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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4732 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 30 April 2024**

**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 Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge) – 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)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Julia DIXON (Hamilton)  Alex GIVNEY (Wynnum Manly)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor) (Deputy Chair  of Council)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Danita PARRY (Marchant)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera)  Penny WOLFF (Walter Taylor) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Lucy COLLIER (Morningside) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)  Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)  Emily KIM (Calamvale)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillors (and Wards)**  Seal CHONG WAH (Paddington)  Trina MASSEY (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, 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.

## APOLOGIES:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

Confirmation of minutes, please.

## MINUTES:

**443/2023-24**

The Minutes of the 4731 meeting of Council held on 23 April 2024, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair: I would like to call on Mr Peter Poulsen, who will address the Chamber on flash flooding in Orient Road Park, Yeronga. Please proceed, Mr Poulsen. You have five minutes.

**Mr Peter Poulsen – Flash Flooding in Orient Road Park, Yeronga**

Mr Peter Poulsen: Madam Chair, LORD MAYOR and Councillors, I really appreciate the opportunity to come and speak to you today about a flood report that I’ve submitted for Orient Park, Yeronga. We’ve had issues there with flash flooding for many years. The problem has been, in 2002-03, one of the landowners filled in the main waterway and we have had problems ever since.

Orient Park is about 25,000 square metres and it’s the main waterway to the river for the western catchment in Yeronga. It covers about 80 hectares. What’s happening is, in real heavy rain, the water backs up and it can’t get away through the steel pipes that the owner at 133 Hyde Road has fitted. They’re two 1,200‑millimetre steel pipes. They should have been 1,800s at least, like they are under The Corso. That acts as a choking effect, plus they fill the block about four metres. Now, this was all done between 2002‑03, no approvals whatsoever. Now, we’re at a stage where the community is sort of renewing. There’s a lot of young people there with kids. It’s a great community.

There’s water held, trapped in Orient Park about a metre deep all year round. Because of the blockages that are there now and the way these pipes have been constructed, if we had a rain event like Bray Park, we would be in serious trouble. I have a mate of mine, Bruce McNaughton, who’s a local civil engineer, retired civil engineer and he’s done a mountain of work and he’s just been a terrific campaigner for the area. It doesn’t even affect him, but he just feels that concerned about it that something should be done.

We’ve had a lot of correspondence with the LORD MAYOR’s office through our Councillor and different things like that, but I’m starting to see now, the problem is going to be, these are two private properties that the blockages are on. There is some conjecture whether the Council can actually do too much at all. There are blockages on the east side of 133 that are probably a metre high. They’re on Crown land. This was investigated by the Council, I think Councillor Abrahams in 2006 and no action was taken because they didn’t have enough information or enough evidence to proceed with prosecution, yet Bruce and I have an RTI (right to information) which shows the owner of the property admitted he filled it in and did it without approval.

So, it’s a bit hard now to go back 20 years, I know, but I just think houses in our area are $1 million plus and I just feel that people deserve their properties to be protected. I don’t think it’s a lot to ask. I know it’s difficult. Bruce and I would be more than happy to help you. We’ve got—we’d have more information on—Bruce has done a chronology of the last 30 years of the entire area, so we’d have more than the State Library. The thing is, we just keep going nowhere with all these different departments. We just get passed around. One thing has gone from one department, the next it went to four different departments and we come back to where we started. That took a year.

I believe, LORD MAYOR, that you’re an honest man. I believe that and I remember your acceptance speech that you put up that Brisbane was your universe. Well, there’s a lot of young people with young families. I saw the passion in your face that night and I see that same passion in the people in our area. I think they deserve—I’m really not affected. You know, I’m a builder. If my house floods, I’ll fix it up. I’m the last of five generations in my family to live in the area and I think we can do better.

So, you know, I’m here today and I really appreciate—I first applied to come here in 2014. That’s how passionate I am about it. I didn’t get a guernsey then, but to get one today, I think it’s an honour. I think that we’ve got to look into this. I was down at 133 the other day with one of your inspectors and I said, this rock wall is going to collapse and that’s what’s going to happen. These walls are going to collapse and it’ll flood worse, because it’ll block the whole waterway. Wesley said to me, I’m surprised it hasn’t collapsed already. Then, the owner’s representative came down and he wasn’t happy.

Chair: Sorry, Mr Poulsen.

Mr Peter Poulsen: That was it.

Chair: Thank you.

Mr Peter Poulsen: Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Mr Poulsen and I’m going to call on Councillor WINES, Chair of Infrastructure. Would you care to respond?

**Response by Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee**

Councillor WINES: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair and can I thank Mr Poulsen for your time to come and speak with us today. We really appreciate the effort you have gone to and your presentation and to provide us with this report. As you rightly acknowledge, flooding is a concern in our city, not only in the Yeronga area, but for many communities. Many districts were hit particularly badly in the recent flooding. As such, we take these issues, both flooding generally and also flooding specifically in communities, very seriously and we recognise the impacts on lower-lying areas in suburbs such as yours.

While many of the districts face increasingly severe weather as part of our climate change and also the fact that Brisbane resides on a flood plain. One of the great challenges of a city like ours is finding the balance between ensuring that there is sustainable and reasonable growth in inner city areas while managing the best possible ways to support that growth with adequate infrastructure that’s needed to impact those who are currently resident in those communities. Please note that it’s always the intention of this Council to get the best possible outcome for residents and your concerns have been taken onboard seriously.

Listening to your speech earlier, this has been a long running concern of yours and I appreciate some of the identities you spoke about have not been members of this Council for quite some time. We also recognise that the approvals for this project predate most of the Councillors here, if not all of them and so that has been one of the major issues, that there is a historical approval that predates many of—or, I should say, all of us here. We have reviewed the application and reviewed the site and there are ongoing reviews, as you identified. Following some of these reviews, particularly the earliest one, Council’s Compliance and Regulatory Services (CARS) branch have conducted investigations into the steel pipes in an attempt to assist the water flow following complaints after their installation.

We are always interested in determining whether the outcomes of these changes have affected residents elsewhere. We are grateful for your new report and we uphold high standards for rigorous development assessments and planning processes on all applications. Can I assure you, they are much more rigorous now than they were 20 years ago. I appreciate this report and we all do and we’d like to thank you for taking the time and effort to make it, the time and effort to come and present to us today. I will make this undertaking to you, that this will be properly considered and investigated and that we will have compliance officers and the City Legal team review this again and to see what actions can be taken.

I think it’s only appropriate and fair that the effort you have gone to be recognised by our organisation. Can I thank you for your time, recognise your ongoing concerns and we’ll hope to be in contact soon with further information in regards to this. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Mr Peter Poulsen: Thank you very much to you all and one other thing, if I may. You’ve got a monumental task in front of you, this Council, with the next term with the Olympics and I just wish you all the best.

Chair: Thank you, Mr Poulsen and thank you for coming in today.

There is a copy of the report there at the front for Councillors, so thank you.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Question Time. Are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or a Civic Cabinet Chair of any of the Standing Committees?

Councillor DIXON.

**Question 1**

Councillor DIXON: My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, last week’s news that Pinkenba will be used as a training facility instead of crisis accommodation is a bitter blow for those sleeping rough. Can you please update the Chamber on the history of Pinkenba, including how it would have helped address Queensland’s housing crisis?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Councillor DIXON. Obviously, we all would have seen the news just recently that the Federally-owned-and-built Pinkenba quarantine facility will not be used for crisis accommodation but will instead be used for Federal Police training. Obviously, something my team feels bitterly disappointed and let down by and I assume that the State Government also feels disappointed and let down by. It was June last year that we made a commitment that we would put money on the table to help activate and make modifications to that facility, to make it more suitable to house people. Following that announcement, the State Government then committed $10 million for that same purpose.

While, obviously, it’s been a long time since then and there’s been frustration with the delay, we had all assumed and sought assurances that things were still progressing. I still, until just a few days ago, had the hope that it would happen and that we would see 500 beds activated for people that need them. Now, I’m very aware that this facility was not built as crisis accommodation. It was built for a different purpose. I’m also aware that, not only are people sleeping tents that were not built for long-term accommodation, they’re sleeping in cars that were not designed to have people sleeping in them. Also, the State Government has people housed in hotels, not flash hotels, very old, rundown hotels with no kitchen facilities in the room. In fact, I would suggest that many of the hotels that people are being housed in at the moment are substandard compared to the Pinkenba accommodation, which is brand new.

I, together with Councillor HOWARD, have been inside the facility. I’ve been inside the rooms and they are very modern, they are soundproof, they are air conditioned and they are certainly better than sleeping in tents and cars and, I would suggest, better than some of the hotels that people are being housed in, as well. So, for me, it wasn’t the perfect option, but it was an option. We also have a situation where the State Government is celebrating the construction of 12 homes. The most recent media statement from the Minister for Housing about a new housing project, great news, we built 12 new homes. Well, there are 500 beds here that can be activated. So, if they’re celebrating 12 homes, then we should celebrate and take advantage of 500 beds that can be activated.

It is deeply disappointing. This suggestion came out of a meeting that I had with an organisation called Mangrove Housing, otherwise known as the Forgotten Women. It was discussed at that meeting. It was then floated publicly. Some people thought it was a good idea, some people didn’t think it was a good idea, but progressively over time, as people have become more and more frustrated as the situation continues to get worse, more and more people have come onboard, including major organisations like the Salvation Army, like Q Shelter, who wanted to be involved in helping the government run this facility.

So, when I heard the news, like so many people, I was deeply disappointed and demoralised, because the reality is, the solutions that are being put forward now, I don’t see any that can, in a short period of time, provide 500 beds. There is nothing like that scale that’s available anywhere else. You can buy hotels here and there, you can build 12 houses, but there’s nothing like that scale that can be activated in a relatively short period of time. We obviously will continue calling on the Federal Government to review this decision. Yes, I’m sure the Federal Police need a training facility, but people need houses. They need roofs over their heads. They need beds more urgently.

We again call on the Federal Government to reconsider this decision so that we can get the State Labor Government, the Federal Labor Government working together for the benefit of the people who desperately need it, people who are in dire straits and will be grateful to have a roof over their head, even if it is close to the airport, even if it is away from many facilities. It is the feedback that we have heard that there are many, many people out there that would appreciate this facility. We continue to support its activation as crisis accommodation.

Chair: Thank you.

Are there any further questions?

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks, Chair. My question is to the Chair of City Standards, Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

What real-time data has been provided to the general public for the reporting of broken footpaths, playground and park equipment, including the plan for their repair works?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair and I thank the Councillor for the question. The real‑time data piece, I will actually have to take on notice and come back to you, but I would like to acknowledge that our Council teams are working very, very hard to ensure the safety of our footpaths. We do that on a—if there is a report that is put forward by the public with a broken footpath that is dangerous, we get out there ASAP to fix that broken footpath as quickly as possible. Safety is paramount for our city and we really want to ensure that our Brisbane residents are cared for in this way, but I will return to the question. I will provide that answer to you later.

Chair: Thank you. Are there any further questions?

Councillor WOLFF.

**Question 3**

Councillor WOLFF: My question is to the Chair of City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN, a recent announcement by the Queensland Government showcased their new approval timeframes to build new homes. Can you please update the Chamber on this announcement, including any other timeframes you are aware of?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you, Councillor WOLFF, for the question. Earlier this month, the State Government passed the Housing Availability and Affordability Bill. Whilst the Bill has been passed, in true Labor fashion, a number of amendments to the Planning Regulation, *Minister’s Guidelines and Rules* and *Development Assessment Rules* are only now being released and consulted on. According to the State, the Bill will support more homes being built faster through a new pathway, the State-facilitated development team, who will fast track the assessment of development applications for infill developments that deliver diverse and affordable housing.

The Labor Housing Minister wants developers and residents to believe that this new screen blind program will cut approval times down to just 75 days. However, they failed to mention this so-called fast track team will assess these State‑facilitated development applications within a minimum of 75 days. Let me repeat that. Within a minimum of 75 days, that’s 15 working weeks.

Madam Chair, I understand why Labor would believe that 75 days seems like a short timeframe. You only have to reflect on other planning amendments that Council has sent to the State, either for adoption or for approval to commence consultation. It took the State 218 business days to support the commencement of consultation on the Nathan, Salisbury, Moorooka neighbourhood plan. It took the State 286 business days to support commencement of consultation on the qualified State interest amendment, local heritage places. This is meant to be a streamlined amendment process that is more efficient due to the limited State Interest Review.

Madam Chair, do I even need to mention Pinkenba which, as the LORD MAYOR has indicated, took more than 640 days to elicit a response? These timeframes are, frankly, not good enough. It is, however, encouraging to see the State, through their South East Queensland Regional Plan, delivered in just December last year, committing to streamlining planning scheme amendments as a priority action.

Madam Chair, I do not want our Opposition Councillors to be confused. We are very keen to work with the State Government to streamline amendment and approval processes. While we are keen to improve these pathways in a bid to support more housing, the reality is that the Opposition in this Chamber continually impede progress on housing. Both the Greens and Labor stand up in this very Chamber and talk about how housing is a priority.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, you’ve been here long enough.

Excuse me, Councillor COLLIER. You do not call out across the Chamber, particularly while another Councillor is speaking.

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Both the Greens and Labor stand up in this very Chamber and talk about how housing is a priority, but their actions impede housing.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Their actions impede housing and their understanding of the factors impacting the market is abysmal. Time and time again, they have not supported neighbourhood plans within this Chamber. They haven’t supported planning scheme amendments and they haven’t supported incentives that are aimed at bolstering housing in this city. Since 2016, the Greens-Labor coalition of chaos, through their failure to support neighbourhood plans, has put at risk the provision of 30,000 new dwellings, but they do like to redirect the blame to this side of the Chamber.

So, Madam Chair, what are we doing? On average, assessment timeframes for code assessable development applications in Council is 51 business days. This average timeframe was over 2,000 applications over a year. We are certainly performing well in this particular metric. How does this fare in comparison to other capital cities? Brisbane processes development applications 38% faster than Sydney or Melbourne. Our Development Services team is experienced and agile and we often implement dedicated teams to focus on key development approvals.

During COVID, we implemented the House and Homes priority service to stimulate new building and construction. This service prioritised and assessed all small-scale domestic code assessable applications. We set 20 business day KPIs and the team was highly successful, with an average timeframe of 16 business days. Currently, the special assessment unit is focused on supporting developments that meet the build-to-rent and housing supply incentives. Both these incentives focus on supporting the construction of more housing sooner.

Madam Chair, the Schrinner Council will continue to plan for our rapidly growing city in a deliberate and sustainable manner. Thank you.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 4**

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks, Chair. I have a question and my question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair for City Standards, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON, today you revealed in the E&C (Establishment and Coordination) report that Council will reduce the supply and delivery of concrete for basic maintenance by 20% over the next two years. My question is, why do you support plans for less footpath and drainage repairs and for hardworking Council staff to lose their jobs as a result of your LNP Council’s cuts to basic maintenance?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair and I would like to thank the Opposition Leader for the question. Let’s address the facts. Under this Administration, we consistently exceed Labor’s spending on footpaths year after year. Footpath maintenance and reconstruction are prioritised on a needs basis and safety being the number one concern.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: Our suburbs are a fantastic place to live, work and relax and ensuring they are walkable, connected and accessible is a crucial part of why we continue to invest in maintenance schedules here. With 5,000 kilometres of footpath across the city, Council relies on the eyes and ears of our residents and local Councillors to report damaged footpaths to us, in addition to Council’s inspection and regular maintenance work.

To put this into context, if we measured all of the footpaths in Brisbane, they would stretch the entire width of Australia and we’d still have 1,000 kilometres left to travel to Sydney. Our dedicated Council employees work tirelessly to build and reconstruct footpaths and they do an excellent job. We have crews out on the ground every day across our city, carrying out make-safe works where needed and logging them for future repairs. If anyone comes across a footpath that isn’t safe, they should report it to Council immediately.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, just on relevance. I agree with absolutely everything Councillor HUTTON is saying, but she’s not answering the question. It was why is she supporting a 20% cut in funding for basic maintenance?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. She is trying to answer the question and she still has several minutes.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. It’s unfortunate that the Opposition continues to play politics with the essential Council services that we have. The safety of residents is the Council’s highest priority and that’s why this Administration has, year on year, committed to record investment in footpath infrastructure and maintenance. We are committed to ensuring that our safety and accessibility of our footpaths for Brisbane residents remains.

Chair: Are there any further questions?

Councillor DIXON.

**Question 5**

Councillor DIXON: My question is to the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability (EPS) Committee, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS, the Schrinner Council continues to roll out our plans to make Brisbane the koala capital of the country. Can you please update the Chamber on this morning’s announcement to helping achieve this goal?

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Well, thank you, Madam Chair and through you, I’d like to thank Councillor DIXON for the question. Madam Chair, as you know, we take great pride in Brisbane being the most biodiverse capital city in Australia. Our proximity to nature and the opportunity to experience iconic species like the koala in our very own backyards is something that the residents love about Brisbane, because there’s nothing else like it in the world. That’s why we’ve teamed up with the leading experts from Queensland universities to deliver the Koala Research Partnerships program and now the Koala Recovery and Resilience Project, which the LORD MAYOR announced earlier this year.

The project demonstrates our commitment to leading the way on koala conservation by taking a proactive approach to boost the population and distribution of this iconic species across Brisbane. This involves not just monitoring and maintaining existing koala populations, but actively reintroducing koalas to areas of Brisbane where they are no longer found. Through our partnership with the University of Queensland (UQ), we have undertaken the first successful reestablishment of koala population at Pooh Corner in Wacol and I know that the local Councillor is very excited about that project.

Several years ago, we undertook a citywide survey of koalas using specially trained detection dogs and one of the things we realised is that we have a number of reserves, including Pooh Corner and Wacol Bushlands reserve, where there was really a high-quality koala habitat, but no koalas were present there. We partnered with the leading experts at the University of Queensland to reestablish koalas in Wacol with our first release in late 2022.

I’m pleased to report that the Pooh Corner population is thriving. Just last month, Olive, one of our koalas there released into the reserve, gave birth to a healthy baby joey. Earlier this morning, we welcomed another koala to his new home at Pooh Corner. Two-year-old Adam has become the newest release into the reserve, following extensive treatment for chlamydia and kidney problems at the Moggill Koala—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: —Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre and thanks to the fantastic care of the veterinary team at Moggill who’ve worked hand in glove with Council and the experts at UQ, young Adam now has a fresh start at Pooh Corner. Adam joins Matilda, Carrie, Lady Jane, Glenda, Chandler, Heaven, Attie, Oscar and Olive’s yet-unnamed baby joey in calling Pooh Corner home. As well as being new to the reserve, Adam is actually a new Brisbane resident, having originally been found in Logan. Like all people, once coming to Brisbane, it’s very hard to leave. His health challenges were quite significant, so it was determined by the veterinary staff at Moggill that keeping him close by at Wacol was in fact the best option for him.

Before his release, Adam was fitted with a tracking collar which will now allow the team at UQ to closely monitor his movements and help them check up on him to ensure that he stays happy and healthy. While Adam will hopefully call Pooh Corner home for many years to come, we’re also busy looking for more opportunities to expand this program. A big part of protecting Brisbane’s koala population is ensuring we have adequate habitat for our furry and sometimes a little fussy-eating friends.

While we continue to welcome new koalas like Adam to Pooh Corner, we’ll also be working with the team at UQ to identify other sites which could be suitable for koala reintroductions. So, thanks to the initiatives like the Bushland Acquisition Program and our Target 40 commitment, there’s now more opportunity to boost populations and distribution of koalas across the city. The work is in its early stages, but based on the initial assessment, there are several sites that are looking very promising, including Mt Coot-tha Reserve, Marstaeller Road Reserve, Karawatha Forest and Bayside Parklands.

As part of that, we are also supporting the rollout of a brand-new chlamydia vaccine, developed right here in Brisbane by Professor Ken Beagley at QUT (Queensland University of Technology). The Council has committed $150,000 to fund the vaccine’s registration so that it can be used in a widespread scale by any registered veterinarian. The vaccine has been proven very safe and effective and in trials on both captive and wild koalas, it returned a 100% success rate. So, as part of our recovery and resilience project, all koalas going through the reintroduction program will be vaccinated by experts from UQ using the vaccine developed at QUT.

Madam Chair, this has been a real team effort and demonstrates the Schrinner Council’s commitment to the protection of koalas and while there’s lots more work to do, I look forward to sharing updates on young Adam and his new family at Pooh Corner very, very soon. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Are there any further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 6**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chairperson for City Standards, Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON, how many staff has Council currently allocated within the PPI (Program Planning and Integration)—program, planning and implementation—area of Council to repair footpaths, parks and playgrounds?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair and I’d like to thank the Councillor for the question. I think I’m in the hot seat today. People know where I am now, which is fantastic.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: Unfortunately, I don’t have those details on hand, so I will come back to you. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON.

Further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 7**

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Chair and whilst Councillor HUTTON is in the hot chair, let me add to you. My question is to the Chair of the City Standards Committee, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON, Brisbane’s outdoor lifestyle gives us the opportunity to make our city even better. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest initiative helping to boost Brisbane’s lifestyle?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Councillor ATWOOD. I know you are a big supporter of our street art wall program and it is going from strength to strength.

Madam Chair, Brisbane boasts the title of Australia’s lifestyle capital and our street art wall program epitomises our commitment to fostering our city’s vibrant culture while providing a platform for artists to refine their craft freely.

Just last week, the LORD MAYOR unveiled the latest addition to the program at Paddington Skatepark. It has many locations where these budding artists can showcase their talents, but starting from mid-May, the Paddington Skatepark will also become the inaugural site to feature a purpose-built tri-wall. This innovative design consists of three 2.4-metre-square panels offering artists the opportunity to create larger-scale murals for the community to enjoy. The Paddington Skatepark holds a rich legacy within Brisbane’s graffiti community, serving as a canvas where budding artists like Drapl and Sofles initially crossed paths and admired each other’s work. From these humble beginnings, both artists have ascended to international acclaim, securing commissions across the globe. Their journey traces back to the vibrant walls of Paddington Skatepark, where their talents were first nurtured and celebrated, marking a pivotal chapter in their artistic evolution.

The artwork created by Tervo and his team for the grand opening of this Paddington site is truly exceptional. Despite the challenges posed by the rain in the days preceding the event, their dedication and meticulous planning shone through in every spray and detail. I must also highlight the remarkable El Schrindog piece, a standout addition to the unveiling. The opening also saw the honour bestowed upon Tervo by the LORD MAYOR, presenting him with the inaugural street art Keys to the City, underscoring the significance of his contributions. Tervo’s vision has been instrumental in establishing the very first legal street art wall, serving as a beacon for aspiring artists. His unwavering passion for this program reflects his belief in the potential to cultivate and showcase world-class talent, thus shaping the future of urban artistry.

As rightly pointed out by Councillor ATWOOD, Brisbane’s outdoor lifestyle presents us with the chance to enhance our city even further and the street art program is a fantastic initiative to elevate our outdoor spaces. Street art walls serve as a safe haven for both emerging and established street artists to unleash their creativity while also fostering a culture of learning and collaboration within the broader community. The success of the first street art wall at Ekibin Park in Greenslopes, launched in January 2023, is evident with budding and established artists heading to the site to push their styles, practise their techniques and develop in an artistically safe environment. It is great to see that this wisdom is being passed down to an eager next generation of Brisbane artists and muralists that are ready to be recognised on the global stage.

In January of this year, we also introduced a new site at Tingalpa Spillway, at the Stanton Road, West Tingalpa or more commonly known as the Tingalpa Spillway, within Councillor ATWOOD’s ward. Artist Fintan Magee, who has been painting at this site while growing up, has recently moved back to Brisbane from overseas. He said, to many, this is the grey spillway under the gateway. To us, the artists, this has the potential to launch an artist’s career, not only locally, but onto the world stage. Fintan’s earlier, large-scale paintings often inhabited the isolated, abandoned and broken corners of the city and today are found all over the world, including London, Vienna, Los Angeles, Moscow and Rome.

I love that, Madam Chair, because this demonstrates how much impact these sites have in increasing the liveability of our suburbs, by seeing amazing mural and art in our community spaces, but also how we’re fostering that next generation of artists.

I want to quickly talk about two Brisbane local artists, Guido and Gus, who are incredibly talented and are doing amazing work in this space. Guido van Helten is renowned for his photorealistic murals and has pioneered the silo art trail in rural towns. These silo and water tower murals are driving the economy in some of these rural communities. I’ve had a look at some of the artwork, Madam Chair and it is truly exceptional. Guido has commissioned artwork not only in Australia, but in Italy, Jordan, Poland, the United States, India—

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

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 8**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, my question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, it’s six months since you committed to ensure that the Venner Road resurfacing project that you announced in the budget in June would be delivered this year. There’s only two months of the year left. It’s almost five years since Geoff Copland was killed and Council has taken no action to address how dangerous and degraded Venner Road is. It is in appalling condition. Will you commit again today, as you did six months ago, to ensure that Venner Road is resurfaced, as you promised in the budget in June last year?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: One of the things that I strenuously object to is any kind of linking of that tragic accident and the surface of the road, because there was a thorough investigation done into that accident and it was a driver that was drugged up at the time. You don’t blame the road when that happens. It was a tragedy and it should never have happened, but to try and make some political points out of this and suggest that resurfacing the road would change that is actually really disappointing. So, we’ll continue delivering upgraded and resurfaced roads. I’ll see if I can provide a more detailed timing of the Venner Road project, but obviously, it was one that we included in the budget. At this point in time, linking those two things together is completely inappropriate.

So, we will continue resurfacing roads as part of our ongoing program and we did fund the Venner Road project in the budget. I will endeavour to get an update on the timing of that project, but certainly, we are committed to resurfacing Venner Road. Exactly which month it will happen, I don’t have at hand to me right now. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further questions?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Councillor—me?

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN.

**Question 9**

Councillor ADERMANN: Thank you. Yes, thank you, Chair.

My question is to the Chair of the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee.

DEPUTY MAYOR, recent data indicates tourist numbers to Brisbane reached a recent all-time high. Can you please update the Chamber on these stats, including Brisbane’s visitor economy?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you, Councillor ADERMANN, because you are right, Brisbane tourism is booming and the latest data showing that visitors from across Australia and the world spent over $10 billion in our city last year. This is great news for our local economy, with tourism supporting local jobs and businesses, including our hotels, tourism operators, cafés and restaurants right across the city. For the year ending 2023, both domestic and international visitation to Brisbane hit new heights. Post‑COVID domestic tourism was quick to recover and continues to soar, with 7.3 million Australian travellers injecting a record-breaking $7.2 million dollars into Brisbane in 2023, up 14% year on year.

Our popularity with southern states is also stronger than ever, with record numbers of visitors from Melbourne up nearly 9.5% year on year to 654,000, as well as an increase in visitors from Sydney up 10.3% to 940,000. Of course, we’re not surprised because Brisbane cements its place as the destination for choice for holidaymakers. We are setting the pace and we’re excited to see this trend really gaining momentum.

On the international front, we’re seeing promising signs of growth back to pre‑COVID levels. International travellers flocking back to Brisbane have driven record-breaking visitor spend in the city. When I say in the city, I mean right across Brisbane, not the class warfare we hear from the Opposition of just in the CBD. Right across the city, we are seeing the data showing the spend from our 2023 international visitors at $2.9 billion, up nearly two per cent from 2019. While overall international numbers still have some way to fully recover, the average level of stay for visitors has also increased by three nights, now sitting at just over 20 nights with a record number of nights for travellers visiting friends and family, up 21% from 2019 to 9.5 million.

That has been a major focus we’ve had in BEDA (Brisbane Economic Development Agency), to keep those families and friends staying here in the city and spending in Brisbane. New Zealand, the UK and the USA are the largest numbers of international visitors to Brisbane, while the number of visitors from countries including Canada, India and Thailand also hit all-time highs. Fantastic news, as I said, for our economy and also wonderful to see residents welcoming their loved ones back to Brisbane to spend time together.

Not only did we see record spending, but international visitors are also enjoying longer stays in Brisbane because, of course, there’s more to see and do here than ever before. We are now renowned as Australia’s lifestyle capital, world‑renowned, in fact, as reported by *Time* magazine, the *New York Times* and *Travel Bible,* Frommer’s as a must-visit destination, from riverside precincts like Howard Smith Wharves and South Bank to world-class dining, stunning natural surrounds and an abundance of free and affordable events right across our city. We have Australia’s best restaurant, Agnes, the best hotel, the Calile, not to mention international blockbuster sports events like FIFA Women’s World Cup, Brisbane’s Cycling Festival wrapping up just last weekend and the NRL Magic Round coming up in May.

Another key driver to attracting our visitors to Brisbane has been what we call bleisure travel, so mixing business with leisure. This is in no small part to the competitive business events calendar we continue to drive through Brisbane’s economic development agency. Hundreds of thousands of delegates are set to hit Brisbane this year, travelling from across Australia and around the world, filling our hotels and restaurants while boosting our city’s reputation as a global business events destination.

Last year, business events in Brisbane delivered $90 million in economic activity for the city and this year, it’s looking at close to $95 million. Many of our conferences which are scheduled are from the health and science realm, no surprise when you learn that Brisbane has one of the largest hospital and healthcare clusters in the southern hemisphere and is home now to more than 100 health and biotech facilities.

As our city continues to secure high-profile events, we’ll continue to better our hotels, venues and lifestyle offerings to match. We’re also supporting the return of these events and ensuring our international visitors continue to grow through new and expanded aviation routes to Brisbane from key markets, so more visitors from around the world can enjoy the best of Brisbane. These events inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy, attracting visitors from across Australia and the world, making Brisbane an even better place to work, visit and invest.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 10**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair.

My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair for City Standards, Councillor HUTTON.

This is a very simple and easy one. I’m sure you’ll have these figures at your fingertips. How many footpath repair jobs are currently outstanding across Brisbane?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you to Councillor CASSIDY for the question. Again, the Opposition love to play politics with the everyday services of Council. It’s interesting that you’re bringing up what you would consider the footpaths that have not been repaired. At the moment, our teams are going through those processes and are reviewing the way that they are managing those programs, so I will come back to you in time with those details. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON.

Further questions?

Councillor PARRY.

**Question 11**

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My question is to the Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD, supporting Brisbane’s creative sector is a key part of our plan to make Brisbane’s lifestyle even better. Can you please update the Chamber on the Schrinner Council’s latest investment in the arts?

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Madam Chair and through you, I thank Councillor PARRY for the question because, of course, I’m always very happy to talk about the community and the arts of our beautiful city of Brisbane. The Schrinner Council has long supported the promotion and development of the arts and arts workers to ensure Brisbane remains a vibrant, creative and cultural world city. Through the *Creative Brisbane Creative Economy Strategy*, we are committed to developing a creative and prosperous Brisbane where our city’s artistic sector thrives and is driven by talented leaders, creative entrepreneurs and a skilled, artistic workforce.

This commitment involves investing in initiatives that support the continuing growth and professional development of this sector and showcases Brisbane’s talented and diverse creative and cultural community. To foster this growth within the city, I’m happy to announce that earlier this month, we announced the successful recipients of both our Creative Sparks Grants Program and our Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships. By way of brief background, the Creative Sparks Grants Program is a Brisbane City Council initiative, delivered in partnership with Arts Queensland to support artists, art workers and producers who live and work in Brisbane to extend their creative practice in the development of new works.

Council funding towards the initiative fosters creative entrepreneurial and commercial approaches and investment in new partnerships between the arts, community and business. I’m happy to announce that, earlier this month, Council awarded close to $200,000 in funding to 19 local artistic groups or individuals to deliver new creative projects across the city and suburbs, boosting the city’s creative industry.

