you’ve made in this place. It’s a significant one and I note that you don’t want me to use the word extra special, and I will intend, as much as I possibly can, to not use that word again in the future. No, no. I’ll think of another one, don’t worry.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, pork barrelling. They should just stick—they should stick with the traditional, but anyway, look, I don’t want to waste too much time on this. I’m just making the point, as per usual, the LNP get a rails run, lands bought back in their area, and meanwhile, in my ward and in other wards in this city where there is significant bushland under threat from development, it is ignored by this Council. That is wrong. That is the worst kind of pork barrelling by this LNP Administration. It is wrong.

Item B, well, I knew it would be extra—oh shit. I knew it would be—I knew it would be a delightful—I knew it would be a delightful answer from the LORD MAYOR in response to my question. What is contract 21? Contract 21 is the provision of social media management solution to Sprinklr Inc. as the main beneficiary, almost $1 million, with a lump sum to a number of other people who are unknown because, for those watching along at home, we’ve got one line in a paper about this. Like Councillor CASSIDY, I too thought, well, this seems a bit odd. I don’t know what’s going on here.

Most of these social media platforms people use are free, so why would the LORD MAYOR, other than a little bit of elbow grease from the staff—that are very responsive usually on social media. When you do ask for something to happen, they will log it and get back to you, and it works pretty well, as far as I’m concerned. So, why does the LORD MAYOR not have confidence in the faith of our staff who are running these platforms and communicating with Council officers?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I guess you can’t hear the LORD MAYOR’s interjections, Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’ve—Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s the acoustics in the centre of the Chamber that are the problem now, is it?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you have the call. Please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know, but maybe you want to let the LORD MAYOR know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order. Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Sorry, there’s constant interjection from Councillor MURPHY and he’s not being pulled up.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I gave both sides of the Chamber an exceptional amount of leniency before.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Possibly extra special, LORD MAYOR, thank you for the interjection.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m dealing with one point of order at a time. So I believe there is a little bit more banter in the place. If it gets a little bit more louder I will pull it up, have no fear of that.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, in defiance of your ruling that we’re not supposed to be using the word extra special, the LORD MAYOR has now shouted across the Chamber that your ruling is extra special, Mr Chair. I’m sure you want to take task with him for disobeying your ruling.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, that is not a point of order and if you decide to start putting words into my mouth I will consider that an act of disorder. Continue—please continue.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s only a problem if I say the word extra special, now I’m very clear on your ruling. Thank you for clarifying. So let’s just have a quick look at Sprinklr Inc. Free platforms, free platforms, planning of them, Council can talk to all of these people on Facebook, Instagram, I don’t know what, Snapchat. There’s the proprietary ones that Council purchased and, of course, Council has an online web info form that it spent a lot of money, hundreds of millions of dollars have come through this place in the time I’ve been here to upgrade Council’s front facing IT to support customer solutions. So we’ve either got access to proprietary built systems that Council manages itself, or we have access to free platforms that Council manages as every other business in the world does.

So what is it the LORD MAYOR wants to do with $1.8 million and $1 million of that from Sprinklr Inc? Well let’s have a little bit of a look what’s going on with Sprinklr Inc. Like the DEPUTY MAYOR, I had a bit of a look as well and the really interesting part, I thought, about how they’re described—and I want to get the words right here for fear the DEPUTY MAYOR might stand up and try and say I’m claiming something terrible, but Sprinklr—I wrote it down, where did I write it? Sprinklr Inc. actually—Sprinklr Inc. are actually an American-based software company, so number 1, the LORD MAYOR is not going and looking for a locally-based digital solution here. It’s a US-based software company, right?

Number 1, the LORD MAYOR stands up in here and crows over and over again how much of this is locally delivered small business money. Not this one, big American company. What is their objective? It is the automatic collection and analysis of social media data, the automatic collection and analysis of social media data. Now the Councillor for Deagon describes it as data scraping and that’s how most people would know it. It’s not about serving the community better, it’s not about answering their jobs about when their footpath’s going to be fixed, when their road’s going to be fixed. There will still be Council officers who do that, unless the LORD MAYOR is about to automate the responses to log jobs that this organisation does.

This is about harvesting data. This is about marketing to Brisbane residents, who give their data to Council for the purposes of making sure that their issue is dealt with, is fixed, is made better. But instead what this LNP Administration are about to do with this contract is behind the scenes suck every bit of information out of that data and use it for another purpose and that purpose is to market the LORD MAYOR. We know that’s what he does.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillors, before we continue to the next speaker, can I please acknowledge Ms Susan Lin, Director of the Tainan Art Museum, who has joined us in the Gallery. Can I also acknowledge Mr Wayne Ko, the Secretary General of the Federation of the Taiwanese Associations here. Welcome to Brisbane City Council Chamber, thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you very much, Mr Chair, and I rise to speak on item A, which is the purchase of land at 362 Waterford Road, Wacol, for bushland purposes. I won’t speak too much to that specific purpose—purchase, because as the LORD MAYOR and Councillor HUTTON described, it is a valuable piece of land that will—has been well received into our bushland estate. But I would like to just respond to a couple of things that have been asserted as part of the debate on item A. Firstly, once again, Councillor CASSIDY has chosen to talk about the bushland acquisition purchases as the Bushland Preservation Levy. Often Councillor CASSIDY comes in and talks about the bushland acquisition fund as though the whole of the Bushland Preservation Levy went towards it. I think it’s really important to once again point out the different programs that benefit from the Bushland Preservation Levy, including the bushland acquisition fund.

So the Bushland Preservation Levy consists of the bushland acquisition fund, the Brisbane invasive species management program, the wipe out weeds program, our community conservation partnerships, Community Conservation Assistance program, conservation reserves management program, Oxley Creek Transformation project as well. Of course as part of that, there was an accelerated program where 750 hectares of land was purchased between 2016 and 2020 and, of course, that needs to be paid for. That has been going very well and hopefully this financial year and early into the following one we will have that paid back. So I’m very excited about the purchases that we have under the Bushland Acquisition program. It does link important corridors, protecting our natural habitat. We are very proud to be the most biodiverse capital city in Australia and that is in no small part because of the Bushland Acquisition program.

Another comment that was made was that we are very far away from our 40% habitat cover under Target 40, well 38.9% is pretty jolly close I’d say and we are working hard to get to that 40%. So Councillor CASSIDY, 38.9% and going very strong. When it comes to where we purchase these properties, some are identified by our officers, but often times it does come either through local Councillors or through local residents who understand the importance of the program and feel that they would like to have their property put into Council ownership. That’s what’s happened with this particular parcel of land and I thank the residents for putting forward their parcel of land for consideration and as Councillor HUTTON said, it will be an important addition to the bushland estate in her area.

So Council officers undertake investigation and they assess under a very strict criteria. It’s disappointing to hear the comments from Councillor JOHNSTON, asserting that perhaps our Council officers do not undertake this with due diligence. I can assure you that that’s exactly what happens. We want to ensure that the bushland that we do purchase under this program is appropriate and does add to the biodiversity of our city. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JENKINSON.

Councillor JENKINSON: Mr Chair, I rise to speak regarding desilting of the stormwater drain at Castlemaine Street, Milton. In February 2022, extreme weather along the Australian east coast, including Brisbane, resulted in damage and sediment build-up to the stormwater drainage infrastructure. The remediation of the infrastructure forms a part of the February 2022 flood damage recovery program. Council went out to tender to test the market to see if this had changed and also give potential suppliers visibility that we were undertaking this kind of work frequently, so that they could potentially purchase a machine and equipment. The successful tenderer is Desilting Solutions Pty Ltd, they are a local company, employing local labour. Funds have been provided in the LORD MAYOR’s budget with an investment of $2.2 million.

The works included involve desilting a 380-metre-length of three-metre-diameter pipeline from Suncorp Stadium to the outlet at the Brisbane River. Sections of the pipeline were blocked with up to 1.8 metres of silt restricting the pipe’s hydraulic capacity to approximately a quarter of its design capacity and exposing up to 3,000 residents to the risk of flooding. The removal of the accumulated silt and sediment from this pipeline was deemed unsafe and unachievable by conventional means. Through the use of a remote-controlled—remote-operated sonar vehicle, the pipeline was able to be cleaned, removing a total of 1,850 tonnes of sediment from the pipeline in total darkness. The purpose of the contract is to rehabilitate sections of the existing stormwater drainage network so they can operate to their design capacity, therefore reducing the impact of flooding.

Work commenced on the site on 24 June 2023 and is anticipated to take 16 weeks. The project is an Australian first and was completed by the Brisbane City Council as a test case for future works. This project is critically important for flood mitigation in Rosalie Village and the Milton area. These resilient precincts have rebuilt and recovered many times, houses have been raised, buildings have been removed and low-lying areas have been repurposed. By ensuring we maintain this major inner city pipeline we will be better equipped to handle extreme weather events to mitigate the impact and reduce disaster recovery costs. I thank the LORD MAYOR for continuing to protect the residents of Brisbane against future events. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JENKINSON.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I just wanted to touch briefly on the discussion about bushland acquisition, because there’s been a lot said and there always is a lot said on bushland acquisition. So we need to just set the record straight on bushland acquisition, because this is a program that was first introduced by Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson and opposed by the Labor Party at the time. They campaigned against it as a new tax, so they wanted to stop the establishment of the Bushland Acquisition program. Thankfully they came on board down the track and we’ve seen since then, bipartisan support for the program, but the reality is what we’ve seen in recent times is some significant progress made under a situation of ever escalating property values. So what’s effectively happened is that in the period from 2016 through to 2020, we introduced an accelerated Bushland Acquisition program.

We did that because we knew that, first of all, the priority to get to 40% habitat cover was very clear and we were committed to it. We also did that because we knew that property prices would not get cheaper, so rather than spending a set amount year-by-year into the future, we effectively fast-tracked and brought forward future investment between 2016 and 2020. We invested over $100 million during that four-year period, $100 million and that was the equivalent of doing around 10 years of bushland acquisition in just four years. Now little did we know at the time, even though we knew property prices would increase, we didn’t know just how much they would increase by. So since we announced the accelerated—and commenced the accelerated Bushland Acquisition program in 2016, property prices in Brisbane have increased by anywhere between 30% and 45% to this point today.

Because we did the heavy lifting in that four-year period and invested $100 million, not only did we save a significant amount of bushland right across the city, but we got it at a 30% to 45% discount on what it would have been today. So that is a great outcome and it is a program which we have always actively supported and one that continues to make a difference to this day. We are committed to continuing the program, but acknowledging that we brought forward 10 years’ worth of work into the previous four-year term and so that was a significant decision to make and the right decision to make. But it means that we got more for the ratepayers’ money, it means we got 30% to 45% more land and more value through that program by doing it that way.

But when it comes to comments—and look, I hear time and time again the suggestion that there’s a favourability to LNP wards. We represent the most koalas, that is the reality, our team represents the most koalas. Whether it’s Chandler Ward or Coorparoo or Holland Park, koalas are our constituents too and if there’s investment being made in the wards we represent, it’s because that’s where the most koalas are. It’s fascinating because you’ve seen the debate just recently about the so-called koala triangle of death and our efforts to get the speed limit reduced and we’ve finally had a win, this is the area where the Labor Party are criticising the DEPUTY MAYOR for championing the purchase of land. In the koala triangle of death we acquired land, yet Labor somehow and the Independent Councillor somehow thinks that this is inappropriate. It was—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well koalas live in the middle of residential communities, they live in the middle of residential communities and so we have very clearly prioritised the bushland acquisition to where it will make the most difference. Whether that’s in areas with koala populations that are under threat, whether it’s from traffic or chlamydia or other challenges that they face, we’ve invested in those areas and we make no apologies for putting the money to where the koalas are. Just like we’re gearing up our efforts when it comes to protecting platypus in Brisbane as well. Look, to suggest that also the majority of bushland goes into the areas that are represented by the LNP, the LNP represents 70% of the entire city—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It is once again why you can’t take the criticism seriously from the other side, because they leave out very important bits of information. We are really passionate about the Bushland Acquisition project, we will continue to invest in it. But because of that foresight in that term between 2016 and 2020, we were able to acquire $100 million worth of land at a cut-price rate of a 30% to 45% discount compared to what it was today. That is a good outcome for the ratepayers of Brisbane and it’s helping us get to that 40% habitat cover sooner. We’re almost there and we will get there, we are committed to it, because we take real action. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

I will now put the Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 31 July 2023.

All those in favour say aye—

*Councillors say aye.*

Chair: Sorry, my apologies, thank you.

We’ll vote on item A of said report.

**Clause A put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause A of the report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Sarah HUTTON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 23 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillors, we will now put item B of the E&C report of 31 July.

**Clause B put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause B of the report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Jared CASSIDY and Lucy COLLIER immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

ABSTENTIONS: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows—

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Adrian Schrinner) (Chair); Deputy Mayor (Councillor Krista Adams) (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Adam Allan, Fiona Cunningham, Tracy Davis, Vicki Howard, Kim Marx and Andrew Wines.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy.

#### A PURCHASE OF LAND LOCATED AT 362 WATERFORD ROAD, WACOL, FOR BUSHLAND PURPOSES

**161/20/439/553**

**33/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the information below.

2. The subject property is located at 362 Waterford Road, Wacol, and is described as Lot 13 on RP68453. It comprises a site area of approximately 18,302 square metres and is zoned Low impact industry in *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

3. The subject property (outlined yellow in Attachment B, submitted on file) is improved with a modest dwelling. The property supports remnant, endangered vegetation and forms part of an important ecological corridor linking Bullockhead Creek and Ronald Street Reserve. This area is known to provide important habitat for koalas, platypuses and other threatened species. This subject property is included in the *Bushland Acquisition Schedule 2021-2025*.

4. In October 2022, the owner of the subject property contacted Council to enquire if Council would be interested in acquiring the property through the Bushland Acquisition Program. Council engaged an independent valuer to undertake a valuation and they assessed the property at $2,650,000 (refer Attachment D, submitted on file). A standard REIQ contract has been prepared and signed by the owner (refer Attachment C, submitted on file).

5. Should the purchase be approved, the transfer of the subject property will be completed by, and in accordance with terms negotiated by the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance.

6. The Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF LAND LOCATED AT 362 WATERFORD ROAD, WACOL, FOR BUSHLAND PURPOSES**

As Council:

1. has been offered land comprising Lot 13 on RP68453, commonly known as 362 Waterford Road, Wacol (the Land) for bushland purposes
2. the Land supports remnant, endangered vegetation and forms part of an important ecological corridor linking Bullockhead Creek and Ronald Street Reserve and the area is known to provide important habitat for koalas, platypuses and other threatened species,

then Council:

1. approves entering into a Contract for Houses and Residential Land to purchase the Land, through the Bushland Acquisition Program, at an aggregate purchase price of $2,650,000 (GST exclusive), as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file), and subject to any additional terms and conditions considered necessary by the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance.

**ADOPTED**

#### B CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JUNE 2023

**109/695/586/2-006**

**34/2023-24**

8. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

9. Sections 238 and 239 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (the Act) provide that Council may delegate some of its powers. Those powers include the power to enter into contracts under section 242 of the Act.

10. Council has previously delegated powers to the Establishment and Coordination Committee and Chief Executive Officer, to make, vary or discharge contracts for the procurement of goods, services or works.

11. The *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) was made pursuant to the Act. Chapter 6, Part 4, section 227 of the Regulation provides that:

1. Council must, as soon as practicable after entering into a contract worth $200,000 or more (exclusive of GST), publish relevant details of the contract on Council’s website.

2. The relevant details must be published under subsection (1) for a period of at least 12 months.

3. Also, if a person asks Council to give relevant details of a contract, Council must allow the person to inspect the relevant details at Council’s public office. ‘Relevant details’ is defined in Chapter 6, Part 4, section 227 as including:

a. the person with whom Council has entered into the contract

b. the value of the contract

c. the purpose of the contract (e.g. the particular goods or services to be supplied under the contract).

12. The contracts detailed in Attachment A (hereunder) represent contractual arrangements that Council has already entered into. The purpose of this report is not to consider making decisions about the contracts, rather for transparency of the decisions made on contracts entered into with a value greater than the threshold.

13. The Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

14. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JUNE 2023, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder**.**

**Attachment A**

| **Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for June 2023** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contract number/contract purpose/successful tenderer/comparative tender/price value for money (VFM) index achieved** | **Nature of arrangement/ estimate maximum expenditure** | **Unsuccessful tenderers/VFM achieved** | **Comparative tender price/s** | **Delegate/**  **approval date/start date/term** |
| **BRISBANE INFRASTRUCTURE** | | | | |
| 1. **Contract No. 512002**   **FOOTPATH AND BIKEWAY ACTIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK ASSESSMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES**  **Future Data Sense Technologies Pty Ltd trading as FEDASEN – $1,900,000**  Achieved VFM of 38.3 | Corporate Procurement Arrangement (CPA) (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$1,900,000** | *Non-conforming offer*  Retina Visions Pty Ltd | Not applicable (N/A) | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  14.06.2023  **Start**  14.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of one year with a maximum term of four years. |
| **2. Contract No. 512120**  **BRISBANE METRO – ELECTRICAL SAFETY SYSTEMS OPERATIONS ADVISORY AND DOCUMENTATION**  **Optec Pty Ltd as the trustee for the Optec Unit Trust trading as Optec Pty Ltd** **– $244,530\***  Achieved the highest VFM of 33.5  \**Comparative tender price is a mixture of tendered lump sum for stage one and a normalised price for stages two and three based on Council’s estimate of hours.* | Lump sum and schedule of rates  **$349,030** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  Powertech Pty Ltd\*  Achieved VFM of 31.19  WSP Australia Pty Limited\*  Achieved VFM of 29.7  *Offer not recommended*  Thyristors Pty Ltd trading as C20 Group E&I\*  Achieved VFM of 26.1  *Non-conforming offer*  B & N Hodge Investments Pty Ltd as trustee for the Hodge Family Trust trading as BNH Safety | $176,629  $277,450  $191,325  N/A | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  22.05.2023  **Start**  22.05.2023  **Term**  26 weeks |
| **3. Contract No. 512123**  **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A MOBILE JAW CRUSHER**  **Finlay Screening & Crushing Systems Pty Ltd** **– $888,500**  Achieved the highest VFM of 96 | Lump sum  **$888,500** | Mobile Screening and Crushing Pty Ltd as trustee for The Barr Family Trust trading as Mobile Screening and Crushing  Achieved VFM of 85  *Non-conforming offer*  Onetrak Pty Ltd | $904,000  N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  08.06.2023  **Start**  12.06.2023  **Term**  Three weeks |
| **4. Contract No. 512163**  **DESILTING STORMWATER DRAIN CASTLEMAINE STREET, MILTON**  **Desilting Solutions Pty Ltd** **– $2,250,393**  Achieved VFM of 38 | Lump sum  **$2,250,393** | One offer received. | N/A | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  12.06.2023  **Start**  24.06.2023  **Term**  16 weeks |
| **5. Contract No. 512193**  **REPLACEMENT OF DUST FILTER – RIVERVIEW**  **Engineering Applications Pty Ltd** **– $305,870**  Achieved the highest VFM of 31.5 | Lump sum  **$305,870** | FSI Engineering Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 26.2  K R Engineering Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 25.8  *Non-conforming offers*  HVAC Australia Pty Ltd  Maintech Group Pty. Ltd. | $251,800  $256,060  N/A  N/A | **Delegate**  EM  **Approved**  18.05.2023  **Start**  04.07.2023  **Term**  12 weeks |
| **6. Contract No. 521076**  **DEMOLITION VOLUNTARY HOME BUY BACK‑SCHEME – PACKAGE 5**  **W J & M Allendorf trading as WMA Demolition** **– $483,850**  Achieved the highest VFM of 17.57 | Lump sum  **$483,850** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  Logan City Demolitions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 14.63  The trustee for Paterson Demolition and Recycling Trust trading as Paterson Demolition and Recycling  Achieved VFM of 15.11 | $577,530  $536,166 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  07.06.2023  **Start**  14.06.2023  **Term**  14 weeks |
| **7. Contract No. 533754**  **CLIMBING BOLLARD REPLACEMENT – KANGAROO POINT**  **Australian Marine & Civil Pty Ltd** **– $255,449**  Achieved VFM of 32.9 | Schedule of rates  **$255,449** | One offer received. | N/A | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  02.06.2023  **Start**  23.06.2023  **Term**  26 weeks |
| **8. Contract No. 533807**  **DEMOLITION VOLUNTARY HOME BUY BACK‑SCHEME – PACKAGE 6**  **W J & M Allendorf trading as WMA Demolition** **– $531,430**  Achieved the highest VFM of 15.99 | Lump sum  **$531,430** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  Logan City Demolitions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 14.03  The trustee for Paterson Demolition and Recycling Trust trading as Paterson Demolition and Recycling  Achieved VFM of 13.67 | $602,340  $592,451 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  21.06.2023  **Start**  23.06.2023  **Term**  14 weeks |
| **CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **CITY PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | |
| **9. Contract No. 512170**  **LAND FOR WILDLIFE SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND – REGIONAL COORDINATOR SERVICES**  **Deborah Louise Metters trading as Second Nature Environmental Services** **– $255,449\***  *\*VFM and comparative price N/A as evaluation was based on the non-price score.* | Lump sum  **$620,000** | One offer received. | N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  14.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Three years. |
| **LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES** | | | | |
| **10. Contract No. 510800**  **PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY FOR LARGE MARKET CONTESTABLE SITES**  **Stanwell Corporation Limited – $9,200,000** | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$9,200,000** | Arrangement entered into under Exemption 9 of Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022‑23,* which allows for extension of contracts while Council is at market. | N/A | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  05.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Three months |
| **11. Contract No. 511880**  **QUARRY MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES**  ***Sub-category 1a – Quarry Mechanical Maintenance, Bracalba Quarry***  **Maintech Group Pty. Ltd. – $1,932,000\***  Achieved the highest VFM of 43.7  ***Sub-category 1b – Quarry Mechanical Maintenance, Mt*** ***Coot-tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  **Maintech Group Pty. Ltd. – $768,271\***  Achieved the highest VFM of 109.9  ***Sub-category 2a – Quarry Electrical Maintenance, Bracalba Quarry***  **I.D.C Electrical Pty Ltd – $252,065**  Achieved VFM of 31.7  ***Sub-category 2b – Quarry Electrical Maintenance, Mt*** ***Coot-tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  **I.D.C Electrical Pty Ltd – $458,674**  Achieved the highest VFM of 17.4 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$18,000,000** | ***Sub-category 1a – Quarry Mechanical Maintenance, Bracalba Quarry***  Australian Asset Maintenance & Engineering Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM on 33.2  ***Sub-category 1b – Quarry Mechanical Maintenance, Mt*** ***Coot‑tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  RPM Reed Plant Maintenance Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 71.7  ***Sub-category 2a – Quarry Electrical Maintenance, Bracalba Quarry***  One offer received.  ***Sub-category 2b – Quarry Electrical Maintenance, Mt*** ***Coot‑tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  Dawson’s Technical Services Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 13.2  Prosoft Engineering (Aust) Pty Ltd as trustee for NSTSN Henderson Trust  Achieved VFM of 11.1 | $2,020,200  $739,271  N/A  $451,100  $588,260 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  26.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **12. Contract No. 511881**  **QUARRY DRILLING AND BLASTING SERVICES**  ***Sub-category 1a – Quarry Drilling Services, Bracalba Quarry***  **Orana Drill & Blast Pty Ltd – $968,942**  Achieved the highest VFM of 85.3  ***Sub-category 1b – Quarry Drilling Services, Mt*** ***Coot-tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  **Orana Drill & Blast Pty Ltd – $243,740**  Achieved the highest VFM of 33.9  ***Sub-category 2a – Quarry Blasting Services, Bracalba Quarry***  **Maxam Australia Pty Ltd – $905,299**  Achieved the highest VFM of 86.3  ***Sub-category 2b – Quarry Blasting Services, Mt*** ***Coot-tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  **Maxam Australia Pty Ltd – $462,282**  Achieved the highest VFM of 16.8 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$13,000,000** | ***Sub-category 1a – Quarry Drilling Services, Bracalba Quarry***  Drilltek Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 67.0  Yahua Australia Pty. Ltd. Trading as Impact Drill and Blast  Achieved VFM of 48.6  ***Sub-category 1b – Quarry Drilling Services, Mt*** ***Coot-tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  Drilltek Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 26.5  Yahua Australia Pty. Ltd. Trading as Impact Drill and Blast  Achieved VFM of 20.3  ***Sub-category 2a – Quarry Blasting Services, Bracalba Quarry***  Orica Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 84.3  Yahua Australia Pty. Ltd. Trading as Impact Drill and Blast  Achieved VFM of 59.9  ***Sub-category 2b – Quarry Blasting Services, Mt*** ***Coot-tha Quarry and Pine Mountain Recycling Facility***  Orica Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 15.6  Yahua Australia Pty. Ltd. Trading as Impact Drill and Blast  Achieved VFM of 12.2 | $971,100  $1,259,193  $245,250  $301,460  $850,754  $1,021,930  $457,727  $500,918 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  26.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **13. Contract No. 511982**  **PROVISION OF THE SAP MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT AND THE SAP MASTER SOFTWARE LICENCE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT**  **SAP Australia Pty Ltd**\*  *\*Entering into a CPA for the provision of SAP Master Services Agreement and extension of existing CPA (120192) for the provision of the SAP Master Software Licence and Support Agreement.* | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Lump sum and schedule of rates  **[Commercial-in-Confidence]** \* | Arrangement entered into under Exemption 15 of *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022-23* which allows for exemptions from procurement where the marketplace is restricted by statement of licence or third-party ownership of an asset (excluding public utility plant). | N/A | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  12.06.2023  **Start**  30.09.2023 (SAP Master Services Agreement).  30.09.2023 (SAP Master Software Licence and Support Agreement).  **Term**  Initial term of five years with a maximum term of seven years  (SAP Master Services Agreement).  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of seven years (SAP Master Software Licence and Support Agreement). |
| **14. Contract No. 512082**  **TRAFFIC NETWORK MAINTENANCE SERVICES**  ***Category 1 – Traffic Network Maintenance Services***  **Cablepro Electrical Services Pty. Ltd. – $277,655**  Achieved the highest VFM of 34.6  ***Category 2 – Traffic Detector Loop Services***  **DLS Traffic I.T. Systems (QLD) Pty Ltd as trustee for Concrete Crushing Trust – $715,076**  Achieved the highest VFM of 12.6  **MI Electric Pty Ltd as the trustee for The Morris Family Trust – $954,987**  Achieved VFM of 9.7  **Public Lighting Solutions Pty Ltd as the trustee for the Olszanowski Trust trading as Vehicle Detection Services – $957,600**  Achieved VFM of 9.6 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$9,700,000** | ***Category 1 – Traffic Network Maintenance Services***  Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 16.9  Pensar Utilities Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 13.5  MI Electric Pty Ltd as the trustee for The Morris Family Trust  Achieved VFM of 12.7  Hyperion Technology Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 9.6  Property and Infrastructure Group Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 8.4  ***Category 2 – Traffic Detector Loop Services***  Allied Concrete Cutting & Drilling Pty Ltd Achieved VFM of 9.1  Pensar Utilities Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 8.4  Fast Cut Qld Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 8.3  Hyperion Technology Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 3.6  Property and Infrastructure Group Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 1.9 | $564,190  $684,865  $729,819  $946,713  $687,825  $1,011,360  $1,076,667  $946,713  $2,189,067  $2,940,220 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  26.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of seven years. |
| **15. Contract No. 512084**  **ENTERPRISE ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION**  **Deloitte Consulting Pty Limited – $420,000**  Achieved the highest VFM of 166.19 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Lump sum and schedule of rates  **$1,900,000** | *Shortlisted offer not recommended*  Change Compass Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 89.76 | $485,760 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  22.06.2023  **Start**  23.06.2023  **Term**  Initial term of two years with a maximum term of seven years. |
| **16. Contract No. 512116**  **MEMORIAL PLAQUES AND GRANITE BASES**  ***Category 1 – Memorial Plaques***  **Worssell & Co. Pty Ltd – $402,239**  Achieved the highest VFM of 19.64  ***Category 2 – Granite Bases***  **Queensland Heritage Masonry Pty Ltd – $321,500**  Achieved the highest VFM of 24.26 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$5,070,000** | ***Category 1 – Memorial Plaques***  Matthews Bronze Pty Ltd trading as Arrow Bronze  Achieved VFM of 15.69  Phoenix Foundry Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 14.32  Everlon & Co Pty Ltd as the trustee for the Everlon & Co Trust  Achieved VFM of 9.14  ***Category 2 – Granite Bases***  T. Wrafter & Sons Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 10.32 | $407,993  $419,020  $547,306  $707,095 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  26.06.2023  **Start**  01.08.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of seven years. |
| **17. Contract No. 512183**  **ICT TEST MANAGEMENT TOOL**  **K.J. Ross & Associates Pty Ltd – $466,267**  Achieved the highest VFM of 16.94 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$800,000** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  Planit Test Management Solutions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 16.07  Baidam Solutions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 11.27 | $435,614  $457,489 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  14.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **18. Contract No. 5200700 and 533575**  **PROVISION OF AN EXTERNALLY HOSTED GIS PLATFORM AND PROVISION OF A GEOCORTEX ESSENTIALS AND VERTIGIS STUDIO ENTERPRISE LICENCE AGREEMENT**  **AAM Pty Ltd – $3,400,000\***  *\*Entering into a CPA for the provision of a Geocortex Essentials and VertiGIS Studio Enterprise Licence Agreement (533575) and extension of existing CPA (520070) for an Externally Hosted GIS Platform.* | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$3,400,000** | Arrangement entered into without seeking competitive tenders from industry in accordance with Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022‑23.* | N/A | **Delegate**  E&C  **Approved**  12.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of two years and six months with a maximum term of three years and six months (Externally Hosted GIS Platform).  Initial term of two years and three months with a maximum term of five years and three months (Geocortex Essentials and VertiGIS Studio Enterprise Licence Agreement). |
| **19. Contract No. 533576**  **PROVISION OF AN ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE MANAGEMENT TOOL**  **Seattle Software Australia Pty Ltd – $800,000** | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$800,000** | Arrangement entered into without seeking competitive tenders from industry in accordance with Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022‑23.* | N/A | **Delegate**  E&C  **Approved**  05.06.2023  **Start**  06.07.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **20. Contract No. 533680**  **COMMUNITY VALUES AND PERFORMANCE PLATFORM**  **Place Score Pty Ltd – $382,675**  Achieved the highest VFM of 16.6 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$510,000** | I.D. Consulting Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 6.4  Esri Australia Pty Ltd\*  *\*Comparative price and VFM not applicable as offer did not meet critical business requirements.* | $895,152  N/A\* | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  21.06.2023  **Start**  23.06.2023  **Term**  Initial term of two years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **21. Contract No. 533690**  **PROVISION OF SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT SOLUTION**  **Sprinklr Inc – $927,831**  Achieved VFM of 85.14 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Lump sum and schedule of rates  **$1,800,000** | Hootsuite Inc.\*  *\*Comparative price and VFM not applicable as offer did not meet minimum technical requirements.* | N/A\* | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  14.06.2023  **Start**  30.06.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **22. Contract No. MA-00014-2023**  **GARTNER FOR HR LEADERS INDIVIDUAL ACCESS ADVISOR**  **Gartner Australasia Pty Limited – $242,376** | Lump sum  **$242,376** | Arrangement entered into without seeking competitive tenders from industry in accordance with Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022‑23.* | N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  07.06.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Two years |
| **TRANSPORT FOR BRISBANE** | | | | |
| **23. Contract No. 510845-005**  **CITYCAT FLEET REPLACEMENT FOR CITYCAT 30 AND CITYCAT 31**  **Aus Ships Pty Ltd – $9,310,000** | Order under CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Lump sum  **$9,310,000** | Order placed under CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement) 510845-001 CityCat Fleet Replacement*.* | N/A | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  05.06.2023  **Start**  23.06.2023  **Term**  16 months |

**ADOPTED**

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HUTTON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **35/2023-24**  At that time, 3.03pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors locked.  Council stood adjourned at 3.05pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report, 7 August 2023 please.

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Two items on the agenda today, item A is the amendment to the significant contracting plan for the construction of the Beams Road upgrade. Also item B is the appointment of the new Councillor for Hamilton Ward, Julia Dixon and also Julia’s membership of Standing Committees and some other changes to membership of Standing Committees as well.

On the first item, this has been one of those projects where we are absolutely doggedly determined to get an upgrade going here and we will do whatever is necessary to make it happen, even under the most challenging circumstances. Now Councillor WINES has pointed out many times before that this is the second time we’ve been out to tender on this project. The first time we went out to tender we received only one tender, so there was no competition in that process. Obviously that is not an acceptable outcome, to go out to a competitive tender and receive one proposal. So we’ve worked hard to try and make sure we can get on with the project, but break it up into sections, so that we can get some genuine competition.

That’s been an ongoing process, to work with the industry and work with tenderers, to make sure we get something that works for ratepayers and provides genuine competition. Because we know if it’s a competitive arrangement we will get a better outcome for the ratepayers. So the second time we’ve been out to tender, we’re now keen to press the go button. But there have been other challenges with the Beams Road corridor in the meantime as well and once again, Councillor WINES has been very clear in some of the long history. Obviously this is a corridor that includes an open level crossing that will be replaced in a joint project between not only Council and the State Government, but also the Federal Government, so there’s a three-way project for the open level crossing.

There is a two-way project for upgrading other parts of the corridor and that’s between Council and the Federal Government. On the open level crossing we’ve been working very closely to try and ensure that the right design outcome is achieved, a design outcome that doesn’t disadvantage people with a disability, because the original proposal would have left them high and dry. So we’ve fought hard in the corner of people with a disability to get a better outcome for this overpass and so design changes have been made based on the issues that we’ve raised. Secondly, the design changes we have pushed for on the open level crossing will not worsen flooding, as we would have seen with the State Government’s original design.

It would have been a big problem when it comes to worsening flooding, so we’ve championed changes to the design and we’ve been criticised for that. We’re being accused of holding up the project, but we’re in the corner of people with a disability and people who experience flooding. So that was the right decision to make and that project continues on. But both of these projects, the open level crossing and also the corridor upgrade, have a big cloud over them through this 90-day Federal review. As a result of our advocacy, we have managed to get an exception so that this project was called out specifically out of the 90-day review, given that we have been out to tender, we are ready to award a tender. The contract prices will expire if we do not award a tender and so thankfully Minister Catherine King has given us the surety that we needed to get on with this project, even though it was originally part of the 90-day review.

The open level crossing project is still part of the 90-day review and still has a big question mark over it. What we’re doing today is a further amendment to the SCP to allow us to get cracking on the first stage of Beams Road corridor upgrade. So just repeating, we went out, got one tender, we decided to break the job up into multiple parts so that we could get some genuine competition. We have done that and we have gotten a competitive outcome. What I will say upfront is that this project, like every project that is being constructed at the moment, is under significant cost pressures. We make no attempts to veil the fact that this project is under pressure and pretty much anything that’s being built at any level of government is under cost pressure.

We look forward to a time when costs stabilise, but they’re not stabilising yet, they are still moving upwards month-by-month. But we have to get on, we can’t afford to wait any longer. We’ve had the delay with the overpass and the open level crossing, we’ve had the delay now because of the uncertainty of the 90-day review, but now we’ve got some surety for this section and we need to get going. We need to sign that contract, we need to get construction underway and we need to roll that out. Now what this SCP does is it makes an adjustment to the previous document that’s come through, whereby we identified Stage 1A, Stage 1B, Stage 1C.

