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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4723 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 17 October 2023**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

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

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

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| **LNP Councillors (and Wards)** | **ALP Councillors (and Wards)** |
| Krista ADAMS (Holland Park) (Deputy Mayor)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Julia DIXON (Hamilton)  Fiona HAMMOND (Marchant)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Clare JENKINSON (Paddington)  James MACKAY (Walter Taylor)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  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.

Chair: I declare the meeting open, and may I remind all Councillors of your obligations to declare prescribed and declarable conflicts of interest where relevant, and requirement of such to remove yourself from the Council Chamber for debate and voting where applicable.

## APOLOGY:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

Councillor HUTTON.

**201/2023-24**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillors Lisa ATWOOD and Sandy LANDERS, and they were granted leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE – COUNCILLOR JAMES (JIM) WILDING:

Chair: LORD MAYOR, we have a motion of condolence on the agenda.

**202/2023-24**

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), announced that before proceeding with the formal business of the day, he would like to pay tribute to former Councillor James Wilding, who had passed away recently.

Accordingly, the LORD MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY⎯

*That this Council:*

*Extend its sincerest and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late James Wilding, and pay tribute to him for his dedicated service to the city and the people of Brisbane.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Today, we take a moment to pay tribute to former Councillor, or Alderman, as he was known when he was first elected, James Wilding, better known as Jim Wilding. We received notification yesterday that Jim passed away on Sunday morning, aged 87 years of age. He had retired to northern New South Wales with his wife Jan. Jim was a Liberal Alderman in this place, serving as the Alderman for McDowall from 1990 to the year 2000. He was first elected in a by-election and went on to contest and win three more elections until his retirement in 2000.

Jim was an authentic person as you could get. He was larger than life, louder than life, and famously never needed a microphone to speak, DEPUTY MAYOR. He could command a room by standing, and this was part of his authenticity as a politician. Jim was a big fan of political theatre, but also a Liberal to his bootstraps. Some Councillors here might remember that, in every budget delivered by Lord Mayor Jim Soorley, Jim would always use the same comeback. The cold, grey mantle of socialism, he would say, and he delivered the line like clockwork every single year for 10 years, but his politics were softened when he—also on budget day—delivered a red rose to every female Councillor, both of administration and opposition, at the budget meeting for 10 years that he was in Council.

Jim served on multiple committees while in Council, including Transport, Development and Planning, Planning and Growth Management, Customer Services and City Business. In addition to his Council roles, he also had an external appointment on the Local Government Association between 1997 and 2000. Outside the Chamber, Jim was a big community advocate. He worked hard in his 10 years and put the community at the forefront of his job. He had strong connections with every community group in his ward, none more so than the Stafford Rotary Club. As an Alderman, he organised a debating competition between the Stafford Rotary Club and the Bunya Lions, which became an annual event both clubs look forward to, with the debating competition happening here in the Chamber and also at the Maritime Museum on one occasion, as well.

It was through his engagement with local community groups that he made lifelong friends, too. Separate to this, Jim was responsible for major upgrades right across his local community. One that he was particularly passionate about was a drainage upgrade around the Queen of Apostles Primary School along Appleby Road in Stafford. On behalf of my entire team, I want to extend our thoughts and prayers to Jim Wilding’s family and friends. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. I rise today on behalf of Labor Councillors here in City Hall to extend our sincere condolences on the loss of former Councillor and former Alderman, James Wilding. Jim Wilding served as the Councillor for the McDowall Ward, as we’ve heard, from 1990 to 2000, a time of great and positive change here in Brisbane. A park in Bridgeman Downs has been named the Jim Wilding Reserve as a nod to his service to that local community and his lasting legacy. Regardless of politics, serving your community in your career comes with a lot of sacrifices as a Councillor, and I admire Jim’s dedication throughout his decade-long service here in City Hall. On behalf of our team, I would like to extend our condolences to Jim’s family, friends and colleagues.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. Look, I just want to speak very quickly in memory of Jim Wilding. A lot of what you heard earlier is true. Jim was a very large man who had a very large voice and a very large presence, and always wore great big gold rings. For those people who didn’t meet him, imagine the opposite of Norm Wyndham, right? It’s the easiest way to imagine what these two gentlemen were like. Jim Wilding was a really—that’s probably an unfair criticism of Norm when I start talking like this, but Jim was a very engaging and large individual in every sense. He was always proud of his contributions, both through what I would call an unusual behaviour of offering flowers to all the ladies every budget sessions, something he would remind people of well into his retirement, but also that he would always stand up for freedom and he would always fight the cold, grey mantle of socialism. That was something that, whenever you would meet him, he would personally remind you of.

I remember a story for—because he served with two different Lord Mayors. He served with, of course, Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson and Lord Mayor Jim Soorley. He tells the story that the first meeting he ever attended—the first party room meeting, I should say—he was there and he thought, hey, this is pretty good. This is his retelling of the story. This is pretty good, you know. I’ve met Sallyanne. The team’s here. Okay, good, we’re in—you know, a Councillor. Then, they’re going through the Council papers of the day and in it was the naming of John Goss Reserve, and Sallyanne’s like, who did this? Pointed at Jim Wilding and is like, did you do this, Jim? Is this the first thing you’re going to do as a Councillor? That’s no good. There’s Jim in the corner, oh God, what’s Sallyanne yelling at me for, already on my first meeting?

John Goss Reserve is there, Jim Wilding Park is there, and both of them, great servants of that particular community. Jim did retire to the north coast and had had some health troubles in later years.

I also wanted to make some comments on behalf of Councillor HAMMOND, who was also a great friend of his. In a local sense, one thing that hadn’t been mentioned that Jim, I think, was a key force behind was, of course, the Downfall Creek Environment Centre, and a lot of the work around the Mountains to Mangroves in the northside. Councillor DAVIS and I were at a meeting last night of the Bunya Lions who, we noted earlier, had that traditional rivalry with Stafford Rotary, but they mentioned Jim’s passing at the meeting. They knew him well and it was a sad moment for the club, but the first thing they said, Jim got the Downfall Creek Centre built, and that was a great thing that he did for that particular northside community that’s still remembered by active community people today.

So, as I say, Jim was great fun. He had been in poor health. We wish Jan and his children, Christina, Sallyanne and Steven, and Jim’s grandchildren, we wish them every condolence and every comfort in this time.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor OWEN, was that you, sorry? There are three people on the one screen. Thank you. Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I speak today in support of this motion of condolence for the late Jim Wilding and to Jan and his children and extended family. I do offer my sincere condolences.

Jim’s last campaign in 1997 was my first campaign, and to say he was larger than life, as other people have done, is so true to Jim’s character. He was very much a true Aussie larrikin, but he had a heart of gold. He genuinely cared about people and the very fact that the roses on budget day have been mentioned, that’s something that was his style. He would often connect with people in a different way, but on a very personal level, not just a political level. It has been said that he did focus his speeches, and the bet was on every year whether he would start his budget speech with: this ALP budget is based on the cold, grey mantle of socialism. The times when we heard that, it was typical and that was Jim’s style.

He definitely was a true local champion. He relentlessly campaigned for a better outcome for his community and to say he was parochial about the McDowall Ward would be an understatement. He worked tirelessly. Can I also say that he did have a very close connection with the One People of Australia League through his family connections, he did a lot of work with Indigenous Australians, as well. Throughout his life, he was very much a character who will not be forgotten, and his commitment to service is his legacy to our City of Brisbane, and particularly to the northern suburbs which he represented.

There have been some other Councillors’ reflections, as well, as to some of his circumstances when he would stand up for what he believed was right, including when a former Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley, decided that he wanted to ban Santa being in the mall. So, what did the then-Councillor Wilding do? He dressed up as Santa, went to the mall with a big bag of lollies and started noisily handing them out to children. That was one of his ways of just demonstrating that there is a greater perspective.

There was another time recalled that he was also singing loudly *Leaving on a Jet Plane* in response to the then-Lord Mayor’s planned overseas trip. I think between him and former Councillor Hinchliffe, and his rendition of *New York, New York*, they had a bit of a challenge going. Jim Wilding was greatly missed when he retired. He was one of a number of Councillors who genuinely had strength of respect on both sides of the Chamber. He based a lot of his decision-making on real-life experience, he was connected to his community, but most importantly, he was passionate about service and serving his locals.

So, to Jan and the family, we extend our condolences. Jim was one of a kind and he will be missed.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor OWEN.

Are there any further speakers? There being no further speakers, we will now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion of condolence to the Chamber, which resulted in it being declared **carried** unanimously.

## MOTION OF APPRECIATION – AUCKLAND AND SEMARANG SISTER CITIES:

Chair: Councillors, can I draw your attention to the notified motion—appreciation of our Sister Cities agreement, and can I acknowledge the representatives of our Sister Cities in the Chamber?

LORD MAYOR, could you please move the motion?

**203/2023-24**

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER) moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), the following motion of appreciation—

*That this Council:*

*Recognises special anniversaries with Brisbane's Sister Cities Auckland and Semarang, celebrating 35 and 30 years respectively.*

*Brisbane City Council reinforces our commitment to these sister city relationships as our city continues to evolve, building stronger relationships through economic, civic and cultural exchanges – all while developing new and improved links through tourism, trade, and business.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. Look, I also want to acknowledge the members of the Sister Cities Steering Committee who are here in the Public Gallery, particularly Mr Ross Humphreys, Chair and Kobe representative of the Brisbane Sister Cities Steering Committee. Also, Mr Sushanty Glodic, the Semarang representative on the Committee, Ms Raewyn Bailey, the Hyderabad representative on the Committee, and David Widjaja, who is the Indonesian community representative on the Lord Mayor’s Multicultural Round Table. There are also a number of people, I’m told, watching online, the Auckland Council, Semarang City Government, the Australian Consulate-General in Surabaya, also the Consul for Economic Affairs from the Consulate-General of the Republic of Indonesia. So, thank you for your participation virtually in this meeting.

First of all, Auckland. This year, Brisbane celebrates the 35th anniversary of our Sister City agreement with Auckland. It’s an agreement which was signed in 1988 when, in fact, the Auckland City Council was here for Expo 88 in Brisbane. The signing of this agreement at Expo shines a light on what Expo did for Brisbane as a city. It helped put our city on the global stage and created partnerships which might not have otherwise occurred. The businesses created and the partnerships forged out of Expo are still lasting and our Sister City arrangement with Auckland is one of these examples. Back then, the agreement was drafted to foster sporting, educational and social exchanges, as well as developing the existing links of tourism and trade.

This remains the case today. When you look at both Brisbane and Auckland, our cities are very similar in nature. We are both supersized councils, formed by amalgamations of many councils into one. In fact, Auckland is the largest council by population in New Zealand, with 1.8 million residents, so that’s more residents than Brisbane City Council. They were formed by the amalgamation of seven large councils in to one. Brisbane is a city that, almost 100 years ago, amalgamated 20 councils and authorities into one, and today, we have 1.28 million residents. We both love our sport. We both were lucky to host the 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup jointly. At the same time, we have both been dealt significant blows as a result of natural disasters, both in recent times with flooding events in Brisbane last year and also devastating flooding in Auckland, as well, in recent times.

When Auckland was flooding in January and February this year, we knew all too well what they were going through. We made contact and we offered our full support to Auckland City Council and the Mayor of Auckland. That was something that was expressed as their great appreciation when I was honoured to meet the Mayor just last week at the Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS). We are all still going through the process of recovering from those events, but these sort of things do bring us closer because we have so much in common, and also so many common challenges, as well. As I mentioned, Mayor Wayne Brown led a delegation to Brisbane together with their CEO, Phil Wilson, as well as their Economic Development Agency, as a part of the Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayor’s Forum.

We’re fortunate to have strong ties with Auckland, and I’d like to express my gratitude to the following people and organisations in New Zealand who are ongoing supporters of our Sister City agreement. First of all, the Mayor himself, Wayne Brown, CEO Phil Wilson, and their predecessors, as well. The Auckland Council. Auckland Unlimited, which is Auckland’s economic development agency. I’d also like to acknowledge local support from Mr Bill Dobbie, the Consul-General for New Zealand in Sydney. The New Zealand Trade and Enterprise office in Brisbane. Once again, members of the Brisbane Sister Cities Steering Committee and any other organisations in the past who, and to this day, continue to support the strong relationship. Today, once again, we recommit ourselves to this important relationship and we look forward to the coming years working together.

Semarang, we celebrate an important anniversary with our Sister City, Semarang, which is the capital and largest city of central Java in Indonesia. I am told there are some representatives from Semarang tuning in and watching today’s motion, and welcome to those people. Brisbane’s relationship with Semarang is a little deeper than what is presented on paper. It’s a relationship which developed over several years prior to the signing of the actual agreement. The Sister City agreement officially started on 11 January 1993. Across those 30 years, we have both been building our cities together, supporting each other in numerous common experiences.

It’s an agreement which has focused on working and the spirit of friendship and cooperation to promote closer economic and cultural relationships, by supporting each other in the areas of business, trade, investment, education, sports and culture. Semarang has Sister City relationships with only two cities, Brisbane being one of them and the other one being Da Nang in Vietnam. We are fortunate to be one of just two cities working with Semarang to develop and support our relationship, and we greatly appreciate that. Since 1999, Semarang has been a strong supporter of the Asia Pacific Cities Summit, attending every summit since this time. This year, we had two delegates from Semarang attending the APCS, and even in 2021, despite the pandemic, the Mayor at the time registered and participated as a virtual delegate in the 2021 summit.

In recent times, and to mark the anniversary, Council has been working closely with the Semarang City Government on a number of studies and forums. From March to May this year, some virtual seminars were held with over 400 attendees discussing topics which affect both of our cities, including flood management and mitigation, urban planning and housing, as well as smart city initiatives. In addition to this, the University of Queensland, Brisbane City Council, Semarang City Government, and a local university in Indonesia are working on a research project about pathways for climate change adaptation and an analysis of flooding in Semarang.

I want to thank a number of people from the Semarang community who continue to work on our Sister City agreement. First of all, the Mayor Rahayu, former Mayor of Semarang; His Excellency, Dr Pramono, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Australia; the Semarang City Government, also the Consul-General for Indonesia in Sydney; once again, members of our Brisbane Sister Cities Steering Committee, including Sushanty, I mentioned before, and other members of that Steering Committee. There are tangible benefits to the City of Brisbane through both of the Sister City agreements, and once again, we celebrate this milestone by recommitting ourselves to these important relationships. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Are there any further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I also rise to recognise and celebrate, I suppose, the relationship that we’ve held with Auckland and Semarang as very important Sister Cities over many, many decades. As the LORD MAYOR said with Auckland, a 35‑year anniversary since the Expo in 1988, and it was actually signed under former Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson and Mayor Dame Catherine Tizard of Auckland. So, on top of being the same size, multicultural, bigger cities, also the first two female mayors of those cities to sign off the Sister City relationship, as well. It was absolutely thrilling to have Auckland back here last week at the Asia Pacific Cities Summit to confirm that our ties are just as strong today as they are 35 years ago.

The LORD MAYOR mentioned, we do share a lot of similarities including our sport, which at the moment, we’re not talking about rugby, but there are many other things. We are very happy to have shared FIFA World Cup with them, as well. We have also got a very singular passion to become global destinations for tourism, and those economic and trade ties between our cities have proven most valuable in our relationship, as we’ve been through some of the hardships of the last few years, as the LORD MAYOR mentioned. We’re looking at the runway in the next few years and how Auckland can work with us, as well. We have welcomed a number of delegations into Brisbane over many years and reciprocal ones into Auckland, as well.

Last year, IRMA, International Relations and Multicultural Affairs, and BEDA, our Brisbane Economic Development Agency, worked with Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) on the New Zealand Rapid Transit and Urban Development Summit. So, that’s when we had 24 New Zealand national government local agencies coming to visit us, including the government representatives in Brisbane, where Councillor MURPHY spoke to them about the public and active transport emissions initiatives we have here in Brisbane, and are very excited to share our knowledge and what we have been learning through Metro and other major infrastructure projects, as well. BEDA often, actually, welcomes Auckland Unlimited, the equivalent that they have there, as well, discussing how cities can grow their industries, strategise around investment opportunities, and how major events can be enormous leveraging for the success of cities, as well.

So, we look forward to many more years of collaboration and exchange between our cities, and thank the representatives that are online and in the Chamber today from Auckland City Council, and particularly Mayor Brown for visiting us last week for the Asia Pacific Cities Summit. Semarang, as well, is 30 years this year, three decades of mutual friendship, first formalised by Lord Mayor Jim Soorley and the Mayor of Semarang, Soetrisno Suharto at the time, in 1993. Again, at this time, it was a very strategic move. TIQ had an office in Semarang and the agreement was signed specifically for us to support and benefit from the state‑to‑state relationship between Queensland and central Java, and then we established the Brisbane and Semarang, as well. So, Semarang has grown into a thriving place of business and trade due to its strategic position on the coast of Java and is one of the largest container ports in Indonesia. That is some great industries and growing opportunities in that area, as well.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk took 24 business-based Brisbane representatives to Semarang in 2018, celebrating our then 25-year anniversary with the city, and we soon welcomed back Mayor Prihadi and the Regional Secretary to share, as the LORD MAYOR said, our learnings around resilience and flood resilience and infrastructure planning, as well. We have a very well-established Indonesian community in Brisbane and a very special bond that our city shares with those communities, as well. The LORD MAYOR thanked many of the people that were online in the Chamber, and I just wanted to call out also Mr David Widjaja who is in the Chamber, who is our representative for Indonesia on the Lord Mayor’s Multicultural Round Table, and he does a wonderful job in that role. So, thank you for everyone joining us today. We look forward to continuing these strong relationships for many decades to come.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. Today, I rise in support of this motion and to celebrate the invaluable Sister City relationships with Auckland and Semarang. Unfortunately, I have not been to Semarang, so I can’t comment on that particular place. I’m sure I’ll get there sometime, David. However, Auckland, another different story. I’ve been there many times. In fact, I’ve lived in Auckland for a time being, and we do know that Brisbane and Auckland both have very robust, civic, cultural and economic bonds, and these ties have led to tangible exchanges between the two cities, their councils, and economic development agencies. Remarkably, nearly 42,000 residents in Brisbane were born in New Zealand. I’m one of them. I’m the token Kiwi in the Chamber. As per the 2021 census, that constitutes the third largest population, trailing only after Australia and the United Kingdom.

I actually had the privilege of being the official meeting greeting party for Mayor Len Brown at the time. That was back in 2010 to 2016. He was the Mayor then, so at the time, the LORD MAYOR gave me the job of meeting that current Mayor at Brisbane Airport. I got to go right up to the doorway and meet the Mayor as he came off the plane, introduce myself, walk them through. We walked through customs. We went around the back way. I’ve never been allowed to go back there since, but we got the special way that we went to go through, which was pretty cool. We had a little civic reception there and it was one of my great honours, just as a Kiwi, to actually be that special representative.

Obviously, I am a dual citizen. Can I say the timing is quite perfect, because not only is it my daughter’s birthday today, but this day 29 years ago, my husband and I became Australian citizens. I thought that was quite interesting because I remember looking at the paperwork just the other day—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MARX: It was because of the Sister City relationship. We actually moved here in 1986, and, obviously, Expo 88 was a big deal for us. I know back then, the Kiwi Pavilion was the most visited Expo pavilion of the time. It was very spectacular. LORD MAYOR mentioned, obviously, some of the devastation events that we have shared with Auckland, the most recent being the flooding. I unfortunately was there at the flooding of that particular time, and that was to attend my father’s funeral. I was due to fly back to be in Chambers here the Tuesday morning. All the flights were cancelled, so I unfortunately missed Chambers that date due to that flooding. Then, recently, not long ago, they actually had flooding in the actual airport, as well. My sister has just been here, staying with me for a little while. She took great delight in coming out to some of the events with me. I took great delight in taking her to some of those events with me. She’s gone back home now and it’s raining again, as per usual.

Back to the special relationship between Brisbane and Auckland, we also provide a platform for the local business community to seek out fresh proposals. One such initiative is Brisbane City Council’s International Internship program. This program, they match domestic students from multicultural backgrounds and international students starting from Brisbane’s Sister Cities with local businesses. It’s designed to support—no, I can’t even say it—Brisbane businesses access tertiary student talent to leverage student knowledge, cultural understanding and language skills to grow their business in both domestic and international markets. The International Internship program was launched in 2018, its first intake in 2019, and since then, the program has supported 37 Brisbane business hosts and 58 international interns. This year, we welcomed five students from sister cities, including Chongqing, Kaohsiung, Auckland and Semarang, all during their anniversary’s year.

So, I want to say the special relationship between Brisbane and Auckland continues to support our local businesses, whether it be city, family, cultural, business, tourism, investment or sporting linkages. Sporting linkages, can I mention the rugby, just off the top of my head? There’s no doubt that Brisbane and Auckland have a very close relationship and we look forward to even more in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX, and thank you for not mentioning the All Blacks.

Is there any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise very briefly just to speak. Whilst I love New Zealand and I’ve been there many times, we’ve heard lots of lovely things about New Zealand today, and I support and endorse them all and value the Sister City relationship. I did want to say just something very briefly about Indonesia. It’s a country that I visited on multiple occasions in my previous employment. I have never been to Semarang, I’m sorry to say, but I’ve been to Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Kalimantan, to Aceh after the tsunami, and we flew in and out through Medan, through the airport there. So, I’ve seen a little bit of the country and perhaps one day I’ll get the opportunity to see Semarang, as well.

Indonesia is a beautiful country. It is our nearest neighbour. It is really an extraordinary place. It is very diverse. It has wonderful, friendly people. It has some of the most beautiful beaches and coastal parts of the world. Unfortunately, they, like Australia, are prone to disastrous weather and natural disasters, and I know that that has had a catastrophic impact on many places in Indonesia. I just wanted to say that we greatly value and appreciate our Sister City relationship with Semarang. We respect and admire our neighbours in Indonesia, who are great neighbours, and we respect and admire one of the largest democratic Muslim countries in the world. So, thank you and happy anniversary.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Are there any further speakers? There being no further speakers, I’ll now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion of appreciation to the Chamber, which resulted in it being declared **carried** unanimously.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Councillor HUTTON, confirmation of minutes, please.

**204/2023-24**

The Minutes of the 4722 (ordinary) meeting held on 12 September 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: Councillors, we move into Question Time.

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

Councillor MACKAY.

**Question 1**

Councillor MACKAY: Thanks, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, times are tough and the residents right across the city are feeling the pinch of this cost-of-living crisis. Can you please report to the Chamber the latest steps you have proactively taken to reduce any potential burden on taxpayers?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, Councillors. I’m going to remind the Chamber that we will hear questions and answers in silence, please.

LORD MAYOR, you’ve got the call.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor MACKAY. As you rightly pointed out, times are tough across the city with the cost-of-living crisis, with people in their home budgets and household costs experiencing increased pressure in a whole range of different ways, whether it’s groceries or whether it’s the things that they need to buy, the services they need, there’s pressure on all of it. Just like the people of Brisbane, governments aren’t exempt from these pressures. Just last week, we read about more than $1.3 billion worth of unexpected spending at the State Government level, unexpected spending at the State Government level.

So, every level of government, people in their homes are facing these pressures. We can’t pretend that these are not real pressures, and the decision that we have to make is what do we do in response? Really, it’s quite a simple decision. Do we make sensible adjustments in reductions in spending or do we pass costs on to ratepayers? That’s really what it comes down to. It is as simple as that. They are the only two choices, to reduce spending in a sensible manner or to allow increased rates in the future flow through to residents, which only adds further to those cost‑of-living pressures and adds further pressure.

So, today, I announce that we will do the sensible and the right thing, which is to find savings within Council’s existing budget, targeting a 10% budget saving across the budget so that we can keep costs down for ratepayers. By doing this, we’re putting downward pressure on rates in the future. It’s consistent with exactly what we have done in the budgets that I have been LORD MAYOR. The very first budget as LORD MAYOR, we have obviously prioritised building infrastructure, but we’ve also prioritised keeping rates down. I was able, as LORD MAYOR, to deliver the very first-rate freeze in 35 years during the pandemic.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, LORD MAYOR.

Councillors, we’re two minutes 16 seconds in and you still can’t remember that you were told that we were going to hear questions and answers in silence.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. The pandemic saw significant reductions in income and foregone expenditure for Brisbane City Council. In fact, the budget impact of the pandemic was in excess of $120 million, yet at the same time, we kept rates down for residents and delivered the first rate freeze in 35 years. Fast forward to the floods, an incredibly costly event, total cost of more than $600 million with a hit to the Council budget of $300 million, so a significant financial impact on top of the $120 million from the pandemic. Yet, once again, we have worked hard to prioritise the rebuilding and to keep rates down.

That’s why, in the budget that was just released, we kept rates to less than half of inflation. It was a very deliberate choice. It would have been very easy to say inflation is seven per cent and our costs are going up by more than that, rates need to be higher, but no, we didn’t do that because we were conscious of the cost‑of‑living impacts on ratepayers. We also delivered at the same time an $80 million cost-of-living relief package, all of which is being delivered, all of which will be delivered, none of which will be impacted by cost reductions. So, our priority in keeping rates down is shown by our record. That is also our focus for the future, because if we don’t act now, we will see month-on-month future cost escalations, future cost pressures, and by the end of the financial year, there will be a significant challenge. As I said, if we don’t act now, a stitch in time saves costs for ratepayers down the track. That is our priority.

Now, I know that there has already been criticism of this decision. It is easy to criticise, but if you don’t support sensible cost reductions—and a 10% reduction, I think, is not excessive, it is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We’ve heard an interjection here, obviously not supporting a 10% reduction. Many households have done even more significant reductions in their own budgets.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Many households have—

Chair: Councillors.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Now—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

LORD MAYOR: Now, what we see here on display is a very clear sense from the Green-Labor coalition of chaos that they think that government money is different to household budgets. They think that government should just keep spending.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, I did, and I delivered a budget that kept rates down to less than half of inflation, and we’re determined to make sure that Brisbane residents pay the lowest residential rates in South East Queensland. Our commitment is that we will continue, while ever we on this side of the Chamber are in office, we will continue to deliver the lowest rates in South East Queensland.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, by making sensible reductions—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time—

LORD MAYOR: —we can help keep rates down for Brisbane residents.

Chair: Your time—

Councillors, I will have no problem warning any of you, formally or otherwise. I will say it again, questions and answers are to be heard in silence.

Are there any further questions of the LORD MAYOR or Civic Cabinet Chairs?

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

Councillor COLLIER: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of Finance and City Governance Committee, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, do you support the LORD MAYOR cutting suburban projects, including in your ward, to fund inner city projects?

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. What I support is responsible financial management, and that is something that this LORD MAYOR continues to deliver for the City of Brisbane. You see, Mr Chair, we must maintain a balanced budget in Brisbane. We must take the corrective action now so that residents don’t have to pay more in the future. This 10% savings drive across the whole organisation, across all wards, across our ward budgets, is required. It is required so that the residents of Brisbane do not pay more later. It is their money. You see, Mr Chair, those on the opposite side seem to forget that it’s not their money. It is not their money. It is the residents of Brisbane. We must be financially responsible, and yes, you know what? Sometimes, that means making very difficult decisions. Nobody wants to make these decisions, but we must take corrective action now.