Successful recipients this year include Paul Hodge, whose innovative new musical *Black Box* will be premiered at QPAC (Queensland Performing Arts Centre) in May and Brisbane-born arts company Flipside Circus, who have also received funding to collaborate with The Good Room to deliver a blend of contemporary circus and visual theatre. We really are privileged as a city to have such a strong and burgeoning pool of talent, creating new artistic works across the city and we look forward to seeing this new wave of Creative Sparks alumni as they bring more creative offerings to our suburbs.

Moving on now to another one of our ongoing initiatives, the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships, the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships supports Brisbane artists, art workers, cultural workers or creative producers who wish to develop and expand their careers in the arts and cultural sector. Since the program began in 1996, over 120 creatives have received financial support from Council to develop their skills, attend workshops, host residencies, participate in conferences and undertake structured learning opportunities across the world. I’m happy to announce that just this week, Council announced the successful recipients of this fellowship program who are set to take their careers to the next level and showcase their skills for the world to see.

The initiatives funded under this year’s funding include creative residencies in Denmark and the UK and other professional development opportunities, such as writing and screenplay workshops in Brisbane and across the globe. Providing funding for initiatives like the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships ensures that we foster and develop the next generation of creative talent that our city is known for, making Brisbane’s cultural scene even better.

As you will all know, supporting, developing and establishing creatives and arts workers reaps a tremendous amount of benefit for the city, including fostering the development of new creative arts and artworks for the benefit of visitors and residents of Brisbane, building our creative and cultural scene, creating employment opportunities for locals and encouraging tourism to the city and of course building Brisbane’s reputation as a global creative hub. The Creative Sparks Grants Program and our Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships are just two examples of initiatives that build our city’s reputation as a modern and creative world city.

Our initiatives, that I encourage those here today to investigate, include Brisbane City Council’s QUBE Effect, which is running at the moment and it’s giving 19 musical acts the opportunity to take part in an annual music development program. These 19 acts have been undertaking a range of musical professional development opportunities since November 2023 and the program will culminate in an awards night on 19 August. We are a vibrant and creative city and supporting initiatives like these ensures that the Brisbane of tomorrow is even better than the Brisbane of today.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 12**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair.

My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair for City Standards, Councillor HUTTON.

You might be reviewing this process, as well and maybe you’ll have to take this on notice, just like how footpaths are determined to be broken or not, apparently, but my question is how many playgrounds and pieces of park equipment are currently broken and awaiting repair?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am feeling very popular over here and I would like to say thank you, Councillor CASSIDY, for being so inquisitive about our footpaths, our playground equipment. It is fantastic. We are reviewing the process at the moment and, unfortunately, I don’t have that data at hand, so I will be able to come back to him in due course.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further questions?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair.

My question is to the Chair of Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee.

DEPUTY MAYOR, investing in Brisbane remains a strong option for those looking to do business in our city. Can you please update the Chamber on some of the latest deals happening in Brisbane ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor ADERMANN, again and Madam Chair, because it’s not just our visitors that are flocking to Brisbane. We are alive with opportunity here in Brisbane and we are also seeing people coming to Brisbane to invest, to work and live here, as well. The more that people visit Brisbane, the more we know that people will know where Brisbane is and that’s when they’ll come and invest here, as well. People from all corners of the world are coming here now to live and work and we are a city with unstoppable momentum. It’s an upward trajectory for us and I am very proud to say that the City of Brisbane has given us the very big responsibility, but humble responsibility of being the Administration that makes sure we continue in an upward trajectory, as well. It’s all about creating that perfect environment for businesses to start, run and grow.

BEDA drives investment demand for the city in both domestic and international markets and as a city with a thriving economy, we have the potential for huge growth across the entire business ecosystem. We are currently experiencing a transformative era with a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects that are shaping our city shape. From the construction of Queen’s Wharf precinct, Brisbane Metro, bridges, Victoria Park, to significant advancements in our technology and research sectors, we are rapidly emerging as a prime destination for investors globally.

As a closest major city to Asian markets, we are looking to secure our position as the economic powerhouse in the region, bolstered by a global, 24-hour airport that has the largest runway capacity in Australia. One of the fastest growing multi‑cargo ports with unparalleled links domestically and internationally, our close proximity gives us a clear advantage over cities like Sydney and Melbourne, which I like to say are so 50 years ago. Couple that with the incredible lifestyle of our thriving city, we are looking at a powerful array of investment drivers.

BEDA’s Investment Attraction team provide a one-stop shop providing potential investors with industry insights and business data, as well as access to our business network, including critical introductions to local industry stakeholders, public and private businesses and other levels of government. The team have been run off their feet fielding enquiries from interested investors at a rate of knots, with no signs of slowing down. They are meeting and beating their targets with over 300 enquiries fielded for the financial year against the KPI of 104. February saw the biggest influx, with a record of 73 enquiries followed by 63 in March, bringing the total number of enquiries for this quarter alone just shy of 160.

There is no shortage of interest in Brisbane and the team are working around the clock to make sure we don’t miss any of those opportunities. They’re converting interest into early-stage leads, leads converting into investment wins. The teams are tracking well, looking to advance close to 60 early-stage leads and that is no mean feat as the type of projects we’re looking at here are mega multimillion dollar investments, often in the hundreds of millions of dollars. BEDA officially landed their second investment win for the financial year in March, with an estimated economic impact of 150.24 million, creating 223 new jobs and supporting 341 local jobs. There was the Martin Brower facility project at Karawatha, a new, state-of-the-art, temperature-controlled distribution facility that will support international supply chains.

The ripple effect of these investments extend far beyond direct job creation and the immediate economic boost. A flourishing investment landscape means local businesses also thrive, from the retail, the hospitality, the services all benefitting from increased consumer spending and enhanced economic activity. We are proud to be playing such a crucial role in this journey and we are working hard to continue our city’s potential, support our local businesses and work towards a thriving future. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR and that now ends Question Time.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 22 April 2024—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

**444/2023-24**

At that juncture, Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the notified 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.

Chair: We will now move to E&C.

LORD MAYOR.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 22 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Is there any debate?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, Madam Chair. I can report on the matter that Councillor COLLIER just raised. Right now, we are going through a process of consultation with our First Nations stakeholders on this matter and that process has not yet been finalised. So, once we do get the feedback and that consultation is finalised, we will happily report back to the Chamber and have that debate, but that has not yet been finalised. I think it would be premature, unless of course you were just trying to play politics with this issue, to have this debate prior to the consultation with our Traditional Owners being finalised.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, moving forward—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Moving forward, I just wanted to talk about Labor’s approach in Question Time and their approach generally since losing the election, in the worst way that they have lost in the history of the Labor team, effectively, ceding all ground and all credibility to a radical left-wing party that has absolutely abhorrent views that are totally out of touch with the wider community. You’d think, after getting a message like that from the public, that they would change their approach, but they have literally come in and they’ve started a new term exactly the same way they finished the last term. They have learnt nothing. They’ve doubled down on a strategy which is quite clearly failing and has only failed to boost the Greens’ support—only succeeded in boosting the Greens’ support, but it’s completely failed in this Administration losing any support whatsoever. So, they’ve doubled down on it.

It’s almost as if they think, oh look, people haven’t heard our message. We need to keep repeating it. All of the money they spent on radio ads and advertising, they just think, oh, maybe if a few more people hear that message, they might fall for it. What we see is failure to accept that the problem here is that, first of all, they can’t offer any alternative plans and they certainly can’t offer a costed alternative, but they don’t get the fundamental idea or concept that, when people pay their rates, they actually want that money managed responsibly. They want their Council not just to keep spending, despite the fact that costs are going up and drive up rates and rents, but instead, people might actually want their Council to manage their money responsibly. They haven’t got that message at all.

The other thing is, they always gild the lily. They always overstretch. They overreach. So, in their major advertising campaign during the election, we all remember the ads where it started off with a very sombre video of me. It was a black and white one. Everything was black and white and I was looking very sombre. Why? Because they lifted that video from the message of condolence that I was giving for Queen Elizabeth’s passing. They didn’t consider that it was a little bit off to use a video of me giving a message of condolence for the Queen’s death. They were quite happy to use that in their negative advertising campaign, but that was only just the minor problem with that.

Secondly, they suggested that I had stopped an SES depot from going ahead and that I had stopped flood recovery works, when in fact both of those things were stopped by the Labor State Government. The SES depot had funding rejected from the Labor State Government. You know this, Madam Chair. They missed out that part in their advertising campaign. So, the Labor State Government stopped the SES depot from going ahead by rejecting the funding and then the flood recovery works that were apparently stopped were actually rejected by the Queensland Government’s Reconstruction Authority. Why? Because they believed that they were not flood recovery works. Oh, they don’t meet any criteria. They’re not actually meeting our criteria for flood recovery works. They didn’t mention that part in their advertising campaign.

What they did do is they then ended it off by saying, how does the LORD MAYOR have hundreds of millions of dollars to spend on self-promotion? Not thousands of dollars, not even millions of dollars; hundreds of millions of dollars to spend on self-promotion. So, as I said, they can’t help themselves. They always go too far. They always gild the lily. They always stretch the truth and people can see straight through it because the amount of people that came up to me during the election saying, what’s this about hundreds of millions of dollars? That just really doesn’t sound credible. I’m like, that’s because it’s not. People didn’t believe it. They knew it was gilding the lily.

So, to come in here today and to pursue the same issues and to double down without learning anything from the election is quite extraordinary. I probably shouldn’t say anything. I should probably just let them keep doing it, because it’s been such a failure to this point that maybe I should let them do it, but look, it’s growing tired. We’re growing tired of this approach. The reality is, we have had to reduce our spending in order to keep rates and rents down. It’s as simple as that. We’ve been really clear about that. It hasn’t been a secret. It’s not some kind of caught-out moment here. We were proactive about telling people.

In fact, people have also said to me, oh, that was a great election strategy, to announce that you had to reduce spending. I’m like, what do you mean that was a great election strategy? We had to reduce spending because the cost of everything was going up. It wasn’t an election strategy. It was actually responsible financial management. That’s why we did it and that’s why we’ll continue to keep the budget balanced and that sometimes involves cutting back on spending in certain areas to relieve the pressure on rates and rents. You know, it’s no secret. They’re like, whoa, if only more people would know. Well, everyone heard. Everyone heard the message. They rejected it.

So, going forward, we will continue a responsible financial approach when it comes to the management of the city’s finances and that means we won’t spend more than we can afford to spend, because in the end, we know how that ends. We know that, in the end, ratepayers pay more if you take the Labor approach or the Green approach. That also means renters pay more, as well, because rates are passed on to renters. So, this idea that you can somehow increase rents without there being any impact on—increase rates without there being any impact on renters is, obviously, a bit farfetched. So, by keeping rates down, we’re also not adding to the pressure on rents. We’re also keen to continue to increase supply of housing and whether it’s affordable housing, whether it’s just general housing that’s being built, we have been very proactive in making sure that we accommodate supply wherever possible.

I heard Councillor COLLIER interjecting when Councillor ALLAN called Labor and the Greens out for opposing development. They’re like, you guys are in charge. The clear implication there was, well, don’t worry about us. We don’t have any power. What we do is not significant. Yet they promise people that they will fight for the residents and stand up for the residents. The only thing I’ve seen them fighting is actually fighting new housing. That’s consistently what they have done the entire time I’ve been LORD MAYOR. They have fought against new housing being built. So, to say, oh, don’t worry about us, it’s not us, people want to know what you stand for.

They know that we stand for increasing housing supply and that we stand for reducing the cost of building homes in Brisbane, but they also know that you stand against housing. In fact, a big part of the vote of the Greens is an assumption that the Greens will stop housing being built. We know, we know it to be true. We know that people are like, oh yes, I’ll vote Greens so that nothing happens in my area and these lovely, leafy areas will stay exactly the same because the Greens will stop it. Somehow, the Greens can promise to build a million new homes, but they certainly won’t be in green areas. They certainly won’t be in green areas. That’s the ultimate NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard).

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**445/2023-24**

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

LORD MAYOR: Then, we also saw last week questions around Kurilpa. How many new homes are being built in Kurilpa? As though the Greens were hungry for new homes to be built in Kurilpa. We know they don’t want any new homes to be built in Kurilpa. We know they have opposed new homes being built in Kurilpa because they want it in other parts of Brisbane, not in green areas. It’s the same with Labor. They want homes in other people’s areas, not in their own. One thing that’s been really consistent is, people know what Labor and the Greens are fighting against, but they don’t know what they’re fighting for. Once again, they double down on being against things rather than being for things. So, it’s a real disappointing approach, but as I said, I probably shouldn’t have said anything. They might actually change their approach and they might actually get somewhere, but I doubt it.

Madam Chair, in front of us, we have two items, but before I go into those, I just wanted to, as I normally do, talk about the lighting up of assets to support our community in various causes. Last night, City Hall was lit up in blue to support World Wish Day. This is the global campaign that supports the granting of wishes to children who are suffering critical illnesses. Whether it’s trips to theme parks, a ride in a supercar or a new puppy, the campaign aims to bring these wishes to life for sick kids.

Tonight, all our assets will be lit up in green for the eve of Lyme Disease Awareness Day. The Lyme Disease Association of Australia runs their campaign throughout May to raise awareness for and support for patients of Lyme and other tickborne diseases.

On Wednesday and Thursday night, all our assets will be lit up in purple to mark the beginning of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. The month will work to raise awareness of domestic and family violence, coercive control and mobilise corporate and community action to end this behaviour in Queensland.

On Friday night, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, City Hall and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in blue and purple to support International Huntington’s Month. Huntington’s is a neurodegenerative disorder that’s both fatal and incurable and affects about 10 out of every 100,000 Australians.

Saturday is International Firefighter Day and our assets will be lit up in red to mark the occasion. Celebrated globally, this day recognises the bravery and sacrifice our firefighters make, both locally and across the world, every single day.

On Sunday night, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in the rainbow colours for Big Gay Day. It’s back for its 24th year and, once again, we’re supporting it. It’s a festival of celebration of Brisbane’s LGBTIQ community, with both local and international talent on display. Councillor HOWARD is very much looking forward to it, as she does every year.

Item A in front of us, the contracts and tendering report for March, five out of five contracts were awarded to local suppliers. The caretaker period obviously related to March, so there were a limited number of contracts that month for obvious reasons and only essential contracts that had to be dealt with in that period were dealt with. Obviously, we weren’t involved in that process. One hundred and ninety-nine contracts have been awarded to local suppliers so far this financial year, 87.7% of contracts with local suppliers, which means a total spend of $1.25 billion has gone to local suppliers. Contracts included include roof repairs at the Wynnum Manly Seagulls, remediation work at the Kangaroo Point Cliffs, car park reconstruction work at the Sandgate Seahawks AFL Club, repair at the Wilston Scouts’ building, restoration works of the open drain on Bennett Road in The Gap.

Also, item B is the supply of premixed concrete. Now, Councillor CASSIDY and others have once again tried to double down and referred to a line in the document which tries to predict future demand for this kind of product. Look, the reality is that demand is set each year in the budget. We are in the process of working on the budget and this year, obviously, we’ve been very upfront about our need to reduce spending in certain areas, but what happens from here on, obviously, will be a matter for those budget deliberations. So, an officer’s view on what future demand might be might be good from an academic point of view, but it won’t match reality. The reality, obviously, will be set as we go through the budget preparation process each year, but as Councillor HUTTON correctly pointed out, we have been spending and investing far more in footpath construction and maintenance than Labor ever did in Administration.

They love to say, oh, it was 20 years ago, it doesn’t count. Well, it does count because that’s the only thing we have to measure. Actually, I’ve misled the Chamber. It’s not the only thing we have to measure them by. They have this thing called a Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF) where they can fund footpaths and they fund bugger all. They literally have the choice to spend this allocation each year on playgrounds or parks or other improvements or footpaths and what they do is they choose to spend it on other things and then criticise the Administration about footpaths. So, they’re the two things we have to measure Labor’s credibility on and by both of those measures, it’s not particularly crash-hot. We’ll continue to invest in footpaths. We’ll continue to invest in footpath repairs, but also, it’s important to remember what the process here is.

Councillor HUTTON knows this very well. When we get a community report or a Councillor sees a footpath which might be unsafe—and when I say unsafe, I mean, for example, a trip hazard—then Council will come out and inspect that as soon as possible and take initial works to make it safe. Now, those initial works to make it safe may include grinding down raised sections of footpath. It may include a temporary repair to make the footpath smoother and not a trip hazard, but effectively, that initial response is all about making sure that people do not trip. That is done very quickly and very efficiently. There should be no impact on that particular service. So, this is something we have a high expectation on. This is a safety issue. It’s dealt with quickly. It’s dealt with efficiently.

We continue to support that, but what we’re referring to is areas that might be old or have some cracks in them that could use a refresh. These are not urgent, top priority jobs that will cause someone to injure themselves. Often, it is superficial cracking. Now look, I know my own driveway at home has cracks in it. They had cracks when I bought the house. Have I rushed out to replace the driveway? No. Why? Because it’s actually not necessary. The cracks don’t impact on a trip hazard. They don’t create a trip hazard. They don’t impact on my ability to use the concrete area. They are superficial cracks.

So, Labor will carry on about a cracked section of footpath not getting repaired immediately. We base our criteria on public safety and they’re the things that we give the top priority to. Superficial cracks or damage don’t make the top priority list. They are dealt with over time, definitely, but it’s public safety that gets the first response. So, you’ll see Labor always links the two things together. They’ll say, oh, there’s a cracked footpath, it’s unsafe. Not true. Cracked footpaths can be perfectly safe and, in fact, the damage in many cases is superficial.

The other thing is and this is something that is obviously a concern for me, is the damage caused to our footpaths by others. Often, it is a concrete truck accessing a property, a house being built or a property being built. The truck—and, ironically, it is a concrete truck that often does this damage—drives over a Council footpath, cracks it and then the builders don’t take appropriate action. So, this is a process that we’re keen to follow up on because a significant percentage of the damaged footpaths are actually done by people driving over the footpaths in heavy trucks and cracking them.

Obviously, other damage is done by trees and that’s natural. That’s something we accept in a beautiful city that has lots of tree cover, but this is something that we continue to work on, but public safety will always be our top priority. It is appropriately funded when it comes to dealing with those safety issues and we have the highest expectations of public safety. We expect them to be dealt with immediately and fixed as soon as possible.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Just want to check we’re all right to use the term bugger all in debate.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please continue with your—

Councillor CASSIDY: Okay, that’s fine. We can do that. So, the LORD MAYOR in his contribution today on Clause A and B here, contracts and tendering, of which I think there’s five projects, five projects in contracts and tendering and to the Stores Board submission for the supply and delivery of premixed concrete, the LORD MAYOR went from ranting and raving to rambling. He even got onto the point—so, in his contribution about the supply and delivery of premixed concrete for basic maintenance on Council assets, he talked about cracked concrete at his house when he was buying it, God knows whenever that was. That came after about 12 minutes of ranting and raving about Labor Councillors—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —asking very legitimate questions, Chair.

Chair: One moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Can I ask your ruling on Councillor CASSIDY, who’s not able to go around the world on the Committee reports, but speak to the reports?

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY, can you get to the report, please?

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I will talk about concrete for footpaths. I won’t talk about the LORD MAYOR’s cracking concrete at his house anymore. I don’t need to. He canvassed that enough in his contribution about the significant contracting plan (SCP), talking about the damage at his own home. I still can’t quite believe that. It’s quite strange, actually, but item B before us today is for the supply and delivery of concrete for—and I quote from the report, Councillor ADAMS, for your benefit—the construction of kerb and channel footpaths and drainage projects. Now, we asked questions, lots of questions about broken and damaged footpaths, about the data on those broken and damaged footpaths, the staff Council employs to manage broken footpaths, as well as broken park equipment, as well.

The LORD MAYOR seems to think those questions are illegitimate somehow, that they are not the kind of questions that Councillors should be asking of Civic Cabinet Chairs, particularly in the context of us getting this report before us today, which is asking us as Councillors to endorse a significant contracting plan which the LORD MAYOR tried to distance himself from. He tried to say that the Council officers have stitched him up here. That’s what he tried to say in the line here where it says that they expect demand to reduce by up to 20% over the next two years, so the supply of concrete for very basic things, including footpaths in the suburbs of Brisbane, kerbing and channelling work and drainage projects.

Now, this is a document that the LORD MAYOR is presenting and spoken on, the E&C report before us today, that he and his Councillors, his Civic Cabinet Chairs, sat around a table last Monday and discussed and endorsed. So, it’s a bit rich for him to come in here today, Chair and say, apparently, it’s nothing to do with him. These—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: It is not a lie.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY. We can always hear you speaking out aloud to your people, too, so it is difficult and that’s why I often ask Councillors to take their conversations outside.

Councillor CASSIDY: I thought I heard something that I clearly didn’t, so I apologise.

Chair: It’s okay. Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: So, the item before us today confirms what I think we all know in here and I know you know, Chair, I know the LORD MAYOR knows this and every LNP Councillor knows that the budget cuts the LORD MAYOR announced last year are going to stay with us for years to come. So, we’re not talking about—the LORD MAYOR tried to cover this by saying his budget cuts in this current financial year mean there will be less concrete needed for projects, because he’s cutting back on maintenance, basic services and projects in the suburbs of Brisbane, but we’re not talking about this current financial year.

What this item before us today is for is the two years beyond 2025. This contract comes into place in February 2025 and what Council officers have identified, based on the direction that they’re getting from this LORD MAYOR and his Civic Cabinet Chairs and the funding that they are going to allocate in future budgets, in the forward estimates that are included in the upcoming Council budgets and future Council budgets, that less money is going to be spent on footpath repairs, drainage projects and kerbing and channelling. It’s all before us in black and white today and it’s very rich for the LORD MAYOR to come in here and say—it’s always somebody else’s fault, of course—he blames everybody for everything and today he’s blamed Labor Councillors for the lack of housing supply and for the lack of footpath maintenance and new footpaths in the suburbs of Brisbane.

The LORD MAYOR said and I quote, “that Labor Councillors do bugger all footpaths when it comes to their SEF projects”. Well, my list includes Bartholomew Street, Zillmere; Hinchcliffe Street, Zillmere; Kilpatrick Street, Zillmere; access path to Sandgate Aquatic Centre; Sheena Street, Geebung; High Street, Geebung; and Queenstown Avenue this year. It doesn’t sound like bugger all to me, LORD MAYOR, through you, Chair. I know Councillor GRIFFITHS is out there just about every day of the week. Councillor COLLIER, I know. Not sure about in the Calamvale Ward one, because that was obviously all allocated by the previous Councillor Angela Owen. I understand most of that SEF—well, 100% of that SEF went on a car park. None went to footpaths. So, I’m absolutely sure Councillor KIM will be able to rectify that as the new Councillor.

What we have before us today is evidence in black and white that there is going to be a 20% reduction in funding for kerbing and channelling, footpaths and drainage projects. Why do we know that, Chair? Because one, it says there’s going to be a 20% reduction in the amount of concrete ordered and two, it says here that 99% of the spending for this contract is being generated from internal Council construction activities. So, we’re not talking about major projects. We’re not talking about trimming back on the Metro, trimming back on Moggill Road, trimming back on the Indooroopilly roundabout. We’re not talking about trimming back on the green bridge program here. What the LORD MAYOR is doing when he says cutting back here and there is cutting back on kerbing and channelling work, on footpaths and footpath repairs and is cutting back on drainage projects.

Now, the number one thing that people say to me when I talk to them about what their priorities are for the upcoming Council budget, for the last two years particularly, but even before the February 2022 flood disaster, has been more funding needs to be put into drainage projects. I did a drainage survey of my community following that disaster and of the 500 or 600 responses I got for that, the vast majority of those were about basic drainage upgrades needing to occur in their suburbs. Whether that is upgrading kerbing and channelling to take more water to existing gully traps, whether that’s investing in new drainage, additions to drainage systems, upgrading drainage systems, bigger pipes, all that sort of thing, the really basic stuff a Council should do with ratepayers’ money.

The LORD MAYOR talked about his Administration taking money in rates. I think this year, it’s over $1.6 billion coming into Council in rates. He says, this is his equation, that people want it managed well, sure. What they want Council to do with those rates dollars is invest them in their communities on things like drainage upgrades, on things like new and improved footpaths to make our communities more accessible and to upgrade kerbing and channelling in our road network, as well.

So, for the LORD MAYOR to come in here and say, we have no right to ask questions about basic maintenance and these cuts that he’s bringing for the next two-and-a-half years in terms of basic maintenance is okay, it’s not okay. Every single one of those Civic Cabinet Chairs that sat around and discussed this last week and every single one of the LNP Councillors that are going to vote in favour of this 20% reduction to concrete today are doing their communities a disservice. We saw last year—so, this is all coming on top of the cuts that happened last year, as well, the 25% reduction in road crews, so I guess we should have seen this coming. If they were going to reduce road resurfacing by 25%, of course you reduce kerbing and channelling by 20% and then you reduce footpaths by 20% and then you reduce drainage projects by 20%.

This is clearly just in the LNP’s DNA now, to cut basic services. Sure, the LORD MAYOR said he needed to cut back because of his decisions, but we knew then, last year and it’s being confirmed now, that his number one target is basic maintenance and services that Council should be delivering in the suburbs of Brisbane. So, we won’t be supporting this contract today, given that it’s very clear this is going to lead to cuts to basic maintenance in the suburbs of Brisbane.

**S****eriatim - Clause B**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause B, STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PRE-MIX CONCRETE, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to address item A for the contracts and tendering, specifically regarding the roof repairs at the Wynnum Manly Seagulls Juniors. This roof replacement holds significant importance for the esteemed club, who is the biggest Rugby League club in Brisbane City Council, boasting a membership exceeding 900, inclusive of approximately 100 women, including five female teams. The original clubhouse was actually built in 1952 at an initial cost of $2,000 and has undergone significant expansions in 1979 and 1986. The impending roof replacement, planned to commence next month and conclude in September, strategically aligns with Brisbane’s drier weather conditions.

Council officers are currently collaborating with the Wynnum Manly Seagulls to facilitate these forthcoming works, valued at approximately $340,000. These aim at ensuring that their loved community facility at 57 Stradbroke Avenue in Wynnum, affectionately known as Kitchener Park, is safer for all. Recently, the President of the Wynnum Manly Seagulls Juniors, Yvette, alongside her dedicated committee of Dan, Kylie, Julie, Jai and Vicki, orchestrated an exciting fundraising event, a pig racing evening, to both engage and gather support for the club. Attending this event with my family, I had the pleasure of assisting Kylie, selling raffle tickets for the meat tray and—sorry—and the manner in which this club fosters community support among the families is truly commendable. The event raised over $12,000, which is directed to subsiding players’ costs so that more players can play this community sport. The clubhouse is also home to the Wynnum Darts Club and the facilities are shared with the Wynnum Manly Touch and many other school competitions.

The Wynnum Manly Seagulls Junior Rugby Club serves as a feeder club for the BMD Wynnum Manly Seagulls, which was once graced by the legendary Wally Lewis. These clubs are the cornerstones to connecting our community and their enduring legacy has continued to run deep within the Wynnum Manly community for generations.

Weekends on the bayside witness locals uniting at Kougari Oval, steadfast for their support of the Wynnum Manly Seagulls. The success of the mighty club is recognised not only by the hardworking and talented players but the unwavering dedication of fans, support personnel and numerous volunteers who ensure both junior and senior clubs are adopting sustainable and successful practices.

Local business leaders, including Bartons, BMD, Lipke Motors and the Wynnum Manly Leagues Club have been staunch advocates for the clubs. Clubs like the Wynnum Manly Seagulls play a vital role in providing our youth with meaningful avenues for engagement, fostering relationships with peers, mentors and coaches.

The club expresses gratitude to the Brisbane City Council for its support of this project. Enabling them to ensure that their clubhouse remains a safe place for their whole community and they can continue to provide opportunities for youth participation in rugby league. Thank you.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on item A and item B. Just am very interested in item 3 of the contracts and tendering, the Hawks Sporting Club car park construction at Taigum. I’m just wondering if that’s in Councillor CASSIDY’s ward and that’s excellent, because I’m sure he’ll nod at me if I get this right.

I’m just interested on whether this is being funded through Council’s capital budget or whether he was asked to do this through his SEF, right, so—I appreciate that right around Brisbane there are a number of sporting clubs that desperately need repairs and upgrades. Many of these are car parks because they are just in terrible condition.

It is fascinating to me today that on the report that we have before us, some $296,265 is being invested into the Hawks Sporting Club car park construction at Taigum. Now I’m sure it’s well-deserved, I don’t question the fact that it needs to be done. What is fascinating is the way in which Council treats other car parks that have been neglected in other parts of the city. I’ll certainly have a lot more to say about that as this meeting progresses.

But what is interesting to me is that Council does fund car park upgrades through its capital budget. They don’t make Councillors on other wards do it out of their trust funds. It’s not been my experience that Councillors are required to do basic maintenance like filling potholes, remarking lines, trimming trees back so car parks can be accessed, replacing wooden bollards. Basic maintenance requests.

It’s not been my experience that that’s something that Councillors are required to do through their SEF funds. I’m not sure of the scope of the works here, hopefully it’s an extension, that’s also something that Councillors don’t normally do. Well apparently Councillor Owen, who’s no longer with us, that gives a pretty good indication of priorities, I guess.

But I’m very interested in what’s happening at this location. I note that Council is investing into—a capital works budget into car parks on the northern side of Brisbane. I’m just very curious about why they’re refusing to do so in Tennyson Ward on the southern side of Brisbane. I’ll have more to say about this as the meeting progresses.

I too want to just speak on item B. It is very obvious that the budget cuts the LORD MAYOR has wreaked over this city are coming home to roost. It is astonishing that the LORD MAYOR thinks that less concrete for essential maintenance works, like car parks repairs or footpaths or drainage, less concrete will be required over the next two years. So that is an extraordinary situation, I think.

Without question it reflects the poor forward planning, the poor scoping and the poor leadership of this LNP Administration. I mean the LORD MAYOR has stood up today—and I agree with Councillor CASSIDY—gone off on a complete tangent. I mean his own driveway is irrelevant to what we’re discussing about the expenditure of public funding. Although he does get $100,000 in public funding he doesn’t account for, but this is a debate about how public funds are spent in the city.

This Council has to be accountable for how that funding is allocated. It’s clear that projects are being cut back all over the city, all over the city. It takes over a year, somewhere between a year and 18 months, to get a footpath properly repaired in Brisbane. Councillor HUTTON, I think, is living in some kind of fantasy land if she thinks that it’s being done quickly.

Yes, they might go out and put a bit of asphalt over a bad join, maybe they’ll do that, but not always, maybe. But what then happens is that will sit there for a year or 18 months and the footpath is not fixed.

Now when I started, these things were fixed within a matter of weeks. Even I’d go back as far as last term saying that Council were slow. But you know within a year you would definitely have a footpath that would have been fixed. It’s just a turkey shoot at the moment as to whether or not you will get your footpath fixed.

The idea that this Council thinks that we need less concrete for the next two years to deliver on the most important and basic services that this city needs, is astonishing. It shows that the LORD MAYOR’s financial mismanagement of this Council’s budget and the LNP Councillors blind support of this budget, continues to cause hardship for people in the suburbs who can’t get basic repairs undertaken.

They’re not getting their drains fixed. We’ve got a park still closed two and a half years after the floods in Sherwood, still closed. No work done to fix it. I’m presuming some concrete will be needed because there was a major stormwater detention basin in there. Will there even be enough concrete over the next two years to get this done? I don’t know.

It is just not good enough that the LORD MAYOR thinks that less money is needed for concrete. Because we don’t, sadly, need less concrete, we actually need more. There’s more hard work that does need doing.

I think what it reflects, which the Deputy—sorry, which the Opposition Leader raised, is that there are more budget cuts to come. If the LORD MAYOR knows now he doesn’t need as much—20% less concrete, 20%—a fifth less concrete—that means that there are less projects that will be delivered. So, this is a damning indictment of this LNP Administration’s failure to deliver on basic services for the Brisbane community and it’s not good enough.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor PARRY.