We’re getting on with Stages 1A and 1B. We are committed to upgrading the entire corridor, but obviously we need to talk to the Federal Government about their contribution because there’s been significant cost escalations between when they made their commitment and now. They have been flexible with other people that they’ve given money to, to acknowledge that the contribution or commitment made several years ago needs to come up as prices go up, so we’ll be advocating strongly to get more Federal funding. But in the meantime, using the same budget that we have approved, using the same Federal funding and the same Council budget that we have approved, we’re getting on with the job.

So our intention is always to make sure the full corridor is upgraded, but we need to get on with this, these two stages, this SCP, to upgrade the corridor and then we’ll keep talking to the Federal Government about increasing their commitment to the corridor. I think like us, they want to see the corridor done properly, they want to see the full corridor upgraded, that’s what we want to see. But obviously we’ll keep talking to them about adjusting their Federal commitment. So this SCP allows us to award the contract, to get on with the job and to get construction started. I certainly hope that we’ll get the support of all Councillors to do that. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on both items. I’m not sure if the LORD MAYOR spoke about the appointment of Julia Dixon, but I’m sure he can cover that in summing up. I’ll speak on both of these items and start with the Stores Board submission for the amendment to the significant contracting plan for the Beams Road upgrade. I think the LORD MAYOR’s been caught with his pants down on this one. For the last however many months have we heard him carping on about the uncertainty in this project?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes and Councillor WINES, and they just kept on and on about it and it’s become really, really clear why. Council under the LNP really had no commitment to this project. I mean they’re forced to do it now because that certainty was given last week, as we heard from Councillor WINES. But I suspect they really deep down desperately wanted the Federal Government to not give the go-ahead, I think that’s what they really wanted, Chair. Because what the result we’ve got here today is an admission that this LNP Administration can’t do suburban road projects. They can no longer deliver a suburban road project. A Council road project on a Council road can’t be delivered by this LNP Administration without other levels of government, that’s what they have admitted here today and their behaviour over the last couple of months has confirmed that.

The LORD MAYOR has totally and utterly dropped the ball on this project. If the LORD MAYOR had spent less time, I think, trying to score political points on this Beams Road corridor—for years now, we’ve heard him pick fights with the State Government over the open level crossing and delay that project. We’ve had him over the last couple of months desperately trying to get the Federal Government to walk away from this project so he could drop it altogether. If he’d spent less time doing that and actually more time on service delivery and delivering this road project, we’d have seen it get off the ground. But it’s clearly take out the trash day for the LORD MAYOR.

This item, which ordinarily would come through in the E&C report, was dropped at what was it, 5.27pm last night, 5.27pm the day before a Council meeting, with all of the figures and all of the timeframes redacted out from public view and hidden from scrutiny entirely. I guess the LORD MAYOR was hoping that no one would really notice the methods which he has undertaken here. He’s sort of told us today there’s nothing to see here apparently, but I think all of those commuters who are stuck in congestion along the Beams Road corridor, trying to get in that east-west between Sandgate Road and Gympie Road and beyond, would notice, they would notice. When they find out that this LORD MAYOR, through his own political decisions today in amending this significant contracting plan, is delaying this project even further, I think they’re going to mark him down on that.

So if you want a really simple explanation in real life terms about what we mean when we say people are paying more and getting less under the LNP, this is it, this is the example right here. So people are continuing to pay higher and higher and higher rates and would expect that Council gets the basics done at least, suburban road projects on Council roads are done by Council. Of course major projects, major projects you would seek the support from other levels of government, like an overpass, that run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. We’re talking about a Council road project on a Council road here. So what we’ve got now, in this year, the same year that the Victoria Park project is going from $83 million to $141 million, we’re actually seeing this Council road project gutted. We’re seeing this—key elements of this Council road project kicked down the road.

So whenever the LORD MAYOR looks for savings to cover whether it’s a black hole in the Metro project budget, or now this black hole in the Victoria Park budget, whenever the LORD MAYOR looks for savings somewhere, he always goes to the suburbs first. So looking for—needs to fill a black hole in an inner-city project, he always goes to the suburbs. Whether it’s things like bikeway projects or those Community Grants programs a couple of years ago we saw cut and now the Beams Road project is on the chopping block, on this LORD MAYOR’s chopping block. So whenever those inner-city projects are off the rails, the LORD MAYOR comes to the suburbs and cuts projects and residents end up missing out. So these residents in the outer-northern suburbs, not just in my ward but in Councillor LANDERS’ ward, the Bracken Ridge Ward, have been neglected by this LNP Administration for far too long.

Now they’re carving out the third piece of this project, the third stage of this project, into the never-never. There’s no timeline on it now, it just is a sort of aspirational thing and we know what that looks like. We know what that looks like in reality when the LORD MAYOR then moves these things into the never-never and takes the funding away from them and just says they’ll be considered as part of a future budget. We all have those examples in our wards, whether they’re very small road projects, local area traffic management projects, whether they’re drainage projects. You always get that response, that when future funding becomes available. Well clearly the LORD MAYOR’s made the decision that he doesn’t want to complete the Beams Road project at all, which we must remember is a Council project, on a Council road, that is completely contingent on Federal money.

So they can’t—they clearly have demonstrated they can’t deliver the first two stages of this project on time or on budget, what hope is there for that third stage which is in the maybe column all the way down the road? So LORD MAYOR, I think his sort of—his pitch to the people of Brisbane in the future is just four more years of the same, that’s what his pitch for re-election is basically, four more years of the same. So four more years of congestion, four more years of projects being delayed, four more years of projects being gutted, four more years of projects being cut. This is the LNP’s plan for the future of Brisbane. When we talk about addressing congestion on the northside, they get up and make a big song and dance about it over the last six months of Beams Road, but the chickens have come home to roost here. It’s clearly a decision by this LNP Administration that is putting this project at risk entirely.

I remember back to, you know, 2016, when the LORD MAYOR said, standing up there as the Deputy Mayor at the time and the Chair in charge of the Metro, and they said it’s a State Government project, Council shouldn’t be doing it. The LORD MAYOR said—and Graham Quirk at the time and Adrian SCHRINNER since, have said that project is a State Government project. But they made the decision, the LNP made the decision they were going to go ahead alone and do it anyway and he said the same about his green bridges. So he’s happy to go and do projects that are apparently, according to him, not really a Council responsibility and clearly those things are impacting on Council projects in the suburbs of Brisbane.

Again this is a Council road, it’s a Council road project, these are the kinds of projects that should be done by a Council. That’s what people expect when they pay their rates, they see projects like this delivered. You know and if maybe you just spent—instead of spending that $10 million on that north-west transit, talking of another State Government road corridor and State Government project that he went and meddled with, if he had just spent that $10 million on this project, he might have got it started a whole lot earlier. But again just true to form, the LORD MAYOR’s more interested in politics, in point scoring, than actual building of road projects and the residents are always the first ones to miss out. So I think, you know, this is really disappointing for people on the northside and I think people in Carseldine, in Fitzgibbon, are going to be extremely disappointed when they hear that Councillor LANDERS, their LNP Councillor and the LNP LORD MAYOR are responsible—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I’m trying to pick up what they were saying, I was going to use it, Chair—are responsible for this project being gutted. So we’re seeing an entire intersection upgrade which is apparently as of 5.26pm yesterday, 5.26pm yesterday was an integral part of this project. The intersection upgrade at the intersection of Handford Road and Beams Road was an integral part of the Beams Road corridor upgrade, according to the LNP. At 5.27pm yesterday that all changed and apparently it’s not needed anymore. The LORD MAYOR couldn’t possibly find any funding for that, because we know that the Victoria Park project is eating all that budget up. That’s gone from $83 million to $141 million. He’s not finding any savings there, he’s not finding any savings in the Metro, he’s not finding any savings in the Green Bridges Program and he’s not finding any savings in his Victoria Park. He’s finding savings in suburban road projects and congestion busting projects in the suburbs of Brisbane.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

**36/2023-24**

At that point, Councillor Jared CASSIDY was granted an extension of time on the motion of Councillor Lucy COLLIER, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. So I don’t mind if the LORD MAYOR—and Lord Mayors and Councillors and Councils should advocate for things that are beyond their control. Whether it is on important national issues, sure, do that, have a view on that, go and advocate on it. But the caveat to that and it’s a very important one, is that you’re actually doing your job first. You can’t put your job to the side as LORD MAYOR and say we’re not really going to worry about building footpaths, we’re not really going to worry about building drainage, we’re not really going to worry about investing in the Beams Road upgrade and then go and advocate on these other things. You can’t do that unless you get your job right and you get your house in order and clearly under this LNP Administration they are not. Their house is not in order, they need to be looking in their own backyard before they start going off and picking fights with the State Government and the Federal Government on other projects.

This is extremely disappointing to see this project on the LNP’s watch, something that has been talked about for a long time, that I’ve talked about, that Councillor LANDERS has talked about in here, Councillor WINES *ad nauseam* and the LORD MAYOR and to find out that apparently all of that was worth nothing from those LNP Councillors. Their words were entirely hollow, all of the politicking that they did, really meant nothing in terms of the delivery of this project, because they’re just kicking it down the road now, they’re kicking the can down the road and we’re not going to see this project built as promised. That’s just a simple fact and this is again a Council road and it’s a Council road project, so you know, we know what the priorities of this LNP Administration are.

Budgets for inner-city projects climb every year, continue to climb. If there’s a blowout they don’t worry, they just get more money and put it in there each and every time. The advertising budget climbs, extra *Living in Brisbane* newsletter, social media management for data scraping. All of those things continue to climb and they’re all at the expense of suburban road projects and suburban bikeway projects and suburban community clubs and sporting clubs. I mean this is—these decisions by this LNP Administration and this situation before us paints the picture of this LNP Administration, that their priorities are all wrong.

On item B, the appointment of Julia Dixon as Councillor for the Hamilton Ward and alterations to Council’s Standing Committee membership. This is obviously an item we’ll support, in supporting the appointment of Julia Dixon as the Councillor for Hamilton Ward, I think in here today. All the very best, welcome to the Chamber. I’m not sure if you’ve been watching the whole time along here, but welcome. Welcome to the Chamber, it’s an interesting experience, I’m sure as a few other new Councillors can attest to that. I’ve racked up a couple of years here now, but certainly wish you all the very best as the Councillor for the Hamilton Ward. Obviously you have some experience in politics, reading through the information that’s before us today and having worked at the Property Council before joining the LNP benches here in Council.

I do have a bit of an issue with the way in which the Standing Committees have been arranged. In the past, I know in the time I’ve been here in this role, we have in the past approached an LNP Mayor, a different one, it was Graham Quirk at the time, about Committee memberships and work cooperatively in assigning memberships of those Committees on a proactive basis. In the past we have had this LORD MAYOR reach out and contact us and seek our views about Committee memberships. That’s going back a few years now. What we’ve seen over the last couple of iterations of Committee memberships is that that—you know, there’s politics in here and this is a place of great debate, but there was a somewhat collegiate approach to how those Committees were constituted in the past and that’s totally disappeared.

Because the first time I saw the Committee memberships and for Labor Councillors and for the Independent Councillor, to be moved and appointed to Committees was at 5.27pm yesterday when these papers came through. Sure, that’s the Administration’s prerogative, the LORD MAYOR can run the show how he wants at the moment. But you know, just reaching out, a phone call, a text, an email or something might go a long way in building those relationships outside of the heated debate in this Chamber. We will support that and whatever, you’ve got the numbers, you can do it. But there is a different approach you can take in that and it might take occasionally some of the heat out of these things as well.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Thank you, Chair, and I rise to talk on item A and to support this significant contract for Beams Road. I’ve risen several times in this Chamber to talk about this project and as have many others and perhaps Councillor CASSIDY wasn’t listening or paying attention, because this project has always been divided into several stages. Of course Stage 1, with the removal of the Dorville Road roundabout is particularly important because there have been multiple recorded accidents on this roundabout, which sees about 19,000 cars a day, which is increasing with the building of the Holy Spirit College and also the increase with traffic that has come from the residential development in the Carseldine development. So it’s so important that we do get this project started and technically, I think we actually had started the project, because Council has a reputation for getting on with these projects. We’ve done that with Hoyland Street, we did it with Norris Road, we did it with Roghan Road, with Dorville Road. Not only did we get on and get the project done, we got it done before time.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: But we also did them under budget, so I’m not quite sure what Councillor CASSIDY is talking about. He may be getting us confused with the State Labor. No, he couldn’t because they’re not building anything, they don’t do any projects. We have Linkfield Road, we have the removal of the Beams Road rail overpass, which are State projects, but guess who’s funding the majority, the Federal Government. They promised that—well the Linkfield Road was over six years ago, hasn’t started, so Beams Road over three years ago. Both these projects have been caught up in this 90-day review, because they haven’t started yet, despite the billboard that we saw from—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: Yes, when did it say it was going to start? 2021, but it hasn’t, so it’s been caught up in the 90-day review. So I’m not sure what Councillor CASSIDY has been doing, or how he thinks that these roads are delivered. This is how we deliver these roads, not through just ratepayer funded money. So I’m glad that we’re in charge. Having moved the services out of the way and having purchased all of the concrete pipes, ready to start this project, it was very frustrating to see this project caught up in the Federal Labor Government’s review.

It was particularly surprising because we saw on Councillor CASSIDY’s social media and the Member for Lilley’s social media this is a great project, this is going to improve congestion. This is going to actually deliver jobs on the northside, I think that’s what they said and so they were happy to get out there and sprout it. But when it was caught up in the 90-day review, we heard nothing, nothing. The LORD MAYOR, Councillor WINES, myself, Luke Howarth, we all wrote to the Minister and explained to her how important it was and timely that we have this contract signed, sealed and delivered, so that we can get on with Stage 1.

Fortunately through us writing to the Minister and explaining it, fortunately she saw that this was an important thing to do and we’ve been able to get on and start and have this project probably started very soon, once this is agreed to today. I do hope that Councillor CASSIDY does say yes to this and agree with this, because I did see him and the Member for Lilley again on their social media telling us—walking there with Minister King, and saying that they’re delivering it. So you know, despite them not responding to the hundreds and hundreds of people who’ve been contacting me and saying how frustrated they are with this Labor Federal Government putting a stop to it and they just want the project to get started, they can see the concrete pipes, Councillor CASSIDY.

They can see that we were moving the services, they know we started this project, because that’s what Council does, we get on with delivering. Had we not been held up, we’d deliver on time and generally under budget. But obviously putting this into a 90-day review has not helped the situation. As I said, the Beams Road rail overpass and the Linkfield Road upgrade are caught up in this review and I hear nothing from the State representative of Aspley. I hear nothing about this and are they appealing to Minister King about this as well? No, because probably the project has not started, despite multiple hits of the Linkfield Road overpass by trucks and trucks cannot travel across it right now, causing congestion, we hear nothing. We are still waiting, six years after it was promised.

I’m sick and tired of hearing the excuse that we didn’t have the money, we didn’t have the money, because once again, these guys don’t understand how it works and this is how it happens in every State in Australia and has always happened. The Federal Government doesn’t hand over the money to you all in one lump sum. It’s just like when you have your own renovation of your home or building a house, you don’t get it in a lump sum. When you start the project you get instalments, so they’ve got to start the project and they haven’t. Now Labor are in charge down there, have they handed the money over for Linkfield?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: Because it hasn’t started. So I’m sorry, Councillor CASSIDY, you can say all you like about us holding things up, but this project is going ahead. Stage 1 is going to start and the next stage will follow that and the next stage will follow that. So I do hope that you do agree to this today. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor LANDERS.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on the—am I allowed to say it? I don’t think I’m allowed to say it, am I? Is it actually called a special?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: You’ve got a choice of either—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Or am I allowed to say it?

Chair: You’ve got a choice of item A or B to speak on.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, yes, I’m rising to speak on—and I just want to make sure I’m not breaching your ruling, Mr Chairman, about the additional—I’ll say additional E&C report, on both items A and B. I would just like to start by saying like Councillor CASSIDY, I would have thought that there is a basic kind of decency about people in the LNP. You know, a minimum level of kind of human behaviour that is a reasonable thing to discuss, right? That that might involve—and I hear the DEPUTY MAYOR, snipe, snipe, sniping other there, but—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MACKAY, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: To be described as, other changes, that’s it, not actually in the E&C, the additional E&C report, which was sent out at 5.26pm last night, buried in an email that said agenda changes. You read through it and it looks like it’s about the appointment of the new Councillor for Hamilton Ward and her appointment on two Committees. But you’ve got to read the fine print, don’t you, with this Administration, because buried in Attachment D is some changes to Committee. Now did anyone in the LNP have the basic courtesy to reach out and say this is what we’re going to do? No, they did not.

For months they’ve actually been blocking my motion, which is still sitting on the table here, to be appointed to the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, where there has been a vacancy. Now instead of doing that, what the LNP have done is to take Councillor STRUNK off the Planning Committee and put him on to the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee and to put me on to City Planning Committee. So look, like Councillor CASSIDY says, the LNP have a massive majority here, they’re going to do what they’re going to do. But did they have a basic level of decency to say hey, this is what we’re going to do? They didn’t even do that.

They sent out an email which was about something else and then in the attachment to the attachment, which wasn’t actually included in the email, there’s changes to our jobs, our jobs. Not, you know, we’re going to not have afternoon tea at three o’clock. Actually the work that you do in this city on behalf of residents of the city is changing and this is how it is going to change. Did they do that? No, they didn’t. They think they just want to be tricky and mean and out of touch. I mean Shane Stone was right 30 years ago and he’s right about this lot, the same thing could apply. It is just appalling behaviour to do this. To do it to me is to be expected, but to do it to Councillor STRUNK, who is actually a decent person and does nothing but—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well the DEPUTY MAYOR is, as opposed to everyone else and Ryan—Councillor MURPHY’s cackling his head off, but of course none of their behaviour will be admonished by you in this place. So all I’m saying is Councillor STRUNK’s a decent person. You could have had the courtesy to at least speak to him, but you didn’t even do that. Did Councillor DAVIS reach out and say hey, Charles—this is not in the Chamber but outside—you know, you’re going to be on my Committee, that’s great, I hope you’re okay with that? Did she do that? No. Did Councillor ALLAN say Nicole, I see you’re going to come on to Planning Committee? No, he didn’t do that.

As I said, I don’t expect anything for myself, because you know, I know I’m at the bottom of the food chain here and how people are treated. It’s pretty clear today that Charles, I’m so sorry to say, you’re down there with me. We are relegated to even the LORD MAYOR’s verbal explanation here today, an other change. Now when somebody’s job changes, I don’t think it is unreasonable for the organisation to make it clear to someone what those changes are. Can you imagine if you went into work in your office and suddenly they said well what are you doing here? This is my job, I work here. No, no, you work over there. That’s the equivalent for anybody else in Brisbane, but this LNP Administration think it’s okay to do that to Councillor STRUNK and myself.

Well guess what, it’s not a problem from my point of view, I love the Parks Environment Committee, I was on it for many years and I would have enjoyed being on it again. But Councillor ALLAN, I’ve got zero problem with being on the Planning Committee and I look forward to bringing quite a lot of issues through. I’ve never been on it before and it’s going to be most enjoyable. I’m going to look forward to my first meeting next week, I think it’s 10 o’clock. I mean not even on the papers was there a time about when it met, I had to go and look it up online on the Council website.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I don’t think it is, have a look at Attachment D, I don’t think so.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So you knew, he knew, he knew what was going on, yes, excellent. So I’ll just put on the record that the way in which this LNP Administration treats people as they go about their jobs is what is the issue here today. There’s not even a basic bit of courtesy to Councillors about the changes to their jobs. I mean it’s bad enough when they don’t tell you about projects in your ward, or announce things in your ward and can’t be bothered to let you know, I mean that’s politics. But when they change your job and couldn’t be bothered to give you a heads up, that is just poor human behaviour.

If that’s how they run the organisation, it is no wonder that Council officers are fleeing this organisation in droves. They too don’t like their jobs being changed without notice, without discussion and without reasonable debate. You can see that the management style that they use here is the same top-down heavy approach, you do what I say, not, we’ll talk to you about it and see what we can work out, but you will do what I say. That’s how this LNP Administration roll. They have become tired, out-of-touch and fail to engage in the most basic degree of consultation with the own people in their workplace. I sit four metres from the LORD MAYOR, maybe five metres from the Planning Chair. Hey, Nicole, this is coming through today. No, 5.26pm in an attachment to an email about something else. That’s how they roll.

Now briefly on Beams Road, I’ve just got a little bit of advice for the LNP, because clearly the message is not getting through. Don’t start big projects until you’ve got the funding sorted out, until you’ve got the project properly scoped, until you make sure that you’ve got the money to do it. Because when you start projects without having all the approvals in place, the due diligence that must be done to ensure successful projects, that’s when things go wrong, that is when things go wrong and that is what this Administration has become known for. The Metro, I mean they had to pay out contractors millions of dollars because they went ahead and started on that bus project without having the approval of the landowners. Here they just presumed their mates down there in Canberra would hand over the funding and they hadn’t got it ticked off, they had not got it ticked off.

They went ahead, they did the whatever it was, pipework and the other sort of, you know, preliminary works they did, but they did not have it ticked off. Now instead of actually dealing with it proactively, what did they do? They jumped up and down on the spot like a toddler, going the Federal Government’s been mean to us, they’re taking away our money. Well I haven’t seen the letter that came back last Wednesday, but presumably the Federal Government has said yes, your funding is secure. Who starts projects without making sure, that’s the first thing that you do? You don’t go out and bid at an auction on a house without having the money approved in the bank. Even people in Brisbane who are not sophisticated about major projects know that you’ve got to do the due diligence first—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and then do the project second.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair, and can I just—I will speak to principally item A, but just very quickly on item B, can I welcome who is at the moment Ms Dixon but will soon be Councillor Dixon joining us. I look forward to her joining our Council.

Moving to item A, there’s been a range of very strange comments made by the Opposition in the debate today. I just want to clear something up. By supporting the amendment to the significant contracting plan now, it will allow the tendering process to conclude within days and a contract be signed this week to deliver a project at Beams Road, Carseldine, right? So this is not like the project won’t be delivered, we are literally amending the SCP to deliver the project.

Now there’s been some conjecture about whether the project had started or not. I share Councillor LANDERS’ view that it should never have been within the Federal Government’s review because work had significantly started, because land resumption had been completed, because underground services had been moved. Because drainage equipment had been bought, had been purchased so that there was no potential risk to the critical pathway of delivery for the project because of an inability to find basic things like that.

Then we hear from the previous speaker, Councillor JOHNSTON, that who would proceed without funding? Well we had funding and then the Federal Government took it away, it’s that simple. It takes—this Council did not think that the Federal Government would be a sovereign risk to this project. They only became a sovereign risk when it became a Labor Government and perhaps we should all reflect on that. We were, as far as I was concerned, full steam ahead, everything was agreed, until the Federal Labor Government issued us with a notice that the project that we had always understood to be funded was now no longer funded. So they withdrew their agreement, as far as I am concerned.

I am grateful that through requests and evidence, the Federal Government has changed their mind and provided a letter of comfort, which is in our papers, that says that they will support the original funding agreement. That it even happened at all is actually pretty appalling. That there are still other projects under threat is still appalling, including the State Government’s component of the Beams Road project, the open level crossing removal. We heard criticism of the project because it focuses its attention around the open level crossing removal. Our project is, was and will always be, complementary to the State’s open level crossing removal project which will cost in excess of $300 million and which incidentally this Council has a standing offer of $40 million which we’ll honour, which we’ll honour and we won’t threaten the State Government with its removal, as the Federal Government did to us on this project.

The point, the objective of this project is to make sure that Beams Road is four lanes through the corridor, to support the open level crossing removal and to address existing and growing need for motor vehicle use through that area and improve public transport through better public transport provisions of the supporting services. Better bus stops, indented bays, those sorts of things. Also—and this is the important part in 1A, which is where we’re starting, position 1A—a full active transport corridor from the end of the open level crossing work near, we’re going to call it, the clocktower shops all the way to Lacey Road, which does not exist at the moment. Then 1B we will start on the other side near the village and we will go all the way up to just short of the Handford Road intersection. A bikeway, a cycleway that does not exist today will be built.

There’ll be an underpass constructed, it will service this new Cath-ed—I think P‑12 school, which will be huge, will be huge when it is fully attended. The idea that—the proposition that this Council did not want to do this was preposterous. Like it was the most ludicrous thing that Councillor CASSIDY has said here for some time. I can personally assure him that I and the Cabinet and the officers involved in this project have done everything in our power to keep it alive and keep it going, including the creation of—of breaking the project down to smaller pieces so that we can improve opportunities to get better tenderers at a better price, to be able to deliver this project. Why would the accusation be made that we didn’t want to do it when there’s literally whole yards of drainage pipe waiting that we’ve already purchased for the purpose of delivery? Why would we do that if—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Well it’s taking performative politics to strange new places. It doesn’t make any sense. I think to myself how would one get to this point? Now as I said, we had Stage 1, there’s of course—when we entered into the Beams Road project there was always three elements of the project, 1, 2, 3, and then we only had one tenderer on one. That was not acceptable to me and I hope most Councillors would not accept a single tenderer on a project of this scale. We broke item 1 into item 1A, 1B and 1C. 1A and 1B are the corridor, that’s what we’re talking about today and 1C is the Handford Road intersection with Beams Road.

Our work will be on the corridor, our focus will be on complementing the State Government’s work of the open level crossing removal and always our focus will be on making our roads safe and efficient so that people can get home sooner and safer on a quality local road network. I encourage all Councillors to support this amendment so we can get the rubber hit the road on this project.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising to their feet.

LORD MAYOR, right of reply.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Obviously I got carried away on Beams Road because I’m so passionate about it and I forget to mention the other item on the agenda, but with your indulgence, Mr Chair, I will officially welcome Julia Dixon as the new Councillor for Hamilton Ward. I have to say on the weekend we had this thing that would be a bit unusual to Labor, it was called the preselection. There was a preselection, where people put their hand up and they go into a competitive process and they don’t get chosen by Labor Party headquarters or a union official. They actually get chosen by party Members and there was an amazing display of democracy on the weekend and we saw Julia Dixon come out of that victorious. It was a highly competitive field with—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, five very good candidates, five excellent candidates and it was democracy at its finest. It was grassroots, local democracy in the Hamilton Ward and I’ve got to say I’m excited about the future of this ward and Julia’s representation of it. Because obviously it is fundamental in the delivery of an effective Olympics, but also through the Hamilton-Northshore corridor there, that the State Government controls., the Breakfast Creek precinct which the State Government now apparently controls or wants to control, Councillor Dixon will have a very important role in making sure that those changes benefit the area. She will be a fierce advocate for the local area to make sure that Hamilton Ward gets even better as it grows and as it becomes invested in, and I know that she will be a fierce advocate for some of the things that we want to achieve in the area, like the Gold CityGlider, where we’ve done the work, put in the effort to develop a business case, present that business case to the State Government, and once again, waiting for approval—crickets.

We know that Councillor Dixon will advocate for her community. We certainly welcome her into this role. It is a unique role, and I would point out, with Councillor Dixon’s appointment, our team now has 60% women. No other political team in Australia that I’m aware of has 60% women, and so as a member of the minority in my team, I’m excited about that too, and I reject any suggestions that there needs to be a male quota to get the numbers up, because we make sure that our team is based on merit, not gender, and that’s the way it should be. It just so happens that through that process we now have 60% of the team as being female. So, a really exciting milestone, and I warmly welcome Julia into the role. I warmly welcome her into the team. It is going to be a busy period going ahead, but I know she will do a fantastic job on behalf of Hamilton Ward residents.

I mention changes to Standing Committees. This arrangement that has been put in place—it is interesting to hear the rewriting of history, because I made a genuine effort to engage with both the Independent Councillor, the Labor Opposition when I became LORD MAYOR, and they spat in my face. They spat in my face. They played nothing but politics. They literally misrepresented everything I tried to do to bring them along on the journey. Not only did they spit in my face, they poked me in the eye at the same time.

In the end, you learn a few lessons along the way. If they want to control the Committee memberships, there is a way to do that; it is called an election. So, they can do that. I wonder if they will take the approach that they have suggested if they were in Administration. I wonder, because this is the same party that changed the entire voting system of Queensland without any notice, by tacking it on to a Bill. Remember? Late at night, they changed the entire Queensland electoral system. They didn’t have the courtesy to tell anyone it was coming, and then they talk about, we should be consulted on a half-hour Committee each week.

I think this Committee membership will service all of us well through to the election collectively as a Council. If you want changes, as I said, there is a process on 16 March to get changes. That will be ultimately up to the people of Brisbane. But I commend these Committee changes. I also welcome Councillor LANDERS on to the Ethics Committee—someone who takes the Ethics Committee seriously, unlike certain other Councillors in this place who don’t think it’s important.

Beams Road. Councillor CASSIDY is very good at spinning. This is a guy who would make the Australian cricket team as a spinner. He has missed his calling, because really what has happened here is that the Labor Government at the Federal level and the Labor Government at the State level have done everything possible to hamper these projects—whether it’s the open level crossing or the Beams Road upgrade—and Councillor CASSIDY tries to blame us.

What has really happened here is really simple. We are 100% committed to this project. We are determined to make it happen, and we will fight for good projects. I can tell you, it wasn’t Councillor CASSIDY’s advocacy that got the 90-day review exclusion. His one contribution was to post on social media after the decision had been made—not to advocate and not to do any lobbying, but to post afterwards. But I’ve spoken to the Minister a lot. I’ve written to the Minister a lot.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—Councillors—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, if you have questions of other Councillors in this Chamber, you are to do it through a point of order and address it through the Chair.

LORD MAYOR: Let’s have a look at the timeline here. The previous government committed to this Federal funding for Beams Road. It wasn’t the Labor Party. It was the previous government that committed. The previous lost office in May last year. The new government gained office in May last year. Did they immediately initiate a 90‑day infrastructure review, as you would think they would? How long did they wait to initiate a 90-day infrastructure review? A full year.

So despite going into the election saying, we’ve got concerns about some of these projects, they waited a full year to even start a 90-day review. We warned them repeatedly that we had already started work on this project. This project was well and truly underway, and despite those warnings, despite ongoing communication at various levels, they included this project as part of their 90-day review. After 12 months. They waited a full 12 months before putting a question mark over this, and in that 12 months we were busy doing work on the project.

If we hadn’t advocated like we did publicly—and I want to thank Councillor WINES, Councillor LANDERS and everyone else who has been part of that—I have no doubt they would have taken this project out the back and shot it. I have no doubt. They are not in the slightest bit interested in funding road upgrades in Brisbane. They have no interest at all. They have other interests, but they are certainly not in Brisbane and in road projects.

Then to hear that the Labor Party and Council is suddenly interested in road upgrades, the party that opposed the Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade, the party who wants to form a coalition with the Greens to defund roads, to cut road funding and only invest in public and active transport—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

LORD MAYOR: The reality is very clear. There is only one side of this Chamber that is committed to building suburban road upgrades, and there is only one side that has a record of building suburban road upgrades, and so we will get on with Beams Road. We will deliver. We are absolutely committed to it, as we are committed to upgrading roads right across the city and suburb.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

We will now put the Establishment Coordination Committee report of 7 August.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Sarah HUTTON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 23 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Adrian Schrinner) (Chair); Deputy Mayor (Councillor Krista Adams) (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Adam Allan, Fiona Cunningham, Tracy Davis, Vicki Howard, Ryan Murphy, Steven Toomey and Andrew Wines.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx.

#### A STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BEAMS ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 1

**188/630/414/2818**

**37/2023-24**

1. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

2. Commercial-in-Confidence details have been removed from this report, highlighted in yellow and replaced with the word [Commercial-in-Confidence].

3. The Significant Contracting Plan (SCP) for the Construction of Beams Road Upgrade – Stage 1 was adopted by Council on 8 November 2022. The SCP is for the delivery of the Beams Road Upgrade Stage 1 project, scheduled to be delivered over three stages:

- Stage 1A – Lacey Road to Balcara Avenue, Carseldine

- Stage 1B – Carselgrove Avenue to Handford Road Intersection (Western leg), Fitzgibbon, Taigum and Zillmere

- Stage 1C – Intersection of Handford Road and Beams Road, Taigum and Zillmere.

4. At that time, there were supply chain disruptions, very significant cost escalation of a range of goods and services, and as a result, market conditions were highly volatile in a heated Queensland construction industry. Council adopted a two-phase market engagement strategy for Stage 1A that included seeking expressions of interest (EOI). This was followed by the formal tender process with shortlisted respondents from the EOI and received a strong and competitive response. The three shortlisted proponents all submitted tenders that are above the contract estimate for Stage 1A, as outlined in the SCP.

5. It is recommended to amend the SCP to clarify the procurement strategy for Stage 1, as Stage 1A and Stage 1B subject to Australian Government funding commitment and available budget for the project. The estimated contract value for Stage 1 is [Commercial-in-Confidence] million, plus a contingency of [Commercial-in-Confidence] million (approximately [Commercial-in-Confidence] of the contract sum).

6. The Beams Road and Handford Road intersection works (Stage 1C) will not be included in the current significant contracting plan. Council is committed to completing these works as part of a future stage of the Beams Road Upgrade.

7. The Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **AND THE SUBMISSION AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT B**, submitted on file.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BEAMS ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 1**

As:

(i) Council approved a Significant Contracting Plan for the Construction of Beams Road Upgrade – Stage 1

(ii) it is considered most advantageous for Council to amend the Significant Contracting Plan having regard to prevailing market conditions, rather than facing the risk of re‑tendering in a volatile market with reduced competition and associated delays

(iii) section 211(5) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* provides that Council may, by resolution, amend a Significant Contracting Plan at any time before the end of the financial year to which the plan relates,

then:

(i) Council resolves to amend the Significant Contracting Plan for the Construction of Beams Road Upgrade – Stage 1, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### B APPOINTMENT OF JULIA DIXON AS COUNCILLOR FOR HAMILTON WARD AND ALTERATIONS TO COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**137/225/37/16**

**38/2023-24**

9. The Divisional Manager, City Administration and Governance, provided the information below.

10. Commercial-in-Confidence details have been removed from this report, highlighted in yellow and replaced with the word [Privacy-in-Confidence].

11. Former Councillor David McLachlan tendered his resignation as the Councillor for Hamilton Ward to the Chief Executive Officer with effect from 2pm on 4 August 2023.

12. As:

1. this resignation takes effect during the final part of Council’s term (more than 36 months after the last quadrennial elections were held); and
2. former Councillor David McLachlan was elected as a nominee of the Liberal National Party, then section 166(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* requires Council to seek the nomination of a qualified nominee from the Liberal National Party, and upon receipt of that nomination, formally appoint that nominee by way of Council Resolution.

13. Under section 166(4) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to the registered officer of the Liberal National Party on 4 August 2023 requesting advice of the name and address of a qualified nominee to fill the vacant Councillor position for Hamilton Ward.

14. By letter dated 7 August 2023 (refer Attachment B, submitted on file), the Liberal National Party advised of the nomination of Julia Dixon to fill that vacancy.

15. Julia Dixon has provided the Chief Executive Officer with a completed Statutory Declaration (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) confirming they are qualified for appointment to the position of Councillor in accordance with sections 152 to 156 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*.

16. Additionally, it is proposed that alterations are made to Council’s Standing Committee membership, as set out in Attachment D (submitted on file).

17. It is also proposed to appoint Councillor Sandy Landers to the vacant position on the Councillor Ethics Committee following the resignation of former Councillor Peter Matic in June 2023.