Mr Chair, of course, I expect naturally that there will be some deferrals and impact to my ward, absolutely. There will be right across Brisbane because we are making a 10% reduction in our expenditure, but you know what? 90% of things will get delivered, and that’s what we are focusing on because that’s what residents expect.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: You know, when I speak to my residents in Coorparoo—

Chair: Councillors. Councillors on my left.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —they tell me about their mortgage repayments going up. They tell me that they are experiencing cost-of-living pressures in their own household budgets. You know what they said to me? This week, you know, we’re not going to have our date night this week. It’s really disappointing, but we’ve cut date night. All households right across Brisbane are having to make difficult decisions and to spend less of their income to make sure that the essentials are paid for, and those are difficult decisions, but households right across Brisbane, including in my own ward, are making those difficult decisions. The irresponsible thing to do would be to continue to spend, spend, spend. That is the Labor way.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: The Greens expect—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Silence, please.

Councillor HAMMOND—sorry, CUNNINGHAM, my apologies. Go on, Fiona.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. The past few years, Mr Chair, have been difficult for all levels of government of all political persuasions. The combination of COVID, of floods, of inflation, of cost-of-living, doesn’t mean that Brisbane City Council has been immune from that. While we’ve been able to manage and maintain—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: While we have been able to manage and maintain a balanced budget, we must now take that corrective action because, otherwise, residents will have to pay for it. There are growing—on a very serious note, Mr Chair, the Opposition are being quite flippant here, but on a very serious note, there are growing concerns in our global economy that, if we don’t take action, inflation will continue to bite. Costs are stubbornly high across the board, Mr Chair. It’s not just major projects. It’s medium and small projects. It’s right across the board.

Councillors should know when they’re talking to their outcome managers, for example, about their Suburban Enhancement Fund, that the cost of footpaths—well, actually, Labor team wouldn’t know that the cost of footpaths have gone up because they don’t build any, right, sorry, but the cost of footpaths, the cost of playgrounds, the cost of everything that Council does is increasing, but for them, it seems they’re all about the point scoring. They’re all about themselves, rather than taking a responsible and considered and a measured approach to this, to protect Brisbane ratepayers. That is what we are doing. You see, they only offer solutions to spend more, to hire more—

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Councillor HUTTON.

**Question 3**

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, in June this year, the Schrinner Council put forward our plan for Kurilpa to become Brisbane’s most sustainable precinct. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest in this proposal to help address the housing crisis?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON, and I’ll take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. How many homes are there going to be there? Way more possible, up to 10,000, than would have been possible without this Kurilpa Precinct Plan.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Which, of course, you voted against.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I would like to thank the Deputy Premier on having a great foresight in his cooperation and commitment to seeing the Kurilpa Precinct Plan through and welcome his approval of the TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument) for the Kurilpa precinct, which was gazetted last week. It’s a fantastic example of the great outcomes that can be achieved when we put politics aside and work together. Housing pressures are being felt right across the nation and Brisbane, of course, is no exception, probably tighter than most of the other cities as the fastest growing capital in Australia. We’re not surprised more and more people are planning to move to Brisbane. Why not?

We are a city alive with opportunity and unstoppable momentum heading into 2032 and beyond, but as our city grows, we know we need more housing than ever before. Managing sustained population growth and planning for the supply of affordable and diverse housing in right locations across different income levels and life stages requires a considered and balanced plan. The State Government are looking at South East Queensland, reviewing the Regional Plan, and setting new priorities and targets for each Council. We know South East Queensland needs to build an additional 900,000 new homes in 2046 to cater for the forecasted population increase of 2.2 million across the region.

For Brisbane, this means an additional 200,000 new homes over the planning horizon, but what is also interesting in this plan is the shift between infill and greenfield targets, requiring more infill under this revised plan, with a target of 60% of all new homes, sending a clear message that growth needs to be catered for within existing urban areas, rather than expanding into the greenfield areas, which is exactly what we don’t have in Brisbane. We don’t have greenfield areas, but we are growing. It is very clear, up not out. We are committed to preserving our suburbs and our environment, and so releasing more land is simply not an option.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY. We do not call out across the Chamber.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: That is why we need to be smart about how and where we plan for new housing, look for opportunities in renewable, underutilised parts of our city and optimising existing and planned infrastructure. We are committed to tackling these challenges head-on and make no apologies for taking real action to deliver for Brisbane. We have a strong record here at Schrinner Council in supplying adequate and diverse supply of housing through our City Plan. Now is not our time to take the foot off the accelerator, but as we are hearing clearly today, with mounting cost pressures, industry and construction constraints, supply and labour shortages, we need to do more with less and we need to create new and innovative opportunities to facilitate more housing. We are absolutely committed to preserving Brisbane’s character, our enviable lifestyle and our rich natural environment. We are committed to building a sustainable future.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor MASSEY, please. It’s the first meeting back. We do not need to be calling out across the Chamber. Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The Kurilpa precinct is our anti-sprawl approach to housing that will unlock thousands of new homes to create what will become Brisbane’s most sustainable community. I will take the interjections, the continual interjections from the Councillor for Woolloongabba, who keeps saying, what about West End? What about West End?

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: This is the Councillor and her colleagues who hail West Village as being a great outcome for the community. That’s exactly what we want to see, more of ground plain interaction; tall, open, urban common areas.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Misrepresentation. I’ve never hailed West Village. I’ve never talked about West—

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, I don’t think you’ve actually spoken yet.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: She hasn’t spoken, but she’s not being quiet. In exchange for the additional height, the community will be—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —assured better outcomes on the ground.

Chair: Sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I believe that Councillor ADAMS is imputing motive upon Councillor MASSEY—

Chair: I don’t uphold your point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —by claiming that she has—

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —said certain things she has never said.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’ve already ruled it out of order. Can you please resume your seat?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry, is imputing motive not a point of order anymore?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, resume your seat. You do not—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m just checking. Is it still?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m just checking. Is imputing motive still—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and, in accordance with section 21(4) of the Meetings Local Law, I hereby request you to follow my instruction. I have ruled your point of order out of order. Can you please—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m just asking, is imputing—

Chair: Can you please resume your seat?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Is imputing motive—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Is imputing motive still a point of order? That’s my question, Mr Chairman. It’s a reasonable procedural question.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, resume your seat. Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, is imputing motive still a point of order? I’ve already said point of order.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I just want to know. It’s just a simple procedural question I’m asking you as the Chairperson of Council.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, as you have failed to comply with the request to take remedial action for your unsuitable meeting conduct—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I did sit down.

Chair: I hereby warn you in accordance with section 21(6) of *Meetings Local Law 2001* that failing to comply with my request to resume your seat and allow the DEPUTY MAYOR to finish speaking may result in an order being issued.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, you didn’t say that. Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Is imputing motive still a point of order under the Meetings Local Law?

Chair: I do not uphold your point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair. This is a question and I am asking you a procedural question based on the Meetings Local Law. Is imputing motive still a point of order under the Meetings Local Law?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY. I am the Chair of Council, not yourself.

Councillor JOHNSTON, you’re really pushing boundaries this afternoon.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I really do, and it’s actually my opinion that matters in this place, not yours.

Just give me one moment.

Councillor JOHNSTON, to respond to your request for my ruling, imputing motive is. However—however, the DEPUTY MAYOR was stating a fact that Councillor MASSEY was speaking quite regularly during the meeting, as the minutes will be reflected.

DEPUTY—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair. Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: My point of order had nothing to do with Councillor ADAMS. I’d just like to put that on the record.

Chair: Oh, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you for clarifying that imputing motive is still a valid point of order to raise in this place. I would ask that you withdraw the warning that you have given me, given that I was asking a procedural question in the appropriate way.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, can I have some time to reflect on that and I will get back to you? Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Let me sum up on Kurilpa precinct. Allowing new buildings to go taller will give a great outcome for the community. Five Green Star ratings, new minimum green plot ratios so they’ll be more sustainable in energy, more affordable and diverse housing options. On the ground, we will see design excellence, and with the cultural epicentre being here in Brisbane, every new building will need to deliver four times the standard of our contribution to the community. It’s a bold and ambitious plan, but it’s also a sound and responsible plan. Again, I thank the Deputy Premier for seeing this plan through and working with our Council to deliver better outcomes for our community.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 4**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

Today, LORD MAYOR, you have confirmed that, after 20 years of LNP rule, Brisbane residents are well and truly paying more but getting less. Can you tell the people of Brisbane today what services and projects will be cut to fill your $400 million budget black hole? We know that officers have been working on this for weeks and weeks and weeks, so you should know the answer today.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, it is definitely true that Brisbane residents are paying less and getting more. They’re paying less than every other Council in South East Queensland and they’re getting more. They get more investment than ever before in new infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city, and they will continue to get 90% of that, as well, going forward. They will continue to get 90% without paying significant increases in rates that they would see under a Green-Labor coalition of chaos. We know for a fact—now, Councillor CASSIDY wants to see all the information. He wants to see the list.

Now, what I can say is I’d like to see the list of how he’s going to pay for his $100 million unfunded commitment on footpaths. Remember that? He said he would spend $100 million extra on footpaths over four years, no mention of how he would pay for it. That’s their very first commitment in the election—actually, no, very second. They promised to reduce speed limits on 90% of roads to 30km an hour. Their second promise was a $100 million unfunded commitment—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —to put concrete in every street.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr Chair. The Meetings Local Laws require the question not to be debated, but to be answered. I am interested in which services the LORD MAYOR is planning to cut, and I believe the Opposition Leader asked for a list. Could you please instruct the LORD MAYOR to answer the question as required under the Meetings Local Law?

Chair: LORD MAYOR, you have just under four minutes remaining to answer the question.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. So, Councillor CASSIDY likes to ask other people for information, but he won’t provide the information on how he is going to pay for his unfunded—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —$100 million election commitment—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —to put concrete in every street.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Sorry, sorry. Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON, I couldn’t hear you over the noise that was coming—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, the clerks clearly could, because they are looking at me and they’re further away, but you know.

Chair: They might have had something pop up on their screen. My apologies.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Don’t think so. Yes.

Chair: You have a point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. The Meetings Local Law is specific that you are not allowed to debate the question—

Chair: Understood.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —but you must answer the question. Can you please draw the LORD MAYOR back to answering the question about which services and projects are going to be cut, as he’s announced today?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. Just give me one second.

LORD MAYOR, you’ve got just under three-and-a-half minutes to answer the question.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Look, I’m not debating the question. I’m calling out the hypocrisy of the questioner. We see that week-in, week-out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, I will tell you this and this is what I confirmed this morning. We will go through the normal budget review process to identify these savings. We will do that, and we’ll be doing that over the coming weeks, and we will make sure that they are identified through the normal budget review process. We are looking for 10% spending reductions because it is the sensible thing to do. As I said again, if Labor Councillors, like they appear to be doing, oppose sensible spending reductions, then it’s clear that they support higher rates. There’s only two choices here.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

LORD MAYOR: There’s only two choices here.

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

Now, Councillor JOHNSTON jumped up on a point of order and I couldn’t hear her before because of the noise. I have asked that questions and answers be heard in silence. I don’t think it’s fair on other Councillors if they wish to rise on a point of order.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. So, we will go through the normal process to identify savings. I would point out, as well, this is something we have had to do before. We have done this following the flood last year where we paused or deferred some projects, and once again, Labor kicked and screamed, but in the end, it enabled us to deliver a rate increase which was less than half the rate of inflation. So, these decisions are important. I’ll say again, if you do not support spending reductions, then you must support higher rates. It’s very clear which camp the Labor-Green coalition of chaos is in because they’re quite happy to announce $100 million big spending promises without saying how it’s going to be paid for. Well, I can tell you how it will be paid for. The residents of Brisbane will pay for it, because they certainly don’t support spending reductions. They’ve made that clear today.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Mr Chairman, I rise on the third point of order and I draw your attention to section 33 of the Meetings Local Law, subsection eight. In answering a question, the following general rule should apply, neither the LORD MAYOR nor a Civic Chair shall debate the subject of the question, the answer will be relevant and succinct. The question was about which services and projects are going to be cut, and the LORD MAYOR has spent the vast majority of the time discussing the Labor Party, who aren’t doing the cuts. I, like every other Brisbane resident, are interested in the answer. Could you please ensure the Meetings Local Law is followed and the LORD MAYOR answers the question? If he doesn’t know it, he should take it on notice.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON, for your point of order.

LORD MAYOR, you have just over one minute left.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Well, maybe if Councillor JOHNSTON wasn’t so busy interjecting, Mr Chair, she would have heard that I answered the question. We will identify the savings through the normal budget review process. I say it again. We will identify the savings through the normal budget review process, and they will come through to Council for approval. The budget reviews will come through to Council for approval. So, feel free to vote yes or no, your choice. When it comes through, you have that choice. In this democratic environment that we have, in this democratic forum, you will get to vote yes or no to sensible cost savings, but what we know is, if you vote no, then you support higher rates. It’s as simple as that.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Councillor—sorry, point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, the LORD MAYOR has just stated if we don’t support what he says, we will be supporting higher rates. That is imputing motive, Mr Chairman, and I would ask you to ask the LORD MAYOR to withdraw it, as you’ve outlined it is a contravention of the Meetings Local Law.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, do you care to pass a comment on that point of order?

LORD MAYOR: I think it’s pretty clear that if you don’t support reductions in spending, then rates will go up. It’s a statement of fact.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Hang on, point of order, Mr Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, I don’t know why you just asked the LORD MAYOR whether he’d like to pass comment about a procedural issue that I have raised with you, which is a valid procedural issue under the Meetings Law as you have confirmed here today. So, I find it offensive that I have been accused of an ultimatum and motive has been implied in that ultimatum, and I would ask that it be withdrawn because it’s not a statement of fact, it’s imputing motive—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and I would like it withdrawn.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m not going to uphold that point of order.

Councillor HUTTON.

**Question 5**

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

DEPUTY MAYOR, following last week’s successful Asia Pacific Cities Summit forum, can you please touch on Brisbane’s latest award, highlighting our green credentials?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON. I am very excited to share with the Chamber some of the outcomes of the APCS, and I’m sure next week I’ll have more chance to expand on what a wonderful forum it was. Over 1,000 delegates and 118 mayors, and many of them not for the first time to Brisbane, but one thing the LORD MAYOR and I heard repeatedly that week was how much everybody loved Brisbane. The lifestyle, the city, the way it’s grown if they’ve been here before, and how it’s grown sustainably. So, we are most excited to have been awarded the gold certification under the UN-Habitat’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This is a very exciting announcement to recognise Brisbane’s achievements and unwavering efforts towards sustainability.

We are the first city in Australia and only the second one in the entire world to attain this certification. We gained that recognition because of the way we are a modern, vibrant, culturally rich city that prioritises being clean, green and sustainable and embraces our incredible climate and liveability. We are the whole package when it comes to a sustainable city, but this has not happened by accident. The LORD MAYOR and the Lord Mayors before him have put sustainability at the front of everything we do. Environmental sustainability, absolutely economic sustainability, community resilience, cultural inclusion, prioritising and celebrating everything our residents love about living in Brisbane.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The achievement of gold status is not the end, though. It’s just one step to our journey to becoming even more sustainable as we continue to grow. The UN’s (United Nations) SDG Cities global initiative is about getting cities to make change from the ground up, to work towards achieving the global agenda for sustainability, recognising that all change starts with small movements that then go into greater impact. This program has been designed to bring about and embed sustainability at a local level across the globe. Having achieved silver certification in 2022, the first Australian city to have done so, we are well and truly committed to this journey. We are working closely and collaborating with the UN to refine the program and become a leading example in this space to be able to help and support other cities to join the initiative. There’s 120 participating and we aim to have 1,000 cities by 2030.

So, what did we do to achieve this? We worked through a voluntary local review. What are some of the initiatives we’ve undertaken? We looked at the seven sustainable development goals set on the 2030 agenda, centred around social, economic and environmental sustainability. Then, we had a look at how we would implement those goals and make sure we could show to the UN that we have a very high baseline here in Brisbane to start with, but there are things we can still work on, as well. We’re also looking at how to best apply the measures across a local level, and we have now piloted the action-oriented voluntary local review with the UN.

What the UN did recognise about Brisbane City Council is that we are not just talking the talk. We are walking the walk, and our assessment was centred about four things: resilience, active health and green, inclusive, diverse and equitable, and liveable and connected. The review worked through each theme, demonstrating how our vision and strategies align with SDG targets, addressing what affects us as a city as we continue to grow, and continue how to plan to improve on these targets and manage growth in a sustainable way. There were so many initiatives to talk through, to explain to the UN the wonderful work that’s been done here for decades in Brisbane. Initiatives like our Bushland Acquisition program, which has been protecting and preserving natural habitats for more than 30 years, creating new parks and rehabilitating our creek banks and waterways.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Planting more trees than ever before, building new bikeways and footpaths. Landmark projects like Victoria Park, Hanlon Park, Oxley Creek transformation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Cutting the costs of green waste recycling, creating community composting hubs. Educating households on how to lower their cost of living and how we’re helping them through an $80 million cost-of-living package this financial year to help their hip pocket. I know those on the opposite side are moaning and groaning and not happy with this outcome, but unfortunately, you cannot ignore when people are looking in with fresh eyes, how well Brisbane is doing in this space. We celebrate our diverse culture and provide opportunities for communities to be involved and connected. The list goes on, and we will continue to be more sustainable and create a better Brisbane through this project. Thank you to the UN for your recognition, and we look forward to what’s next.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further questions?

Councillor MASSEY, how are you?

Councillor MASSEY: I’m great, thanks, Chair.

Chair: Welcome back to the Chamber.

Councillor MASSEY: How are you?

Chair: Good, thank you.

Councillor MASSEY: Chair, are you well?

Chair: Good, thank you, yes.

Councillor MASSEY: Excellent stuff.

**Question 6**

Councillor MASSEY: LORD MAYOR, after election promises, standing within this Chamber again and again saying the green bridge project would be delivered, that you would spend up to $55 million, today you announced the indefinite delay of the West End‑Toowong, and St Lucia and West End bridges. Will you now apologise to residents of West End, South Brisbane, Milton, St Lucia and Toowong for your broken promises?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you for the question, through you, Mr Chair. Look, I would be interested to know—through you, Mr Chair—whether Councillor MASSEY supports this project, because her predecessor raised some serious concerns about the project. Remember, he opposed the landing site because it was landing in a park and he was against that. So, look, I haven’t heard anything from Councillor MASSEY on whether she supports the project or not, but I’d be interested to hear that.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It seems—I don’t look at your social media.

Chair: Sorry—

LORD MAYOR: It seems that—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, just one moment.

Councillors to my left, we’re not going to do this anymore today. I will call you out.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. So, let’s go back to the beginning. When I first became LORD MAYOR, before the pandemic, before the flood, before the global inflation crisis, before the cost-of-living crisis, before the housing crisis, I promised that there would be a $550 million investment in green bridges over 10 years. I have not been the LORD MAYOR for 10 years. We have two under construction right now. I’m absolutely excited about how they will transform our active transport network and provide new opportunities for people to leave their cars behind and travel more sustainably. The Breakfast Creek Green Bridge will be delivered first. That is coming quite close to completion. The Kangaroo Point Green Bridge is seeing major progress being made there.

Also, when it comes to Toowong to West End, we have moved to secure the landing site from the private owners that had that site. It’s quite clear that we plan to deliver this project, but we plan to deliver it when we can afford to deliver it. I expect, if I am successful in returning as LORD MAYOR, to deliver on that 10‑year commitment, but it is a 10-year commitment. So, two bridges in the first term with further bridges based on the $550 million that we have committed over 10 years—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: The question was would the LORD MAYOR apologise to the residents for the broken promises, yes or no?

Chair: You actually had a number of questions in your question. I believe the LORD MAYOR has almost two-and-a-half minutes to answer them.

LORD MAYOR: There have been no such promises. The promise, as I said, was $550 million over 10 years, and it was always predicated on support from other levels of government, as well.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, it was. I don’t know—I don’t know who else was there—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment. just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I don’t know who else was there when I made that commitment, but I was certainly there.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, can you resume your seat, please? LORD MAYOR, resume your seat.

Councillors, now, that was ridiculous.

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor MASSEY.

We are not at kindergarten. We are at the Chamber of Council, Brisbane City Council. Show some professionalism, please.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I, provided I am given the opportunity to do so, plan on delivering a $550 million commitment over 10 years or sooner on green bridges, which is why not only are we moving on the first two, but why we have secured the landing site for the Toowong to West End bridge. You don’t actually buy the land unless you plan to build the bridge. So, it’s quite clear that we are serious about this when we can afford to do so. Now, look, I know Councillor MASSEY is probably supporting the Labor school of just keep spending, the magic pudding solution where it’s someone else’s money, so they don’t care about it. They’ll just keep spending. People end up paying the bill for that.

We want to make sure that we keep costs down for residents. So yes, we are committed to $550 million of investment over 10 years in green bridges. We are also committed that the Toowong to West End bridge will be the next cab off the rank. We have made that clear, that in terms of the priority, Breakfast Creek will be finished first, Kangaroo Point, and then the third bridge in terms of priority will be Toowong to West End. So, we’ve made all these things clear. I restate those commitments today, and we are looking forward to making sure that we can keep rates down for residents, but also deliver the infrastructure our growing city needs.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

That now ends Question Time.

We’ll move on to—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

**205/2023-24**

At that juncture, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY, that the Standing Rules be suspended.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you have three minutes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Today, we have heard from the LORD MAYOR in Question Time that there is only one way to ensure that costs in this city are brought under control. That is to do exactly what he says, and if you don’t, then you don’t support economic management. Now, that’s obviously a very false statement. It is unfortunate that the LORD MAYOR has stood up and said—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I was wondering what the motion was before we heard the argument.

Chair: The motion is to suspend standing orders, but I think Councillor JOHNSTON is working up to the reason why we are doing that.

Councillor JOHNSTON, you have two minutes and 15 seconds.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. The LORD MAYOR has given everyone an ultimatum here today. The only way to get costs under control is to do what he says, and if you don’t, then you don’t support getting costs under control. Now, that is not a good way to run the city. It’s the LORD MAYOR that’s got us into this mess, and yes, he stands up in Question Time just a few minutes ago and says, if we don’t do what he wants, it’s our fault. Well, I don’t think the LORD MAYOR, the person who’s got us into this mess, should be dictating to other Councillors how to get us out of that mess. There are other ways. I don’t support cuts into operational areas of Council and I think there are better ways to make sure that we can minimise cuts to operational areas. We need to immediately stop all overseas travel by—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —Councillors and Council officers which—

Chair: Sorry, just one moment.

Councillors, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON, can I remind you that this is the reason why—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it is.

Chair: —we are suspending standing orders, not providing solutions.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, yes. Well, that’s what my motion’s about.

Chair: Okay, good.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Chairman. My motion is about providing solutions because the LORD MAYOR’s ultimatum simply says do it his way or you don’t support good financial management. There is another way. There is a way you can consult, there is a way you can listen, and there is a way you can save money. Cut all overseas travel. Cut all paid advertising by this Council. Cut all paid marketing by this Council. Cut the external company board fees paid by this Council to its LNP mates. There are dozens and dozens of them, hundreds of thousands of dollars a year going to people who sit on boards that are not accountable to the people of Brisbane. They don’t need to be there. The LORD MAYOR, there are other ways that we can save money, and that is by cutting things that are not necessary and preserving things that are. Cutting footpaths is not a good idea. Cutting tree trimming is not a good idea. Cutting community grants is not a good idea.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

It was a procedural motion, wasn’t it? I’m sorry. We will now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion for the suspension of the Standing Rules 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: 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: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination (E&C) Committee.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

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

**206/2023-24**

At that juncture, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the motion submitted by Councillor Jared CASSIDY at the meeting on 24 August 2021, be taken off the table.

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

Thereupon, Councillors Jared CASSIDY and Lucy COLLIER 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: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee recommendations, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

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

**207/2023-24**

At that juncture, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the motion submitted by Councillor Jared CASSIDY at the meeting on 30 May 2023, be taken off the table.

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

Thereupon, Councillors Lucy COLLIER and Jared CASSIDY 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: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: Third time lucky. LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

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

**208/2023-24**

At that juncture, Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the motion submitted by former Councillor Kara Cook at the meeting on 6 September 2022, be taken off the table.

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

Thereupon, Councillors Lucy COLLIER and Jared CASSIDY 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: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee recommendations, please.

## CONSIDERATION OF *RECOMMENDATIONS* OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE DURING RECESS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE (Adoption report)

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 setting out the *recommendations* of the Establishment and Coordination Committee during the Spring Recess 2023, on matters usually considered by that Committee, be adopted.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr Chairman. I am seeking the further following information regarding item A, contracts and tendering for the Establishment and Coordination Committee report, contract seven, which relates to Flood Rehabilitation – Sports Field Remediation Program Package 2. It’s on page three of the E&C report. Could the LORD MAYOR please provide a list of the projects that are being funded with the just over $2 million being allocated in this project, a list of the projects and locations, please?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before I begin, I just wanted to table the annual financial statements for the Brisbane Sustainability Agency, Brisbane Powerhouse, City Parklands, and the Brisbane Economic Development Agency. Their financial reports and statements have been finalised during the recess and, as I always do, table them at the first available meeting back as we meet together. So, I table those. Obviously, these organisations continue to do an incredible amount of work that contributes towards our city.

Brisbane Sustainability Agency just recently announced an incredible initiative that they had initiated with the support of Councillor Tracy DAVIS, the Chair, and myself to target the planting of another one million plants and trees between now and the Olympics, and that’s on top of the approximately half a million that we would have normally planted over that period of time. So, we’ll target 1.5 million plants and trees between now and the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. That’s being done in partnership with Greening Australia. It’s also being done in a responsible manner because the partnership with Greening Australia, it deploys donations from both individuals and companies who want to support practical environmental outcomes.

So, you have major companies—am I allowed to mention some of them, Councillor DAVIS? Yes? Major companies like Bupa, Amazon, are investing in the planting projects. They’re helping by donating and putting funding towards, and they also in these planting projects get their staff involved, as well, which is fantastic. It’s a wonderful initiative that not only takes the tree planting and tree cover and biodiversity across our city to the next level, sees creeks rehabilitated, but also uses corporate money, uses money from corporations, which I know the Greens absolutely hate with a passion. They see corporations as evil.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: These corporations—they don’t like corporate donations. These corporations are donating towards—

Chair: Councillor MACKAY.

LORD MAYOR: —the environment, and it is a wonderful thing and they should be commended for it. So, thank you to the Brisbane Sustainability Agency for bringing that together.