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A, specifically the structural repairs being undertaken at Wilston Scout Hut in Grange. Built before the Second World War, the Wilston Scout Hut has been a fixture in the Grange cultural precinct for almost a century. Conveniently located across the road from Grange Bowls Club, Lanham Park and a stone’s throw from the Grange Library. Countless local scouts have walked through the doors of this hut eager to embark on camping trips, learn valuable skills like first aid and navigation and contribute to their community through service projects. I’m told one such project was making bandages during World War II to help the war effort.

Now home to around 60 Cubs, Scouts and Venturers, the hut provides a space for our kids to continue their pursuit of leadership, resilience and making the world a better place. However, over time, the building, that was in fact build by Scouts in the first place, many years ago, has deteriorated somewhat and requires some structural works to be undertaken.

Council has worked closely with Scouts Queensland in developing the scope to enhance this facility. The $280,000 project includes restumping works, some floor replacement, stairs and a ramp replacement and new concrete sleeper retaining wall. We have also ensured that the group can be accommodated at other facilities, where possible, while the works are carried out.

These improvements will begin in mid-May and are set to be completed sometime in early August of this year. In speaking with Tracy, the Scout Group Coordinator, I also know that Wilston Scouts intends to undertake some further upgrades at this local facility, once our works have been completed. This includes a new dishwasher, a fresh lick of paint and potentially improved flooring in the kitchen. I know there’s a few working bees coming up too, so look out.

Of course, the priority remains fundraising for the next jamboree in 2025. Where five lucky Wilston Scouts are heading to the great Queensland town of Maryborough, which will be very exciting for them.

In closing I will mention that we have numerous dens, huts and halls just like this one across the suburbs in Marchant Ward. You many never even notice them when you’re driving past and you probably won’t until you perhaps go to vote or take your baby to its first playgroup. Or maybe when your little one becomes a Joey. Or maybe it’s even later when you become a member of the Wilston Windbags and perform your regular cardio sessions within the hall’s walls.

Whatever it may be, these facilities are important hubs for our community and I’m proud to support the Wilston Scout Hall as local Councillor, so that it continues to serve us well into the future. Thank you.

Councillors interjecting.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair and I rise to enter the debate on item A. I’m just a little confused, Madam Chair, because I would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would have spoken about one of the most amazing projects in his ward, but of course it was left to the Councillor for Tennyson to do that.

So, I just wanted to set the record straight and I wanted to provide a brief summary of the works that are set to take place at the Hawks Sporting Club at 120 Lemke Road, Taigum. The current scope of works for this car park reconstruction includes demolition of the current car park asphalt, replacement with new asphalt in the same footprint and the installation of 80 car parks with the inclusion of a person with disability car park.

We know that this facility was quite heavily impacted by the 2022 floods and we hope that these works will deliver a new and improved car park for the benefit of club member and supporters. It certainly was something that Council worked very closely with the club immediately after those 2022 floods, to make sure that we reinstated the car park for community use. The works before us today are much more substantive, providing the club with an upgraded car park, which is set to be used for decades to come.

So, Madam Chair, this project is funded by the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, Phase 4. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item B, the significant contracting plan for supply and delivery of pre-mixed concrete. This SCP commits Council to continuing to provide this vital material to build the infrastructure our city needs. This item seeks approval for a public tender to establish a panel of suppliers once the current arrangement expires in February 2025.

In 2003 alone, City Standards utilised an impressive 17,000 cubic metres of pre‑mixed concrete across various projects throughout the city. These projects include drainage rehabilitation works in McIntyre Street, Hendra, construction of new footpaths in front of Wynnum State High School, replacement of the Barr Street pedestrian bridge in Tarragindi, restoration works in the Cobalt Street open drain in Keperra and much, much more.

As we continue to enhance our city’s lifestyle and develop infrastructure to keep Brisbane moving, re-establishing this panel of suppliers is crucial to ensuring the timely and efficient supply and delivery of pre-mixed concrete. The tender for this panel will be released in mid-June this year. As the Chamber may know, pre‑mixed concrete is a highly perishable material and has a narrow transport radius of 40 to 50 kilometres.

So, I’m pleased to note that this tender presents an opportunity to explore innovation in concrete delivery solutions. We expect the technology such as truck tracking apps, alternative mix trials and electronic delivery of dockets will be put forward for Council’s consideration.

Chair, with every project undertaken, from road repairs to drainage enhancements, we are not just laying concrete, we are laying the groundwork for a better Brisbane and a more efficient city. I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Labor Councillors were interested to know what my driveway had to do with footpaths. It was quite clear that it was all about the difference between a safety issue and a superficial crack in a footpath. Just as a resident wouldn’t rush out to fix a superficial crack in their driveway or at home, the reality is we focus our priority on the jobs that are a safety issue. That’s always been our priority, it continues to be our priority and I think that’s the priority that people would expect us to have as well.

So, we will continue to make sure that we direct the resources of Council to identifying and repairing and fixing those safety issues so that the community can move around safely on footpaths and on bikeways and we’ll continue to invest, not only to claim that more investment is required but to actually put our money where our mouth is as well and fund these things in the budget.

We know that Labor Councillors in the past have been caught out when it comes to their own record on footpaths. We know that they’ve claimed for years and years—they’ve made claims for years and years about the need for more money on footpaths and we’ve called them out repeatedly.

So, if you look back to the 2021-22 financial year, Labor Councillor Cook, at the time, built zero footpaths from her fund that was available to her. Councillor STRUNK built zero footpaths from the fund that was available to him. Councillor Cumming, at the time, built one footpath. Councillor CASSIDY built two footpaths and Councillor GRIFFITHS, who’s the only person who seems to actually—on that side of the Chamber, be building footpaths, built six. So good on you Councillor GRIFFITHS. You’re using—oh, he’s not there—using the funding that’s provided for an issue that he considers to be important.

The following year 2022-23, Councillor Cook/Councillor COLLIER built zero footpaths in that year. Councillor STRUNK built one. Councillor Cumming/Councillor Whitmee, obviously there was a changeover, built zero. Councillor CASSIDY built two, Councillor GRIFFITHS built five. So, as I said he obviously considers that to be a priority and invests in it.

Councillor CASSIDY listed off a whole range of streets that he’d apparently built footpaths in. I assume that’s his entire career in Council that he was referring to there because it certainly wasn’t one year worth of projects. So, they’ve been caught out in the past—

Councillor interjecting.

LORD MAYOR: Oh, so he’s suddenly found a newfound interest in footpaths—

Councillors interjecting.

LORD MAYOR: —in one year, that’s good. That’s good. But I thought there was less funding for footpaths available, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillors interjecting.

LORD MAYOR: He’s building more than ever.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: But—well no, no I don’t have this year’s but I’m sure—

Councillors interjecting.

LORD MAYOR: —in the lead up to the election you decided to put your money where your mouth is and good for you, good for you. When I’m addressing this, I just want to, if you will allow me, just raise the issue that was raised by Councillor JOHNSTON. I have a response if you’re interested in hearing that, Councillor JOHNSTON, on Venner Road. So, the resurfacing of Venner Road is dependent on potentially the need to relocate underground utilities. So, on 20 May, so later on in the month of May, we’ll be doing a road closure and detailed surveys of the underground utilities to determine what work will be required prior to the resurfacing.

Under the road we know that there’s not only water pipes under the road but also a 33 kilowatt electricity cable as well. So, we’re doing the appropriate work in advance to determine what utility relocations will be required. So obviously resurfacing can’t happen until the utilities are identified and relocated, if necessary and we’re working on that now. So, our commitment is to resurface Venner Road, the funding is in place to resurface Venner Road and at this point in time the only thing standing in the way is just that work that needs to be done on utilities.

So hopefully we’ll get a good response and the work can proceed sooner, rather than later. But obviously, one of the things when you start looking at underground utilities—and Councillor WINES knows this—you could discover things that you may not have been aware of, they can become really expensive. We know that—I think it was like $14 million with Telstra that we had to spend, might even be more than that, with the Moggill Road project, just with one utility provider. That didn’t include Energex, that didn’t include water utilities. So, these things can be quite expensive and time consuming and if it’s not your utility to move then you are completely at the behest of another agency who will often just take their time to move it.

So, if the cable, electricity cable needs to be moved by say, Energex or one of the providers, they will sometimes just take their time to do that and there’s not really a thing that we can do about that, unfortunately. So, the funding remains in place, the commitment to resurface Venner Road remains in place, but we are reliant on utilities to determine the exact timing of that project. If I have any further news, obviously happy to provide that news. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

So, we will now put item A to the vote.

**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.

Chair: We will now put item B to the vote.

**Clause B put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 19 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR MARCH 2024

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

**446/2023-24**

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.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR MARCH 2024, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder.

**Attachment A**

| **Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for March 2024** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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. 533971**  **ROOF REPAIRS AT WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS (WYNNUM)**  **Focus Construct Pty Ltd – $343,370**  Achieved the highest VFM of 26.21 | Lump sum  **$343,370** | Probuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 24.53  Dart Holdings Pty. Ltd. trading as A Dart & Co  Achieved VFM of 21.26  Signature Projects Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 15.38  Premis Solutions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 13.28 | $366,900  $408,113  $570,650  $677,580 | **Delegate**  Executive General Manager (EGM)  **Approved**  22.03.2024  **Start**  28.03.2024  **Term**  16 weeks |
| **2. Contract No. 533973**  **KANGAROO POINT CLIFFS REMEDIATION – CLIMBING AREA**  **Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd. – $954,229\***  Achieved VFM of 9.1  *\*Normalised for possible delay costs, variations and margins claimable by the contractor.* | Lump sum  **$888,679** | One offer received. | N/A | **Delegate**  Chief Procurement Officer  **Approved**  06.03.2024  **Start**  12.03.2024  **Term**  19 weeks |
| **3. Contract No. 533993**  **HAWKS SPORTING CLUB CAR PARK CONSTRUCTION (TAIGUM)**  **Quality Civil Construction Pty Ltd trading as River City Asphalt – $296,265**  Achieved VFM of 29 | Lump sum  **$296,265** | One offer received. | N/A | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  07.03.2024  **Start**  08.03.2024  **Term**  12 weeks |
| **4. Contract No. 534034**  **STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AT WILSTON SCOUTS (GRANGE)**  **Building Solutions Brisbane Pty Ltd – $285,720**  Achieved the highest VFM of 31.49 | Lump sum  **$285,720** | Probuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 26.01  Signature Projects Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 24.08  Premis Solutions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 19.64 | $311,390  $316,805  $458,170 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  22.03.2024  **Start**  26.03.2024  **Term**  12 weeks |
| **5. Contract No. WP12AP4**  **BENNETT ROAD, THE GAP – OPEN DRAIN FLOOD RESTORATION**  **Central SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority trading as Urban Utilities – $366,392** | Cost reimbursable actual cost basis  **$366,392** | Contract entered into under Exemption 4 of *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2023‑24* which allows for exemption from tendering for a contract made with another government entity, government-owned entity or Local Buy. | N/A | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  28.03.2024  **Start**  09.04.2024  **Term**  14 weeks |
| **CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **CITY PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **TRANSPORT FOR BRISBANE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |

**ADOPTED**

#### B STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PRE-MIX CONCRETE

**165/830/179/998**

**447/2023-24**

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 15 April 2024.

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

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: Supply and Delivery of Pre-mix Concrete

Type of procurement: Establishing a Corporate Procurement Arrangement (CPA) in the form of a preferred supplier or panel arrangement.

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 six years, for a maximum term of nine years.

Price basis:  Schedule of rates

Background/business case

13. Council uses pre-mix concrete in its daily construction activities, including the construction of kerb and channel, footpaths and drainage projects. City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, is Council’s lead user with approximately 99% of spending being generated from its internal construction activities. All of Council’s bookings for concrete supply are managed through a central ordering process.

14. The current arrangement with two suppliers expires on 28 February 2025.

15. Council uses several different concrete mixes suitable for site specific applications, including mixes that conform to the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) specifications. Council’s demand for pre-mix concrete has been consistent over the term of the current arrangement with an annual spend of approximately $4.7 million. Demand is forecast to reduce up to 20% over the next two years.

16. It is proposed to seek offers from the open market to establish a new arrangement for a term of up to nine years. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will provide the option of engaging a panel of suppliers or a preferred supplier.

Policy and other considerations

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

Yes. CPA 510765 for Supply and Delivery of Pre-mix Concrete, which expires on 28 February 2025.

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. The IBISWorld industry report *Ready-Mixed Concrete Manufacturing in Australia - Market Size, Industry Analysis, Trends and Forecasts (2024-2029)* notes that the pre-mix concrete manufacturing market in Australia is strong with $6.7 billion dollars in revenue. Over the past five years, revenue dropped by one per cent. Record investment in road and rail transport projects has created increased demand for concrete. It is expected to increase in 2023-28, contributing to a 1.7% increase in revenue.

23. Ready-mix concrete is highly perishable and has a narrow transport radius of 40 to 50 kilometres. The limited delivery radius for concrete confines competition to within each geographic market.

24. The pre-mix concrete market in Brisbane and South East Queensland is mature with the market predominantly consisting of Boral Limited (Boral), Q-Crete Premix Pty Ltd (Q-Crete), Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd (Holcim), Excel Pty Ltd (Excel), Neilsens Concrete Pty Ltd, Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd (Hanson), Hymix Australia Pty Ltd (Hymix), Hy-Tec Industries (Queensland) Pty Ltd, Austmix Pty Ltd, Site Mix Australia Pty Ltd, Sunmix Concrete Pty Ltd and Nucrush Pty Ltd. Q-Crete is fully owned by Boral and Excel is fully owned by Holcim. There is a close working relationship between Hanson and Hymix. All companies compete in the marketplace and a strong response to this RFP is anticipated.

25. The need to have conveniently located batching plants is a major driver of a supplier’s ability to be competitive. As such, it is considered that the current known market participants will be the only tenderers likely to be attracted to this tender opportunity. All known suppliers have been contacted ahead of this tender with feedback being gained on many topics including industry innovations. It is likely that truck tracking apps, alternative mixes for trial, consolidated invoicing options and electronic delivery dockets and other business-to-business electronic transfer options will be put forward for Council’s consideration to create extra value for Council.

Procurement strategy

26.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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: | Supply and Delivery of Pre-mix Concrete |
| Type of procurement: | Establishing a CPA in the form of a preferred supplier or panel arrangement. |
| Categories/portions: | Not applicable |
| Process to be used: | RFP |
| Tendering standards to be used and any amendments: | Council’s corporate standards with no amendments. |
| Contract standard to be used including any amendments: | Good/services – high risk – panel arrangements  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 may be considered. |
| Contract duration: | An initial term of three years with options to extend for additional periods of up to six years, for a maximum term of nine years. |
| Insurance requirements: | Public liability of $20 million, motor vehicle insurance of $10 million (including supplementary bodily injury) and workers compensation insurance as per legislated requirements. |
| Price basis: | Schedule of rates |
| Price adjustment: | Prices are expected to be subject to adjustment using a rise and fall formula based on Australian Bureau of Statistics Wage Price Index, Consumer Price Index and Producer Price Index for ready mixed concrete. |
| Liquidated damages: | Not applicable |
| Security for the contract: | Not applicable |
| Defects liability/warranty period: | Not applicable |
| Other strategy elements: | Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S), Environmental Management and Protection, Sustainability and Carbon Neutrality will be addressed in the specification and as part of the evaluation process. In addition, the tender process will explore options such as onsite mixing for small batches. |
| Alternative strategies considered: | Of the two suppliers on the panel, Council relies heavily on one to meet all of Council’s requirements. The performance of this supplier has been excellent with almost nil missed or failed deliveries. A sole source approach was considered. However, tendering will ensure that pricing remains market competitive and new innovations/technology are evaluated in a competitive environment. |

Anticipated schedule

27. Pre-market approval: 30 April 2024

Date of release to market: 10 June 2024

Tender closing: 17 July 2024

Evaluation completion (including formalised contract offer(s)): 11 October 2024

Post-market approval: 2 December 2024

Contract commencement: 1 March 2025

Funding and budget considerations

28. Estimated expenditure and any contingency requested:

Based on historical levels, estimated expenditure is anticipated to be in the order of $42.3 million over the potential maximum nine-year term.

29. Is there sufficient approved budget for the estimated contractual expenditure (including any contingency)?

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.

30. Anticipated procurement benefits (if any):

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

Procurement risk

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

No

32. Summary of key risks associated with this procurement:

| **Procurement risk** | **Risk rating** | **Risk mitigation strategy** | **Risk allocation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lack of market response | Low | Council has been in contact with all known market participants and will be in further contact prior to market release. | Council |
| Probity | Low | Council’s standard tender process will be used to ensure probity. | Council |
| Delays in finalising the tender process | Medium | The tender process is planned to be finalised prior to the Christmas/New Year period to avoid delays due to staff absences. | Council |
| Quality (including material contaminants) | Low | Quality and risk controls to be considered as part of the tender assessment. | Council and supplier |
| WH&S for delivery drivers (Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and training) | Medium | Specifications detail PPE and training requirements for delivery drivers. | Council and supplier |
| WH&S – heat fatigue | Medium | The tender assessment includes capability for early morning delivery in summer to avoid heat fatigue for Council staff. | Council and supplier |

Tender evaluation

33. Evaluation criteria:

1. Mandatory/essential criteria:

- Tenderer has an ABN and is registered for GST.

- Tenderer has the minimum insurance cover or submits undertaking to obtain.

1. Non-price weighted evaluation criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Weighted evaluation criteria** | **Weighting %** |
| Local benefit | 30% |
| Track record and experience | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Customer service | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Capability and capacity | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Quality, WH&S and environment | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| **Total:** | 100% |

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

- Basket of commonly purchased goods.

34. Evaluation methodology:

1. Evaluation plan and shortlisting:

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

1. Negotiations:

Negotiations are not anticipated but may be undertaken if required.

1. Value for Money (VFM):

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

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

36. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Stores Board recommends approval of the procurement strategy for:**

**Title of contract: Supply and Delivery of Pre-mix Concrete**

**Type of procurement: Establishing a Corporate Procurement Arrangement (CPA) in the form of a preferred supplier or panel arrangement**

**Contract duration: An initial term of three years, with options to extend for additional periods of up to six years, for a maximum term of nine years.**

**Price basis: Schedule of rates**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor ADAMS, Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NIGHTTIME ECONOMY AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair and just briefly, because I have spoken about it already in Question Time, we did do the economic update last week with the Manager of Economic Development. It is again, as I mentioned, a very upward trajectory and very exciting of how we’re going in Brisbane.

I’ve talked about tourism and I’ve talked about the investment, but also, locally we’re seeing the number of businesses actively trading within Brisbane growing as well. So it’s increased 1.9% to 138,801, when compared to June 2022. That’s great because what we’re also seeing is 97% of those businesses were considered small businesses with less than 20 employees and three per cent were considered medium to large with more than 20 employees. So, we’re really seeing those home grown starting and growing or starting and running, then we’re hoping to see them grow and step into those larger business over the coming decades.

Interesting to see the type of businesses that are really in our local traders gaining traction in Brisbane. Professional, scientific and technical services, rental, hiring and real estate services, construction, of course, healthcare and social assistance, transport, postal and warehouse. So, it’s great to see that we’re also thriving in our local businesses and more businesses are coming online as they see the opportunities in Brisbane, to make sure that they can live, work and play in this amazing city, thank you.

Chair: Is there any debate?

As there is no debate we will put the report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Greg Adermann, Jared Cassidy and Julia Dixon.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE’S ECONOMIC UPDATE

**448/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Economic Development, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane’s economy. He provided the information below.

2. The Committee was shown a graph detailing domestic migration for each capital city for the 2022-23 financial year. The graph detailed that Greater Sydney experienced a significant decrease and Greater Melbourne experienced a decrease in domestic travel arrivals. Greater Brisbane experienced the highest domestic migration across all capital cities.

3. As of February 2024, the number of job advertisements in Brisbane was approximately 27,800 in comparison to 28,825 jobseekers. Brisbane’s unemployment rate as of February 2024 was 3.7%, while the youth unemployment rate for job seekers aged between 15 and 24 years old was 7.8%. Brisbane unemployment is less than the Queensland average of 4%.

4. As of June 2023, the total number of businesses actively trading within the Brisbane Local Government Area increased by 1.9% to 138,801 when compared to June 2022. Of these businesses, 97% were considered small businesses with less than 20 employees and 3% were considered medium to large businesses with more than 20 employees. The top five industries by number of businesses in Brisbane are:

- professional, scientific and technical services

- rental, hiring and real estate services

- construction

- health care and social assistance

- transport, postal and warehousing.

5. In December 2023, approximately 530,000 domestic and international passengers traveling through Brisbane’s domestic and international airports. The number of domestic visitors are consistently more than the number of international visitors to Brisbane throughout this period. Additionally, the Brisbane tourism region had 7,325,298 domestic visitors with 4.17 million visitors originating from Queensland.

6. In 2023, the top five international visitors to Brisbane were as follows:

- 218,600 visitors from New Zealand

- 119,700 visitors from the United Kingdom

- 98,900 visitors from the United States of America

- 68,600 visitors from China

- 50,700 visitors from India.

Approximately $7.3 billion was spent by domestic visitors and $2.9 billion was spent by international visitors to Brisbane for the same period. As of February 2024, the monthly hotel occupancy rate was 76.6% and has stabilised higher than the pre-COVID-19 benchmark.

7. Brisbane’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) has followed the overall Australian trend, peaking at 7.9% towards the end of 2022 and returned to 4.2% as of December 2023. The CPI measures changes in the price of a range of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group, such as metropolitan households.

8. Over the last 12 months, pedestrian volumes in the Queen Street Mall have returned to an average of 84% of pre-COVID-19 levels. The highest pedestrian count occurred on 23 December 2023 at 96% of pre-COVID-19 levels.

9. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager for his informative presentation.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor DIXON.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **449/2023-24**  At that time, 2.57pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, 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 3pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

*At that time, 3.15pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Steven HUANG, assumed the Chair.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee report, please.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Danita PARRY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 April 2024, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Before I speak to the Committee report I just want to take a brief moment to reflect on the tragic incident that occurred on Edward Street last month. As those in the Chamber will know, on 8 March a Brisbane City Council bus turning left into Edward Street, left the road and very sadly took the life of Tia Cameron who was standing on the footpath.

I want to share Transport for Brisbane’s deepest sympathies with the family and friends of Tia Cameron. This was a truly devastating incident. The kind of incident that shocks and deeply affects our entire community, because no one ever expects anything like this to occur when we go about our daily lives.

You would have seen, Mr Deputy Chair, that the Queensland Police Service undertook some onsite testing as part of the investigation just this Sunday gone. Council is doing everything possible to support the QPS through their ongoing investigation. Of course the impacts of a tragedy like this are felt very widely, that includes our team in Transport for Brisbane and our bus drivers and I would dare say the entire organisation that wears the Council badge.

Our bus drivers, of course have a critically important role in keeping Brisbane moving. So to all of our bus drivers, I want to say thank you, your work is vital and it is appreciated by all residents who rely on our services. We know that it is a difficult job out there on the road, a very, very difficult job. Once again, this Chamber is with you every step of the way in that critical service that you provide to the residents of this city.

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor MURPHY: Last week, Chair, during the Transport Committee meeting, we had a joint presentation from both Transport for Brisbane and Brisbane Infrastructure (BI). We had a few newcomers to the Transport Committee this term. So the presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the impactful work that Transport for Brisbane and Brisbane Infrastructure do on a day to day basis and across the various major projects that have spanned several years. From the operations of our bus network through to constructing active transport infrastructure, I’m really excited for what lies ahead for the Transport Committee this term. Team Schrinner is committed to keeping Brisbane moving this term, Chair.

Later this year we will launch Brisbane Metro and will transform the city’s entire public transport experience. Along with introducing Metro services, we’ll also switch on Brisbane’s New Bus Network, delivering 160,000 more trips each and every year for our residents. With the first stage of Brisbane Metro very close to becoming a reality, we’ve also got our sights firmly set on the expansion of this project.

As you know, Chair, one of the LORD MAYOR’s key commitments during the 2024 election was to deliver a new Brisbane Metro depot and station for the north of our city at Fitzgibbon. This depot is essential to expanding the fully-electric, high-frequency Metro services into the northern suburbs from the Royal Brisbane Women’s Hospital. Unlike those opposite, we know that delivering Brisbane Metro services to the northern suburbs is vital for relieving congestion in this part of the city.

We’re also looking at how we can make our ferry network even better as well. We’re planning to go to tender for Brisbane’s first electric ferry which will help us to modernise and decarbonise our public transport. This term we will introduce CityCats to Howard Smith Wharves, in fact, actually this will be done before the end of this financial year, Chair.

We’re very proud of how our vision for Howard Smith Wharves has come to life and adding CityCats into this terminal will mean hundreds more services to and from the precinct each and every week. Which will make it even easier for residents and visitors to our city to enjoy this incredible part of our lifestyle offering.

Earlier this month we welcomed services to the new Dockside terminal and major works are now underway at Mowbray Park. The Committee received an update on that matter this morning. These upgrades are much needed and for that community, Deputy Chair, I would say are very much long awaited. So it is a great achievement to have the CityHopper back servicing Dockside once again.

While Mowbray Park is closed for its upgrade, we are encouraging e-mobility as an alternative transport option. Working with our providers, Council has supplemented the area with additional devices the residents are able to use, with one of the operators, Beam, on a 33 cents per minute discount rate.

Chair, that’s been a great success so far, with an average of 80 trips being taken per day using that offering to and from the Mowbray Park terminal. The average length of two kilometres means that most users are travelling into the Valley directly or into South Bank via the Goodwill Bridge. Sorry, into South Bank or coming into the city via the Goodwill Bridge, I should say.

Along with welcoming our new operators on e-mobility, we’ll also be celebrating the completion of the Kangaroo Point Bridge, which will provide faster, safer and more direct access for residents to get from the city to Kangaroo Point or from Kangaroo Point to the city. We know this bridge will take an estimated 84,000 cars off the road each and every year and it will save residents seven minutes of travel time when riding from The Gabba to the CBD.

But we aren’t just thinking about the city, Deputy Chair, those opposite would lead you to believe. We’re also thinking about the suburbs. We will deliver the Prebble Street bikeway which will provide a vital offroad connection between Rochedale and Wishart through the Bulimba Creek bikeway, in your ward, Mr Deputy Chair.

We’ll also be delivering a new connection between the Minnippi bikeway and the Minnippi Golf Course which will provide a dedicated link from Creek Road to the Bulimba Creek bikeway in Councillor ATWOOD’s ward. Importantly, we’ll be promoting walking, scooting and riding to school with our new Safe School Precincts program.

Mr Deputy Chair, the people of Brisbane gave this Administration a very strong mandate in March. That mandate is built upon a plan to keep Brisbane moving and I look forward on delivering our elements of that plan within the Transport portfolio this term. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Okay, thank you, Councillor.

Any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I just rise to speak briefly on the Transport Committee introduction and I note with interest, both the report and the Chair’s comments today about the Brisbane Metro. Interestingly the Brisbane Metro will be delivered this year, is what I heard.

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Now, yes, yes. So I guess the really interesting part of that is we still don’t know the true cost of that project. We don’t know how much it will actually overrun by the end of this, we’re working in the dark. I suspect in the Council budget in June we’re going to see further cost blowouts associated with this as well.

But the interesting part of all of this is the Transport Chair has indicated that he knows what’s happening with the bus network review. He hasn’t announced that, he hasn’t—

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —released the bus network review. There’s been no further consultation, as promised, with residents and residents are still in the dark. Now, I saw during the election campaign that there was some announcement. So clearly the LNP know what’s happening with the bus network review and my understanding is Translink has responded to Council but Council has not released the response publicly.

So why is that? If the Metro is going to be up and running later in the year and it’s now May tomorrow, why is it we don’t know how bus networks are going to change in Brisbane? We have to do more consultation with residents, because that’s what was promised when the routes were—when the report went to Translink it was promised there’d be further public consultation, so when’s that going to happen?

If Council—the LNP is genuine about this bus network review and listening to the community, they’ll have to assess that consultation, they’ll have to go back to Translink. This is all supposed to happen—what, in the next seven months, eight months?

So the big question we have here is why is the LNP sitting on the bus network review? Why haven’t they released it publicly so residents can fully understand and appreciate the bus changes. Many of them were cuts to routes in suburban areas. Why hasn’t the LNP released the bus network review? Why are the hiding it? Why won’t they provide it to all Councillors? Why won’t they release it publicly to the community?

So there is a really big problem with the Transport Chair’s introductory presentation where he talks up the Metro but is hiding the most—one of the most significant aspects of the Brisbane Metro, which is the changes to all the public bus routes that this Council has been lobbying for behind closed doors with Translink.

So I call on the LORD MAYOR, who’s absent, or the Transport Chair, to immediately release the bus network review response from Translink, to outline the timetable for further consultation with the community and to stop keeping residents in the dark about one of the most significant changes to residents in their local communities that can happen.

Now I remember the last time Council stuffed up the bus review back in—

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —back in 2011-12. The outcry from residents was extraordinary. We can see from the report that was released last year that there is a huge amount of feedback in my ward, in Councillor MASSEY’s ward, in other wards around Brisbane. People want to know what’s going on, they want their bus services, their local bus services, improved and they want them protected.

We know that this LNP Administration is only interested in cuts. They want to cut routes, they want to cut frequency. We want to know why they are hiding this bus network review.

So again, I call on the LORD MAYOR and the Transport Chair to immediately release the Translink response to the bus network review, to come clean with the public about what is proposed with the changes and to engage in meaningful public consultation and take into account the feedback that residents provide, to make sure we get a better bus service out of a $2 billion project, not a worse bus service like out in my area—

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —where they want to cut a local service, the 105. They want to reduce the frequency of other bus services and we’re getting no significant improvements to 95% of bus services in my ward.

So it’s time for this LNP Administration to come clean with the residents of Brisbane and provide the bus network review publicly for all to see and to engage in meaningful consultation on any changes that have been brought forward. I’m really fascinated to know why Councillor MURPHY is hiding this information from the Brisbane community.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak briefly about the transport—introductory transport report for Brisbane. Look, I only got my driver’s licence about three years ago which means I spent most of my life on public transport, walking and cycling.

So, for me, transport is something I care very deeply about because it was really important to my life. The thing that—like looking through this introductory report, there’s a couple of things that I notice, which I found really interesting. That were things that we heard were really challenging for people and were challenging for me also when I was predominantly—as I am still today—mostly a public transport and active transport user.

I mean firstly, the reliability of our buses. I think we talked about the network upgrade, Councillor JOHNSTON did talk about the network update. I do know for the network update, the highest consultation numbers were from The Gabba Ward. The two highest, South Brisbane and West End.

In my ward, some of the things that people constantly talk about is the lack of reliability of the buses. We can see here on Transport for Brisbane bus performance, that the average running time is about 80% which basically means that 20% of buses aren’t running on time. In real life that means one in five buses and that has real life effects for people that need public transport, people that need to get to work on time or people that need to get to their appointments on time.

Of course while the Metro is going to be delivered in the end of the year and will move our transport system more to a trunk structure as it’s spoke and wheel currently, what is still missing from our bus system is actually something radial that connects our suburbs to each other. Rather than, again, even though it is moving towards trunk, rather than a bus system that leads all roads to the city,

When we talk about the buses, like the bus fleet currently—and we talk about how our city is moving toward sustainability. Yet we can see right now, in 2024, currently less than 1.5% of our bus fleet is either electric or the Metro. What that actually means is that we are not transforming fast enough to face the climate crisis that is ahead of us. Noting that there is still—let me just find the page—953 diesel buses, right.

So when we talk about—as often rolled out by the LNP Administration—the clean, green and sustainable slogan, our bus fleet is certainly not clean, green and sustainable. Even though we will increase Metro buses to 66%, this still—if we aren’t moving towards more electric rapidly and as soon as possible—this will still mean that nearly five per cent, only five per cent of our fleet is not diesel or gas. Frankly, that’s just not quick enough for the adaptation that we need to face the climate crisis.