18. The Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVES AS PER THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO APPOINT JULIA DIXON TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION OF COUNCILLOR FOR HAMILTON WARD AND TO ALTER THE MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES**

As:

1. former Councillor David McLachlan, Councillor for Hamilton Ward, resigned as a Councillor by signed notice of resignation given to the Chief Executive Officer with effect from 2pm on 4 August 2023
2. this resignation takes effect during the final part of Council’s term (more than 36 months after the last quadrennial elections were held)
3. former Councillor David McLachlan was elected as Councillor for Hamilton Ward as a nominee of the Liberal National Party
4. section 163(4) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* requires that vacancy be filled within two months of that vacancy occurring
5. section 166(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* requires that vacancy to be filled by a nominee of the Liberal National Party
6. upon receipt of that nomination, Council is to formally appoint that nominee by way of Council Resolution
7. under section 166(4) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to the registered officer of the Liberal National Party on 4 August 2023 requesting advice of the name and address of a qualified nominee to fill the vacant Councillor position for Hamilton Ward
8. by letter dated 5 August 2023, the Liberal National Party advised of the nomination of Julia Elizabeth Dixon to fill that vacancy as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)
9. Julia Elizabeth Dixon has provided the Chief Executive Officer with a completed Statutory Declaration confirming they are qualified for appointment to the position of Councillor in accordance with sections 152 to 156 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*,

and:

1. section 45(1)(b) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001* provides that a resolution may be rescinded or altered after approval of a standing committee report which recommends that the motion be rescinded or altered
2. Council may, by resolution, from time to time alter the constitution of a committee by removing, adding, or substituting members pursuant to section 58(b) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*
3. it is proposed Council’s Standing Committee membership be altered,

then Council resolves:

1. to appoint Julia Elizabeth Dixon of [Privacy-in-Confidence], as Councillor for Hamilton Ward with immediate effect
2. that pursuant to section 45(1)(b) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, resolution 41/2021‑22 of 10 August 2021, Council’s Standing Committee membership be altered, as outlined in Attachment D (submitted on file), with immediate effect
3. to appoint Councillor Sandy Landers to the Councillor Ethics Committee with immediate effect.

**ADOPTED**

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

**Procedural motion – Motion that the notified motion be taken off the table**

**39/2023-24**

At that juncture, the DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Andrew WINES, that the notified motion submitted by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON at the meeting on 30 May 2023, be taken off the table.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: The motion is off the table. Can I just remind the Chamber, DEPUTY MAYOR, of the motion? The motion reads that this Council appoint Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON to fill the vacancy of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee. Can I also remind the Chamber that both Councillor JOHNSTON and Councillor LANDERS have spoken. That’s it.

Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Do I have the call?

Thank you, Mr Chair.

**Procedural motion - Motion that the notified motion be now put**

**40/2023-24**

The DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the notified motion be now put.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you have a five‑minute right of reply if you wish to exercise it.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, the debate has been had. You have a five-minute right of reply if you wish to exercise it.

Councillor JOHNSTON: But you’ve guillotined debate.

Chair: No. The motion has been put. There was debate between yourself and Councillor LANDERS, so that’s both sides of the Chamber. I am completely satisfied that the debate is sufficient. You have a right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: But somebody moved a put motion. I’m sorry, I was just in the ladies’ room. Again, nobody discussed this with me, so I don’t know.

Chair: That’s okay.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, but then somebody moved a put motion. I’m just seeking, as I was in the ladies’ room, has somebody put the guillotine—somebody said the motion now be put, and that motion has been moved.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, the motion has been put, and you actually have a right of reply. Would you like to exercise the right of reply? You have five minutes.

Councillor JOHNSTON I’m sorry. I’m just trying to clarify what happened while I was in the ladies’ room. That’s all that’s happened. So has he called for further debate?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Why?

Chair: There’s no further debate, because the motion has been put. There was a procedural motion.

Councillor JOHNSTON: There was a procedural motion that the motion now be put.

Chair: Can I sum up? There was a motion put to take the motion off the table, which was successful. Then there was a motion for the motion to be put.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Right.

Chair: That was successful.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s all I’m asking.

Chair: As a result—

Councillor WINES, please.

As a result, you have a right of reply. Would you like to exercise that right?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I’ve got that. All I’ve been asking several times there was, has there been a motion to put the motion?

Chair: And all I am seeking is yes or no. Would you like to speak as a right of reply?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Of course.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I was just trying to understand why there has been no debate. Now I understand.

Chair: Your five minutes now starts.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you very much. The motion before us today, which has been delayed and blocked by this LNP Administration, was to appoint me to the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee. Instead of allowing debate on this matter, these are the things that the LNP has done. (1) When the motion was moved approximately three months ago, the LNP blocked it. They put it on the table, which is pretty much on the backburner. When I have attempted to have the motion re-enlivened for debate, they have refused to allow that, as recently as last week.

Now, at the time this motion was tabled, Councillor LANDERS said, we’ve got to make some changes to the Deputy Chair’s position and the Chair’s position, and it will be dealt with after that. That happened ages ago. They still didn’t appoint me to the vacancy on the Parks, Environment, and Sustainability Committee, and they still don’t want to. I presume they are going to block it, because at 5.26 pm last night, they dropped a motion in where I am described as, other change, by the LORD MAYOR to put me on the Planning Committee and move Councillor STRUNK to the Parks Environment Committee.

Again, this is how the LNP treat people’s jobs. They will just do it without even talking to you. They will guillotine debate without even talking to you. They will block debate without even talking to you. They will refuse to—

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. I believe that Councillor JOHNSTON may be misleading the Chamber, because she just voted in support of her reallocation to the Planning Committee and her removal from the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee.

Chair: So your point of order is on relevance?

Councillor OWEN: It’s misleading the Chamber.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON?

Councillor CASSIDY, Councillor JOHNSTON has a five‑minute right of reply, and I am intent on her having that five-minute right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I appreciate that. Not only was that not a point of order. It was actually wrong. I’m not on the Parks and Environment Committee. That’s what I wanted to be on.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, if you don’t stick to the motion—you need to stick to the motion, please. I know, it’s—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You do know the motion is about my appointment to the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee.

Chair: Yes. It’s a very brief motion, but you do need to speak to it. Go on.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Are you okay?

Chair: I’m a little snotty, but otherwise I’m fine. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s good, because I’m actually talking about the motion, if that’s all right with you.

Chair: Please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That would be great.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That just shows the LNP think I’m actually I’m on the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee. I mean, these people are just hopeless. I’m happy to serve on the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee. I always have been. I’ll be voting in support of this motion, and the game-playing with people’s lives and people’s jobs that the LNP continue to do without the courtesy of a heads-up—like this time, I literally went to the loo. Thanks so much for doing all that while I was in the loo. That’s really grown-up behaviour.

I think that it’s unnecessary. We should certainly have the opportunity to—

Chair: Councillors, please.

Please continue Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s really interesting, isn’t it? I think maybe one of the things that forced them to act is the negative publicity with what has happened in Canberra over the last few days, where it was in fact the Albanese Government that is seeking to block minor parties and independents from serving on certain Committees, and the LNP have been in lock stock and smoking barrels with them, with LNP Senators claiming that only the LNP and ALP can be on important Committees, because the minor parties and the teals aren’t up to it.

That’s clearly the same approach that this LNP Administration have been following by blocking these motions. I suspect—because I did tweet about it—that it’s quite embarrassing when they are caught out doing the same thing, blocking participation by an Independent Councillor from a Council Committee.

The sad part of all of this is, I’ve been willing to serve on this Committee for months and months, and there has been a vacancy for months and months. I’m happy for Councillor STRUNK. I will still be voting in favour with this motion, and I hope that all people do. I think the LNP’s tactics and how this matter was handled have been appalling, and I think that they should reflect very carefully on the fact that they are dealing with people’s lives and their jobs, and some basic discussion with Councillors about how their work is impacting would be appreciated.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. Your time has expired.

We will now put the motion.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the notified motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Trina MASSEY immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost.**

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 1 - Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

ABSTENTIONS: 5 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE and Trina MASSEY.

Chair: Councillors, we’ll move on to the next item on the agenda, the Economic Development and Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before I go to the report, I want to go through the highlights of the Business Hub, which is continuing to go to strength to strength. We’ve done our end of year survey with our people that are visiting us there, and the satisfaction rate has grown to 92% from 90% in the last 12 months of those who are visiting and using the Business Hub. So we have some very, very happy customers, and that total number of visitors in the last financial year was over 10,000, which is a 67% increase on visitors, which is absolutely fantastic.

Coming up in the following week, for those who are keeping track at home, that want to make sure they know what’s going on in the workshops and events in the Business Hub, is Business Growth Planning: Take Your Business to the Next Level. It is on 15 August from 9.30. It is being provided by ActionCoach, and it’s about joining an award-winning business training team in Brisbane to learn strategies across staff retention, mastery, niche development, leverage, building a winning team, creating business synergy and achieving growth and investment for increased profits in the next 90 days. So well done to the team in the Business Hub, you do an amazing work in supporting our small to medium enterprises.

Talking about supporting small and medium enterprises, we had a fantastic presentation last week on the economic support that we’ve had during COVID and after COVID, and everything that the Economic Development team have been doing through the flood recovery action program and beyond to support our businesses. It was amazing to see how much work they do. They really are hitting the ground running since we’ve opened up again from COVID, and it’s great to see the results. I’ll leave debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

We will now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sarah Hutton (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Jared Cassidy, Lucy Collier and Steven Huang.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE’S ECONOMIC UPDATE: POST‑COVID FINDINGS AND SUPPORT

**41/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, and the Manager, Economic Development, City Planning and Economic Development, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane’s economic standing since the coronavirus pandemic. They provided the information below.

2. The Committee was shown a graph demonstrating the unemployment rate for Brisbane and Queensland to June 2023. Unemployment in the city has been decreasing since March 2021, where Brisbane saw an unemployment peak at 6.5% as a result of the pandemic and the phasing out of fiscal support measures for businesses such as JobKeeper. As of March 2023, the unemployment rate has stabilised at 3.2%, which is the lowest recorded unemployment rate since April 2009. The unemployment rate of Brisbane has consistently stayed lower than the rest of Queensland.

3. The youth unemployment rate among persons aged 15 to 24 continues to follow the same trend as the overall unemployment rate. Whilst still at record lows, the youth unemployment rate has risen by 0.4% in the last quarter to 6.9% which is attributed to, in part, to recent interest rate rises.

4. The number of jobseekers in Brisbane in June 2023 was 28,350, which is comparative to March 2020 levels. The number of jobs advertised in Brisbane is consistent with seasonal patterns from previous years, with the number of advertisements in Brisbane increasing in the last quarter to approximately 31,900.

5. The Brisbane Weekly Payroll Employee Jobs Index depicts growth consistent with the seasonal cycles, decreasing at the end of last year as Christmas casual employment ended, and showing consistent positive growth over the last six months to 7.1%.

6. The Committee was shown a graph on median house prices in Brisbane comparative to other capital cities across Australia. Over the last year, Brisbane has seen prices fall slightly, however, a greater loss in value was experienced in other capital cities across Australia.

7. The Committee was shown a chart reporting on the median weekly rental costs in the Brisbane Local Government Area (LGA). House and apartment rental prices in Brisbane has risen for both houses and apartments. This is compared against the low residential vacancy rate in Brisbane, which has fluctuated between 0.6 and one per cent since 2022.

8. The number of annual domestic and international visitors has continued to rise since the pandemic, with interstate travel returning to pre-pandemic levels at approximately 7.4 million visitors. This has injected $6.9 billion into the economy. International travel numbers follow the same trend, also returning to pre‑pandemic levels with 700,000 international travellers visiting Brisbane and spending $1.8 billion collectively up to March 2023.

9. Brisbane’s Consumer Price Index has followed the overall Australian trend, peaking at 7.9% towards the end of 2022 and returning to 6.3% in the second quarter of 2023. In Brisbane, spending on four major consumption items, food and non-alcoholic beverages, health, housing and transport is beginning to reduce with transport experiencing the largest reduction in spending since 2022, down 11.8% to 2.3%. Consumer spending on food and non‑alcoholic beverages, health and housing are all stabilising at approximately nine per cent.

10. Queen Street Mall (QSM) foot traffic peaked at 101% of pre-pandemic levels in December last year, with activity declining over the new year period. Foot traffic at QSM has shown positive signs of growth since February 2023 and is currently at approximately 83% of pre-pandemic levels.

11. The Committee was provided an update on *Brisbane’s* *Economic Recovery Plan* (the plan), released in 2020, which focused on four priority areas to address the impact of the pandemic on Brisbane’s economy:

- supporting local businesses, community groups and residents to survive the immediate impacts of the pandemic

- rebooting the economy

- identifying future growth opportunities

- identify and incentivise the development of new markets and business opportunities.

12. Businesses were invited to complete an online survey asking what Council can do in the short and long term to support businesses during the plan’s development. Of the 723 responses received, 33% of responses requested Council advocate for State and Federal funding as a short‑term solution, with 41% of responders requested a long-term focus on growing the local economy as the number one priority.

13. The plan has three major themes: Relief, Reboot and Recover. Community consultation helped develop 88 initiatives including the development of e-commerce and financial skills, business advice and networking and mentoring as opportunities for support. In the 2022-23 financial year, Council delivered more than 95 business support, training and education sessions with 3,216 attendees attending the Brisbane Business Hub (the hub). Twenty-nine local business mentoring sessions were also held at the hub, with similar results at the Suburban Business Hub at Nundah.

14. As part of the plan, Council fast-tracked key infrastructure projects including:

- Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek green bridges

- Indooroopilly Riverwalk

- additional double-decker CityCats

- new and upgraded ferry terminals

- the Victoria Park Vision

- large maintenance programs including road resurfacing and footpath reconstruction.

15. Council also delivered a Buy Local initiative which exceeded the 80% target of total Council procurement spending occurring with South East Queensland businesses, and a Brisbane Business Summit, which provided a platform for businesses to come together to hear from local and interstate business leaders, with a focus on future opportunities.

16. Council supported approximately 14,600 businesses during and after the pandemic by waiving $23.9 million in fees, rent and charges. The Brisbane App was also created to encourage users uncover local businesses, places, events and experiences. The Businesses in Brisbane Facebook group and the Local Retail and Activation Toolkit continues to support businesses in coming together, sharing information and asking for advice, and is available online for all residents and businesses.

17. Council and the Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA) have continued to invest in tourism marketing campaigns to drive economic recovery. In the 2022-23 financial year, BEDA supported the delivery and preparation of:

- 20 major and mass participation events, generating $143.6 million

- 81 business events, including the Social Enterprise World Forum, World Mining Congress and Brisbane Truck Show, generating $48 million

- 41 new or recurring major and mass participation events secured between 2023 and 2025, set to generate $200 million

- 65 new business events running between 2022 and 2030, set to generate $68.2 million.

18. Council’s Colour in the City promotion activated eight vacant shopfronts across the CBD for two weeks, enticing a diverse range of audiences along a fun, vibrant walking trail in the city centre. Over 98% of visitors rated the experience as positive. Additional inner city support included:

- celebrating the Queen Street Mall’s 40th birthday

- launching the new ‘The City’ brand to align with Brisbane’s destination brand

- Dine BNE City and Shop BNE City

- the City Sounds music program.

19. Council and BEDA have also invested in Brisbane’s economy with the Summer’s Still Calling campaign, which has reached more than 97 million people and generated over $10 million in direct bookings to the Brisbane LGA. Council and BEDA have recently launched the *Brisbane Brief* across several counties and multiple languages, which promotes Brisbane’s unique selling points, highlights the city’s growth and investment opportunities and attracts domestic and international visitation to the city.

20. Looking forward, some of Council’s key focus areas will include facilitating opportunities through the following:

- Small Business Roundtable – convening monthly, the roundtable brings together Council officers, industry representatives and business leaders to give and receive feedback on small businesses in Brisbane.

- Adopt a Chamber – Council-hosted events that help businesses network and seek specialist advice from Council officers in chamber and business group meetings.

- Growing Precincts Together initiative – partnering Council with local businesses to achieve a shared vision for suburban business precincts.

21. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager and Manager for their informative presentation.

22. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee, please.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Angela OWEN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Mr Chair. Last week’s Transport Committee presentation was about the Brisbane Metro end-of-trip charging infrastructure. Of course, Chair, we know that the Metros themselves are battery electric vehicles, which means they require extensive charging infrastructure to operate. To charge our Metros, 15 flash chargers are being constructed at four locations along the busway. These chargers deliver an instantaneous 600-kilowatt charge to the vehicles through the charging pantograph. I know you’re familiar with pantographs, Chair, these are mounted on top of the Metro vehicle. It’s the first time that a charging system of this kind is being used in Australia, and it allows us to charge these Metros in just under six minutes at end‑of‑route locations.

At Herston, at the northern end of the M2, we are installing end-of-route flash charging facilities and Metro layover areas at the end of Ernie’s Roundabout within the existing fast layover area. If you are driving along Countess Street on your way into the city, Chair, you can now see the frames for the flash chargers under construction in the Inner Northern Busway.

Works are of course also well underway at the University of Queensland (UQ), where we’re not only increasing the platform capacity of the second biggest, or second most highly patronised station within the network at UQ, but we’re also providing the end-of-route flash charging and another layover area for Metros there as well.

The *pièce de résistance*, the Metro depot at Rochedale will house five flash chargers just off the South East Busway as well as 60 trickle chargers and their supporting charging infrastructure.

What’s important about the charging strategy that we have chosen for Brisbane Metro is that it strikes a balance between battery size and life, infrastructure impact and operational efficiency. The flash chargers let us integrate the charging into our everyday operations, and they maximise the service uptime of the Metro. So less down time fuelling or charging; more time carrying paying customers and passengers around our city, providing that turn-up-and go service.

I was out at the depot very recently and can advise the Chamber that works there are progressing extremely well, so we hope to be able to commence the testing and commissioning of the chargers there in the coming months. Chair, we already know, Brisbane Metro is a multi-award-winning project even before it is operational, and one of those awards that we have won is for this innovative charging strategy. In 2020, we won the Metropolitan Innovation Award at the Cities Power Partnerships Climate Awards, an award I was very proud to accept on behalf of the city.

This award noted that the project is at the forefront of EV (electric vehicle) technology and that, ‘the charging system is one of the most significant developments in the EV industry worldwide.’ So there’s no question that this Schrinner Council is taking the lead when it comes to adopting more sustainable cutting-edge technology that will keep our city clean and green. I have no doubt, Chair, that we have many more awards to come as we complete construction towards the end of this year, and we enter service and commissioning phase early next year. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly on item A. Here’s a few things that the Transport Chairperson left out of his award-winning project, and I’m pretty sure he would have left them out of his self-nominated awards nomination as well.

The end-of-charging facilities at the southern end of the Metro at the University of Queensland are actually powered not on that site but across the river in Dutton Park. So here’s a few things he didn’t mention. The added cost and complexity of having to build a power source to charge the end-of-Metro bus use remotely from the end of bus use that’s phenomenal. It’s a huge building project that’s currently underway.

Most people won’t know, but this has been a big issue in my community and in Councillor MASSEY’s community that the University of Queensland said, sure, we’ll have your fancy new electronic buses, but we don’t want the infrastructure to support them. This Council goes, no problems, UQ, we’ll just whack it in a park on the other side of the river.

So, the cost and complexity of doing that have added to the cost of the Metro project, because otherwise this infrastructure could have been suitably located on the UQ site and some sort of innovative design above the flood level. But Brisbane City Council did not do that. To my great sadness, Council has not said to UQ, you want the buses, you’ve got to have the infrastructure to support it, because the ratepayers of Brisbane shouldn’t have to pay more because you want the service but you don’t want the supporting infrastructure that comes with it, but they didn’t do that.

Guess what else? We know, from discussions I’ve had with the officers, that this is actually the furthest away that the actual battery can be to actually send the appropriate signal through to these flashpoints that Councillor MURPHY is talking about. The loss of transmission through the lines, which are going to hang off the bottom of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge, is extraordinary, and they couldn’t actually work if they were even a few metres further away.

So, the loss of energy transmission through the sheer bloody-mindedness of this Council and the University of Queensland is appalling, because the loss of energy from these transmission lines has a heat impact on the local environment, and that’s essentially parkland and the Brisbane River corridor. So, there are adverse environmental impacts through the loss of transmission through the line.

Here’s something else he didn’t mention. There are additional maintenance costs associated with disconnecting your power source for the charging at the end‑of‑route point from the end of route. We’re talking probably in a direct line maybe 800 metres, maybe even up to a kilometre away, between the end of point where the buses stop and where the actual battery is that’s going to power these flash chargers that are only going to take six minutes.

I really hope there’s not a problem with one of the lines, because that’s a huge issue to then fix it. So, the cost of additional maintenance and management of these lines is going to add to the cost of the project and the ongoing cost of running the Metro.

Finally, you’ve got the impact on the local environment. Council knocked down a lot of trees to build this big battery, and they’re trying to make it look fancy with a bit of screening around it—I saw it just the other day—but the footprint through the loss of vegetation on that site has been really significant. It was unnecessary. It was wasteful, and it is disappointing that Brisbane City Council did not do the right thing and say to the University of Queensland, we are giving you a vastly upgraded bus service for your students and staff; you need to have this infrastructure on your site.

Now I am sure, I am sure, that Councillor MURPHY is going to jump up and down and go, it floods over there. This Council approves houses in flood zones every single day. This Council just approved 90 storeys in South Brisbane, so they’re prepared to put 10,000 people into a known flooding hotspot, but they won’t put a battery on the appropriate infrastructure. It could be up high in the air. It could create more undercover space. It could be a really innovative outcome. They weren’t prepared to do that, because they didn’t want to push back with the University of Queensland, who wanted all of the benefits and none of the infrastructure that’s needed to support the end-of-route charging at that location.

This is another example of how this LNP Administration continue to botch the delivery of infrastructure in this city. The Metro costs have blown out from $944 million to about $2.1 billion because of the bad decision-making of this LNP Administration, and this decision is part of that. It’s not good enough.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Just very briefly for your indulgence, Chair, I had a question in Committee this morning that I thought Councillor MURPHY was going to answer in the Chamber today. He might in summing up, but I just wanted to remind him of that, if that’s okay. Thanks.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one standing.

Councillor MURPHY, right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Chair. Just in terms of Councillor CASSIDY’s question that I took on notice in Committee today, it’s true that the land at Norman Park is a lease from the State Government to the Brisbane City Council, held by the Brisbane City Council for the purposes of a ferry terminal. Council has engaged with the State Government on the hand-back of that lease, given we’re no longer using that site for those purposes. There has been some discussion about some of the heritage constraints on that site, however, no decisions have been taken in respect of disposal of that site at this stage. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Angela Owen (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steven Huang and Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE METRO END OF TRIP CHARGING

**42/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Major Projects, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane Metro’s end-of-trip charging. He provided the information below.

2. To enable capacity for future population growth, Council will introduce a new fleet of 60 electric Metros, operating along dedicated busways, integrating into busway operations and sharing the busway with existing bus services. The electric Metro fleet will have zero tailpipe emissions and fast charging in just over six minutes at end of route locations.

3. Metros utilise two types of industry-leading charging infrastructure to operate. The faster, flash‑charging system will be the first of its kind in Australia. Five of these charging stations will be set up at the Rochedale Metro depot, four at the Countess Street station in the CBD and three at the RBWH (Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital) and the UQ (University of Queensland) Lakes stations respectively.

4. Sixty slow chargers will be used at the Rochedale Metro depot to increase the battery lifespan and optimise energy consumption from Brisbane’s energy grid during off-peak periods. Testing and commissioning of newly installed equipment is planned to commence in October this year.

5. The Rochedale Metro depot will be one of the largest and most technologically advanced facilities of its kind in Australia. It will provide charging infrastructure, stabling and maintenance for the Metro fleet. The depot is aiming to achieve a ‘6-star’ Green Star certification rating. Council will receive a rating based on the detailed design and construction, with the accreditation occurring after the depot is constructed. Construction is expected to be complete in late 2023.

6. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager for his informative update.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee, please.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: The meeting last week saw a presentation on the Ritchie Road corridor upgrade, Stage 1B, Wakefield Street and Parkwood Drive intersection upgrade. Now, Councillors would have noticed that we spent much of the early part of the meeting discussing a significant road upgrade on the outer northern limits of the city. We’re now discussing a road upgrade in the outer south-west limits of the city, once again proving this Council’s commitment to all corners of the city, and that works occur to improve our transport network at all points of the compass.

Can I also recognise the efforts of Councillor OWEN in her advocacy with the community in Pallara, and for her keen and ongoing interest in the delivery of the works for Ritchie Road. Can I also recognise that I hope she enjoyed the opportunity to turn the lights on when this intersection was completed.

Prior to the Ritchie Road upgrade, approximately 11,000 vehicles per day passed through this particular intersection. Traffic modelling confirmed that increasing traffic volumes restricted sight lines due to the intersection configuration, and extended queue lengths, with motorists accessing the nearby Pallara State School, were creating unsafe road circumstances and reducing travel time reliability.

Significant delays were experienced by road users particularly during peak times, with queues on Wakefield Street exceeding 450 metres. The Ritchie Road Stage 1B project aimed to improve safety for all transport modes, reduce traffic congestion and improve travel time. The project will cater for future urban growth in Pallara and its surrounds, and the construction of the upgrade to Wakefield and Parkwood commenced in February 2023 and works were completed by June of that same year, so only some weeks ago.

Stage 1B of Ritchie Road corridor upgrade was fully funded by the Australian Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, once again, another excellent example of what can be delivered in a substantial and meaningful partnership between the Federal Government and the Brisbane City Council, one that we hope will continue.

We will be moving on to do further works in Ritchie Road over the coming period, and I look forward to further contributions.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Just in regards to this project, I rise today to speak in favour of this report and to thank the many Council officers that have been working diligently behind the scenes on this project.

Stage 1A and Stage 1B have certainly been extremely well received in the community, and particularly through you, Mr Chair, to Councillor WINES, the impact that this project has made on the smooth outflow of travel for the many parents who have children at Pallara State School is there to be seen on a day‑to‑day basis.

It was great that actually the Council officers were able to come to Pallara State School with me last week, and in direct consultation with representatives of the school, and the P&C, they were able to personally receive the feedback about how the community, and particularly the school community, has received these changes and is greatly appreciative.

In fact, when you have people saying to you that before these traffic lights were in, and before the road intersection was reconfigured, it would take them till about 10 past, quarter past three to get home, and now they are getting home at about 10 to, five to three, so that is a major, significant change.

This is all because of the accurate modelling that was done during the design process to make sure that the regulation of the traffic flow would enhance the clearance of the school traffic, particularly at those peak times.

Through you, Mr Chair, Councillor WINES has mentioned that at times there was a 450‑metre backlog of traffic. That sort of congestion immediately in front of a school precinct is absolutely diabolical at school pickup time. As a parent, I know how challenging those school pickup and drop-off times can be, but particularly for this area, it is a pinch-point between Pallara and Heathwood, and because we now have the smooth flow of traffic through there, people are going through the drive‑through drop‑off zone at the school being able to get out through that intersection, instead of having it all banking back, and clogging the access points for those driveways of the school.

It has been an absolute blessing that these families now are able to just get in their car and drive home smoother, quicker, safer, and that is what it’s all about around our school precincts. So I would like to say thank you to all of the families at the school for their patience and understanding and forbearance during the process. I know we did get commendations for the project contractors and also the traffic controllers, because they were very conscious of having primary school students in the mix and needing to cross Ritchie Road and Wadeville Street, and they made sure that those children could cross safely.

So those positive bits of feedback that have come through are very vital, because this is a good example of how, on a Council road we had Council engineers do the design, we had Council contractors come in and do the delivery, we had Council project managers managing this, we had our wonderful CPO (City Projects Office) comms team working in conjunction with myself and Councillor WINES and the community, and then making sure the information flow was there for people to know what was going on. The residents were advised when there was night works, and all of the steps in the process have been done to make sure as well that the majority of the work was not done in the peak school pickup and drop-off times.

So, I think that this is a great example of how our Council team positively delivers on these road projects. Can I say, it was great that we were able to turn those traffic lights on on 9 June. It was great that we had the design ready to go and that the funding came through. I am truly grateful for the fact that the LRCI funding did come through and that this project was not subject to any 90-day reviews. I think we managed to get in because it was all designed and ready to go. We were able to get it cracking as soon as we could, and certainly, it has shown fantastic benefits for the local community. I think that’s what it’s all about. It shouldn’t be about political games and putting projects under review. It should be about making sure that this infrastructure that is needed in local communities is funded and allow us as a Council to be able to deliver it for the community. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor OWEN.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

Councillor WINES?

We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Infrastructure Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Clare Jenkinson (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, Fiona Hammond, Sarah Hutton and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – RITCHIE ROAD CORRIDOR UPGRADE STAGE 1B – WADEVILLE STREET AND PARKWOOD DRIVE

**43/2023-24**

1. The Program Director Civil and Transport, Project Management, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Ritchie Road Corridor upgrade Stage 1B – Wadeville Street and Parkwood Drive (the project). He provided the information below.

2. Prior to the Ritchie Road Corridor upgrade, approximately 11,000 vehicles per day passed through the intersection of Wadeville Street and Parkwood Drive, Pallara. Significant delays were being experienced by road users during peak travel times with queues on Wadeville Street exceeding 450 metres, continuing past Pallara State School on Ritchie Road.

3. The project objectives include improving safety for all transport modes, reducing traffic congestion and improving travel time. The project will also cater for future urban growth in Pallara and surrounds.

4. Enhancements to the intersection include:

- traffic signals

- bike lanes

- footpaths

- a traffic island

- new road surfaces including line marking

- turf/landscaping.

5. The project commenced main construction in February 2023, following early works to remove a redundant sewer line and significant public utility works. During construction, existing road priority and normal traffic flow was maintained until new traffic signals were installed at the intersection when capacity was increased. The relationship with Pallara State School was positive throughout the project. The Committee was shown a timelapse of the construction work at the intersection.

6. The project was funded by the Australian Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and achieved practical completion on 9 June 2023.

7. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Program Director Civil and Transport for his informative update.

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: We’ll move on to the next item.

Councillor ALLAN, City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, please.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before moving to the Committee report, I’d like to officially welcome Councillor Clare JENKINSON to the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee. Councillor JENKINSON joined us last week at Committee for the first time after her candidacy was successful for the Paddington Ward. Clare, thank you, and we look forward to you joining the Committee discussion during the remainder of this session of Council and into the future.

**Seriatim – Clauses A, B and C**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Adam ALLAN requested that Clause A, COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 240 MARGARET STREET, BRISBANE CITY (A006244346); Clause B, PETITION – REQUEST COUNCIL REMOVE THE HERITAGE PROTECTION OF THE TEMPORARY LOCAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT FROM THE MOOROOKA WAR WORKERS’ HOUSING ESTATE; and Clause C, PETITION – REQUEST COUNCIL REJECT THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR 92 HOUSING LOTS AT 76 KOOYA ROAD, MITCHELTON (APPLICATION REFERENCE A006105111), AS IT IS NON COMPLIANT WITH THE MITCHELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor ALLAN: Just quickly, Mr Chair, moving on to item A, which was the Committee presentation on 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane. This particular development has been inspired by the City Botanic Gardens and the Kangaroo Point Cliffs. This development is set to breathe new life into an underutilised area in Brisbane’s bustling CBD.

The approved plans for this purpose-built student accommodation development encompasses an impressive 34-storey structure designed to house 930 students. 240 Margaret Street is surrounded by access to public transport options and has a variety of shops and amenities within walking distance. Noteworthy features include a thoughtfully designed basement for secure bicycle storage, equipment safe keeping and efficient waste management.

The accommodations will cater to diverse preferences, offering five distinct styles. These range from individual self-contained rooms to cluster style arrangements with shared facilities, ensuring a variety of student needs are met efficiently.

A distinguishing attribute of the project is its deliberate integration of active spaces facing Margaret Street, fostering a lively and engaging streetscape. It also creates a sense of community. The development will feature communal open spaces accessible to five different levels. There has been careful consideration of these spaces to ensure that they enhance the quality of living of the residents in the building and of course contribute to the public realm. Safety and functionality are paramount with the inclusion of pedestrian awnings that will extend over the footpath.

The incorporation of lush greenery into the design further adds to the project’s allure, contributing to the aesthetic appeal and environmental sustainability. The development plans to encompass provisions for public art installations and creative lighting, promising an aesthetically pleasing urban environment.

Moreover, the emphasis on sustainable transport aligns with contemporary eco‑conscious principles promoting responsible commuting alternatives among residents. Beyond its architectural significance, 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane, aligns with the Schrinner Council’s broad vision, one of fostering highly liveable, affordable and sustainable housing.

Other items on the agenda included item B, which refers to a petition containing 650 signatures regarding the TLPI on the Moorooka War Workers Housing Estate, and item C refers to a petition on Kooya Road, Mitchelton, and I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thanks, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item B, which is the request for Council to remove the heritage protection of the Temporary Local Planning Instrument from the Moorooka War Workers Housing Estate. I note that’s already been taken seriatim for voting.

I rise in support of this petition. It’s certainly a first for our city that we are actually considering removing protection of heritage from our plan. I think this is a good move. I have certainly worked with local residents who have gone out of their way, through many meetings and through this petition, to say that heritage on their character homes was not necessary.

I am glad that we have listened to these residents, certainly, when I went and spoke to them after I moved a motion to remove heritage protection, that the Administration supported it. At a public meeting that the residents had, chaired by Brian Luckins, we had over 80 residents there who were certainly very supportive of the fact that this layer of protection would be removed, so that there’d no longer be heritage, but it would revert back to character protection.

The one thing residents did say to me, and it was a certainly a common theme through that meeting and it was certainly the major concern that came out of that meeting, was how we establish majority as a Council. I know that the group has written to Councillor—the Chairperson in relation to this—to clarify how that vote will be determined. Because they are still suspicious that Council will renege on its agreement to remove this heritage protection from these homes.

So the questions related to, is the decision based on a 50% vote? What constitutes a 50% vote? Is it one household, one vote? Is it the owner of the household has a vote? Basically they were the issues that needed clarification and they were the issues that certainly haven’t been clarified in this petition.

So I’ve asked the Chairperson—or I ask the Chairperson to clarify that—so that residents can have an accurate understanding of how that would be undertaken. So that they can ensure that they meet the requirements for taking this heritage protection off these homes. The heritage protection was conditional upon (1) that is happens when the documentation returns from the State Government. It has a month period for it to happen in. (2) That the majority of residents were in support of it. So we need clarification around that.

I would certainly ask, I ask here in the Chamber, in a very clear and precise way. That the Chairperson, the LORD MAYOR and the CEO provide me with those details regarding how we undertake that consultation and how we determine—how Council, through its department, is going to determine where that 50% target is met. I don’t believe that is asking anything unreasonable.

If that information is sent through to me, I will ensure that all the residents, all those households, receive that information, as well as their Chairperson, Brian, who’s certainly done a lot of work and is currently doing a lot of work with residents in the local community around this particular—around having their homes returned back to character listing.

I think this is a good outcome for the residents, I just hope it’s a genuine outcome for the residents. I certainly want it to be a genuine outcome for the residents. I don’t think we’ll have any problem in achieving that 50%. We just need to know the rules around getting to that 50%. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

I see no one—Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. I just rise to makes some comments in regard to item C, the petition regarding Kooya Road—76 Kooya Road, Mitchelton. Can I just begin by thanking the Committee for the consideration of this petition and also can I thank the local residents for their ongoing concern regarding this particular application. I have been in consistent contact with the nearby residences to this location about ensuring that the outcome of the application is consistent with the community expectations.