The Brisbane Powerhouse continues to go from strength to strength in supporting the arts, and not only in Brisbane, but also to be an incredible arts precinct for the whole region. City Parklands provides amazing services in their major parklands that they manage, of South Bank and Roma Street Parklands, and also Victoria Park / Barrambin, and the Brisbane Economic Development Agency continues to kick goals when it comes to championing local business and promoting Brisbane on the world stage for further investment, for further tourism opportunities, and further international conferences and student investment, as well, for international students coming here. Those four organisations are doing a fantastic job and I thank all of them for their efforts over the last 12 months.

I just wanted to touch on an incredibly devastating situation that we’ve all watched unfold in the last week or so, and that is the incredible and devastating conflict that has occurred in the Middle East, the incredible loss of life and the devastation that we are seeing that is just unspeakable. It’s been really concerning to see some people in our community, not many, but some people in our community actively supporting terrorism, because that is exactly what they are doing if they support Hamas. They are supporting a terrorist organisation that kills innocents, that kills women and children and targets them deliberately. We should never support terrorist organisations. Never.

There is no excuse for terrorism. There is no justification for terrorism. These people may see them as something other than that, but that is what they are and, in fact, the Australian Government, on a bipartisan level, confirms that Hamas is a terrorist organisation. We must never support terrorism, whether it is 9/11, we didn’t support terrorism there, whether it is the Bali bombings, we didn’t support terrorism there, the Christchurch murders, we didn’t support terrorism there. So many other examples of where we don’t support terrorism, full stop, under any circumstances, and we don’t support it in this situation, as well.

I am quite clear on saying that unequivocally. This is not about anything other than the question of whether you support terrorism or not. It is as simple as that and we say no. We also say that the harmony of our community is absolutely critical, and I am proud that we are a community where people of all backgrounds get along and I want to see that continue. I don’t want to see conflicts in other parts of the world being brought here to our home that is peaceful and harmonious. So, we must stand together in not supporting terrorism.

Last night, City Hall was lit up in red to support Dyslexia Awareness Month. This annual campaign raises awareness for those living with dyslexia, including supporting organisations that help patients increase their ability to read and write. Also last night, the Story Bridge, Reddacliff Place and Victoria Bridge were lit up in green to support Go Green for EcoMarines. EcoMarines educate the youth about how to protect and conserve our terrestrial freshwater and marine ecosystems through informed action.

Tonight, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, Tropical Dome and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in blue to support National Carers Week. This week is celebrated annually and is an opportunity to recognise, celebrate and raise awareness among all Australians about the diversity of Australia’s 2.65 million carers. The Carers Foundation does an incredible job, and we support their work and thank them for what they’ve been doing.

Tomorrow night, the Story Bridge and Victoria Bridge will be lit up in purple for International Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day. This campaign raises awareness of the need for more accurate diagnostics, better treatment, and more investment in research, as well as to build hope for mast cell disease patients.

On Thursday night, all our assets will be lit up in blue and white for War Widows Day. This annual day supports Australia’s war widows and is a way to provide support and resources to those widows who need it.

On Friday, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, the Tropical Dome display and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in purple and yellow for International Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day. This disease affects 7.6% of the global population, but it remains a hidden disability for many people around the world, and we’re supporting them in bringing attention to it.

On Saturday, City Hall will be lit up for the JCI National Convention being held here in City Hall. This is the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and we’re pleased to support the work that they do in supporting young people getting into business, young entrepreneurs who will help create the businesses and the jobs of the future. Also on Saturday night, City Hall, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in blue to support Mental Health Awareness Month, organised by Beyond Blue. This campaign aims to raise vital funds for Beyond Blue’s support services.

We also wanted to once again draw attention to the increasing preparedness that all levels of government have when it comes to dealing with bushfire preparedness, preparing for dry conditions, and that is something that we’ve been working very closely with the other agencies across the different levels of government on. I recently chaired a local Disaster Management Committee meeting to make sure that we are as prepared as possible for what might lie ahead when it comes to this coming summer season. That was an important meeting because it helped to clarify the different responsibilities that each agency had during a bushfire event, and that was an important thing to do because we’ve obviously experienced many storms, we’ve experienced a number of floods as a city, but there has yet to be—in recent memory, at least—a large-scale bushfire in Brisbane.

We obviously hope and pray that it stays that way, but we must be ready, so clarifying the responsibilities, who is responsible for what part of the response when it comes to a bushfire, was an important step that was taken at that meeting, and that was good for all agencies that were involved. Everyone’s been working well together. I think our level of preparedness—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**209/2023-24**

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: The level of preparedness across all three levels of government, I think, has been higher than it has been for many, many years, and everyone is working well together. We’ve seen, as I’ve mentioned in the past, ongoing works to prepare our own conservation reserves and make sure that our fire access trails are maintained and ready, that our controlled burning or hazard reduction program delivered as much as possible while the conditions were right, and also that we do ongoing investment when it comes to reducing the hazard. Some of that hazard reduction work includes the removal of weeds and vegetation in locations that may be close to roadsides or subject to potential risks of fires starting from cigarettes coming out of cars, for example, and other situations like that.

We have, I think, a good level of preparedness, but obviously, these are very challenging natural disasters that can move quickly. We watch with great concern about the fires that are popping up around the country at this point in time. The State Government and QFES (Queensland Fire and Emergency Services), as the lead agency for most of the response, has assured us that they are ready. They also have aerial firebombing resources ready to go, and also the ability to get more aerial firebombing resources at a short notice if they need to. So, we’ll continue working very closely with the other levels of government.

Just to clarify, in terms of responsibilities, we obviously have a responsibility to maintain our own bushland reserves to manage the risk, something that we’ve been doing very carefully and very closely, but our major responsibility when it comes to a bushfire situation is to identify suitable locations for evacuation centres and to activate those evacuation centres based on consultation with the other agencies. When it comes to getting residents in and out of those areas that may be experiencing bushfires, that is something we will work with QFES and the police on. QFES will be at the frontline with the control centre. They will be the immediate response and overarching agency when it comes to a bushfire. When it comes to evacuations, QFES will work closely with the Queensland Police to manage the appropriate routes in and out of bushfire locations, and that clarification was important. Then, we will identify suitable sites for evacuation centres and activate those evacuation centres.

Following the flood last year, we have identified a whole range of options for evacuation centres in different parts of the city. We have made early engagement with the operators of those facilities so that they can be activated at short notice, and we stand ready to work with other authorities. Obviously, we hope that Brisbane doesn’t experience any serious bushfires over the coming months, but we stand ready to work with the agencies if that does occur. The other thing that we’ve been warned of from the Bureau of Meteorology, is that we are experiencing or are going to experience some quite hot and dry months coming up. Now, when it comes to managing the potential risk of heat wave, that is something that is led by Queensland Health in the main, once again we clarify the responsibility. Queensland Health is the lead agency when it comes to managing heatwave, but we stand ready to work with Queensland Health when it comes to responding to that situation as well, going forward.

In relation to some commentary that we heard just before about how savings can be found in the budget. Now, we heard that there should be reductions in travel, in advertising, in consultancies, in catering, in things like that and I can assure Councillors, all of those things will be reduced, all of them will be reduced. They will be, absolutely, so we’re moving to make those reductions. But having said that if you reduce them entirely, all of those things that were mentioned, you might get a couple of million dollars maximum of savings. Where is the other $397 or $398 million going to come from?

This is the typical magic pudding approach that we see of Opposition Councillors. Oh, let’s cut a newsletter, that’ll do it. Well, no, it won’t, where is the other $399, $398 million going to come from once you’ve done that? These are also Councillors who are always happy to send out newsletters with their own photo on, often multiple photos, sometimes seven photos in one newsletter. Yet they complain, they complain about others using similar methods of communication. Let’s have some sensible contributions here, let’s not use simplistic box ticking, point scoring opportunities, that actually won’t deliver any real tangible benefits, but simply will be about making a political point. Let’s have a discussion about how we can reduce expenses by 10% to keep the pressure off ratepayers.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Now I know that Councillor JOHNSTON, through you, Mr Chair, said there was another way. I’d be really interested to hear what that other way is, because if you’re not reducing expenditure then ultimately someone has to pay the bill and who is that? That is the ratepayers of Brisbane, it’s very simple. There is no third option here. It’s either reducing expenditure or it is upward pressure on rates, this is very basic stuff and a newsletter or two is not going to cut the mustard. A list that was put forward before is not going to cut the mustard, it’s not going to deliver the savings that are necessary to keep pressure down on rates.

Item A before us, we have the contracts and tendering report. Twenty one out of the 22 contracts are being awarded to local suppliers, being 95% of contracts. Financial year to date we have 77% of contracts so far being awarded to local contractors and as usual by the end of the financial year we expect to have that well over 80%, as per out target. Contracts ahead of us include in this particular report, include the construction of the Beams Road upgrade Stage 1A, which includes the signalisation of the Dorville Road intersection, road widening from Cowie Road to Balcara Avenue, the construction of a shared path and services upgrade from Lacey Road to Balcara Avenue.

It also includes the construction of the Spring Hill Common and the Victoria Park pump track, both of which are currently underway. The upgrade of the Runcorn Pool, as well as construction of a new playground at Bedser Street in Macgregor. In relation to the question that was asked before, sports field remediation works to address damage and insulation of irrigation systems at the Eastern Suburbs Football Club at Heath Park, East Brisbane, are being done as part of this repair work.

Item B is the Stores Board submission, the SCP (Significant Contract Plans) for the provision of Cisco products, services and support and maintenance. This item is seeking Council approval to go to the market to source a supplier for Cisco services, a communication product which is used internally by Council operations. Cisco products are considered market leading, in enabling a high-performance network, Council’s significant investment in Cisco means that non-Cisco equipment is not recommended due to the inability for other products to seamlessly connect to Council’s network.

The existing contract with Data#3 was entered into in 2019 and is due to expire in June 2024. The Stores Board has recommended that Council go to the market to secure a new provider for Cisco services, of which there are many different options throughout the country. Organisational Services, Transport for Brisbane and Brisbane Infrastructure, are the primary users of these services and new products are sourced on an as need basis. The tender will be released to the market on 1 November, with the tender closing on 1 December, with the contract beginning next year.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY.

**S****eriatim - Clause A**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause A, CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR AUGUST 2023, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Appreciate what the LORD MAYOR said in his opening remarks about bushfire season and hazard reduction. Not sure if the LORD MAYOR is aware, something that Councillor STRUNK warned about some months ago, about Council’s preparedness. I’m not sure if the LORD MAYOR is aware but there hasn’t been any hazard reduction work for the last month or two now and none is planned before March next year.

We know that we’re heading into a devastating fire season, and I certainly hope that no hazard reduction burning decision by this Administration wasn’t made to save money, to cut costs, as we head into what will be a catastrophic and devastating bushfire season ahead. I’m not sure maybe the LORD MAYOR isn’t aware of that, maybe some cuts were made by others in Civic Cabinet. Maybe Councillor MARX knows something about that.

On contracts and tendering, this is perhaps one of the last times we’ll see a document that’s got so many things in it, isn’t there, given that the LORD MAYOR is going to find $400 million in savings. In the LNP’s words, their own words, Civic Cabinet and various Members of Civic Cabinet have confirmed today that the $400 million to 30 June next year, or $1.6 million a day in cuts to projects and services, will all come from things that haven’t had a contract entered into yet. We presume these ones because they were made by Council’s delegate previously, they are locked in, we presume. Maybe, maybe not, maybe the LORD MAYOR will still cut them in a budget review.

But all of those things that the LORD MAYOR listed in the budget just three months ago, that list of items that’s in the suburban works program and listed in the budget pages at the back of the book. All of those things that required a contract to go into to deliver those things, whether they are road resurfacing, footpath reconstruction, tree planting, tree trimming, playground upgrades, drainage rehabilitation, just to name a few, they’re all the sort of things that are going to be cut and they’ll disappear from these documents before us today. $1.6 million a day. The LORD MAYOR has the gall to stand up here today and pretend as if it’s our problem on this side of the Chamber. We have been warning about this for months now, years, but this specific problem in August, which was only not that long ago was it—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —and it was just six weeks after the budget was handed down, looking at those financial documents that came through Council and the LNP laughed and laughed and laughed and said, there’s nothing to see here, don’t you worry about it. Well, it turns out that there were 400 million problems with the LORD MAYOR’s budget when he handed it down in June. He knew that these were coming because we’ve heard from Council officers, Chair, that they have been spending weeks and weeks and weeks to date, looking at where these savings are going to be made.

Chair: Councillor.

Councillor CASSIDY: The LNP knew all about this, Chair.

Chair: Councill CASSIDY. Sorry, I’ve given you a fair bit of movement here, but I would like to draw you back to the report.

Councillor CASSIDY: Contracts before us today, this report today will be one of the last times that we see expenditure happening out in the suburbs of Brisbane. We know that according to the LORD MAYOR and LNP Chairs, contracts have already entered into, major contracts like waste and the delivery of bus services, major contracts, won’t be included in this review, it will just be small suburban projects and services out in the suburbs, which are what the purpose of these reports are before us today.

The only way we’ll know going forward what is cut, contrary to what the LORD MAYOR claims, is by going through every single item that’s in that suburban works program and seeing what is not delivered over the coming months, because contrary to what the LORD MAYOR says, there is no list coming to Council, budget reviews now, under the way in which this LNP Administration accounts for expenditure and keeps its secret from the people of Brisbane, they do not detail what is being cut in a budget review. They detail a high-level figure—

Chair: Sorry. Sorry, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: —that won’t appear in this contracts and tendering reports.

Chair: This is not in the report, and I’d encourage you, if you do want to debate this, we can do this is General Business, but can we go back to the items before us please in the papers.

Councillor CASSIDY: Contract 5 here today—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry, point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, you’ve said this a number of times to me, and I think it’s important that we clarify this, the Meetings Local Law requires Councillors to be relevant to the matters under discussion, it does not say you have to speak about what in the report. I just want to clarify that you are not unreasonably restricting what the Meetings Local Law says, which entitles Councillors to speak more broadly than what is in the report.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I really don’t uphold your point of order, but I will pass a comment. I did start off by addressing Councillor CASSIDY in saying, I had given him a broad brush to deal with and I was drawing him back to the report. Thank you for your interjection, but I do believe that Councillor CASSIDY is going a little bit further than what the papers show before us. But more than happy for Councillor CASSIDY to speak in General Business, more than happy, I’d encourage it. Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, sorry Councillor CASSIDY. Mr Chairman, it’s your language and instruction to us that I’m raising as the problem here.

When you say to us you can only talk about what’s in the report, that is not what the Meetings Local Law actually says. That is where it is problematic because you have taken action against me previously.

The rule is you have to be relevant to, so, Mr Chairman, I just—this is important because you have all the power here, but you are saying things that are not in the Meetings Local Law.

Chair: Councillor JOHSTON, how about I make a deal with you, how about if I reflect over this over the afternoon break and I’ll get back to you after that. In the meantime, can we hear what Councillor CASSIDY has to say—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, I don’t want to do deals, that’s not what’s in the Meetings Local Law—

Chair: I’m not offering a deal, Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —I’m seeking a ruling—

Chair: I’m not offering a deal—

Councillor JOHSTON: —from you as the Chairperson of Council.

Chair: I will reflect on what you’ve asked me and then I’ll get back to you after afternoon break, but you’re really chewing into Councillor CASSIDY’s time here.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: The clock has stopped, but thank you very much, Chair. We look at these contracts that are before us today which are for part of projects. We know that contract one for instance, the Story Bridge Depot Works Elevated Floor and Office Space one. That’s a single contract for a larger project which is critical work that needs to be done in an ongoing way. How do we know that the LNP aren’t going to cut the Story Bridge rehabilitation works? We don’t know that, and we won’t know that, because the LNP just simply won’t do it, that won’t be included in the phantom list that the LORD MAYOR says is going to come in a budget review, that’s one example.

Contract 5, the Beams Road upgrade. The LORD MAYOR talked about this contract that’s here, but he didn’t talk about the cuts to Stage 3 of that project. Now, when the LNP cut Stage 3 of that project in the last session, the LORD MAYOR said really clearly that this initial contract would be entered into and then stage three would be done next. Well not only is there no guarantee of that, there is almost a guarantee now, based on what the LNP Administration are doing, is that that project is going to disappear altogether. That one is going to form part of the $400 million in cuts to suburban projects that this LNP Administration are going to oversee.

The list goes on and on and on, more of that flood rehabilitation works and sports field remediation work that is required, not just as a result of the 2022 flood disaster but also ongoing work, there’s absolutely no guarantee anymore that that program is going to continue to roll on. I was down at the Brighton Roosters over the weekend and their field has been absolutely hammered over the season because they have record numbers of players, they’re turning away girls and young women because there is no female change facilities at this location. According to the LNP there’s no problem with that space and apparently, they’re funding them all over the city. Well bad luck if you’re a community sporting club because they’re about to be cut.

That’s the reality we’re living under now with this LNP Administration, we’re paying more and we’re getting less. You look at some of these sports field rehabilitations, there’s one at Mitchelton and one at Keperra, that are listed here today. This is now, what are we beyond February 2022, more than 18 months beyond the February 2022 flood disaster and we’re only just now seeing contracts entered into for flood rehabilitation sports field works. It’s no wonder that some of those ones, the last ones to be done, are in the Enoggera Ward, represented by Councillor WINES.

We all remember that he deserted his inundated ward, we all remember that *The* *Courier-Mail* story, where he flew off to Dubai in the middle of that flood disaster. He didn’t seem to know where his ward was in the middle of that, couldn’t locate his ward during that flood disaster. Well, he hasn’t been able to locate his ward as a local Councillor to make sure that his clubs get their projects done on time and on budget as well. A whole lot of disappointment that’s in this but it just pales into almost insignificance now because we’re faced with this $400 million worth of cuts to communities right around Brisbane, $1.6 million a day.

When you look at a project, as the LORD MAYOR said, what would you cut? Well, we know he likes the big glitzy inner city stuff. We know that his Metro is a billion dollars over budget, we know that the inner city green bridges are hundreds of millions of dollars over budget now. The Victoria Park project is $83 million over budget already so far to date and that, well that—sorry, I might need correcting because that was as at the budget.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That was as at the budget. Who knows, who knows—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —the size of the—well it’s not—I’ll take that interjection, it really wasn’t a budget was it, it was more of a—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —cost estimate, a guesstimate maybe, if you’re changing it by $400 million a quarter, it’s not really much of a budget. But you look at the contracts before us today, so this inner city park is costing $140 million, as at the budget last year. In efforts to find savings you think maybe to prioritise suburban park upgrades or to fund road resurfacing or to fund community club upgrades, you’d find savings in a project like Victoria Park. But instead, what we have here is $6 million being spent on a BMX track at Victoria Park, which is very much a nice thing to have but not really essential.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

**210/2023-24**

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY you’ve got the call.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes. Thanks very much, Chair. Instead of prioritising the delivery of the drainage projects or road resurfacing as I said or working with community housing providers to address the housing crisis, or to tackle the congestion crisis that’s engulfing our city, instead of doing those things, they’re all going to be cut and delayed, but don’t worry, that BMX track at Victoria Park is going to be built. I mean really, what other priorities?

We heard that funny story Councillor CUNNINGHAM made up about bumping into someone saying that they are so hard up that they can’t go on date night. Well, there are plenty of families out there so hard up that they can’t afford to put food on their table or pay their rent. For them to hear that the priorities of this LNP Administration, instead of investing in their communities is to spend $6 million building a BMX track in Victoria Park, that says volumes, it speaks volumes about the priorities of this Administration.

There’s a park there—there’s a park here actually, a $900,000 playground upgrade out at Macgregor. I’m sure it’s a big one and an impressive one, great investment out in Macgregor. You could build another five or six of them instead of the BMX track in Victoria Park. An investment right around Brisbane rather than concentrating that in one location in the inner city. But we know that the LORD MAYOR is obsessed with those inner city projects that he gets to advertise, that he gets to put a newsletter out about, that he gets to call a media conference and announce and re-announce and re-announce and re-announce, all those inner city projects. He’s not interested in the small things in the suburbs that make real differences in real people’s lives.

As you look through these documents as well and you reflect on the $400 million in cuts that the LORD MAYOR is making to communities this year alone, $1.6 million a day in cuts, you wrack your brain, Chair, don’t you and you think, let’s just—all these delays and cost blow outs, let’s just think about things that the LORD MAYOR has actually delivered in his time. He hasn’t delivered any of those green bridges that he’s promised, he hasn’t delivered the Metro that he’s promised. That’s about it, oh the roundabout, yes that’s delayed, massive cost blow outs on that. Yes, yes. Hasn’t really delivered much.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Just cuts and chaos over there in the LNP, they’re all the same, aren’t they, Chair, and it’s coming home to roost for them. I think when communities around Brisbane start to quantify what $1.6 million a day in cuts to projects and services mean for them in their neighbourhoods, I think the LNP are going to feel it in March next year pretty badly.

Clause B on this one is the Stores Board submission for the Cisco product services, support and maintenance. We do support this because it’s a different approach and a positive approach, unlike what the LNP do mostly in actually putting this out to the market and testing that, rather than just continuing to stay with the one provider. It may be the case that Data#3, the existing provider, continues to be that, but it is good practice where you can’t provide these things in-house, that you do get the best outcome for ratepayers. We welcome this approach, and we think this is something that should be taken more often.

Just in closing on this item before us today, I just want to make a very brief comment put on record, our solidarity after the weekend, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Been a really, really tough couple of months as a people to be talked about so intensely for that time. That outcome on the weekend is pause for reflection but particularly for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community here in Brisbane, a really, really tough time this week. I make the commitment to stand alongside them and as do my Labor colleagues, in their fight for justice in the future.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor Johnston. Your microphone please, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I just thought the Whip on the other side might want to move the afternoon tea motion, but that’s fine, I’m happy to let the hard work of all the clerks go to waste outside. I rise to speak—she’s got one job. I rise to speak on items A and items B. I just want to start by saying that the—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes, you’ve mentioned multiple times today that everyone is going to be heard in silence and Councillor MACKAY and Councillor ADAMS are having conversations while Councillor JOHNSTON is trying to speak.

Chair: I did note that Councillor WHITMEE, but it’s the first time they’ve done that. I’ve given everybody else plenty of slack during this meeting, they’re building up to that. We’ll hear Councillor JOHNSTON now speak, won’t we, without interrupting Councillor JOHSTON, correct. Councillor WHITMEE. Yes, thank you.

Councillor JOHSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Look I’m not too worried, it used to be a robust political Chamber and apparently like it’s a hospital ward now or something. Anyway, the contracts and tendering. Look the contracts and tendering that are before us today in item A, are the best indication of what’s going wrong with this Council Administration. The LORD MAYOR will stand up and say, if you don’t support what we say you should support, then you support higher rates. Now, he’s done that multiple times today, that’s just fundamentally and ridiculously untrue.

If the LORD MAYOR knew there was a problem with the budget at any point, at any point over the last few weeks, he could have come to Councillors and said, Councillors I want to have a discussion with you about how the contracts that we’ve got to enter into can be delivered. That would have been a good way to do it, right? But no, he didn’t do that, in fact yesterday he announced that there’s going to be $400 million cut out of the Council budget he announced just over three months ago and today he brings in all of these contracts which were let months ago, which presumably are part of the problem.

Was there any review done of any of these projects to ensure that they are value for money? Was there any review of these projects done to ensure that any additional embellishments that will be in here are actually whittled back so that it is just core services being delivered? I mean you can’t just stand up and say—in fact he didn’t actually do this so I’m not quoting the LORD MAYOR here, but you can’t just stand up and say, well the budget is stuffed, therefore, I’m going to cut everything and it’s not our fault because it’s your fault.

It doesn’t make sense, this Administration, the Finance Chair, the LORD MAYOR, the DEPUTY MAYOR, all the other Chairs, week after week sit through Civic Cabinet, they approve projects like this and yet they claim that they have no responsibility for the financial management of this Council. The reason this Council is in a diabolical position is because this leadership team cannot properly scope and deliver projects. I’ve said it for years that that’s the problem and clearly it is. We see today of course these projects will roll through, there’s now contracts for them and they mainly appear to be in LNP wards, with the odd Labor contract thrown in as well.

But some places aren’t missing out, Victoria Park, there’s multiple millions of dollars for Victoria Park. I mean why can’t we have a $1 million bump track, not a $6 million bump track, in Victoria Park. Is the world going to end if the bump track isn’t $6 million? I mean this is what I mean by properly scoping projects. I’m sure City Projects did a great job going, yes, we’ll make it bigger than *Ben‑Hur* and we’ll turn it into the biggest thing you’ve ever seen, it’ll end up the size of a roller coaster at Disneyland, but put could the Council afford it? Clearly not and the LORD MAYOR knew this, apparently, he’s known for some time.

But instead, this Administration pushed forward with those projects, reckless expenditure, knowing that the budget position was perilous. No discussion with us, no discussion with our community. In fact, the LORD MAYOR has been out spruiking, I mean he’s spruiked so strongly, shade over the Victoria Bridge and that’s just gone, that’s cut. I am very concerned about how this Council is running. It’s running badly because there is very poor leadership. There’s been too much delegation of Council responsibilities to unrepresentative and untransparent decision makers within Council.

There’s been profligate financial expenditure without common sense being applied and this LNP Administration has pork barrelled their own areas when there should have been some more rigorous financial application of good judgment by the Finance Chair and LORD MAYOR, if not the portfolio Chairs, because we are in this situation and these projects are all at risk, because this Administration cannot manage money. They cannot manage projects and it’s only going to get worse.

The last Council meeting we had six weeks ago, the LORD MAYOR came in and asked for millions and millions of dollars in cost overruns, for two projects, the Moggill Road roundabout and Kangaroo Point Bridge. A few weeks later he’s in here saying, oh, we haven’t got any money, we’ve got to cut footpath expenditure or tree trimming or waste collection, or whatever it might be, and we won’t know.

This is the problem, this Administration are letting Council officers run projects without proper scrutiny and oversight, without rigorous investigation, to determine if there is value for money. If the scope of the project is appropriate and if Brisbane City Council can afford to deliver it and in fact, if the market has the capacity to deliver it. These are not unknown problems, it’s 2023, these have been problems for three years and yet this LNP Administration still doesn’t know what to do about it. They’re just going bigger and bigger and bigger every time. A $6 million bump track in the current climate, the LORD MAYOR has come in here and talked about, is ridiculous expenditure.

Then we’re going on to talk about Cisco phones and that’s secret, so one of the first things this Council should be doing is publishing the amount of money it’s spending on things. Because they hide it and it’s secret, they think it’s not real money. It’s not real money. We’re not allowed to talk about the amount of money that Council wants to spend on the new phone systems because it’s redacted, it’s secret. This Administration needs to—well they need to go, there is no question about that, they are post their ability to deliver even the basics.