Another thing that I’ll note really quickly, because I found the information and I would love some clarity. Is within this it says that there’s over 11,000 passenger daily trips. So that approximately leads to about 77,000 passengers on the ferries weekly.

I’d love a little bit more clarity on that because just a couple of weeks ago, as I think last week, Councillor MURPHY was at a Kangaroo Point residents meeting and stated that Dockside ferry would need at least 15,000 trips weekly to even be considered as a CityCat terminal, even if temporary. The numbers just don’t seem to add up on that. So I’d love a little bit more clarity because I know that the residents in Kangaroo Point would love a little bit more clarity.

Of course, you know while there is work being done on our active transport network and this talks about topline figures in our active transport network. I think all of us—and this includes the Councillors on the other side—know that so many of our bikeways end in dead ends. They are unsafe, on dangerous roads and that we don’t have enough safe pedestrian crossings or intersected crossings across this city.

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor MASSEY: We know that deaths happen almost weekly from tragic, tragic accidents across the city and people do get hit by cars because it’s unsafe. So look, while I am saddened to not be on the Committee anymore, as you can tell I am very passionate about transport, very, very passionate about transport. I don’t think the Metro will solve our problems, though it might help a little, but just a little.

But without any vision or investment to increase the uptake of public transport by making it more frequent, reliable and low cost, if we do not spend the investment to make our active transport connected and safe, our city will continue to remain congested and car dependent. We see that every day in The Gabba. I have residents who have moved into The Gabba and are stuck on a bus for 40 minutes and it was quicker for them out in the suburbs.

So look, I’m looking forward to seeing what the work of the Transport Committee does in the future. I also call for more information for the network review and to see where we’re at. I think it’s important the consultation continues because that’s what our residents were promised. I hope that consultation, the feedback from all the residents across the wards that we represent, is actually seen and recognised in that network review.

While I look forward to seeing the work of the transportation Committee, I think we have a long, long way to go for Brisbane.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak briefly on the Transport Committee report before us today. Obviously it’s such a privilege to serve on this Committee on one of the most critical issues facing our city. That is the fact that in Australia, Brisbane is the most congested city.

That is a direct result of the lack of forward planning and vision by this current Council. So the opportunity to not only hear about what is happening, I guess and the priorities of this current Administration also highlights what this current Council is not doing.

What we discussed in the Transport Committee report was patronage. I think out of context it doesn’t entirely stack up because we know that over the last 10 years Brisbane has seen a huge amount of population growth in our suburbs. What we do know though, is that our bus network and our ferry network is travelling millions of passengers less.

So whilst it’s very easy to spin the numbers to suit yourselves, the reality is that far, far less people are taking up the opportunity to get on public transport. What we need to do, we know the research shows that to incentivise people to get on public transport, the services need to reflect what communities want and they need to be reliable.

Councillors interjecting.

Councillor COLLIER: Absolutely. I guess from hearing what the Administration has outlined as their priorities, I think we’re going to fall short yet again. Because for the third Council term in a row, this Council’s solution to addressing the congestion crisis is a single project.

Councillor interjecting.

Councillor COLLIER: It’s the Metro and sure, that’s fine but it replaces existing services and doesn’t actually increase patronage to the network. So I would love to hear more from the current Council about how we are going to address congestion. I know that every single Councillor would get the complaint or the comment to them all the time. We are sitting in traffic.

When you are sitting in traffic every single day, it means that you are spending less time at home with your family. You’re spending less time in local parks and playgrounds. You’re spending less time going out and experiencing the great arts and culture that our city has to offer, supporting local businesses. Not only does it have a huge economic impact, it has a huge emotional impact on people when they are stuck in traffic whether they are in a car or on a bus.

You know I could go on and on about the absolute abysmal failure of this Council to invest in any really, meaningful active transport infrastructure in the suburbs. The users come and see me all the time and you know I, myself, having been in a serious bicycle accident and the reason why I don’t ride a bike anymore, was because of a lack of infrastructure. I was hospitalised because of that.

You know that’s the very real impact of not investing. So they may be numbers on a spreadsheet to this Council but the impact of not investing in active transport infrastructure in our suburbs mean that children are at risk. They won’t take a—walk or take their bikes to school. So it is disappointing, I guess, to hear that it is just business as usual and on with the status quo from this current Council Administration. But on this side of the Chamber, we will not give up fighting for what is right.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate? No one is rising.

Councillor MURPHY, right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thanks, Mr Deputy Chair and appreciate all Councillors who have contributed to the debate on this report, which introduces the Transport Committee and describes some of the things that we do.

It was a very spirited debate, given that the content was actually not that interesting in terms of controversial, but I think there’s a few things I just wanted to cover off on. Probably just back where we started this debate and Councillor JOHNSTON. You know just very briefly, Deputy Chair. We will be closing the loop with Brisbane’s New Bus Network. We will be going back to the community and explaining some of the changes that we’ve made to the network that Translink have approved.

There haven’t been many changes and ultimately most of the changes that have been made are sensible and as a result of feedback from the community. So we look forward to having a discussion with the community about those. That won’t be further consultation in the strictest sense. That will be more of a—information about the changes as we lead into the Metro network being implemented and those final changes being made to the network. So we will be closing the loop to answer your question, Councillor JOHNSTON.

In terms of the cost of Metro. I’ve almost given up on explaining to Labor Councillors the costs and how they’ve worked because it doesn’t really matter what I say, they will claim $1.7 billion, $1.8 billion, $1.9 billion, $2 billion, $2.1 billion. They’ve made all sorts of outrageous claims on the cost of Brisbane Metro.

So it doesn’t matter, the truth will come out eventually that the cost is very much the same as it was when we announced the original cost increase from $944 million to $1.244 billion. So that is the cost of Brisbane Metro and things have not changed substantially since that time.

In terms of Councillor MASSEY, Councillor MASSEY raised some issues about bus reliability. One of the major issues that affects bus reliability in a mixed or hybrid travelling environment like Brisbane is that buses do have to share the general road network with traffic. As we know, as Brisbane’s population grows, the traffic in this city grows and buses have to share those roads and buses are slowed down by the traffic on those roads.

We don’t have a problem necessarily with bus congestion on the broader busway, except for in the inner city core. Which is the entire objective of Brisbane Metro to unclog the congestion on the busway in the inner city core.

When it comes to tackling congestion outside of the busway on the general traffic network, well I don’t think the Greens have the answer for that, Mr Deputy Chair. Because they oppose any and all road upgrades that would add capacity into that network to be able to deal with that additional traffic.

In terms of the request that Councillor MASSEY had around the radial network. I was interested to hear that because no doubt, if Councillor MASSEY is a strong consumer of bus products in this city, then she would no doubt have heard of the Great Circle Line, the 599 and the 598 which is indeed a radial route. That was not implemented by this Council but by a previous Labor administration.

It travels around the entire city and it is a relatively popular service with some sections of the community who—where the bus travels through that community. But I will not say that that service is setting the world on fire with its patronage, Chair. It’s been going on for a very long time, there are other cities that have radial systems like that, that have split them up and actually made them much more successful.

I point Councillor MASSEY to London’s Superloop, which is a TfL service, which has made a very successful radial line. So that is definitely something that we would like to see become better. Once again Council doesn’t plan the network, Translink plans the network and—well one of the reasons that we implemented Brisbane Metro was because Translink has done effectively nothing with this network in 10 years and starved it of growth funding. So you know that is a serious issue.

In terms of the issue she raised in relation to the 15,000 trips at Mowbray Park. I never said, Councillor MASSEY, that Mowbray Park needed to get to 15—sorry, Dockside needed to get to 15,000 trips like Mowbray Park in order to get a ferry. All I said to the residents was these are the levels of patronage that support a CityCat stopping there.

So Dockside is nowhere near that. So you know we would need to see evidence that Dockside can support those level of trip numbers before we add a CityCat in. Not that necessarily 15,000 people would need to be boarding the CityHopper, because I think that is a very unlikely circumstance indeed.

In terms of Councillor MASSEY also raised congestion on the bus network in and around The Gabba and I can only assume she’s referring to services like the Blue CityGlider and other buses that run throughout what is one of the most transport‑rich communities in this entire city, The Gabba Ward, with more ferry terminals, more bus stations, more options for e-mobility than any other part of the city, virtually, other than the CBD. Well, Councillor MASSEY, it is hard to have it both ways. We are working on fixing the issues with the trunk and feeder network at the moment, which is all about Brisbane Metro.

We actually need to get that system working before we can work on the radial network. So, you can’t have it both ways. You cannot complain about congestion in one of the most richly served transport districts in the city and say we’re not doing enough there, but also, we want a radial network. You cannot have your cake and eat it too. This Council is already doing the heavy lifting for the State when it comes to transport and we are already delivering the most complex project that Council has ever delivered with Brisbane Metro, which is a gift to the State Government that they are not grateful for. Now, Councillor COLLIER raised patronage as an issue.

This is a very timely issue, Councillor COLLIER. Today in City Hall right now, there is a conference going on called PTAANZ, the Public Transport Association of Australia and New Zealand. There are delegates from all around South-East Asia—as far away as London—I met with the head of public transport for Transport for London just yesterday—that are coming here to City Hall to talk about the issues with public transport and, guess what, they all have this issue in common. Patronage is down since COVID, because we told the public to stop catching public—sorry, there was some interjections there, Deputy Chair. During COVID, governments all around the world told the public to stop catching public transport and you know what they did? They listened.

So, many of them have stopped catching public transport and have not restarted catching public transport. Also, many of the old habits that we used to have—in terms of commuting into the city to work—have gone the way of the dodo with telecommuting and Teams and Zoom. So, this is a shared problem amongst every public transport organisation in the world, it’s not unique to Brisbane and there is nothing that this Administration has done that has caused that. We are all dealing with this and we are all trying to find a way out. In terms of—one thing that will be interesting is, in terms of investment, this year this Council will spend just shy of $700 million on public transport in this city as a combination of capital, CapEx and OpEx. The State Government will spend $400 million in OpEx on Brisbane’s bus network.

This is speaking strictly to buses. I know there are investments in Cross River Rail and other services. So, what I would ask the Opposition, what more can we do for an organisation of our size without literally robbing Peter to pay Paul and doing the State Government’s job for them? We already do so much for the State Government. We really need them to step up and make an investment in transport here in this city and we’ll be having more to say about that over the next few weeks, I can tell you that, Mr Deputy Chair. One thing I would like to see from the Opposition is just once, the Opposition get up and actually call on the State Government to invest in public transport in this city, in the bus network, in the network that two-thirds of all public transport commuters use.

Because I have yet to see them get up even once and criticise their State colleagues who have starved this city of funding while they have given money to the Redlands, while they have given money to Moreton Bay, while they have given money to Ipswich, while they have given money to Scenic Rim, while they have spent God knows how much money on the Gold Coast and on Sunshine Coast, but what is the city that gets robbed of public transport investment, Deputy Chair? Brisbane. But you will not see those Brisbane City Councillors ever stand up and point that out. I’ll leave further—well, thanks very much Chair I’ll wrap up there.

Deputy Chair: We’ll now put the report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Danita Parry (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Greg Adermann, Lucy Collier, Julia Dixon and Emily Kim.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – TRANSPORT COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

**450/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Engineering and Asset Management, Transport for Brisbane (TfB), General Manger, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure (BI) and General Manger, Major Projects, City Projects Office, BI, attended the meeting to provide an introduction to the Transport Committee. They provided the information below.

2. Council has a vision to be an industry-leading, multi-modal transport operator that provides seamless and connected journeys for residents and visitors. The TfB leadership team is supported by more than 3,300 staff and plan to enact this vision to meet Brisbane’s growing and evolving needs. City-shaping projects such as Brisbane Metro and Cross River Rail are transforming key destinations and meeting the demand for fast and efficient public transport.

3. Approximately two-thirds of Brisbane’s travelling public, equating to 200,000 customers, travel on Council’s bus network daily. As a contracted supplier to Translink, TfB is transitioning to a zero‑emissions fleet and features:

- 238 urban routes, including NightLink services

- services operating 21 hours per day, increasing to 24 hours per day on Fridays and Saturdays

- busways which are unique to Brisbane.

The Committee was shown various graphs to indicate bus network performance.

4. Council’s ferry patronage reached 2.798 million in the 2022-23 financial year, a figure already exceeded in the 2023-24 financial year. This network is operated by RiverCity Ferries and completes more than 11,000 daily passenger trips across 31 vessels (25 CityCats and five KittyCats) and 23 terminals. Patronage on the e-mobility network, operated by Beam and Neuron, incurs more than 8,500 trips daily. The Committee was shown graphs to indicate ferry and e-mobility patronage.

5. Council’s mission is to enable a thriving and sustainable city through combining asset management, infrastructure planning, design, project management, construction, services, maintenance and transport operations activities. The Committee was provided with an overview of the BI divisional leadership team and organisational chart.

6. Brisbane’s transport network infrastructure features:

- 15,809 roads

- 447 kilometres of bikeway

- 5,015 footpaths

- 6 kilometres of riverwalk

- 6,305 bus stops.

7. Development of the Dockside ferry terminal and the ongoing development of the Mowbray Park ferry terminal were noted as key public transport infrastructure projects.

8. Planning and design of the active transport network includes on road and off road cycle facilities, such as the green bridges, dedicated bikeway infrastructure such as CityLink Cycleway and mid and end trip facilities such as bike parking. Such infrastructure is utilised for the Active School Travel program (the program), a three-year travel behaviour change program encouraging families to leave their vehicle at home and actively travel to school. Now in its 20th year, Council has partnered with more than 80% of schools in Brisbane to deliver the program.

9. Brisbane Metro is a high-capacity, turn-up-and-go service which will introduce two new lines, reduce bottlenecks and congestion by maximising busways and simplifying services and increase connections with other public transport modes, including Cross River Rail.

The Committee was provided with some key features of the Brisbane Metro:

- 10 active sites across Brisbane

- 60 metro vehicles operating on two new metro lines

- metros arriving every five minutes during peak periods

- stop announcements and real-time journey information

- three large doors for efficient boarding.

10. The Committee was provided with an overview of the Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera green bridges as key connections in the active transport network.

11. Following a question from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Managers for their informative presentation.

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor Wines, Infrastructure Committee.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steve TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. The Committee, like many Committees, considered and presented to the Committee members an overview of what each division of our organisation did and what each program area did. So, can I thank our Divisional Manager, Mr Scott Stewart, for providing a presentation to Councillors and for his overview of what is within the infrastructure program. So, of course, sometimes there’s some confusion and when I say sometimes, I mean often, because I see the things that are laid at the feet of the infrastructure team, of the Brisbane Infrastructure division and the branches within it and they are not within our area, even though this morning’s Committee, I was being asked about where particular bus stops would be located in relation to the Metro project and of course, Metro has existed within the Transport division for some time. So, I thought it was important that we took time like this to remind Councillors of where things are, how they work and who looks after them. So, Mr Stewart provided Committee with an introduction about his division and outlined the strategic framework and operational structure of BI. BI is a division that brings together Council’s assets management, infrastructure planning, design, project management, construction services maintenance and transport operation activities.

So, Mr Stewart highlighted many roles including the principal ones that fall within BI. That’s of course BI generally. Within the CPO (City Projects Office), there is Asset Management and TPO (Transport and Planning Operations). Within BI there is another group called City Standards that has its own program area and its own Committee and I think often that that distinction is lost to a lot of people, but it’s an important one for the operation and administration of this Council. Mr Stewart presented the Asset Management’s role and recognised that team for the effort that they make to set standards within the organisation that are then delivered by other parts of the organisation. Sometimes there’s a view that the Asset Management team, which comparatively is a relatively small team, is the group of people who are responsible for the maintenance and delivery of items. They are not, they are a policy group who set the standards of the assets owned by this organisation and then inform other groups within the Council of what is it happen within those sections.

So, it’s a distinction that may be confusing to people because they’re called Asset Management, but they sit in behind the delivery framework. They set the framework so that other parts of Council can deliver the framework. So, can I just pre-empt, if anyone takes this opportunity to make a pointless and meandering speech about the standards of footpaths, that is not Asset Management, all right? Asset Management is not that group, all right? That is a different group. I feel that I will say this again tonight somehow.

Can I also recognise that the Transport Planning Operations branch, who a lot of Councillors deal with on a regular basis—they would present to most Councillors as a team of people who look after signs and lines and other on-street operations. They also have responsibility for minor traffic and transport works, such as our Local Area Traffic Management projects and things like this. Then of course, the City Projects Office, which is the large-scale delivery arm of this organisation. Within that, there are of course Major Projects and then there’s other projects which you have, things like civil and transport, civic projects and then you have also in that what some Councillors would recall as City Design, but it’s of course the design component of our organisation as well. So, there was also a moment taken for City Standards, but that is principally a different delivery stream. There were three petitions considered on a range of matters within the BI area, some on traffic calming, some on intersection upgrades, some on corridor management. They are varied and I look forward to the contributions of local Councillors on those matters.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. I’m going to speak on item C, petition requesting Council postpone proposed changes to the intersections of Brighton Road Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

**Seriatim *en bloc* - Clauses C and D**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause C, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL POSTPONE PROPOSED CHANGES AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF BRIGHTON ROAD AND FOURTH AND FIFTH AVENUES, SANDGATE, UNTIL FURTHER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS UNDERTAKEN; and Clause D, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL MAKE ROAD CROSSINGS SAFER FOR PEDESTRIANS ALONG MACQUARIE STREET AND VERNON TERRACE, TENERIFFE, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: In speaking on item C here, this was a frustratingly slow process to see this petition response come to Council and I spent months going backwards and forwards with the Council officers who were seeking my feedback on the proposed response, which I ultimately didn’t support because I had one very simple question, which seemed to be almost impossible to be answered and that was whether this project was still funded, whether there was still money allocated for this project to be consulted on or not going forward.

I don’t know why it took three or four backwards and forwards emails of me asking the same question and not getting an answer until I finally, finally received the answer that the funding was cut for this project, in fact. So, it makes the petition response a moot point, I guess, because the LORD MAYOR clearly used an opportunity to cut funding for this vital pedestrian safety upgrade. So, what this project is about is upgrading the pedestrian crossings near Fourth and Fifth Avenue on Brighton Road in Sandgate, which for Councillors who aren’t familiar with Sandgate, Brighton Road is the main street, where the Einbunpin Lagoon fronts where most of our local businesses’ fronts, the main street of Sandgate.

Wombat crossings or raised platforms as a safety upgrade to these pedestrian crossings has been in budget submissions from my very first one as a Councillor and I know they predate me to the previous Councillor as well and I was thrilled to see that funding was allocated to this project, to see this pedestrian safety upgrade occur two budgets ago now. It was carried over well before this petition was started, from two budgets ago to last budget and now I’ve found out it’s been cut entirely. The petition that we have before us today actually followed the formal and official consultation process which Council did undertake and I participated in as a local Councillor and the person who started the petition was consulted as a local resident in the local street there and I accept and understand that he didn’t support the project or one element of the project and decided to start a petition, even though the consultation was successful.

Council was proceeding with this project with my support as the local Councillor. But the petition presented options that simply were not possible. These are options that I know Council officers investigated. I asked them to look at it again after I went myself and looked at other options in neighbouring Councils. I went over to Redcliffe to look at how they’ve dealt with drainage issues around raised platforms and things like that. We tried very hard to look at other options. But in the end, the Council Officers’ advice continued to be that, what was proposed, which included banning a right turn from Fourth Avenue into Brighton Road, because it would otherwise have made the pedestrian crossing non-compliant, was the only option going forward.

So, I supported the position of Council, of Council officers and had some tough conversations with local residents who were not happy about that action. But given this is such a critical and important safety upgrade, I thought that was the right thing to do. I, myself, have nearly been hit on the Fifth Avenue pedestrian crossing. I know a police officer working at the Sandgate Police Station, which is—their doorstep is basically at the pedestrian crossing on Fifth Avenue, was nearly hit while she was pregnant. There are countless other people who have nearly been hit on these pedestrian crossings, hence why it received funding in the Council budget at the request of Council officers and me as local Councillor two budgets ago, finally and that had carried forward.

However, to now find out that the petition response here is that somehow more consultation needs to occur. On what, I’m not sure. On the option that was presented to the community on—different options that Council officers said are simply not possible. I’m not sure who’s carrying out that consultation on what changes need to be consulted on and whether that can even occur now that the project has effectively been cancelled. So, that’s the reason I didn’t support the recommendation before us today. I support the project—I’ll put that on record—if we have to make a tough decision.

Not everybody in the community is supportive of that, because it’s about pedestrian safety. It’s about making sure that these crossings are compliant and about making sure our community is walkable and safe for everybody. So, yes, I can’t support the recommendation before us today, but I put on record that I do support this project and I’ve continued to call for it to be funded in the upcoming Council budget and I just think we need to make a decision to address this critical safety issue once and for all.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate? No.

Councillor WINES, right of reply? No.

Now I’ll put the vote.

Item A and B to the vote.

**Clauses A and B put**

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

Deputy Chair: We will now put items C and D to the vote.

**Clauses C and D put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses C and D of the report of the Infrastructure 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: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Steven Huang, Kim Marx and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE PORTFOLIO INTRODUCTION

**451/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an introduction to the Infrastructure Committee portfolio. He provided the information below.

2. Council’s Program 2 – Infrastructure for Brisbane develops and delivers a transport network that supports business, residents and visitors by enabling the safe, efficient and sustainable movement of people, freight and services.

3. Council’s Brisbane Infrastructure (BI) division brings together Council’s asset management, infrastructure planning, design, project management, construction services, maintenance and transport operations activities. BI’s mission is to enable a thriving and sustainable city for our current and future residents, businesses and visitors.

4. BI consists of more than 3,000 employees working across a range of locations including Brisbane Square, Green Square, Regional Business Centres, the Regional Operating Centre and project site offices. The Committee was shown the BI Organisational Chart which provides an overview of the leadership team and their roles within the division.

5. Branches within BI include:

- Program Planning and Integration

- Fleet Solutions

- Public Space Operations

- Asphalt and Aggregates

- Construction

- Waste and Resource Recovery Services

- Commercial Services and Business Improvement

- Planning and Design

- Major Projects

- Project Management

- Transport Planning and Operations

- Asset Management.

6. The Infrastructure Committee is responsible for the management of Council’s $39 billion of assets. The Committee was shown a diagram of the lifecycle of a Council asset and the roles of owner, manager, deliverer and maintainer of assets. Council also has the Asset Steering Committee which is responsible for optimising how Council manages its assets portfolio.

7. Asset Management is responsible for oversight of policy and strategic asset management of all Council’s built and natural assets. Functions of the branch include:

- economics and governance

- engineering and sustainability

- digital information.

8. Transport Planning and Operations (TPO), has a critical role within Council to effectively plan and operate Brisbane’s transport network to meet current and future needs of the city. TPO’s responsibilities include:

- providing strategic transport planning advice

- providing strategic transport planning advice across Council in relation to major land use and transport planning studies for all modes

- strategic transport planning and development of the Road Network, public transport and the Freight Network Plans

- program management and budget coordination for the Infrastructure for Brisbane Program

- managing incoming customer contacts relating to the operation of transport networks

- operation and ownership of the transport network and assets.

9. In partnership with the Queensland Government, TPO operates the Brisbane Metropolitan Transport Management Centre (BMTMC). The BMTMC exists to optimise the efficiency of the road network in real-time, supporting safe, efficient and reliable travel. It is located at Brisbane Square and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

10. City Projects Office (CPO) delivers Council’s projects and programs through effective project ownership, contract management and planning and design, with emphasis placed on value-add, quality, design best practice, innovation and environmental sustainability. CPO also maintains strong partnerships and stakeholder relationships, contributing to the framework of *Brisbane Vision 2031*.

11. CPO has previously worked on major projects including the City Reach Boardwalk Rehabilitation project, Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade and flood recovery efforts. Current projects include:

- Lindum rail crossing upgrade

- major traffic improvements such as the Black Spot Program, funded by the Australian Government

- Bill Brown Reserve shared path project

- Moggill Road corridor upgrade.

12. City Standards manages the provision of construction and maintenance activities across Brisbane’s civil and green assets, in conjunction with the management of significant service contracts for waste and resource recovery. Working across all programs of Council, City Standards is the key interface between Council’s asset owners, program partners and the community. Current infrastructure projects being managed by City Standards include crumbed rubber placement trials and maintenance of the William Jolly Bridge.

13. City Standards primarily delivers services related to the City Standards Committee, however, also undertakes works relevant to the Infrastructure Committee, including:

- roads

- structures

- city lighting

- asset management of Council's structural assets: bridges (road, pedestrian, bicycle), culverts, boardwalks, retaining walls

- constructed and formed roads requiring maintenance and rehabilitation.

Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Divisional Manager for his informative presentation.

14. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON LEIGHTON STREET, WAVELL HEIGHTS

**137/220/594/239**

**452/2023-24**

15. A petition requesting Council install traffic calming measures on Leighton Street, Wavell Heights, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 1 August 2023, by Councillor Adam Allan, and received.

16. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

17. The petition contains 15 signatures. Of the petitioners, 13 live on Leighton Street and two petitioners live on Campbell Terrace, Wavell Heights.

18. Leighton Street has a speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

19. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming measures to be installed on Leighton Street to deter speeding and corner cutting, is noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds.

20. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

21. Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Leighton Street from a traffic survey undertaken in July 2023. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the traffic survey results. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 415 vehicles per weekday using Leighton Street, which is considered an acceptable volume for a neighbourhood road and not indicative of a high volume of non-local traffic utilising the street. The average vehicle speeds were 43.1 km/h in the eastbound direction and 38.6 km/h in the westbound direction, demonstrating compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit. Taking these factors into consideration, traffic calming devices are not proposed for Leighton Street.

22. A review of the Queensland Government’s crash data over the last five years for the intersection of Leighton Street and Campbell Terrace has been undertaken. The review did not identify any crashes at the intersection during this time or inherent safety issues due to the current road configuration. As such, no changes are proposed for the intersection of Leighton Street and Campbell Terrace.

23. While it is noted that some motorists may be speeding or cutting the corner at the intersection of Leighton Street and Campbell Terrace, these matters are predominately driver behavioural issues under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding or corner cutting motorists directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

24. Councillor Adam Allan, Councillor for Northgate Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

26. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee unanimously agreed.

27. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/239

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install traffic calming measures on Leighton Street, Wavell Heights.

Your request for traffic calming measures to be installed on Leighton Street to deter speeding and corner cutting, has been considered. Leighton Street has a speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds.

Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Leighton Street from a traffic survey undertaken in July 2023. The weekday traffic volumes recorded show an average of 415 vehicles per weekday using Leighton Street, which is considered acceptable volume for a neighbourhood road and not indicative of a high volume of non-local traffic utilising the street. The average vehicle speeds were 43.1 km/h in the eastbound direction and 38.6 km/h in the westbound direction, demonstrating compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit by most motorists. Taking these factors into consideration, traffic calming devices are not proposed for Leighton Street.

A review of the Queensland Government’s crash data over the last five years for the intersection of Leighton Street and Campbell Terrace has been undertaken. The review did not identify any crashes at the intersection during this time or inherent safety issues due to the current road configuration. As such, no changes are proposed for the intersection of Leighton Street and Campbell Terrace.

While it is noted that some motorists may be speeding or cutting the corner at the intersection of Leighton Street and Campbell Terrace, these matters are predominately driver behavioural issues under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). You are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding or corner cutting motorists directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Ben Clayton, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 1318.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL POSTPONE PROPOSED CHANGES AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF BRIGHTON ROAD AND FOURTH AND FIFTH AVENUES, SANDGATE, UNTIL FURTHER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS UNDERTAKEN

**137/220/594/200**

**453/2023-24**

28. A petition requesting Council postpone proposed changes at the intersections of Brighton Road and Fourth and Fifth Avenues, Sandgate, until further community engagement is undertaken, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 21 March 2023, by Councillor Jared Cassidy, and received.

29. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

30. The petition contains 93 signatures. Of the petitioners, 91 live in Bracken Ridge, Brighton, Deagon, Sandgate and Shorncliffe, and two live in other suburbs in of the City of Brisbane, including Banyo and Boondall. The petitioners also request for Council to consider alternate options. These include:

- Option 1 – the installation of a set of traffic lights with a pedestrian crossing on Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue

- Option 2 – the relocation of the pedestrian crossing on Brighton Avenue closer to the bus stop on Brighton Avenue

31. Council’s Local Access Network Improvements suburban works program (the program) delivers transport infrastructure improvements across Brisbane. Works typically include new and upgraded active transport crossing facilities and minor intersection upgrades that enhance access and safety for road users.

32. Brighton Road between Fourth and Fifth Avenues was identified as a location where pedestrian access and safety improvements would be beneficial. Funding was allocated within the 2022‑23 program to commence planning, design and community consultation. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

33. Council engages with residents and businesses who may be affected by works to understand their experiences and expectations, through different levels of engagement, guided by *CED002 - Community Engagement Policy*. Community feedback is considered alongside technical inputs to confirm the implementation of any proposed changes.

34. Consultation with the local community on the proposed changes was considered appropriate for this project including feedback received following the indicated consultation end date. This is an important part of providing balanced solutions that meet the needs of the community and our growing transport network.

35. On 25 October 2022, Council distributed a consultation plan (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) and letter to residents, businesses and property owners on Brighton Road between Fourth and Sixth Avenues and Fourth Avenue, between Brighton Road and Flinders Parade, to seek feedback about proposed improvements which included:

- Upgrading the existing crossing on Brighton Road at Fifth Avenue to a raised zebra crossing, to moderate vehicle speeds and enhance pedestrian crossing safety.

- Replacing the existing zebra crossing on Brighton Road at Fourth Avenue to a two staged zebra crossing to enhance pedestrian crossing safety and improve the visibility of pedestrians.

- Removing a section of the central median island near Fourth Avenue to extend the space for pedestrians waiting to cross.

- Extending the length of the existing central median island on Brighton Road at Fourth Avenue and restricting right turns from Fourth Avenue to Brighton Road, to reduce the risk of crashes between turning vehicles and the pedestrian crossing on Brighton Road.

- Installing no stopping parking restrictions on the eastern side of Brighton Road at the pedestrian crossings to improve visibility between road users and pedestrians.

- Upgrading kerb ramps, footpath connections to current standards new pavement, street lighting and turfing.

36. The consultation period was open for two weeks from 25 October to 8 November 2022. This provided residents, businesses and property owners with an opportunity to provide their feedback through multiple avenues of communication, including email, calling the project hotline or sending a letter by post.

37. It is noted the petitioners requested that Council considers alternative options for Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue. There is a relatively high pedestrian crossing demand on Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue, where there is substantial benefit in retaining a crossing in this location to maintain access for pedestrians travelling between nearby shops, cafes, parking spaces, bus stops, community facilities and the Sandgate Foreshore. Furthermore, the proposed staged zebra crossing facility is considered a practical option for this location, as it is anticipated to continue to minimise delays for pedestrians crossing Brighton Road, while also minimising delays for motorists as they only need to stop and give way to pedestrians when they are on or next to, the crossing.

38. The removal of the right-turn movement for motorists entering Brighton Road from Fourth Avenue is required to address safety concerns and remove the risk of crashes involving pedestrians and motorists. In consideration of the relatively low demand for right-turns from Fourth Avenue to Brighton Road on weekdays and that motorists have alternate access options, such as the existing roundabout located at the intersection of Brighton Road, Second Avenue, Seymour Street and Bowser Parade approximately 200 metres south of Fourth Avenue, the removal of the right-turn movement is anticipated to have minimal impact to motorists.