So the site is in the south-west corner of Mitchelton, and it is the last site that remains sort of, I suppose you’d call it undeveloped, after a long history of farming. So the Mitchelton area has been a farming district in Brisbane for more than 150 years. But over the years those farms were slowly closed and there were more productive places in other parts of Queensland, so those farms were converted to housing.

This is the last property. The property was owned by a person who spent much of his life as a Council employee as part of our grass cutting team. He actually spent a lot of his time cutting grass for community associations and was a groundsman for the Council, but he did retire from Council a long time ago.

The location is well known because of the number of times that that owner, Mr Greg Hungerford, was approached by the development community to sell his property and allow it to be turned into housing during his lifetime. To which he had a sign at the front of the property that said developers keep out, not for sale. He was a wonderful community person and still very much missed in the area.

The land was identified through both the Mitchelton centre neighbourhood plan and early iterations of the Mitchelton neighbourhood plan. To include significant parcels—that if it ever were to be developed, that significant portions of the site should be set aside for bushland and for parkland.

The proposal before us in the application does set aside significant space for bushland and parkland, however, residents have sought a number of—they have raised a number of concerns with me and I just thought I’d raise them here today.

So the site has two zoning—has two land use designations that sit below the application. The first one is an environmental protection bushland designation which covers about half the site. Much of the other site is in the emerging community’s designation which you, Mr Chair, would recognise from the Upper Kedron area and is not dissimilar to the old Macallister farm but for scale.

So there are a number of concerns within the site that we were hoping to have addressed. So there is a clear line through the site which would be an encouragement of overland flow path, which Mr Hungerford had kept a number of small dams in to keep water for his property. Because he did, to the end, agist horses at the property. So the water was made available but there is a clear line of overland flow. There is a detention basin proposed within the application. We just want to ensure a clarity that the land here and the solution proposed through the application does satisfy the overland flow and potential flooding concerns.

The neighbourhood is largely standalone dwellings or single home dwellings. They are properties consistent with outer suburbia and that Mitchelton area, and we’re hopeful that the proposal for the properties proposed of this location would be consistent with that. Many of them are, some sites are smaller.

There has been a campaign by the local Federal MP (Member of Parliament) to get smaller lots on the site and to have more government intervention in the nature of the housing there. I am not supportive of that, I am supportive of the proposal’s larger landholdings and for the development to be allowed to—for the development to be used and allowed for people to buy homes and to become long‑term members of our community.

I would like to see the parkland consistent with the Mitchelton centre neighbourhood plan and the feedback through the IR (information request) process indicates that is well on its way. Because of the bushland and because of Taylor Range and other issues, again, near your own ward, Mr Chair, there are concerns because of the hill and because of bushland that there may be bushfire risks. So to have a proper emergency plan to deal with those. To also ensure that the bushland that is there is preserved materially and for the benefit of the public over time.

So they are the principal concerns. Can I thank the 208 people who have taken time to submit. Can I thank the 211 people who took the time to sign this petition. This is ongoing, the consideration for this particular application is ongoing. The outcome continues in the favour of the local residents and we look forward to an outcome in the near future.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Councillor ALLAN, right of reply?

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Just in response to Councillor GRIFFITHS, we certainly will provide some guidance around what constitutes a majority in the context of the Moorooka War Workers TLPI. We are wanting to ensure that the process in this particular instance is robust and that we observe all relevant probity measures. So if you’ll just give us a little bit of time, we’ll be able to provide him with that information in due course.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

We will now put the report of the City Planning and Renewal Committee. We’ll take each as a separate vote.

So we will start with item A.

**Clause A put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause A of the report of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Sarah HUTTON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 23 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: We’ll vote on item B.

**Clause B put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause B of the report of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Sarah HUTTON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 23 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: We’ll vote on item C.

**Clause C put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause C of the report of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Councillor ALLAN: Division.

*The division lapsed for want of a seconder.*

Chair: Sorry Councillor ALLAN, no seconder.

Councillors, all items for City Planning and Suburban Renewal have now passed.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Fiona Hammond (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Lucy Collier, Clare Jenkinson and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 240 MARGARET STREET, BRISBANE CITY (A006244346)

**44/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane City (the site). She provided the information below.

2. An aerial view and zoning map were shown to the Committee displaying the proximity of the site to surrounding locations, including City Botanic Gardens, Sky Tower, Stamford Plaza, Waterfront Place and the Cross River Rail site. In accordance with *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, the zoning map demonstrated that the site is located within the Principal centre (City centre) zone.

3. The existing building will be demolished and a single tower building will be constructed on the 1,715 m2 site. A code assessable, material change of use and building work application was approved by Development Services within three months for Rooming Accommodation (student housing), Indoor Sport and Recreation, Office, Shop and Food and Drink Outlet.

4. The single tower building will be 34 storeys in height and include:

- 930 student accommodation beds

- rooftop and upper level open space outdoor breakout areas

- 176 m2 gross floor area of ground level food and drink, retail and outdoor dining

- residential lobby with communal open space

- a podium level comprising of communal residential amenities and recreational spaces.

5. The design of the tower will include a colour palette inspired by local buildings, City Botanic Gardens and Kangaroo Point Cliffs. The design will also include modulation in the façades with the tower broken into a collection of tower forms and will balance access to sunlight through slab overhangs, blades and fins.

6. The following five room types are available for student accommodation:

- an 18 m2 medium studio

- a 27 m2 twin room

- a 22 m2 large studio

- a 16 m2 small square studio

- a 78 m2 four-bed cluster (suite).

7. Ground level and podium spaces on Margaret Street will include integrated greenery, pedestrian and bicycle ramps, as well as stairs to facilitate accessibility at ground level, and will provide a services area located at the rear of the site to create a high-quality public realm outcome. The ground level and levels one, two, 21, 22 and the roof top, provides communal open space totalling 2,778.3 m2, which is 162% of the site area. The building façade features land dedication to achieve a 4.1 m to 5 m verge along Margaret Street and a pedestrian awning will be constructed over the footpath.

8. The community benefits of the site include:

- revitalisation of an underutilised site in the CBD

- being designed to achieve a sustainable development criteria

- a highly liveable, affordable and sustainable housing option for students

- meeting the aims of Council’s *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy* and *Brisbane’s* *Inner City Strategy*

- streetscape upgrades

- creating a sense of place and community with the recreation spaces

- provision of public art and creative lighting

- a design that encourages sustainable transport modes.

9. The development was approved for the following reasons.

- Height, bulk, scale and form is tailored to the specific location and to the characteristics of the site.

- Provides a high-density accommodation use at a concentration and intensity that is commensurate to the location of the site in the CBD.

- Contributes to the vibrancy of the CBD.

- Provides setbacks and separation of buildings that contribute to the amenity of residents within and adjoining the site, and to Brisbane’s high-quality subtropical streetscapes and public spaces.

- Minimises amenity impacts on adjoining development and to the surrounding area.

- Ensures the building design reflects an intense urban form while providing open space and landscaping appropriate to the use and scale of the development, and which positively contributes to the streetscape character and local identity.

- Provides a building design that positively contributes to the immediate streetscape and pedestrian environment with highly articulated building façade and varied roof form elements.

- Contributes towards Council’s vision as a well-designed, subtropical city.

10. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager for her informative presentation.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUEST COUNCIL REMOVE THE HERITAGE PROTECTION OF THE TEMPORARY LOCAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT FROM THE MOOROOKA WAR WORKERS’ HOUSING ESTATE

**137/220/594/212**

**45/2023-24**

12. A petition requesting Council remove the heritage protection of the Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) from the Moorooka War Workers' Housing Estate (MWWHE), was received during the Autumn Recess 2023.

13. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

14. The petition also requests an explanation why the previous Traditional building character (TBC) overlay provisions were considered insufficient. The petition further calls for Council to complete and release a feasibility study of cultural, social, economic, and health and wellbeing impacts of a Heritage overlay on the residents and surrounding community, and to engage with the local community on all these requests.

15. The petition contains 650 signatures. As this petition relates specifically to 180 individual properties affected by the TLPI, it is important to note that within the MWWHE TLPI area, the petition contains 78 signatures of residents who own properties in the area and 33 signatures of residents who reside within the area. Of the remaining 539 signatures, 118 live in Moorooka Ward outside the MWWHE TLPI area, 220 live elsewhere within the City of Brisbane, and 201 live outside the City of Brisbane.

16. Prior to the TLPI, properties identified in the MWWHE were subject to the provisions of the TBC overlay in *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). The TBC overlay focuses on protecting streetscapes with traditional housing, where the predominant housing types reflect the traditional scale, setting and form of buildings built before the end of 1946. The TBC overlay does not address cultural heritage significance.

17. Council’s investigation and assessment, supported by Council’s independent Heritage Advisory Committee, has confirmed that the MWWHE possesses significant local cultural heritage significance which differs from the concept of traditional character. This difference means that the TBC overlay is not the appropriate overlay code to retain and protect the heritage values of these cottages or the estate.

18. City Plan’s prescribed accepted development provisions for houses in the TBC overlay allows a significant amount of demolition, and alteration to, houses without triggering assessment of the impact of such works upon the local cultural heritage significance. As the Heritage overlay seeks to ensure that development does not detract from the heritage values of a place, it is considered the most appropriate overlay code. Assessment of a place for local cultural heritage values is undertaken in accordance with the relevant provisions under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and the relevant planning legislation, including the *Planning Act 2016* and the Queensland Government’s S*tate Planning Policy*.

19. The focus of the heritage assessment framework is on cultural heritage significance and does not require a feasibility study on social and economic impacts of heritage listing, as these aspects are not directly relevant to the assessment of cultural heritage significance. Social and economic factors are considered as part of broader strategic and local planning matters addressed through City Plan. This is required through the planning legislation*,* which is aimed at sustainable planning that balances the conservation of important environmental and cultural values with economic growth, job creation and social wellbeing.

20. Cultural heritage is a Queensland Government planning matter that requires Council to properly consider and integrate into local planning instruments. The *State Planning Policy* requires cultural heritage significance of heritage places, and heritage areas are conserved for the benefit of the community and future generations.

21. Council has not yet made a final decision on the permanent adoption of the provisions reflected in the TLPI. The TLPI is a temporary measure to put planning requirements in place quickly while Council undertakes the longer statutory process to amend the City Plan Heritage overlay. The statutory process includes public consultation on the proposed amendments. The proposal to enter the MWWHE on the Heritage overlay of the City Plan was included in the proposed City Plan amendment package *‘Qualified State interest amendment – Local heritage’*.

22. In line with the Queensland Government’s legislative requirements, the amendment package was submitted to the Queensland Government on 9 September 2022 for review and approval to proceed to public consultation. While Queensland Government guidelines for this type of amendment indicate 20 business days for the Queensland Government to provide their response to Council, a response has not yet been received to date. This has directly impacted on the timeliness of Council’s ability to undertake public consultation. The TLPI remains in place while Council awaits a response from the Queensland Government. Once the review has been completed and if approval is received, Council will then commence public consultation. All owners of properties within the MWWHE will be advised when this public consultation will commence, and how to make a formal submission.

23. Once public consultation is completed, all submissions will be carefully considered, and will inform any changes that Council decides to make to the proposed amendment. Council will also decide whether to progress the proposed amendment to the Queensland Government for approval to adopt.

24. On 6 June 2023, Council passed a motion that Council will also decide whether to progress the proposed amendment to the Queensland Government for approval to adopt or take the necessary steps to remove the TLPI from the MWWHE, if requested by the majority of affected residents during the Queensland Government’s statutory public notification period.

25. Council has made it easier for owners of Local heritage places to maintain and keep their property in active use and good repair with the introduction of the General Exemption Certificate: Local heritage places. This document has been released under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and provides upfront permission for specific maintenance and minor works, without the need to lodge an application or pay a fee to Council. All property owners within the TLPI have been sent correspondence regarding the release of this document.

Consultation

26. Councillor Steve Griffiths, Councillor for Moorooka Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

27. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

28. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Lucy Collier and Charles Struck abstaining.

29. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/212

Thank you for your petition requesting Council remove the heritage protection of the Temporary Local Planning Instrument from the Moorooka War Workers’ Housing Estate.

The Temporary Local Planning Instrument 01/22 (TLPI) – Protection of properties in the Moorooka War Workers’ Housing Estate (MWWHE) was unanimously adopted at the Council meeting of 25 October 2022 as a temporary measure to put planning requirements in place, while Council undertakes the longer statutory process to amend the City Plan Heritage overlay, as an interim protection measure. The adoption of the TLPI was considered necessary to provide timely, interim protection of the heritage values in the MWWHE. The TLPI was supported and approved by the Queensland Government and became effective from 2 August 2022. Council has not yet made a final decision on the permanent adoption of the provisions reflected in the TLPI.

The Traditional building character (TBC) overlay is focused on protecting the streetscape where homes reflect the traditional scale, setting, and form (including roof styles, traditional elements, detailing, and materials) of buildings built before the end of 1946.

The former MWWHE cottages are not representative of this traditional style and form of housing. They are unique and, along with the estate itself, have been investigated and assessed as having heritage values above and beyond the concept of the TBC. The TBC overlay provisions were not considered a suitable mechanism to protect the identified and unique local cultural heritage values of the MWWHE and its cottages.

The MWWHE is Brisbane’s first and only large-scale, fully planned, Australian Government initiated housing estate built during the Second World War to house civilians employed in the nearby war industries at Rocklea and Salisbury. It honours and highlights the historical importance of civilians and the role they played in Australia’s wartime industries during this time. The original war workers’ cottages, their setting, and their collective contribution to the estate are part of this significance. As the Heritage overlay seeks to ensure that development does not detract from the heritage values of a place, it is considered the most appropriate overlay code.

Council assesses places for local cultural heritage significance in accordance with the relevant provisions under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and relevant planning legislation, including the *Planning Act 2016* and the Queensland Government’s *State Planning Policy*. This heritage framework is based on the assessment of cultural heritage significance and does not require feasibility studies of social and economic impacts of heritage listing to be undertaken. Social and economic factors, amongst others, are considered as part of broader strategic and local planning matters addressed through City Plan. This is required through planning legislation aimed at sustainable planning, that balances the conservation of important environmental and cultural values with economic growth, job creation, and social wellbeing.

Council is following statutory public consultation requirements on the proposed amendment to the City Plan to include the MWWHE in the Heritage overlay. The proposal to enter the MWWHE on the Heritage overlay of City Plan was included in the proposed City Plan amendment package *‘Qualified State interest amendment – Local heritage’*.

In line with the Queensland Government’s legislative requirements, the amendment package was submitted to the Queensland Government on 9 September 2022 for their review and approval to proceed to public consultation. While the Queensland Government’s guidelines for this type of amendment indicate 20 business days for the Queensland Government to provide their response to Council, a response has not yet been received to date. This has directly impacted on the timeliness of Council’s ability to undertake public consultation. The TLPI remains in place while Council awaits a response from the Queensland Government. Once the review has been completed and if approval is received, Council will then commence public consultation. All owners of properties within the MWWHE will be advised when public consultation commences, and how to make a formal submission. There will also be opportunity for owners and the public to discuss concerns with Council officers at one of Council’s planned public consultation events during this period. A newspaper notice and updates on Council’s website will also serve to notify the community about the public consultation and the proposed amendment of City Plan.

Once public consultation is completed, all submissions will be carefully considered, and will inform any changes that Council may decide to make to the proposed amendment.

On 6 June 2023, Council passed a motion that Council will also decide whether to progress the proposed amendment to the Queensland Government for approval to adopt or take the necessary steps to remove the TLPI from the MWWHE, if requested by the majority of affected residents during the Queensland Government’s statutory public notification period. Property owners are encouraged to make a submission raising any concerns, including the specific impacts of the proposed inclusion of their property in the Heritage overlay during public consultation, which will be formally considered by Council in the amendment process.

Council has made it easier for owners of Local heritage places to maintain and keep their property in active use and good repair with the introduction of the General Exemption Certificate: Local heritage places. This document has been released under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and provides upfront permission for specific maintenance and minor works, without the need to lodge an application or pay a fee to Council. All property owners within the TLPI have been sent correspondence regarding the release of this document.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Timna Green, Principal Heritage Officer, Heritage Policy Team, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, on (07) 3403 9453.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUEST COUNCIL REJECT THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR 92 HOUSING LOTS AT 76 KOOYA ROAD, MITCHELTON (APPLICATION REFERENCE A006105111), AS IT IS NON COMPLIANT WITH THE MITCHELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**137/220/594/223**

**46/2023-24**

30. A petition requesting Council reject the development application for 92 housing lots at 76 Kooya Road, Mitchelton (application reference A006105111), as it is non-compliant with the Mitchelton neighbourhood plan, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 23 May 2023, by Councillor Andrew Wines, and received.

31. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

32. The petition contains 246 signatures. Of the petitioners, 221 live in Enoggera Ward, 12 live in the City of Brisbane and 13 live outside the City of Brisbane*.*

33. The petitioners object to the proposed development at the site, and have identified concerns that the development:

- is not compliant with the Mitchelton neighbourhood plan

- will not provide any usable greenspace for the community

- will greatly increase traffic and put surrounding properties at greater risk of flooding.

34. The site is within both the Emerging community zone and Environmental management zone of *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). The site is also located in the Mitchelton neighbourhood plan, with elements relevant to the potential development area.

35. On 28 September 2022, an application was lodged for reconfiguring a lot into 92 lots plus park, drainage reserve, new road and access easement. The application is currently being assessed by Council’s Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, against the requirements of City Plan and in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Act).

36. Council issued an Information Request to the applicant on 9 November 2022 which raised a number of concerns, including bushfire and biodiversity impacts, parkland area, bulk earthworks, roadworks and drainage, and flood impacts. A response to this Information Request was received by Council on 16 June 2023.

37. The development application is subject to impact assessment, therefore formal public notification is required in accordance with the Act. Council received a notice of intention to undertake public notification from 23 June 2023 until 14 July 2023. On 6 July 2023 public notification was recommenced due to a missing reference on the original public notice, this new public notification period closed on 27 July 2023. Council has already received submissions prior to this date. All submissions, including this petition, will be considered by Council officers as part of the ongoing assessment process.

38. Details of the proposed development, including all documents relating to the application, can be accessed via Council’s Development.i website at https://developmenti.brisbane.qld.gov.au by searching application reference number ‘A006105111’.

Consultation

39. Councillor Andrew Wines, Councillor for Enoggera Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

40. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

41. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

42. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/223

Thank you for your petition requesting Council reject the development application for 92 housing lots at 76 Kooya Road, Mitchelton, (application number A006105111) (the site) as it is non-compliant with the Mitchelton neighbourhood plan.

Council notes your concerns with the development application. The site is within both the Emerging community zone and Environmental management zone of *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). The site is also located in the Mitchelton neighbourhood plan, with elements relevant to the potential development area.

On 28 September 2022, an application was lodged for reconfiguring a lot into 92 lots plus park, drainage reserve, new road and access easement. The application is currently being assessed by Council’s Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, against the requirements of City Plan and in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Act). Council cannot refuse to assess development applications, and planning officers must assess each proposal against the provisions and requirements of both the City Plan, and any relevant Queensland Government legislation.

Council issued an Information Request to the applicant on 9 November 2022 which raised a number of concerns, including bushfire and biodiversity impacts, parkland area, bulk earthworks, roadworks and drainage, and flood impacts. A response to this Information Request was received by Council on 16 June 2023.

The development application is subject to impact assessment, therefore formal public notification is required in accordance with the Act. Council received a notice of intention to undertake public notification from 23 June 2023 until 14 July 2023. On 6 July 2023 public notification was recommenced due to a missing reference on the original public notice, this new public notification period closed on 27 July 2023. Council has already received submissions prior to this date. All submissions, including this petition, will be considered by Council officers as part of the ongoing assessment process.

You can view a copy of the development application, including any additional information submitted online, at https://developmenti.brisbane.qld.gov.au by entering application reference number ‘A006105111’. You can also sign up for alerts to be notified of any updates to the application.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you have any further questions about the application, please contact Mr Mark Viney, A/Team Manager, Planning Services, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability on (07) 3403 0289.

Thank you for raising your concerns.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor DAVIS, Parks, Environment and Sustainability Committee please.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS, you’ve got the call.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation was on the Mt Coot‑tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan. This was a key action in the *Brisbane Off-Road Cycling Strategy* to manage the growing demand for mountain biking in the reserve, while also protecting the reserve’s significant environment and heritage values. We received more than 1,100 pieces of feedback from the community, which was considered in the development of the final concept plan and from that feedback we identified short, medium and long-term opportunities for the reserve.

Identified in the short-term opportunities was a new mountain bike skills track, along with a new beginner loop right next to it at The Gap Creek picnic area, which will be delivered as part of this year’s budget. This will provide the opportunity of new mountain bikers to try out their new skills on the new beginner loop before stepping up to experience and enjoy the range of authorised trails in the reserve.

The work that we are currently doing in the reserve, including our trail care program, which is much loved by the volunteers who participate, will continue alongside the delivery of this plan. We’ll also continue to work on improving the signage and access across the reserve, as well as educating the community on the reserve’s significance and all of the opportunities to enjoy on offer.

The next trail care sessions actually will be held this weekend. Saturday from 1pm to 5pm, and on Sunday from 7am to 11am. I would encourage anybody who is passionate about our environment and mountain biking, or just someone who enjoys the great outdoors, to come along and help out for a few hours and get their hands a little dirty.

The trails at Mt Coot-tha Reserve are loved by many. Whether they’re traversed on two wheels, two legs or four legs. This concept plan delivers something for everyone. We’ll continue working with all stakeholders, including mountain bike users, trail care groups and reserve enthusiasts to ensure that offer a good balance between recreation and conservation at the reserve.

Mr Chair, we also had a number of petitions including a request to remove silt and vegetation from Oxley Creek; a request for signage to honour past players of Brothers Rugby League Football Club at the Grange; an open space renaming at 39 Sweets Road, Pallara, to ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’; a request to rename the entrance area of Hoop Pine picnic area, Mt Coot-tha, to ‘Private Alexander Leslie Place’; finally, a request to relocate a dog off-leash area from James Warner Park to Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point.

With that big list, I’ll leave debate to the Chamber. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan. This plan, along with the Trail Care program, are key actions from the Schrinner Council’s Off-Road Cycling Strategy which was released in December 2021.

Mt Coot-tha Reserve in my ward has an extensive network of diverse tracks and trails and is a popular destination for a range of recreational activities. Key stakeholders and the community were invited to provide feedback late last year in relation to the Mountain Bike Concept Plan. As Councillor DAVIS pointed out, more than 1,100 respondents completed the online survey, while a further 46 provided submissions.

Their feedback strongly supported the following three proposals: a dedicated area for future mountain bike tracks, dedicated areas for walking and shared use purposes and the removal of the Frogmouth mountain bike track, reverting back to an area for walking.

They also told us to address the construction and use of unauthorised tracks and ensure rider and track safety. Just as important was to ensure that in the provision of tracks and facilities, the reserve’s important biodiversity needs to be protected.

We said from day one, and it remains the case today, that our Off-Road Cycling Strategy was about striking a balance between allowing certain uses on authorised tracks. While at the same time ensuring the protection of the city’s unique and important environmental assets. Chair, I believe we are achieving that through the Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan.

Let’s look at our key priorities at Mt Coot-tha going forward. I like that in the coming year we are considering a mix of tracks to cater for varying riding skills. A new mountain beginner track loop, a mountain bike skills track and improved climbing tracks from The Gap Creek picnic area are all great initiatives. Which, I believe, will be greeted with enthusiasm by mountain riding enthusiasts across Brisbane.

Chair, I also note that one of the proposed key outcomes in the plan refers to improved mountain bike signage, education and compliance. Two weekends ago, following concerns raised by a local resident about riders on the walk-only Honeyeater track, I spent some time there talking to residents along the way. Did I see any bike riders? Yes, two young boys. Did they know that they shouldn’t be riding that track? Well unfortunately I wasn’t quick enough to catch them to have that discussion.

But there is a case for better signs at the beginning of the track near the THECA (The Hut Environmental & Community Association Inc) hut and in Fleming Road near Greenford Street, to leave riders in no doubt that they can’t be there, and it’s something that I have flagged with the NEWS team.

Chair, finally, and I touched on it at the beginning, is building on the success of trail care on the mountain in the coming year. I want to acknowledge the role of Council’s Deana Nichols whose passion, enthusiasm and ability to work with the various volunteers has contributed to the high standard of tracks we now see at Mt Coot-tha. Deana has overseen the delivery of safe-to-ride, well-maintained tracks that are resilient to wet weather events, while at the same time, ensuring the protection of the environmental values of our natural areas.

Chair, our off-road strategy and concept plan for Mt Coot-tha are works in progress. I commend the Chair of Natural Environment, Councillor DAVIS and her officers in NEWS for their efforts in delivering what I believe is a balanced and sensible outcome, not only for Mt Coot-tha but for the residents of Brisbane. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ADERMANN.

Are there further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. I rise to speak on the presentation. Mt Coot-tha Reserve mountain bike track and also in relation to the petition, item B. I’ll just start with the presentation on the mountain bikes. It was interesting to receive this presentation. I remain sceptical about this issue and I remain concerned that we actually have taken into account the issues for the trail bike riders. Certainly NEWS seems very interested in our trail bike riders, they don’t seem so interested in the issues relating to conservation and protection of the environment. That would seem to reflect the Administration’s views as well, strange that.

Anyway, look, what came out of the presentation is that we have 19 kilometres of approved track, but we have 30 kilometres of unapproved track on the mountain. So throughout the forest we have at least 11 kilometres of unapproved track. While I’ve heard these words of, we’re going to close these tracks, we’re going to make it better. There’s no timeframe for that 11 kilometres to be closed. In fact there’s no real project by Council to close those 11 kilometres of track.

So essentially, we’re saying use all of Mt Coot-tha as a bike track. Use wherever you like. Because we think the bike tracks are good. Certainly they had—they demonstrated three areas in the plan, A, B and C and in one of the areas there was not going to be any more mountain biking, but no, we’re allowing that after review.

So I was really concerned about the little effort that’s gone into protecting our native flora and fauna in these areas and conserving this area, rather than turning it into an area for bike use.

Similarly—and I note when the strategy was done and since the strategy was done—I’ve learnt from talking to bushcare groups that the groups were played off against one another. Peeled off. They were trying to—they were each trying to protect their own areas in Brisbane, their own areas of conservation and they were peeled off. One group in particular tells me that that ward was taken out of the trail bike program, so there’s no trail bikes there. That happened to be in a particular LNP person’s ward.

Councillor MACKAY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Point of order, Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: Will Councillor GRIFFITHS take a very soft question, please?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, I won’t take a soft, I won’t take a hard question, won’t take any question.

Councillor MACKAY: No, no, no, it’s very soft. It’s just—

Chair: Councillor MACKAY, let’s find out if Councillor GRIFFITHS would like to take a question and we won’t bother about whether it’s hard or soft.

Councillor GRIFFITHS would you like—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, no, I prefer just to—

Chair: —to take a question?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —stay on my train of thought, but thank you for the soft or hard question.

Chair: That’s okay.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Whatever that was meant to be.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: My concern is with this whole strategy, I think it needs a review. I think it needs a review and I think there are real issues in terms of safety, in terms of biodiversity, in terms of the way this process has been undertaken and I remain with that. In fact, I remain more concerned after I speak to other conservation groups, bushcare groups that have raised their concerns about this process. I’m probably even more concerned about the way NEWS did this process. So I’ll leave that on the table. But it certainly delivered what the LNP wanted.

Now, in relation to the petition here for Oxley Creek. Yes, we have the Oxley Creek Transformation project, yes we are spending a lot of money there. We’re spending a lot of money on putting infrastructure in. We’re putting walks in, we’re putting a playground in, we’re putting other playgrounds in other wards in and that is good.

One of the things we’re not doing is actually dealing with the issue of flooding in Oxley Creek and it will always flood, but dealing with the waterway and the way it’s managed within the Oxley Creek catchment, I think that actually needs to be dealt with as well as the restoration of the Oxley Creek catchment, the whole catchment.

So I think this answer here is not the answer that residents were wanting to hear. It’s not the answer that needs delivery on the ground. One of the issues for me is that with Oxley Creek not flowing properly, continuing to flood, it affects people upstream. I spoke about this last week, it affects people in Rocklea and Acacia Ridge—not Acacia Ridge, Archerfield—in terms of where the flooding can come from.

I think by saying no to this, by saying no, we won’t do this work removing silt and overgrown vegetation, we actually aren’t meeting the needs of our residents in dealing with flooding that impacts them. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, I rise in support of item D and this is requesting the naming of open space at 39 Sweets Road, Pallara, as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’. Many Councillors in this place will recall the quite sizeable petition that we received here in this Chamber in regards to requesting this naming, and I know that there is a lot of community connectedness to this particular site.

It is very much a site of celebration for many of the community in the sense that they come together at that place and they celebrate significant events in their calendar, but also it’s a place of reflection where they do remember those who have served and sacrificed. So it is important that we do retain this very strong connection for the community at this particular site.

It is great that we are doing the open space network corridor, which will enhance the drainage and stormwater management throughout Pallara and also facilitate a lot of pedestrian walkways and bikeways, but importantly, this will be a continuing legacy for Fogolar Furlan in Sweets Road at Pallara, and that was the request of the—I think it was over 600-odd petitioners. This is going to be a great outcome for the community, so I commend this report to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you Councillor OWEN.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item B, the petition to remove silt and overgrown vegetation from Oxley Creek to prevent future flooding.

**Seriatim - Clause B**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause B, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REMOVE SILT AND OVERGROWN VEGETATION AT OXLEY CREEK TO PREVENT FUTURE FLOODING, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m going to start with some basics, and I think these basics demonstrate very clearly what this Council thinks about flood mitigation. In June 2022, 14 months ago, I tabled this petition on behalf of Oxley residents. These are Oxley residents who have been badly flooded. They live in Kendall Street, Lawson Street, Bayford Street, Calston Street, Logan Avenue and Oxley Road. Some of the most catastrophically flooded parts of Brisbane.

I was approached by a lady at one of the public flood meetings that I was doing and in talking to people. It’s a hand written petition that she and 92 of her neighbours have signed. That was 14 months ago. So this is a petition about flood recovery, so then you’d think okay, well Council is going to treat this seriously. The LORD MAYOR said flood recovery is a priority, we’re investing all this money in flood recovery. So you know you would think this petition would come through as a priority. No.

Then, on 30 March 2023, six months ago, I was asked for my feedback about the petition. Four days later, on 4 April, also six months ago, I responded by saying I did not support the do-nothing petition response. Then it sat for six months, presumably with Councillor DAVIS. So flooded residents in Brisbane who are desperately asking Council for assistance to maintain their local area and this Council did nothing. Just literally nothing. Sat there getting dusty on Councillor DAVIS’ shelf. That’s how this Council, this LNP run Council, treats Brisbane residents who flood.

Fourteen months to respond to a petition, six of those where Council does nothing, literally, nothing. What does Council say in the response? Here’s the other bit, this is what residents are going to write to these poor people, and I’m embarrassed for them, I’m embarrassed for them. This is why I can tell you now, people out in Oxley are not voting for the LORD MAYOR, and they’re definitely not voting for the LNP.

Brisbane City Council says that essentially we can’t remove or reduce vegetation within creeks and that Council has done $2 million worth of waterways maintenance in Oxley Creek catchment area, including the clean-up of oil and petrochemicals within the creeks, cleaning up of enclosed stormwater network that feeds into Oxley Creek, clearing of selected culvert points and control points to reduce flooding.

Additional works that are programmed this year include waterway channel and culvert de-silting, control point cleaning, debris removal, bank stabilisation and repair of damaged infrastructure along multiple sections of Oxley Creek. Here’s what I know, when I started in this ward there was an enclosed drain at the end of Logan Avenue that was in appalling shape. I raised it with Council. It literally is collapsing, collapsing. Council still hasn’t fixed it.

So when Council says it’s doing these things, 18 months later they still have not fixed it. This is a partially enclosed drain that Council has now, post the floods, cleaned out. It was probably blocked before the floods because Council does not do proactive maintenance. The open waterway channel was so full of debris, my guess would be from the 2011 flood. This Council had done nothing, nothing. That is a stormwater main for residents in Oxley.

Around the corner in the Colwel Street Park there was another collapsing stormwater drain. That one did get fixed. It was so overgrown that at first I thought it was just an overgrown park. I thought all the weeds were just weeds in a tree. So Council cleaned it up and low and behold there’s a stormwater main that comes out in the park. It had collapsed because of the failure of Council to maintain its drainage assets in Oxley.

Then, of course, we’ve got Oxley Creek, the most degraded creek in the Brisbane City network. The biggest creek in the Brisbane City network and one that is ignored by Brisbane City Council. We had the former Lord Mayor’s attempt at doing something which was stormwater grates at Archerfield which were a filtration system. That never took off, I think there were two of them. I don’t even know if they’re still there. Are they, who knows?

Then we had the Oxley Creek Transformation project where they promised $100 million and you’d think maybe some of that—you’d think maybe some of that might go towards rehabilitating Oxley Creek. That’s what I told them was the top priority, right. This creek is toxic, it’s nasty. You can’t ride along it and enjoy it because it is so awful.

Have we seen any money for that? No, 18 months ago they were supposed to release their rehabilitation plan and haven’t done so. There is $20 million for a wetlands and park and walking tracks in Archerfield, great, $20 million. Do you think maybe Council could spent a little bit of that money cleaning up Oxley Creek? Just a little bit, just a little bit. Instead of—do you know who is doing the work down there?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Bushcare, bushcare. The same, extraordinary dozen volunteers who work in their own bushcare groups and then collectively work in creek care on Oxley Creek. I support them month-in and month-out by feeding them. When Jocelyn Nixon makes me—pulling out weeds then I get instructions, she knows which ones are the weeds. That’s Council’s effort down there on Oxley Creek.

Are we getting things done to improve the creek, the habitat around the creek? No, nothing, not a thing. So not only does Council’s own actions in managing this petition demonstrate its neglect, it’s failure to listen and its disrespect for Brisbane residents. But the answer, we cleaned up the spills from the—the spills in the creek after the flood. That’s Council’s answer to this.

The residents have had to put up with this now, most of them are long-term residents down there. They’ve lived down there for three floods now, 1974, 2011 and 2022. A few of them have got buy-back. This is an area where about 30 to 40 houses have been bought back, but there’ll still be hundreds that flood next time down there. It’ll be exactly the same.

Here’s what they did want in the petition. They wanted silt build-up removed. Now, I understand why they want that and Council can do things to look at where there are silt build-ups. That is certainly the case when it comes to wonderful built infrastructure like say the Castlemaine stormwater main where Council are spending $2.2 million cleaning out a stormwater drain. So it’s okay to spend that money in Milton but not our here.

More has been spent on that than the whole of Oxley Creek, the whole of Oxley Creek, $2.25 million to clean the stormwater drain at Milton. Less than that to clean up the 70 kilometres of Oxley Creek that are in the Brisbane River—in the Brisbane City boundaries.

They want to stop filling in the floodplain. Council didn’t even bother to address that issue, they did not bother to address it in the petition. They wanted land use change on the creek to stop the toxic and invasive commercial and industrial businesses that are right on the creek. Wreckers, chemicals, paint, they wanted land use change. Not addressed at all by the Council petition, not at all.