Out my way it takes now almost two years to get a footpath fixed. I’ve got a footpath from 18 months ago almost now, in Graceville, that they said it would be a year and they’d do repairs and now it’s another year before it will actually be fully properly fixed. But it’s okay, because the LORD MAYOR is going to allow all that overseas expenditure to continue. We saw the LNP over the break ticking off on all those junkets overseas. It’s not good enough, the reason we’re in this mess is because of the LORD MAYOR and this LNP Administration.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **211/2023-24**  At that time, 3.14pm, 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 3.17pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillors, are there any further speakers?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. I rise just very briefly to speak on item B. This item seeks approval to establish a preferred supplier arrangement for Cisco products, services, support and maintenance across Brisbane City Council. Council installs and maintains Cisco networking equipment within Council’s corporate data communication network to provide a reliable and secure networking environment right across all areas of our Council. Council has made a significant investment in Cisco networking equipment over the years, which then allows additional functionality such as reporting and self-diagnosis right across that network. Introducing non-Cisco equipment therefore, Mr Chair, would not be recommended, as it would result in the loss of that functionality, as well as introduce significant operational challenges for officers.

Cisco products are considered market leading in enabling a reliable and secure network across all our sites, Mr Chair. Equipment is purchased by divisions across Council and are currently procured on an as and when-required basis through a schedule of rates, with that pricing based off a discount from Cisco’s recommended retail price. The arrangement will be for an initial term of three years, with options to extend for additional periods of up to two years for a total maximum period of five years, Mr Chair, and I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Are there any further speakers on the E&C Committee report?

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item A of the E&C report on contracts and tendering, with reference to Bedser Street Park construction. Mr Chair, the Schrinner Council is committed to creating more to see and do in a clean and green city by creating new local parks like Bedser Street Park in Macgregor. As Macgregor and the surrounding areas continue to grow, it is important to ensure that new parks are created to meet the recreational needs of residents, especially those in the suburbs. The project is part of the Schrinner Council’s commitment to enhance and maintain more than 2,160 parks across our city. To support residential growth in Macgregor in response to findings in the Mt Gravatt corridor neighbourhood plan, a new park is planned in Bedser Street. The new park will provide the growing residential community with a much-needed greenspace, shady spots to have lunch and enjoy the outdoors, as well as areas for recreational and community activities.

Bedser Street Park will contribute towards Council’s commitment to creating new lifestyle and leisure opportunities, by enhancing the park network to respond to a growing and changing Brisbane. The creation of the local recreation park is just one of many ways the Schrinner Council is growing our Brisbane lifestyle. A community consultation was undertaken from 18 October to 8 November back in 2021 to help develop the draft concept plan. Further consultation on the draft concept plan was undertaken from 11 April to 2 May last year to inform the final concept plan. We would like to thank the community for taking the time to provide feedback on features of the park during the consultation phases of this project.

This new park’s features will include things like exercise equipment, imaginative and informal play area, a kickaround space, picnic shelter, bubbler, pedestrian pathways, bin enclosures and seating. I have been to every opportunity—I have taken every opportunity to attend the community consultation to hear the views of the community and I’m glad the contract for construction has been awarded. I would like to close by thanking the LORD MAYOR and Councillor DAVIS for delivering this beautiful new park for Macgregor and I look forward to the opening and seeing how local residents enjoy the newest park in our community.

Chair: Further speakers? I see no one rising.

LORD MAYOR, summing up?

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I just wanted to provide an update, because there was a question raised about fire management and hazard reduction. I think it was Councillor CASSIDY who raised that issue and claimed that there hadn’t been any controlled burning done in recent weeks. Yes, that is correct, because the fire hazard is actually too high right now and so like mosquito control, we do rely on the advice of experts on when to burn. We burn in winter conditions, we burn when there’s low wind, we burn under some very specific conditions and we certainly don’t burn when the fire risk is high like it is now. That would be irresponsible and the chance of getting out of control would be very high.

But what I can say is that the number of hectares treated with controlled burning, which is currently 342 hectares, is the highest in at least five years. I’ve asked for figures beyond five years as well, just to have a look at what’s occurred further back. But certainly in the time that I’ve been LORD MAYOR there’s never been more area covered with a controlled burning and fire management than we’re doing this year. But that’s not it, there is also 3,158 hectares of fire break treatment through grass cutting in fire breaks to keep them low. There’s been fire block preparation works of 805 hectares completed. There’s been vegetation works of 1,959 hectares completed and there’s been fire track and trail maintenance completed across 161 kilometres of fire access trails as well.

So we’ve been working really hard to try and make sure that we are as prepared as possible and so any suggestion that somehow there’s been a budgetary constraint on fire preparedness is just plain wrong. The only reason that we had—we stopped the controlled burning program is because the fire hazard rose and the weather conditions have not been suitable for controlled burning. Because if you don’t burn at the right time, controlled burning becomes uncontrolled burning and we certainly don’t want to be the ones starting fires that get out of control. So we’ll—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MARX.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, we’ll continue managing that process and doing the best we can, working with other agencies. I think as I said earlier, that all three levels of government are well prepared but we certainly hope that it doesn’t eventuate, as I think all of us across party lines would also hope. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

We’ll now put item A of the 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, 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: 15 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

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

Chair: We’ll 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 Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

#### A CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR AUGUST 2023

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

**212/2023-24**

1. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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).

5. 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.

6.. The Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed at the meeting of 9 October 2023.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

| **Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for August 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. 511821**  **STORY BRIDGE DEPOT WORKS ELEVATED FLOOR AND OFFICE SPACE**  **ProBuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd – $888,121**  Achieved VFM of 9 | Lump sum  **$888,121** | One offer received. | Not applicable  (N/A) | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  10.08.2023  **Start**  14.08.2023  **Term**  25 weeks |
| **2. Contract No. 511856**  **MAINTENANCE OF PUMPS AT VARIOUS COUNCIL SITES (BUILDINGS, PARKS, AND CLOSED LANDFILL SITES)**  **KSB Australia Pty Ltd – $470,466**  Achieved the highest VFM of 18.8 | Schedule of rates  **$3,000,000** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  CNC (Qld) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 14.1  Munster Services Group Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 8.3 | $498,047  $1,126,667 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  07.08.2023  **Start**  01.10.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of seven years. |
| **3. Contract No. 512190**  **INITIAL MEDICAL CARE PROVIDER PROGRAM**  **Biosymm Pty Ltd – $11,255**  Achieved the highest VFM of 67 | Corporate Procurement Arrangement (CPA) (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$250,000** | *Offers not recommended*  4cRisk Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 34  Allied Health and Rehab Australia Pty Ltd trading as Move Injury and Disability Support  Achieved VFM of 30 | $18,175  $19,000 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  03.08.2023  **Start**  14.08.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of five years. |
| **4. Contract No. 512250**  **WATER TREATMENT PALLARA STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**  **Clearpro Construction Water Solutions Pty Ltd – $691,687**  Achieved the highest VFM of 13 | Schedule of rates  **$691,687** | *Shortlisted offer not recommended*  Australian Dewatering Systems Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 5  *Offer not recommended*  National Pump & Energy Pty Ltd\*  *\*Comparative price and VFM not applicable as offer was considered to be too high risk to Council.* | $1,693,800  N/A\* | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  24.08.2023  **Start**  08.09.2023  **Term**  11 months |
| **5. Contract No. 520985**  **CONSTRUCTION OF BEAMS ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 1A**  **Doval Constructions (QLD.) Ltd – $31,665,601\***  Achieved the highest VFM of 24.8  *\*Comparative price normalised for delay costs, variations, margins and day rate schedules.* | Schedule of rates  **$26,372,381** | *Offers not shortlisted*  Georgiou Group Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 22.0  Ertech (Queensland) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 19.7 | $40,889,590\*  $35,698,346\* | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  09.08.2023  **Start**  10.08.2023  **Term**  65 weeks |
| **6. Contract No: 521072**  **FLOOD REHABILITATION – SPORTS FIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM – PACKAGE 1**  ***Teralba Park – Mitchelton Sports Club (Mitchelton)***  **Twin View Turf Pty Ltd – $879,729**  Achieved the highest VFM of 90  ***Shaw Estate Park – Norths Brisbane Rugby Union Club Inc (Wavell Heights)***  **Twin View Turf Pty Ltd – $646,544**  Achieved the highest VFM of 122  ***Grovely Sportsground Park – Westside Sports Club Inc (Keperra)***  **Global Turf Projects (Qld) Pty Ltd – $902,876**  Achieved the highest VFM of 82 | Lump sum  **$2,429,149** | ***Teralba Park – Mitchelton Sports Club (Mitchelton)***  *Offers not recommended*  Global Turf Projects (Qld) Pty Ltd Achieved VFM of 86  Tinamba Turf Co. Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 64  Hart Valley Investments Pty Ltd trading as Hancey’s Turf Supplies  Achieved VFM of 58  ***Shaw Estate Park – Norths Brisbane Rugby Union Club Inc (Wavell Heights)***  *Offers not recommended*  Global Turf Projects (Qld) Pty Ltd Achieved VFM of 113  Hart Valley Investments Pty Ltd trading as Hancey’s Turf Supplies  Achieved VFM of 78  Tinamba Turf Co. Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 59  ***Grovely Sportsground Park – Westside Sports Club Inc (Keperra)***  *Offers not recommended*  Twin View Turf Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 69  Hart Valley Investments Pty Ltd trading as Hancey’s Turf Supplies  Achieved VFM of 49  Tinamba Turf Co. Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 49 | $868,680  $1,121,458  $835,156  $657,727  $622,140  $1,203,929  $1,147,053  $1,001,783  $1,448,311 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  02.08.2023  **Start**  11.08.2023  **Term**  25 weeks |
| **7. Contract No: 521073**  **FLOOD REHABILITATION – SPORTS FIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM – PACKAGE 2**  **Hart Valley Investments Pty Ltd trading as Hancey’s Turf Supplies – $2,052,390**  Achieved the highest VFM of 35.4 | Lump sum  **$2,052,390** | *Offers not recommended*  Twin View Turf Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 35.3  Tinamba Turf Co. Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 34.1 | $2,082,371  $2,340,143 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  17.08.2023  **Start**  29.08.2023  **Term**  30 weeks |
| **8. Contract No. 521111**  **SCADA (SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION) CONTROLS ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BRISBANE METRO CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**  **Voltex Power Engineers Pty Ltd – $221,130**  Achieved the highest VFM of 33.24 | Schedule of rates  **$221,130** | *Offers not recommended*  Verbrec Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 30.69  Beyond Electrical Engineering (QLD) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 28.48  Witthoft Engineering Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 26.79  Ampcontrol CSM Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 19.63  J.Y.W. Consulting Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 18.93  Powertech Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 17.22  Advisian Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 13.69  EGIS Oceania Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 13.10 | $189,000  $214,200  $201,600  $239,400  $327,600  $220,626  $434,700  $400,680 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  24.08.2023  **Start**  05.09.2023  **Term**  Eight months |
| **9. Contract No. 521112**  **ELECTRICAL COMMISSIONING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BRISBANE METRO CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**  **Voltex Power Engineers Pty Ltd – $221,130**  Achieved the highest VFM of 31.66 | Schedule of rates  **$221,130** | *Offers not recommended*  Powertech Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 21.37  EGIS Oceania Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 20.25  J.Y.W. Consulting Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 16.64  JJ Ryan Consulting Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 10.85 | $191,898  $367,920  $327,600  $378,000 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  25.08.2023  **Start**  05.09.2023  **Term**  Eight months |
| **10. Contract No. 533733**  **REPAIRS AT MORNINGSIDE AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB (HAWTHORNE)**  **ProBuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd – $839,420**  Achieved the highest VFM of 108.41 | Lump sum  **$839,420** | *Offers not recommended*  Blackwood Projects Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 103.29  Building Solutions Brisbane Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 80.59  Signature Projects Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 69.14  Dart Holdings Pty. Ltd. trading as A Dart & Co.  Achieved VFM of 65.96 | $871,300  $1,089,499  $1,236,535  $1,364,460 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  02.08.2023  **Start**  03.08.2023  **Term**  20 weeks |
| **11. Contract No. 533742**  **VICTORIA PARK / BARRAMBIN URBAN PUMP TRACK (HERSTON)**  **JMac Constructions Pty Ltd – $6,057,349**  Achieved the highest VFM of 14.57 | Lump sum  **$6,057,349** | *Offers not recommended*  Naturform Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 11.87  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 11.10  Landscape Solutions Australia (QLD) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 11.02  The Landscape Construction Company Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 10.76 | $6,404,049  $7,632,185  $7,080,977  $5,624,357 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  07.08.2023  **Start**  11.08.2023  **Term**  50 weeks |
| **12. Contract No. 533810**  **LAND STREET (AUCHENFLOWER) AND GAILEY ROAD (TOOWONG) STORMWATER BACKFLOW DEVICES**  **Palento Pty Ltd trading as Korlec– $325,193**  Achieved the highest VFM of 22.0 | Lump sum  **$325,193** | *Offer not recommended*  J&P Richardson Industries Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 16.6 | $464,904 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  17.08.2023  **Start**  21.08.2023  **Term**  28 weeks |
| **13. Contract No. 533696**  **CONSTRUCTION OF VICTORIA PARK /** **BARRAMBIN SPRING HILL COMMON WORKS (SPRING HILL)**  **Naturform Pty. Ltd. – $2,506,770**  Achieved the highest VFM of 32.11 | Lump sum  **$2,506,770** | *Offers not recommended*  JMac Constructions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 30.35  The Landscape Construction Company Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 27.73 | $2,632,109  $2,605,508 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  07.08.2023  **Start**  10.08.2023  **Term**  26 weeks |
| **14. Contract No. 533812**  **RUNCORN POOL AMENITIES UPGRADE**  **Building Solutions Brisbane Pty Ltd – $734,541**  Achieved the highest VFM of 121 | Lump sum  **$734,541** | *Offers not recommended*  Dart Holdings Pty. Ltd. trading as A Dart & Co.  Achieved VFM of 100  Premis Solutions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 92  *Offer withdrawn*  ProBuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd | $749,911  $1,006,900  N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  26.07.2023  **Start**  28.07.2023  **Term**  19 weeks |
| **15. Contract No. 533824**  **BEDSER STREET PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION (MACGREGOR)**  **Naturform Pty. Ltd. – $994,195**  Achieved the highest VFM of 83.48 | Lump sum  **$994,195** | *Offers not recommended*  Glascott Landscape and Civil Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 81.63  The Landscape Construction Company Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 79.49  Interface Landscapes Pty Ltd as trustee for Newscape Group Pty Ltd & the D Taylor Family Trust & the T Wilds Family Trust trading as Interface Landscapes  Achieved VFM of 69.81 | $1,029,083  $1,107,066  $1,178,267 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  23.08.2023  **Start**  12.09.2023  **Term**  20 weeks |
| **16. Contract No. 533994**  **PARADISE ROAD CULVERTS CHANNEL REMEDIATION (WILLAWONG)**  **HEH Civil Pty Ltd – $2,608,128\***  Achieved the highest VFM of 28.9  *\*Comparative price normalised for possible delay costs, applying overhead margins to potential variations and day works rates claimable by the contractor.* | Schedule of rates  **$2,055,906** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  Doval Constructions (QLD.) Ltd  Achieved VFM of 22.8    Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 19.7  Building Solutions Brisbane Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 18.2  *Offer not recommended*  Allroads Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 21.1 | $3,687,175\*  $3,976,448\*  $3,056,681\*  $3,572,126\* | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  23.08.2023  **Start**  30.08.2023  **Term**  27 weeks |
| **CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE** | | | | |
| **17. Contract No. 510853**  **RISK AND AUDIT SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE SOLUTION**  **Corporate Governance Risk Pty Ltd – $350,000** | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$350,000** | Arrangement entered into under Exemption 6 of Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2023-24* which allows for extensions of contracts without a tender process where the value obtained from a significant number of frequently sourced, low value procurements is limited. | N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  30.08.2023  **Start**  12.11.2023  **Term**  Initial term of two years with a maximum term of three years. |
| **CITY PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES** | | | | |
| **18. Contract No. 511958**  **MINOR PLANT HIRE**  **Kennards Hire Pty Limited – $263,263**  Achieved the highest VFM of 26 | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$9,000,000** | *Shortlisted offers not recommended*  Coates Hire Operations Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 25  Master Hire Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 18  *Non-conforming offers*  Rent A Fence Pty Ltd as the trustee for the Rent A Fence Australia Trust  TFH Hire Services Pty Ltd as the trustee for the TFH Hire Trust | $290,124  $354,820  N/A  N/A | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  14.08.2023  **Start**  01.10.2023  **Term**  Initial term of three years with a maximum term of six years. |
| **19. Contract No. 512174**  **BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER CBD OFFICE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT**  **BSE (QLD) Pty Ltd –$826,560**  Achieved the highest VFM of 96.18 | Lump sum  **$826,560** | *Offers not recommended*  Lehr Consultants International (Australia) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 93.13  Aston Consulting (QLD) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 78.18  NDY Management Pty Ltd trading as Norman Disney & Young  Achieved VFM of 76.62  GHD Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 36.37  *Non-conforming offer*  PMLV Invest & Const Pty Ltd | $676,504  $1,055,213  $1,070,200  $1,470,933 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  12.07.2023  **Start**  24.08.2023  **Term**  Three years |
| **TRANSPORT FOR BRISBANE** | | | | |
| **20. Contract No. 570390**  **ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR BRISBANE METRO CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**  **J & P Richardson Industries Pty Ltd – $539,282**  Achieved the highest VFM of 15.1 | Schedule of rates  **$1,880,000** | *Shortlisted offer not recommended*  UGL Engineering Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 8.9  *Offer not recommended*  Hitachi Energy Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 3.1 | $895,913  $2,249,709 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  15.08.2023  **Start**  01.09.2023  **Term**  Initial term of two years and six months with a maximum term of four years and six months. |

**ADOPTED**

#### B STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR PROVISION OF CISCO PRODUCTS, SERVICES, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

**165/830/179/973**

**213/2023-24**

8. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

9. The Chief Executive Officer and the Stores Board considered the submission, as set out in Attachment A (submitted on file), on 18 September 2023.

10. The submission is recommended to Council as it is considered the most advantageous outcome for the provision of the required services.

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

Purpose

12. The Stores Board recommends approval of the procurement strategy for:

Contract title: Provision of Cisco Products, Services, Support and Maintenance

Type of procurement: Establishing a Corporate Procurement Arrangement (CPA) in the form of a Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA)

Categories/portions: Not applicable

Market engagement strategy: Seek offers publicly

Contract duration: An initial term of three years, with options to extend for additional periods of up to two years, for a maximum term of five years

Price basis: Schedule of rates

Background/business case

13. Council installs and maintains Cisco networking equipment within Council’s Corporate Data Communication Network to provide a reliable and secure networking environment across all of Council. Cisco products are considered market leading in enabling this secure and high performing network. Council’s significant investment in Cisco networking equipment means that non-Cisco equipment is not recommended due to significant interoperability challenges.

14. At Stores Board on 25 June 2019, the Chief Executive Officer approved entering into a CPA in the form of a PSA with Data#3 Limited trading as Data#3 Group for the provision of Cisco products, services, support and maintenance. The CPA was for an initial term of three years with options to extend for additional periods of up to two years, for a maximum term of five years expiring 30 June 2024.

15. Cisco equipment is primarily purchased by branches within Organisational Services (OS), Transport for Brisbane and Brisbane Infrastructure (BI), with small quantities purchased by other branches. The products and services are currently procured on an ‘as and when required’ basis, through a schedule of rates with pricing based on a discount of Cisco recommended retail price (RRP).

16. The current contract is due to expire 30 June 2024, and it is recommended that the market be tested to select a competitive reseller of Cisco products, services, support and maintenance with the capability to cover the requirements of Council users whilst ensuring a flexible and workable contract structure.

Policy and other considerations

17. Is there an existing arrangement for these goods/services/works?

Yes, CPA 511030 Supply of Cisco Products, Services, Support and Maintenance (as approved by the CEO on 25 June 2019), which expires on 30 June 2024.

18. Could Council businesses provide the services/works?

No. Council does not have the capability to provide these goods/services.

19. What policy, or other issues, should the delegate be aware of?

Nil

20. Does this procurement exercise need to be managed under the PM2 Governance and Assurance Framework?

No

21. Does the proposed contract involve leasing?

No

Market analysis

22. Cisco utilises a partner network for distribution of its products.

23. There are a large number of Cisco Partners within Australia that have capability to provide Cisco products, services, support and maintenance.

Procurement strategy

24.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Procurement objective: | To procure the goods/services/works in a way which complies with the Sound Contracting Principles set out in section 103(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and provides the most advantageous outcome for Council.  The achievement of the above procurement objective will be measured in the post-market submission. |
| Title of contract: | Provision of Cisco Products, Services, Support and Maintenance |
| Type of procurement: | Establishing a CPA in the form of a PSA |
| Categories/portions: | Not applicable |
| Process to be used: | Request for Proposals (RFP) |
| Tendering standards to be used and any amendments: | Council’s corporate standards with no amendments |
| Contract standard to be used including any amendments: | Queensland Information Technology Contracting (QITC) – comprehensive  No changes have been made to the standard |
| Market engagement: | Offers are to be sought publicly via Council’s supplier portal. |
| How tender documents are to be distributed: | Via Council’s supplier portal |
| How tenders/proposals are to be lodged: | Via Council’s supplier portal |
| Part offers: | Part offers will not be considered |
| Contract duration: | An initial term of three years, with options to extend for additional periods of up to two years, for a maximum term of five years. |
| Insurance requirements: | Public liability of $20 million, professional indemnity of $10 million and workers compensation insurance as per legislated requirements will be sought and advised in the post market. |
| Price basis: | Schedule of rates |
| Price adjustment: | To be established as a result of negotiations and advised in the post-market submission. |
| Liquidated damages: | Not applicable |
| Security for the contract: | Not applicable |
| Defects liability/warranty period: | Not applicable |
| Other strategy elements: | Not applicable |
| Alternative strategies considered: | Consideration was given to use the Queensland Government Arrangement ICTSS.1201, which consists of 15 panel members of different Cisco partner status. Council would be required to establish its own pricing structure under this Standing Offer Arrangement and it was considered that it would be better for Council to approach the market directly.  Consideration was also given to seeking sole source approval to continue the existing contract. It is considered that engaging the market through a competitive process would provide the most advantageous outcome for Council. |

Anticipated schedule

25. Pre-market approval: 17 October 2023

Date of release to market: 1 November 2023

Tender closing: 1 December 2023

Evaluation completion (including formalised contract offer(s)): 19 March 2024

Post-market approval: 13 May 2024

Contract commencement: 25 June 2024

Funding and budget considerations

26. Estimated expenditure:

Based on historical data of average yearly spend under the current CPA, the estimated expenditure is $20 million over the potential maximum five-year term.

27. Sufficient approved budget to meet the total spend under this CPA?

Establishing the CPA will not commit Council to any purchases. Funding is only required when an appropriately delegated Council officer approves placing orders under the CPA, subject to approved funding availability.

28. Indicative program and supporting information:

Program: 8 City Governance

Outcome: 8.3 Enabling and Enhancing Council

Strategy: 8.3.1 Talented, Capable and Efficient Council

Service: 8.3.1.3 Digital and Information Technology.

29. Anticipated procurement benefits (if any):

To be established and reported in the post-market submission.

Procurement risk

30. Is this contract listed as a ‘critical contract’ requiring the contractor to have in place a Business Continuity Plan approved by Council?

No

31. Summary of key risks associated with this procurement:

No material risks have been identified with this procurement

Tender evaluation

32. Evaluation criteria:

1. Mandatory/essential criteria:

Nil

1. Non-price weighted evaluation criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Weighted Evaluation Criteria:** | **Weighting** |
| Local Benefit | 30% |
| Capability | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Commercial | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Track Record and Experience | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| **Total:** | **100%** |

1. Price model (to establish a comparative price):

Basket of commonly purchased goods.

33. Evaluation methodology:

1. Evaluation plan and shortlisting:

Council’s standard evaluation plan including the standard shortlisting methodology will be used.

1. Negotiations:

Council’s structured negotiation process is anticipated to be undertaken.

1. Value for Money (VFM):

Council’s standard VFM method. This is non-price score divided by price.

34. The Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed at the meeting of 9 October 2023.

35. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE STORES BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR:**

**TITLE OF CONTRACT: PROVISION OF CISCO PRODUCTS, SERVICES, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE**

**TYPE OF PROCUREMENT: ESTABLISHING A CORPORATE PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENT IN THE FORM OF A PREFERRED SUPPLIER ARRANGEMENT**

**CONTRACT DURATION: AN INITIAL TERM OF THREE YEARS, WITH OPTIONS TO EXTEND FOR ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF UP TO TWO YEARS, FOR A MAXIMUM TERM OF FIVE YEARS**

**PRICE BASIS: SCHEDULE OF RATES.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Right, before we move on to the next Establishment and Coordination Committee decisions, I’d like to just make a few comments on Councillor JOHNSTON’s questions in the previous report. With respect to the verbal reprimand, I do acknowledge that I was a little quick to reprimand Councillor JOHNSTON. However, I would ask that each Councillor when you are rising to speak to the Chair, please start with point of order first and then state what the point of order is about. That is paramount.

Item 2, with respect to Councillor JOHNSTON’s question around relevance of the report, as per the Meetings Local Law that relevance is determined by the Chair and that ruling.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee decisions please.

## NOTATION OF *DECISIONS* OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE AS DELEGATE OF COUNCIL:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE (Information report)

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 setting out the *decisions* of the Establishment and Coordination Committee as delegate of the Council during the Spring Recess 2023, on matters usually considered by that Committee, be noted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Item A is the settlement agreement for compensation arising from Council’s resumption of land situated at 110 Shelley Road, Kholo, for environmental purposes. When Council aims to secure properties through the bushland acquisition process, our going in position is always through negotiation. With regards to 110 Shelley Road in Kholo, Council was not able to reach an agreement with the former owners of the property. This was, I understand, not an owner-occupier property and so in some circumstances like this where the bushland is important, there are no owner-occupiers living on the site, we then move to a compulsory resumption process. It doesn’t happen very often but occasionally it does, usually the owners are happy to sell and reach a good outcome, but in some cases, it goes effectively to a dispute resolution process, as did this one.

Council acquired the property and it was transferred into Council ownership in November 2018, so this matter has been ongoing for quite some time. We’ve now reached a resolution. As I said, the property was vacant at the time, so no one was kicked out of their home. It was a vacant property and they’re the sort of circumstances where we might move for an acquisition through a resumption. The site is a huge site, just short of 160 hectares, which is just massive, including endangered regional ecosystems which are now managed by Council as part of the Shelley Road Park. Shelley Road Park has been progressively acquired by Council to establish a major bushland reserve, with eight different parcels now acquired. Progressively we’ve moved through and acquired those different parcels.

Not only do these parcels contain inherent biodiversity and nature-based recreation values, they’ve provided an extensive range of opportunities for Council to deliver offset and restoration activities for koalas. The parcel is a significant wildlife corridor, linking the D’Aguilar National Park with the Brisbane River and Ipswich’s Sapling Pocket Reserve, with more than two kilometres of Brisbane River frontage containing platypus habitat, recorded sightings of platypus in this stretch of the river and so an incredibly important parcel of landing linking in with surrounding important parcels of land.