39. The proposed improvements address the immediate safety concerns for pedestrians, reducing conflict points between pedestrians and motorists, while enhancing visibility for all road users on Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue. Following careful consideration of alternative options, the staggered zebra crossing treatment on Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue, with a left-turn only condition from Fourth Avenue to Brighton Road, is considered the most practical option at this location.

40. To facilitate these improvements, three street trees were originally identified as requiring removal. Following feedback received by the community and further design development, this number has been reduced to two trees requiring removal. All tree removal work is carried out in accordance with the relevant environmental guidelines and is in accordance with Council policies and relevant legislative requirements.

41. The petitioners’ request for the project team to conduct further community engagement before progressing to the next stages of the project is noted. As this project did not receive funding for the 2023‑24 financial year, the project will not progress at this time. However, should the project secure funding at a future date, Council supports the petitioners’ requests for further community engagement to be undertaken prior to progressing to the next stages.

Funding

42. The works were funded through Program 2 – Infrastructure for Brisbane in the previous financial year.

Consultation

43. Councillor Jared Cassidy, Councillor for Deagon Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

44. The response addresses the petitioners’ concerns.

45. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Charles Strunk dissenting.

46. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/200

Thank you for your petition requesting Council postpone proposed changes at the intersections of Brighton Road with Fourth and Fifth Avenues, Sandgate, until further community engagement is undertaken, and for Council to consider the following alternate options:

- Option 1 – the installation of a set of traffic lights with a pedestrian crossing on Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue

- Option 2 – the relocation of the pedestrian crossing on Brighton Avenue closer to the bus stop on Brighton Avenue.

Council’s Local Access Network Improvements suburban works program (the program) delivers transport infrastructure improvements across Brisbane. Works typically include new and upgraded active transport crossing facilities and minor intersection upgrades that enhance access and safety for all road users.

Brighton Road between Fourth and Fifth Avenues, was identified as a location where pedestrian access and safety improvements would be beneficial. Council engages with residents and businesses who may be affected by works to understand the experiences and expectations of residents and businesses through different levels of engagement, guided by Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*.

Community feedback is an important part of the program and is considered alongside our technical inputs to confirm the implementation of proposed treatments.

On 25 October 2022, Council distributed a letter to residents, businesses and property owners on Brighton Road, between Fourth and Sixth Avenues, and Fourth Avenue, between Brighton Road and Flinders Parade, to seek feedback about proposed improvements which included:

- Upgrading the existing crossing on Brighton Road at Fifth Avenue to a raised zebra crossing, to moderate vehicle speeds and enhance pedestrian crossing safety.

- Replacing the existing zebra crossing on Brighton Road at Fourth Avenue to a two staged zebra crossing to enhance pedestrian crossing safety and improve the visibility of pedestrians.

- Removing a section of the central median island near Fourth Avenue to extend the space for pedestrians waiting to cross.

- Extending the length of the existing central median island on Brighton Road at Fourth Avenue and restricting right turns from Fourth Avenue to Brighton Road to reduce the risk of crashes between turning vehicles and the pedestrian crossing on Brighton Road.

- Installing no stopping parking restrictions on the eastern side of Brighton Road at the pedestrian crossings to improve visibility between road users and pedestrians.

- upgrading kerb ramps, footpath connections to current standards and new pavement, street lighting and turfing.

The consultation period was open for two weeks from 25 October to 8 November 2022. This provided residents, businesses and property owners with an opportunity to provide feedback through multiple avenues of communication, including email, calling the project hotline or sending a letter by post.

Your request for Council to consider alternative options for Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue is noted. The proposed improvements are considered appropriate to address the immediate safety concerns for pedestrians, reducing conflict points between pedestrians and motorists, while enhancing visibility for all road users on Brighton Road near Fourth Avenue. However, Council appreciates your requests for the project team to conduct further community engagement before progressing to the next stages of the project. Consultation with the community is important to ensure Council delivers balanced solutions and meets the needs of the community and our growing transport network.

As this project did not receive funding for the 2023-24 financial year, the project will not progress at this time. Should the project secure funding at a future date, Council supports your requests for further community engagement to be undertaken prior to progressing to the next stages.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Michael Denman, A/Senior Programs and Projects Manager, Program Management, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure on (07) 3178 0985.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL MAKE ROAD CROSSINGS SAFER FOR PEDESTRIANS ALONG MACQUARIE STREET AND VERNON TERRACE, TENERIFFE

**137/220/594/252**

**454/2023-24**

47. A petition requesting Council make road crossings safer for pedestrians along Macquarie Street and Vernon Terrace, Teneriffe, was received during the Spring Recess 2023.

48. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

49. The petition contains 54 signatures. Of the petitioners, 39 live in the suburbs of Teneriffe, Newstead or New Farm, 11 live in other suburbs in the City of Brisbane and four live outside of the City of Brisbane.

50. Macquarie Street and Vernon Terrace have a posted speed limit of 50 km/h and are classified as District roads in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy. District roads facilitate the movement of people and goods to and through suburbs, including buses and heavy vehicles. District roads also provide a direct connection to Neighbourhood roads. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

51. The petitioners’ request for safer crossing facilities on Macquarie Street and Vernon Terrace, between the signalised intersections of James Street and Merthyr Road and Vernon Terrace and Commercial Road is noted. Council considers a location for pedestrian crossing facilities by assessing individual environments using the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads’ *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the Australian Standard *AS 1742.10‑2009*.

52. Macquarie Street and Vernon Terrace have five pedestrian refuge crossing facilities located near the intersections of Dath, Ethel, Florence, Beeston and Hastings Streets. Pedestrian refuge islands are Council’s preferred crossing treatment on two-way, single-lane roads where pedestrian demand is inconsistent, as they provide a staged crossing of one direction of traffic at a time, while still ensuring traffic flow is maintained through the area.

53. Pedestrian desire lines and common attractors are also factors when planning for new pedestrian refuge crossing facilities. Another consideration when investigating a location for a pedestrian refuge crossing is appropriate sight lines for pedestrians crossing and approaching traffic.

54. The petitioners’ concerns regarding speeding motorists is noted. To further promote road safety, speed awareness monitors (SAM) are installed on Council roads. SAM are installed for a minimum of one month and increase motorist awareness of their travelling speed by acting as a reminder to adhere to the speed limit. The citywide program has seen a decrease in the number of motorists travelling over the speed limit when passing the signs, with an average speed reduction of more than 8 km/h across all sites since the program began in late 2013. There are two SAM sites located on Macquarie Street, both near the intersection of Hastings Street for southbound and northbound motorists. SAM will continue to be installed at these two sites on a rotating basis.

55. Speeding is a behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). As such, the petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

56. Councillor Vicki Howard, Councillor for Central Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

58. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Charles Strunk dissenting.

59. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/252

Thank you for your petition requesting Council make road crossings safer for pedestrians along Macquarie Street, Teneriffe.

Your request for safer crossing facilities on Macquarie Street and Vernon Terrace, between the signalised intersections of James Street and Merthyr Road and Vernon Terrace and Commercial Road is noted. Council considers a location for pedestrian crossing facilities by assessing individual environments using the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads’ Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Australian Standard AS 1742.10‑2009.

Macquarie Street and Vernon Terrace have five pedestrian refuge crossing facilities located near the intersections of Dath, Ethel, Florence, Beeston and Hastings Streets. Pedestrian refuge islands are Council’s preferred crossing treatment on two-way, single-lane roads where pedestrian demand is inconsistent, as they provide a staged crossing of one direction of traffic at a time, while still ensuring traffic flow is maintained through the area.

Pedestrian desire lines and common attractors are also factors when planning for new pedestrian refuge crossing facilities. Another consideration when investigating a location for a pedestrian refuge crossing is appropriate sight lines for pedestrians crossing and approaching traffic.

Your concerns regarding speeding motorists is noted. To further promote road safety, speed awareness monitors (SAM) are installed on Council roads. SAM are installed for a minimum of one month and increase motorist awareness of their travelling speed by acting as a reminder to adhere to the speed limit. The citywide program has seen a decrease in the number of motorists travelling over the speed limit when passing the signs, with an average speed reduction of more than 8 km/h across all sites since the program began in late 2013. There are two SAM sites located on Macquarie Street, both near the intersection of Hastings Street for southbound and northbound motorists. SAM will continue to be installed at these two sites on a rotating basis.

Speeding is a behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). As such, the petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Matthew Pye, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 5760.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

*At that time, 4.02pm, the Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, resumed the Chair.*

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week’s Committee was provided with an overview of how planning and development are undertaken within Council and as the other Committee reports have indicated, they all seem to go down this path in the start of the new Council term. I’m just outlining the key functions of each of the portfolios. As many in this Chamber would be aware, the State Government sets out the planning framework for Queensland through the *Planning Act 2016* and supporting *Planning Regulation 2017*. Any amendments to our planning scheme, which is *City Plan 2014* (City Plan), need to follow the process set out in the Ministers’ guidelines and rules. These guidelines and rules also specify the sequence of Council and State Government decisions and any public consultation requirements depending on the sections of City Plan being amended.

It is our City Plan that provides a strategic framework for planning in Brisbane and specifically detailed the preferred sustainable growth and servicing for Brisbane. This framework is supported by a range of zones, overlays and neighbourhood plans which set out important considerations and expectations for developments in different parts of the city. Council’s Neighbourhood Planning Program commenced in 2006 and has worked with the community on 84 neighbourhood plans. This program ensures neighbourhoods are ready to grow while keeping the elements valued by those local communities. In the last 10 years, neighbourhood plans have facilitated an additional 62,000 homes.

The Committee also received a briefing on the four key policy documents for program four, including *Brisbane: Our Productive City*, which was released in October 2022, *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy*, which was released in March 2023, *Brisbane’s Housing Supply Action Plan*, which was released in October 2023 and *Brisbane’s Inner City Strategy*, released April 2023. The Committee also received an update on our Development Services team and several key activities they undertake. In 2023, Development Services achieved the following. They completed 690 pre‑lodgement meetings. They assessed 3,586 development applications. They assessed 1,326 operational works applications, processed 588 planned sealing applications, completed 32,291 plumbing inspections and approved 7,313 plumbing permits.

Our Development Services General Manager also outlined to the Committee the two online services Council provides, specifically City Plan Online and Development.i. Both services ensure customers can access information on properties and approved and proposed developments. Development Services also assist residents through the Planning Information Office, who are a team of town planners who are able to assist with general planning inquiries. Inquiries typically relate to renovations, traditional building character houses, granny flats, home businesses, flood overlay requirements, carports, multiple dwellings and subdivisions.

Council’s 24-hour Contact Centre is available to assist customers with simple planning and development applications and development advice as well as food licensing and advertising sign advice. Development Services also delivers weekly Talk to a Planner events throughout the year. These events consist of a 15-minute one-on-one session with a town planner, which helps residents, business owners and community groups learn more about City Plan and how it relates to their building and construction plans. Madam Chair, I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor, is there further—

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak on the presentation for City Planning Suburban Renewal Committee. It’s been a while since I’ve been on that Committee, so it’s good to be back and I was very interested in the reintroduction into what’s happening and we all see some of the things that Councillor ALLAN spoke about come through here: City Plan amendments, the Housing Supply Action Plan and other documents and the one that I was most interested in during the presentation and asked some questions about was the Housing Supply Action Plan, otherwise known as—and I’m getting that right, aren’t I? The Housing Homelessness Strategy, otherwise known as Housing Supply Action Plan, which is not the City Plan, obviously, but it’s a strategy document that is to inform changes to City Plan.

Now, when it was released with great fanfare by the Deputy Mayor and I get there are certain precincts within that that are contained within the Economic Development portfolio, but overall, changes to City Plan as a result of those decisions by the Administration are handled by Councillor ALLAN. So, we saw obviously the first cab off the rank for that was Kurilpa TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument), which then comes into effect. That plan had a whole lot of specific locations for increased density to help address Brisbane’s homelessness and housing crisis. It was released last year as a document with urgent and immediate actions that this Administration was going to take as their solution at a Council level to the housing and homelessness crisis that is gripping our city. They were very quick to get the Kurilpa plan started.

The TLPI passed through here up to the State Government through amendments, then adopted. So, I was very interested to find out what the next cab off the rank is. Is it Hamilton Road at Chermside, which is identified in the plan specifically? Is it the three specific sites identified in Wynnum, in the Wynnum Town Centre? Or is it Lutwyche Road at Lutwyche, the specific sites that were identified there? There’s a whole lot—or Carindale Shopping Centre or at other places around the city. The answer I got was pretty puzzling and perplexing, Chair, in that Councillor ALLAN said that, well, work’s going on behind the scenes. But the Administration, clearly, from that response and the slow work that’s been going on there, don’t actually see that as much of a priority.

So, why they were so quick to get Kurilpa out the gate, but then not any of the others seems a bit strange to me, when it’s supposed to be an immediate response to the housing and homelessness crisis that is facing Brisbane. Probably not so surprising when you really consider the driver behind the changes that we see coming through, when we look at the locations that are in that strategy. So, Kurilpa, obviously, number one, we found out through the debate from the DEPUTY MAYOR that it was developer-led.

So, the changes and the locations and the density were largely developer-led and Councillor ALLAN let slip that’s also the process at which they’re going through for other amendments to City Plan that are identified and increasing density in the precincts are identified in the Housing Supply Action Plan. So, that’s not a very good way of planning for future growth in addressing our housing and homelessness crisis, you would think. That’s the document, that’s the main one that is this Council’s response and I thought, going in last week, that we would definitely have that front and centre. That would be the first and foremost thing, because we’re here week after week.

The last two meetings we’ve had here in this term and all the meetings we had towards the end of last term, the LORD MAYOR and LNP Chairs get up and blame Labour Councillors for apparently stopping development. We hear that week-in, week-out, but the levers which this Administration can pull are clearly being slowed right down. They’re developer-led to start with to obviously maximise yields and profits, one. But secondly, they’re not about getting a genuine policy response to a housing and homelessness crisis. They’re clearly just a business as usual planning process, that instead of being done all out in the open with the community as the first port of call, they’re now being done largely behind closed doors with developers as the first port of call and then the community sees the draft that is already developed once it is released.

So, I’m a bit disappointed, I have to say, in the presentation. I get the facts and figures and what Councillor ALLAN has said about the number of prelodgement meetings. That’s all fine and good and that’s factual, but in terms of a policy response, I would have thought the very first meeting to come out, out the gate urgently addressing the housing and homelessness crisis our city faces with every single lever that this Council can pull and it was crickets. It was crickets. There was nothing in the presentation and even when we asked questions, the information that we received as Committee members was, look, there’s something happening behind scenes, but that’s not for you to know as a Councillor—as a member of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee. So, extremely disappointing and I certainly hope Councillor ALLAN, will lift his game this term.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Just briefly on the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report. It is quite fascinating that Councillor ALLAN talks about the way in which Council has to work to the control of the State Government and yet one of the things he’s left out is the status of the LGIP (Local Government Infrastructure Plan). Now, where’s that? Just like Councillor MURPHY, the LGIP has gone missing in action. We don’t know if it’s still with the State. We don’t know if it’s here with Council. What we do know is the LNP Administration is again hiding a major piece of policy work and has not brought it back to this Council or to the public for consideration. There were major changes in the documents and this Administration has been sitting on them for well over a year now. Where are they? What’s going on? We’re an Olympic City.

We haven’t met our planning commitments to the State Government. So, yes, seven years or eight years. Where’s the LGIP? That’s what I’d like to know. What I’d really like to know is what these Chairs have actually been doing. They’re paid extra to do this kind of work. You never hear from them about what’s happening. There are massive delays with the timing from what they say will happen and I’m sure Councillor ALLAN’s going to hop up and blame the State Government, but I will put money on the fact that it’s probably sitting in this Council Administration, like Councillor MURPHY and the Translink reviews, which I understood they’ve had for months and months and months and they’ve just chosen not to publicly release it.

Councillor ALLAN: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, point of order.

Councillor ALLAN: Look, while listening to Councillor JOHNSTON talk about LGIPs is entertaining, it’s not actually mentioned in the report and if she wants to take that up as a separate exercise, fine, do it in another situation.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor JOHNSTON, it isn’t in the report. Can you please just stick to the report? Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you and I’m speaking to paragraph 3, which is the Queensland Government planning requirements for Councils and that sets out the framework under the Planning Act and the Planning Act regulations and amendments to the Planning Scheme Brisbane City Council, which follows the *Ministers’ Rules and Guidelines*.

Now, I was only on the Planning Committee briefly, but it is my understanding it is a State Government responsibility that we have an LGIP and it is my understanding and perhaps Councillor ALLAN had the biggest scare of his life in the last few weeks and he’s forgotten that it’s a State Government requirement—

Councillor ALLAN: Point of order. Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: No references are made in the covering summary of the report about LGIP.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, could you please have relevance to the report?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you so much.

Chair: I have asked you once to come back to relevance.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you so much, Madam Chair and again, I’m pointing to paragraph 3, which talks about the State Government planning responsibilities that Council has to meet, which Councillor ALLAN has referred to here today and I’m pointing to the fact that the LNP Administration is sitting on one of those reports. Now—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’ll just interrupt you there. That is not relevant to the report. That’s exactly what we’re saying. That is not in the report and I ask you to remain relevant. Please continue but remain relevant to the things that were discussed in this report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay. Just to be clear, paragraph 3 says, the Queensland Government provides direction on planning requirements at this—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m not going to debate it and I’m not going to repeat. If you do not remain relevant to the report, I will ask you to finish.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m actually reading from paragraph 3.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: How is that not relevant? Are you saying that me reading from the report is not—

Chair: I’ve made a ruling and I’ve asked you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m reading from the report.

Chair: —to remain relevant to the report, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Are you saying that I can’t read from the actual paragraph 3 of the report, that that’s not relevant?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you and I both know that you’re not doing that and we know that you are digressing and talking about other—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m so sorry—

Chair: Excuse me, Councillors.

You are not to debate with me. I make the decision and I have made my decision. Councillor JOHNSTON, please stick to what was in the report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Like the $12,000 fundraising—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I’m just seeking your ruling. When a Councillor is directly referring to the report that is literally before us today, you’ve ruled that out of order on relevance—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I was in the Committee and I’ve read the report and yes, I’ve made a ruling that she’s not sticking to the report. Thank you.

Councillor COLLIER: Sorry, just seeking clarification, Chair.

Chair: I just gave it to you. Please take your seat.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, what is your point of order?

Councillor COLLIER: Just seeking clarification on your ruling, Chair. Is reading verbatim from a Committee report not relevant?

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I’ll say it slowly. The LGIP is not in the report. She can read number three all she likes, but it is not there in the report. I suggest you take—

Councillor COLLIER: That’s not my question, Chair.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I’m not debating you. I suggest you take another look at the report. Sit down, please.

Councillor COLLIER: Sorry, Chair, that wasn’t my question.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, again, Councillor JOHNSTON can read that from the report, but she—you can’t call out while I’m speaking and across the Chamber, either.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I will.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct in accordance with section 21(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001* and I hereby request you to refrain from calling out across the Chamber and Councillor COLLIER, if you continue, you will be warned as well.

Councillor JOHNSTON, do you have any—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Just, again, seeking your clarification on the question that I’ve asked.

Chair: My clarification is that you cannot ask a point of order on the same thing that I have just cleared up with you.

Councillor COLLIER: Just speaking generally—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and in accordance with section 21(4) of the Meetings Local Law, I hereby request that you refrain from continuing this behaviour. Please return to your seat.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: I’d just like a clarification. If I am looking at the report that is within the Council meeting that I’m looking at right now on my computer and it says that it is the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report which is on my laptop and I scroll down and I, say, read a paragraph from it, in that report, is that not relevant to the debate?

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, I’ve already given my ruling on this point of order.

Councillor MASSEY: It was a different point of order.

Chair: Yes and—I’m not debating it. If the Chair forms the view that a Councillor is obstructing the meeting by making excessive points of order during another Councillor’s speech, then I will rule that no further points of order will be made.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m definitely speaking on the City Planning and Suburban Renewal—

Chair: Well, I suggest you remain relevant.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I would hope that I would not be interrupted, but I—

Chair: Again, I’m not asking for a debate.

Continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: In fact, you did invite me to debate the matter and that’s what I’m intending to do.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’ve been asked to debate the report. Stick to it.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m attempting to do that and you are not letting me. That is the problem here. Now, it’s astonishing to me that this little episode has just happened. This Committee report, if those watching at home and I hope there’ll be a lot of people at home, Understanding Planning in Council, that’s the name of this report before us today and what Councillor ALLAN has outlined is the policy framework and the legislative framework for how changes to City Plan are made in Brisbane City Council, oh, my goodness, what forms part of City Plan? What forms part of the Planning Act? What forms part of the Minister’s rules and guidance? The LGIP. The LGIP.

It is fascinating to me that this Administration, both through the Chair and the planning Chairperson, want to deny that the LGIP is actually part of *City Plan 2014*. I think that perhaps they missed the point of their presentation, which is understanding Planning in Council. My issue here, of course, is one of secrecy and in action by the LNP. Where is the LGIP? Why has it not been returned? Why is it not being made public after a year of waiting or longer? Why is it that this Administration wants to hide it as they’re trying to do here today and why is it that even reading a line or two from this report, that I was doing, apparently is a breach of the rules in this place?

What is wrong with this LNP Administration that they don’t want to be accountable for the policy decisions, for amendments to City Plan, that they are required to make by the State Government? Now, instead of popping up at the end of this speech and saying, well, it’s all the State Government’s fault and she doesn’t know what she’s talking about, I’ve been told I can’t speak about it. Now, just like Councillor MURPHY earlier today, my question to the planning Chairperson is, where is the LGIP? Where is it? Are you sitting on it, like Councillor MURPHY is sitting on the bus network review? He’s had that one for months. How long have you had the LGIP? Where is it?

Deputy Mayor: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Deputy Mayor: I know I’ve just come back in, but we’re not in GB (General Business), are we? Are we talking about the planning report—the report in front of us?

Chair: Yes, thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Again, Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: There’s another former planning Chairperson who doesn’t realise the LGIP is part of *City Plan 2014*.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, there are many elements to it.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, there are.

Chair: But that is not what we are talking about in this report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it is.

Chair: And if you continue to fail to comply with my requests to stick to the relevance, I will ask you to sit down, please and call for any further debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, can you please tell me where in the rules you can tell me to, quote, sit down?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Could you please advise me under the Meetings Local Law, Madam Chair, where it said you can tell me to sit down?

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| **Order – Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON**  The Chair then advised Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON that as she had continued to fail to comply with her request for remedial action for her unsuitable meeting conduct, in accordance with section 21(8) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, an order reprimanding her for her conduct was being issued. |

Chair: You have been given ample time in which to speak to the report and you continue to fail to do that, so I do ask you to take your seat and allow another Councillor to speak if they are going to speak to the report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, no, I’m sorry. I would like to know where it says in the Meetings Local Law that you have the authority to tell me to, quote, sit down.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I can make a ruling to ask you to finish speaking and take your seat and I have done that.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Can you please point me—

Chair: So I ask you to—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m sorry, can you please point me to the rules that says you can tell me to sit down.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you can—stop speaking over the top of me as I’m—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m seeking a procedural clarification.

Chair: Councillor DIXON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, I’m seeking a procedural clarification about where you can tell me to sit down.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, can you please call for a motion for 10 minutes so that the Chamber can calm down?

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **455/2023-24**  At that point, it was resolved on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Julia DIXON, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 10 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked. |

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Council stood adjourned at 4.28pm.

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Thank you, Councillors and I will read out section 35(7). During debate on the motion, the Chair may rule out of order any aspects of the debate which do not relate to the specific subject matter under debate and may direct that the issue be raised during General Business.

So I do request, Councillor JOHNSTON, that you raise it during General Business please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: But you do have further time to speak if you would like to continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, you’ve issued an invalid ruling to require me to sit down on multiple occasions and warned me, without the authority to do so, which goes into the official record and on to my disciplinary record, which the LNP then uses against me in the OIA (Office of the Independent Assessor). How are you going to remove your mistakes from this meeting with respect to your previous rulings about me?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, the reason that you were warned was because you continued to speak over the top of me and continued to go back to speaking in—not speaking to the report and that is the reason that you were warned. But you still have, I believe, a good minute in which to continue with the report, so I ask that you please do that—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: —and then raise your—in General Business. What’s your point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, what you’ve just said then is actually not what you warned me for. You were very clear. You have warned me for something you had no authority to do. You requested me to do something you had no authority to do and I would like to know how you are going to change the official warning that you’ve put on my record, because what you’ve said now is not what you warned me for.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I do not uphold your point of order.

**456/2023-24**

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

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on the report. I sat into the meeting last week and we went through the report for the City Plan and various other things that were connected to the City Plan and of course some of the strategy that was used. What I found really interesting about the City Plan, especially the Housing Action Supply Plan and also connected to the TLPI Kurilpa, was of course a question that was actually asked during that period, which was connecting to the other areas of priority growth that was included into this plan, I think Councillor—sorry, Councillor ALLAN—well previously DEPUTY MAYOR ADAMS had referred to Mt Gravatt, Chermside, Newstead and other areas.

Councillor CASSIDY actually asked a question during the meeting about how do these plans get created. Is it within the department or not? Of course the answer was really interesting and I know Councillor CASSIDY touched on this earlier. That it was that the department itself looked at some of the precinct plannings and looked at the feasibility or a large development application (DA) would actually lead it and lead a feasibility study. Of course I found that incredibly interesting because last week in this Chamber I asked about the TLPI and the lack of developments and its planning. Councillor ALLAN stood up and said that you’ve directed the question to the wrong person. However, it is actually his department that—and it became clear from that meeting it was his department that actually said we investigate precinct plans similar to the TLPI.

So the reason I’m standing here today to mention that, after we saw what just happened beforehand, is clearly this Council does not want to answer questions. This Council does not want to give information. This is something that is constant, we’re seeing this more and more and more as we only start—remembering this is only our second meeting. What we’re seeing here is a stifling of debate, a stifling of information and an unwillingness to answer questions. This is a pretty terrible start to what is four years and to me that’s completely concerning. What I understood in this presentation and also through the answering of questions, through that Committee, was that it was—that Councillor ALLAN’s department’s responsibility for the investigation of precinct planning and yet Councillor ALLAN was unwilling to answer the question publicly last week.

What we just saw beforehand was a stifling about the Local Government Infrastructure Plan, which is undeniably a part of the planning scheme and under the department. So to me—and I just want to put this on the record, especially for people at home—we are seeing the erosion of debate, we are seeing the erosion of information transfer where Opposition Councillors are being stifled and stopped and this is a problem.

Chair: Any further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. I speak on the report about what is dealt with in the City Planning portfolio and to refute the absolute rubbish we just heard from the Councillor for The Gabba, who obviously does not understand how Council works, even though we’ve tried many times to explain this. Councillor MASSEY stood here and said we are stifling debate, we won’t answer questions, we’re hiding it all, you don’t know where it is.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Relevance to the report.

Chair: I believe you did talk about the DEPUTY MAYOR and she’s responding to your—what you actually said.

Please come round to the report, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. I will speak about, as I said, what is in the City Planning Committee and the responsibilities. I know Councillor MASSEY hasn’t been here for a very long time, but let’s be very clear about how Council works. There are many areas with many portfolios and those areas work across portfolios. Urban planning and strategy sits under CPED. CPED, Councillor MASSEY, as was mentioned in the report last week, CPED is City Planning and Economic Development. CPED has urban strategy in it. Urban strategy reports to Councillor ALLAN if it is suburban renewal and reports to me if it is urban renewal.

We have now said this three times since we went through portfolio roles in the last month, so I do not want to hear again this nonsense that we’re stifling debate and we won’t answer questions, because we are told again and again to stick to the rules. The rules are the Chairs answer questions in their relevant portfolio and as was in the report last week for the city planning area, Councillor ALLAN does suburban renewal, urban planning reports to me for urban renewal. Very simple, no tin-foil hats required here for the conspiracies of stifling debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Understand how Council works.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you so much, Madam Chair. I don’t see where any of what Councillor ADAMS is saying is actually in this report about her responsibilities. This is about Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is Councillor ALLAN’s area of responsibility and his report.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So I’m just wondering whether what Councillor ADAMS is saying about her areas of responsibility, which are not in this report, are relevant.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

DEPUTY MAYOR, can you speak to the report please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Okay, I’ll say it again. The report before us is about CPED, about the City Planning portfolio and what is actually managed in the City Planning portfolio and what is managed is the suburban renewal, not the urban renewal. I was just rebutting, through my debate and comments on the city planning, that Councillor MASSEY was wrong. Thank you.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor ALLAN, right of reply?

We shall now put the motion to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Penny Wolff (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Seal Chong Wah, Steven Huang and Sandy Landers.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – UNDERSTANDING PLANNING IN COUNCIL

**457/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, City Planning and Economic Development (CPED), City Planning and Sustainability and the General Manager, Development Services (DS), City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on planning in Council. They provided the information below.

2. CPED sets the strategic policy direction for the future growth and prosperity for Brisbane through focusing on urban design, to create great places; economic development, to ensure a strong economy; and city planning and strategy, to provide for our current and future communities.

3. CPED’s planning activities fit within Queensland’s legislative framework. The Queensland Government provides direction on planning requirements at both the State and regional level for South East Queensland. Council leads planning for Brisbane and its localities through neighbourhood and precinct planning. The Queensland Government sets out the planning framework through the *Planning Act 2016* and supporting *Planning Regulation 2017*. Amendments to the planning scheme, *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan), follows the process set out in the *Minster’s Guidelines and Rules*. This specifies the sequence of Council and Queensland Government decisions and any public consultation requirements depending on the sections of City Plan being amended.

4. The South East Queensland regional plan, known as *ShapingSEQ 2023* (the regional plan), specifies mandatory housing targets for Brisbane for both dwelling numbers and diversity targets, setting out how many detached and attached homes must be provided. The regional plan has a range of requirements which Council must respond to, including priorities and actions, the first of which is to review City Plan to ensure alignment to the regional plan.

5. City Plan is a strategic framework which details the preferred sustainable growth and servicing for Brisbane. This framework is supported by a range of zones and overlays which set out important considerations and expectations for developments in different parts of the city. Zones and overlays can be varied in response to local characteristics and these local variations take the form of neighbourhood plans.

6. CPED’s forward program is set by the strategic direction in the following four key policy documents:

- *Brisbane: Our Productive City* – released October 2022

- *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy* – released March 2023

- *Brisbane’s Housing Supply Action Plan* – released October 2023

- *Brisbane’s Inner City Strategy* – released April 2023.

7. Council’s neighbourhood planning program commenced in 2006 and has worked with the community on 84 neighbourhood plans. This program ensures neighbourhoods are ready to grow while keeping the elements valued by those local communities. In the last 10 years, neighbourhood plans have facilitated an additional 62,000 homes in well-located and well‑serviced locations.

8. Under the *Minister’s Guidelines and Rules*, there are a number of different amendment processes, depending on which section of City Plan is being updated. These include:

- major, minor, tailored and administrative amendments

- qualified State interest

- temporary local planning instrument (TLPI).

Council and the Queensland Government can make a TLPI to suspend or otherwise affect the operation of a planning instrument, such as parts of City Plan, which can be effective for up to two years. A recent example of this is TLPI 01/22 Protection of properties in the Moorooka War Workers’ Housing Estate.

9. CPED’s structure consists of the following three sections, who are all supported by the Business Services team:

- Strategic Planning: is made up of a range of city specialists working together to create better places for Brisbane and is responsible for bringing together strategic city policy and project delivery, through a collaborative approach, working with stakeholders and community

- Design Brisbane: a group of professionals specialising in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning and public arts dedicated to creating better urban design outcomes for Brisbane

- Economic Development: enhances Brisbane’s capacity for long‑term economic growth and coordinates and implements projects to attract industry, investment, jobs and visitors.