Council officers said to me one of the worst placed areas in the floods was in Rocklea. They said they didn’t even know how they were going to start to clean up that paint factory, that was a disaster.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: This Council has neglected these residents in Oxley, it has abandoned them. This is a do-nothing response that is simply doing a bit of clean up after the flood. Rather than proactive, environmental management of a valuable waterway.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

Councillor DAVIS, right of reply.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you very much, Mr Chair. If I could just make a few comments regarding the Mt Coot-tha Reserve concept plan for off-road cycling. I’m really disappointed that Councillor GRIFFITHS has come into the Chamber tonight and said those things about what is a balanced plan.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: It’s very concerning that he comes into the Chamber and asserts that only one of the stakeholders has had opportunity to put forward their thoughts around the concept plan in the development stage, through the feedback that we received. What I can tell you is that I met with stakeholders from a range of groups over this particular period and as you can imagine, Mr Chair, those stakeholders held quite different perspectives on what the concept plan might look like when it was finally delivered. So I really believe that Councillor GRIFFITHS is being a little bit mischievous in presenting what he has here in the Chamber this evening.

We will continue to work with all stakeholders as we roll out this plan. One of the key features of the Off-Road Cycling Strategy was to ensure that we did consider environmental matters when any new tracks or trails were delivered. We will continue to observe that. Of the unauthorised tracks that Councillor GRIFFITHS has spoken to, this is why we undertook the plan, because the mountain was covered in unauthorised tracks.

We will have an opportunity to convert some of those tracks that are already there that are not going to damage the environment any further. There is opportunity for that consideration, but I can assure Councillor GRIFFITHS, for any new trails that are considered for Mt Coot-tha, that the environmental impacts will absolutely be considered because it features in the Off-Road Cycling Strategy.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

I will now put items A, C, D, E and F of the report.

**Clauses A, C, D, E and F put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses A, C, D, E and F of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Now put item B of the report.

**Clause B put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause B of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Steve GRIFFITHS immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN and Steven TOOMEY.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor James Mackay (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths and Sandy Landers.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor David McLachlan.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – MT COOT-THA RESERVE MOUNTAIN BIKE CONCEPT PLAN

**47/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan (the concept plan). He provided the information below.

2. Mt Coot-tha Reserve (the reserve) is a Brisbane landmark that forms a backdrop for the city and is Council’s largest natural area. The reserve is a highly popular recreation area offering a variety of outdoor activities. Mountain biking is one of these activities which in recent years has experienced a substantial growth in popularity. Council is proud to be meeting this demand through the development of the concept plan.

3. The concept plan is a key part of Council’s *Brisbane Off-Road Cycling Strategy* (the strategy) which was released in 2021. The strategy guides Council’s investment in off-road cycling facilities and aims to provide a safe, well-planned and connected network of facilities that protect Brisbane’s natural environment. Extensive community engagement was completed during the development of the strategy.

4. Aside from the concept plan, the strategy has delivered:

- the Shand Street Park skills track in April 2022

- D.M. Henderson Park off-road cycling skills track in August 2022

- natural area compliance and education program

- bike workshops for women and juniors.

5. The Mt-Coot-tha Trail Care program is an inclusive volunteer-based initiative that commenced in June 2022 and is funded by Council’s off-road cycling budget. This partnership between the mountain biking community and Council aims to maintain trails so that they are safe to ride and resilient to wet weather events. The community’s efforts allow Council to focus on substantial maintenance issues that may require contractors and/or heavy machinery.

6. Many of the reserve’s mountain bike tracks were designed in 2003 with no reserve-wide plan in place. As a result, the track network is at capacity during peak times which negatively impacts users’ experience. Through concept planning, Council aims to develop a diverse, inclusive, safe and sustainable track network. Concept planning also allows Council to protect the social, environmental and cultural values of the reserve. When the draft concept plan was developed, Council considered a range of factors including mountain bike track use and preferences, emerging trends and new technologies.

7. The draft concept plan features a map showing proposed mountain bike facilities and opportunities in the broader reserve. The map divides the reserve into three areas and details their proposed purpose. These areas are:

- Area A: for future mountain bike tracks, opportunities and facilities

- Area B: for walking and shared use tracks

- Area C: exclusively for walking tracks (Frogmouth bike track to be removed).

8. Community and key stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the draft concept plan between September and October 2022. As part of this engagement, 1,119 respondents completed an online survey and 46 provided submissions. Community consultation found that:

- 81% of respondents supported what was proposed in Area A

- 73% of respondents supported what was proposed in Area B

- 65% of respondents preferred bike access be maintained in Area C.

9. Common themes included the need for additional access points, rider and track safety, unauthorised tracks and the protection of the biodiversity. Based on the community’s response, the Citriodora and Frogmouth trails in Area C will remain open to mountain bike riders, while some shared use tracks will be designated as walking only tracks to improve visitor safety.

10. Key outcomes proposed for the final concept plan include:

- improved rider access within the reserve

- more single tracks catering to different skill levels

- improved mountain bike signage

- education and compliance

- a network of authorised tracks

- new connections to Gold Creek Reserve

- retention of tracks designated for walking and horse riding.

11. Initial priorities for the implementation of the concept plan include:

- a new mountain bike skills track, beginner track loop, intermediate track, climbing links and improved climbing trail at the Gap Creek Picnic Area

- closure of unauthorised trail networks

- conversion of some shared trails in Area C to walking only, while Citriodora and Frogmouth trails will remain open to mountain bike riders

- review access into the reserve from various access points.

12. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager for his informative presentation.

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REMOVE SILT AND OVERGROWN VEGETATION AT OXLEY CREEK TO PREVENT FUTURE FLOODING

**137/220/594/113**

**48/2023-24**

14. A petition requesting Council remove silt and overgrown vegetation at Oxley Creek to prevent future flooding, was presented to Council at its meeting on 7 June 2022, by Councillor Nicole Johnston, and received.

15. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

16. The petition contains 92 signatures.

17. The Queensland Government (the State) has assigned certain rights to manage creeks, waterways and adjacent lands to property owners with waterway frontages under the *Land Act 1994* and *Water Act 2000*. Generally, each respective property owner is responsible for the maintenance of creeks and waterways located on, or immediately adjacent to, their property. This includes the State, Council and private property owners. In tidal creeks and waterways, such as the lower reaches of Oxley Creek, the State is responsible for all maintenance of the waterway up to the high tide mark, with Council being responsible for maintaining Council‑owned land which adjoins the Oxley Creek waterway corridor. Council’s role in managing waterways on Council owned or managed lands extends to the same degree as any private property owner or the State.

18. Council manages vegetation within those creeks and waterways under Council control, including sections of Oxley Creek, in accordance with best-practice environmental and engineering principles. Vegetation (trees, shrubs and grasses) located within waterways play a key role in stabilising banks, provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna, provide food for fish and other aquatic organisms, and often acts as a buffer/filter for pollutants that would otherwise enter into sensitive environments like Moreton Bay. Vegetation also protects creeks and waterways from severe erosion during significant rain events and helps limit flood-related ‘channel change’ (where waterway alignments drastically shift) which often puts infrastructure and property at risk.

19. As such, Council does not typically remove or reduce vegetation from within creeks and waterways where a significant environmental or hydraulic benefit cannot be demonstrated. Council appreciates that residents may be concerned about vegetation within creeks and waterways and the impact vegetation could have on future flooding in their local area.

20. Council routinely inspects and carries out regular maintenance, including silt removal and vegetation management, at ‘control points’ such as bridges and culverts, along Council‑controlled sections of Oxley Creek. In addition, where appropriate, Council controls vegetation in the centreline of channels between control points to help minimise the accumulation of silt and sand. Since the February 2022 flood event, Council has expended more than $2 million on waterways maintenance within the Oxley Creek catchment area, including the clean-up of oil and petrochemicals within the creek and its tributaries and cleaning of the enclosed stormwater network that feeds into Oxley Creek, along with clearing of selected culverts and control points to reduce the risk of flooding. Additional works that are programmed to occur in the 2023-24 financial year include waterway channel and culvert desilting, control point clearing, debris removal, bank/bed stabilisation and the repair of damaged infrastructure along multiple sections of Oxley Creek.

21. As the petition was addressed to Council and the State, the State will provide a separate response regarding the maintenance of those sections of Oxley Creek bordering State‑controlled land. It is recommended that the petitioners contact the Queensland Government for matters within their remit.

Consultation

22. Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

23. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

24. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Steve Griffiths dissenting.

25. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/113

Thank you for your petition requesting Council remove silt and overgrown vegetation at Oxley Creek to prevent future flooding.

The Queensland Government (the State) has assigned certain rights to manage creeks, waterways and adjacent lands to property owners with waterway frontages under the *Land Act 1994* and *Water Act 2000*. Generally, each respective property owner is responsible for the maintenance of creeks and waterways located on, or immediately adjacent to, their property. This includes the State, Council and private property owners. In tidal creeks and waterways, such as the lower reaches of Oxley Creek, the State is responsible for all maintenance of the waterway up to the high tide mark, with Council being responsible for maintaining Council‑owned land which adjoins the Oxley Creek waterway corridor. Council’s role in managing waterways on Council owned or managed lands extends to the same degree as any private property owner or the State.

Council manages vegetation within those creeks and waterways under Council control, including sections of Oxley Creek, in accordance with best-practice environmental and engineering principles. Vegetation (trees, shrubs and grasses) located within waterways play a key role in stabilising banks, provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna, provide food for fish and other aquatic organisms, and often acts as a buffer/filter for pollutants that would otherwise enter into sensitive environments like Moreton Bay. Vegetation also protects creeks and waterways from severe erosion during significant rain events and helps limit flood-related ‘channel change’ (where waterway alignments drastically shift) which often puts infrastructure and property at risk.

As such, Council does not typically remove or reduce vegetation from within creeks and waterways where a significant environmental or hydraulic benefit cannot be demonstrated. Council appreciates that residents may be concerned about vegetation within creeks and waterways and the impact vegetation could have on future flooding in their local area.

Council routinely inspects and carries out regular maintenance, including silt removal and vegetation management, at ‘control points’ such as bridges and culverts, along Council‑controlled sections of Oxley Creek. In addition, where appropriate, Council controls vegetation in the centreline of channels between control points to help minimise the accumulation of silt and sand. Since the February 2022 flood event, Council has expended more than $2 million on waterways maintenance within the Oxley Creek catchment area, including the clean-up of oil and petrochemicals within the creek and its tributaries, and cleaning of the enclosed stormwater network that feeds into Oxley Creek, along with clearing selected culverts and control points to reduce the risk of flooding. Additional works that are programmed to occur in the 2023-24 financial year include waterway channel and culvert desilting, control point clearing, debris removal, bank/bed stabilisation and the repair of damaged infrastructure along multiple sections of Oxley Creek.

As your petition was addressed to Council and the State, the State will provide a separate response regarding the maintenance of those sections of Oxley Creek bordering State‑controlled land. It is recommended that you contact the Queensland Government for matters within their remit.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Pieter Sytsma, Outcome Coordinator Waterways, Civil and Structures, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 8888.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT SIGNAGE TO HONOUR PAST BROTHERS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB AT CORBETT PARK, GRANGE

**137/220/594/114**

**49/2023-24**

26. A petition requesting Council construct signage to honour Past Brothers Rugby League Football Club (the Club) at Corbett Park, Grange, was received during the Winter Recess 2022.

27. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

28. The petition contains 210 signatures.

29. The petition references the historical significance of the Club at Corbett Park. From Council’s investigation, Corbett Park was previously a section of privately-owned land adjacent to Gilbert Road Park (D0496, B-RE-1438), 110 Uxbridge Street, Grange. This land was developed for residential housing and is currently known as Hermitage Gardens residential complex, located at 120 Uxbridge Street. The Club was previously located within the area of Hermitage Gardens and Gilbert Road Park. Attachment B (submitted on file) displays a locality map of Gilbert Road Park.

30. Advice was sought from Council’s Parks Policy and Planning team within Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, who support the petitioners’ request for a historical sign at Gilbert Road Park.

31. As such, Council will erect a historical sign acknowledging the Club in Gilbert Road Park. The sign will be erected on the southern bank of Kedron Brook, west of Jean Street and adjacent to Hermitage Gardens where the rugby league fields were previously located.

Consultation

32. Councillor Fiona Hammond, Councillor for Marchant Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

33. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

34. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

35. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/114

Thank you for your petition requesting Council construct signage to honour Past Brothers Rugby League Football Club (the Club) at Corbett Park, Grange.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Council acknowledges that your petition references the historical significance of the Club at Corbett Park. From Council’s investigation, Corbett Park was previously a section of privately‑owned land that was located adjacent to Gilbert Road Park, 110 Uxbridge Street, Grange.

Council is supportive of erecting a historical sign acknowledging the Club in Gilbert Road Park. The sign will be erected on the southern bank of Kedron Brook, west of Jean Street and adjacent to the Hermitage Gardens residential complex where the rugby league fields were previously located.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Ted Krosman, Parks Planning Coordinator, Greenspace Planning, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 0841.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL RENAME THE OPEN SPACE AT 39 SWEETS ROAD, PALLARA, AS ‘FOGOLAR FURLAN PLACE’

**137/220/594/163**

**50/2023-24**

36. A petition requesting Council rename the open space at 39 Sweets Road, Pallara, as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 8 November 2022, by Councillor Angela Owen, and received.

37. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

38. The petition contains 560 signatures.

39. The Fogolar Furlan Brisbane Inc. (the Fogolar), founded in Brisbane in 1956, is an association fostering the culture and social aspect of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region located in north-east Italy.

40. The site was specifically chosen by the Fogolar as multiple members and founders were original settlers in the Pallara area in the 1950s. Many members continue to call the area home with the lush green and rural nature of Pallara giving them a stunning outdoor setting for their functions, providing members and guests a peaceful and charming atmosphere to bring family and friends.

41. The site was acquired by Council in April 2023 for the delivery of trunk stormwater and park infrastructure, as part of the Pallara stormwater infrastructure project. Currently, property dwellings exist at the site, along with a bespoke entrance gate, barbeque area, undercover picnic area, storage areas, a memorabilia hall and a war memorial. These have been established by the Fogolar to acknowledge their heritage and to promote multicultural celebrations and awareness. The site will be registered as a park and included into Council’s network following acquisition development of the property. Attachment B (submitted on file) displays a locality map.

42. For more than 30 years, the Fogolar have held at least five annual events catering for up to 450 people at Sweets Road, with members from all areas of Brisbane and South East Queensland. The Fogolar have a strong sense of community, offering a rental property for local use, and donating more than $100,000 to numerous community and charitable organisations including the Heart Foundation, the Children’s Hospital, and various flood and earthquake appeals.

43. The site is the home of the Alpini War Memorial and memorial services are held twice a year for veterans. The Fogolar also make an annual donation to Legacy, recognising the important link they have to the Australian Defence Force and acknowledging the service of the Fogolar’s former President, Acting President and a number of current members as Vietnam veterans.

44. Given the Fogolar’s demonstrated links to the original settlers of Pallara, their longstanding time at Sweets Road and many charitable endeavours, Council will consider naming the site as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’, in accordance with Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities or Tracks Procedure.*

Consultation

45. Councillor Angela Owen, Councillor for Calamvale Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

46. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

47. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

48. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/163

Thank you for your petition requesting Council rename the open space at 39 Sweets Road, Pallara (the site), as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and will consider naming the site as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’, in accordance with Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities or Tracks Procedure.*

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Ted Krosman, Parks Planning Coordinator, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 8888.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### E PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL NAME THE ENTRANCE AREA OF THE HOOP PINE PICNIC AREA, MT COOT-THA, AS ‘PRIVATE ALEXANDER LESLIE PLACE’

**137/220/594/164**

**51/2023-24**

49. A petition requesting Council name the entrance area of the Hoop Pine Picnic area, Mt Coot‑tha, as ‘Private Alexander Leslie Place’, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 15 November 2022, by Councillor Greg Adermann, and received.

50. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure provided the following information.

51. The petition contains 122 signatures.

52. The request is to rename the entrance area of Hoop Pine Picnic Area, Mt Coot-tha, in recognition of the personal sacrifice of WWII Rat of Tobruk, Private Alexander Leslie (Private Leslie) who was born in Toowong, Brisbane. Private Leslie passed away on 20 October 2007 and is buried at the Toowong Cemetery.

53. The proposed place to recognise his sacrifice is along the Discovery Trail, at the entrance of the Hoop Pine Picnic Area.

54. The Rats of Tobruk were soldiers of the Australian-led Allied garrison that held the Libyan port of Tobruk against the Afrika Corps, during the Siege of Tobruk in World War II. The siege continued from April to December 1941. Approximately 14,000 Australians served at Tobruk during the siege, many of them Queenslanders.

55. Council officers have reviewed the service records of Private Leslie, noting his dedication to serving his country along with the thousands of Queenslanders who served at Tobruk. Council is of the opinion that Private Leslie’s contributions during his time as an Australian soldier were commensurate with many of his colleagues.

56. In considering the renaming of the proposed location, during the Second World War, the Mt Coot-tha Forest was turned over for military use and served as a mine storage and assembly depot. Personnel from the 55th US Naval Construction Battalion and the Royal Australian Air Force Magnetic and Acoustic Mines section were based at the depot, with the major camp area lying on the eastern point of the Forest near the present Hoop Pine picnic area. In 1944, the facility was dismantled and moved to Darwin although work was carried out on the building and mine depots until 1945. There is no evidence to suggest that the location played any significant role in supporting the Rats of Tobruk during the North Africa campaign. It is also acknowledged that Private Leslie’s life and service is already commemorated nearby at Toowong Cemetery. As such the location is not considered appropriate for renaming to commemorate the Rats of Tobruk or Private Leslie.

57. The proposal is therefore not supported. However, it is recognised that the petitioners are seeking ways to ensure the sacrifices made by the Rats of Tobruk are not forgotten.

Consultation

58. Councillor Greg Adermann, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

59. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

60. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

61. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/164

Thank you for your petition requesting that Council name the entrance area in the Hoop Pine area, Mt Coot-tha, as ‘WWII Rat of Tobruk, Private Alexander Leslie’.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

The ‘Rats of Tobruk’ were soldiers of the Australian-led Allied garrison that held the Libyan port of Tobruk against the Afrika Korps, during the Siege of Tobruk in World War II. The siege continued from April to December 1941. Approximately 14,000 Australians served at Tobruk during the siege, many of them Queenslanders.

Council officers have reviewed the service records of Private Leslie’s, noting his dedication to serving his country along with the thousands of Queenslanders who served at Tobruk. Council is of the opinion that Private Leslie’s contributions during his time as an Australian soldier were commensurate with many of his colleagues.

In considering the renaming of the proposed location, during the Second World War, the Mt Coot­-tha Forest was turned over for military use and served as a mine storage and assembly depot. Personnel from the 55th US Naval Construction Battalion and the Royal Australian Air Force Magnetic and Acoustic Mines section were based at the depot, with the major camp area lying on the eastern point of the Forest near the present Hoop Pine picnic area. In 1944, the facility was dismantled and moved to Darwin although work was carried out on the building and mine depots until 1945. There is no evidence to suggest that the location played any significant role in supporting the Rats of Tobruk during the North Africa campaign. It is also acknowledged that Private Leslie’s life and service is already commemorated nearby at Toowong Cemetery. As such, the location is not considered appropriate for renaming to commemorate the Rats of Tobruk or Private Leslie.

As such, the request of the petitioners is not supported. The efforts of the Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Association are acknowledged, and if members would like to discuss other ways of achieving the intended outcome, please contact Ms Nicola Barlow by calling (07) 3403 8888 or by emailing Nicola.Barlow@brisbane.qld.gov.au.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### F PETITION – REQUEST TO RELOCATE THE DOG OFF-LEASH AREA FROM JAMES WARNER PARK TO CAPTAIN BURKE PARK, KANGAROO POINT

**137/220/594/187**

**52/2023-24**

62. A petition requesting Council relocate the dog off-leash area (DOLA) from James Warner Park to Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point, was received during the Summer Recess 2022-23.

63. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

64. The petition contains 53 signatures. Of the petitioners, 33 live within The Gabba Ward and 20 live in other suburbs in the City of Brisbane.

65. The James Warner Park DOLA was constructed in late 2021, following community consultation undertaken by the former Councillor for The Gabba Ward, Jonathan Sriranganathan. Construction was funded from The Gabba Ward’s Suburban Enhancement Fund budget allocation at the Councillor’s request.

66. Regarding concerns with the condition of the ground surface and exposure of tree roots, Council delivered works within the James Warner Park DOLA in March this year to install geofabric and a takura mulch layer atop the previously exposed soil surface to address these issues.

67. Captain Burke Park is classified as a metropolitan general recreation park within Council’s park classification system and receives high patronage from the local and wider community for a range of general recreation activities, including community park bookings and organised events. The park is effectively split in two by the Story Bridge, as the land directly underneath the bridge is not officially part of the park. This land is required to accommodate periodic bridge inspection and maintenance activities and therefore cannot accommodate recreation facilities.

68. For the above reasons Council is not considering relocation of the James Warner Park DOLA to Captain Burke Park.

Consultation

69. Councillor Trina Massey, Councillor for The Gabba Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

70. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

71. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

72. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/187

Thank you for your petition requesting Council relocate the dog off-leash area (DOLA) from James Warner Park to Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point.

The James Warner Park DOLA was constructed in late 2021, following community consultation undertaken by the former Councillor for The Gabba Ward, Jonathan Sriranganathan. Construction was funded from The Gabba Ward’s Suburban Enhancement Fund budget allocation at the Councillor’s request.

Regarding concerns with the condition of the ground surface and exposure of tree roots, Council delivered works within the James Warner Park DOLA in March this year to install geofabric and a takura mulch layer atop the previously exposed soil surface to address these issues.

Captain Burke Park is classified as a metropolitan general recreation park within Council’s park classification system and receives high patronage from the local and wider community for a range of general recreation activities, including community park bookings and organised events. The park is effectively split in two by the Story Bridge, as the land directly underneath the bridge is not officially part of the park. This land is required to accommodate periodic bridge inspection and maintenance activities and therefore cannot accommodate recreation facilities.

For the above reasons Council is not considering relocation of the James Warner Park DOLA to Captain Burke Park.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Anton Trenorden, Senior Policy and Planning Officer, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, on (07) 3403 4644.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN, the City—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor ADERMANN, the City Standards report.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Greg ADERMANN, Deputy Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Thank you, Chair. Last week Compliance and Regulatory Services attended the meeting to provide an update on the implementation of the eradication trial for the Yellow crazy ants (YCA) at The Gap in your ward. Councillors may be wondering why Council is in this space, when the Department of Agriculture has responsibility for the treatment of fire ants.

In 2016 the State Government amended the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to delegate the responsibility on to affected landowners, like the residents of Brisbane and local governments, to manage. Luckily Brisbane City Council treat public and private land at no cost to the land holders.

Chair, Council’s Yellow crazy ants prevention and control program is outlined in the *Biosecurity Plan for Brisbane*. This was developed in collaboration with the CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. In November 2022, Council commenced an eradication trial on 342 properties in The Gap. This consists of three treatments at three-month intervals. It is estimated that 90% of the YCA population will be destroyed in the first few months and may take up to five years of repeat activity, surveys and treatment. I’ll leave debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ADERMANN.

Is there further speakers on the City Standards report? I see no one rising.

We will now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Standards Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Sarah Hutton, Nicole Johnston and Sara Whitmee.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – YELLOW CRAZY ANT LOCAL ERADICATION

**53/2023-24**

1. The A/General Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on yellow crazy ant local eradication. She provided the information below.

2. Yellow crazy ants (YCA) are one of the most invasive ant species in the world. The *Biosecurity Plan for the Brisbane Local Government Area*,under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), contains a prevention and control program for YCA.

3. Successful treatment of YCA includes understanding the extent of the infestation, establishing dry environmental conditions, what type of product is used and how it is used, and maintaining the treatment.

4. The Committee was shown a map of the extent of YCA infestation in Stafford Heights, Acacia Ridge and The Gap between 2021 and 2022, that served as the pilot program for treatment.

5. Environmental conditions must be considered when treating YCA due to baits breaking down when exposed to moisture. Dry ground conditions maintain the baits while the YCA feed, increasing the effectiveness of the treatment. Residents are asked to turn off all irrigation leading up to, and 24 hours following, treatment and the program is paused if rain is expected withing 24 hours of proposed treatment.

6. YCA treatment includes:

- notifying residents via letterbox drop at three weeks and 24-hours pre‑treatment

- providing access for a pest technician

- three treatments at three-month intervals, with even spread of bait to increase uptake

- a systemised process to ensure no areas within the zones are missed.

7. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked A/General Manager for her informative presentation.

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

### COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I’ll try and be very quick, but there are just a couple of things that I need to do, which, of course, is to thank our librarians for the National Library and Information Week, which was actually last week, but it’s better late than never. We all know what a great job that all of our librarians do right across Brisbane.

I also want to give a big shout out to Metro Arts and their marvellous substation and workshop. Councillor COLLIER and little Maisie came along on Saturday. Maisie did sleep through most of it, I think, but we had a sausage sizzle and the work that Metro Arts is doing in that space is truly amazing.

On Saturday night, I represented the LORD MAYOR at the Australian Irish Dancing Association, which was celebrating its 50th Anniversary. I have to report there was not much dancing going on, not much Irish dancing. I was all ready to dance a jig but it sort of turned out to be a bit of Whitney and Taylor Swift, so I wasn’t really—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: —yes but anyway it was great, it was absolutely great to join this group of people. I had the pleasure of sitting next to a lady who actually was the first teacher and is still teaching 50 years later. So it was an amazing evening and I want to say a big shout out and big thank you to everyone.

As the LORD MAYOR mentioned earlier in the evening, there are two amazing people who are leaving the Lifestyle team. I’d like to add my comments to Shirley Amps and the amazing work that she has been doing with 44 extraordinary years of service. Shirley, in the latter part, was of course part of our grants program and would have dealt with all of our ward offices. I really want to add my thanks to the LORD MAYOR’s, for the amazing work that Shirley has done over many, many years.

So on behalf of everyone here in the Chamber. If you’re listening Shirley and I’m not sure that you will be after 44 years, but I somehow think that you might be. So a big thank you from all of us.

Of course, finally I want to say a huge thank you to Tash Tobias.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: Tash is—it has been an absolute pleasure to work with Tash as our Divisional Manager for Lifestyle. We have over 1,300 employees and can I say that I think Tash knows each and every one of those employees. One of her great strengths was her support of the staff who worked in this amazing team. I really want to emphasise how difficult that can be sometimes.

I think that, you know, there were some comments in the Chamber earlier, which I think are very disappointing. Because each and every one of us who’s had anything to do with Tash absolutely knows her professionalism and the ability to really support her teams and to make sure that we get the job done.

I also want to make mention, because Councillor MARX is not there, the fact that Tash not only looks after all of the fun stuff that I did. But also the compliance and the regulatory part of Lifestyle and that, of course, we have many, many dedicated officers that are doing that. But I have to say a huge thank you on behalf of Councillor MARX to Tash. I would just like to finish by saying, on behalf of my colleagues, we think that you’ve done a fantastic job, Tash. We wish you all the very best in the future to what you’re doing.

Now, moving to the Committee presentation. We had a presentation on, of course, the Brisbane Festival 2023. These are always, always amazing presentations. They were—everyone asked lots of questions. We’re getting ready for a big September here in Brisbane from 1 to 23 September. We are having some amazing events that will be happening.

We are actually sending a lot of information out to the ward offices and I encourage each and every one of you in this Chamber to promote the Brisbane Festival. Particularly for the things that are happening in your particular areas. I will leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

We will now put the—

Councillor MACKAY: Was I too late?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I’m happy to—

Councillor MACKAY: Oh, thanks, Chair. I just rise to speak about the Brisbane Festival. We had a great presentation last week and I was thrilled to see that Lou and Charlie came in to tell us what was going on. We have some wonderful art and entertainment culture in this city and it’s fantastic to have Brisbane Festival highlight them, kicking off with the Riverfire this year. We have numerous events all over the city including some of the events that are getting out to the suburbs such as the Sonata at UQ in St Lucia. I believe, Chair, you’ve got one out in The Gap, if memory serves correctly. I encourage as many people as possible to get out there and enjoy these wonderful festivals.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Look, I just have to—

Chair: —DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —reiterate what Councillor MACKAY said and Councillor HOWARD. I was very privileged to be at the launch night out at Hamilton Northshore, which was rather warm, not a couple of weeks ago. The offering this year is absolutely spectacular. They’ve taken the theme of the national—the Indigenous tourism and working together as their theme this year and some of the products from the First Nations and the local contributors are absolutely amazing.

Can I say, don’t forget—don’t miss things like Bananaland which is a musical that has been written by—I’m going to have a blank now.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —no, it’s that beautiful opera singer that was in Eurovision who’s a local—

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —Kate Miller-Heidke, thank you, I had a total blank. Kate Miller-Heidke and her husband and it is—we’ve seen a shorts of it, a trailer and it is absolutely spectacular. Again, some of the Islander dances and the party themes they’re going to have this year are just going to be absolutely fantastic. One thing that we must absolutely remember for Brisbane Festival this year, is that the fireworks are on the first night, not on the last night. So that’s very important and that reminds all residents that the games are—the event is on, the festival is on.

Councillors, as we get closer you will see the Street Serenades are back as well. So they’re not something that are loudly advertised because they are just for the locals, but keep your ear to the ground and hopefully you’ll get notification closer to the events. Because they are trying to spread them across as many suburbs as possible and they are proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. I thoroughly recommend anything at the Brisbane Festival to the Chamber and their residents.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Thank you, Chair. I just want to also just talk about Brisbane Festival and that it’s actually going to begin and end with a lot of noise and a lot of excitement. On the 2nd with the beginning will be Riverfire, but that night, about 25 minutes after I believe, that Riverfire finishes, we’re going to experience something very exciting and new and that is a drone show.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: Compared by Shannon from Tribal Experiences, best radio voice ever. So that is going to be something very special to see. The drone show will be Saturday and Sunday night, but it will be fantastic to see that. If you’re going into the city to see Riverfire, you’re going to get an extra special treat.

On 23 September at the end of Brisbane Festival, something new is going—and it’s going to be very noisy but it’s going to be great fun—is 10,000 kazoos in Victoria Park.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: And 100 drums, yes, don’t forget the drums.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: Okay. So the kazoos, it’s all—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: —that’s right, it’s free entry, 3.30 at Victoria Park and everyone will receive—

Chair: Other end, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor LANDERS: —a free kazoo.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: I am told—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: I am assured that we can all play them. I don’t know if anyone here has played a kazoo but I’m told that it’s quite easy. So it will be wonderful to see our community coming together in our new and wonderful park, Victoria Park.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: It will be wonderful to see people coming together there. But also I think it’s fantastic to see organisers having an event at the end that is going to be so big. Because you know we need to celebrate that, that it has been a successful and wonderful festival. It really is, there will be something for everyone.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: Yes, yes, there will be a light show in the Botanical Gardens, Councillor HUTTON. Yes, sure to be something beautiful on our beautiful September evenings that we have. It will be absolutely delightful to do that and I can’t wait to do that. So, looking forward to celebrating the beginning and the end and everything in between.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor LANDERS.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

Councillor HOWARD, it looks like September’s going to be very busy for us.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, I have to say, through you, Mr Chair, that I really appreciate our Councillors enjoying that presentation so much. I think I may have promised that we would all practice the kazoo in the Council Chamber. Just giving you sort of full warning that that might have to happen.

Now, I’ve been told, through you, Mr Chair, to Councillor DAVIS, that the kazoos are going to be 100% sustainable.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: So I’m just not sure whether the noise that comes from the kazoo is going to be great. But—

Chair: I think that will be Councillor MARX’s problem.

Councillor HOWARD: —Councillor MARX’s problem. Although Councillor DAVIS will be very much wanting it to be—but anyway, I think the kazoo is going to be great. It was a great presentation, the Committee had a fantastic time asking questions. I know that Councillor GRIFFITHS is very much looking forward to the Moorooka Block Party that’s going to happen. I’m sorry you didn’t stand up and talk about it, but 9 September at Peggs Park.

So you know I think it’s really—and it really is something that’s extra special where we have so many people participating. Particularly at that sort of—that level in the suburbs. I think that was something that—and can I say that that was also something that our Committee gave feedback to the Brisbane Festival last year. So it’s really—I feel very proud when our Committee gives some ideas to the festival. They very much took those on board and I think we were able to—and particularly because our Councillors know their local area and they know what there is that’s able—to be able to—you know just to make the areas especially great.

There was just one thing that I forgot earlier that I really want to mention. That is our Winter Sessions that have just been on down in Fortitude Valley. I just want to say a huge thank you to the LORD MAYOR in that the first Winter Sessions was put on as a result of COVID and the fact that we had venues that were doing it really, really tough.

This year we’ve been able to bring that back with some amazing people. We’ve got—John Collins, in fact has said some rather lovely things about us in a local paper. Many of you will know that John Collins is the local legend and the basis for Powderfinger and the founder of Triffid. He said that the number of new venues and the support from Council for venue owners and music makers makes a huge difference.

He says right now there’s a lot of big shows like Taylor Swift and Coldplay sweeping through the ticket-buying market like a juggernaut. In the aftermath, and given the rising costs of living, it’s young, local artists that are suffering and finding it hard to sell tickets and develop audiences. COVID broke the audience development chain. He says enter Winter Sessions with the great line up of free events and local acts.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: That is exactly what is needed to fix the chain, to reboot the audiences. He said, this is where Winter Sessions is such a powerful and timely initiative. The number of free events in this program mean bands get gigs and music fans get experiences. This support for the music industry from Council and the city, it’s vital.

Thankfully we have a Council that understands this and can subsidise the events. It’s such a crucial part of the structure of our music industry and until now, one that probably was unknown by those external to it. So once the chain is fixed, our industry can fly.

He then says some rather lovely things about the LORD MAYOR and me and I’m going to say them because I want them to be put into the thing. He says, I know the LORD MAYOR, Adrian SCHRINNER and Councillor Vicki HOWARD are committed to this program. A healthy music and entertainment precinct is also vital for real city growth and need young people to choose Brisbane as their city. This means we need great venues, bars, clubs, restaurants and a vibrant nightlife.

I just want to say to all of our nighttime economy, we are here for you, we know what you need and we’re here to support you. I’ll leave it at that.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

We’ll now put the report to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, James Mackay, Steven Toomey and Sara Whitmee.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE FESTIVAL 2023

**54/2023-24**

1. The Artistic Director, Brisbane Festival, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane Festival 2023 (the Festival). She provided the information below.

2. The Festival will be held from 1 to 23 September and will include performances in theatre, dance, circus, music and comedy and interactive visual art installations.

3. Jarrah (Mother Earth) is a gathering of nations in South East Queensland to cleanse the path for the opening of the Festival. Through stories, song and dance, Jarrah invites audiences to honour and pay respect to Brisbane’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This opening celebration will be performed by Traditional Custodians.

4. The internationally acclaimed multi-sensory experience *Lightscape* is a nightly event at the City Botanic Gardens. *Lightscape* takes the audience on a journey of the senses through light, colour and sounds, showcasing the City Botanic Gardens as never seen before.

5. A bright and bold celebration of Brisbane, Nieergoo: Spirit of the Whale*,* is a three-dimensional multicolour drone show celebrating ancient stories of culture and place. Directed by Traditional Custodian and storyteller, Shannon Ruska, Nieergoo: Spirit of the Whaledepicts the dreamtime story of the Jagera and Turrbal people.

6. The Moorooka Block Partywill be held on 9 September at Peggs Park, Moorooka. Headlined by Bustamento, this event features Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and international musicians, as well as performances by:

* the Al Zayton Palestinian Dabke Troupe
* Jessie Lloyd
* Dance Masala
* Keyim Ba.

7. Brisbane Serenadesfeatures travelling musical performances each Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 2 to 23 September. More than 23 suburbs will take centre-stage for a celebration of music and community. This free event brings the joy of music into the suburbs of Brisbane with a series of classical music concerts, presented by six of Queensland’s best classical, choral and world-fusion ensembles.