In accordance with the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*, the owners are entitled to claim compensation from Council for the acquisition of the land. In November 2021, the former owners submitted a claim for compensation and requested an advance payment be made. The Act requires that the requested advance payment be paid within 90 days after the date the request is made and this was paid by Council at the time, based on the advice from our independent valuer. What usually happens is Council engages a valuer, the owner of the property engages their own valuer, there is usually a gap between the two, but what we would normally do is where an advance is paid, we pay up to the value of our valuation.

So we’ve got our own valuation, we justify that’s the value of the land that we think it is, we pay that valuation as an advance and then we go into negotiation over any remaining compensation that might be payable. So that’s a fair process and it means that the property owners get their money sooner, they get the vast majority of it upfront as an advance and then they negotiate about the remainder, if any, of compensation. We’ve since been in negotiations concerning the outstanding compensation amount. The agreed settlement amount appears in the papers today. Ultimately this purchase continues to directly benefit the City of Brisbane as we pursue our goal of 40% natural habitat cover by 2031. I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Are there any further speakers on item A? No?

Right, we’ll now put the report—

Councillor DAVIS: Mr Chair, thank you.

Chair: Sorry, Councillor DAVIS, my apologies.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I rise to speak on item A, which is the settlement of compensation for 110 Shelley Road, Kholo. As the LORD MAYOR says, this finalises a compulsory acquisition process for the land at Shelley Road, in which Council acquired 159 hectares of bushland estate that now forms part of the Shelley Road Park. As the LORD MAYOR indicated, we are absolutely passionate about protecting and expanding Brisbane’s significant natural estate and the Bushland Acquisition program is key to achieving that outcome. We always aim to secure properties through this program voluntarily, as we have done recently in Rachael Street at Moorooka. However, sometimes there are circumstances where we will move towards a compulsory acquisition through a negotiation process.

On balance, Mr Chair, this acquisition was certainly worth it. To put the figure of this acquisition in perspective, it represents about double the amount of bushland that we would ordinarily acquire through our annual Bushland Acquisition program for a similar figure. This is a significant addition to our natural estate and the process to acquire under the Acquisition of Land Act has been followed to the letter here. The property was vacant at the time of acquisition and is largely protected estate. The land had actually been used for cattle grazing and was registered on the State’s Environmental Management Register at the time that Council acquired it and since then it’s come a long way.

Shelley Road Park has been progressively acquired by Council to establish a bushland reserve with eight parcels acquired, including this property at 110 Shelley Road and in total it’s now a 220-hectare natural reserve. The reserve is part of a significant wildlife corridor linking the D’Aguilar National Park, that the LORD MAYOR spoke about, to the Brisbane River and Ipswich’s Sapling Pocket Reserve, with more than two kilometres of the river frontage which contain platypus habitat with recorded sightings of platypus. The removal and remediation of the previous agriculture use has secured and preserved this habitat for the future and is home now to a huge diversity of wildlife.

The land has provided an extensive range of opportunities for Council to deliver offset and restoration activities, including establishing a new koala habitat. Although koalas were originally found to be absent from the site, ongoing restoration works have seen them return to the reserve, which is very exciting. Mr Chair, I’m told that it’s also a popular spot for Brisbane birdwatchers as well. You can find a menagerie of colourful species like peaceful doves, brown honeyeaters, scarlets and red-backed fairywren nesting in and around the newly restored forest.

Acquiring this parcel has enabled us to make important progress in delivering a range of environmental offset plantings, which has seen a significant amount of former agricultural land now around Kholo transformed into rich and vibrant habitat. In total, Mr Chair, over 4,400 hectares of land has now been preserved through the Bushland Acquisition program since 1990, including Brisbane’s most significant koala habitat areas. It’s a program started by a Liberal administration and it’s a legacy we are very proud of and I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Any further speakers? I see no one rising.

LORD MAYOR, right of reply. No?

We will now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion 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: 22 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK and Sara WHITMEE.

The report read as follows⎯

#### A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR COMPENSATION ARISING FROM COUNCIL’S RESUMPTION OF LAND SITUATED AT 110 SHELLEY ROAD, KHOLO, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES

**161/20/439/568**

**214/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, 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. By a Taking of Land Notice published in the Queensland Government Gazette dated 22 November 2018, Council resumed land situated at 110 Shelley Road, Kholo, described as Lot 9 on CP S31715, for environmental purposes as part of the Bushland Acquisition Program (land outlined in blue at Attachment B, submitted on file).

4. The subject land forms part of an ecological corridor linking D’Aguilar National Park, the Brisbane River and Ipswich City Council’s Sapling Pocket Nature Refuge. The land is now owned and managed by Council as part of Shelley Road Park.

5. On 22 November 2021, the former owner (the claimant) submitted a claim for compensation in the amount of [Commercial-in-Confidence] plus interest. The amount claimed comprises the following:

6. Land $[Commercial-in-Confidence]

Environmental Offsets $[Commercial-in-Confidence]

Timber $[Commercial-in-Confidence]

Professional Fees $[Commercial-in-Confidence]

**Total $**[Commercial-in-Confidence]

7. On 8 February 2022, Council considered the claim for compensation and rejected the claim as excessive. Council approved the payment of an advance against compensation in the amount of [Commercial-in-Confidence]. The advance was paid on 8 March 2022.

8. In August 2022, following unsuccessful negotiations, the claimant referred the matter to the Land Court for determination.

9. Following a Land Court mediation on 28 August 2023 an agreement was reached to settle the claim for compensation under all heads in the amount of [Commercial-in-Confidence] (inclusive of the advance paid), subject to delegate approval (the Settlement Agreement), as set out in Attachment C (Submitted on file). The Settlement Agreement results in a further payment of [Commercial-in-Confidence] to the claimant and represents an acceptable resolution of the claim.

10. The Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed at the meeting of 3 October 2023.

11. **DECISION:**

**THAT E&C, AS DELEGATE OF COUNCIL, APPROVE THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT MEDIATION TO SETTLE A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ARISING FROM THE RESUMPTION OF LAND SITUATED AT 110 SHELLEY ROAD, KHOLO, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT C,** submitted on file**.**

**NOTED**

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee decisions please.

## NOTATION OF *DECISIONS* OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE AS DELEGATE OF COUNCIL:

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report setting out the *decisions* of the Establishment and Coordination Committee as delegate of the Council during the Spring Recess 2023, on matters usually coming under the jurisdiction of the Transport Committee, be noted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Chair. During the recess, E&C considered a number of petitions that are here for consideration. The first one is a petition with 163 signatures requesting Council to wrap some of our CityCats in the *Bluey* theme, naming them ‘CityDogs’. Of course, *Bluey* is one of Brisbane’s most famous exports and our CityCats are among the city’s most iconic attractions. So despite of all the clichés about cats and dogs, Chair, we’re very excited to see if we could make this Brisbane crossover a reality. Unfortunately, the idea has proven somewhat difficult to execute, as the rights of *Bluey* are owned by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) and so we need an agreement with the BBC to use the *Bluey* brand.

As the petition response notes, Council and BBC representatives have met on a number of occasions in the past year to discuss depiction of *Bluey* characters on some of our CityCat fleet. These discussions are continuing to be ongoing, we’ve not yet reached an agreement with BBC, so we’re unable to fulfil the petitioner’s request at this time, but I would simply say to all the *Bluey* fans out there stay tuned, we are continuing to work on it.

E&C also considered three petitions relating to active transport network infrastructure over the recess that aim to improve or build new paths for our city, items B, C and D. Item B requests that Council install improved infrastructure for cyclists along King Arthur Terrace in Yeerongpilly and Graceville Avenue in Graceville. That was supported by 585 signatures. This infrastructure is in the form of physically separated bike lanes on King Arthur Terrace, spanning from Fairfield Road at the intersection of Graceville Avenue and Nadine Street. It also included several requests to widen shared paths and introduce a protected shared zone along King Arthur Terrace between Godiva Avenue and Softstone Street.

The petition response notes that several requests have been supported by Council either through being capital listed for the future or funded through the Cycle Network Local Government Grants, the CNLGG program, a State Government grants funding program. Requests like the dedicated on-road bicycle lane along Yeerongpilly green precinct and the widening of the shared path between Pamphlett Street and Nadine Street will all be capital listed and a two-directional, bi-directional protected bikeway on the northern side of King Arthur Terrace between Softstone Street and Pamphlett Bridge will be investigated subject to CNLGG funding.

Chair, item C received 31 signatures and this requested Council upgrade active transport connectivity to existing bridges connecting Gould Road to Granville Street and Butterfield Street to Downey Street. The petitioners originally requested to use the funding that was allocated to the Enoggera Creek sport and recreation draft precinct plan to upgrade the listed bridges. Unfortunately, funding for this project was redirected after the February 2022 floods. As the petition response notes, Council acknowledges that the existing bridges would benefit from a number of improvements and will all be capital listed in the future, prioritised against other projects across the city. Improvements to the paths and intersections that connect these bridges will also be considered as part of future upgrades.

Item D requesting Council extend Terminal Drive protected cycleway along Lamington Avenue and consult with Ascot residents on active travel infrastructure received 147 signatures. Currently there is a cycleway that runs along Lamington Avenue and ends just after the road crosses under Southern Cross Way. Petitioners requested that Council remove on-street parking in Lamington Avenue to create a two-way separated cycleway and I’m happy to say that Council supports the installation of a two-way separated cycleway and further improvements to cycling infrastructure along Lamington Avenue. This project has been listed for future investigation and design works pending funding in the future.

The petition response noted that cyclists are currently not permitted to use the footpath on the southern side of Lamington Avenue due to signage advising cyclists to dismount and join the road. Council will remove the sign, which will enable cyclists to continue along the footpath legally should they choose. This effectively extends off-road access all the way to Nudgee Road, although along a smaller footpath which will be addressed in the future. I’m grateful to the Councillor for Hamilton, Councillor DIXON, for supporting the recommendation of these, that’s a pretty good interim solution. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber, thanks, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY, you’ve got the call.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on these items before us today and particularly the petitions requesting cycling infrastructure. Interesting to hear Councillor MURPHY say today that these have been listed in the capital budget, because we know that doesn’t exist. We know from his admission a couple of months ago that there is no list of bikeway projects that this LNP Administration is working to. He admitted that in the Committee meeting, he said that any future projects are all contingent on election commitments. There is no list that the LNP are working on in terms of costing them and getting feasibility for them and funding them through a budget process. That was before we found out that there was going to be $400 million worth of cuts to bikeway projects and road resurfacing, on-road bikeway projects, they’ll all be included in that $1.6 million a day cut to projects and services in the suburbs of Brisbane.

So we know from the petition response that Council officers have said these projects that petitioners have identified are good ones and they warrant investment. But we also know from Councillor MURPHY that there is no mechanism for these to be listed in any meaningful way, even when we’ve called for that information, we’ve been told that doesn’t exist. So I don’t believe what Councillor MURPHY has just said then and that’s giving some false hope to these people who have petitioned, who will get a response that says they’ve been listed awaiting funding, but that apparently doesn’t exist. So you can’t say that it does and it doesn’t and then think that you can just get away with that.

We know that from a couple of months ago that the LNP have no plans for the future, they’re just going to cobble together some election commitments, or so we’re told by Councillor MURPHY, in the lead up to the next election. We know that the Kangaroo Point bridge and the Breakfast Creek bikeway extension was the sum total of this LORD MAYOR’s investment in cycling infrastructure, apart from a little bit here and a little bit there, which have all been cut over the last two or three years. North Brisbane Bikeway is the big one of those which was deferred and I suspect will be entirely cut now in this $1.6 million a day cut to suburban projects. So we support the petitioners in wanting to address the crippling congestion that Brisbane now faces through an investigation in suburban cycling infrastructure.

We often hear this rhetoric from Councillor MURPHY and from the LNP and it is just rhetoric because their actions don’t back up their words, that you need to invest in public transport and active transport to break the back of congestion in Brisbane. But when we have communities coming to Council requesting that they upgrade active transport connectivity in the suburbs and Council says yes, this project should proceed but there is no money, there’s no money today and there’ll be no money in the future under this LNP Administration, because they are cutting $1.6 million a day from suburban services and projects. There’s a $400 million black hole after 20 years of this LNP Administration. These residents are going to find out that they have been paying more and getting less under this LNP Administration and much, much less.

Not only will they see this project’s not funded by the LNP, but they’re going to see all of the other projects that the LNP talked about just three months ago when the budget was released being cut and deferred and delayed and put into the never‑never as well. So we’re not going to support the responses to these petitions today because they do not meet the expectations and the needs of the community and that’s what we’re all here for. We’re all here to represent our communities, we’re not all here to stand in lockstep behind the LORD MAYOR when he demands we vote a particular way. I know 19 Councillors do that and there’ll be a lot less than 19 after the next election, because it’ll come home to roost. Communities don’t want that, they don’t want their Councillor going in and towing this LORD MAYOR’s line. They want Councillors to go in and fight for their communities and that’s what Labor will continue to do.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise briefly to speak on item B, the petition regarding infrastructure for cyclists along King Arthur Terrace, Yeerongpilly, and Graceville Avenue, Graceville. I’m aware of the petition that has been put forward by cycling groups and note that there was strong support for the petition which came from pretty much all over Brisbane, not necessarily the local area. Normally what Council does is say how many residents in that street or that suburb have signed the petition and I note that they’ve not done that in this case and that is because I don’t think anybody who lives on this street actually agreed to sign the petition. So it wasn’t generated out of a place of local interest, taking into account local conditions.

I am very supportive of additional bike lanes, however, the big problem with this petition response before us today is it doesn’t address the issues that the community wants to see improved to make it safer for everyone, cars, cyclists and pedestrians. This actually says that I did not support the petition response and that’s actually not quite right. I’d like to read into the record what I did say. It’s a very long and complex issue so I’ve been giving it some thought and I think most people can see that from the actual petition response. I’ve asked for numerous improvements along King Arthur Terrace for many years, including a speed reduction to 50 kilometres and resurfacing between Softstone Street and the Pamphlett Bridge.

Could you advise why a speed reduction is not being considered along the old section of King Arthur Terrace, as this would immediately improve safety for drivers and cyclists alike. You mention accidents along King Arthur Terrace in support of bike lanes, could you advise the crash statistics for this area of King Arthur Terrace. Could you also please advise why Council is prioritising funding for applications for secondary bikeway corridors rather than principal bikeway corridors. Could you please advise how Council would remove all parking along King Arthur Terrace to support bike lanes. Could you please advise why Council would support bike lanes along King Arthur Terrace when there are no bike connections at the Pamphlett Bridge or to Graceville Avenue, just a one‑metre‑wide bitumen footpath that forms part of the bridge. I request the additional information.

Now I did get responses and I’m going to just put those on the record as well. We can’t have a speed limit reduction along this part of the road because a speed limit review was done in 2021 and it was recommended it be retained as 60. Well we’ve done multiple petitions calling for speed reductions and we know that slowing cars down, particularly where you are in busy areas like this where there are bikes, because it’s on the river loop and a lot of driveways backing in and out, that a speed reduction would make it safer. We know this, yet Council will not do it, they will not fight for it. One koala dies and off they go out there. We know that the officers bent over backwards within about a week and a half to get the signs out there for their social media posts, to get them ready, but if people are hurt or there’s a problem with local safety, people out my way don’t get the same recognition.

I asked about accidents, so even though this says that there have been accidents and that’s a reason to do these bike lanes, in the past five years there have been two minor injuries. Now I’m not sure what they are, it doesn’t say, it just says minor injury. I’ve had people die, so on the corner of Steven Street and Kadumba Street we had a cyclist die. Had a cyclist killed on the corner of Hyde Road and Fairfield Road, a cyclist died. I had a cyclist who’s become a paraplegic after an accident on the Brisbane Corso near Cansdale Street. These are just in the last few years where cyclists have died in my ward and Council has done nothing to improve safety at these intersections, all places where there should be upgrades that are delivered and they haven’t been. But there have been two minor injuries along King Arthur Terrace and that’s enough to get Council to do something. Something doesn’t add up here.

Can you advise why Council’s prioritising funding applications for secondary bikeway corridors. Apparently, unbeknownst to probably most residents, King Arthur Terrace is now going to become a principal bikeway corridor. I’m sure that the last one or two voters in Tennyson that might consider voting Liberal will be stopping when I write and tell them what the LORD MAYOR’s agreed to here, because they don’t want their parking removed. Residents in Highgate Hill and Dornoch Terrace didn’t want their parking removed. There have to be better ways to do this and I’m sure there are, but just simply saying you’re going to ban parking, which is one of the options that Council’s considering, is just not practical or suitable.

Then, oh yes, could you please advise why Council would support a bike lane on King Arthur Terrace when there are no bike connections at Pamphlett Bridge or to Graceville Avenue, just the one-metre-wide bitumen footpath barely wide enough for one person. The answer, widening of the existing bridge or footpath will be considered in a future budget to support off-road bike cycling. Well guess what, this LORD MAYOR’s cutting projects, he’s not listing projects, he’s not going to widen a bridge. I mean the idea that there’s going to be these bikeways and then they’ll just stop at a narrow bridge doesn’t make any sense either. Classic LNP, the bikeway to nowhere. Look, I didn’t say I didn’t support this; I said it was not the right solution. This is where the LNP and Council are not listening. I used to say Graham Quirk had a tin ear, but this LORD MAYOR’s got a giant tin ear. He’s not listening and he’s not allowing Council to be flexible enough to find good solutions for local communities.

So I support finding bike solutions, I think there are ways we can do it and particularly off-road so that it’s safe for everyone. But simply not considering some practical measures like reducing the speed limit, which could be done at very limited cost, which would be best for everybody, the cyclists, pedestrians and residents, something the residents support. It makes cyclists feel more confident, they know they’re not getting someone whizzing by at 65, it just makes it feel a lot safer for them. So I think that the representation in here that I don’t support this is probably not quite right. But this isn’t the right solution that Council is proposing and there are going to be a lot of unhappy residents here at the end of the day when they find out what the LNP are trying to do in Tennyson.

Chair: Councillors, are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

Councillor MURPHY, right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thanks, Chair. Just briefly, in respect of Councillor JOHNSTON’s debate there, I have a copy of the email that she sent in with the recommendation. I’ll read it out to the Chamber and they can decide whether this is for or against the recommendation. Quote, “no, I do not support the recommendation, it is not the best recommendation for the issue, thank you.” Now I don’t know, officers are not mind readers, they don’t look into the depth into someone’s mind as to what they might be thinking when they write an email. All they can do is read the email and decide whether someone has supported or not supported the recommendation. So to me that’s pretty clear, she didn’t support the recommendation. Councillor JOHNSTON, that’s okay, just own up to it, you don’t support cycling infrastructure in your ward. That’s okay, own it, that’s fine, not a problem.

In respect of Councillor CASSIDY’s contribution, Chair, Councillor CASSIDY loves to misquote me in the Chamber. The reality is and what I said is that this organisation—this Council, does generally build its budget cycles and how it spends money around four-year terms and the commitments that administrations and incoming administrations make at election periods in order to calibrate its budget for those four-year terms. It’s for that reason that often you see the capital profile dip down towards the end of a four-year term, that’s always been the way. It’s not party political, it’s not an outrageous interference with the officers. It’s actually how the officers, the CEO, the Council is configured and there’s nothing strange or unusual about that. Thanks, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

We’ll now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

#### A PETITION – REQUESTING CITYCATS BE WRAPPED AS CITYDOGS NAMED BLUEY AND BINGO

**137/220/594/109**

**215/2023-24**

1. A petition requesting CityCats be wrapped as ‘CityDogs’ named ‘Bluey’ and ‘Bingo’, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 14 June 2022, by Councillor Ryan Murphy, and received.

2. The Divisional Manager, Transport for Brisbane, provided the following information.

3. The petition contains a total of 163 signatures with the majority of petitioners living in Brisbane and South East Queensland.

4. *Bluey* is an animated cartoon series about a family of blue heeler dogs who live in Brisbane. The production company, Ludo Studios, is Brisbane based with the show broadcast in Australia on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. However, the global marketing and ancillary rights for the *Bluey* series are owned by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The BBC is responsible for publishing, distributing and merchandising the *Bluey* brand.

5. Council and BBC representatives have met on several occasions in the past year to discuss potential opportunities to collaborate, including the possibility of depicting *Bluey* characters on some of our CityCat fleet. These discussions are ongoing, with Council and the BBC excited about the potential opportunities.

6. However, Council has not yet reached an agreement with the BBC on the use of the *Bluey* brand. As Council is unable to utilise the *Bluey* branding without the permission of the BBC, Council is unable to wrap CityCats as ‘CityDogs’ at this time.

Consultation

7. Councillor Ryan Murphy, Civic Cabinet Chair for the Transport Committee, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

9. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed at its meeting held on 3 October 2023.

10. **DECISION:**

**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:** 137/220/594/109

Thank you for your petition requesting Council wrap two CityCats as ‘CityDogs’ and name them ‘Bluey’ and ‘Bingo’ to support Brisbane’s flood recovery.

*Bluey* is an animated cartoon series about a family of blue heeler dogs who live in Brisbane. The production company, Ludo Studios, is Brisbane based with the show broadcast in Australia on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. However, the global marketing and ancillary rights for the *Bluey* series are owned by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The BBC is responsible for publishing, distributing and merchandising the *Bluey* brand.

Council and BBC representatives have met on several occasions in the past year to discuss potential opportunities to collaborate, including the possibility of depicting *Bluey* characters on some of our CityCat fleet. These discussions are ongoing, with Council and the BBC excited about the potential opportunities.

However, Council has not yet reached an agreement with the BBC on the use of the *Bluey* brand. As Council is unable to utilise the *Bluey* branding without the permission of the BBC, Council is unable to wrap CityCats as ‘CityDogs’ at this time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Selena Beaverson, Executive Coordinator, Transport for Brisbane, on (07) 3407 2216.

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**NOTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CYCLISTS ALONG KING ARTHUR TERRACE, YEERONGPILLY, AND GRACEVILLE AVENUE, GRACEVILLE

**137/220/594/32**

**216/2023-24**

11. A petition requesting Council install improved infrastructure for cyclists along King Arthur Terrace, Yeerongpilly, and Graceville Avenue, Graceville, was received during the Spring Recess 2021.

12. The A/General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

13. The petition contains 585 signatures. Of the petitioners, 558 live in the City of Brisbane and 27 live outside the City of Brisbane.

14. Specifically, the petitioners are requesting:

* protected bike lanes on both sides of King Arthur Terrace, between Fairfield Road and Godiva Avenue, Yeerongpilly
* a shared zone on King Arthur Terrace, between Godiva Avenue and Softstone Street, Tennyson
* a two-directional protected bikeway on the northern side of King Arthur Terrace, between Softstone Street and Pamphlett Bridge, Tennyson
* a protected bike lane on the northern side of Pamphlett Bridge
* shared path widening between Pamphlett Bridge and Nadine Street
* protected bike lanes on Graceville Avenue, between Nadine Street and Oxley Road, Graceville.

15. King Arthur Terrace and Graceville Avenue are both classified as District roads in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) road network hierarchy. District roads facilitate the movement of people and goods to and through suburbs and include use by buses and heavy vehicles. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

16. The petitioners’ request for Council to install improved infrastructure for cyclists along King Arthur Terrace and Graceville Avenue has been noted. The combined length of King Arthur Terrace and Graceville Avenue is approximately 3.5 kilometres. The cycling route along these roads is identified as a secondary cycle route on the Bicycle network overlay in City Plan, recognising the demand for cycling along this route. The section from Mooney Street, Yeerongpilly, to Nadine Street, Graceville, forms part of the Brisbane River Loop, Brisbane’s premier recreational ride used by thousands of people each day. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the current Cycling Brisbane bikeway map. Attachment D (submitted on file) shows the Cycling Route map from City Plan. Attachment E (submitted on file) shows a detailed view of King Arthur Terrace and Graceville Avenue.

17. The petitioners’ request for protected bike lanes on both sides of King Arthur Terrace, between Fairfield Road and Godiva Avenue, has been considered. This section of King Arthur Terrace was upgraded in 2018-19 as part of the Yeerongpilly Green precinct project, facilitated by the Queensland Government’s Economic Development Queensland, and includes on-road bicycle lanes in each direction, including traffic signage, green pavement threshold markings at intersections and bicycle pavement markings. Wide footpaths are installed on each side of this road section, which are available for use by cyclists. Council has no plans to install separated on‑road cycling infrastructure as it considers the current cycling facilities in this section of King Arthur Terrace to be appropriate.

18. The petitioners’ request for a shared zone on King Arthur Terrace, between Godiva Avenue and Softstone Street, has been considered. Under the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, 10 km/h shared zones are generally constructed in high pedestrian use areas, where there are competing demands for pedestrians with cyclists, vehicles and parking. Shared zones are not installed primarily for cyclists and are generally not considered on district roads. It is noted pedestrian use adjacent to this road section is high during events at the Queensland Tennis Centre, however, this is managed by event marshals and traffic controllers. Outside event times, pedestrian demand is not high or consistent enough for consideration of a shared zone and, therefore, a shared zone is not supported.

19. It is predicted that the future planned high-density developments in the Yeerongpilly Green precinct will increase traffic volumes and active travel use through this road section. It is acknowledged that there are no dedicated on-road bicycle lanes through this road section, however, off-road shared pathways run through Ken Fletcher Park, Tennyson, a route identified as a secondary cycle route on the Bicycle network overlay in City Plan. Council supports further improvements to bicycle infrastructure in this section, however this will be subject to further investigation and availability of funding, to be prioritised against other citywide projects and feasibility investigations.

20. The petitioners’ request for a two-directional protected bikeway on the northern side of King Arthur Terrace, between Softstone Street and Pamphlett Bridge, has been considered. This road section has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and is an 11 to 12-metre-wide single carriageway with three-metre-wide traffic lanes in each direction. The remaining road space is used for kerbside parking and bus zones, with cyclists also sharing the shoulder. There is a footpath located on the southern side of this road section and no footpath on the northern side.

21. The corridor is primarily used by people riding for sport and recreation, primarily from west to east and can include people in groups or riding two abreast. Installation of a separator would introduce a hazard and given a lack of connecting facilities at either end, a two-way facility is likely to be difficult to access. Council does not support installation of a bi-directional protected bikeway.

22. Given the history of bicycle and vehicle crashes along the corridor, Council supports the creation of bicycle lanes along this section to improve safety and will complete further feasibility work to determine how these are best delivered. A funding application will be made to the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants program to help advance this work.