10. The Committee was provided an overview of the DS structure and shown a diagram of the development assessment cycle. In 2023, DS achieved the following:

- completed 690 pre-lodgement meetings

- assessed 3,586 development applications

- assessed 1,326 operational works applications

- processed 588 plan sealing applications

- completed 32,291 plumbing inspections

- approved 7,313 plumbing permits.

11. Council offers two online services via our website to provide customers information on properties and information on approved and proposed developments. City Plan Online is a mobile-friendly tool that allows customers to search for a property and view those parts of City Plan relevant for that property, based on the zoning and applicable overlays, as well as produce property reports displaying those parts of City Plan mapping relevant to the queried property fact sheets. Development.i allows customers to search for approved and proposed developments from 2004 and make online submissions on proposed developments.

12. Building and construction liaison officers from the Building and Construction Management (BCM) team within DS, proactively engage with development sites under construction and ensure approved development occurs efficiently and with minimal disruption to the surrounding community. The officers also resolve issues and ensure compliance with the approved conditions during construction. The BCM team also includes coordination officers that process plan sealing applications, plan sealing prelodgements and uncompleted works bonds.

13. The Planning Information Office within DS is a team of town planners who are able to assist with general planning enquiries. Enquiries typically relate to renovation, traditional building character houses, granny flats, home businesses, flood overlay requirements, carports, multiple dwellings and subdivisions. Council’s 24-hour Contact Centre is available to assist customers with simple planning and development applications and development advice, as well as food licencing and advertising sign advice.

14. DS also delivers weekly Talk to a Planner events throughout the year (outside school holidays). The events consist of a 15-minute, one-on-one session with a town planner which helps residents, business owners and community groups learn more about City Plan and how it relates to their building and construction plans.

15. Council does not assess all development applications. Development may be assessed by other entities in the following circumstances:

- Airport, Port of Brisbane or Commonwealth land

- Priority Development Areas

- Ministerial Infrastructure Designations

- community residences

- most dwelling houses and secondary dwellings.

16. Dwelling house applications generally require four stages of assessment.

- Stage 1: Homeowner engages a private certifier.

- Stage 2: Private building certifier as the prescribed assessment manager, assesses the building application against the Queensland Development Code.

- Stage 3: In accordance with the *Planning Act 2017*, the proposal is referred to Council as a referral agency to provide comment.

- Stage 4: Once referral agency advice has been received, the private certifier can issue the building approval.

17. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Managers for their informative presentation.

18. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

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

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation was an introduction to the Environment, Parks and Sustainability portfolio, with a focus on our Water, Energy and Environmental Systems section in Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability (NEWS). As you are aware, Madam Chair, from your time on the EPS Committee, it is a very big and complex portfolio. The presentation is the first in a three-part series to provide an overview of all things EPS for the benefit of the new Committee members. The Water, Energy and Environment Systems team within NEWS has a broad remit, including everything from waterway health to emissions reduction and I’d like to thank the officers for a very informative presentation.

Madam Chair, we also had a number of other items of business, a park naming, three petitions and an approval for expenditure from the Suburban Enhancement Fund. So I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber, thank you.

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on item A and item B.

**Seriatim - Clause E**

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| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause E, PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL ALLOCATE FUNDING TO REFURBISH AND EXTEND THE CAR PARK AT DUNLOP PARK, CORINDA, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ll start with item E. Item E is a petition requesting Council allocate funding to refresh and extend the car park at Dunlop Park, Corinda. I want to start by reading from paragraph 1 of the report, in case anybody is concerned and I’m sure it will be interesting to some Councillors, particularly I think Councillor ALLAN. These petitions were tabled in August 2021, that’s nearly three years ago, approximately 1,000 days ago, 1,000 days ago these petitions were tabled. Now we heard Councillor ALLAN get up and go nuts at the State Government for 75 days, like terrible that they’re spending 75 days thinking about something. Well Councillor DAVIS and her NEWS team have spent 1,000 days thinking about a petition which is pretty straightforward. It’s fix a car park in a major park that services a pool, a school and a major sporting field.

Now you would think that perhaps there was something new or complex about it and maybe that’s why it took three years to be considered and brought back to Council, but sadly no. This is the third time that my community have petitioned to have this car park at Corinda fixed. Now you wouldn’t know that by reading the report before us today, because the report before us today says a couple of things and I’ll outline what Council is suggesting it’s going to do. Firstly, Council has listed for consideration to have detailed design which will bring the car park up to current Australian Standards and formalise the unsealed section of the car park as part of Council’s future capital works program. Do you know when the first time was that Council put that in a petition response in this place? Councillor DAVIS wasn’t here. Would anybody like to guess which year? Anybody want to guess?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Councillor MASSEY, well done. The first time this request was made to Council and this Council said it had capital listed the car park repairs was in 2010. That is 14 years ago. At that time I’m like okay, that’s fine, we’ll list it, that’s the process, it will get funded in due course. I don’t usually vote against other people’s stuff, you know, everybody needs to have things done, so that’s why I was so interested in the Hawks car park up there at Taigum a little earlier today, because I’ve been waiting 14 years for this car park to be funded.

Here are some of the problems with the car park: failed patches, repeated failed potholes, bays that are less than two metres wide—you can’t fit cars in them, trees that drop huge branches, trees in the middle of the car park, bollards that are broken and fall over, signage that is missing and then we have the major unsealed section of the car park. Now this car park services the Dunlop Memorial Pool, which is a very busy pool. It services Corinda State School and it services the Dunlop Soccer Club and also Wests Cricket who play on the fields, as well as all the recreational sport that happens in this area.

Now 14 years these residents have been waiting for capital works funding to upgrade this car park. Now we haven’t just sat and done nothing, the community tried again in 2017 and 2018 and guess what the response was at that time as well. Yes, we will list this car park for capital works funding. That was six years ago Council listed it for capital works funding. Now, when a new petition is done in 2021 calling for essentially the same thing, to fix the broken parts, to repair the damaged parts and then to extend the car park, things that are apparently being done there at Sandgate at the Hawks. What does this Council say it’s going to do yet again? Council has listed for consideration detailed design. How do you list something that was listed in 2010 and 2017-18, how do you list it? That’s what I’d like to know, Councillor DAVIS. You can’t, you’ve already listed it.

Does this report mention the history of this situation of abandonment of the people of Corinda at all? Does it mention the history anywhere? No. You know what it goes on to do though, petitioners—it meets the requirements of the SEF and the request will be referred to Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, the Councillor for Tennyson Ward, for her consideration. Then it says ring Councillor JOHNSTON and puts my phone number in there. Ring Councillor JOHNSTON and put my phone number in there. I’ve never seen that ever and I’ve been here 16 years and I will be formally taking this up with Council, because what has gone on with this is that residents in the community are publicly being told that I’m now responsible for undertaking maintenance works in a car park.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: That Council owns, that Council is responsible for, that has been capital listed since 2010. This Council has put my phone number in there and told residents to call me. I’ve never seen it with anybody else, so it is fascinating to me that after three years, Council does—three years, remembering this was tabled in August 2021, three years ago, Councillor DAVIS. You won’t put me on the Parks Committee and I know why now, because if I ask questions there this kind of appalling neglect and bad behaviour by you and your department would have been exposed. A three-year delay on a petition response is not good enough in anyone’s terms.

To then ignore the fact that this serious safety issue has a long history and not even mention the fact that we have petitioned repeatedly for this to be fixed, is appalling. It is deceptive, is what I would call it. It makes it seem like this is the first time the issue has been raised, it’s the first time it’s been listed. This is deceptive behaviour by Brisbane City Council, who want to hide 14 years of inaction for our community. this is fixing a car park, it’s one of two in the agenda today and the other one’s just as bad, its history is just as bad.

But let’s say this, for 14 years this has been capital listed and now Council’s saying it’s going to capital list it. How do you do that, Councillor DAVIS, through you, Madam Chairman? I would like her explanation. Did it drop off the capital list? Did someone take it off when they shouldn’t have? Did they forget it was on the capital works list? Why isn’t it mentioned in here it’s already capital listed, either in 2010 or again in 2017-18? Where’s it been for three years? Don’t blame me because I can tell you, I’ve commented and responded every time it’s been sent to me. So there’s been a massive stuff-up, no explanation from Councillor DAVIS.

I’m sure she’s going to hop up and bag me, but the only people she should be thinking about are her, her staff and her officers, who have categorically failed the residents of Corinda, Oxley and other suburbs in the south-western suburbs of Brisbane who use the pool, the school and the soccer fields and are dealing with dangerous situations that have been ignored for 14 years. Even if there’s only two or three car park projects done every year in Brisbane, after 14 years you’d think that one in Tennyson Ward would have got up, but no, it hasn’t. Not only that, this is the most deceptive report that I have ever seen.

So with that, I’m moving an amendment.

**Motion for amendment to Clause E:**

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| **458/2023-24**  It was moved by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that Clause E, PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL ALLOCATE FUNDING TO REFURBISH AND EXTEND THE CAR PARK AT DUNLOP PARK, CORINDA, of the report be amended as follows:   1. *in paragraph 53, Recommendation, Attachment A, Draft Recommendation, add a new paragraph 3 that reads: Council acknowledges that the community has petitioned in 2010, 2017, 2018 and in 2021 the current petition and the car park upgrade and extension has already been capital listed for 14 years, is in a terrible state and is a high priority for repairs and upgrade. As such, Council will prioritise the car park project in the 2024-25 Council budget.* |

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Look, I’ll be brief, this is very straightforward. Three years of not actioning the petition is bad enough, but 14 years of no action is appalling. This car park is in a terrible state, it needs to be properly fixed. Every few years Council comes along when we complain and they fill the potholes and in another year’s time it’s bad again. People cannot fit into the spaces, the line markings are appalling. Council in its own report acknowledges it doesn’t meet any disability standards. It is just in a shocking state. It services a huge community in the south‑western suburbs and the level of neglect by successive Lord Mayors has been appalling.

Councillor DAVIS has been the Chair now for quite a number of years and the fact that this report is trying to hide the truth of Council’s inaction is appalling. So this amendment makes it clear to the community that Council has failed to act over and over again. It says to the community that this project will be prioritised in the 2024‑25 budget, so maybe after 15 years of waiting for some car park repairs and an extension, that maybe people in the south-western suburbs of Brisbane can get some action.

Now I know Councillor HUTTON will vote for this and if she doesn’t I’ll make sure her community is aware of this. I know that she came into my ward on several occasions with the LNP candidate and supported him and talked up Council’s actions in Tennyson Ward. Now her community are major users of the soccer field and the pool and yet Councillor HUTTON won’t support an upgrade to this area, unless they’re going to vote for it, perhaps it’ll surprise me. But I’ll be making it very clear to the Oxley community and the surrounding communities that the LNP Councillors will not vote for an upgrade to this important community sporting facility.

It services a huge area and it is absolutely outrageous that after 14 years Council can’t even acknowledge that it’s been capital listed for that long. It can’t acknowledge there have been multiple petitions and then it says ring Nicole JOHNSTON. Well guess what, I hope they do because I will give them this speech, I will tell them Councillor HUTTON voted against fixing up their local pool car park and she’s a Chairperson of this Council, she voted not to do this. I will tell them that Councillor DAVIS, the Parks Chairperson voted not to do this. I will tell them all the Councillors in the LNP side who won’t support our local community.

I know Councillor HUTTON’s sitting over there thinking she’s all safe and fine, her vote went up. When the community in her area that use this pool and sporting facility know that she does not support the upgrade, I think they’ll start asking questions about why. Why? I’d like to know why she’s voting against something that’s been waiting 14 years for funding. Why is the Chairperson of Council—she thinks a project that is beneficial for her area doesn’t deserve to have any funding. Well guess what, I hope they ring me.

Please encourage them to do so, because they’ll be told the truth about what’s happened here, about this Council’s three-year neglect of this petition, where it sat on somebody’s desk and it was hidden away and everyone’s going it’s just Councillor JOHNSTON, we don’t care. Three years, three years, is there an apology from Councillor DAVIS? No. So let’s get some truth into this report, let’s tell the community that it was capital listed 14 years ago and let’s make sure that they know it’s a priority in the next Council budget. I urge all Councillors, including Councillor HUTTON, to vote for this.

Chair: Is there any debate?

As there is no debate we’ll move to the vote.

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to Clause E to the Chamber resulting in it being 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: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 18 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Councillors, we’ll now resume the debate on the report.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on two items in this report. Firstly, in relation to item E that we just did division on, I just want to say that I agree with Councillor JOHNSTON that I’ve never seen—I’ve never in my 22 years here seen where a Councillor’s office is put into a petition report and that it’s seen as acceptable that you contact that Councillor. So I think it’s very unprofessional of the officers and very inappropriate. I hope the CEO or whoever’s standing in for the CEO is on to that, because I just don’t believe that is professional or appropriate.

I know Councillor JOHNSTON very well and Councillor JOHNSTON represents her ward extremely well. I understand that the city and Council operates separately to the political side of things, that if that’s the case then each of these car parks should be looked at on their own merit and should be done on their merit, not done on the affiliation of the Councillors in this Chamber. We have all—

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Chair, I unfortunately think that Councillor GRIFFITHS is imputing motive about our Council officers taking the side of the Administration. I think that he should be really considered about what he is saying about these officers, because they do a really great job and they actually take a lot of time to scope these projects. So I would just ask you to draw him back to the report.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, please do—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I won’t withdraw what I’ve said and I maintain that it is highly inappropriate for the officers to—whoever’s written this and this is meant to have come from an officer. If an officer’s written this it is very inappropriate to be taking a political stand like this in this Chamber. I maintain that and I would ask the Administration to look at what you’re doing, because you approve this through your Chairperson’s office. So I think that it’s not appropriate for that to be happening.

Now also I would say that—and the way Council is meant to be running is that we are meant to be allocating resources based on need across the city, that’s been the whole spin of the way Council has been running for the last at least three or four years and it’s not happening, it is grossly not happening. So I just—the spin doesn’t match the rhetoric and it also doesn’t match what’s being presented here. I think that if this car park needs to be repaired, repair it, that’s your job. Stop defending the undefendable, the undefendable, it’s just not good enough. I also congratulate Councillor JOHNSTON on your result. You got a magnificent result, residents support you hugely, 76%, 76%. So a lot of people will be very envious of that, Councillor JOHNSTON and keep representing your community and keep doing what you’re doing because you’re doing well.

In relation to the petition here, in relation to a petition in my ward, that is that has to do with park naming, a local Neighbourhood Watch group has come up with this name, The Meat-ing Place. It’s for a placename in Nyundare-ba Park. Nyundare-ba Park was named last year, after work and consultation with the local Indigenous people of the area. It’s a great name, we had the Premier out there too for the launch of the name of the park. This picks up on a previous use of the park, which was a meatworks, hence the pun in the name Meat-ing, as in M-E-A-T rather than M‑E‑E‑T. I support this going forward, I support what the residents are requesting and I think it will be an improvement here. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak briefly on item E. When this petition was brought to the Committee last week, I voted no to it and that was actually without the historical knowledge. Some of the reasons that I voted no to it were literally based on the response, which is basically we’ll list it again or contact Councillor JOHNSTON, which I thought was incredibly—it flagged for me as something that was not usual. The reason why I said no to it is there—even in my ward there are non-DA compliant car parks, especially around Dutton Park State School. There are non-DA compliant car parks and areas across all these wards. Accessibility is incredibly important to residents in our wards and prioritising making sure that car park becomes DA compliant is actually some of the work that we should be doing. Noting that, you know, people use these areas and people need to use these areas.

I know for my ward and the car park, the Brisbane City Council car park near Dutton Park State School, there’s been challenges with children that have disabilities being able to safely access the car park there. When I spoke to Council about that they told me that it was just too expensive to fix it. Here we don’t get that, we don’t get that clarity that it’s too expensive to fix it. Instead we get an answer that we know the result of, which is it will be listed but will not get funded and so that’s why I said no to it. Since then, finding out the information that this has actually been a very long journey for these residents, since 2010 and that it was listed multiple times, I am thankful that I said no to it, because I think that full information was missing and that full information is actually really needed for us as Councillors to review petitions and the information around us and make decisions.

So with this amendment, look, I voted no then, I’ll vote no now. I think residents deserve an answer when they ask for petitions. I think we should be transparent with it, if we’re not going to do it we tell them, without them finding out in July when the budget is done. I think these residents have waited too long for this and it should be a priority. Making sure car parks, pedestrian crossings, making sure footpaths are DA complaint, especially bus stops also, is an incredibly important part of the job that Councillors should do and we should make priorities in them. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor DAVIS—

Sorry, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks, Chair. I wasn’t actually planning on saying anything, but I think just given the circumstances to have some brief comments on the record. Just to be very clear what has transpired over the debate today is this Council outlining that their priority is to not listen to local communities. We can talk about the inappropriate manner in which they continue to target female Councillors who don’t comply and don’t agree with the Administration’s agenda of not listening to their local communities and how inappropriate that is.

The precedent is there not to have a local Councillor’s phone number as the contact point and you can read through other petitions being—petition responses being presented in not only this Committee report but across the board and quite often they are, as appropriate, relevant officer contacts. So it is extremely strange to me and out of the ordinary, I certainly don’t recall ever seeing that. I guess to the point of this today, this report and the way in which the debate has transpired, it shows an extreme lack of respect. Lack of respect for the basic services that local communities are crying out for, for years and years and years and a lack of respect for the Councillors who are elected to represent those communities and advocate on their behalf. I think that’s really disappointing.

So to sit on this side of the Chamber, looking over there, I’m seeing other Councillors that will happily agree and vote yes for what is evidently a poor decision. So I urge any Councillor on the other side of the Chamber to speak up and actually speak up within your own group and say this is wrong, this is a wrong way of going about business. I do recall the last time a local Councillor maybe on the Administration side did that and the appalling treatment, that is not okay, that is not okay. While we are having a national conversation about the way that women are treated, I have watched in this place—

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: —the way that women are treated and it is outrageous.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: I’m just wondering where this is in the report, just—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. Yes, it would be in the—

Chair: I haven’t called you yet, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it would be in the Committee report where the Deagon Ward Councillor’s phone number is not included and yet—he’s a man, and my number is included and I’m a woman. I think that bears some scrutiny.

*Councillors interjecting.*

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

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, back to item E and the debate surrounding it, I do just want it read on record that I think the way that this whole thing has transpired has been absolutely atrocious. Absolutely atrocious the way that the Administration has disrespected this local community on the content of the response and the inaction, but also the way in which they have disrespected the local Councillor.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor DAVIS?

If there is no further debate I shall move to the vote.

Item A, item B, item C and item D.

**Clauses A, B, C and D put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses A, B, C and D of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Item E.

**Clause E put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause E of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Kim Marx (Deputy Chair) Councillors Alex Givney, Trina Massey and Steven Toomey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SUSTAINABILITY BRANCH – WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

**459/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability (NEWS), City Planning and Sustainability, and the Manager, Water, Energy and Environmental Systems (WEES), NEWS, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the NEWS branch. They provided the information below.

2. NEWS is responsible for Program 3 ̶ Clean, Green and Sustainable City of Council’s Annual Plan and Budget. Through this program, Council delivers on four key outcome areas:

- Sustainable and Resilient Community

- Low Carbon and Clean Environment

- Biodiversity, Urban Forest and Parks

- Sustainable Water Management.

3. Within these outcome areas, NEWS delivers Council’s sustainability and environmental plan, *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable* (the plan), through projects that conserve Brisbane’s greenspaces and waterways, respond to the city’s subtropical climate conditions and reduce Brisbane’s exposure to future environmental risks. The plan also plays a key part in outlining future targets in protecting natural assets, delivering plant and animal management strategies, developing pollution preventing initiatives and working towards making Council a sustainable, low-carbon organisation.

4. The WEES branch are responsible for two outcomes, Sustainable and Resilient Community and Low Carbon and Clean Environment. These outcomes include best-practice flood risk management, ensuring Council maintains carbon neutral certification and overseeing Council’s closed landfills. WEES is made up of the following teams:

- Waterway Health and Integration (WHI)

- Environmental Planning and Flood Resilience (EPFR)

- Energy and Carbon

- Environmental Management Systems and Pollution Control (EMSPC).

5. WHI manage the health of Brisbane’s 38 major creek catchments through rehabilitation, channel design and water-sensitive urban design projects for local waterways. WHI also manage sustainable water use through partnerships with universities, education centres and organisations, monitoring and disseminating information about local water quality and investigating Council’s water usage. Council’s free Creek Neighbours online program embeds a sense of stewardship of the environment to kindergarten and primary school-aged children. WHI have also delivered on smart water meters at Newmarket Pool and undertook a stormwater harvesting project at Ekibin Park, Greenslopes as part of Council’s commitment to smart water behaviours.

6. EPFR manage the natural risk of flooding across the Brisbane floodplain, gathering and providing flood information and undertaking resilient design to minimise the impacts of flooding on people, property and infrastructure. EPFR also manage Council’s publicly available FloodWise Property Report, which identifies the risk and type of flooding for properties within Brisbane, as well as maintain Council’s Flood Awareness Map, which displays the likelihood of flooding across the city.

7. Council has been Australia’s largest certified carbon neutral government entity since 2017. The WEES Energy and Carbon team have delivered practical climate solutions and improved energy efficiency by:

- installing 3,471 kilowatts of solar photovoltaic panels on Council buildings and facilities

- securing $4 million in grants to fund energy efficiency and solar projects

- supporting business cases and delivering on major projects including Brisbane Metro, Victoria Park / Barrambin and green bridges

- purchasing 100% renewable electricity for Council buildings and facilities

- increasing climate awareness, leading to behavioural change by members of the public as well as businesses and organisations across Brisbane.

8. Council has a legislative obligation to undertake environmental management of Council-owned contaminated sites. EMSPC lead and coordinate Council’s environmental management systems and provide specialist scientific advice on air quality, noise and chemical hazards.

9. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager and Manager for their informative presentation.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PARK NAMING – FORMAL NAMING OF A SECTION OF PALLARA LINEAR PARK, 39 SWEETS ROAD, PALLARA, AS ‘FOGOLAR FURLAN PLACE’

**161/540/567/246**

**460/2023-24**

11. The General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

12. Council received a petition requesting that Lot 116 on RP87803 of Pallara Linear Park (D2267, B‑RE‑2890), 39 Sweets Road, Pallara, be named as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’ in recognition of the Fogolar Furlan Brisbane Inc. (the Fogolar), who have a long association with the site. The petition contains 560 signatures and the recommendation to proceed with the place naming was adopted by Council at its meeting held on 8 August 2023.

13. The Fogolar, founded in Brisbane in 1956, is an association fostering the culture and social aspect of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region located in north-east Italy.

14. The site was specifically chosen by the Fogolar as multiple members and founders were original settlers in the Pallara area in the 1950s. Many members continue to call the area home with the lush green and rural nature of Pallara giving them a stunning outdoor setting for their functions, providing members and guests a peaceful and charming atmosphere to bring family and friends.

15. The site was acquired by Council in April 2023 for the delivery of trunk stormwater and park infrastructure, as part of the Pallara stormwater infrastructure project. Currently, property dwellings exist at the site, along with a bespoke entrance gate, barbeque area, undercover picnic area, storage areas, a memorabilia hall and a war memorial. These have been established by the Fogolar to acknowledge their heritage and to promote multicultural celebrations and awareness. Attachment A (submitted on file) displays a locality map.

16. For more than 30 years, the Fogolar have held at least five annual events catering for up to 450 people at Sweets Road, with members from all areas of Brisbane and South East Queensland. The Fogolar have a strong sense of community, offering a rental property for local use, and donating more than $100,000 to numerous community and charitable organisations including the Heart Foundation, the Queensland Children’s Hospital, and various flood and earthquake appeals.

17. The site is the home of the Alpini War Memorial and memorial services are held twice a year for veterans. The Fogolar also make an annual donation to Legacy, recognising the important link they have to the Australian Defence Force and acknowledging the service of the Fogolar’s former President, Acting President and a number of current members as Vietnam veterans.

18. It is proposed to erect a park naming sign and a history panel in the park.

Funding

19. Funding for the name sign is available in Program 6 – City Standards, Community Health and Safety.

Consultation

20. Councillor Emily Kim, Councillor for Calamvale Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

21. Formally naming a section of Pallara Linear Park as ‘Fogolar Furlan Place’ will acknowledge the Fogolar’s longstanding association with the site, links to the original settlers of Pallara, and their many charitable endeavours.

22. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee unanimously agreed.

23. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT APPROVAL BE GRANTED TO FORMALLY NAME A SECTION OF PALLARA LINEAR PARK, 39 SWEETS ROAD, PALLARA, AS ‘FOGOLAR FURLAN PLACE’, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL’S *OS03 NAMING PARKS, FACILITIES OR TRACKS PROCEDURE*.**

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL AN ADDITIONAL SHELTER WITHIN THE DOG OFF-LEASH AREA AT CURLEW PARK, 74 CURLEW STREET, SANDGATE

**137/220/594/151**

**461/2023-24**

24. A petition requesting Council install an additional shelter within the dog off-leash area at Curlew Park, 74 Curlew Street, Sandgate, was received during the Spring Recess 2022.

25. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

26. The petition contains 186 signatures, with 141 of the petitioners residing within Deagon.

27. Council can advise that a secondary shade shelter within the dog off-leash area has been listed for consideration in a future budget. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against the overall needs of the city.

28. Although Council is conscious of the needs of the area, funding of a secondary shelter is dependent on several competing priorities across the city and as such it is difficult to determine exactly when this work will be listed for construction.

Consultation

29. Councillor Jared Cassidy, Councillor for Deagon Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

31. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee unanimously agreed.

32. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/151

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install an additional shelter in the dog-off leash area at Curlew Park, 74 Curlew Street, Sandgate.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Council can advise that a secondary shade shelter within the dog off-leash area has been listed for consideration as part of Council’s future capital works program.

Although Council is conscious of the needs of the area, funding of a secondary shelter is dependent on several competing priorities across the city and as such it is difficult to determine exactly when this work will be listed for construction.

In the 2023/24 financial year, $15.1 million has been distributed evenly between each Ward to build new footpaths and make local park improvements as part of their Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF). You may be interested to know the local Councillor plays a role in determining which footpath and park improvement projects are funded from their SEF.

As your request for an additional park shelter meets the requirements of the SEF, your request has been referred to Councillor Jared Cassidy, Councillor for Deagon Ward, for his consideration.

If you would like to discuss your request directly with Councillor Cassidy, please contact the Deagon Ward Office on (07) 3667 6011.

Thank you for raising this matter

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL NAME A SECTION OF NYUNDARE BA PARK, OXLEY, AS ‘THE MEAT-ING PLACE’

**137/220/594/238**

**462/2023-24**

33. A petition requesting Council name a section of Nyundare-ba Park (D1800), Oxley, as ‘The ‘Meat-ing Place’, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 1 August 2023, by Councillor Steve Griffiths, and received.

34. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

35. The petition contains seven signatures. Of the petitioners, five live in Oxley and two live in other suburbs within the City of Brisbane.

36. Council will consider naming a section of Nyundare-ba Park, Oxley, as ‘The Meat-ing Place’, in accordance with Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities or Tracks Procedure* (OS03). Attachment B (submitted on file) identifies the proposed location for ‘The Meat-ing Place’, towards the southern side of Nyundare-ba Park.

37. Council’s OS03 recognises the value of naming parks and prominent facilities or tracks within public open space. Naming of such facilities can:

- engender a feeling of local community ownership

- celebrate historical, social, and cultural connections with facilities and open spaces

- recognise natural features that contribute to the enjoyment of our spaces

- assist visitors and emergency services to orientate themselves and locate specific facilities within larger parks.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

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

40. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee unanimously agreed.

41. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/238

Thank you for your petition requesting Council name a section of Nyundare-ba Park, Oxley, as ‘The Meat-ing Place’.

Council will consider naming a section of Nyundare-ba Park, Oxley, as ‘The Meat-ing Place’, in accordance with Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities or Tracks Procedure*.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Paul Fanani, A/Parks Planning Coordinator, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 7554.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### E PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL ALLOCATE FUNDING TO REFURBISH AND EXTEND THE CAR PARK AT DUNLOP PARK, CORINDA

**137/220/594/302 and 137/220/594/303**

**463/2023-24**

42. Two petitions requesting Council allocate funding to refurbish and extend the car park at Dunlop Park, Corinda, were presented to the meetings of Council held on 3 August 2021 and 10 August 2021, respectively, by Councillor Nicole Johnston, and received.

43. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

44. The petitions contain a total of 404 signatures. The first petition (137/220/594/302) has 393 signatures and of the petitioners, 98 live in Corinda, 283 live in other suburbs within the City of Brisbane, and 12 live outside the City of Brisbane. The second petition (137/220/594/303) has 11 signatures and of the petitioners, six live in Corinda, four live in other suburbs within the City of Brisbane, and one lives outside the City of Brisbane.

45. Dunlop Park has a Council pool which is leased to Multilevel Sports Management Pty Ltd and is located directly beside Corinda State School. There is a sealed car park off Hughes Lane that forms part of the park. The car park is utilised as school parking on weekdays and by pool patrons and the lease holder on weekends (refer Attachment B, submitted on file, for locality map).

46. While the sealed car park is currently well utilised, it does not comply with Australian Standards (the standards). A further unsealed area within Dunlop Park, which also does not comply with the standards, is used by the lease holders for overflow car parking.

47. Council has listed for consideration as part of Council’s future capital works program to have a detailed design which will bring the car park up to current Australian Standards and formalise the unsealed section of the car park. This project will be considered as part of Council’s budget process, however, funding is subject to an assessment of its priority against other citywide projects.

48. In the 2023-24 financial year, $15.1 million has been distributed evenly between each ward to build new footpaths and make local park improvements via their Suburban Enhancement Fund.

49. As the petitioners’ request meets the requirements of the Suburban Enhancement Fund, the request will be referred to Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, for her consideration.

Consultation

50. Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, has been consulted and neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

52. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Trina Massey dissenting.

53. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition References:** 137/220/594/302 and 137/220/594/303

Thank you for your petitions requesting Council allocate funding to refurbish and extend the car park at Dunlop Park, Corinda.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Council has listed for consideration to have a detailed design which will bring the car park up to current Australian Standards and formalise the unsealed section of the car park as part of Council’s future capital works program. This project will be considered annually during Council’s budget process, however, funding is subject to an assessment of its priority against other citywide projects.

In the 2023-24 financial year, $15.1 million has been distributed evenly between each ward to build new footpaths and make local park improvements via their Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF).

As the petitioners’ request meets the requirements of the SEF, the request will be referred to Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, for her consideration. If you would like to discuss your request directly with Councillor Johnston, please contact the Tennyson Ward Office on (07) 3403 8605.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Warwick Davies, Planning Manager Parks, Greenspace Planning, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 1092.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN, City Standards Committee.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Greg ADERMANN, Deputy Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Julia DIXON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Yes, Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair. Members of the City Standards Committee last week were treated to a presentation on the Compliance and Regulatory Services branch, most commonly referred to as CARS, by officer Kirsty Cronin. This presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the vital work carried out by the CARS officers on a daily basis within our community. The branch is organised into three key areas, all collaboratively working together to ensure compliance and deliver the highest level of value to the Brisbane community.

Kirsty delivered a high-level briefing on each of these work areas, shedding light not only on the opportunities Council has moving forward, but also on the regulatory challenges posed by other levels of government. I’d like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication demonstrated by our Compliance and Regulatory Services officers. It is your dedication—or their dedication that upholds the high standards visible to our residents across Brisbane every day.