8. *Salamander*, a promenade dance-theatre work, sees a warehouse at Northshore Hamilton transformed into a fully-immersive, climate-fiction, dream-like world through light, sound, design and movement.

9. Bananalandis a musical comedy written by Keir Nuttall and scored by Kate Miller-Heidke. The play follows Ruby Semblence, a 21-year-old singer whose furious protest song ‘Bananaland’ becomes an accidental hit with children. It is directed by industry giant, Simon Phillips, internationally renowned for his stunning visual style, innovative staging and work on large-scale musicals including *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *Ladies in Black*.

10. The Festival’s Closing Concert: All Together Nowinvites the audience to come together and participate in the celebration. Free biodegradable kazoos will also be provided to attendees, who will be invited to come together in an almighty chorus of kazoos. The closing concertalso features:

- a celebration of Pasifika culture with Siva Mai Club

- a flamenco family fiesta with Flamenco House

- contemporary dance company, Dancenorth, accompanied by 100 local drummers.

11. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Artistic Director for her informative presentation.

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillors we move on to the Finance and City Governance Committee.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven HUANG, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

No?

We’ll now put the report. All those in favour—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: —oh, further speakers?

No, nobody moved anyway.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Finance and City Governance Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Angela Owen, Trina Massey and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND REPORT – NET BORROWINGS – CASH INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING – JUNE 2023

**109/800/148/25**

**55/2023-24**

1. The Corporate Treasurer, Financial Analysis and Treasury Management, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to present a report to the Committee on Council’s net borrowings for the June 2023 quarter. The report details the corporate cash holdings invested and the status of Council’s funding activities.

2. The report provided a market and economic review, and a summary of the following issues in

relation to Council’s investments, including:

- cash position

- review of cash activity

- earnings on investments

- funding capability

- borrowings

- facility performance

- leases.

3. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Corporate Treasurer for her informative presentation.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B COMMITTEE REPORT – BANK AND INVESTMENT REPORT – MAY 2023

**134/695/317/1228-002**

**56/2023-24**

5. The Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, provided an overview of Council’s cash and cash investment positions as at 26 May 2023.

6. Page 2 of the report (submitted on file) outlines Council’s cash and investments with financial counter parties as recorded in Council’s financial systems.

7. The increase of cash and investments of $8.5 million in May was consistent with Council’s usual business cycle activities during the period and largely due to:

* Receipts:
* Receipts of quarterly commercial rates
* Brisbane Metro Grant.
* Payments:
* CapEx (capital expenditure) outflows.

8. Explanation of the significant items include:

* Cash at bank in Australian dollars (AUD):
* transactional banking account with Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) - this is Council’s operational bank account for receipts and payments for day‑to‑day transactions in AUD
* the variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per bank statements relates to timing differences in recognition.
* Swiss francs (CHF) bank account – AUD equivalent:
* AUD equivalent of CHF held in a CBA account which is solely used for Brisbane Metro project hedge settlements and invoice payments in CHF.
* Cash investments:
* Council is holding a total of $305 million cash investments with $95 million placed in longer-term investments (with maturities up until 30 June 2023) and $210 million held in at call accounts
* the variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per the investment statements relates to the accrued interests and fees which have not yet been processed to the bank statement.
* Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) Investment:
* the QIC investment account is set up to provide asset backing for Council’s self‑managed insurance fund (SMIF).

9. The variance for the period is due to accruals of interest and fees not yet recorded in the bank statements and timing of transactions processed. These are normal variances due to timing of transactions and information received.

10. Page 3 of the report (submitted on file) includes a reconciliation of the CBA bank account between Council’s financial records and the CBA statement. The majority of unreconciled bank transactions at the end of the period have since been reconciled.

11. In addition, the Swiss bank account movements during the period are disclosed.

12. Page 5 of the report (submitted on file) includes amounts held by Council in trust as well as petty cash balances. The trust amounts are largely associated with monies held for infrastructure development commitments.

13. Trust balances are lower, due to payments being greater than receipts during the month. These are normal fluctuations of the funds from month to month.

14. The variance between the trust ledger and the investment balance is due to timing of transfers processed to ensure the required funds are held outside of Council’s transactional bank account. These are normal variances and fluctuate from month to month.

15. All relevant general ledger accounts were reconciled and analysed.

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT**, submitted on file, **BE NOTED.**

**ADOPTED**

#### C COMMITTEE REPORT – BANK AND INVESTMENT REPORT – JUNE 2023

**134/695/317/1228-002**

**57/2023-24**

17. The Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, provided an overview provided a monthly summary of Council’s cash and cash investment positions as at 30 June 2023.

18. Page 2 of the report (submitted on file) outlines Council’s cash and investments with financial counter parties as recorded in Council’s financial systems.

19. The decrease of cash and investments of $244 million in June was larger than Council’s usual business cycle activities during the period due to:

* Payments:
* Large Outflows for both CapEx and OpEx (operational expenditure) payments.
* Offset by receipts:
* Queensland Treasury Corporation annual debt drawdown
* State Government waste levy
* Federal Government annual Financial Assistance Grant.

20. Explanation of the significant items include:

* Cash at Bank in AUD:
* transactional banking account with CBA – this is Council’s operational bank account for receipts and payments for day‑to‑day transactions in AUD
* the variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per bank statements relates to timing differences in recognition.
* CHF bank account – AUD equivalent:
* AUD equivalent of CHF held in a CBA account which is solely used for Brisbane Metro project hedge settlements and invoice payments in CHF.
* Cash investments:
* Council is holding a total of $36 million cash investments held in at call accounts
* the variance between the balance as per the General Ledger and the balance as per the investment statements relates to the accrued interests and fees which have not yet been processed to the bank statement.
* QIC investment:
* the QIC investment account is set up to provide asset backing for Council’s SMIF.

21. The variance for the period is due to accruals of interest and fees not yet recorded in the bank statements and timing of transactions processed. These are normal variances due to timing of transactions and information received.

22. Page 3 of the report (submitted on file) includes a reconciliation of the CBA bank account between Council’s financial records and the CBA statement. The majority of unreconciled bank transactions at the end of the period have since been reconciled.

23. In addition, the Swiss bank account movements during the period are disclosed.

24. Page 5 of the report (submitted on file) includes amounts held by Council in trust as well as petty cash balances. The trust amounts are largely associated with monies held for infrastructure development commitments.

25. Trust balances are lower, due to payments being greater than receipts during the month. These are normal fluctuations of the funds from month to month.

26. The variance between the trust ledger and the investment balance is due to timing of transfers processed to ensure the required funds are held outside of Council’s transactional bank account. These are normal variances and fluctuate from month to month.

27. All relevant general ledger accounts were reconciled and analysed.

28. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT**, submitted on file, **BE NOTED.**

**ADOPTED**

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON, point of order.

|  |
| --- |
| **58/2023-24**  At that time, 5.59pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of one hour, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 6.02pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

## CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON MOTION – LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT ON VENNER ROAD, ANNERLEY:

Chair: Thank you, Councillors. We will now continue debate on the adjourned motion and we’ll start—Councillor JOHNSTON, we’ll start with your motion, if you’re okay with that.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m okay with it but you have to go by the agenda, so I’m just checking that that’s the way we’re working. So you’re calling me to speak?

Chair: Yes, I am.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on the amendment I moved last week, which is calling on Brisbane City Council to reduce the speed limit on Venner Road, Annerley, from 60 kilometres to 50 kilometres, to protect cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. I value human life the highest. Last week we heard from the relevant Chair, Councillor WINES, in response to my question two things. The most important of those two things was I value human life the highest. He also said all measures should be taken and all efforts should be made to make roads safer. So that is the Transport Chair, Councillor Andrew WINES—the Infrastructure Chairman, Councillor Andrew WINES. Now—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Now unfortunately a person died walking home after just a walk in the area on the corner of Frederick Street and Venner Road, Annerley, in 2018, a distinguished local doctor, Dr Geoff Copland. His wife, Karin and daughter were active in Brisbane City Council’s Active School Travel committee at St Sebastian’s, so I knew them well. I also knew Geoff well because he was a person who when I first started campaigning talked to me a lot about the dangers of Venner Road. Since Geoff’s death and before Geoff’s death, so this is—I’ve had an election commitment since 2007, since before I started, when at that time Graham Quirk and Campbell Newman said we’re doing this freight study.

It was called the Sherwood to Yeerongpilly freight study and it’s about getting freight off some of these roads. I said righto and I went along with it, a report was done. The report recommended a number of things, including taking trucks off Venner Road, a bypass of trucks from Venner Road, pedestrian improvements on Venner Road and one other thing, something else on Venner Road. Since that time there have been two deaths. The first was a small child who was killed after a toddler accidentally got out of their house, went up to Venner Road and was run over and then Geoff was killed just five years ago.

Council has literally done nothing to address safety concerns on Venner Road, nothing. We have petitioned previously to have the speed on Venner Road reduced to 40 kilometres an hour. That was rejected by Brisbane City Council, rejected and at the time the Council said we’re doing a transport planning strategy, we’re doing a review of the Ipswich Road corridor and we’ll be looking at options out of this Ipswich Road corridor. That’s the same Ipswich Road corridor that almost four years on the CEO, no doubt encouraged by LNP Councillors, has taken a complaint against me for simply talking about Ipswich Road.

A Council report that recommended a course of action, including an underpass for trucks under Annerley Junction, a tunnel. That’s something this Administration does not want to talk about, its Council officers’ recommendations and a lot of others that this Council does nothing about. The first and simplest thing that we can do on Venner Road is to reduce the speed limit. If it can’t be to 40, it should be to 50. We know all the scientific evidence tells us that when you reduce the speed limit, you reduce the severity of accidents, you may save a life. Someone may be injured rather than die. It gives drivers more reaction time. It’s just better for everyone. It’s complicated by the topography in this area. Venner Road is steeply—a steep street running sort of east-west and it also has a very significant fall to the southern side of Venner Road, so it’s quite tricky.

It’s in terrible condition, terrible condition. Council’s going to resurface it this year, but Councillor GRIFFITHS has been told it might not even cover the whole resurfacing, because of the stormwater drainage problems under Venner Road. This is the third time it’s been resurfaced in my time as the Councillor, it’s an appalling road, it’s dangerous, it is dangerous. It does not have a proper intersection at the eastern end with Ipswich Road and a major intersection upgrade is needed. There are no turning lanes, you take your life in your hands at that location. At the bottom end you’ve got a roundabout which functions well for most of the day, but is highly congested in the peak times and provides no safe pedestrian crossing points. It is a dysfunctional piece of infrastructure. It originally wasn’t even there until 30 or 40 years ago, when Council opened it up, it was a dead-end, but it never put the road infrastructure in place to make it suitable.

Now the reason I’m moving this motion today is because Councillor Krista ADAMS has managed to personally lower the speed limit on Boundary Road, Camp Hill, from 70 kilometres to 60 kilometres against—without having a speed limit review done to support that. We know that a speed limit review process was done maybe two years ago, we know it was done two years ago and that did not recommend a reduction in the speed limit, did not recommend. Now we know from Councillor WINES last week and we know from his own flyers that he publishes and he’s asked Council to publish, he’s done multiple presentations in Committee, he’s done multiple presentations in this Chamber, including in answer to my question last week, saying a speed limit review process must be undertaken to support a reduction in the speed limit.

Clearly that is a false statement, that is a false statement. Deliberately false? I would say yes, so a lie? Yes, because I don’t know believe the Infrastructure Chairperson didn’t know that the LORD MAYOR, Councillor CUNNINGHAM and Councillor ADAMS were personally lowering the speed limit without a speed limit review. Now Councillor WINES has stood up and said he values human life the highest. At the moment, the only thing this Council seems to value is koalas’ lives, not local residents’ lives. Whilst Council’s speed limit review would not support a reduction from 60 to 40, this needs to happen and it needs to be reduced from 60 to 50 to make Venner Road safer.

We need it to be safer for pedestrians, we need it to be safer for cyclists and we desperately need it to be safer for drivers. Council and the police have done reviews and they have identified a number of problems, most of which stem from congestion coming down the hill from the intersection of Ipswich Road and Venner Road. This is why it remains one of my most requested budget submissions, which has never been delivered on. It’s why I keep pushing the Ipswich Road corridor study and the tunnel, because it will deliver impacts and benefits for residents who can take off the pressure off service streets through Annerley.

But we know that this safety assessment that Council did on Venner Road identified problems. It identified problems with the bank back down the hill. It did not identify sight line problems and do you know what Council did in response to Geoff’s death? They put some yellow lines on the corner. That was not the problem. The yellow lines essentially are the same spot where you’re not allowed to park now. This problem was not caused by a lack of sight lines. This problem and Geoff’s death was not caused by the lack of yellow lines. It was caused by two things, a massive bank back down the hill and people could not see and pulled out when they shouldn’t have pulled out. So driver error absolutely a critical component of this and that person has faced charges and been convicted of dangerous driving.

But the biggest issue here is Geoff might not have died if the speed limit was slower. The car coming down the hill didn’t plough into the car crossing across Venner Road, flip it, roll and smash into Geoff standing on the footpath, just waiting to cross the road to get to his home three doors away. This happened three doors away. I value human life he highest. It seems this Council values koalas’ lives higher than it values people’s lives. They have an opportunity to disprove that today and to vote to support this motion to reduce the speed on Venner Road from 50 to 40.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers on the motion?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. Look, I just rise to reflect on the motion before us, that the Council lowers the speed limit on Venner Road, Annerley from 60 to 50, to protect pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Council takes road safety very seriously and of course I’ve said this many times, as Councillor JOHNSTON identified before she called me a liar, that I have done a lot of work in this place on speed limit reductions. We provide a lot of information to people about how it happens and where it happens and the process required to achieve them. A lot of the debate around Boundary Street regarding Councillor ADAMS was about the fact that you couldn’t do those things and that the Minister for Transport was actually the one not being honest about how the system operates. That’s what was actually happening was that he was telling people we could do it and we couldn’t do it. Well he has basically changed the rules to allow such a thing to occur.

Now there were some statements that were made that if you reflected upon some of the things that Councillor JOHNSTON has said even now, she said the Council did nothing, then she listed a number of actions that Council did. Because Council didn’t do nothing; Council did respond to this incident. Councillor JOHNSTON also very quickly passed over the fact that there was a criminal finding against the driver for dangerous use of a motor vehicle and that is very rarely noted by Councillor JOHNSTON, that the motorist was found criminally at fault in this. The motorist was found criminally responsible and criminally at fault for the death of Mr Copland. So I think that that’s an important piece of information to keep in our minds as we do this, that at some point if a person uses a motor vehicle to the level that it is criminally dangerous, it is very difficult to engineer away that behaviour, right?

I’m going to say that again. If a person is in control of a motor vehicle to a criminally dangerous level, it is difficult to engineer through road markings, signs and concrete buildouts; you cannot engineer that away, all right? So after the event of 2018 on Venner Road near Lagonda Street and Frederick Street, a coroner’s investigation was undertaken. The coroner made no recommendation to Council regarding the road environment at that intersection. Regardless of that, Council went ahead and did a number of items of work around that intersection to try and improve the safety. The work has been completed as per our commitment to the coroner to review that intersection, undertake a speed limit review, install a number of no stopping lines and removing some advertising signage to improve line of sight for both pedestrians and motorists.

In 2021, Council commissioned a speed limit review for Venner Road between Ipswich Road and Fairfield Road. The speed limit review report, undertaken by an independent engineer using the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes: Guide to Speed Management* guidelines, recommended that the existing 60 kilometre an hour speed limit be retained along Venner Road. As such, Council was unable to change the speed limit on Venner Road. A speed limit review is where Council undertakes an evaluation of a length of road to determine whether a change to the speed limit may be required. The speed limit review process involves a qualified engineer undertaking in-depth traffic studies that look at many factors, including road environments and traffic volume.

The engineer’s investigation is conducted according to a set of criteria outlined through the Queensland Government’s Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Queensland Road Safety and Technical User Volumes: Guide to Speed Management. The recommendation from the review was then presented to the Speed Management Committee, the SMC, for endorsement. The SMC has representatives from the Queensland Police, Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Council. Once the speed limit endorses the speed limit change, Council will implement the changes. I trust Councillors recall that it must be a universal decision of all three representatives and not merely a majority, but all three must agree in that conclave.

The motion before us today implies that Council can reduce the speed limit on our roads at any time and that is not true. There is a formal process in place, you can read about it on the internet. Councillor JOHNSTON had the forms in her hand during her speech so she is well aware of them. As such, I will now—as such, this motion will need to be amended to accurately reflect Council’s actions to date and the speed limit process.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

|  |
| --- |
| **59/2023-24**  It was moved by Councillor Andrew WINES, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *That:*  *This Council notes that following a tragic accident in 2018 at the intersection of Venner Road, Lagonda Street and Frederick Street, the Coroner made no recommendations to Council regarding the road environment at the intersection. However, Council proactively reviewed the intersection, undertook a speed limit review, installed ‘no stopping’ lines and, removed advertising signs to increase line-of-sight. Council will initiate a ‘Stage 1’ assessment from Council’s speed limit review process on Venner Road Annerley.* |

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The motion that I’ve put forward today is a very simple one. It’s very clear, it calls on Council to lower the speed limit on Venner Road from 60 to 50. The amendment that is being proposed by Councillor WINES does the opposite of that. It inserts a range of language about lots of other things that are not relevant to reducing the speed limit and it then says that Council will not lower the speed limit but will undertake a review. This completely changes the nature of the motion, which is not allowed under Meetings Local Law and I would ask you to rule the motion out of order, as it fundamentally changes the original motion.

Chair: Just give me one moment, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Did somebody else say point of order? No, sorry, I thought I heard things.

Councillor JOHNSTON, just quickly reflecting on this, I do not believe that the identity of the motion is fundamentally changed. I believe the identity of the motion is retained, in that there is—your motion calls on Councillors to take action to protect pedestrians and cyclists and the amended motion does the same.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, sorry, point of order.

Chair: Sorry, yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just to be clear, can you make it clear for the record that you’re saying that you don’t accept my point of order, firstly and then I can go from there.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I believe I’ve just ruled on your point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: All right, I move this—

Chair: Forgive me, but I thought that’s what I just did.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well you kind of said oh, I think it’ll be, you know, but I’m just waiting sure—

Chair: I know what I said, Councillor JOHNSTON and if you try to start mocking me, I will take that as an act of disorder.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well I just—I want to be clear, because I will take this further today, you haven’t sought any advice, you haven’t done anything that you would normally do.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Mr Chair. Like that’s another threat, she can’t threaten you.

Chair: Councillor WINES, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: It’s an act of disorder to threaten you.

Chair: Councillor WINES, Councillor WINES, Councillor WINES.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I just want to be clear this is your ruling.

Chair: The ruling has been made, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Procedural motion – Motion of dissent**

**60/2023-24**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Trina MASSEY immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: Councillor WINES, you’ve got the call to the amendment.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair, and as I was saying, this amendment recognises the efforts that Council has made in responding to this fatality. It also recognises that Council has done a speed limit review in the past, but it’s also prepared to do it again and I think that’s the important part. We would typically wait five years between speed limit reviews to see whether changes have occurred, however, I am more than comfortable for it to be two years, as it is in this case, because of the concerns of Councillor JOHNSTON. Now if Councillor JOHNSTON was serious about reducing the speed limit here in this place, then she would support this resolution. However, if the resolution was put forward to you in an attempt to portray the majority of Councillors in a poor light and make a local political point, then she would likely not support it.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor WINES.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor WINES is imputing motive against me and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Chair: Councillor WINES?

Councillor WINES: Happily withdraw.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor WINES: But I will say that the consistent characterisation by Councillor JOHNSTON of the majority of Councillors in regards to Venner Road has been unfair and untrue. I’ll put it that way. The characterisation of our conduct has not been true and I think her words about it have been deliberately dishonest to the point of a lie, to use her phrase that she made only moments ago.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor WINES: Councillor JOHNSTON did make that accusation of me and now I don’t think it’s unfair for it to be portrayed about her conduct in this manner. The fatality at this place is deeply sad and the fact that there has been an attempt at politicisation is really sad, it’s really sad. But as I have often said, we take these sorts of events extremely seriously. I am more than happy to review the speed limit here again. I know the importance of this road to the greater network. We will—I am calling on Councillors to support another review into this to see if there is anything further that can be done to make Venner Road safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Further speakers to the amendment?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, no, misrep.

Chair: Sorry, misrep. Sorry, my apologies.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Councillor WINES said that I lied in my speech. I clearly did not lie. I outlined all of the actions that had happened, including the yellow lines.

Chair: Thank you, thank you. Thank you, we—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m sorry, are you not letting me address my—

Chair: You don’t debate this part of the—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Am I allowed to finish my—first of all, I’m not going to accept the calls of Councillor MURPHY across the Chamber that I’m bullying. That’s unacceptable, Mr Chair, and I would ask that you immediately address that issue.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you are in the middle of your misrep, misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —I’m raising on a point of order. Councillor MURPHY has said three times now that I am bullying across the Chamber. That is unacceptable meeting conduct and I am asking for you to take action against Councillor MURPHY, because that is inappropriate, untrue and I ask you to take action under the standing orders.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, my interpretation of the interjection by Councillor MURPHY was that he was saying you were bullying me, which I completely ignored for your benefit.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I can hear him and it’s your job to take action when he says that.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, to your misrepresentation please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: As you yourself have just acknowledged, you heard Councillor MURPHY say this several times. It is unacceptable meeting conduct to interject. It is unacceptable meeting conduct to call another Councillor out for bullying, when they are simply speaking in the house—in the Chamber and I would ask that you take action—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor WINES.

Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I would ask that you take action to enforce the Meetings Local Laws.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please stop talking, please stop talking. The number of times you’ve interjected in this meeting and if I had have taken action on that, you would have been out of the Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Would you like to move a motion of another dissent of disorder? Is that what you’re after?

Councillor JOHNSTON: You haven’t made a ruling.

Chair: I did make a ruling.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You told me that you didn’t even address it.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor WINES.

Councillor MURPHY’s reflections were on me, not on you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: They were not.

Chair: That’s—if you interpret it that way then that is your problem, not mine. They were a reflection on me. Now can you finish your misrepresentation so that we can continue with the meeting?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I seek a ruling on my point of order regarding the unsuitable meeting behaviour of Councillor Ryan MURPHY.

Chair: I do not consider the interjections that Councillor MURPHY made inappropriate, as they were a reflection on myself. Can you please finish your misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well I’m so sorry that you feel Councillor MURPHY is bullying you, Mr Chairman. Would you like to take some action against him? Because bullying in the Chamber is not appropriate.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, as you continue and continue and continue to fail to comply with my request to take action in regards to your misconduct, I’m asking you in accordance with section 28(1) of *Meetings Local Law 2001* that I will reprimand you formally if you do not finish your misrepresentation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, as you continue to fail to comply with my request to take remedial action of your unsuitable meeting conduct in accordance with section 21(8) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, I hereby order you—would you like me to eject you from the Chamber?

Can you finish your misrepresentation please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, you told me not to. You said I’m talking.

Chair: No, that is—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Then I said to you can I please finish and then that’s when Councillor MURPHY started shouting you’re bullying. The only person who’s being bullied in this Chamber is me. That is exactly what has happened. Now you’ve repeatedly told me not to continue, now you’re saying continue. I am concerned if I say anything I will be kicked out of the Chamber as you’ve just threatened me. So I’m not going to say anything further.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I have repeated asked and the minutes will reflect that you continue to make your misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, you didn’t.

Chair: Just give me one moment.

We will move on. Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on the amendment. Firstly—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WINES, that is not appropriate.

Councillor JOHNSTON, please continue.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order, that wasn’t Councillor WINES; that was Councillor MURPHY.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, don’t—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m tired of watching Councillor WINES abuse people across the Chamber. He did say Councillor JOHNSTON was a bully—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —and he was looking this way.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I want it on the record.

Chair: I’ve called out Councillor WINES, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The behaviour of Councillor WINES in moving this amendment today is disgraceful. There’s no other way—his justification for doing so was two points. Firstly, that I’m trying to politicise this, I’m not. I’ve been consistent over the past five years with letters to Council, senior engineers, the CEO, motions during budget debate, motions every year, every year they vote down motions I move. Every year the LNP vote down motions I move to try and make this part of the world safer, every single year, we have petitioned to lower the speed limit.

The family have been steadfast in wanting Council to act. The family of a pedestrian killed on Venner Road called Brisbane City Council’s response disappointing, disappointing. I know they wanted action, I know that their response—this is Geoff’s oldest daughter. It’s a very frustrating response from Council. It sounded like no one even came and looked at the intersection. It is appalling that Council will directly lower the speed limit because of koala deaths, but will not directly lower the speed limit for pedestrians who have died.

Now the other issues that Councillor WINES has said here again—and he’s really doing Krista ADAMS in—Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM in here. He has repeatedly stated again tonight that you must have this speed limit review to act. That engineers have to sign off on a reduction in speed limits. We know that has not happened when it comes to Boundary Road, Camp Hill. Councillor CUNNINGHAM, Councillor ADAMS and the LORD MAYOR stood up and said—and I have it right here, they stood up and said—and this is Councillor ADAMS—while the Speed Limit Review Committee will need to consider the new rules and make an official decision, today we have reduced Boundary Road to 60 kilometres an hour.

Councillor WINES today has highlighted the fact that there is one rule for the LNP Councillors and one rule for everybody else. There is one rule for koalas and one rule for people and they are different. They are different and they are different not because I’m politicising them, but because instead of following the rules that I have to work under, that my residents have to deal with, a Speed Limit Review Committee’s been done and we won’t lower the speed limit. The DEPUTY MAYOR stands up and goes hey, we’re lowering the speed limit. No review, or there was a review and it did not recommend a reduction, it did not recommend.

Then I hear tonight you’re not supposed to be reviewing it within a five-year period. Well no one told me that, (1), but (2), that wouldn’t have applied to Councillor ADAMS either because it’s only two years since she asked the first time. There is one rule for the LNP in this place and one rule for everybody else. Koalas are more important to this Administration than people. Then we listened to Councillor WINES’ argument, a person who stood up in this place and said I value human life the highest, well clearly not because he wants to change this motion to do a review, the same review that led to yellow lines on the corner where you’re not allowed to park anyway, that’s it. He wants to do a review. I want to take action. I don’t want anybody else in my community to die.

Now the other thing that happens is Councillor WINES has said well, you know, there’s criminal behaviour here and the accident resulted in criminal charges and I didn’t say anything about that. Well clearly I did. What happens when there are major incidents when people are charged? This Council does take action. Council spent $17 million fixing the intersection of Stanley Street and Annerley Road at South Brisbane following Rebekka Meyer’s death, $17 million. Not just the intersection, then putting separated bike lanes all the way along there. I could point to plenty of other intersections in LNP wards and ALP wards historically over many years where this Council responds to deaths.

I went and looked at the files today for Council’s Black Spot funding. You know what the key criteria are that Council considers? Crash history. It is a fundamental part of the assessment of any kind of change to the carriageway and any kind of safety improvement is crashes, is deaths. So Councillor WINES is trying to say somehow it’s not relevant because someone’s been criminally charged? It’s the very basis upon which Council makes decisions. There are other criteria they consider, but those criteria here in Venner Road are really quite significant. High pedestrian count, steep street, a fall away from one side to the other, offset intersections, poorly functioning traffic lights, congestion. All of these things, but Councillor WINES says oh, it’s no problem here, someone’s been charged.

Well people are charged with dangerous driving or fined for dangerous driving all over this city and Council, this Council and LNP Councillors use it as the reason for change, they use it as the reason for action. Here, because it’s not in a marginal LNP ward, the LNP are saying no, we’re not going to do anything. We’re going to do a review and not even a full review, a Stage 1 review. I’m not actually sure what a Stage 1 review is, because the fact sheet that everybody has to follow, except Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM, doesn’t mention Stage 1. So I don’t even know what this is. This fact sheet, these things that Councillor WINES says week after week in this place, they only apply to everyone else except themselves.

We have seen exactly what Councillor WINES has said we can’t do in Annerley Ward happen in a marginal LNP ward to benefit Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM. A speed limit review was done and a recommendation to leave the speed at the same level was made. Council then went out, not on the basis of any kind of review, but a photo was taken on the side of the road with Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM saying job done, it’s down to 60. We haven’t had a speed limit review and that’ll happen later. So they changed the speed limit before the speed limit review was done. Councillor WINES won’t extend that same courtesy here.

He could have lowered the speed limit from 60 to 50 and then done the review. That’d be the same process that he’s followed for Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM. That would be the equivalent in Tennyson Ward. But no, there is a special treatment for the marginal LNP seat holders because they think koalas are more important than people. Well I don’t. Geoff’s family doesn’t and the child that was killed about two years after I started, the little tiny baby, the toddler who got out of the house at 4am in the morning, walked up to Venner Road and was run over. There’s been two deaths on this road, two. Is Council doing anything? That was a wet night, a dark night and if that driver had been going slower that child might not have died. Two people have died on this road and instead this LNP Administration say no, no, no, we’re going to do a review. In a marginal LNP seat a koala gets run over and oh, the speed limit’s dropped.

This is wrong, the behaviour of the LNP here have been called out, manipulating the rules to suit themselves, while residents die in my ward and this Council puts some yellow lines on the corner. That is unacceptable. Annerley residents deserve better. LNP Councillors are supposed to represent the whole city. They are so interested in governing for themselves. The hypocrisy of this LNP, who have put a special process in place to benefit themselves. They won’t apply it in a resident community where two people have died to make it safer for others who have to cross this road, to go to the train, go to school, go to the shops, to get home. I want people like Geoff Copland to be able to get home safely and they can’t do that if we don’t take action. This LNP Administration are only interested in acting for themselves and not doing what is right for the city. No one should support this amendment, it is a bad amendment. It shows the duplicity of this LNP Administration.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers to the amendment?

Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, I rise to speak on this amendment tonight. I can understand the significance of the loss to Dr Geoff Copland’s family, because having had an extended family member of mine killed whilst standing on the side of the road whilst waiting at traffic lights, it is a very difficult situation. In this circumstance, there are a lot of considerations that have already been taken into account. The coroner goes through a full inquiry, in-depth, considering the many factors that come into play when circumstances like this occur.

Now as has been explained through the debate in this Chamber tonight, there are a number of factors, some of them being congestion on Ipswich Road corridor, which is the State route number 15 and that is compounded by the congestion that comes about as well from Beaudesert Road, which is State route number 13. Now when you’ve got a lot of traffic coming through on that corridor from Beaudesert Road into Ipswich Road, which then comes to this point with the intersection with Venner Road, there is a lot of traffic going through that intersection on a daily basis. There are a lot of physical and geographic factors that come into play with this particular road that intersects with Ipswich Road.

I do say to Dr Geoff Copland’s family my heartfelt condolences, because it is very difficult to lose a loved one in these circumstances. It can be very frustrating for the family when there are decisions made that go against what they would like to see. They have lost their loved one, that loved one will never come home and that is what we need to go through here tonight. Now with the coronial inquiry being undertaken, there were no recommendations that came out of that coronial inquiry for Council to undertake. However, as Councillor WINES has clearly explained, that Council reviewed the intersection, Council undertook a speed limit review, Council installed no stopping lines and Council removed advertising signs to increase the line of sight.

Now unfortunately in many circumstances where driver behaviour contributes to circumstances where vehicle accidents occur and fatalities result, that driver behaviour cannot necessarily be engineered away by doing things on the Council roads and that is what we have to be cognisant about. Now this motion’s amendment tonight and Councillor WINES has been explicit here in the Chamber, he has said Council is happy to undertake the Stage 1 assessment to look at another review. Now that is a step forward, that is not saying that there will not be anything happening. It is clearly indicating a willingness from the Chair of Infrastructure to go a step forward and conduct a Stage 1 assessment.

From my perspective, knowing the traffic along that Beaudesert Road, Ipswich Road corridor, I know that the speed limits change from 80 to 70 to 60 to 50 to 40 and go back around and they’re up and down all through that corridor. I know that a lot of that starts with my electorate and then goes into the Moorooka Ward and then goes into the Tennyson Ward, but for that whole corridor, if there is to be a proper study of all those speed limits, we do need Minister Bailey to actually do those two roads as a comprehensive corridor as part of this process as well.

The unfortunate situation for Dr Copland’s family—and I realise that through some of the comments that have been made tonight that they were seeking a speed reduction, as too was the local Councillor, when an engineer does not sign off on a speed reduction, when an engineer makes a specific recommendation for a certain speed limit to be retained, it is very difficult for Council officers and also the Speed Management Committee to take a position that is in contradiction to that engineering recommendation. I understand that those engineers do not make those recommendations lightly. I know that when the coroners go through the extensive process that they undertake when these circumstances and tragedies occur, that there are a lot of factors that come through that process and are tendered in evidence. We have not all sat through that entire coronial inquiry as individuals, but when there are contributory factors, when there are criminal charges and findings against a driver in that circumstance, that also has to be taken into consideration.

When we are talking about the Speed Management Committee, they have a role to play right across our city. They look at speed limit changes on a regular basis. They assess circumstances like this on a regular basis. They are not part of the Councillors in this Chamber, they make decisions based on the evidence that comes before them. So through you, Mr Chair, I say to Councillors this amended motion tonight actually promotes a step forward. It is promoting action through a Stage 1 assessment. It is looking at this situation again and seeing what those results will be.

So we cannot pre-empt the finding of that Stage 1 assessment at this point, but we need to go through this process tonight, support this amendment, to allow that Stage 1 assessment to be undertaken in the hope that those considerations with the changed traffic conditions, with the increase in the volume of traffic that goes through and funnels into that congested intersection, be taken into consideration and also with some of the other circumstances that the Minster can possibly implement as well. Through you, Mr Chair, I commend this amendment to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. Just to be clear, Mr—sorry.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, we’re dealing with the amendment, not the amended motion. Can you just confirm that for the record please?

Chair: Yes, yes, we haven’t voted to make the amendment the substantive, yes, we’re still dealing with the amendment.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I just rise to speak to the amendment. I’d just like to say Councillor JOHNSTON has passionately represented her community and has certainly represented the family of Dr Copland and the young infant who was killed on Venner Road very well tonight. I congratulate you for your passion and your tenacity, because there isn’t a lot of that in this place. In relation to the previous Councillor, Councillor OWEN, I noted she talked about Beaudesert Road and Ipswich Road, those being State roads. In this area, through Moorooka Ward and in Tennyson Ward they’re actually Council roads, so they are our responsibility, Council responsibility. Further out, Beaudesert Road becomes a State road and Ipswich Road becomes a State road, so the Minister actually doesn’t have anything to do with this one. It’s the Administration’s, Brisbane City Council.

In terms of Venner Road, Venner Road actually connects Fairfield Road and it’s a major freight route for the Brisbane markets and the industrial area, so carries a lot of heavy traffic. It goes down a very steep side of Annerley, so goes down from the spine of Annerley down into the suburb and it’s in extremely poor condition, extremely poor condition. The officers tell me that the money that has been allocated to resurface the road, if they’re going to do it property, will only cover a third of the road this year. If they’re going to do a dodgy job it will cover half the road this year. I’d prefer it if they did a proper job.

What I think the point in this whole debate and the point that has been missed is the double standards. That’s the point here, it’s the double standards. It’s the double standards around why does Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the LORD MAYOR, why do they get their road reclassified and the speed of their road reclassified like that, but Councillor JOHNSTON, who’s also representing her community has to go through this process? I think that’s what I don’t understand. I know we have had—I’m on the Infrastructure Committee, we’ve had presentations about the process we have to follow.