23. The petitioners’ request for a protected bike lane on the northern side of Pamphlett Bridge has been considered. Pamphlett Bridge is a nine-metre-wide single carriageway with 4.5-metre-wide traffic lanes in each direction. It includes a separated 1.5-metre-wide footpath on the southern side that may also be used by cyclists. However, it is not wide enough to be a formalised shared pathway. The bridge is not wide enough to accommodate a two-directional protected bikeway or one-way protected bike lane on one or each side. It would be undesirable to reduce the current traffic lane widths on the bridge as this may lead to an increase in potential head-on collisions. Accordingly, on-road protected bike lanes are not proposed for Pamphlett Bridge, and Council has listed this location for future cycling infrastructure improvement investigations, subject to funding availability, prioritised against other citywide projects.

24 The petitioners’ request for shared path widening between Pamphlett Bridge and Nadine Street has been considered. Widening of this path will be considered in a future Council budget.

25. The petitioners’ request for protected bike lanes on Graceville Avenue, between Nadine Street and Oxley Road, has been considered. This section of Graceville Avenue has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h. It generally has a width between 11 and 12.5 metres, except on the section between Gamble and Errol Streets, where it reduces to 8.5 metres. The corridor is not wide enough to accommodate protected bike lanes between Gamble and Errol Streets. On the remaining road section, the creation of protected bike lanes would result in impacts on parking, bus stops and existing pedestrian refuges. The installation of protected bike lanes on this section of Graceville Avenue is not a high priority at this time, however, Council will continue to monitor Graceville Avenue for opportunities to improve cycling infrastructure as funding and resources become available.

Consultation

26. Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

27. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

28. The A/General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed at its meeting held on 9 October 2023.

29. **DECISION:**

**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:** 137/220/594/32

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install improved infrastructure for cyclists along King Arthur Terrace, Yeerongpilly, and Graceville Avenue, Graceville.

Your request for Council to install improved infrastructure for cyclists along King Arthur Terrace and Graceville Avenue has been noted. The cycling route along these roads is identified as a secondary cycle route on the Bicycle network overlay in *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan), recognising the demand for cycling along this route. The section between Mooney Street, Yeerongpilly, and Nadine Street, Graceville, form part of the Brisbane River Loop, Brisbane’s premier recreational ride used by thousands of people each day.

Your request for protected bike lanes on both sides of King Arthur Terrace, between Fairfield Road and Godiva Avenue, has been considered. This section of King Arthur Terrace was upgraded in 2018-19 as part of the Yeerongpilly Green precinct project, facilitated by the Queensland Government’s Economic Development Queensland, and includes on-road bicycle lanes in each direction, including traffic signage, green pavement threshold markings at intersections and bicycle pavement markings. Wide footpaths are installed on each side of this road section, which are available for use by cyclists. Council has no plans to install separated on-road cycling infrastructure as it considers the current cycling facilities in this section of King Arthur Terrace to be appropriate.

Your request for an unprotected shared zone on King Arthur Terrace, between Godiva Avenue and Softstone Street, has been considered. Under the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, 10 km/h shared zones are generally constructed in high pedestrian use areas, where there are competing demands for pedestrians with cyclists, vehicles and parking. Shared zones are not installed primarily for cyclists and generally are not considered on district roads. It is noted pedestrian use adjacent to this road section is high during events at the Queensland Tennis Centre, however, this is managed by event marshals and traffic controllers. Outside event times, pedestrian demand is not high or consistent enough for consideration of a shared zone and, therefore, an unprotected shared zone is not supported.

It is predicted that the future planned high-density developments in the Yeerongpilly Green precinct will increase traffic volumes and active travel use through this road section. It is acknowledged that there are no dedicated on-road bicycle lanes through this road section, however off-road shared pathways run through Ken Fletcher Park, Tennyson, a route identified as a secondary cycle route on the Bicycle network overlay in City Plan. Council supports further improvements to bicycle infrastructure in this section, however this will be subject to further investigation and availability of funding, to be prioritised against other citywide projects and feasibility investigations.

Your request for a two-directional protected bikeway on the northern side of King Arthur Terrace, between Softstone Street and Pamphlett Bridge, has been considered. This road section has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and is an 11 to 12-metre-wide single carriageway with three-metre-wide traffic lanes in each direction. The remaining road space is used for kerbside parking and bus zones, with cyclists also sharing the shoulder. There is a footpath located on the southern side of this road section and no footpath on the northern side.

The corridor is primarily used by people riding for sport and recreation, primarily from west to east and can include people in groups or riding two abreast. Installation of a separator would introduce a hazard and given a lack of connecting facilities at either end, a two-way facility is likely to be difficult to access. Council does not support installation of a bi-directional protected bikeway.

Given the history of bicycle and vehicle crashes along the corridor, Council supports the creation of bicycle lanes along this section to improve safety and will complete further feasibility work to determine how these are best delivered. A funding application will be made to TMR under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants program to help advance this work.

Your request for a protected bike lane on the northern side of Pamphlett Bridge has been considered. Pamphlett Bridge is a nine-metre-wide single carriageway with 4.5-metre-wide traffic lanes in each direction. It includes a separated 1.5-metre-wide footpath on the southern side that may also be used by cyclists. However, it is not wide enough to be a formalised shared pathway. The bridge is not wide enough to accommodate a two-directional protected bikeway or one-way protected bike lane on one or each side. It would be undesirable to reduce the current traffic lane widths on the bridge as this may lead to an increase in potential head-on collisions. Accordingly, on-road protected bike lanes are not proposed for Pamphlett Bridge, and Council has listed this location for future cycling infrastructure improvement investigations, subject to funding availability, prioritised against other citywide projects.

Your request for shared path widening between Pamphlett Bridge and Nadine Street has been considered. Widening of this path will be considered in a future Council budget.

Your request for protected bike lanes on Graceville Avenue, between Nadine Street and Oxley Road, has been considered. This section of Graceville Avenue has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h. It generally has a width between 11 and 12.5 metres, except on the section between Gamble and Errol Streets where it reduces to 8.5 metres. The corridor is not wide enough to accommodate protected bike lanes between Gamble and Errol Streets. On the remaining road section, the creation of protected bike lanes would result in impacts on parking, bus stops and existing pedestrian refuges. The installation of protected bike lanes on this section of Graceville Avenue is not a high priority at this time, however, Council will continue to monitor Graceville Avenue for opportunities to improve cycling infrastructure as funding and resources become available.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Thomas Thai, A/Public and Active Transport Manager, Policy, Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 3424.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**NOTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL UPGRADE ACTIVE TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY TO THE EXISTING BRIDGES CONNECTING GOULD ROAD, HERSTON, TO GRANVILLE STREET, WILSTON, AND BUTTERFIELD STREET, HERSTON, TO DOWNEY STREET, WINDSOR

**137/220/594/71**

**217/2023-24**

30. A petition requesting Council upgrade active transport connectivity to the existing bridges connecting Gould Road, Herston, to Granville Street, Wilston, and Butterfield Street, Herston, to Downey Street, Windsor, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 8 March 2022, by former Councillor Peter Matic, and received.

31. The A/General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

32. The petition contains 31 signatures. Of the petitioners, 30 live on Gould Road or Gould Place, Herston, and one lives on Bird Street, Herston.

33. Council notes the petitioners’ request for Council to use funding that was allocated to the Enoggera Creek Sport and Recreation Draft Precinct Plan to upgrade the abovementioned bridges (the project). Attachment B (submitted on file) contains a locality map showing the subject bridges and connecting shared-use pathways. These bridges are recognised as primary and local cycle routes respectively on the Bicycle network overlay in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014.*

34. Due to the February 2022 severe rain and flood event which caused damage to infrastructure across the City of Brisbane, the funds allocated to the project were redirected to fund repairs. This included Council park infrastructure and facilities managed by many sporting and community organisations. As a result, the project is no longer progressing and, as such, funding is no longer available to upgrade these bridges.

35. Council acknowledges that the existing bridges would benefit from upgrading and widening to provide greater separation between users. The reconstruction of these bridges is challenging due to environmental constraints and creek and storm tide flooding. Currently, there are no projects or funding available to upgrade these bridges. Upgrades are dependent on future funding prioritised against other similar projects across the city, as part of Council’s annual budget process.

36. The petitioners’ concerns regarding safety at the existing bridge entry and exit points are noted. Both bridges connect directly to the Enoggera Creek Bikeway to the north via T‑intersections. These T‑intersections require users to reduce their speed to maintain safety for all shared path users. Similarly, the southern shared path connections at Gould Road and Butterfield Street are also T-intersections. Users exiting these shared paths are required to slow down or stop to give way to traffic on the relevant road to maintain safety. Improvements to these T-intersections will be considered as part of any future bridge upgrade.

37. The petitioners’ request for information regarding proposed tree plantings in Rasey Park, Herston, as part of the project is noted. As the project is no longer progressing, the proposed tree plantings will not proceed.

Consultation

38. Councillor Clare Jenkinson, Councillor for Paddington Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

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 A/General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed at its meeting held on 9 October 2023.

42. **DECISION:**

**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:** 137/220/594/71

Thank you for your petition requesting Council upgrade active transport connectivity to the existing bridges connecting Gould Road, Herston, to Granville Street, Wilston, and Butterfield Street, Herston, to Downey Street, Windsor.

Council notes your request for Council to use funding that was allocated to the Enoggera Creek Sport and Recreation Draft Precinct Plan to upgrade the abovementioned bridges (the project). These bridges are recognised as primary and local cycle routes respectively on the Bicycle network overlay in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

Due to the February 2022 severe rain and flood event which caused damage to infrastructure across the City of Brisbane, the funds allocated to the project were redirected to fund repairs. This included Council park infrastructure and facilities managed by many sporting and community organisations. As a result, the project is no longer progressing and, as such, funding is no longer available to upgrade these bridges.

Council acknowledges that the existing bridges would benefit from upgrading and widening to provide greater separation between users. The reconstruction of these bridges is challenging due to environmental constraints and creek and storm tide flooding. Currently, there are no projects or funding available to upgrade these bridges. Upgrades are dependent on future funding prioritised against other similar projects across the city, as part of Council’s annual budget process.

Your concerns regarding safety at the existing bridge entry and exit points are noted. Both bridges connect directly to the Enoggera Creek Bikeway to the north via T-intersections. These T-intersections require users to reduce their speed to maintain safety for all shared path users. Similarly, the southern shared path connections at Gould Road and Butterfield Street are also T-intersections. Users exiting these shared paths are required to slow down or stop to give way to traffic on the relevant road to maintain safety. Improvements to these T- intersections will be considered as part of any future bridge upgrade.

Your request for information regarding proposed tree plantings in Rasey Park, Herston, as part of the project is noted. As this project is no longer progressing, the proposed tree plantings will not proceed.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Thomas Thai, A/Public and Active Transport Manager, Policy Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 3424.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**NOTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL EXTEND THE TERMINAL DRIVE PROTECTED CYCLEWAY WEST ALONG LAMINGTON AVENUE, EAGLE FARM, AND CONSULT WITH ASCOT RESIDENTS ON ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE

**137/220/594/201**

**218/2023-24**

43. A petition requesting Council extend the Terminal Drive protected cycleway (the cycleway) west along Lamington Avenue, Eagle Farm, and consult with Ascot residents on active travel infrastructure, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 21 March 2023, by former Councillor David McLachlan, and received.

44. The A/General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

45. The petition contains 147 signatures. Of the petitioners, 141 live in the City of Brisbane and six live outside the City of Brisbane.

46. The petitioners’ request for Council to extend the cycleway west along Lamington Avenue has been considered. Lamington Avenue is identified as a Secondary bicycle route on the Bicycle network overlay in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

47. Council recently completed a review of its active transport network (ATN) plan. As Lamington Avenue connects to the Moreton Bay Cycleway, Terminal Drive and Viola Place, it has been identified as a Primary bicycle route in the draft ATN plan. The Queensland Government’s Principal Cycle Network Plans also recognise Lamington Avenue as a Principal cycle route.

48. There is an existing shared pathway along the southern side of Lamington Avenue, between Schneider Road and Southern Cross Way. The construction of Council’s Viola Place shared pathway project will facilitate a direct connection into the TradeCoast and Brisbane Airport precincts for bicycle riders using this route. Accordingly, Council supports the installation of improved cycling infrastructure along Lamington Avenue.

49. Lamington Avenue has a posted speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as a Neighbourhood road in City Plan’s road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. Lamington Avenue also provides freight access for heavy vehicles accessing the Brisbane Airport. Given the importance of the route and the presence of heavy vehicles, any additional cycling facilities should be physically separated from general traffic to ensure safety for all road users.

50. Council supports the installation of a two-way separated cycleway on the southern side of Lamington Avenue, connecting the existing shared pathway at the Southern Cross Way overpass with Nudgee Road. The feasibility of this project will be subject to engineering design considerations, including drainage, heavy vehicle and bus manoeuvring and management of existing kerbside assets including Australia Post mail zones, bus stops and access to Doomben train station.

51. A project has been listed for further investigation and design works. While there is no allocated funding to progress maintenance works, such as resurfacing, or project works at this time, it will be considered for funding allocation prioritised against similar citywide projects.

52. It is also noted that cyclists are currently not permitted to use the footpath on the southern side of Lamington Avenue due to signage advising ‘all bicycles join the road’. As an immediate action, Council will remove the signage to allow bicycle riders to continue along the footpath should they choose to do so.

Consultation

53. Councillor Julia Dixon, Councillor for Hamilton Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

55. The A/General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed at its meeting held on 9 October 2023.

56. **DECISION:**

**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:** 137/220/594/201

Thank you for your petition requesting Council extend the Terminal Drive protected cycleway (the cycleway) west along Lamington Avenue, Eagle Farm, and consult with Ascot residents on active travel infrastructure.

Your request for Council to extend the cycleway west along Lamington Avenue has been considered. Council recently completed a review of its active transport network (ATN) plan. As Lamington Avenue connects to the Moreton Bay Cycleway, Terminal Drive and Viola Place, it has been identified as a Primary bicycle route in the draft ATN plan. The Queensland Government’s Principal Cycle Network Plans also recognise Lamington Avenue as a Principal cycle route.

There is an existing shared pathway along the southern side of Lamington Avenue, between Schneider Road and Southern Cross Way. The construction of Council’s Viola Place shared pathway project will facilitate a direct connection into the TradeCoast and Brisbane Airport precincts for bicycle riders using this route. Accordingly, Council supports the installation of improved cycling infrastructure along Lamington Avenue.

Lamington Avenue has a posted speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as a Neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. Lamington Avenue also provides freight access for heavy vehicles accessing the Brisbane Airport. Given the importance of the route and the presence of heavy vehicles, any additional cycling facilities should be physically separated from general traffic to ensure safety for all road users.

Council supports the installation of a two-way separated cycleway on the southern side of Lamington Avenue, connecting the existing shared pathway at the Southern Cross Way overpass with Nudgee Road. The feasibility of this project will be subject to engineering design considerations, including drainage, heavy vehicle and bus manoeuvring and management of existing kerbside assets including Australia Post mail zones, bus stops and access to Doomben train station.

A project has been listed for further investigation and design works. While there is no allocated funding to progress maintenance works, such as resurfacing, or project works at this time, it will be considered for funding allocation prioritised against similar citywide projects.

It is noted that cyclists are currently not permitted to use the footpath on the southern side of Lamington Avenue due to signage advising ‘all bicycles join the road’. As an immediate action, Council will remove the signage to allow bicycle riders to continue along the footpath should they choose to do so.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Thomas Thai, A/Public and Active Transport Manager, Policy, Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 3424.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**NOTED**

Chair: Councillors—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WHITMEE.

**219/2023-24**

At that juncture, Councillor Sarah WHITMEE moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the Standing Rules be suspended.

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, you have three minutes.

Councillor WHITMEE: Thank you, so all throughout today we have heard about the $1.6 million worth of cuts that we’re going to be facing as a city per day and we’re not sure of what that’s going to look like. You know, I may not get Preston Road resurfaced, we might get another section of Beams Road not funded, you know, we have absolutely no idea where those cuts are going to be coming from just yet. We do have some projects in our city that cannot afford to be cut. We’ve got very few but some projects that are supported bipartisan—on a bipartisan level, not just within this Chamber, but on every level of government. At the moment I have a community survey in which I’ve had over 300 respondents from—my community come to me with what they want Wynnum Manly to look like in 10, 20, 30 years’ time. One of the most common responses I’m getting is Lindum—the Lindum level crossing. When is the Lindum level crossing coming? When is that upgrade coming?

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, can I just interrupt you there for just one moment, it’s the three minutes as to why this—because it sounds like you’re moving into the substantive motion. As to why it wasn’t submitted yesterday, just short, sharp, thank you.

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes, I’ve still got—as other people have been able to do, I’ve still got a minute 40 left. When is Lindum level crossing coming? When is it—when are we actually going to improve the safety of our residents on multiple wards? That’s why I’m moving a motion today that says that this Council will commit to not cutting any funding from the Lindum level crossing project.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WHITMEE. I struggle to find why you didn’t—

Councillor WHITMEE: I said it at the very beginning, throughout today—

Chair: Yes, okay. I’m not going to enter into a debate with you. You didn’t—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, stop, stop. I wasn’t allowed to finish. I’m not going to rule this motion out of order, but I would like to see a reason why and establish the reason why within that three-minute period. You gave one sentence and then moved into the substantive—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Wait until I finish—and then moved into the substantive motion. We will now put whether this is worth suspending standing orders for. Are you happy for me to do that?

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order on that though first, Chair.

Chair: Yes, sure.

Councillor WHITMEE: I said it within the first sentence that throughout today—I didn’t say throughout the last few weeks, I didn’t say in the last three months since the budget was handed down. I said throughout today, that establishes why I could not have this as a notified motion.

Chair: Correct, but you went straight into the substantive after you gave that sentence, so we’re—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I’m just pulling people up on it now because it’s getting a bit long in the tooth.

So we’re now going to put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion for the suspension of the Standing Rules to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Jared CASSIDY and Sarah WHITMEE 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: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION – BUSHLAND LEVY

*(Notified motions are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**220/2023-24**

The Chair then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS—

*That Brisbane City Council use 100% of the Bushland Preservation Levy to acquire new bushland.*

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

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. This is a very simple motion, whether this Council agrees today that 100% of the Bushland Preservation Levy is used to acquire new bushland or not. That’s what this is about today. We know that every time a rates notice goes out, whether it’s in the mail or emailed to people, whether they have a direct debit payment set up or a payment plan, or they go to the Post Office and pay with cash, each and every time that happens residents, ratepayers are paying a levy on their rates for the preservation of bushland. Our view is that proceeds from that levy, which people think are going to purchase bushland, should be going to purchase bushland. It’s a really simple concept.

The Council website says—and this is how the levy is described for people—that residents and businesses contribute to protecting Brisbane’s most significant natural assets. This is done through the payment of the Bushland Preservation Levy in their rates account. Brisbane City Council uses the levy for the Bushland Acquisition program to protect and enhance Brisbane’s natural environment. If you read that as a ratepayer you’d assume that all of that money is going to purchasing more bushland, to protect more bushland and there’s a point to protecting more and we’ll come to that in just a moment.

We know we often hear the LNP Councillors get up and say that all our bushland was purchased by Sallyanne Atkinson. One block was purchased by Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson. The fund was established and one single property was purchased by that Liberal Administration and then thousands of hectares were purchased through the 1990s and 2000s by the Soorley Administration and there has—that has been continued, but to a much smaller extent, when it comes to using the Bushland Preservation Levy. What we do know now is that this LNP Administration uses these funds that are raised for the purchasing of bushland for other programs, which should be funded out of the annual budget of Council. Although I’m sure even those are now going to be cut by this LNP Administration because they need to find $1.6 million a day in cuts to projects and services in the suburbs of Brisbane.

There is an awful lot of creative accounting that goes on in this LNP Administration. In the Bushland Preservation Levy report for the period ended March 2023, we can see that less than 20%—less than 20% of that levy is used to acquire bushland under that program, the one thing that Council publicly says it should be used for. When you go to the website, the only public statement that this LNP Administration makes about using the Bushland Preservation Levy is that it is used to acquire bushland. But we find out in papers that come to the Council Committee only, that aren’t even brought to this Council Chamber for public consumption, is that less than 20% of that levy is used to purchase new bushland. I did try and find a more recent figure than March 2023, but the next quarterly report which was for the June quarter ending in June 2023, that figure is not available anymore, that figure disappears. I’m sure it’s dropping, I’m sure it’s dropping.

So the issue here is that this LNP Administration is being sneaky, they’re being deceitful, when they are saying to people, when they’re paying their levy, that that is being used to purchase new bushland, because we know that 80 cents out of every dollar of that levy is not being used to purchase new bushland. Council has a target of 40% of mainland Brisbane to be natural habitat by 2031, we hear that often in here, how close the LNP are at getting to that 40% figure. So the mainland of Brisbane, as we know, is—you can get this from the Council website too—1,342.7 square kilometres.

Councillor DAVIS has recently boasted that the LNP Administration are currently sitting at 38.9% and so, so very close to reaching their target. That additional bushland needs to be 27 square kilometres to get us to that target by 2031, but much of what the LNP say in this space and everywhere is smoke and mirrors. We know that—you know, it was a couple of years ago now that they used over $6 million—it came in close to $7 million, I think in the end, at purchasing that land at Carrara Street and Nurran Street in Mt Gravatt East. That wasn’t bushland, there has certainly been trees planted on it now, but that wasn’t bushland at the time.

When that purchase was made, Chair, in 2019, it was reported to be the third most extensive—expensive purchase since the levy was introduced in 1990. It was an awful lot more expensive than the 500 hectares of the Boondall Wetlands that the Lord Mayor of the day in the 1990s purchased for one dollar, preserved 500 hectares for one dollar, not the house block for $6.2 million at Mt Gravatt East. But so as long as the LNP continue to play politics and continue to be sneaky and unaccountable about how this public money is being used, we’ve got very little chance of hitting that 40% target and getting beyond it as well, beyond 2031.

The acquisition of bushland is key to making sure our city of suburbs is liveable and enjoyable for people into the future. People say that their way of life here in Brisbane is unique, they like it, they like the natural environment. I don’t think they would like to know as ratepayers that 80% of the money they’re paying in levy to preserve new and additional bushland is being used for anything but that. Our goal will be to ensure that our natural environment is protected into the future, instead of just paying lip service to it like the LNP Administration in Brisbane does here time and time again. It’s a really simple proposition, I’m sure the LNP will get up—well they’ll probably lay it on the table or amend it, or try to amend it or delay it or something like that. They don’t really like to be on the record about things that are important to the people of Brisbane, they try and obfuscate as much as they can.

But this is a really simple proposition. The things that are being funded today through the Bushland Acquisition program, like basic maintenance and weeding and fuel costs and administrative costs and photocopying and back-office support, that’s all being funded out of the levy that people are paying. People don’t want to see that. They know that needs to happen, but they want to see their levy actually used to purchase new and additional bushland to make sure that we get to that 40% level, to make sure we get beyond that 40% level so that our city is genuinely climate resilient into the future. We’re hearing more and more from the LNP Administration that we must go up not out, that we have to increase density where it’s well located and we have to protect our natural environment. Well why don’t they put their money where their mouth is? Why don’t the LNP, instead of just paying lip service to protecting bushland, actually do it?

Too few properties are coming through Council for us to purchase using the Bushland Preservation Levy. To know that we’re raising tens of millions of dollars through this levy but only spending chicken feed on actually purchasing new bushland each and every year, the one or two that come through each year is not going to add up to that 27 square kilometres of new and additional bushland and habitat cover that we’re going to need to reach on mainland Brisbane. So it’s a really simple proposition, do you vote yes or do you vote no? Do you want to see the Bushland Preservation Levy used to purchase new bushland, or do you want to see business as usual under the LNP? You want to use 80 cents in every dollar to do everything other than protect new and additional bushland. Really simple, a really simple motion and something I hope the LNP will support.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Well, this is actually quite enjoyable. I see that the motion is actually seconded by Councillor GRIFFITHS and I’m wondering if this is actually his payback for them trying to oust him out of his very safe seat coming up to this election. Because Councillor GRIFFITHS is a Councillor for Deagon straight into an absolute huge whopping *(Comments removed at the request of the CEO, in accordance with the AP068 Production of Council Minutes Policy approved by Council on 6 December 2022)* when it comes to the Bushland Preservation Levy.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, I’m sure you know what I’m going to say.

Chair: Yes, thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You’ve been very clear, you can’t use that word.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Will you enforce your ruling?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

DEPUTY MAYOR, you do realise that we do not use that word in the Chamber anymore, just as a reminder. It’s not—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: It was—it is being noted as an act of disorder and—and it’s not to be used in the form of a noun or a verb.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, I wasn’t—

Chair: Could you please redact it?

DEPUTY MAYOR: I absolutely will redact that, because I wasn’t talking about the Councillors being *(Comments removed at the request of the CEO, in accordance with the AP068 Production of Council Minutes Policy approved by Council on 6 December 2022)*. I was just talking about the history and I’m glad that Councillor CASSIDY brought up the history, because now I can bring up the history and correct the record. So, therefore, if it wasn’t about the mistruths that Councillor GRIFFITHS wanted to talk about, I’m going to go back and say after 20 years in this place, the longest serving, possibly the grandfather of the Chamber now that a few more have left, has just totally forgotten what happened. Totally forgotten and has just walked through an open door to get it slammed in their face. Because the history of this Bushland Preservation Levy is very, very different to what we just heard from Councillor CASSIDY, very, very different and, ironically and quite funny, I went back and actually pulled my speech from the 2009-10 budget.

So the thing that we, again, hear very often from those opposite and those at the other end of George Street, is that this is a 20-year Administration. It is not. The Administration from 2004 to 2008 was the ALP administration and it was very clear when we came in in 2008 that the ALP administration did not spend the Bushland Preservation Levy on buying bushland. They didn’t spend the levy on protecting bushland. The money that was being put towards bushland acquisition from 1988 to 2004, the amount collected was $70 million. How much went to actually—when I say purchase or protect and preserve, I mean anything to do with the bushland, preserving it, protecting it, looking after it—38%, 38%.

The other—over 60% went to photocopiers, pens, papers, toner, all of that stuff that you need in the administration. That is when we needed to actually look and change the laws about how levies worked and make sure that every dollar that you get goes towards preservation. There are very, very strict guidelines around levies, just like we have the ambulance levy that we collect for the State Government, they need to spend it on the ambulance and we need to spend it on Bushland Preservation Levy. So, ironically, what we are hearing that they are accusing us of doing today is exactly what they did for the time that they were in administration from 1994 to 2004.

What did we do once we stood into administration in 2008? We started investing in land management. We recognised that it took a whole-of-program approach. Habitat Brisbane, creek rangers, conservation reserve management—I’m reading straight from my notes that I spoke about 11 years ago—14 years ago in this place. We worked with the City Plan to make sure we had compliance with the Land Protection Act. We improved our trialling methods of eradication and spreading weeds. We got new contracts for our wipe out weeds components. We got on with the business of preserving our land management and I think Councillor CASSIDY is absolutely pulling the other one if he doesn’t think the people of Brisbane think the Bushland Preservation Levy isn’t about preserving land, buying new land and preserving the land.