Petitions, Chair, the Committee considered two petitions during the meeting. The first petition requested that Council resurface Yeronga Memorial Car Park, Yeronga, adjacent to Frederick Street, Annerley. As the petition response notes, Council officers completed an onsite investigation and have listed the project for consideration in a future capital works budget. The second petition requested that Council seal or provide regarding—sorry, regrading to Lake Manchester Road, Kholo. The local Councillor, who just happens to be me, was supportive of the recommendation to list for consideration a project to seal the unformed section of Lake Manchester Road at the intersection of Kholo Road and Camerons Crossing Road as part of Council’s future road construction program. These responses received unanimous support from the Committee and I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on item B, the petition regarding Yeronga Memorial Car Park and it is version 2.0. I don’t think it really will surprise anybody, it’s not quite as bad as the last Committee, so I’ll be brief. But this is the second time that we have petitioned here and about 14 years ago Council resurfaced half of the car park between the bridge club and the War Memorial in Yeronga Memorial Park, but they did not seal the eastern end of the car park that leads up towards the croquet club. So half the car park or about three-quarters of the car park is sealed and the other half becomes a boggy mess every time it rains. It’s a hugely busy car park, it is for the bridge club, the croquet club, the War Memorial and Souths Rugby, as well as community events.

Now this is the second petition, the other one being I’d say 10 or 12 years ago, where ago this was capital listed, so it’s not the first time it’s been capital listed. It is incredibly important because the people who use this car park are elderly veterans. We’ve just had Anzac Day and I don’t want to see anybody fall over or trip. I want to see vehicles not trashing the park because they have to park in the mud or partially on grass. The car park, it says—this report is just also woefully inadequate. I mean I take Councillor COLLIER’s comments on the earlier matter. It is disrespectful for our community when you say the car park is utilised by the Stephens Croquet Club.

I mean the 1,000 rugby people who come for every home game use the car park, use the car park. The 200 people who come and play bridge use the car park. The 5,000 people who came to Anzac Day use the car park. I mean you’d think this car park was for a tiny little croquet club and never got used if you read this. This is just appalling work, I just—I just—yes. This one’s a year old, this one’s a year old, a year old. It also does not respond to the previous request that we’ve made, there’s no history. I should be thankful, I guess, that my phone number is not in there. My poor staff don’t have to get these phone calls and have to explain to people over and over again, so I should be thankful that that’s not in there.

But what is appalling and Councillor HUTTON’s not here, I don’t know why she’s not here, I don’t know why the Chair is not here. You know, early on in her, you know, term and she’s not here to explain why it’s taken a year to respond. (2) Why this says the car park is utilised by the croquet club and no one else. I mean does this Council—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Do you know, we sat through—Councillor MARX—through you, Madam Chair, we sat through that review three years ago, where we said that we were going to create sort of these big super agencies. There’d be no more local asset services here and there and everything would lift because there’d be central control. Apparently the people in town don’t even know where this is and they don’t even know who uses the car park, how often, how many people, where it is. The only response that is in here is the car park is utilised by the Stephens Croquet Club. Yes, yes they do use it several times a week, but they would be one of the smallest users of this car park.

Now when this matter was first listed sort of, you know, 10, 14 years ago and I think it was around 2010, 2012, I was actually presented with plans, when we had local parks officers. Maybe 10 years ago, they came in to see me and they said here, Councillor JOHNSTON, here are the design plans. We’re going to upgrade around the War Memorial, we’re going to upgrade around Souths Rugby, which is adjacent to the War Memorial and we’re going to upgrade the pool car park on Park Road, on the other side of Yeronga Memorial Park. So they got some plans drawn up back then, when it was first capital listed. Not now, when it was listed 10 years ago, the plans got drawn up.

Again this has languished through neglect. This is one of the oldest memorial parks in Australia. Not Brisbane, not Queensland; in Australia. It is a magnificent park with a really significant history. It services thousands of sporting and recreational users every week. Not just the Stephens Croquet Club, of whom I am their patron and very supportive of what they do. But the neglect by this Administration not only in Councillor DAVIS’s area, but Councillor HUTTON who can’t even be bothered to be here for the debate, is extraordinary. It does not reflect the history of what’s happened with respect to this matter. It does not reflect the lack of action by Council. It simply says, as per usual, that Council has listed a project. Well it did that 10 years ago, how do you list, Councillor ADERMANN please tell me, how do you list a project that’s already listed? Because this is the problem.

This is again a deceptive document because it does not clarify or record what has actually happened. Neglect, inaction, failure to fund fairly across the city. Failure to respond to all the community groups, including those from multiple different sports and multiple walks of life. That’s this legacy of the LNP Administration. That’s why no one wants to run, no one wants to make an effort and the best you can do is send Councillor HUTTON out to promise a dog park in Oxley with an LNP candidate who you don’t look after. I don’t know why you are doing this, I do not know why. The level of neglect now in Tennyson Ward is extraordinary. Even if an LNP Councillor came in next term, you could not do in one term the work that needs doing because of the level of neglect by this LNP Administration.

Councillor COLLIER is right particularly on one thing and this is how I feel about it, I use that car park, it is disrespectful to me. But more importantly it is disrespectful for the community when you treat their petitions with such low regard, so little thought and so little recognition of the situation that is occurring. Thousands of people use this car park every weekend. It has been in a terrible state for a long time and back then, when we did have local parks officers, they promised they’d come back and do the second section the next year but they never did, because I was no longer a member of the LNP. That’s my view on why it happened. So I just say to the LNP Councillors, your behaviour here by failure to include—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Madam Chair, on relevance. Councillor KIM’s family are waiting up in the Gallery for her maiden speech and we’ve heard Councillor JOHNSTON ranting and raving for the last 30 minutes.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY. It’s not a point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: Now we’re hearing about her time in the LNP, it’s not in the report.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Can we just move on?

Chair: Continue, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I thank Councillor MURPHY for the mansplaining, to people who are watching at home, where he stands up and says no, no, that woman over there can’t speak about these issues in her portfolio. She shouldn’t be allowed to speak about issues in her portfolio.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: The Councillor did not say that at all. Please let the record show that Councillor JOHNSTON is misrepresenting what was said.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor JOHNSTON, please go back to the report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I was speaking to the report, thanks very much, until Councillor MURPHY decided he wanted to mansplain and to interrupt me and to make it even longer, Councillor MURPHY. I’m aware that—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So Madam Chair, point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor MURPHY has just been shouting across the Chamber, grow up. Councillor MURPHY is the one who decided to interject, Councillor MURPHY’s the one who’s making inappropriate comments across the Chamber and I would ask that you rule his behaviour out of order.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I would ask you to get back to the report and finish your speech. There’s a lot of people in the room that have been calling out during the meeting, as you know, including yourself. Can you please go back to the report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So just to be clear, Madam Chair, my point of order is Councillor MURPHY has been calling out ‘grow up’ across the Chamber, which is inappropriate conduct and I would ask that you rule his behaviour as disorderly and take appropriate action.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am asking you to finish doing your report and if you would like me to call out every single Councillor every time they call out the Chamber, I will start doing that.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, I’ve raised a procedural point of order under the rules and I’m entitled to a ruling on it. What you’re telling me is to get back to what I was saying. You have not addressed my point of order and the inappropriate conduct is telling another Councillor to grow up. Now I am grown up, I am making relevant debate, that is inappropriate behaviour and, Madam Chair, I am asking that you take action as it’s inappropriate behaviour.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON and I advise Councillor MURPHY and I just advise all Councillors in fact in this room that they will not call out across the Chamber or I will every time they call out bring them to their—I will let them know that they are not to call out across the Chamber. Okay, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair. So just to be clear, a man shouted—

Chair: One moment, Councillor JOHNSTON, I haven’t asked you for your point of order. Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just to be clear then, Madam Chairman, a male Councillor shouting ‘grow up’ to a female Councillor on the other side of the Chamber is appropriate conduct, in your view, under the Meetings Local Law?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’ve made my ruling already. You asked me to make a ruling and you are continuing on the same point of order. I have made my ruling and you heard it. Would you like to continue with the report, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chairman. Yes, I would and I can see very clearly that the behaviour of men in this Chamber is not changing at all. Perhaps now Councillor Mackay has gone, but perhaps Councillor MURPHY is about to take over.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: It is very inappropriate for Councillor JOHNSTON to be referring to Councillors who are no longer in this Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD. Councillor JOHNSTON, can you please just stick to the report, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you and I know Councillor Kara Cook would have called out this kind of behaviour, as Councillor COLLIER has as well. I know that the LNP Council like to refer to Councillor Cook, as they have tonight on many occasions as well. So I thank Councillor HOWARD for defending the double standard of the LNP in this Chamber here tonight. Now I won’t say any more, I’m sorry to the family of the new Councillor and friends up there.

It should not have gone like this, that’s for sure, but the community I represent are appalled at this Council’s inaction when it comes to fixing important community facilities in our ward. As you can see here tonight and I’m sure this will happen to your beloved family member and friends, they will try and shut you down at every opportunity, but we have to be strong for our communities. Thank you for supporting her and I hope you enjoy her first speech.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor ADERMANN?

I will now put it to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Sarah Hutton (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Greg Adermann (Deputy Chair) Councillors Lisa Atwood, Emily Kim and Steven Toomey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY SERVICES (CARS)

**464/2023-24**

1. The A/General Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services (CARS), Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Council’s CARS branch. She provided the information below.

2. CARS operates under Council’s Program 6 – City Standards, Community Health and Safety. It is structured into three key areas all working together to deliver compliance outcomes and provide the highest level of community value to the Brisbane community:

- City Safety

- Community Standards

- Strategic Regulation, Systems and Analytics (SRSA).

3. City Safety is committed to the safety of public spaces and improved amenity of the city. Their focus is primarily on parking, illegal dumping, safety, amenity, litter and graffiti, maintaining and refining both our proactive and reactive responses to deliver safety and improved amenity for the city.

4. Community Standards are responsible for the delivery of a range of regulatory and enforcement activities to ensure a safe and liveable city for residents and visitors. The section primarily oversees the regulation of the built environment, environmental health, and the management of the natural environment, all supported by the Business Delivery team.

5. SRSA is focused on providing the tools, leadership, guidance and governance to transition CARS into the future. SRSA manages Council policies and Local Laws and provides feedback on legislation change. SRSA oversee high-severity enforcement action through their team of specialised enforcement officers, lead capability development to ensure our officers are skilled and capable, manage contracts and are responsible for the systems and data needed to run the branch efficiently.

6. Each ward is allocated a senior CARS officer to act as a Ward Liaison Officer to provide feedback and escalation points for complex or historic issues.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL RESURFACE YERONGA MEMORIAL CAR PARK, YERONGA, ADJACENT TO FREDERICK STREET, ANNERLEY

**137/220/594/221**

**465/2023-24**

9. A petition requesting Council resurface Yeronga Memorial Park car park (the car park), Yeronga, adjacent to Frederick Street, Annerley, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 16 May 2023, by Councillor Nicole Johnston, and received.

10. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

11. The petition contains 70 signatures. Of the petitioners, seven live in Annerley, 38 live in other suburbs within the City of Brisbane and three live outside the City of Brisbane.

12. The car park is utilised by Stephens Croquet Club. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map. The car park has a partial spray-sealed section with a large part of the area having imported gravel. Council has listed a project to formalise the car park with line markings as part of Council’s capital works program. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against the overall needs of the city.

Consultation

13. Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, has been consulted and neither supports nor disagrees with the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

15. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/221

Thank you for your petition requesting Council resurface Yeronga Memorial Park car park, Yeronga, (the car park) adjacent to Frederick Street, Annerley.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Council has listed a project to formalise the car park with line markings as part of Council’s capital works program. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against the overall needs of the city.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Ted Krosman, Parks Planning Coordinator, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 0841.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL SEAL OR PROVIDE REGRADING TO LAKE MANCHESTER ROAD, KHOLO

**137/220/594/222**

**466/2023-24**

17. A petition requesting Council seal or provide regrading to Lake Manchester Road, Kholo, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 23 May 2023, by Councillor Lisa Atwood, and received.

18. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

19. The petition contains 20 signatures. Of the petitioners, two live in Lake Manchester, 17 live in other suburbs within the City of Brisbane and one lives outside the City of Brisbane.

20. The Council-owned section of Lake Manchester Road has been identified as a location where improvements may be beneficial for potential consideration and progression as part of Council’s future road construction program. Funding to progress detailed investigations and design will continue to be considered for inclusion within a future program. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against the overall needs of the city.

21. Council has listed for consideration, a project to seal the unformed section of Lake Manchester Road, at the intersection of Kholo Road and Camerons Creek crossing, as part of Council’s future road construction program.

22. Gravel roads usually deteriorate due to rain events and large volumes of traffic. As the intensity of rain events cannot be effectively pre-empted, Council organises the maintenance of gravel roads as needed. Council’s City Standards respond to maintenance requests from the public and proactively inspect these roads as part of standard business operations. If maintenance works are required, Council will schedule maintenance to be undertaken. Gravel roads also deteriorate based on levels of usage, and as such, setting a reoccurring program of work is not the optimal solution. Council records indicate Lake Manchester Road was regraded in October 2023 and January 2024.

Funding

23. Funding can be obtained from Council’s future capital works program.

Consultation

24. Councillor Greg Adermann, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

26. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

27. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENTTO THE HEAD PETITIONER**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/222

Thank you for your petition requesting Council seal or provide regrading to Lake Manchester Road, Kholo.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Gravel roads usually deteriorate due to rain events and large volumes of traffic. As the intensity of rain events cannot be effectively pre-empted, Council organises the maintenance of gravel roads as needed. Council’s City Standards respond to maintenance requests from the public and proactively inspect these roads as part of standard business operations. If maintenance works are required, Council will schedule maintenance to be undertaken. Council records indicate Lake Manchester Road was regraded in October 2023 and January 2024.

Council has listed for consideration, a project to seal the unformed section of Lake Manchester Road, at the intersection of Kholo Road and Camerons Creek crossing, as part of Council’s future road construction program. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against other similar projects.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Petar Lazarevic, Senior Outcome Coordinator, Roads and Active Transport Infrastructure, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 0037.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Community and the Arts Committee.

### COMMUNITY AND ARTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community and Arts Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I know it’s been quite a while since I’ve been able to do an around the world so that the Chamber can be aware of the most fantastic things that happen in and around Brisbane with my portfolio. I thank Councillor Lisa ATWOOD for seconding my report, because she’s a fantastic Deputy, as were you, Madam Chair. I know that not only you, but every Councillor in this Chamber loves all of the fantastic things that happen in and around Brisbane. So I think that it’s very important that we talk about those amazing things that have been happening recently.

The first one I want to mention is the QUBE Effect Live and that was held on 7 April at The Tivoli in Fortitude Valley. We had 19 finalists who performed back to back sets across one afternoon, showcasing their performance skills and battling it out in the hopes of impressing the expert panel ahead of the allocation of awards and prizes. Now more than 650 people attended the event and it was a great opportunity for me to do a bit of fangirling with Worm Girlz. Now I know that you’ve heard me speak in the Chamber of another band that is my favourite and I’ll come to them shortly, but Worm Girlz were amazing and it’s fantastic that we now have a new group that I can talk about in the Chamber, because they truly are superb.

Madam Chair, through you, everyone will now have the opportunity from 1 to 13 July to vote in the People’s Choice Awards and that will be fantastic and of course the QUBE Effect awards nights will be held in August, but I have to share with all of you that there’s going to be a QUBE Effect wedding. Now there’s no date set for the wedding yet, but excitingly the QUBE Effect program has welcomed its first ever announcement of an engagement of Hayley Marsten, the QUBE Effect 2019 alumni and Dan Sugars, the video production crew from JMC, who produced the videos that year. Isn’t it wonderful that romance can be found at the QUBE Effect? Hayley and Dan, we wish you all the very best for the future.

Now, Madam Chair, just moving to a few of the other events that have happened across the city this week. Of course everyone in this Chamber attended many, many Anzac Day services and what a fantastic opportunity it is that we can really commemorate all of those who gave up their life for this wonderful lifestyle that we all enjoy. It’s very reassuring to see so many services now across our city and also the parade, to get so many people who are now attending that so eagerly, it’s fantastic.

I also want to mention a new Indian tradition/New Year celebration that I attended just recently and represented the LORD MAYOR at Roma Street Parklands and yet again, it’s wonderful to see all of the multicultural communities come together so that we can celebrate all that this wonderful City of Brisbane has to offer.

We also had the Brisbane Comedy Festival. That was launched just on 26 April and again, fantastic to see that not only are we using our wonderful Powerhouse, but we’re also activating The Tivoli, we’re activating The Princess Theatre. It was, again, fantastic to get a taste of what the Brisbane Comedy Festival will have to offer. I encourage everyone to get along and support this homegrown festival. As we all know through you, Madam Chair, festivals are doing it pretty tough and so for a homegrown Brisbane Comedy Festival to be doing so well, it’s just brilliant that that is still happening.

Oh, one of the things that I most enjoyed was going along to The Arts Collective exhibition opening night called Red, on 24 April. I was able to purchase, yet again, just a small offering of a local artist to go into the ward office. Just so you all know and on the record, I paid for it myself because it’s so fantastic, but I love it. It’s wonderful, again, to see emerging artists being on display at the Royal Queensland Art Society, yet again, one of the oldest art societies that we have in Brisbane.

I also was absolutely privileged to attend on behalf of the LORD MAYOR, the Queensland Music Awards on 17 April. Again, a fantastic way that we can make sure that our emerging artists are being put on display in the beautiful Fortitude Music Hall. Wonderful event, fantastic talent and we are just so proud of all of our homegrown talent here in Brisbane. I also attended the GOPIO (Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin) dinner on behalf of the LORD MAYOR. We had a Spring Hill Community Day and again, that is what this city is all about. It’s about supporting those who are less fortunate than we are and the Spring Hill Community Day was bringing together many of the organisations around the city that do so much good work for everyone.

Then finally, in my around the world, I want to talk about the Apple-MAQ Lions Club 20-year anniversary. I think Councillor HUANG, you might know some of the wonderful people that attended that—their 20-year anniversary of helping people all over the world. Everything from all about Pasifika countries. We had representatives there. We had the Consul from Tonga that was there, Curtis, who was an amazing speaker. It was fantastic, yet again, to recognise the work of a Lions Club doing so much work in this particular area.

So, Madam Chair, it has been quite a while and I apologise that that was perhaps a little long but there is just so much that happens in and around Brisbane, so we just love everything that we see and do. All right. I’d like to move the report of the Committee meeting held on 23 April. That report had one petition—a wonderful presentation from the Divisional Manager providing an overview of the Lifestyle and Community Services division for the benefit of our new Committee members. It was great to have our branch managers in attendance as well and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank each of the officers within our division who worked tirelessly to deliver the many important services they do for the residents of Brisbane. I will leave debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Is there any debate?

As there is no debate, I’ll put the report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Lisa Atwood (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Seal Chong Wah, Alex Givney and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Penny Wolff.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**467/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services (LCS), attended the meeting to provide an overview of the LCS division. She provided the information below.

2. LCS delivers experiences for Brisbane’s communities including spaces to connect, hubs for reading and learning, ensuring Brisbane’s safety, engaging with the community, building community connection and providing entertainment for residents and visitors. LCS is made up of several branches, including:

- Community Facilities (CF)

- Community Services Planning and Governance (CSPG)

- Compliance and Regulatory Services (CARS)

- Connected Communities

- Customer Services

- Library Services

- Divisional Manager’s Office.

3. CF develops, maintains and operates iconic venues in partnership with the community and industry. CF’s portfolio includes:

- City Hall, the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium and 27 hireable facilities

- 12 cemeteries and three crematoria with a provision of options for burials, cremations and memorials

- 22 pools, two golf courses and Riverstage.

4. The role of CARS is to provide services to the community that help make Brisbane a fairer and safer place. CARS aims to protect and enhance the health, safety and amenity of Brisbane through a range of licensing and regulatory services, split into three working groups:

- Community Standards, responsible for the delivery of a range of regulatory and enforcement activities

- City Safety, delivering a 24/7 response service to compliance-related activities, to maintain the safety of public spaces

- Strategic Regulation, Systems and Analytics, providing the strategic direction and policy ownership that govern the principles for CARS’ operational delivery.

5. CSPG delivers strategic support functions to ensure the success of LCS. CSPG collaborates with other branches within the division to provide a range of data and analytics, enabling data-driven insights to drive continuous improvement and enhance the customer experience.

6. Connected Communities provides opportunities for residents, workers and visitors to participate in cultural, community development and recreational activities that foster inclusion and stronger communities. Connected Communities includes:

- Inclusive Communities, responsible for implementing and promoting accessibility, diversity and supporting social inclusion

- Healthy and Vibrant Communities, responsible for building the capacity of community organisations to offer affordable citywide sport and recreation opportunities as well as managing the lifecycle and programs for the division’s assets and facilities

- Creative Communities, responsible for facilitating arts and culture funding, sector development initiatives and programs that support Brisbane’s creative economy.

7. Customer Services’ key function is improving customer-focused processes and culture to support Brisbane’s residents and businesses across a range of customer service channels. Customer Services’ 24/7 Contact Centre, Business Hotline and various community experience teams facilitate engagement and collate feedback with stakeholders to enhance the customer experience.

8. Tending to the largest local government library service in Australia, Library Services deliver public library services across 33 libraries, as well as mobile and pop-up libraries and the City Archives service. Council installed its first 24/7 library lockers in June 2023 at Carina and Holland Park Libraries and has since installed four more at Bracken Ridge, Grange, Mitchelton and New Farm Libraries, providing enhanced convenience for customers outside of library business hours.

9. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Divisional Manager for her informative presentation.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE AT THE GAP, SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**137/220/594/256**

**468/2023-24**

11. A petition requesting Council consider the development of a new library and community centre at The Gap, supported by regular public transport access, was received during the Spring Recess 2023.

12. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the following information.

13. The petition contains 50 signatures.

14. Council regularly undertakes strategic network planning, including reviews of library and community facility requirements across Brisbane. New facilities and facility improvements are planned in accordance with Council’s endorsed Desired Standards of Service, in *Brisbane City Plan 2014* Local government infrastructure plan and consider population growth, development and citywide budget priorities.

15. The Gap is within the service catchment of the Ashgrove Library, which is open six days a week and is located approximately two kilometres from The Gap suburb boundary.

16. Ashgrove Library is a well-equipped facility which was last refurbished in 2019. It has two bookable meeting rooms, a dedicated children’s space and a large public deck area. The meeting rooms have an approximate capacity of 10 and 50 people, respectively and feature kitchenette and toilet access. The meeting rooms are available for bookings between 9am and 9pm, seven days a week.

17. Regular bus services run between The Gap and Ashgrove Library approximately every thirty minutes from early morning to late evenings, seven days per week. Direct public transport is available via bus services 380 and 381 to the ‘Elimatta Drive – 19’ bus stop located on Waterworks Road near Oleander Drive, Ashgrove, approximately 350 metres from the library.

18. Council regularly undertakes strategic planning and reviews of library facility requirements for communities across Brisbane. There are currently no plans for a new library to be constructed in The Gap.

Consultation

19. Councillor Steven Toomey, Councillor for The Gap Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

21. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Seal Chong Wah and Charles Strunk dissenting.

22. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/256

Thank you for your petition requesting Council consider the development of a new library and community centre at The Gap, supported by regular public transport.

The Gap is within the service catchment of the Ashgrove Library which is open six days a week and is located approximately two kilometres from The Gap suburb boundary, at 87 Amarina Avenue, Ashgrove.

Ashgrove Library is a well-equipped facility which was last refurbished in 2019. It has two bookable meeting rooms, a dedicated children’s space and a large public deck area. The meeting rooms have an approximate capacity of 10 and 50 people, respectively and feature kitchenette and toilet access. The meeting rooms are available for bookings between 9am and 9pm, seven days a week.

Regular bus services run between The Gap and Ashgrove Library approximately every thirty minutes from early morning to late evenings, seven days per week. Direct public transport is available via bus services 380 and 381 to the ‘Elimatta Drive – 19’ bus stop located on Waterworks Road near Oleander Drive, Ashgrove, approximately 350 metres from the library.

Council regularly undertakes strategic planning and reviews of library facility requirements for communities across Brisbane. There are currently no plans for a new library to be constructed in The Gap.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Azar Gharehbegloo, Principal Officer Community Facilities Planning and Design, Community Services Planning and Governance, Lifestyle and Community Services on (07) 3407 0316.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, Finance and City Governance Committee.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven HUANG, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 April 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Before I get to the Committee report, which I’ll keep very brief, Madam, Chair, I’d like to respond to the question asked by Councillor COLLIER of Councillor HUTTON in Question Time regarding the real-time data. Last year, as many of you would recall, this Chamber agreed to publish real-time data on its website as part of the in progress website and digital upgrade projects. I can advise the Chamber that the website and digital upgrade projects mentioned in the motion still do indeed remain in progress. Turning to the report, Madam Chair, like other Committees, we have new members on our Committee, so we took the opportunity to give a brief to Councillors on the remit of the Finance and City Governance portfolio. I’ll leave the rest to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any debate?

As there is no debate, I put it to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Lucy Collier, Julia Dixon, Trina Massey and Danita Parry.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

**469/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager organisational Services (OS) and the Divisional Manager, City Administration and Governance (CAG), attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Finance and City Governance Portfolio. They provided the information below.

2. OS is made up of the following branches:

- Business Engagement and Performance

- Corporate Finance

- Information Services

- People and Culture

- Property Services

- Strategic Procurement Office

- Support Services.

3. Business Engagement and Performance supports OS through strategy and planning, driving collaboration and integration, facilitating continuous improvement and optimising performance to ensure value for customers and the community.

4. Corporate Finance ensures Council’s financial sustainability through the below business areas:

- Strategy and Reporting

- Corporate Treasurer

- Financial Accounting

- Enterprise Performance Management

- Finance Improvement and Governance.

5. Information Services enables many of Council’s day-to-day activities and services, by offering support with:

- Commercial Services

- Data and Information Insights

- Digital Strategy, Innovation and Architecture

- Enterprise Platforms

- ICT Service Operations

- Portfolio Delivery

- Cyber and Operational Technology.

6. People and Culture covers all matters relating to employment, retention and development of people, with a focus on employee wellbeing, employee relations, strategy and policy, reporting and talent attraction.

7. The Strategic Procurement Office source and manage Council’s procurement of goods and services including business services, process and systems, category management and partnering and innovation.

8. Property Services deliver services to support asset optimisation and property administration including asset management, accommodation services and commercial and community leasing.

9. Support Services provide Council’s key internal services under a centralised model:

- Administration Services

- Employee Services

- Financial Services

- Payment and Supply Services

- Revenue Management.

10. CAG is made up of the following branches:

- Ethical Standards

- City Legal

- Governance, Council and Committee Services (GCCS)

- City Resilience

- City Communication

- Lord Mayors Administration and Engagement (LMAE)

- Assurance Services.

11. LMAE provides executive, administrative and clerical support services necessary to support the Lord Mayor and other elected representatives. Supporting teams include the Correspondence Unit, Protocol and Civic Events and the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust.

12. City Legal is a specialist provider of legal services to Council on various matters including planning and development, planning infrastructure, corporate governance, litigation, risk and enforcement.

13. GCCS provide administrative and strategic governance services to Council and external customers. Supporting teams include the Council and Committee Liaison Office, Councillor Support, Office of the Disputes Commissioner and Policy and Compliance.

14. City Resilience prepare the community for disasters, building resilience through planning, coordinating, partnering and engagement activities across all phases of disaster and emergency management.

15. City Communication leads, develops, implements, advises on and evaluates all external communication for the whole of Council.

16. Assurance Services contribute to the overall strategic direction and planning for Council through internal audits, corporate risk management and corporate security.

17. Ethical Standards provide proactive and best practice advice and assistance to Council to manage the control of fraud and corruption, while raising awareness of Council values and fostering ethical behaviour.

18. Following a question from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Divisional Managers for their informative presentation.

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION – AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT’S USE OF THE PINKENBA FACILITY:

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

**470/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda and called on Councillor Vicki HOWARD to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Vicki HOWARD moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that—

*This Council notes its deep disappointment with the Federal Government's decision to use the 500-bed Pinkenba facility as a parttime training facility, rather than temporary crisis accommodation Council unanimously called for 645 days ago and calls on them to reconsider their position.*

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be brief because we have heard from the LORD MAYOR earlier this evening and I think that it just needs for me to say that it has been two years now since this side of the Chamber called on both the State and Federal Government to put the $400 million 500-bed Pinkenba quarantine facility to good use. Now, Madam Chair, it’s just astonishing—the news that we received earlier this week.

There really is so much that I can say about this motion because, ultimately, the decision is so disappointing. I just want to say the recent announcement by the Federal Government is a really demoralising decision for the hundreds of people that are living in tents and cars and a severely disappointing outcome for the community support providers who were willing and able to assist in the activation of this facility. I ask all of you to deeply reflect on this recent decision proposed by the Federal Government and urge you all to support this motion.

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor CASSIDY?

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on this motion and note our support for it. I’ll say, at the outset, we support it. We know we are facing a housing and homelessness crisis in this city and we supported the motion that Councillor HOWARD talked about previously. While we recognise this is not an ideal location for housing of any kind—crisis or long-term, it is there. It was sitting there. It could have been used. It should have been used. We do note that decision. We support the calls for that to be reviewed, but I also think Council can and should be doing more as well in this space. We shouldn’t just, as we talked about the housing and homelessness strategy earlier in the meeting tonight, leave that at just one action on the homelessness side and one action on the housing side—housing being Kurilpa, and homeless being Pinkenba.

So, to that end—and I’ll do this very quickly—

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

|  |
| --- |
| **471/2023-24**  It was moved by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the motion be amended by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *This Council notes its deep disappointment with the Federal Government's decision to use the 500-bed Pinkenba facility as a parttime training facility, rather than temporary crisis accommodation Council unanimously called for 645 days ago and calls on them to reconsider their position.*  *Council also resolves to increase its support for crisis accommodation including:*  *- Increasing the pathways out of homelessness grants to $5m annually for the next 4 years;*  *- Investigate lowering rates for properties held by registered community housing providers and;*  *- Audit all council owned land for suitability to partner with community housing providers to deliver more housing.* |

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: I think it’s pretty self-explanatory. I’ve been on the record suggesting these very things last time we had this motion here to Council. We’re often asked for ideas, suggestions, actions that we are proposing. Well, here is some that I think we can all support, particularly leading into the budget that this Council will consider in June. There are real and practical actions that this Council can take to assist community providers whether they be crisis accommodation or community housing providers to deliver roofs over people’s heads.

Chair: Is there any debate?

Okay. I will now put the amendment to the vote.

The Chair put the motion for amendment to the notified motion to the Chamber resulting in it being 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, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

NOES: 15 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry. Let me just find my speech quickly. I, too, rise to speak on this motion. Because, quite frankly, I am not sure how this happened—how anyone thought a parttime training facility was more important than providing safe accommodation and support for our residents when they needed it the most. On behalf of so many children, women and men who are not sure where they will sleep tonight, who are not sure where they will eat tonight, I am frustrated and I am sad. Because if we choose to accept this, what kind of society are we? Now, everyone in this Chamber knows Pinkenba was not the perfect solution but it was pretty close.

Over the past—sorry—640 days, we had many excuses as to why Pinkenba won’t work, but the LORD MAYOR has said in the past, we need to find solutions and he did. The former Premier said, it’s too far away from public transport. The LORD MAYOR said, we’ll help with buses. The former Premier said, it’s too close to the airport and people won’t sleep. The LORD MAYOR debunked this and said, the rooms are soundproof. The former Premier said, the rooms don’t have kitchens. The LORD MAYOR highlighted, it has a huge commercial kitchen which is an improvement from the parks, car parks and car and hostels and dodgy hotels where the current State Government is happy to house our Brisbanites.

Pinkenba has safe, lockable rooms, interconnecting bedrooms for families with their own bathrooms. It has health facilities, car parking, greenspace. We had a charity organisation who were ready to run it and Minister Scanlon recently announced it would only cost $550,000 to make some modifications to make it fit for temporary accommodation. I wonder how much the Australian Federal Police will spend converting it into a parttime training facility? Pinkenba would have provided a safe space for those who needed it most. We know this city and country has a serious rental crisis. We know professionals who earn good wages can’t find accommodation, like Mr Stapleton who was a forklift driver for 20 years and recently lost his job due to his company downsizing.