What Councillors on this side of the Chamber are confused about is how you can be the DEPUTY MAYOR and stand up and do a post going we’re lowering the speed limit here, but you can’t be a Councillor who’s had two people die and do it in that area, on that road network. That’s what’s really confusing, that’s what’s really a double standard really. Because it seems like you have more push and pull in the Administration to be flexible with the rules than you do as an Opposition Councillor to represent your community. Sure, we all have to follow a process, we understand that and the DEPUTY MAYOR should have to follow that process too, as should Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the LORD MAYOR.

I commend them on getting the speed from 70 to 60. It’s only taken them five years, but I commend them on getting that result. Councillor JOHNSTON wants to get a result on an area of road where people have died, where people have died and that’s her very point. What is more important, wildlife or people? It’s not that complex to answer that and in fact I call on the Administration, I ask the Infrastructure Chair to, through you, Mr Chair, through you, to explain that.

I think what Councillor JOHNSTON has done tonight is really brave. She’s brought the issue forward yet again. She’s trying to get an outcome for her community. She’s trying to get an outcome on a very dangerous road and as a pedestrian, I wouldn’t risk crossing it. It’s a very dangerous road, let alone cyclists and vehicles just speed down there, vehicles and trucks, freight, speed down there. So I have to say, congratulations Councillor JOHNSTON and I look forward to seeing where this debate goes to from here. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Further speakers on the amendment? I see no one rising.

Councillor WINES, your right of reply.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. Look I just wanted to respond to a couple of the statements there. Even if you reflect upon some of the statements Councillor JOHNSTON made about things we’d done regarding fatalities elsewhere in the city, excuse me, it shows a record that we are highly responsive to fatalities. The problem is sometimes the solution is very difficult and sometimes there isn’t a solution because of a road, because of the nature of the road, because of the nature of the way the intersections interact with the road. Sometimes, if there were a solution, we would have done it, quite frankly. If there were a simple solution that worked, we would have done it. It really is that simple.

But I think it’s fair enough, it’s completely justifiable to have another look at this location and that’s all I’m saying. We’ve reviewed it on a number of occasions. We have a strong record of responding to fatalities across the city. Where we can, we do our best to engineer the issue away. Here it is very hard and so all I’m saying is Councillors please support this resolution so we can have another look at it to see if there’s something else we can do.

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

We will now vote on the amendment to turn it to a substantive motion, just to bring everybody up to speed.

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to the motion to the Chamber resulting in it being declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Steve GRIFFITHS immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillors, are there any speakers to the substantive motion?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m disappointed that the LNP have used their massive majority to take a simple motion that called for action on road safety on—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair, is this summary or new substantive motion?

Chair: This is the new substantive motion.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor—the new amended motion. Councillor JOHNSTON can speak again?

Chair: Yes, of course you can, yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s disappointing that the LNP have used their massive majority here today to take a simple motion that called for action and turn it into a self-congratulatory dud of a motion that does nothing to make the road safer for pedestrians, cyclists or drivers. Let’s look at what Councillor WINES just said in justification for his amendment. They are highly responsive to responsive to fatalities, highly responsive to fatalities. That’s not the case. They’re highly responsive to accidents in LNP wards, I would agree with that, but in other parts of this city, they are not. A child and a man have died on Venner Road and this Council’s response was yellow lines on the corner.

Councillor WINES says driver behaviour cannot be engineered away, yet that is what Council does with every single intersection upgrade, every single bit of traffic calming, every single bit of road improvements that this Council does is to engineer safer roads. Here, there are a number of solutions. The family want traffic lights on the corner of Lagonda Street and Frederick Street. That’s what the family want. Now I get laughed out of this place if I tried for traffic lights, which I have tried for before as well, they just won’t do it. The family want the speed limit lowered; they wanted it lowered for 40. Council refused to do that. Now we’re trying for 50. The family want action, they don’t want this inaction.

And it’s clear, it’s clear today from everything that has happened, that there is one rule for marginal LNP seat holders and that is Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM who can stand up in exactly the same situation I’m in. There’s been a speed limit review that did not recommend the speed limit be lowered. I didn’t say to Council officers, oh, lower the speed limit to 50 because they’d go, you can’t tell us what to do. Yet Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM have done exactly that—and the Mayor, we will see—that it’s Councillor ADAMS’ post. She said, while the Speed Limit Review Committee will need to consider the new rules and make an official decision, today we reduce Boundary Road to 60.

Now I’ve asked for the files. They’ve not been provided to me. I asked the General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, the manager of the area, for an explanation about how this speed limit was lowered. She refused to respond. I’ve written to the CEO; I’ve heard nothing from him. That tells me, with bright shiny lights, that something has happened behind the scenes and there is nothing official that has been done to lower the speed limit on Boundary Road. If this LNP Administration are prepared to take action because koalas have died, which I’m happy with, I’ve got no problem with the speed limit on Boundary Road being lowered, none, but I cannot sit by, I cannot sit by and watch the LNP put special rules in place to protect themselves, to protect their seats, when two people have died on Venner Road and this LNP Administration think putting yellow lines on the corners is good enough.

Councillor OWEN, oh my god, some of us did read the coroner’s report. Some of us did speak to the family about it. Some of us have read Council’s submission to the coroner’s—which they invited Council to make comment. Council wrote back, yes, we’re going to put yellow lines around the corners. That’s what Council said to the coroner, which the coroner accepted. It wasn’t the coroner saying, Council you should do this. The coroner said, Council, what should happen? That’s what Council recommended in response to two people dying. It is just so disappointing that this LNP Administration put one rule in place for themselves and another rule for everyone else.

This motion doesn’t really hold out any hope for action to happen because it’s very clear to me when people like the General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, don’t return your call, after being a year in Council, you can’t rely on this Council to do anything, you can’t, they won’t do it. They’ll only do it for their political masters, the LNP and I am horrified, I am horrified that Councillor WINES has stood up here today and said, well you can’t engineer solutions. That is the whole purpose of his department. He should resign as Infrastructure Chair. Does he not know what his job is? It is to make this place safer for everyone.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: I just think that that reflection that was made about the General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, was an appalling reflection on an officer and that that—I consider—ask that you consider that an act of disorder or that that should be withdrawn.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, would you consider withdrawing your statements concerning the Council officer that you named?

Councillor JOHNSTON: She refused to get back to me, Mr Chairman. I specifically asked her for advice about what had happened here because it was so unusual and she refused to get back to me. I find that to be appalling. Then Council has refused to provide me with the files, refused to provide me with the files. Now these are facts.

Councillor MURPHY: No, point of order. Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: We don’t do this here. No one—Councillors should not be doing this. This Council officer didn’t get back to me, didn’t call me back, we don’t do that in this Chamber.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: No, we don’t and I consider that an appalling reflection on a Council officer that Councillor JOHNSTON’s made and she should withdraw it and that should not be a standard that we set in here, that we come in here and we attack Council officers using the Chamber. That is appalling, we should not do that. We should not let that be the standard in this place.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor JOHNSTON, please reconsider withdrawing your comments.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I consider it appalling that I asked for advice from the most senior traffic engineer in this city and she tells me that she won’t respond, that I’ll get—I can get information through my file request and then Council refused to give me the files. That’s what’s happened.

Chair: So Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: That is what’s happened.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you just actually made a statement that she did get back to you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: She refused to get back to me about the issues I asked her about.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I seriously—

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, no, she has refused to respond—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —about the issues that I have raised.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, I’m not withdrawing.

Chair: You understand the consequences?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Got to do what you’ve got to do, but when the senior engineer at Council won’t get back to you when you ask her a genuine question about how something happened and she says wait for the files and then Council refuses to give you the files, what are you supposed to do? I think that this Administration has been too long in government. They are simply governing for themselves. They have forgotten that there are other people out here with real issues.

The other thing Councillor WINES was talking about earlier was if there are simple solutions we do them. There are: reduce the speed limit from 60 to 50; put traffic lights in on the corner of Lagonda Street and Frederick Street; fix the intersection of Ipswich Road and Venner Road, which is fundamentally the problem because of congestion. All of these things can be done—oh, resurface Venner Road, it’s only taken you years. If you don’t resurface Venner Road, you’ve got to fix all the stormwater infrastructure. These are all simple things. They are all core business for Council. Somehow Councillor WINES thinks that action on Venner Road is complicated. It is not. It is not. Lower the speed limit. Take a simple step. It’s changing some signs. It’s cheap, it’s effective, it’ll help slow traffic down. I’ve put two SAM signs on this road, two. It’s just not good enough that Council won’t do anything.

What is absolutely unacceptable is that there is a rails run for the LNP marginal seat holders of Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM with no explanation like this as to why they could get that in their area. Meanwhile, I’m told you’ve got to follow the process, you’ve got to do this, you can’t get that. This is the problem. If there’s one rule for me, why is there a different rule for the LNP? That was my question to the General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, and she told me she would not be responding. That is not good enough. This motion before us today is an abomination. It’s an abomination. This LNP Administration are basically saying look how great we are, we put yellow lines on the corner and we’ll do not a full speed limit review, we’ll do a Stage 1 speed limit review. Meanwhile, Councillor ADAMS, Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the koalas are getting treated in a better way than people in Annerley. It’s not acceptable.

Chair: Further speakers? I see no one rising.

We will now put the motion, the substantive motion.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Sarah HUTTON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

## CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON MOTION – KOALA AND FAUNA FENCING ALONG BOUNDARY ROAD, CAMP HILL:

Chair: Councillors, I draw your attention to the adjourned motion at item 5B which was moved by Councillor GRIFFITHS and seconded by Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. The Brisbane City Council constructs koala and fauna fencing to the stretch of Boundary Road, Camp Hill, adjoining Whites Hill Reserve this financial year to reduce wildlife deaths along this stretch of road. Okay, happy for me to keep going?

Chair: It’s already been moved and seconded, Councillor, sorry.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Okay, that’s great, thank you. I am arising tonight to speak to this motion and in particular to first express, (1), my disappointment that we didn’t get to debate this last week when it was moved. The motion was very important to be debated and I know a number of people wanted it to be debated. Unfortunately it was the DEPUTY MAYOR who delayed that motion, I believe, because she had to go to dinner. So Councillor ADAMS, I think that is disappointing that that occurred, but if you need a week—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I have spoken when we move for dinner, I claim to be misrepresented.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think you’ll find the records—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think you’ll find in the records that it was the DEPUTY MAYOR who moved to delay this motion. Anyway, I’m going on with the motion.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, it’s been noted, DEPUTY MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, I don’t think you can, but I just want on the record for residents to know your action and I think it’s important tonight that this is very clear for residents. I know we don’t think residents do see this; residents do see it. Residents do see how we vote. In fact the reason these motions are here is so that we can get the LNP to take a clear, black and white position about their actions and own their actions, then the community can be the judge of their actions. Here, but, we have an issue of 21, so one koala was killed last week, 21 koala deaths along Boundary Road in five years, that is an appalling loss of life, it’s appalling loss of koala wildlife and it is disturbing. The fact that we have two Councillors in this Chamber who had the ability to do something as Councillors and chose to do nothing is even more disturbing.

In fact, what we’ve seen over the last five years is a game played out here. So while these deaths have been occurring, we’ve had this blame game between the State Government and Council, or Council and the State Government. There’s a whole lot of things that we can do that we do do, that we should be doing and it’s fine to go round and put your face on posters of koalas and go, beware, but if you’re not backing that up with genuine actions that actually try and stop koalas or wildlife getting onto our roads, then I think there’s a bit of hypocrisy there.

What we certainly know and what I certainly know from meeting with residents are they are extremely distressed. They come to my office, they do go to other ward offices too and they don’t get a very good reception. They come to my office and they tell me how they can’t get any action from Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM and residents are very disturbed about this. They almost see it as a greenwashing, wanting to claim to be koala friendly and green friendly and environmentally friendly, but actually not doing the real actions that match with that. I don’t know if you realise it, but residents are more and more concerned about their flora and fauna and the environment around them. They expect us to do better. They want us to do better, not just say we’re doing better, they actually want to see tangible results. What I’m seeing is that their Councillors aren’t doing anything, aren’t doing anything genuine that would stop the issue of wildlife getting onto the road and getting killed.

I know in Toohey Forest we had a similar problem with wildlife getting onto the freeway and being killed. I know Minister Bailey came along when the environmental groups approached him and myself and he funded a wildlife fence along the TMR boundary, the State boundary of Toohey Forest. He funded that and I funded a wildlife fence, koala fence, along the Council section of the South East Freeway and it’s reduced deaths along that section of the freeway. I spent $80,000, not from capital, from my ward fund to do that project and it’s made results. It means the koalas and wildlife aren’t getting onto the freeway, they’re going back into the forest; they hit the fence and go back into the forest. Surely that’s what you want at Whites Hill Reserve. You want the wildlife, the koalas, to hit the fence and go back into the reserve rather than wander aimlessly onto the road.

There is no bush on the other side of the road. It’s urban, it’s a desert. We don’t want koalas going over there. We want koalas staying in the area that is natural, natural for them and you know what, we as Councillors have the ability to get that fence constructed. I did. Actually had the officers work with me and they’ve constructed it elsewhere, they’ve constructed it at Chermside Hills Reserve, they’ve constructed Toohey Forest, as I said, along the South East Freeway, they’ve constructed at Karawatha Forest. All these were built by Council to stop wildlife getting onto our roads. Simple, isn’t it? Really simple. I think the smart thing here is to just deliver this fence and try and stop the wildlife crossing a road that leads to nowhere. Try and save our wildlife, try and protect our wildlife.

I’m concerned that I’m getting emails from people who live in Japan and Italy and the USA asking what Brisbane City Council is doing about the slaughter along this road. I’ve seen some goofy looking pictures of some Councillors holding up a 60 or 50 k sign, but I haven’t seen much action. We need to see action. If we’re in Administration, we’d deliver action. If the LNP don’t want to deliver action, if you don’t want to do anything, say so, make it clear, just tell people, be honest and then at least we can go out there and have an honest conversation with the residents of your electorates. I’m sure the Greens will too and then the residents can make a decision about how they think your action towards the environment and towards our wildlife is going.

What we want is a clear position here about what this Administration will do, not what you have done, what you will do. How are you going to prevent this problem? Councillor DAVIS, last week or the week before, was asked a question about how many deaths or will this speed limit reduce the deaths of koalas or stop the deaths of koalas on Boundary Road. There was no answer. There was no yes, there was no no, there was no answer. You know it’s not going to work. Already there’s been one death of another koala and other wildlife along this stretch of road. I mean I can’t even believe we’re—I can’t even believe you need to move a motion to get this piece of infrastructure built by this Council and it’s so—it meets so much opposition. I just can’t believe it; it defies logic.

Anyway, what this motion does is gives a clear action and a clear timeframe for that action and now the ball is in your court. It’s over to you and the public can make their mind up about how and what you do with this action and if what you do with this action is cynical, if it’s playing word games, then the public will see through it. Thank you, Mr Chair.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Yes, last week we closed the meeting at 6pm where we always have the dinner break and we are debating the motion tonight, so we did not stop debate.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR. So under 52(1), misrepresentations can only be made during the current meeting on the previous speaker.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m standing to speak.

Chair: Yes, sure, please. You’ve got the call.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on the motion before us today, as I rose to speak on the motion before us today on 16 May. It was so urgent last week that we actually did debate it three months ago and it’s extremely embarrassing that those on this other side and the Councillor who brought it into this place are paying so little attention to this, that we debated the exact same motion on 16 May this year, exactly the same motion. So kind of sloppy work from Councillor GRIFFITHS but what we’ve come to expect because it’s all about playing political games.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Because he doesn’t care.

Chair: Councillors, please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: They don’t care about the residents; they don’t care about the koalas in this area. If they cared about the koalas, they would be cheering to the rafters that we bought an important connector in Carrara Street for Whites Hill through to Mt Gravatt, Glindemann Park and through to Mt Gravatt Lookout. But they don’t care. It’s about the political games and that’s what this motion is because it’s the second time we’ve seen this motion and I agree with the interjections from the other side. It probably won’t be the last because it’s not about the koalas and the residents, it’s about the political game playing. I rise to speak on this motion, as I did in May and say exactly the same thing.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: It’s not what we said in May and again, by saying no, Councillor STRUNK, through you, Mr Chair, you’re reiterating the point they pay attention then, they don’t care, it’s all about political games.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: We are all saddened and horrified when wildlife strikes continue to happen on Boundary Road and I said, Councillor GRIFFITHS has raised this before and the fact that the speed limit has been reduced has not changed the fact that a fully‑fenced length of Boundary Road is just not a viable option. Now we just spent over an hour in the last debate with somebody yelling across the Chamber, talking about how I got action done and how I had action happen and how Councillor CUNNINGHAM got something done and then I just listened to 10 minutes from Councillor GRIFFITHS saying we did nothing and we go no action and we don’t care. Which way is it people? Which way is it because you can’t have it both ways and I reiterate again, this is literally political game playing. Our position is backed by Council officers. It’s backed by external experts in the field from a number of different universities. Wildlife fencing along the length of Boundary Road has been investigated before and is not supported for the entire road. For the sake of clarity again, it is not Council is saying no, the experts—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —and I am—

Chair: Just one moment, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Claim to be misrepresented again.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Don’t think I mentioned you then, Councillor GRIFFITHS, but I’ll say it again. It’s not the Council is saying no, the experts are saying that fencing the entire road will lead to poor outcomes, not only for koalas, but also other wildlife in the area. Number one, we are talking about wildlife strikes. Wallabies go straight over the top. Fencing the entire area is not going to stop the wallabies going over Boundary Road. There are no culverts. I hear what Councillor GRIFFITHS says about Toohey Forest and it’s a great project. It’s a great project along the Pacific Motorway and major, major roads. But it doesn’t go across to residents, there’s no residents behind the fencing like what they want on Boundary Road, residents right there, going to fence them in. There is no culverts for the animals to travel over as they follow the fencing, as koalas are want to do and the only place you’re funnelling them too is either Cavendish Road, Samuel Street or straight to the lights at Whites Hill Reserve. So entire road fencing will not work.

Councillor GRIFFITHS continues to peddle the popular myth to make the community think that we are doing nothing in this area, even though we just heard, as I said, for an hour, that we are doing something in this area. We’ve built the world-first koala bridge, we’ve installed koala climb-out ladders, we have installed wildlife awareness monitors (WAM), we have installed wildlife road markings. We have funded location-specific koala research. We have installed permanent wildlife signage. We have built wildlife fencing, if he ever went down there and looked, because he obviously hasn’t, all the calls to his office, I’m sure, we have installed wildlife fencing where appropriate and we’ve introduced site-specific variable message signings, all of which have been supported by the State Government’s Koala Sensitive Design Guideline.

The thing to remember here is that native animals then can actually be restricted from the movement that they actually need for food and habitat in this area, not to mention we are heading into an *El Niño* weather event where the risk to wildfire is greatly increased over the coming months and the last thing we want to do is trap residents or koalas or wallabies in areas with wildlife fencing, which is what is the information we have been given from the experts. As I said again, trapping wildlife in, in an *El Niño* weather, or sending them to the major traffic intersections which is the only place that the fences can go to, is not an outcome that I want to see. It is extremely disappointing that we still see koalas crossing here and we are going to be working with our local societies to make sure we aren’t over‑replenishing the area in the Whites Hill Reserve with the koalas as well, because they are breeding very well, but they’re obviously—is getting to the point where they need to move out to find food and habitat, so there’s a lot more we can be doing in this space, working with our koala groups to make sure they’re looking at where they’re replacing koalas as well.

We have reduced the speed limit as a trial on Boundary Road, just as the Minister, Mark Bailey did in Tallebudgera as a trial, as they did in the Cassowary Coast as a trial, because we also got the heads up that the guidelines were changing. The guidelines changing means we have now got an extremely good chance of a permanent speed reduction and we’re trialling it to 60 because it’s 70 at the moment, not even 60, 70. But let me be clear, I agree there will be difficulties, even with the speed reduction in minimising animals’ deaths if people are not aware, which is why we wrap everything else around it. Not fencing, that doesn’t make people more aware to drive safely. Wildlife monitors, WAMs, signage, road marking, every Councillor in this place who has been here for any time who has put a Local Area Traffic Management in any of their local streets knows that it doesn’t actually stop the really bad drivers if they just want to drive poorly. So no amount of wildlife fencing, if the koalas can still get through and around, is going to stop deaths if people don’t become more aware of lowering their speeds. We have monitors, they are reducing the speeds by six kilometres an hour. We are supporting a range of things around Boundary Road and we did this working with universities and the kind of innovation that makes our partnerships so promising. For that reason, just as we did on 16 May, I would like to move an amendment.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

|  |
| --- |
| **61/2023-24**  It was moved by the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *Brisbane City Council constructs koala and fauna fencing to the stretch of Boundary Rd, Camp Hill adjoining Whites Hill Reserve this financial year, where suitable, to reduce wildlife deaths along this stretch of road.* |

Chair: Can we just deal, before we move on, DEPUTY MAYOR, can we just attend to Councillor GRIFFITHS’ two misrepresentations, sorry.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thanks, Mr Chair. There’s two misrepresentations the DEPUTY MAYOR made. One, this motion is different because it says this financial year, so it actually puts a timeframe on the motion that was previously brought to this Chamber and two, this motion actually doesn’t call for the fencing of the entire length of Boundary Road, so the DEPUTY MAYOR was misleading the Chamber by saying that. It’s very clear it’s just along where the flora and fauna is.

Chair: Sorry, Councillor GRIFFITHS, that was on your misrepresentations?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That was it, yes.

Chair: Yes, thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR, the amendment please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. So Boundary Road adjoining Whites Hill Reserve is a very long area and so that’s why I call that the entire section of Boundary Road that we’re concerned with because that’s the entire part of Boundary Road that’s actually in my ward. The entire part that is beside Whites Hill Reserve, because as soon as you get to Indus Street, it’s not in my ward. So I do call that the entire part of Boundary Road for me and look, where suitable is very, very simple. I think we’ve also made it very clear again from the complaints we heard in the previous motion, that we are doing a lot in this space and we continue to do whatever we can where suitable: WAMs, signage, speed reduction, speed awareness monitors, and everything else in between.

If fencing where we haven’t fenced already is recommended, where it has never been recommended before by specialists, by the universities, by those who’ve looked there, if they can say to us that that is not going to put wildlife at more risk, we can do it, but that is not the feedback that we have gotten. So we will do whatever we need to do where suitable along Boundary Road and we have been doing that and will continue to do it.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers to the amended proposed before us?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, we keep going around in circles with this one, don’t we, Mr Chairperson. I think the answer to the question is so far there’ve been 21 deaths of koalas in five years. One was a week ago, Councillor ADAMS and as you drew to my attention, as you drew to our attention, I suppose, we debated this several months ago, there was a death last week and we were debating this motion. We were going to debate this motion last week, then you stopped that debate. So the answer yet again is no, we’re not doing anything, that’s the answer. That’s the real answer here.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Well, we’ll see. People can make up their own minds. People can watch this debate. People can view on the ground what you deliver, you and Councillor CUNNINGHAM deliver. But can I say people in that area are passionate, they are passionate. Just a week—two weeks ago, I did a forum, a koala forum at Griffith Uni and doing a lot of great work with Griffith Uni, Griffith Uni are leading the way with their environment centre. Oh, I did offer the LNP a partnership with that, that’s right and they didn’t take it up. But there were a lot of experts at that forum and they spoke about this very issue and they were the ones who said koala fencing, fauna fencing, is what you do to keep wildlife off roads. That’s what the experts are saying to me. That’s what residents are saying. All you’ve got at the moment is your track record and your track record is 21 dead koalas. That’s your track record. That’s what you’ve delivered, that’s what the LNP have delivered and into the future, we’re looking at more koala deaths because you talked about tonight seeing it as a culling process because they’re overbreeding.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That’s what I heard. They’re going to die. They’re going to die. We’re going to cull them. Well either cull them—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Sorry, point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be mispresented and I ask you to ask him, Councillor GRIFFITHS, through you, Mr Chair, to withdraw the comment that I said we would be culling koalas. I did not say that.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think what I—and I’ll withdraw culling, what I heard was these animals are going to die. They’re going to die because they’re breeding too much.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Sorry, just one moment, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Sorry, Councillor GRIFFITHS, just to be clear, you did withdraw the statement around culling?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I withdrew the statement around culling.

Chair: Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR, your point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The video will show the truth and the video is what residents will see. With me sitting here in the Chamber opposite you and I won’t use the word culling, but you said there’s an overpopulation of koalas, they’re breeding well in Whites Hill—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: And they go looking for food and they wander onto this road and they get squashed and killed and we’re not doing a fence. Or we’re—no, no, we’re going to do a fence where it’s suitable, where it’s suitable and we’re going to do it this financial year, where it’s suitable. But the experts have already told us that you don’t do a fence. So what we’re really getting is no fence, no additional fencing because the experts have already told Councillor ADAMS you don’t put a fence up. They’ve told me something very different, maybe I’m in a different party to you. I could imagine the experts that you’re listening to.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, the same experts and that did go—that was investigated and Council was found not to be following a very good process. What I’m saying and what I will continue to say is fencing saves wildlife by keeping it in and we want to keep it in the wildlife area. We want to keep it in the natural part, we want to keep it in the natural part of Whites Hill. We don’t want them wandering over to houses where there are no eucalypts, where they’re going to run into trouble anyway. We want to keep them in their natural areas. That’s what this motion is about. I think it’s a pretty simple motion. I think it’s a pretty clear motion. I’m bringing it today because I and a lot of residents are very concerned about the inaction from you, Councillor—through you, Mr Chair, from the two Councillors who are responsible for this area.

And yes, as the LORD MAYOR said earlier today, there will be an election in seven months’ time and people can make their own judgments in that time and what I’m doing today is giving people a clear picture, a very clear picture about what their current representatives stand for and what other people will do in this Chamber. We can save this wildlife by doing more. I have in my area. We do in other parts of the city. We can do it as a Council. We need to do it and I just am amazed that this is the response from Councillor ADAMS. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

DEPUTY MAYOR, your misrepresentations please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The first one was that Councillor GRIFFITHS said we weren’t—I was not doing anything and I’ve made a clear list of everything we are doing this side. The second one was said that I said we would be culling koalas, which he withdrew, which was absolutely out of line. The third misrepresentation was I said they would die because they are breeding too much. I did not say that. I said it will be difficult to stop them moving if they’re moving for food and habitat if there’s too many there. The third one—the fourth misrepresentation when he said I said that they were overpopulated, I did not say that. I said we would work with the koala societies in the area to make sure that the koalas aren’t going to become overpopulated in this area.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I rise to speak on the amendment put forward by the LNP here today. Firstly, can I thank Councillor GRIFFITHS for coming forward with a practical motion again to try and do something to improve—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, actually do something to make sure that wildlife in this city is a little bit safer. You know, we aired the issues about speed earlier, but the LNP are prepared to lower the speed limit here directly because they think it will help save koala lives. They’re not prepared to do that for people, but they’ll do it for koalas. But you can see where they draw the line when it comes to koalas, so no fencing, you know, I suspect there are other arrangements that could be put in place here for them, so for example, I don’t know what it’s called, but the arch, over in Councillor MARX’s way, I don’t know if it’s a land bridge, is it called a land bridge?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Wildlife bridge? Yes, one of those could go in here. Koalas do like to climb, very helpful, so you could put a bit of fencing in, then you put the arch in, the koala goes up over the arch, over to the other side, because unlike Councillor ADAMS, I’ve listened through presentation after presentation in the Parks Committee about koalas and they’re very randy and they like to travel and they like to travel to meet new partners and to eat and have fun. So the koalas over this way are very mobile. They’re highly mobile and they’re driven by food and love and they will travel long distances to find it. So I think Council should be doing more. I think Council should be doing more, not only fencing, but I also think initiatives like those land bridges would be really valuable here. There may be others. I mean obviously the road is flat for sure, but there’s nothing to stop Council from putting in, to help reduce the speed limit, putting in a bit of a rise and putting in an underground culvert underneath. Yes, it’s expensive and probably the most expensive option.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes and help direct the koalas there. There is so much more that this Administration could be doing on a practical level but all they wanted was the photo op. All they wanted was the photo op. That’s all Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM want, they know their residents are angry, they know their residents want them to take action, all they want to do is say job done because we lowered the speed limit from 70 to 60. That’s not going to stop koala deaths. You heard Councillor ADAMS admit it here earlier today. It won’t stop koala deaths.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, yes, yes, I mean yes, she seems to think that some sort of natural attrition if they get run over. You know, they’re not going to cull, we know that very clearly because she said there’s no culling, but they’re definitely going to die if they do, you know, try and move about. So she’s happy for that? That doesn’t sound like a good idea to me. So look, I would have gone a bit further with the motion, Councillor GRIFFITHS, through you, Mr Chair, if it was me I would have gone and asked for the land bridge and the culverts, you know, I—yes, because I think obviously there is more we can do here.

When I first learnt how to ski 20 years ago, I had a great instructor and he just said to me everything I was doing was, you know, that’s good, he just said more, more, you’ve got to give it more, more effort, more technique, you know, all of those things. So I just say to the LNP Administration, you guys are bereft of ideas and we need more.

Chair: Thank you Councillor JOHNSTON.

Further speakers? I see no one rising.

The DEPUTY MAYOR is not here for a right or reply. So we will now put—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: My apologies, Councillor CASSIDY, thank you.

There is—Councillor ADAMS is not here for right of reply, so we will now put the amendment.

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to the motion to the Chamber resulting in it being declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Lucy COLLIER immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillors are there any speakers on the substantive motion?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I am gobsmacked that they just voted against that because the identity of the motion wasn’t changed and what we saw from the Opposition then was they actually just voted to put fencing where it is unsuitable along Boundary Road, but that’s what the people at home will see. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak on the amended motion and if Councillor ADAMS is determining where fencing is suitable, of course we wouldn’t be supporting that. Of course you wouldn’t support the judgment of Councillor ADAMS, Chair, because this is the Councillor who thought it was appropriate to spend $7 million of bushland acquisition funding to purchase some tennis courts and a couple of Cocos palms of which Councillor ADAMS claimed during the debate on this motion earlier was the connector. Apparently that island, that small island of less than—it was a couple of thousand square metres, apparently that is the connector and that is the reason that koala—who knows, I tried to follow down the rabbit hole and the bushland had been cleared off there.

So I’m just a little bit confused and I’m sure Councillor ADAMS will answer these questions in summing up, maybe not, because she’s left again. She’s left again. So apparently, Chair, Councillor ADAMS has spoken to experts and they have told her, we don’t know who they are, we have no idea, there’s no record of this in Council’s—there’s no formal advice from external experts to Council, but according to Councillor ADAMS, yes, Councillor ADAMS, that these experts say there shouldn’t be fencing. According to experts at Griffith University that Councillor GRIFFITHS has spoken to, there should be fencing and you know, particularly adjoining along Boundary Road, adjoining the road and houses. Councillor ADAMS says the koalas will need to get out of that area, across Boundary Road and then into suburbia, into suburban backyards to get food. I don’t think that’s a very good strategy.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Whether—it sounds a bit like, that sounds a bit like thinning out a population. To me, the description that Councillor ADAMS made a bit earlier, that doesn’t sound like a good strategy. Whether it’s in—the trees and the food are in good supply during a wetter time. Or whether those trees are poor during a drier time through *El Niño*, *La Niña*. What’s the dry one, I’ve forgotten?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: The dry one, *El Niño*. *El Niño*. So the strategy of the LNP is that we’ve got some drier conditions coming up. So the strategy is you want these koalas to get out of there, apparently to get on to Boundary Road, scurry across Boundary Road and get into suburban backyards.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: According to the experts. Maybe the experts—the photo that Councillor JOHNSTON held up, I enjoyed that one. They couldn’t find a real person anywhere to stand in a photo with them, 4,000 people signed a petition. They couldn’t arrange a real person for miles away. Maybe, maybe the experts that Councillor ADAMS is consulting is Councillor CUNNINGHAM or the LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Maybe. Because they’ve obviously got together on this and they have determined that the only course of action the LNP want to take is to put fencing where they deem suitable. Where the LNP deems suitable. That’s the action that Councillor CUNNINGHAM and Councillor ADAMS and LNP Mayor, Adrian SCHRINNER want to take.

So really torn when the DEPUTY MAYOR gets up and says trust me. I just shudder, think oh my god, how could you?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You know, this the DEPUTY MAYOR that the Queensland Audit Office said basically borderline misused the Bushland Acquisition Fund.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, shouldn’t be buying bushland with no bush on it. Queensland Audit Office said you were left wanting.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY can I draw you back?

Councillor CASSIDY: Just can’t trust Councillor ADAMS—

Chair: Can I draw you back to the—

Councillor CASSIDY: —to—yes.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, given you plenty of scope. Can you please—

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair.

Chair: —come back to the motion?

Councillor CASSIDY: Just can’t trust Councillor ADAMS to determine what is suitable fencing and what isn’t.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: So it’s a really tough one and that is why, you know we voted against the amendment. Because if you just read that now as it’s amended, where it’s suitable. Sure, if you went to Griffith University to the environment centre and talked to koala experts, if that’s what Councillor ADAMS is going to do and I’m sure she, in her summing up in a minute, in her summing up she will confirm that and we’ll go okay. That is a good course of action.

But if Councillor ADAMS comes in here and says there’s some vague, weird, made up maybe experts that she consults from time to time.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Whoever knows they are. Then I mean how do you trust the LNP when it comes to this stuff. On their watch over the last five years we’ve seen 21 dead koalas.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s their record and that’s what they’re standing by and apparently it’s all too hard. The speed limit reduction was apparently very easy. But actually building the infrastructure to protect the wildlife isn’t for the LNP. Well it is a pretty simple proposition when you talk to experts. I just couldn’t trust Councillor ADAMS on this, unfortunately.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry, did you want to go the other side?

Chair: You were to your feet first.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Me, right-oh, yes, yes, yes, right-oh, no problems, thank you. Just very briefly, I too listened to Councillor ADAMS on this issue about what’s suitable. I kind of listened to it in the sense that you know, I don’t think Councillor GRIFFITHS in proposing this motion was envisaging the Council officers would waste money building unsuitable fencing.

I mean Councillor ADAMS is deliberately trying to make this motion seem bad by doing this. Nobody in Council is going to recommend unsuitable fencing. That’s actually, I think, a bit of an adverse reflection upon the officers. Who apparently are not competent enough in their jobs to recommend suitable fencing. Putting the word in doesn’t mean that the officers are going to do something unsuitable, right. It’s just an unnecessary tautology, unnecessary.

Then, of course, you know, Councillor CASSIDY’s point is very well made with me as well. Having sat through the buy-back blocks of the suburban land, that there was no evidence to support that. It was done simply for political purposes. The idea that somehow Councillor ADAMS is the arbiter of what is suitable, isn’t a good policy or practice in this Council.

I know that Councillor GRIFFITHS made a huge effort with Griffith University to improve koala awareness. I know he’s had zero support from Brisbane City Council. He’s done this himself using funds out of his Suburban Enhancement Fund. He and the university have done a great thing. I’ve been on one of the university’s koala walks and they’re fantastic. I saw a Powerful owl, I didn’t actually see a koala.

Since then I’ve actually seen a Powerful owl on the fence in Dewar Terrace in Sherwood, sitting there watching me as I walk past. Queensland’s former chief scientist and top ornithologist, Professor Hugh Possingham said to me, it could have killed you. Like they’re actually quite, you know. But anyway, I digress.

I just would like to say to Councillor GRIFFITHS that this is a ridiculous amendment by Councillor ADAMS. Councillor ADAMS and Councillor CUNNINGHAM really have missed the boat here about practical action. But that’s clear with everything the LNP are doing now. It’s more about—it’s a bit like Barbie, it’s more about the style than the substance and that’s all the LNP have got left. They’re out of ideas.