The definition of preservation is the activity or process of keeping something valued alive, intact or free from damage or decay. The actual definition says protect what you’ve got, keep it alive. On top of that, we have done way more purchasing of bushland in the next 10 years than they did in the 10 years from 2000 to 2004. I’ve got it here, it was only 870 hectares from the 10 years to 2004. We bought that amount in the first four years of our first term in 2008 to 2012. Then we accelerated 10 years of purchasing from 2012 to 2016 and guess what, we are now preserving it to be the best intact bushland in a major city in this country. So the hypocrisy of those opposite to accuse us of doing exactly what they did for over a decade and the sadness that Councillor GRIFFITHS has no memory of that, because he’s been in this place since 2000, is amazing.

There was also a statement about Councillor Sallyanne Atkinson only bought one property. I’m not quite sure if that was true or not, but I do know they voted against it, Labor voted against it. They voted against the Bushland Preservation Levy, they voted against the purchase of the property. I think it was out in your ward, Councillor ADERMANN. So for them to stand up here and lecture us on how we maintain this magnificent bushland and keep purchasing well above any level we saw their administration do, is the highest amount of hypocrisy ever. On top of that and for that reason—

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

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| **221/2023-24**  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:  *That Brisbane City Council use 100% of the Bushland Preservation Levy to acquire new, and preserve existing bushland.* |

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Just one moment please.

Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. That entirely reverses the meaning of this motion. That reinforces what is currently happening. The original motion was to change that position. If the Administration want to continue what’s happening now, they just need to vote against the motion instead of amending it. You cannot amend a motion to alter its original meaning to be the complete opposite.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY. Just give me one moment please.

DEPUTY MAYOR, would you mind giving me an adjournment for 15 minutes? There’s a document I need to refer to.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **222/2023-24**  At that time, 4.41pm, it was resolved on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes for the Chair’s consideration, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 4.43pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Thank you for your indulgence, Chamber.

Councillor CASSIDY, with regards to your point of order, under Meetings Local Law, section 40, amendment of a motion, it says the amendment shall be in terms which retain the identity of the original motion. The motion amendment put forward to us by the DEPUTY MAYOR does do that, it retains the original identity and in accordance with the ruling from the Office of the Independent Assessor that backs up that section 40 in Meetings Local Law in dealing with a motion last session, it also reinforces that decision. So I will uphold the amendment as noted.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Sorry, Mr Chair, I just had to move back into the—thank you very much, I think it’s pretty explanatory. It really is just clarifying, because I think it’s a bit cute if Councillor CASSIDY thinks that the people of Brisbane don’t think that Bushland Preservation Levy also goes towards the preservation of the very large holdings—38.9% of the LGA (local government area) area. I think in the speech I had there from 13 years ago, we said 40% by 2026. We should get there, we’ll go very close to getting there, but I’m pretty proud that we’re getting to 38.9% as we are. But I think it’s very clear that the people of Brisbane would understand that preservation means please look after it. I’m sure he’s also gotten the request from his residents about maintaining weeds, et cetera, on Council land and that is what we do. We preserve it, we look after it, we make sure that it’s valued, it’s alive, it’s intact and it’s free from damage and decay. The definition of preservation, it’s what the levy goes to and we commend this motion to the Chamber.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much. I speak on the amendment and I don’t think it’s very self‑explanatory, as the DEPUTY MAYOR said. I think it’s very weak, it’s an incredibly weak position for the LNP to use their massive majority in here to not actually genuinely debate a policy position and a decision that we could make as a Council. Whether we as a Council here think that 100% of the levy that residents pay in their rates bill should be used to purchase new and additional bushland.

Now I understand why the DEPUTY MAYOR might be a little confused about this whole thing. She referred to an old speech she made and the DEPUTY MAYOR’s comments just now said that that levy that people paying their rates is used to maintain the 38.9%, that’s also not correct because the 38.9% and the 40% we need to get to all habitat cover in Brisbane. That doesn’t just mean areas of bushland that were preserved and need maintaining as well. So the DEPUTY MAYOR doesn’t seem to know much about this at all. But what this amendment does is reinforce the status quo of what the LNP are doing now.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, it’s less than 20%, less than 20% of that levy that is raised is used to purchase new bushland and that’s the reality. The DEPUTY MAYOR gets up and says that Labor did something in the 1990s, therefore that’s their justification. We’re in 2023—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: We’re in 2023 last time I checked. The last time I checked, the LNP were in Administration, unfortunately, and last time I checked the LNP Administration—and they had control of the Council budget and the decision-making of Council since Campbell Newman was elected in 2004, 20 years ago. So for—they’ve done this all day and they’ve done this all year and they’ve done this all term, in blaming somebody else for their problems. Continue to do it today about their $400 million in cuts they have to make—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —always putting it off to someone else.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor CASSIDY, you’ve got the call.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. So the LNP had a choice, did they support 100% of the levy being used to purchase new and additional bushland or did they not? Well this amendment confirms the status quo and that’s what this conservative LNP Administration is all about. We do remember—we remember of course this Administration’s headed by a conservative LNP Mayor. Remember *The Courier‑Mail* did their little list of powerful people in Brisbane and they said—they confirmed that Adrian SCHRINNER was a very conservative politician. So we know that they like the status quo, they’re very conservative, they’re not very progressive, they’re not open to change. They don’t want to change things in Brisbane; they want to keep them as they are at the moment.

People are concerned about the future of Brisbane, they want to protect their way of life. They want to make sure we’re a climate-resilient city and they want to see more habitat cover and more bushland bought and preserved, but what the LNP want is the status quo. They want to use the money they’re levying from ratepayers not to purchase new bushland but to just maintain what they’ve already got. We don’t think that’s good enough and that’s why we’ve moved this motion today. But it has confirmed, this amendment—and I’m sure the LNP will vote in favour of that then, their new motion. This confirms what we thought, that the LNP don’t want to use the Bushland Preservation Levy to purchase new bushland.

They certainly can’t, as we have discovered today, it’s really clear they cannot fund the maintenance of natural areas through the budget anymore. They haven’t been able to do it to date and now that they’re going to find $1.6 million a day in cuts to services and projects and programs in every suburb of Brisbane, the maintenance budget for our natural areas will decrease further from the capital budget and even more of the Bushland Preservation Levy will have to be used for the maintenance of existing bushland. So we will never, under the LNP, we will never get to 40% natural habitat cover and this confirms it today. This will be another reason for people to vote them out in March next year.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

DEPUTY MAYOR, your two points of misrepresentation please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: First of all, Councillor CASSIDY said that I was using the debate that what they did was right so we had to do it the same way. I didn’t say that. He is the one that started with Sallyanne. The next one claimed that we were blaming others. We are not blaming others, we are making no apologies for maintaining the bushland that we own and preserve.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on the amendment and I just want to thank Councillor CASSIDY and Councillor GRIFFITHS for bringing this motion forward, because we know that the LNP have inappropriately used the bushland buyback levy over many years for improper purposes, I think’s probably the best way to put it, improper purposes. It’s only as recently as 2020—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: She claims to know the definition of imputing motive. That was imputing motive.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON, please consider your language.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, just one—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know they don’t want to talk about this and this is fundamentally the problem and this is why the motion’s been brought. The motion’s a simple one, use 100% of the Bushland Preservation Levy to acquire new bushland. Now we know that this fund has been the plaything of the LNP since they got in full control of it in 2008. We know, as a fact, that 95% of the funds in this levy are being spent in LNP areas. You’ve got huge tracts of bushland in my ward, but we can’t get any buyback to connect up critical pathways over there.

But more damningly, more damningly, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) exposed the improper use of the fund in 2020. That was in response to the absolutely outrageous politically-intended use of that fund to buy three residential blocks with some palm trees and a 1970s brick house on it to save Councillor ADAMS, to save Councillor ADAMS. There was no bushland, they were residential blocks. This matter was referred off for investigation and adverse findings were made against the LNP for improper use of the bushland buyback fund.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: That is absolutely incorrect and imputing motive and I ask her to table where it says that about the bushland preservation act or withdraw that comment.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, Councillor JOHNSTON, can you provide any evidence with regard to the statement that you’ve just made?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I just Googled it, but you know, it’s not that hard. Anybody can look it up, it’s on the public record. But because the DEPUTY MAYOR seems to—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m sorry. The QAO made a report, it did not say what Councillor JOHNSTON just alleged. Did not say what Councillor JOHNSTON just alleged and I ask her to table it or withdraw it. Happy to take it on notice, but she tables it or withdraws it.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, would you care to table your—the documents with regard to your accusations?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Was that a point of order?

Chair: It was a point—well actually—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment. No, you are making accusations against another Councillor in this place.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: You were imputing motive.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Then I’m happy for Councillor JOHNSTON to table the report, otherwise please withdraw—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Okay, then we will take it that you are going to table the document that you’re referring to.

Councillor JOHNSTON: May I continue?

Chair: Only on whether—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You are doing this wrong against the Meetings Local Law. Do you think you could be clear on that?

Chair: Well put it this way, if somebody had made those accusations against you, you would be making the same claim.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor GRIFFITHS. Sit back down please, I’ll get back to you in a minute.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, what you need to stop—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, I would like to see—if you’re making accusations against a specific Councillor in this place—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I didn’t.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Then withdraw your statement.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I haven’t said anything wrong. Withdraw what statement? That the QAO has made a report saying Council’s done the wrong thing? They did and if I could continue my speech, I’ll put it on the public record.

Chair: But Councillor—the DEPUTY MAYOR had nothing to do with this.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I haven’t said anything about it.

Chair: Okay, fine.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, were you rising on a point of order?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I was just going to—my point of order—

Chair: Yes, just one moment.

Councillor JOHNSTON, Councillor GRIFFITHS is speaking.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —was that Councillor JOHNSTON didn’t mention any Councillor’s name.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor JOHNSTON clearly said in this place that the QAO found an adverse reflection on the Council on the Bushland Preservation Levy because of purchases in my ward. That is slander. There is no privilege in this place. She produces the document where it says that or she withdraws the comment. It’s very simple.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I would strongly encourage you to withdraw your comment.

Councillor JOHNSTON: On what basis?

Chair: On the basis that you’ve made accusations against another Councillor in this place.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Firstly, your repeated statements that I’ve made some sort of allegations about a Councillor in this place are false, they are untrue and you should withdraw them now. I have not made any allegation against any individual Councillor in this place and your continued statements that I have are not true.

Chair: Okay, in that case, you are aware that there is no privilege in this place? Can you turn your mic on and please acknowledge that you acknowledge that there is no privilege in this place.

Are there any further speakers?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I would like to know and for Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is not appropriate.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is not appropriate, Mr Chairman. I’ve done nothing wrong. I haven’t heard you make a ruling—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I haven’t done the things you’ve said. I’m trying to speak about something that is on the public record.

Chair: I acknowledge that but I would encourage you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You are simply acting at the DEPUTY MAYOR’s direction here and it’s not appropriate.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I would encourage you to acknowledge that there is no privilege in this place and then please move on.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I would like to continue my speech.

Chair: I am happy for you to continue on, on the assumption that you know that there’s no privilege in this place. Please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh my god, this is how badly the LNP do not want their financial mismanagement in this place to be on the public record. Now the Queensland Audit Office conducted a review of this Council’s operations and they made findings that this Council was not spending money in the best way that it should. Now let me be clear, improper is my word, because the Audit Office has said the following and this is their report that’s on the public record.

It said, the way the scheme operated meant there were risks that land was not identified in the schedule of bushland to be acquired—that could be bought. There is a risk that the assessments of relative properties for bushland acquisitions may not be applied consistently, particularly, where properties are identified for acquisition that were not included in the bushland acquisition schedule. Expenses including overheads may not be allocated appropriately and consistently to the program. It is appalling that the Queensland Audit Office had to make these findings about how the LNP Administration administered the funds. We know that they did not do ecological studies to support the acquisition of bushland, we know that. We know from the file requests, we know from Councillor GRIFFITHS pursuing this matter and we know from the Queensland Audit Office report that it was critical of how this Administration used the bushland buyback fund.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Not me.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, what you’re failing to acknowledge is that they’re acknowledging that there is a risk, not that they did it. They only found a risk.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Would you like to come down and debate too, Mr Chairman?

Chair: No, I’m just—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You should hop out of your chair and come down on the floor and join in the debate if you don’t like what I’ve said.

Chair: I’m just letting you know that you previously stood on acknowledgement that there was no privilege in this place.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It is my view that the LNP’s buying three blocks of land in Mt Gravatt East and telling us it was all supported was improper. Let me be clear, that is my view. It is improper and I know everybody else wants to debate me.

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Can I ask for your ruling on this being imputing motive? I think this is well outside what the Audit Office actually shared and Councillor JOHNSTON even shared that it was a risk, it wasn’t a finding. I think it is not fair for this argument to continue in such a way.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON, given that Councillor JOHNSTON has read what the Audit Office report did say, where it acknowledged there was a risk and not that Council did in that particular case and some of the wording and the language that Councillor JOHNSTON has been using, I would consider that imputing motive. I would ask Councillor JOHNSTON to withdraw her statements on the basis that you are imputing not only this Council, but Council officers acquiring land inappropriately.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, it was inappropriate, Mr Chairman, that is my opinion. We are in a political Chamber and if I cannot express my opinion that’s just straight out censorship. I haven’t imputed motive on anybody, I’ve stated my personal opinion.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HOWARD.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **223/2023-24**  At that time, 5.06pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Vicki HOWARD, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the meeting adjourn for a short break so that everybody can calm down and that people can resume this discussion, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked. |

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: 13 - Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 6 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Council stood adjourned at 5.09pm.

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’ve got the call. You’ve got three minutes remaining.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Look, all of that noise is just trying to hide the fundamental problems with the way the Administration is administering the bushland buyback scheme. We know that 95% of the expenditure is going into LNP wards and critical bushland and river corridors are not being funded in my area or in other parts of the city. The LNP say there’s no forest in those areas, well yes, there are.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: We know that the Queensland Audit Office has found there were problematic arrangements when three residential house blocks with palm trees on them were purchased.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: That decision, which came to this Chamber and we took on good value, that there had been research, there was reports. There was no substantive information to demonstrate that this land had ecological value. None, not a thing. We know it was done for political purposes to support a political campaign and that is wrong. That is what I believe is an improper use of the bushland buyback levy. The levy shouldn’t be going off to fund—look, playgrounds or whatever it might be.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: There’s so many things that are being done with this money. I know some of that’s coming out to Oxley Creek Transformation. It’s built a playground down at—no—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —Worrall? Wherever. They’ve done some bushwalks out your way, Councillor GRIFFITHS. I haven’t seen any bushland buyback in my area at all. We haven’t seen any money spent in my area at all. Yet we’ve got some of the most important, degraded and problematic bushland in Brisbane.

So, I don’t think this Administration is doing a good job. The Queensland Audit Office also did not believe Council was doing a good job and, in fact, they said there were risks with the LNP was administering this. Let’s get rid of those risks. Let’s make sure that 100% of the funding goes into buying bushland.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: 3.5% of our rates for every person in Brisbane goes into buying bushland—into the bushland buyback levy—and yet people will be shocked to know that that’s not where their money is being spent. This amendment is just appalling because it just wants to keep the current arrangements going. Arrangements that have been criticised by the Audit Office and have been shown to be used for political purposes. I don’t support the amendment.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thanks, Mr Chair. I rise to speak against the amended motion we have here. I do note, for the record, that the LORD MAYOR and the DEPUTY MAYOR are not here to debate this very important motion. This motion is really clear. It’s unveiling a con that’s been perpetuated on the people of Brisbane. That con is that 100% of their bushland fund, they believe is being spent on buying bushland and it’s not.

Less than 19% of the bushland levy is being spent on buying bushland in this city. Yet, we have this continual, continual and ongoing discussion that we’re almost at target for the amount of area which we want to see as a city, which is 40%—40% natural bushland cover. We want to see that target reached in 2026, well we’re nowhere near that target at the moment. The reason we’re nowhere near that target at the moment is because we aren’t spending the money for buyback on purchasing bushland.

In fact, our calculations are that there’s 27 square kilometres that need to be bought back—27 square kilometres or 2,700 hectares need to be bought back in the next—what is it? Four years—for us to meet the target that we’ve set ourselves. There’s no way, there is no way that is going to happen. There is no way we’re going to meet that target.

I think—and what I’ve found when I’ve talked to academics, when I’ve talked to residents, when I talk to community groups, when I talk to habitat groups, even when I mention it to staff. They just assume we are spending all the bushland buyback money on buying bushland back. They’re astounded with the con job this Council is perpetuating on them, astounded.

So, this motion is about saying, as a Councillor, as Councillors on this side of the Chamber, we believe 100% of the bushland money should be spent on buying bushland. We believe now is the critical time to be buying bushland. Now is the critical time to be buying the corridors that connect our bushland. Now is the time to do it.

The projects that we’ve moved into there, that we’re using that money for, they were previously paid for out of the core budget. They were covered by general rates, but now they’re being covered by the bushland fund. So, without having a fair dinkum discussion with residents and let them know what we’re doing, rather than being sneaky and hiding it and pretending we’re doing something else, let’s be upfront. This debate is about being upfront.

I know previously, there’s been bushland at Oxley that I bought to this Chamber and tried to get it purchased. It hasn’t been purchased, the LNP voted against it. There’s been bushland in Councillor ADAMS’ ward that just recently we did a petition. I did a petition with Whites Hill residents and residents of her ward who wanted that connection between Whites Hill and other areas of bushland that had bushland on it. Council didn’t do it.

There’s been bushland in the northern catchment that they’ve written to us about. They want us to buy that bushland, they wanted us to actually use the bushland funds to buy that bushland which kept a corridor connected and open.

This today, is about shining a spotlight. It’s about shining a spotlight on this Administration, this 20-year-old Administration—Councillor ADAMS—20 years old. Let’s shine a light on what they’re doing, what their practices are and we’ll give an alternative. They say 19% bushland is fine. That’s all we’re going to do, that’s all we’ve ever done, but we say 100% of the bushland fund should be spent on bushland. Our Mayoral candidate says that too.

So, if the LORD MAYOR doesn’t think he should be spending all the residents’ bushland buyback fund on buying bushland, let him own it. I do note that he’s just not here, couldn’t be bothered participating in this debate. Let him own it. Because I think what residents need to know is what this LNP Administration is doing. It’s what these 19 LNP Councillors are doing. Each of your residents needs to know what you stand for, each and every one of you. It needs to be a little tick box, we stand for 19% bushland. We voted for that. Well if that’s what you stand for then that’s what you stand for and residents should know it and it should be clear.

I didn’t think this was such a controversial proposal. I would have thought that it was such a clear and good proposal for our city. We’re running out of time, we are running out of time to buy these connected areas of bushland. These areas are being lost in our city. We’re clearing bushland at a rapid rate. To me it seems bizarre to be allowing the clearing of bushland in some areas and then take a cleared paddock and go and plant it up for some bizarre reason because that’s, oh that will be the new bushland.

Why aren’t we preserving what we have? That’s what we’re telling residents we’re doing, that’s what we should be doing. We should actually be buying and keeping the bushland that currently exists in our city. Keeping that habitat, not losing it, and then planting it up or doing it somewhere else. I think it’s really clear what we’re saying here. I’m really disturbed by Councillor ADAMS and her way of responding. I think it’s really sad for our city that’s it’s like well you look back then and see who did what then.

What we should be doing now is talking about what we’re doing now and what we’re doing going forward and stop perpetuating the con job that is being perpetuated on residents. They need to know what is really happening in here, in this Chamber in City Hall. They need to know what’s happening and they need to then be able to make a decision about what they want to see for their city. I think we’ve given them a clear choice here today. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Any further speakers? I see no one.

DEPUTY MAYOR, right of reply.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you and yes, I think it was pretty straightforward too, what we’re doing here today. We are reaffirming what the Bushland Preservation Levy does. It acquires new and it preserves existing bushland. I have to strongly disagree with Councillor GRIFFITHS who says the time to buy land is right now. Well there’s an old Chinese proverb said the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is right now.

Who was in charge of this place 20 years ago? Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability? Councillor Helen Abrahams. For the 10 years before that? The ALP. The best time to buy the land was 20 years ago, but they missed that boat because they spent more than 60% on administration. When we came in and Councillor Matic took over the Chair, he did an outstanding job and we said well it’s the second-best time, but we’re going to do it and we did.

We have enormously increased the amount of bushland cover that is now in public hands. It’s just as important to preserve that bushland to regenerate those vegetated areas or unvegetated areas, connect the corridors—which are way more expensive now than they would have been 20, 30 years ago, but we are doing it. We will say to the people of Brisbane, if you live beside our bushlands and the lands that we have bought, we will maintain them because that’s what you expect.

I don’t think that people expect us to just buy and buy and buy and just let it go to weed. That is not acceptable.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: That is not acceptable. The motion that was before us today was to do that, but we’re also about preserving and making sure that these bushland areas are kept in the best state possible. That is what the amendment was about, that is what we proudly stand here to support today.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

We will now put the amendment.

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to the notified 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: 15 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 6 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Are there any speakers to the substantive motion?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you very much, Mr Chair. I rise to speak tonight on the amended motion. As you know, Mr Chair, Brisbane is Australia’s greenest and most biodiverse capital city and the Schrinner Council continues to value, to protect and to restore our natural environment. We all know the history of the Bushland Acquisition program. Beginning with Lord Mayor—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: —Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson’s purchase of a 12-hectare site at 495 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mt Coot-tha, back in 1990. In 2008, then-Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, accelerated the Bushland Acquisition program with a target to secure an additional 500 hectares of land through the program, between 2008 and 2012. This target was achieved ahead of time in 2011.

In 2016, Lord Mayor Graham Quirk again accelerated the program and set a target for Council to acquire an additional 750 hectares of land through the program by 2020. This target was also achieved ahead of time, this time in December 2019.

Since 1990, we have now secured more than 4,400 hectares of bushland that will be preserved for our future generations. This is the equivalent, Mr Chair, of almost 600 Suncorp Stadiums. This has been achieved through the acquisition of 404 individual parcels of land, the two most recent at Rachael Street in Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward.

Of course, Councillors would have seen and heard about the item in the E&C report earlier today, finalising our acquisition of 159 hectares of bushland estate at Shelley Road, Kholo.

This, of course, is achieved through the funds raised as part of the Bushland Preservation Levy. Currently, this revenue averages around $35 million per year and these funds are critical to helping protect and enhance Brisbane’s significant natural assets. But we know that preserving our bushland for future generations is about more than just quantity, it’s also about quality and this is something that I think the Labor Party tonight have seemed to fail to grasp.

Mr Chair, this is disappointing but it’s not surprising, given the Leader of the Opposition quit the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee. Which is the pathway and a vehicle that the annual expenditure from the Bushland Preservation Levy report goes through.

It’s important to remember that this levy is called the Bushland Preservation Levy, not the bushland acquisition levy. The entire purpose of the Bushland Acquisition program is to bring significant or threatened habitat under Council management, to improve its condition or consolidate existing estate. This means actively caring for the bushland when we acquire it. We achieve this through a raft of initiatives, which we know deliver value to our environment and also to our community.

This has always been the case, it’s been the case for over 20 years. If we listen to the debate this evening it seems that those opposite, particularly in the Labor Party, have failed to share with this Chamber that in fact under their watch, not only was bushland acquired under Bushland Preservation Levy, it was also maintained.

We’ve also heard a lot of figures thrown around today, but these are the facts. In the 2022-23 budget year, Council collected $35.9 million in Bushland Preservation Levy revenue after pensioner rebates. In that year, we spent $7.2 million on new acquisitions across 88 hectares. It’s worth noting that this is more than Labor spent in the entire bushland preservation budget when they were last in City Hall under Councillor CASSIDY’s mentor, Jim Soorley.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: But this doesn’t tell the full story. In addition to these new acquisitions, a further $13.3 million was allocated to fund the accelerated program from the previous years—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: —because it has to be paid for, Mr Chair. So, in total, $20.5 million was allocated toward bushland acquisition last year. The remaining funding delivered critical, long running programs to protect, to enhance and restore the bushland we manage, including managing invasive specifies.

As you know, Mr Chair, invasive species management of both flora and fauna is critical to maintaining the ecological health of our reserves. This year, we have 66 sites identified for management through the Wipe Out Weeds program, including in Councillor CASSIDY’s ward, Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward, Councillor STRUNK’s ward and Councillor WHITMEE’s ward. All funded through the Bushland Preservation Levy.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: We also support our community to care for the environment through both the Community Conservation Partnerships and Assistance programs. Of course, as Councillors, I expect that we all appreciate the value that our community partners deliver in caring for their local bushland habitat. So, I’d like to take a moment to talk about those community programs, which are so important. In 2011, the Community Conservation Partnerships program was established to strategically combine three long term community engagement programs: Habitat Brisbane, Creek Catchment and the Wildlife Conservation Partnerships programs.

Habitat Brisbane, which started in 1990, now has 161 very passionate habitat groups working to restore habitat on public land across the city. We’re also supporting 12 Creek Catchment groups to care for their local waterways and riparian habitat. With more than 50% of Brisbane’s natural habitat in private ownership, we work with 840 private landowners who collectively manage 2,700 hectares to make sure that we are protecting the ecological health of key koala habitat in residents’ own backyards.

So, in total, Mr Chair, the Community Conservation Partnerships program coordinates conservation efforts by more than 8,000 volunteers and partners at more than 1,000 individual sites rights across our city. All funded by the Bushland Preservation Levy. Mr Chair, we have a contract with the Brisbane ratepayers to invest the 100% of the Bushland Preservation Levy back into critical programs to protect our local environment and that’s exactly what we will continue to do.

So, Mr Chair, the Labor Party have brought in a motion today that reveals that they’re more interested in playing politics than they are in the actual science of ecological management. What we’ve heard today from the Labor Party is apparently this work isn’t as important and isn’t a priority for them. They say we should simply find the money elsewhere, that that’s not what residents pay this levy for. They are saying that the incredible work that our local Habitat Brisbane and Creek Catchment volunteers do, isn’t worth funding out of the rates’ levy that they pay for.

It is an absolute insult to the people that give up literally hundreds of hours of time to volunteer with us and to care for their natural environment. There would be absolutely no point in a Bushland Acquisition program at all if we did not also invest in the health and quality of the bushland habitat that we acquired. It is called the Bushland Preservation Levy because it is designed to preserve.

As I said before, the entire point of this levy is to bring land into Council management so that we can deliver important work like this. Either the Labor Party don’t understand this or they just don’t care to. Well residents can be assured that the Schrinner Council takes this very seriously. We will continue to deliver care for our bushland across the city and investment in keeping it as healthy as it can be.

Although this Council, like every household in Brisbane is facing unprecedented cost pressures, residents can rest assured that there will be no reduction on our bushland preservation expenditure. So, Mr Chair, this amended motion states our position and our commitment very clearly and I commend it to the Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on the amended motion. The amended motion, of course, enforces the status quo—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —which is the LNP will keep spending the money they way they want to spend it—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —on projects in their ward and everything Councillor DAVIS has said, you’d think that sounds really good. That sounds reasonable, but when you look at the outcome and the results, the only people who are benefiting, or 95% of the expenditure, is going into LNP wards.