If the best they can do to try and make something look bad is say well I’m going to say it’s got to be suitable fencing, that really undervalues and undermines the work of koala experts and also Council officers. Who would not be doing those things anyway.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Just took your spot, sorry. Look, I’m just going to—excuse me, now that we’ve got the full motion, I just want to say, I just want to explain a couple of points because—

Chair: Sorry, Councillor GRIFFITHS, you’ve got the call.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you.

Chair: Sorry, I forgot to say that.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Oh sorry, I just assumed when you—

Chair: Yes.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —did that, yes.

Chair: Yes, sorry, my mistake.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, no, so I just assumed that, yes. What I want to just explain to the Chamber is that I’m not looking for unsuitable fencing along a road with this motion. So you wouldn’t put this fencing across the driveway into the site of the Wellers Hill Reserve. That would be unsuitable but—Whites Hill Reserve, I’m getting the reserves mixed up.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, you could enter the debate at any time.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, if you don’t—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m just saying you could enter the debate—

Chair: Through the Chair, please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —at any time.

Chair: Through—Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Through you.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I note Councillor CUNNINGHAM has said nothing in these two debates. What experts tell me is that you put the fencing up to stop the wildlife going on the road, stop koalas, whatever wildlife it is, going on the road. The idea is that fencing, the koalas hit that fencing, go along that fencing until they reach this magnificent thing you’ve built, this great bridge you’ve built that you’re saying how fantastic it is. So they know to go up over that bridge.

So at the moment we’ve built this great, fantastic bridge but we’ve still got the koalas not using it because there’s no signs telling them to use it. You direct them to the spot where they use it. This is just how the wildlife people explained it to me. It seems to make sense, it seems to be working in other parts of the city. TMR does it, Brisbane City Council does it, but we just don’t do it here.

So you know, I would encourage both the Councillors, if you want to I’ll put a forum on at Griffith Uni and come along and meet all the koala experts. You can meet the public and you can hear their views. Then you can say well we’re only going to put up suitable fencing. Or say nothing, as you do, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

But what I’m saying is residents will be your judge. I have tried here, god only knows how many times, I’ve tried here to get a sensible solution to this, but it’s just hitting a brick wall and it’s really disappointing.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Do we still have the rule where the meeting is—

Chair: No, we don’t.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay.

Chair: Thank you, I knew where you were going as soon as the bells went. Yes, no, we don’t.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I want to speak to it quite briefly. I think it’s incredible that we see 21 koala deaths over five years when we talk about the fact. This Council has talked about it quite often. About how Brisbane is a special place where five kilometres away from the city centre is koala habitat. Yet, here we are, twice within how many months?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Four months. Talking about an area that’s had 21 deaths, say the word. Not strikes, deaths—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: —of koalas. These koalas that we’re, you know, apparently so proud of. I think with this motion, you know it’s the vagueness. Where suitable.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: It’s the vagueness that enables it to not actually be quite definitive in action to protect these koalas. That, to me is the challenge with this amended motion. I also want to take a moment to commend Councillor GRIFFITHS for bringing this motion back, for continuing to highlight this because it is an issue of residents in both the areas, in both Holland Park Ward and Coorparoo.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: The issue will not go away, as we’ve acknowledged tonight, with a 60 kilometres reduction of speed. This issue will continue, residents will continue to ask more from us as local Councillors. Residents will ask why is there not action? Especially when their Councillors are a part of the LNP Administration.

So you know, I think the Councillor for Tennyson was right. We should be doing more. We shouldn’t just say where suitable. We should not only be doing more, we should be making clarity on who these experts are. We should be working actively with them, citywide—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: —to ensure that koalas, beloved, randy little things, don’t keep dying. The fact that within these four months we’ve got a similar motion back here, a similar incident of death and a vague motion saying where suitable. Not telling us who was the decider of where is suitable and when. I think it’s left lacking and that’s all I want to say.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

Further speakers?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Yes, thanks, Mr Chair. I wish to enter the debate on this amended motion and speak and provide some local context to this debate. This will be in stark contrast to the contributions from the other side of the Chamber because I know my patch, Mr Chair, and I have a lot to say on this matter.

I represent the residents of Coorparoo and Camp Hill who live near this area. Over the last five years since I have been Councillor, I have been working with the Coorparoo Finger Gullies Group and representatives of N4C (Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee), who are out there nearly every weekend in the Coorparoo Finger Gullies, working to enhance the vegetation and the wildlife in this important corridor.

At this point in time I want to give a big shout out actually to Rob and to Greg, they work tirelessly in these gullies. I say, through you, Mr Chair, to Councillor GRIFFITHS, that it is a slap in the face to call this area a desert. I will absolutely make sure that the volunteers who give up their time are reminded and told that Labor thinks that their patch of paradise is a desert. So thank you. Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Since 2019, as I said, thanks to the LORD MAYOR, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor DAVIS, thank you, we’ve delivered significant investment in this corridor. Significant investment. In fact before it became politically convenient for the Labor Party to go on a rant about this, there was regular criticism from some Councillors opposite about how much we were spending in the corridor.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: So let’s talk about what’s actually been delivered in the last five years, Mr Chair. We’ve installed wildlife road markings, we’ve installed wildlife awareness speed monitors. We’ve funded location-specific koala research. We’ve introduced site specific variable message signs in key locations and in key seasons. We’ve installed koala climb-out ladders, the first of their type in Queensland. We’ve installed permanent wildlife signage, we’ve built wildlife fencing and we even built a world first koala bridge.

Most recently, as everyone knows, we’ve now also finally reduced the speed limit. Mr Chair, this is on top of our citywide investments in breakthrough university research and the koala fodder plantation that this Schrinner Council has supported.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: At all times, Mr Chair, we have listened to the experts and the university researchers who have told us what is best for this corridor. But I want everyone here tonight to understand some of the characteristics of this road link. Immediately adjacent to the road, on my side, in my ward, which I know better than the Labor Party know, there is significant vegetation. Which is a buffer between the road and residents’ homes. Some of these gumtrees are over 300 years old. You do not come through with a bulldozer and knock down significant vegetation without thinking twice and taking the advice of the ecological experts.

Now, Mr Chair, Councillor JOHNSTON has previously advocated for wildlife movement for possums. She has no credibility on this issue. Possums are of least concern, according to the State Government. She has no credibility, it’s all about politics for Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: It is political game play because it is convenient for her and her masters in the Labor Party.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Now, Councillor CASSIDY talks about bushland acquisition in Holland Park, Mr Chair. He comes in here and talks about bushland acquisition in Holland Park after a long list of Labor representatives were out there protesting for bushland acquisition in Holland Park.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: But then they backflipped and supported it. Look, they—sorry, they backflipped and they decided not to support it, after being out there calling for us to buy it.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: They cannot be trusted on this, Mr Chair. It is all about politics when it comes to the Greens and the Labor Party.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: It is our track record on this side of the Chamber and what we have delivered—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —Mr Chair, which residents will take note of.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes.

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Thank you. I rise to enter this debate. I’d like to commend Councillor GRIFFITHS for continuing this fight. It’s an important fight and I know residents all over Brisbane thank you for it, and the world.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: I do find it really interesting that in a debate about a wildlife fence, Councillor CUNNINGHAM didn’t mention the word fence once.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: Councillor CUNNINGHAM got up here and spoke about how much the LNP Council has done over the last five years. Guess what? It didn’t work.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: Twenty-one deaths in those five years, well done.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: Round of applause. I understand that Councillors ADAMS and CUNNINGHAM are concerned, they should be. They are consistently ignoring what their residents want and what their residents are screaming out for.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: Bring on March 16.

Chair: Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

We will now put the substantive motion.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Sarah HUTTON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 23 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Councillors are there any petitions?

Councillor DAVIS: Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. I have two petitions. The first one is requesting Council recognise mountain biking as a sport in Brisbane. The second is a request for Brisbane City Council to provide a plan and work with residents to focus on flying foxes.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: Thanks Chair. I have a petition to reject the planned development application A006119466.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MACKAY.

Are there any other further petitions? No?

Councillor HUTTON, may I have a motion please?

**62/2023-24**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the petitions as presented be received and referred to the Committee concerned for consideration and report.

The petitions were summarised as follows:

| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 137/220/594/242 | Tracy Davis | Requesting Council recognise mountain biking as a sport in Brisbane. |
| 137/220/594/240 | Tracy Davis | Requesting Council develop and provide a plan and work with residents to move the flying-foxes on. |
| 137/220/594/241 | James Mackay | Requesting Council reject the development application at 44 Glen Road, Toowong (application reference A006119466). |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Councillors, General Business.

Are there any statements required as a result of the Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee Order? I see no one rising.

Councillors, are there any items of General Business?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, just want to reflect on some conduct that occurred earlier in the meeting today. I’m reading the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, section 55, subsection (2) and it says this. ‘Councillors shall refer to each other during a Council meeting by their respective titles, ‘LORD MAYOR’, ‘Mr Chair’, ‘Madam Chair’, or ‘Councillor’, and in speaking or addressing officers, shall designate them by their respective official or divisional title.’ Then it goes on to say, ‘despite subsection (2), if Councillors wish to compliment a Council officer they may refer to that Council officer by name.’

So I would ask for your ruling on the unsuitable meeting conduct of Councillor JOHNSTON before, in naming the General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, and indeed the comments that were made about her as unsuitable meeting conduct and that that be dealt with by you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY. Can you just give me one moment to consider what is before us?

Thank you, Councillor MURPHY. In this particular case, and given the evidence that you put before us with 55(2), I would agree with your assessment. I do believe that there has been a breach of the Local Law in the way that Councillor JOHNSTON had earlier referred to the respective Council officer.

I do consider it a good time to offer Councillor JOHNSTON the opportunity to remove her comments and apologise, as appropriate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman.

Chair: Just one moment, you’ll have the call in a minute, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MURPHY, I will now ask Councillor JOHNSTON to consider removing her statements earlier from this meeting and to apologise on the record.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I would ask that the name for the General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure be withdrawn from the Council records.

Chair: I don’t think that’s exactly what I was intending, Councillor JOHNSTON. I would ask you to withdraw the statements that you made using the officer’s name and apologise for using them in the way that you did, which was against the 55(2) of the Meetings Local Law.

Councillor JOHNSTON: My understanding, based on what Councillor MURPHY has read out, is that you cannot mention a Council officer by name unless you are complimenting them. That’s the rule, correct?

Chair: That is correct.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Right, so my statements about her failure to respond to me are accurate. My breach of the rule, according to that, is that I’ve used her name. I am saying that yes, I apologise and I am asking that her name be removed because it shouldn’t have been mentioned.

Chair: So thank you Councillor JOHNSTON for apologising and withdrawing those previous statements, we appreciate it very much. Or it is appreciated—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair. I’m just being clear, I’m not withdrawing my statements. I am saying that her name should be withdrawn to meet the condition of the rule.

Chair: Yes, thank you. Thank you for the clarification.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’d like to clarify. You can’t withdraw a name that you’ve said on live stream. It’s an apology to the manager or it’s an act of disorder.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I thought you—DEPUTY MAYOR, I thought Councillor JOHNSTON did apologise.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, I believe she did. She did­—my understanding, and correct me if I’m wrong, Councillor JOHNSTON. Councillor JOHNSTON asked for the respective officers to be removed and she apologised for using that name.

Is that correct Councillor JOHNSTON? Into the microphone, please, just so we’ve got it on record. Please, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: This will be the fourth time now. I know the DEPUTY MAYOR’s not listening. I have asked that­—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I have—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —the person’s name be withdrawn—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and I apologised.

Chair: Thank you, thank you.

Are there any other items of General Business?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Listen, I rise just to speak about one item of General Business tonight. Like the people on the other side of the Chamber, we on this side would like to also thank Shirley Amps very much for her huge service to this City Council. I think the LORD MAYOR said it was 44 years. I worked it out, that’s six Lord Mayors that she’s worked for and six administrations, which is no mean feat I would think.

Shirley, like a lot of the other officers, are hardworking but she did spend 16 years within the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund section. What I was finding amazing about that, she and her team actually processed 10,000 applications in that time. That’s huge when you think about it, 10,000 applications within those years.

Shirley has been an amazing asset to this Council, it goes without saying. She is wonderful to work with, always friendly and helpful. No matter what the question, no matter what the problem, Shirley always comes up to find a solution to the problem that we may undertake within our ward offices on some applications that come through.

My staff wanted me to say thank you very much, Shirley, for all the help that you’ve been to them over the last seven years. I hope you have a fantastic retirement, 44 years, unbelievable, you deserve it. Thank you very much, Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor STRUNK.

Further speakers?

Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes, I rise to talk on one topic in General Business. Sorry, did you say Councillor WHITMEE?

Chair: Yes, I did.

Councillor WHITMEE: Okay—sorry.

Chair: You were first to your feet, thank you.

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes, thank you. Last Wednesday, the Wynnum Manly locals got the chance to say goodbye to a silent pillar of our community. The quote, unquote, ‘Flower Lady’, Ros Price. Ros was a guardian angel of our community. Those who slept rough knew that Ros would be there with something to eat and an ear, with an open mind. To paraphrase her daughter, if you never had the experience of arguing with Ros, it’s okay, you lost anyway.

She would often talk about her visit to the country house where she got three square meals, a roof over her head, a comfy bed and someone to wake her up at six o’clock every morning. Ros was instrumental in Orange Sky’s partnership with Rosie’s on a Friday night. Both organisations showed up on Wednesday, Ros will be greatly missed by both of them.

Ros never wanted applause for the hard work that she did. Testament to her impact was best represented by the standing room only service at St Peter’s Church. Vale Ros, it’s your turn to rest now. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor JENKINSON.

Councillor JENKINSON: Mr Chair, I rise to speak about the Paddington Now and Then Festival. Last Saturday 5 August, the inaugural Paddington Now and Then Festival was held and it was a living example of how community and business can come together. The streets of our historic suburb were covered in orange bows and families, friends and neighbours gathered together to share their love for art, history, food and shopping.

It showcased our diverse culture and was the perfect blend of now and then, old and new. The weather was incredible as people got active, encouraged to stroll the Paddington Terraces from Suncorp Stadium to Trammies Corner, partaking in a scavenger hunt with multiple clues along the way. Local businesses got a chance to shine and historic homes opened their doors to Brisbane. It was a time to make new friends, connect with neighbours and make our community even stronger.

Brisbane City Council was a major sponsor and an estimated 2,000 people joined in the fun across the nine-hour period. Paddington 4064 goody bags with generous offers from local retailers were handed out. Free old school orange Leyland buses shuttled people around the Terraces throughout the day. Historical photo displays reminded us of a time gone by and various vintage markets and pre-loved stores allowed us to fall in love with old items all over again.

Live entertainment dotted the Terraces and continued into the evening, complemented with food and wine tastings from many local businesses. Girl Guides excitedly offered their Love Paddo postcards, while others could create pinch pots, bracelets and paintings.

Kids were entertained by the Disco Superhero Party and children’s book readings. Brisbane Urban Sketchers were out in force, putting pen to paper sketching the beautiful architecture of the Terraces. Guided walking tours were enthusiastically run by local volunteers and generous residents of historic homes opened their doors as part of Brisbane Open Homes giving us a sneak peek into their rich tapestry of stories and memories.

Even the Brisbane Tramway Museum volunteers were stationed at the site of the old tram facility that sadly burnt down. Teaching us about the fire and the phoenix. Lastly, the speaker series held in the Community Centre, where myself and others told stories about the area. The Paddington Then and Now volunteers are already planning and preparing for the next event, the Paddington Christmas Markets on Friday 1 December.

I’d like to thank the LORD MAYOR for supporting this wonderful community event in the Paddington Ward. I would also like to mention the three volunteers who, without their hard work and passion, this festival would not have happened. Thanks to Caylie, Kerry and Julie. Thank you, Mr Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JENKINSON.

Are there any further—Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on protecting wildlife.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know. I don’t get the opportunity to stand up and speak very often about protecting wildlife. Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s reminded me today that it is something that I care about. I mean earlier, Councillor CUNNINGHAM decided that she would attack me for trying to protect a native animal. I was quite interested by that because this koala motion is not one that I’ve got that involved with, I’m happy to support Councillor GRIFFITHS because I think it’s a good idea.

But earlier today, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, who I don’t think was here—I don’t think was here when I was calling for—we wanted an overpass over Fairfield Road for possums. From memory, I wrote to the CEO about this. So I’m interested in how Councillor CUNNINGHAM has got that correspondence but that’s a different issue. I know Councillor CUNNINGHAM likes to share things around.

But I just thought I would just put on the record the following. In the LNP’s estimation, this is how protecting wildlife goes, (1), koalas, possums, ducks, people. I’m going to explain this. Koalas, possums, ducks, people.

Let’s start with koalas. We know that the LNP think they want to protect koalas. I note Councillor WHITMEE’s contribution earlier to the debate about Boundary Road. I don’t think Councillor CUNNINGHAM supports any kind of fencing or wildlife barriers for koalas in her area at all.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: In a whole debate about fencing to protect wildlife, she didn’t mention fencing once. She did mention me wanting to help preserve wildlife in my ward in Fairfield, but she didn’t mention preserving wildlife—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —in her ward at all. So not only do I want to help protect wildlife in her ward, she derides my contribution to protecting wildlife in my ward. Now that is with possums and with ducks. Now she clearly hadn’t done—or somebody hadn’t done the dirt sheet well enough because she forgot to mention that I’ve also pushed very hard to have ducks protected. We have duck colonies along the Brisbane River corridor and guess where my ward is? It’s all along the Brisbane River corridor and Oxley Creek.

So I noticed that Councillor ADAMS, again, was getting some special treatment a few years ago for getting these static koala signs, warning signs, put up around her ward. I’m like well, I’ve been asking for these duck crossing signs to go up in my area and not getting anywhere. So off I go again saying look, you’ve got signs over here, why can’t I get signs in Tennyson Ward? Off she goes, bye, bye Councillor CUNNINGHAM, through you, Mr Chairman, doesn’t want to know about what Independent Councillors do to protect wildlife.

So I noticed these signs and so I wrote to Council and said look, we’ve got these families of ducks, they cross the road outside the Sherwood Arboretum and down on Hargreaves Avenue in Chelmer. Council wrote back going, there’s no environmental values to support it. So what did I do? Got the City Plan out. Said gee Council, that’s the Brisbane River corridor, maybe the Brisbane River corridor could be considered something of ecological importance to the city.

They said okay, Councillor, we’ll maybe do a sign for you. Too late. I’d already gone and done what Councillor ADAMS had done and put up a corflute myself. The other sign is down in an area also mapped of high biological significance at the Sherwood Arboretum, also in the Brisbane River corridor. So according to Council, ducks crossing in parks and into riverfront land is not of environmental significance.

But of course, it’s fine because this LNP Administration are happy to put the signs up for koalas. They won’t do anything for possums, they didn’t want to do anything for ducks and we know they won’t do anything for people. So I just wanted to get the hierarchy straight.

I’m sorry Councillor CUNNINGHAM isn’t here to hear it but this is what the LNP thinks, it’s koalas, possums, ducks and people. That’s how they think wildlife should be protected in this city. To me, that’s completely the wrong order, but you know.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Are there further speakers?

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on the letters from Education Queensland and the Education Minister which rejected a motion unanimously endorsed by this Council to cover new schools to be built in the growth area of Mackenzie, Rochedale and Burbank. Mr Chair, it is disappointing to see once again the State Labor Government is failing our younger generations by ignoring the increasing need for more education infrastructure and is refusing to understand the fact that our city, our region is growing at a faster pace and perhaps beyond their IQ.

In the letter, this out of touch State Labor Government keep referring to so-called Cross-Sectoral New Schools Demand Mapping from 2019. According to the letter, this Labor Government identified there is no need for new schools in this fast growing area until 2031 to 2041. Mr Chair, 2019 may not sound that far ago but if the estimates from 2019 was still accurate we wouldn’t have the housing shortage we are facing today.

This State Labor Government has failed out residents by not providing the social housing they have promised. Now they want to fail our kids buy not providing adequate education infrastructure that is so critical for the future of our children.

Mr Chair, it is beyond disappointing to see the reply from the State Labor Government about not building new schools in the growth area. I will keep advocating for the cause and I seek the support of all Councillors this Chamber as better and adequate education infrastructure is in the best interests of all our residents and our future generation. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUANG.

Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks, Chair. I rise to just speak on one item of General Business today and that is Care Kits for Kids Queensland. They do incredible work and are well regarded right across the community and I know by all sides of politics. So Care Kits for Kids create care kits for the most vulnerable children, right across Queensland. Their reach is incredible, they are providing care kits not only in the south-east corner but right up to the Cape Peninsula and beyond and they’ve been doing this for a number of years.

They are powered by their army of volunteers and last week Corrine McMillan, the State Member for Mansfield and I, jointly put on a thank you morning tea for the amazing volunteers there. We got to hear stories from a number of people who you know, they volunteer multiple times a week. Whether they’re on the sewing machines sewing the little hearts that they put in the care kits, or whether they’re organising the many, many generous donations from various collection points right across the community, or taking donations of books and putting those in bags.

It is just, honestly, incredible work and they are based out of a Council lease facility in Camp Hill. Now, I think the reason why Corinne McMillan and I put this morning tea on is it was representative of a few things. I think it is where they’ve come from as an organisation and what they’re achieving now.

So certainly the Morningside Ward is a very important part of Care Kits for Kids origin story. They started out in Bulimba at the Community Centre there. They have—you know it’s tough to hear that they’ve grown but I also love to see that they are able to do such incredible work that really makes a difference to the lives of vulnerable children.

So I was there representing Care Kits for Kids’ origins and Corrine was there as one of the newest collection points that has signed up to do that. So just a very small way of marking our appreciation for everything that this amazing organisation does.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak very briefly on HMS Spey, which is a British patrol vessel that has parked up in Brisbane for the next week.

Chair: Cool.

Councillor HUTTON: Now, this amazing vessel hasn’t been in Brisbane since 1995. I was very fortunate to be on board yesterday with a few of my colleagues and a few of our members of Council, as well as our State and Federal Members.

We were hosted by Lieutenant Commander Bridget Macnae, the Commander of HMS Spey, as well as the British Consulate-General, Richard Cowin. It was a really wonderful experience. So if, in the next couple of days, you see some sailors here in Brisbane, they are likely to be from HMS Spey.

Now, we were taken around by a young officer, George, who had been on board for 12 weeks and was spending his 13th week on board and then was flying home for five weeks. So these officers spend a serious amount of time out at sea servicing, obviously, the British Navy, but also working together with our defence forces here in Australia.

It was really nice to hear about their experience in Australia and what they have been doing and how they have been working very closely with our defence forces. So that’s a really positive bi-lateral agreement, obviously, that we have longstanding with our—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: —our Royal Navy, yes, I’m sorry. But I did want to obviously acknowledge, it was possibly the most unique place on board to be watching England versus Nigeria in the FIFA World Cup. I was very, very happy to see that England did get up and I really—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: —as much as I want to see England go a long way, I do fear that they will be facing the Matildas in the quarter final. So I think that’s where obviously our alliance may end. We do hope that Sam Kerr and the Matildas do succeed in the quarter finals.

But I just want to put on record my gratitude to the British Consulate-General, Richard Cowin and his staff, particularly Lucy, who hosted us on board yesterday, thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON, go the Matildas.

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thanks, Chair. I just want to acknowledge that it’s Homelessness Week. The theme this week for homelessness is It’s Time to End Homelessness. Today anyone can be affected by homelessness, which is why it’s so important for us to, with respect and support, contribute to ending homelessness. Either through personal acts or through acts through this Chamber.

I acknowledge people that are at risk of homelessness and the kind of stress and anxiety that that brings. I also want to acknowledge all the grassroots and community-based providers of homelessness services across Brisbane. For The Gabba Ward, that includes Feeding 101—4101, West End Community House, various other organisations that do feeding like community groups on Wednesdays in Bunyapa Park. On Sunday we also have multiple feeding opportunities and also on Monday nights we’ve been delivering food service.

So I think it’s a good time to reflect on the fact that it is Homelessness Week and for us to take the time to reflect on how we can work harder because it is time to end homelessness.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

Further speakers? I see no one rising.

I declare the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (received on 3 August 2023)**

1. Provide a breakdown of the costs associated with producing all versions of the 2023/24 Budget Newsletters from the Lord Mayor, e.g. Design, printing, delivery.

1. Which Wards received a 2023/24 Budget Newsletter from the Lord Mayor?

1. Provide a breakdown of all Active School Transport projects that have been delivered in the 2020/2021 financial year, grouped by Ward.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Details** | **Street Address** | **Cost** | **Date of Completion** | **Ward** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. Provide a breakdown of all Active School Transport projects that have been delivered in the 2021/2022 financial year, grouped by Ward.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Details** | **Street Address** | **Cost** | **Date of Completion** | **Ward** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. Provide a breakdown of all Active School Transport projects that have been delivered in the 2022/2023 financial year, grouped by Ward.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Details** | **Street Address** | **Cost** | **Date of Completion** | **Ward** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. How many submissions were received from the community on the Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve Draft Concept Plan, and how many people attended the two face to face information sessions?

1. Please provide a list of all projects funded from the Suburban Enhancement Fund for each Ward in Brisbane.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Street Address** | **Cost** | **Date of Completion** | **Ward** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (from meeting on 1 August 2023)**

**Q1.** Please list, for each Ward, how many new many footpaths were built by Councillors using the Suburban Enhancement Fund in the 2022/23 financial year.

***A1.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Ward*** | ***No. of New Footpaths Constructed in SEF 2022/23 FY*** |
| *Northgate* | *13* |
| *Marchant* | *11* |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *9* |
| *Chandler* | *6* |
| *Coorparoo* | *6* |
| *Hamilton* | *6* |
| *The Gap* | *6* |
| *Moorooka* | *5* |
| *Paddington* | *5* |
| *Holland Park* | *4* |
| *Macgregor* | *4* |
| *Walter-Taylor* | *4* |
| *Enoggera* | *3* |
| *McDowall* | *3* |
| *Tennyson* | *3* |
| *Calamvale* | *2* |
| *Pullenvale* | *2* |
| *Deagon* | *1* |
| *Forest Lake* | *1* |
| *Central* | *0* |
| *Doboy* | *0* |
| *Jamboree* | *0* |
| *Morningside* | *0* |
| *Runcorn* | *0* |
| *The Gabba* | *0* |
| *Wynnum-Manly* | *0* |
| *Total* | *94* |

**Q2.** Please provide a breakdown of how many dogs are currently registered in each Ward.

***A2.***

| ***Ward*** | ***No. of Current Permits*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *5,164* |
| *Calamvale* | *3,533* |
| *Central* | *2,504* |
| *Chandler* | *4,737* |
| *Coorparoo* | *3,746* |
| *Deagon* | *5,621* |
| *Doboy* | *4,924* |
| *Enoggera* | *4,900* |
| *Forest Lake* | *3,705* |
| *Hamilton* | *4,083* |
| *Holland Park* | *4,820* |
| *Jamboree* | *4,424* |
| *Macgregor* | *2,969* |
| *Marchant* | *4,535* |
| *McDowall* | *5,010* |
| *Moorooka* | *3,797* |
| *Morningside* | *4,885* |
| *Northgate* | *5,134* |
| *Paddington* | *4,293* |
| *Pullenvale* | *6,287* |
| *Runcorn* | *2,732* |
| *Tennyson* | *4,378* |
| *The Gabba* | *2,493* |
| *The Gap* | *5,635* |
| *Walter Taylor* | *3,427* |
| *Wynnum-Manly* | *4,856* |
| *Total* | *112,592* |

**Q3.** How many petitions have been received by Brisbane City Council in the following financial years – 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date?

***A3.*** *This information is publicly available via Brisbane City Council meeting minutes for the relevant periods.*

**Q4.** Since July 1st to date, how many households have ordered new green-top bins?

***A4.*** *1,560 households have ordered a garden organics bin from 1/07/23 to 2/08/23.*

**Q5.** Please provide a breakdown of costs related to the Brisbane Bin and Recycling including design, build, delivery, advertising, etc.

***A5.*** *It is assumed that this question relates to the Brisbane Bin and Recycling App. Total design, delivery and maintenance of the app is $250,727.65. The app has been promoted through a range of Council channels as part of broader waste messaging. As a consequence, a cost breakdown over the years since the app has been active is not readily available.*

**Q6.** How many times has the Brisbane Bin and Recycling app been downloaded?

***A6.*** *250,254 downloads.*

**Q7.** Please outline the reason or an explanation for the change in date that consultation would close on the Walkable Brisbane Strategy from 27 July 2023 (Lord Mayor’s media release) to 11.59pm Sunday 24 September (Brisbane City Council website)?

***A7.*** *The public consultation period was extended to maximise the opportunity for Brisbane residents to have their say on the draft strategy.*

**Q8.** How many Community Composting Hubs in total are there; and where are they located broken down by suburb and ward?

***A8.*** *Details of Council’s 26 Community Composting Hubs are available below.*

| ***No.*** | ***Community composting hub*** | ***Ward*** | ***Suburb*** | ***Address*** | ***Notes*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | *Baroona Farm Milton* | *Paddington* | *Milton* | *25 Baroona Road, Milton* |  |
| *2* | *Kelvin Grove Community Garden* | *Paddington* | *Kelvin Grove* | *48 Blamey St, Kelvin Grove Kundu Park* |  |
| *3* | *Koala Park Community Garden* | *Moorooka* | *Moorooka* | *114 Vendale Ave, Moorooka* |  |
| *4* | *Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee* | *Coorparoo* | *Greenslopes* | *66 Baron St, Greenslopes* |  |
| *5* | *Pamphlett Sea Scouts Hall Graceville* | *Tennyson* | *Graceville* | *284 Graceville Ave, Graceville* |  |
| *6* | *Tarragindi Community Garden* | *Holland Park* | *Tarragindi* | *34 Esher St, Tarragindi* |  |
| *7* | *The Brook Community Garden* | *Enoggera* | *Mitchelton* | *223 McConaghy St, Mitchelton* |  |
| *8* | *Watson Rd Garden, Camp Hill* | *Morningside* | *Camp Hill* | *101 Watson St, Camp Hill* |  |
| *9* | *Yoorala St, The Gap* | *The Gap* | *The Gap* | *98 Yoorala St, The Gap* |  |
| *10* | *Downfall Creek Bushland Centre* | *McDowall* | *McDowall* | *815 Rode Road, McDowell* |  |
| *11* | *Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre* | *Calamvale* | *Karawatha* | *149 Acacia Road, Karawatha* |  |
| *12* | *St Lucia Community Garden* | *Walter Taylor* | *St Lucia* | *224 Indooroopilly Road, St Lucia* |  |
| *13* | *Jane St Community Garden* | *The Gabba* | *West End* | *103 Jane St, West End* | *Closed at present - 2022 Flood affected, undergoing review/repairs* |
| *14* | *Northey St Community Farm* | *Enoggera* | *Windsor* | *2 Edmund St, Windsor* |  |
| *15* | *Taringa Community Garden* | *Walter-Taylor* | *Toowong* | *9 Heroes Ave, Toowong* | *Closed at present - 2022 Flood affected, undergoing review/repairs* |
| *16* | *Beelarong Community Farm* | *Morningside* | *Morningside* | *Corner Beverley and York Streets, Morningside* |  |
| *17* | *Bethania St Community Garden* | *Wynnum Manly* | *Lota* | *29 Bethania St, Lota* |  |
| *18* | *Fitzgibbon Community Garden* | *Bracken Ridge* | *Fitzgibbon* | *Merimbula Cres, Fitzgibbon* |  |
| *19* | *Jaeys St Community Garden* | *Central* | *Bowen Hills* | *8 Jeays St, Bowen Hills* |  |
| *20* | *Karana Downs and Surrounds Community Hub* | *Pullenvale* | *Karana Downs* | *99 College Rd, Karana Downs* |  |
| *21* | *Kingfisher Recycling Centre* | *Bracken Ridge* | *Aspley* | *31 Dorville Road, Aspley* |  |
| *22* | *Kurilpa Scout Hall* | *Tennyson* | *Yeronga* | *176 Villa St, Yeronga* |  |
| *23* | *Salisbury Community Garden* | *Moorooka* | *Salisbury* | *250 Lillian Ave, Salisbury* |  |
| *24* | *The Pocket Community Garden* | *Coorparoo* | *Woolloongabba* | *Preston St, Woolloongabba* |  |
| *25* | *Yeronga Community Garden* | *Tennyson* | *Yeronga* | *Oakwood and, Taunton St, Annerley* |  |
| *26* | *New Farm Park* | *Central* | *New Farm* | *100 Brunswick St, New Farm* | *Currently trialling additional food waste bins* |

**Q9.** Please provide a breakdown of the applicants for bus driver positions since 1 April 2023.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Since 1 April 2023 how many applications for bus driver positions have been received? |  |
| How many interviews were conducted? |  |
| How many applicants that were offered a position? |  |
| How many applicants accepted the offer? |  |
| Of those hired, how many are permanent and how many are casual? |  |

***A9.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Since 1 April 2023 how many applications for bus driver positions have been received?* | *1,297 as of 31 July 2023* |
| *How many interviews were conducted? (1 April 2023 – 31 July 2023)* | *489 Attended Assessment*  *Centre’s as of 31 July 2023.* |
| *How many applicants that were offered a position?* | *198 as of 31 July 2023* |
| *How many applicants accepted the offer?* | *183 as of 31 July 2023.* |
| *Of those hired, how many are permanent and how many are casual?* | *71 Casuals*  *109 Temporary Full Time*  *3 Permanent Full Time* |

**Q10.** Since the changes to the Meetings Local Law in 2022, how many times has the CEO made changes to the transcripts of Brisbane City Council Meetings?

***A10.*** *There were no changes to the Meetings Local Law in 2022.*

**Q11.** What is the status of the independent review into the removal of a roundabout at the intersection of Fernvale Rd, Homestead St, Tarragindi Rd and Beverley Hill St in Moorooka as announced by Councillor Wines on 5 June 2023?

***A11.*** *The independent review has been completed and is available online.*

**Q12.** To date, how many total properties have been identified as short stay accommodation and how many have been charged the additional 15% in rates?

***A12.*** *As of 3 August 2023, there are 968 properties identified as Transitory Accommodation. The 15% increase has been applied to all 968 properties as at the end of July.*

**Q13.** Please provide a breakdown of the members of the task force investigating short stay accommodation led by Councillor Cunningham.

***A13.*** *The members of the Short-Stay Accommodation Taskforce are:*

| ***Name*** | ***Position / Function*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Cr Fiona Cunningham (Chair)* | *Civic Cabinet Chair for Finance and City Governance* |
| *Cr Kim Marx (Deputy Chair)* | *Civic Cabinet Chair for City Standards* |
| *Cr Adam Allan (Deputy Chair)* | *Civic Cabinet Chair for City Planning and Suburban Renewal* |
| *Anne Lenz* | *Divisional Manager, Organisational Services (OS)* |
| *James Langham* | *Chief Legal Counsel* |
| *Paula Sundholm* | *A/General Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services (CARS)* |
| *Peta Harwood* | *General Manager, Development Services* |
| *John Cowie* | *General Manager, City Planning and Economic Development* |
| *Ryan Capes* | *General Manager, Support Services* |
| *Andrea Kenafake* | *Principal Advisor, Organisational Services* |

**Q14.** How are calls to the Contact Centre categorised? Please provide a list of the specific categories.

***A14.*** *There are three categories that the Contact Centre use when enquiries are captured in the Customer Relationship Management System:*

*- Request for Information (RFI).*

*- Request for Advice (RFA).*

*- Request for Service (RFS).*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 9.39pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer to the Lord Mayor and Council Orderly)