Now it was interesting, isn’t it, $35 million this year, it may have been less, but over the 15 years that I’ve been the Councillor, that adds up to about $525 million. This year, out of the $35 million that Council is spending, we’re not even getting any Wipe Out Weeds funding because this is a question I ask in every budget of every parks Chair, every year.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Occasionally we get a bit of money and occasionally we don’t. Even though I have some of the largest tracts of bushland in Brisbane. It is appalling that there’s not, how do I describe it? There’s not any investment in acquiring new bushland in my area, not one single cent of that approximate $525 million. I have also moved motions with Councillor GRIFFITHS, I’ve written to the LORD MAYOR. We’ve got excellent tracks of bushland that could be bought back to extend native wildlife corridors.

In fact, this LNP Administration is actually overseeing the destruction of bushland in my area—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —by allowing development applications on rural land and cutting down trees. That is the LNP legacy when it comes to bushland in Tennyson Ward. The only people in Tennyson Ward who are doing anything about preserving the local environment are my local volunteers, who are extraordinary people working in bushcare groups. They are doing all the hard work, not Council—volunteers, volunteers.

This Council can barely organise them a water tank here and there when they ask. It’s like pulling teeth getting Council to help. These people are absolutely the stalwarts of the only reason that our bushland in my area is actually getting looked after. Council’s had nothing to do with it.

You try and get Council to remove mistletoe from trees in public parks, oh no, Councillor, until it starts damaging the tree, we couldn’t possibly take that mistletoe out. I mean this is a noxious weed, strangling a tree in the Brisbane River corridor and Council won’t remove the weeds. It’s just—this Council has lost its way, it’s lost its way.

Now, earlier I made some comments about the Queensland Audit Office. The Queensland Audit Office was critical of Council’s bushland buyback levy process. I’m just going to quote a little something from them. I quote, this is from a letter from Brendan Worrall, the Auditor-General, on 21 September 2020, “we reviewed Council’s process for allocating funds from the levy and reported our findings directly to Council. We recommend that Council develops additional policies and procedures for the Bushland Acquisition program.”

Did they? No. Here we are today and Councillor ADAMS, the DEPUTY MAYOR, one of the biggest beneficiaries of the scheme in her ward so far, says no, no, we should have the status quo. The Auditor-General, however, has said that Council should have better policies and practices in place because bushland has been bought back without any independent verification, without ecological reports—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —without expert reports. We know that, we know that because of what happened at Mt Gravatt East. So, this Administration needs to be held to account. For too long we have taken it on trust when it comes to bushland acquisition and that Mt Gravatt East property was an absolute eye-opener about that. I never thought that there’d be a report that said we should do this, it’s important koala habitat and there’s not a single piece of paper that says it’s koala habitat and it turns out it’s three residential blocks with palm trees.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s what actually happened.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: This—it’s still got the palm trees. This is the problem with the LNP. They cannot be trusted to administer public funds fairly. They cannot be trusted to administer public funds transparently and they cannot be trusted to administer public funds in the best interest of the city. We’ve seen that today with the LORD MAYOR’s announcement, he’s unable to manage the finances of this Council any longer. Unfortunately, the bushland acquisition fund has also been mismanaged by the LNP for many, many years. The Auditor-General’s made it very clear that should change.

So, thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS for bringing this forward and trying to get the change that would ensure the fund goes into acquiring bushland, including really significant tracts of bushland in Tennyson Ward, which has been ignored for far too long.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you. I rise to speak to this new motion and basically it was interesting to listen to Councillor DAVIS who, I don’t know if she realised it, but she actually contradicted herself in her speech—or in the speech that was prepared for her. Because what she actually said at the beginning of her speech was that the money was for bushland acquisition. Later on, in the speech, she then moved—and she said that two or three times—then later on in her speech, then she goes no, it’s for bushland preservation.

Two completely different things. One is acquisition. We set this up to acquire land—we set it up to acquire land, but now we’ve changed that and it’s not acquiring land, it’s preserving land, that’s my point. My point is that we should be acquiring land with this money. We should be getting as many blocks as possible now, with this money that we’re receiving from residents.

When I say to residents, oh, did you know Council has moved from buying the land? Oh, we’ve moved over here to doing the sort of work that will preserve the land. So instead of spending 40% of the money or 50% or 100% of the money on buying the land, we’re now down to less than 19% is actually spent buying bushland. That’s a shocking record.

I know residents in Councillor ADAMS’ ward come to me and they go, hey, can you help us? Because Councillor ADAMS won’t help us. We’ve got this piece of bushland that needs to connect to another piece of bushland. Can you help us preserve this bushland? We do a petition to buy that bushland and it goes nowhere because Councillor ADAMS, the DEPUTY MAYOR, doesn’t support it. But she did support buying three parcels of land that had been cleared of bushland. Spending over $6 million on those three parcels of land, because she got herself into a sticky situation.

So yes, we could find over $6 million to buy land that was due to have townhouses on it and we’ll replant it up. I can say you haven’t done a very good job because the Cocos palms are still there, the driveway’s still there and it’s not a wildlife corridor. So that was what happened with bushland money. Now we’re hearing the LNP say well, we’re doing a great job, give us a pat on the back. We’ll use this money how we like because we think we’re doing a great job. You’re not.

Residents should know that there’s a huge con going on here. A huge con by this LNP Administration and the 19 LNP Councillors. I want residents to know, I want people to be able to go out into those Councillors’ wards and go, did you know your Councillor voted against spending all the bushland money that you’re paying on buying bushland? There should be a bright spotlight shined on what this Mayor stands for and what these LNP Councillors stand for. It’s black and it’s white.

I’m really disappointed, I’m really disappointed and I know the northern Brisbane catchments are really disappointed. They’ve sent me a submission about land that they want to see bought back, but it’s not being bought back. It’s land that contains wildlife, it’s land that offers a connection and benefit. It’s land that we should be buying back. But we’re not buying it back in Bridgeman Downs because apparently, we’re spending the money on maintaining land, rather than buying land back.

This is where this Administration, this is where this LNP Council, has gone wrong. We should be using money for core work to maintain assets from our core budget. Like it always was and like it should be. We shouldn’t be taking core funding for maintaining facilities out of our bushland buyback fund, we should not.

As much as I benefit from the Oxley Creek Catchment Association getting $5 million a year from this fund and they’re building a nice new playground, it is not how we should be spending the bushland acquisition fund. We shouldn’t be spending the bushland acquisition fund building playgrounds. These people pay rates, they pay rates for that. That should come out of rate funds.

I think we’ve been really clear with what we’re saying here. I’m disappointed the Administration has—once again, you can count—you can almost count on this Administration, they just go into objection mode straight away. They’ve been in power so long they just object, we’re going to fight it, we’re going to stop it. We’re not going to listen to you. It’s a really tired government. It’s a government that’s going nowhere when all they do is just argue the point, argue the case and is not open to listening. Anyway, thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

There being no one rising to their feet. Assuming everyone online is not rising to their feet? Being nobody rising to their feet, we’ll now put the motion.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 13 - Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 4 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK and Sara WHITMEE.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Councillors we move on to the next item in the agenda. Are there any petitions?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Just on behalf of Councillor CASSIDY, I present a petition from the Sandgate Wetlands & Wildlife Group.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor STRUNK?

No other petitions? Can I have a motion to accept the petitions please, Councillor?

**224/2023-24**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK, that the petition as presented be received and referred to the Committee concerned for consideration and report.

The petition was summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/259 | Lucy Collier on behalf of Jared Cassidy | Requesting Council establish effective weed management for all wetlands in Deagon, Sandgate and Brighton. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of the Office of the Independent Assessor or Ethics Committee Order?

I’m assuming you don’t have one, Councillor MACKAY? Very quick to sit down when I started reading.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Are there any items of General Business?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: There we go. Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: Thanks, Chair. I rise to talk about my time as a Brisbane City Councillor.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: Yes, thanks Tracy. When I got the call from a local school—oh man—to say that 30 kids had turned up without lunch, I realised the true depth of the problem. It was at the height of the flood and I figured that if kids were going to school without lunch, their families were likely inundated and needing a whole lot of help.

But within half an hour, we’d delivered lunch to the kids and by the end of the day, the school P&C (parents and carers) had set up a uniform drop off to help those families who needed a hand. For two weeks during the flood, we had a permanent marquee set up on Macquarie Street in St Lucia to help people. We cleared food waste, pumped elevator shafts and gave people a shoulder to cry on.

Now recalling the story of the flood and particularly that school story, breaks my heart every time and I still find it hard to tell. I cry from sadness for the flooded families and I cry with pride for the way our community rallied to help. The flood is the highest point and the lowest point of my career as a Councillor.

Of course, there are tens of thousands of high points in this job. They’re known as the people of Walter Taylor. The sporting clubs, community groups, the volunteers, the service clubs and the religious organisations form the backbone of the community and the people make it whole.

I draw attention to Christine and Toowong Rotary crew and our Probus clubs, David and the West Juniors AFL, Ross and Little Athletics, Ros and the crew at West Toowong Bowls and the St Lucia Bowls, Alexi in Caring Cuisine, Cathy in Artspace, the ministers and the congregations of our churches, the P&Cs and the P&Fs (parents and friends) of our 13 schools, Brian and the Taringa Rovers, David and the Indooroopilly Canoe Club—you know what, Chair? I’ve probably missed one or two and I’m sorry for that. I’m really sorry because everyone who volunteers their time deserves a shout out.

There’s another group of people who deserve acknowledgement and that’s the staff of the Walter Taylor Ward office.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: Yes, Pip and Ben. They’re up in the Gallery. They’ve been with me since day one and these guys are troopers. I promised I wasn’t going to cry, Peter C said he’d tease me if I did. Pip is the hardest working, most compassionate person I’ve ever met. She works 12 hours a day, five days a week.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: At least half a day on the weekend. She takes on every single piece of correspondence and follows it personally. Even when people yell and threaten and get physical, Pip follows through and she hasn’t quit. Even when a constituent was threatening suicide in the ward office, Pip didn’t up, because she cares and she’s the most wonderful human. On behalf of 32,000 residents Pip, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Ben, you’re okay. Mate, thanks for lifting the heavy things and for delivering more than a quarter of a million pieces of mail. I think I calculated that you’ve done the equivalent of 17 marathons around Walter Taylor, it’s incredible. Your brisket’s pretty good too. To Caroline, Belinda, Elizabeth, Sue, Ginelsa, Lesley and Ian and the other casuals and volunteers in the office over the years, thank you.

Now, I’ve been a Liberal and LNP member for 28 years now and I’ve always tried to live my values. I work hard and expect reward for effort. I like to say you can tell the difference between the left and the right by asking one simple question. What is your definition of fair? The left believes fair means everyone gets the same, the right believes fair means that the harder you work, the more you get.

Well, left, as a conviction politician, I don’t understand you. You want to tax, tax, tax and spend, spend, spend. You want to do whatever blows in the wind for political expediency and claim credit for things you have nothing to do with. This is emblematic of the Greens political party. I call them a political party because they do not care about the environment. The single Green in the Chamber wasn’t even here for our last debate, which was about bushland.

They do not have the power of government or the influence of Opposition, they’re stuck on the crossbench, whinging, whining and promising things they can, and never will, deliver. That’s why they end up doing deals with Labor, but not all the time. We need to hold them to account. The Greens are the new Kim Beazley of Australian politics. You all don’t have the ticker for the job. It’s hard work, not hard woke that gets it done. You do not reflect the values of Australia and I can’t wait until people see what you’re actually about.

For the Greens to not condemn Hamas in Federal Parliament yesterday makes me sick. Councillor STRUNK and Councillor GRIFFITHS, I like you guys, but you need new friends. The negativity and the hate and the pettiness is appalling. It’s like watching Tina Fey and Lindsay Lohan in *Mean Girls*.

My battery is flat, I reckon that now I can’t give 100%, I shouldn’t do the job. It makes me think that this job is not forever, embrace it because every minute matters. But also have the ability to look at your situation objectively and know when to leave.

I want to pay particular credit to Doctor Jared Dart at Indooroopilly, who is one of Brisbane’s leading long COVID specialists; with fasting, medication and heat therapy, I’m getting to ease my joint stiffness, my muscle pain and control my extreme fatigue.

I think it’s fair to say that I have pushed boundaries in this job. I’ve tried to bring in the innovation of a start-up culture to a bureaucracy. Sometimes, the ideas have been a stellar success and occasionally Marxy has given me a gob full.

For what it’s worth, everything I’ve done has been to try and make my local part of Brisbane better. Thank you to the Council officers who have done whatever they can to help things get done in Walter Taylor. Particular mention to TPO (Transport Planning and Operations) officers Kevin, Matthew and Carl; CARS (Compliance and Regulatory Services) officers Nicholas, Morgan and Shane; Asset Services and PPI (Program Planning and Integration) Adrian, Carlie, Las and Shane the Viking.

We’ve spent a lot of time working together to make the local area better. I thank you for your commitment, your energy and enthusiasm. We’ve achieved a lot locally, including better road safety around schools, the planting of thousands of plants and trees, upgrading the local shops, improving our local clubs and facilities, constructing kilometres of footpaths, uplifting the local amenity with signs, gardens and art and much, much more.

The LORD MAYOR has been very understanding of the unique needs and pressures in Walter Taylor. I thank him for his commitment to Brisbane and for helping to deliver great upgrades in the western suburbs. Cris, Michael, Stephen, Jock, Mitch and Ruth have been particularly professional. I give them thanks for the work they do in the LMO (Lord Mayor’s Office).

Of course, I could name each and every one of Team Schrinner for their support over the last four years, but I’m not going to because we’ll be here forever. But I will give special mention to Hutto, the Colonel, Aunty Tracy, Vick and Marxy. Strong women who have always made time for me, no matter what.

Talking of strong women, I love the fact that our team is now dominated by females. The first government in Australia to achieve such a feat. No quotas, just bloody good people. I trust the new Councillor for Walter Taylor will fit that bill too, but let’s wait until it’s officially confirmed or I’ll get in trouble. It’s been a pleasure to help promote women in this team.

Finally, a big thanks to my girls, Kate and Harriet. This has been a demanding job, as everyone in this Chamber knows. It’s required me to be away nearly every night and most weekends. Your patience and understanding is something I can probably never repay. I guess now that I’m a full-time student, we can spend more time together. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to making Brisbane a better place.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks, Chair. For too long the LNP has ignored local, dangerous intersections. Recently, local residents contacted me about one, just one of several local intersections neglected by this Administration. They asked what is Council doing? The answer—this is Council’s answer, there’s no issue, nothing to see here.

To me that’s just not good enough. Hawthorne mum, Ashleigh, didn’t take no for an answer either. She decided to start a petition about Hawthorne and Barton Roads. I stood with Ashleigh and other members of the community at this intersection numerous times. Almost everyone had a story, near misses, actual accidents. What will it take for Council to do something about this?

I want to take the opportunity to read some words of locals, to make sure that their stories are heard here in City Hall. This is what Ashleigh had to say, “when I was a new mum, I walked my baby multiple times a day to try and get him to sleep. This intersection always made me nervous. To the point now, I avoid crossing there. My heart is always in my mouth after seeing so many near misses. I’m a grown up, so what about the kids who use this intersection every day to get to the local school up the road? Council said there was nothing wrong. I’d say 276 people say otherwise.”

That’s one story, here’s another, “I have lived overlooking this intersection for three years. There have been several accidents, including cars, pedestrians. Every day, horns going off, cars braking and, just last week, a near miss with a schoolchild. This is an ongoing occurrence, safety should be a high priority to Council.”

There’s so many more stories just like this and I hear them every single day. To the residents of Hawthorne, I will fight for you every single day. To this LNP Council Administration, what is it going to take for you to finally listen and act?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. I know that we’re running out of time, but it would be remiss of me not to add some comments to Councillor MACKAY’s valedictory speech, which was just beautiful. I just wanted to say to you James, it’s been a pleasure to serve alongside you in this Council as a colleague and now as a friend. I wanted to share with you some of the amazing commentary from the people in your ward about what has—what you’ve contributed.

They think that you are absolutely so passionate about your area and you work tirelessly. Some of the other comments have been—that you’ve been the king of communication, you’ve had such strong advocacy for road safety and, of course, five-minute Friday. Who can ever compete with five-minute Friday?

You have had some seriously wonderful ideas, you’ve been innovative and you’ve pushed the boundaries. We have really enjoyed you as part of the team and, of course, there are going to be some really big shoes to fill. We wish you all the very best in your recovery and also in spending some time with your beautiful girls.

I know this won’t be the end of your journey, but thank you for serving this city with such a big heart. We wish you all the very best.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON.

Further General Business?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: I’m just going to say something nice about James. All right, so look, Mr Chair, I just rise very briefly to make some comments about Councillor MACKAY. Look, Councillor MACKAY has left the room, but he has been a wonderful colleague and a wonderful servant of the people of Walter Taylor in particular.

Look, I can hear the Labor Councillors being particularly ungracious to a valedictorian Councillor as he leaves this place, but I think it’s necessary to recognise Councillor MACKAY’s commitment. As he said, he’s someone that has been known to many of us for many years. I actually first met him when I helped on his campaign when he was the candidate for the now non-existent seat of Mt Coot-tha.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: He found that that was a very difficult campaign for all candidates, as Councillor DAVIS would know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: But he remained committed to the western suburbs though things like the St Lucia Community Association, which he was President of for a long time. Did a lot of really good work there. You can see in his local commitment the steel signs across the suburbs that identify the place. The commitment to the small and the large, the sort of the small plants and the large pot plants, we’ll say.

But there’s one thing I’ll be grateful that I’ll be getting five minutes back every Friday, that’s always good. That’s one thing I’ll be looking forward to.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: But I look forward to the incoming Councillor keeping that commitment going. I have absolutely no doubt that Councillor MACKAY would have been comfortably returned, had he chosen to stay next year. His margin would have been in double figures, I have no doubt about that.

But the health concerns must come first and his family must come first. So, can we just—I just want to thank him, recognise his commitment, recognise his effort and wish him all the best in the future.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Further speakers?

Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Thank you. I rise to speak on two items of General Business. The first is to thank Councillor MACKAY for his gracious speech and maybe Councillor WINES should probably get some background information before he throws shade. The second item of General Business I’d like to speak about is the community survey that I currently have running in the Wynnum Manly Ward. It’s been running for a few weeks now, already had almost 300 pieces back from the community, which is all fantastic.

One of the biggest, most common responses I’ve had is what’s going in with the Lindum level crossing? Today, I have tried to get the LORD MAYOR to commit to not cutting funding on that. He refused to do that. So, I’m interested to see what Councillor ATWOOD thinks of that because this is bipartisan, this is supported by multiple levels of government. Yet, the LNP Council will not commit to not cutting funding to it, but Wynnum Manly can be rest assured that Labor will continue to advocate for the Lindum level crossing upgrade.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WHITMEE.

Are there any further items of General Business? I see no one rising to their feet.

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 Nicole Johnston (received on 11 October 2023)**

**Q1.** Please provide a list by suburb of the number of houses that have been acquired by Council or have been identified for acquisition as part of the flood buyback scheme being implemented in conjunction with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority?

**Q2.** Please provide a list of all playgrounds by park name and suburb listed for a future shade sail as part of the Sun Safe Suburban Playground project?

**Q3.** Please provide a list by suburb of the number of submitters to Council’s recent (August/September 2023) Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) public consultation process? Please rank by suburb from highest to lowest number of submitters and exclude suburbs with zero submitters.

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (received on 12 October 2023)**

**Q1.** Please advise the location, number and status of Speed Limit Reviews undertaken by Council including the outcomes in the following table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Location/Address | Status (eg complete, ongoing) | Outcome (eg no change, speed reduction from 60km – 50km) |
| 2023 |  |  |  |
| 2022 |  |  |  |
| 2021 |  |  |  |

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (received on 12 October 2023)**

1. How many FTE are employed as pool compliance officers?
2. How many people are currently working in the South Regional Business Centre based in Tennyson?
3. How many FTE can the South Regional Business Centre based in Tennyson accommodate?
4. Please provide a breakdown of all advertising to promote BrisBetter as per the below table:

| **Channel** | **2022-2023 FY** | **2023-2024 FYTD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TV Advertising |  |  |
| Online Advertising |  |  |
| Social Media: |  |  |
| -Facebook |  |  |
| -Instagram etc. |  |  |
| Influencers |  |  |
| Performance Marketing |  |  |
| Print Advertising |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |  |
| BVOD |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

1. Please provide a detailed breakdown of how much Brisbane City Council spent on advertising in the 2023-2024 financial year to date, broken down by the various categories of advertising (eg television & BVOD, billboards, radio, social/digital, influencers, print etc).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Channel** | **2023-2024 FYTD** |
| TV advertising |  |
| Online advertising |  |
| Social media |  |
| Influencers |  |
| Performance marketing |  |
| Print advertising |  |
| Radio |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |
| BVOD |  |
| Other |  |

1. How much has been spent to date on advertising for the Brisbane App, broken down as per table below?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Channel** | **2023-2024 FYTD** |
| TV Advertising |  |
| Online Advertising |  |
| Payments to Social Media Influencers |  |
| Print Advertising |  |
| Radio |  |
| Outdoor Advertising |  |
| Cinema |  |
| BVOD |  |

1. Provide the total amount of revenue from e-scooter providers for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to date.
2. How many buses are in the BCC fleet? List the year of service commencement for each.
3. Where, and for what purposes are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags flown on Council assets or land?
4. Where, and for what purposes are the Pride and other flags of the LGBTQIA+ community flown on Council assets or land?
5. Do Councillors need to submit a report or any documentation outlining the details of their overseas travel on their return, such as receipts, daily logs etc? And if not, why not?
6. How many contracts / discrete pieces of work does Council have with RMS Brisbane, and what is the value of each contract / piece of work?
7. For each financial year the Brisbetter advertising campaign has run, what is the total cost spent on the advertising campaign specifically (itemised eg. Facebook, Bus Shelters, Billboards, Print, etc) – FY 19/20; 20/21; 21/22; 22/23; 23/24 to date?
8. What is the cost for any campaigning / lobbying Brisbane City Council or BEDA undertook to secure the Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors’ Forum in Brisbane?
9. How many complaints have been made to the Contact Centre re:
   1. Bins not being collected due to garbage trucks not being able to access bins;
   2. Damage to parked cars caused by garbage trucks;
   3. If this data is not collected, why not? Please provide business justification as to why these complaints are not addressed and quantified.
10. What is Brisbane City Council’s financial contribution to the Brisbane Emergency Services Expo?
11. Since the announcement of the Housing Supply Action Plan by the Lord Mayor on 31 August how many infrastructure fee waivers have been granted since, and in which category?
12. As at today, how many rate payers have opted to receive their rates bill electronically?
13. What is the timeframe in which wholly-owned subsidiaries of Brisbane City Council need to have annual reports / financial statements available online (after EOFY)?
14. How many responses were received (by residents and businesses separately) to the consultation on the Wynnum and Banyo Town Centre Precincts as part of the Growing Precincts Together program?
15. How many responses were received to the consultation on the Short-Stay Accommodation Taskforce survey?
16. What advertising / marketing / awareness campaigns have Brisbane City Council run to encourage people to sign up to the Severe Weather Alert System since the February 2022 Severe Weather Event?
17. How many complaints have been received by the Contact Centre regarding injuries received by children at Bradbury Park since it’s opened?
18. What is the timeframe of the special feasibility study announced as part of the 2023/24 budget into a battery-powered vessel (EV Cat)?
19. When will the sports court announced on 13 April as part of Mirvac’s development of the Turbot Street Underpass be completed?
20. What was the total number of Brisbane residents who had accessed the compost rebate program at 12 March 2023, and what is the total number now?
21. Which suburbs received the Lord Mayor’s Summer Newsletter in February 2023?
22. Please provide a list of all overseas trips taken by Councillors on Council business, including the dates, reason, any guests/colleagues accompanying the Councillor using BCC funding, and total amount spent by Brisbane City Council to facilitate each trip since 2016.
23. How many subscribers are there currently using the Brisbane Severe Weather alert service?
24. Please list the locations that council will install shade under the Sun-safe Suburban Playgrounds program in the 2023/24 financial year.
25. Please list the locations that council will install shade under the Sun-safe Suburban Playgrounds program in the 2024/25 financial year.
26. As per Answer to Question on Notice in Agenda of 12 September 2023, why does Brisbane City Council not record incidences of needle stick injuries occurring on its parks, playgrounds or other facilities?

## 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 12 September 2023)**

**Q1.** Please provide a list of all job currently sitting with the construction team, including the date in which they were added to the list and addresses.

***A1.*** *Council officers have advised this data is not readily available and is unable to be provided as it would require multiple officers to be redirected from their day job for multiple days to provide a response.*

**Q2.** Please provide a list of all jobs currently sitting with the construction team that have been assigned to asphalt and aggregate.

***A2.*** *Nil. The construction team doesn’t assign jobs to asphalt and aggregate.*

**Q3.** Please advise how many rate payers have paid the administration fee for new or transferred premises broken down by rating category during 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 financial years.

***A3.***

| ***Category*** | ***21/22*** | ***22/23*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | *14,943* | *11,383* |
| *3* | *19* | *7* |
| *4* | *369* | *221* |
| *7* | *6,213* | *4,100* |
| *10* | *11,292* | *9,447* |
| *12* | *22* | *35* |
| *13* | *66* | *29* |
| *14* | *7,907* | *5,931* |
| *15* | *49* | *73* |
| *16* | *180* | *183* |
| *17* | *215* | *229* |
| *23* | *0* | *11* |
| *24* | *0* | *28* |
| *11A* | *661* | *571* |
| *21A* | *6* | *1* |
| *21B* | *0* | *1* |
| *21C* | *0* | *3* |
| *21E* | *0* | *1* |
| *21G* | *0* | *1* |
| *22A* | *3* | *4* |
| *22B* | *1* | *0* |
| *22C* | *2* | *0* |
| *22D* | *1* | *0* |
| *2A* | *788* | *573* |
| *2L* | *27* | *30* |
| *5A* | *5* | *9* |
| *5B* | *1* | *0* |
| *5C* | *1* | *0* |
| *5D* | *2* | *3* |
| *5E* | *1* | *2* |
| *5F* | *2* | *0* |
| *5H* | *0* | *1* |
| *5S* | *1* | *1* |
| *5U* | *0* | *1* |
| *5V* | *1* | *0* |
| *5W* | *3* | *2* |
| *5X* | *0* | *2* |
| *5Y* | *0* | *1* |
| *5Z* | *1* | *1* |
| *8I* | *1* | *0* |
| *(blank)* | *171* | *110* |

*Note: figures in the (blank) row are either accounts that have subsequently been closed, or sundry accounts that don’t have a rating category.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 6.06pm.**

**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)