Now, let me read a little excerpt from a recent Courier-Mail article and see if you would like to endure what he has. The 59-year-old male has been living in the park since October 2023, after he was unable to find accommodation. “I left the tent for a few hours and when I returned, all of my possessions had been thrown out, covered in dirt and damaged”, Mr Stapleton said. “My T-shirt had been smashed with eggs, my barbeque had been broken and the string on my special guitar had been snapped and a knife was hanging out of it”, he said. Mr Stapleton’s tent and personal belongings were completely destroyed. His tent had been sliced through, leaving him unable to use it. This is the second time in six months this has happened to Mr Stapleton. The last time, everything was destroyed as well.

More homeless residents like Mr Stapleton are trying to find a job, but it’s hard when your belongings are constantly destroyed. It’s hard when you don’t have a bathroom. It’s almost impossible to get Centrelink payments when you don’t have an address and it’s impossible to find a rental when you don’t have a job. Other residents spend months in their car or a tent. It is so much harder to help them return—sorry—to help turn their situation around. We need that Pinkenba facility. We need to help 500 more Brisbanites right now because there are no other ideas on the table. But if we don’t stand up and act now, it will only have effects—sorry—it will not only have effects on residents right now, it will affect generations to come.

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs sums it up very simply. At the base of this hierarchy, our psychology—sorry—our psychological needs like food, water and shelter. The essential for survival. Without these three basic necessities, individuals struggle to progress to higher levels of fulfilment and their mental health, employment start to see cracks as they often turn to fight or flight mode. In such circumstances, it’s difficult to focus on anything beyond meeting the immediate need of a safe place to sleep and your next meal.

Now, looking past humanity and trying to help our community, homelessness extends far beyond the individuals that experience it in our communities, posing significant challenges to public safety and the wellbeing of vulnerable populations, especially our children. When people are pushed into these situations, they may resort to desperate measures to survive. This can lead to an increase in petty crimes, theft and even more serious offences. Addressing homelessness isn’t just about providing shelter. It’s about creating safer communities for everyone.

Now, let’s turn our attention to our youngest victims of homelessness—children. Imagine being a child without a stable place to call home. Every night becomes a struggle for safety and security. Homeless children are exposed to violence, substance abuse and a lack of access to education and healthcare. The trauma they experience can have a lasting effect on their physical, emotional and cognitive development. As a community, we cannot afford to ignore this plight for our children. They are our future and they—sorry—and their wellbeing is intertwined with the health of our society as a whole. By addressing homelessness, we are not only proving individuals with a chance to rebuild their lives, but also create an environment where children can thrive and reach their full potential.

Being homeless is more than just a lack of shelter. Homelessness represents a profound failure in our society to meet the basic need of our fellow human beings. As a Council, we are pulling every lever we can to help encourage more homes. Our Council officers are out there every day, working to connect people sleeping rough with the services they need. We have removed infrastructure charges for community housing providers to create future supply, but we cannot solve this problem alone. Housing is a responsibility of the State Government and Federal Government.

Ending homelessness requires a multifaceted approach. It is not an easy task, but it is one that we must undertake, so I will call on the Federal Minister to reconsider her decision and approve and support Pinkenba for a temporary accommodation facility. Because using a 500-bed facility for a parttime training facility for the Australian Federal Police is not the best use of Pinkenba. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **472/2023-24**  At that time, 6.02pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of one hour, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 6.05pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak onto this motion. In the midst of the worst housing crisis since the Depression, we are here playing with people’s lives. The Pinkenba facility has been stated by numerous organisations working on the ground with rough sleepers as a quick fix that is inappropriate. I understand when the LORD MAYOR and other people speak about the facility that they are suggesting that it’s not for the most vulnerable with the highest needs and the largest challenges. But anyone who is facing homelessness or is currently rough sleeping is highly vulnerable. The facility in Damascus Barracks has no support services or amenities near it.

The closest shops for groceries are 6.4 kilometres away. It would take 49 minutes to get there by bus, about an hour and 20 minutes by foot. The closest health centre is 3.5 kilometres away, about 50 minutes’ walk, about 40 minutes on the current public transport. The site is 15 kilometres away from the city and even any increase of frequency in buses would be a challenge for some of these highly vulnerable people, particularly when we talk about the three things that were mentioned earlier by Councillor ATWOOD, shelter, food and safety. Most importantly, the Pinkenba facility would only be an addition to crisis and temporary accommodation and people get stuck in it or much worse.

Had this Council had any connection or trust with rough sleepers, they would’ve heard this immediately on the ground, as I’ve heard time and time and again when I’m in Musgrove Park and Kurilpa Point and most recently, which is new, very new for the rough sleepers in Kangaroo Point. The reason why rough sleepers, grassroots organisations and non-for-profit organisations have stated that Pinkenba is not the solution is because Pinkenba isn’t a place where people would like to live long-term, medium-term or even short-term because it is isolated with no services and no connection to local community. It’s hidden away.

The reality is today that rough sleeping, which is often a hidden symptom of our Government’s failures, is now today present across our city and we need to face this head on. What people need is homes, permanent homes. We need major investment from the ALP State Government, who have failed for decades and major policy intervention from the LNP Council. Some examples of this intervention include a vacancy levy, which is present in cities like Vancouver and Barcelona. Currently, there’s approximately 10,000 vacant homes in Brisbane. Other things that Council could look at, which I’ve mentioned previously in this Chamber, are stopping rezoning caravan parks.

Brisbane City Council could lead the way or lead the advocacy for inclusionary zoning from a State Government level. Of course, last year the LORD MAYOR mentioned the conversion and refurbishment of city buildings, which I’m incredibly supportive of and is a movement that is happening worldwide as the housing crisis continues. We haven’t had an update with that, but I am hopeful of an update on that soon. Of course, the other thing that Council has decided not to do is invest in social housing—and I’ve talked about this before—actual investment in social housing, whether it’s through housing providers or otherwise.

The Greens stand firm in highlighting Council’s inaction in a worsening crisis and the use of quick fixes in inappropriate spaces as solutions. I believe we can do more than pass this motion. I believe it’s appropriate that we should talk about doing more and challenge in different ways and in different solutions how we can find new solutions to what is visible in our street. We can do more in this Chamber. We can be more proactive, but only if we’re all willing to do so.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Madam Chair and I thank those who entered the debate. Through you, Madam Chair, our Council officers work every day, every single day to connect people sleeping rough with the services and the accommodation that they need. We know that Pinkenba might not be the perfect solution, but it is better than a family having to sleep in a tent. In late 2022, the LORD MAYOR and I toured the facility with community service providers to assess the suitability of the facility for short-term crisis accommodation—I’m just going to repeat that—short-term crisis accommodation.

Now, obviously there are some people who don’t think that it’s the right solution. But the people who toured with us felt that with some adjustments, with some minor modifications and the presence of wraparound support services, this 500‑bed facility had the potential to be used to give residents a dignified housing option to allow them to get back on their feet. So, Council subsequently committed   
$1 million for any State-led activation of this facility, just for that purpose. Numerous meetings were held between Council and the State Government representatives to determine how this funding support would be called upon. Brisbane City Council was also not alone in its belief that this facility had the potential to assist those sleeping rough across the city.

Numerous community support organisations echoed our long-held belief that the facility had the immediate potential to support our city’s most vulnerable. In fact, the Salvation Army even went as far as to put their hands up and said that they were willing and able to operate this facility to provide respite for the residents who so desperately needed it. Voices across the city have, for almost two years, called on something to be done with this facility to assist those who need it most. So, through you, Madam Chair, I support this to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

I will now put the motion to the vote.

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

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Are there any petitions?

Councillor MASSEY: I did have a petition, but I think I’ve taken it off my desk. I’m so sorry. Can I submit the petition next week?

Chair: Yes, that’s fine.

Councillor MASSEY: Apologies. Apologies to the residents.

Chair: Any other petitions?

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Okay. Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of an Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee order?

There being no councillors rising to their feet, are there any matters of General Business?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Chair, I would like to start by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future. I rise to speak in this Chamber today to first thank the voters of Calamvale. It is such a great honour to represent local families before Brisbane City Council. I promise that I’ll always be your faithful servant. I want to thank the former Councillor for her 16 years of service. I also thank all the Councillors who were successful at the election and have the privilege of representing their wards. Chair, I’ve always found the air quality to be better on the southside. I love the southside and I love our local community.

This area has been my home for as long as I can remember. I was born at Sunnybank hospital 23 years ago and I’ve lived in and around Calamvale ever since. I have great memories playing just outside this Chamber in King George Square as a child. Each Sunday, my grandma or halmeoni, would take me to the Korean service at the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, where I was baptised. Afterwards, she would buy me balloon animals. There were penguins, flowers and even swords. My favourite thing to do as a kid was to go for walks in the local parks with my grandparents, my harabeoji and halmeoni.

They came to Brisbane from South Korea in 1987, looking for a better life for our family. I want to thank them and my parents for all the sacrifices that we could grow up in Australia, the most beautiful country on Earth. It is really special to me that I will now be able to look after the very same parks in which I played with my grandparents growing up. My family still live here today. I saved and saved to get my first home just 10 minutes away from them. A local Calamvale resident actually just stopped me recently and he asked me if I was the little girl walking with her grandpa, Mr Kim.

I want to protect and preserve these special places so that more kids can grow up with beautiful family memories like this. Our local area is the most diverse in all of Queensland. I’m conscious of the fact that many local families grew up in places where even something as simple as a walk in the park or riding a bike was an unimaginable luxury. I know that’s the case for my friend and former Stretton State College Captain, Fahima Ahmadi. She’s actually up here in the Gallery today. As a refugee to Australia, she grew up under the shadow of the Taliban and the regime in Iran.

When she moved to Calamvale, it was the first time in her life she felt that she could control her own destiny as a human being. I’m here to represent Australian families from all walks of life, no matter their background. Ordinary families working hard to get by to pay the rent or pay the mortgage, local police working to keep our community safe, firefighters and nurses and frontline workers without whom we couldn’t function as a society. Chair, I stood for Council because, out of all levels of government, it’s local government that has the most direct impact on the daily lives of Queenslanders and residents of Brisbane.

The practical decisions we make as Councillors go to the very heart of what it means to live in our city. If you go to your local park with your kids, you’re going to a park maintained by Council. If you catch a local bus, you’re jumping onto Council public transport. If you’re driving down a local road, there’s a good chance you’re driving on a Council road. This is particularly acute for growing areas like Calamvale. A growing area requires growing services and Council needs to pay special attention to the growing outer suburbs of our city. Calamvale is home to some very big schools, Stretton State College, Calamvale Community College, Islamic College of Brisbane and the growing Pallara State School.

These large schools face growing challenges with pick-up and drop-off zones and parking. Council approved developments in these catchment zones, so it’s not okay for us to simply say it’s a school issue. We need to improve pick-up and drop-off zones and promote active transport. Chair, there’s another critical issue facing all levels of Australian Government. It’s recently said that Sydney faces a future with no grandchildren. I fear Brisbane will head this way if we don’t act as Councillors to make sure enough housing exists for young families to start their lives. During my campaign, so many young people would come up to me and ask, how will I ever afford my home? How will I ever be able to afford a family and start to raise kids?

I say this to the people of Calamvale, as your Council candidate, I pledge to work for our local area. As your elected representative, I will work every day to ensure that our local area gets our fair share of resources. I will work every day to make sure that our local area has a future with children and grandchildren. Chair, my family never discussed politics at the dinner table. Growing up, Australian politics seemed inaccessible to me. It seemed like something that happened in distant offices. It seemed like something that everyday people watched but didn’t participate in.

Then, at the age of 17, I walked into the office of my local State Member, the late Duncan Pegg. I was there to ask more questions after doing a Model UN (United Nations) competition, but I walked out of the meeting with Duncan’s offer of a summer internship and then a part-time job. Over the years, Duncan looked out for me and helped me to understand that everyday people like us can have a say. A year and a half after I first walked into Duncan’s office, he took me aside and shared the news of his diagnosis. It’s been almost three years since his passing and we miss him every day.

He was our guardian angel in the campaign and I know he’s watching down on us now, doing the numbers from heaven while sipping on endless strawberry milkshakes. All these years later, I still keep in touch with the Pegg family. His brother Graham baked cookies for our campaign volunteers. Every month, I still find myself heading out to the windswept beaches of Surfers Paradise, where I lay a Kit Kat bar by the spot where his ashes were scattered. I’ll just have a drink of water.

I can’t wait to hang a picture of him in our office and I just wanted to thank his parents, Lindsey, Graham Senior, Graham Junior, Cameron, Grant and Lachlan. I didn’t think I’d get so emotional.

What I appreciated most about Duncan’s advice was his practical nature. He wanted to empower people, but he never did so in a tokenistic way. He got straight to the point, never fluffing his words. He actually lived his values and this is true of the entire Griffith Labor University crew he built up. I owe my gratitude to James Martin, Clinton de Bruyn, Merric Foley, David Shaw, Monique Bielanowski and Kerry Carwin. Like me, they all graduated from the Duncan Pegg school of hard knocks and tough yakka. It meant never giving up when the going got tough. It meant endless doorknocking and road siding with Krispy Kremes and it meant strategising with him in the hospital when he got sick.

I know that the next generation of the school is already on the rise. I particularly want to thank everyone in the room here today, Fahima Ahmadi, the Ahmadi sisters, Semisi Manu, Aryan Sharma, Hudson Denning, Joel Krattinger, Nick Trin, Nick Schlobohm, Juan Dugue, Diya Bijoy and Sam Sole. Many of these young Labor members came doorknocking with me every day on the campaign and also Hudson Denning.

I also need to make a special shout out to Tang and Michael Murray. They were there for my first Stretton ALP branch meeting when I was 17 and Tang still makes the best chilli paste in Queensland. They were out for me every single day on this campaign and when my grandpa passed away shortly before the passing of Duncan, I told Tang I didn’t know what to do with his Frank Sinatra vinyl albums because I didn’t own a record player, so she bought one to give to my grandma. Tang and Michael, like the rest of our Stretton branch, you’re all family to me. Thanks for burning incense in our new office, feeding me every day on early voting and giving me a big melon for good luck. Also, just during our dinner break, she’s given me a dragon fruit that she’s grown from home, so thank you very much.

I was particularly lucky to also have significant support from our local Labor‑elected members. I want to thank Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Speaker Milton Dick, Graham Perrett, as well as two local State Members, Minister Leeanne Enoch and James Martin MP (Member of Parliament). A big shout out to Jared, Lucy, Steve and Charles as well and all of our Brisbane Labor Council team. Thank you also to our Queensland Labor Party President John Battams and State Secretary Kate Flanders, United Workers Union’s Gary Bullock, Greg Moran, Connor Wood, Jake Araullo and Tom Smith and Jess Pugh. When Duncan passed away, he tasked Greg with making sure I didn’t fall out of line. Thank you, Greg, for all your help.

The support I received from party members and friends across the city was overwhelming. I particularly want to thank my campaign manager, Adam Chappell, Katie, Lucinda Chappell, my organiser, Hayden Shepherd, branch president, Sharif Kouakis and his wife Guarda, David Parse, Ali Kadri, Thalia Edmonds, the Manu family for all their generosity and all their fruit, Gail MacPherson, Adrian Cremman, Jose Christensen, Courtney Talbot, the McDoner family, the Glaris family, the Pavlu family, the Ansari family, Scott Taylor, Tony Morris KC, his beautiful wife Alice Hampson and their lovely daughter, Violette—their two dogs, Victor and Vixen, were very important to us on the campaign and I’m sorry I broke your dog lead by trying to fix a Vote 1 Emily Kim badge on it.

I also thank my brother Ben Kim. I’m sure as a software engineer he never thought he’d be handing out a how to vote care on election day. To Troy Spence, Conor Rutherford, Matty Sellars, George and Zander Addison, Sachin Ladd Andrew Landyu, Sandy Thomas who used to work for the former Councillor for our area, Kevin Bianchi, Sandy Luk, Nick Thachi, Yui Singh, Seb Paige, Yuen Tionen, Alex Smock, Riley Bowman, Tim Page, Sajinda Singh, Hardy Barglar, Terry Gobetz, Troy Reeves, Pat Ruthie and Lucky, Tari Dambo, Nora, Ariana and Phil Mansell Clarke, Porsha Alison, Martin Boga, Sarah McDonald, Kate Allaway, Lisa Wada and Penny. Thank you, Jas Singh, as well, RTBU (Rail, Tram and Bus Union) delegate, Will Cragh, and the Van Dieren Road locals for your help. I’m nearly there.

I also want to thank our community leaders. So, we had Turat Acharl, Ben Chen, Sharji Thekanath, Esther Stewart, Professor Vicky Browning, Lewis Lee OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia), Calamvale Wines Club, Paula from Karawatha Forest Protection Society, Master Jet Lee, Jitandra Dayo, Johnny Shin, Philso and Jolyn, for all of their help and advice on the campaign. In the past few weeks since I’ve been declared, I’ve met lots of wonderful people, like Steve and Harry from Forest Lake RSL and Sunnybank RSL. I look forward to working with everyone and once again, I thank the people of Calamvale for their support. As I said before, I will always be your humble servant.

Chair, I want to finish my speech to a little shout out to an Australian girl in the Calamvale Ward by the name of Chloe. Chloe is a Grade 4 student at Pallara State School. Her dad, Ben, is from Singapore, and mum, Emmy, is Vietnamese, who is here in the audience today. Chloe gave me a very sweet handwritten card on election day explaining that she and her group of friends at school had all asked their parents and grandparents to vote for me. I was so touched by this and Chloe told me that she and her friends were really excited to see somebody that looked like them running for election. I hope that in some small way my election can inspire other young Australian girls like Chloe to know that they too can go grow up to have a say in the future of this country. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor KIM.

Are there any further items of General Business?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to commend the Anzac Day commemorations held within the Wynnum Manly Ward last week and I wish to share these significant events with the Chamber. It was my privilege to be invited by three local schools to participate in their Anzac Day services. Each service displayed a profound level of respect and individuality. Notably, Iona College orchestrated a dignified ceremony uniting the entire school community, a highlight was the haka performed by the New Zealand students, symbolising the enduring camaraderie between Australian and New Zealand soldiers.

At Bayside State College, retired captain, Colin Strachan, shared a touching narrative of his involvement in identifying fallen soldiers found in the Fromelles mass grave. This act of remembrance brought closure to families decades after the war ended. Equally inspiring were the thought-provoking questions posed by student leaders at the morning tea regarding Council and the Brisbane City. Wynnum State School orchestrated a touching service featuring a moving performance by bagpiper Vicky alongside handmade wreaths, a thoughtful gesture prompting reflection on sustainable practices for future remembrance services.

On Anzac Day, these tributes were echoed by the Wynnum RSL and Manly Lota RSL subbranch, each hosting two services and a march. Noteworthy was a dawn service at Darling Point, hosted by the Nashos Bayside branch, set against the breathtaking backdrop of the sunrise over Moreton Bay. Special thanks to President Wayne Norris and Padre Thomas Andrew OAM, for the organisation of this service.

Gratitude is owed to the Rotary Club of Wynnum Manly and the Quota International Wynnum Manly for their early morning preparations and hospitality, ensuring that over 400 were fed for breakfast at 4.30am and more than 100 for morning tea after the 8am service. Over 2,500 attendees gave their respects at the midmorning service this year. It was heartening to witness the growing involvement of school students at this annual event, alongside community groups such as the Bayside Brass Band and Gumdale State School choir and the talented bugler, school student Camillo Suarez. Special thanks to Ness Noble, Rex Coombes and Harry Pragnell and the committee for their tireless efforts.

The predawn service at Wynnum illuminated by the full moon was a profoundly moving experience, enhanced by the Moreton Bay College’s choir rendition of *Abide with Me* and the national anthems. The midmorning march and service attended by local business leaders—sorry, by numerous school groups, community groups and sporting clubs, underscored the enduring significance of Anzac Day within our ward. The Wynnum RSL Pipe Band ensured the service was one to remember. My attendance as a special guest at the Wynnum RSL and annual Anzac lunch was a humbling experience surrounded by veterans, community leaders and volunteers united in paying respect to our fallen heroes.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated volunteers whose tireless efforts ensured a seamless execution of these commemorative events. Their unwavering commitment embodies the spirit of remembrance cherished by our community. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, thanks, Chair. I just want to talk on two items of General Business. First, just also want to mark on the record my appreciation to the Bulimba and Districts RSL subbranch and the Norman Park National Serviceman subbranch as well for their efforts in commemorating Anzac Day as a—I’m sure many other people in this city and even in this Chamber, I am the granddaughter of a World War II veteran and he served and came home and never spoke a word of it. So Anzac Day to me in particular and having volunteered with the Bulimba and Districts RSL for more years than I can remember, is an important way to continue to tell the stories of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice of course, but those who came home and paid that sacrifice too.

So as a local Councillor, I, like others in this Chamber, have the immense privilege of representing our community at local services, whether that’s on the day or the week leading up to local school services and I do just really want to commend all of the young children locally who will continue on that legacy and keep telling those stories. We have to tell them so that we never forget and remember the importance of the decisions that we make when we have positions of power.

I think that is an incredibly important segue into the next thing that I will talk about, which is just the general conduct of us here today in the Chamber and as local elected representatives. I for one have found it very confronting and as many of you know, I am not a stranger to politics, I have been around it for a long time, but when I step foot into this place sometimes, it makes me feel very disappointed on behalf of everyone’s community in the way in which we behave and I think that we can do a lot better than that. We negotiate with each other in good faith I feel and tonight, I feel like that was not respected. I’m really disappointed. We have a new Councillor whose voice matters and her story matters. We are here to hear that tonight and as you can—as we have just heard, I just said to Councillor KIM, was there anyone in the community who didn’t support her, because that was an incredible list of not only party people, her family, but her community who helped her be the strong community voice that she has ultimately been elected on to deliver for her area.

So, to have her family here tonight and be disrespected by the Administration, you know, we could do so much better, we really could. Our voices in this place are an incredibly powerful thing and to have your family and friends here tonight to witness you becoming the new Councillor for Calamvale and put your remarks read onto the record, Emily—Councillor KIM, sorry, deserves respect and on this side of the Chamber we will respect and I guess from the events not only just earlier tonight, but throughout the course of today, we are having a national conversation about the way that we treat each other as people. I hope that everyone here tonight will consider that very deeply.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak of the Anzac Day spirit in the Walter Taylor Ward, with many significant events occurring throughout April in the leadup to Anzac Day. Beginning early April, I attended an event at the Toowong Cemetery for the Stone of Remembrance and the Cross of Sacrifice. Special thanks to Peter Collins, the convenor of the Stone of Remembrance Centenary Committee and also to Toowong RSL. We were joined by His Excellency Governor-General, the Honourable David John Hurley and Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley, marking the centenary of the official unveiling of Australia’s first national Anzac memorial.

Additionally in the Walter Taylor Ward, Brisbane City Council has delivered the National Defence Chaplains Memorial Grove in Toowong’s Anzac Park. This memorial grove, for the first time ever in the Commonwealth, honours the gallantry, dedication to duty and sacrifice of those who humbly serve the fighting men and women who keep Australia free.

In the Walter Taylor Ward, I’m also fortunate to have a family business called National Medals in Taringa. I popped in to visit Greg to have my grandfather’s service medals replicated to wear for the upcoming Anzac services throughout my ward. Anzac Day, through stories of times past, connects us to our community in so many meaningful ways and for me personally, my grandfather, Cecil Kroll, served in the 2nd 14th Battalion in Papua New Guinea and Borneo until the war ended. On his return from World War II, he served as president and secretary for 28 years for the Redcliff RSL subbranch and he was awarded life membership.

I wanted to recognise the importance that RSL plays on Anzac Day above all days, to recall those who have served in war and who did not return to receive grateful thanks for our nation. Toowong RSL subbranch dawn service was heartfelt and well attended. Special mention to Leila Coulter, a Year 6 student leader from Indooroopilly State School who wrote and shared a very personal and moving poem, *The 25th of April*.

I also witnessed the incredible support of the community who attended the Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL subbranch commemorative service at Keating Park in Indooroopilly. I was delighted to also attend the West Toowong Bowls Club service with thanks to Ros and Lieutenant Colonel Brian Venz, Retired, for his significant address and sharing stories of Coastwatchers like Arthur Reginald Evans and Ruby Boye, who was the only female Coastwatcher.

In addition to the services attended on Anzac Day and across the week, I attended many school commemorative services including Brisbane Boys College, Indooroopilly State School, QASMAT, being Queensland Academy for Science, Maths and Technology and Indooroopilly State High School and I had a representative also attend at Fig Tree Pocket State School. Anzac Day in 2024, I witnessed so many come together to honour our brave servicemen and women who continue to protect our country while also remembering the fallen soldiers for their courage, sacrifice and legacy. Thank you to all who helped commemorate Anzac Day in the Walter Taylor Ward. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on three items tonight. Anzac—the Anzac spirit, the Deagon Ward, Council’s support for homelessness services and bad faith negotiations. Giggles over there has already started. I might start on that actually and I guess—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I guess the lesson I’ve learnt tonight, Chair, is that you don’t negotiate with a bloke that won’t even look you in the eye and won’t do it in good faith. A very strange experience in the leadup to our dinner break tonight in that Councillor COLLIER approached the LNP whip and asked a simple question, whether we thought Councillor KIM would speak before the dinner break or after the dinner break, simple question and no reflection on what Councillor DIXON did, she went and asked the question and I was approached. I didn’t approach Councillor MURPHY, but Councillor MURPHY approached me, Chair, with a deal that he had decided to offer in that if Labor Councillors didn’t speak in General Business, that Councillor KIM would get to speak, given that your family and friends are all here, would get to speak before dinner.

Given what he had said earlier in the meeting, that he thought it was disrespectful for Councillor JOHNSTON to have been speaking, I took him at good faith, Chair. So I spoke for—and he said to me, the other important bit, I guess, Chair, in all of this and I want to put this on record, is that one of three things would happen with the motion that Councillor HOWARD moved, either the LNP would move through it very quickly, is what he put to me, they would pull it entirely or delay it to another week. None of my suggestions, they were Councillor MURPHY’s suggestions and I said, sure, no worries, we won’t speak during General Business and we proceeded to the motion. I spoke for one minute and 23 seconds on the motion, cut short my comments significantly in good faith and then all of a sudden, we go to dinner. So, whatever, if that was always their intention, Chair, that’s fine.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: But just don’t lie about it. I think that’s the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s the issue here. I guess I take what Councillor COLLIER said earlier in her remarks in General Business, that this meeting in particular but when we reflect about how this Council has operated with this LNP majority for a long time, it’s not been in good faith. I’ve never sought to negotiate the closure of a meeting early with the LNP, I’ve always been happy to go to dinner if that’s in fact what we want. We asked a simple question about that and then to have Councillor MURPHY concoct this sort of deal that he proposed to us and then pull the rug and send us to dinner, whatever, it’s no skin off our nose. But it’s just very bad faith negotiating and something—and disrespectful to Councillor KIM’s family and friends who came along tonight to witness what is quite an amazing, amazing achievement for you in being elected and to be able to make that contribution and demonstrate to all of us here what your community already knew as to why you should have been elected the Councillor for Calamvale, given your significant community support.

So terribly disappointed. We’re always often disappointed about decisions that are made in here in this place and I really don’t—you know, I’ve been in here for nearly nine years now and I’ve seen how Councillor MURPHY operates, Chair and he does treat this like high school politics. But for a lot of us in here, for a lot of us in here, we seek to make a bigger contribution than just ourselves, our own personal enjoyment in getting one up on other Councillors. I’ve often talked about the need for us having a higher purpose in here than our own self advancement. I’m sure a lot and I do think a lot of LNP Councillors think that way as well, but what is for sure and certain is that Councillor MURPHY is not one of those.

So, I want to expand on Labor’s ideas that I put forward in my amendment to the moment we had prior to General Business. As I said very briefly then and I’ll say it now, we’re often accused of coming in here and complaining and not having ideas and not putting things on the table. Well, we did that tonight, we put some ideas on the table and they’re not our ideas, these are ideas that have come from service organisations working in the community housing and homelessness sector here in Brisbane. They’ve come from organisations that toured the Pinkenba site with the LORD MAYOR and with Councillor HOWARD. Now they had some face-to-face time with these people, as have I, in seeking out these solutions in the community so we can bring them here to Council to try and address these issues.

Funding for the Pathways out of Homelessness Grant is critical to these organisations. It’s been stagnant now for years and years and years at about $1 million or so a year. Those community organisations are crying out for more support to be able to deliver more services immediately, to deliver more crisis accommodation immediately. That’s something this Council can do. We could have supported it tonight, but the LNP chose not to. The LORD MAYOR has an opportunity to fund that in his budget and I certainly hope that he will. Investigating lowering rates for properties held by registered community housing providers, having discussions with organisations like Q Shelter who represent—are the peak body representing community housing providers, one of the big issues that they face in being able to invest in more stock, invest in building more stock and taking advantage of those infrastructure charge discounts, of which we have supported in this place, is lowering the rates burden that those organisations have.

So, in any given year, that goes up and down, that discount, but in recent years it was about five per cent. So sure, that’s a generous five per cent that these organisations were getting on their rates bill from this Council, however, anything more than that, every dollar that is saved in these organisations paying rates to Council means more houses are built. More houses are built, our rates base is expanded as well, this pays for itself and what it does is support affordable housing here in Brisbane. That’s another idea, an audit Council-owned land for suitability to partner with community housing providers. This is something that we see in councils all around Brisbane. We’ve seen the Moreton Bay Council not only lead the way in terms of financial support packages, but also in gifting land, whether it’s through long-term leases or freehold transfer of land to community housing providers, because turns out that’s a council that prioritises homes and prioritises housing for vulnerable people much more than this Council does.

So, there’s just a couple of ideas. If we had a fulsome debate, if we didn’t have Councillor MURPHY concocting some fake deal to try and stop us from talking, we might have had a more fulsome debate about that. But there’s some ideas, I’ll throw them over to Councillor HOWARD and the LORD MAYOR to think about and to talk to Q Shelter and to talk to community housing providers because they are screaming out for more support. My message to them and I’ve had some great conversations with Fiona and Jackson at Q Shelter and will continue to, we will continue to support you on this side of the Chamber and bring your issues to Council and fight for you.

In summing up this contribution to General Business, I just want to talk about Anzac Day in my community. So, in the leadup to Thursday, we had an amazing display of that Anzac spirit at our schools right around the Deagon Ward. I was lucky enough to attend half a dozen or more, I think, services at schools which were all student-led from primary schools, with contributions from Preppies right through to our high schools in the Deagon Ward. When you hear those veterans or serving personnel talk about what the Anzac sprit means to them and those key elements of that, of service and of mateship, of the fair go, we see that spirit that they talk about and they hold so dear coming through in that next generation of residents here in Brisbane. I think that’s a wonderful thing.

To culminate that amazing display of community spirit on Thursday for myself at the dawn service at Sandgate, which was simply amazing, the largest crowd certainly since 2014, since the 100th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli, with thousands of people flooding into Memorial Park and paying their respects for those people that not just serve, but particularly those that made the ultimate sacrifice, the 100,000 Australians over the last 100-plus years who served our nation. Then to see both at Zillmere and Sandgate, the thousands of students, of veterans, of community organisations and everyone from every walk of life marching very proudly to pay their respects, not just to those that served, but also the community that they love, was a very special thing, not just to witness, but to be part of as well. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just rise to respond to Councillor CASSIDY in respect of deals and negotiations. Councillor CASSIDY has once again misled the Chamber in this place. We did not approach him to offer any deal in respect of Councillor KIM’s first speech. Councillor COLLIER approached Councillor DIXON to ask that we prioritise her speech, that it be done before dinner and that we get through the business of the meeting so that we could do that before dinner. We offered to do that on the proviso that they breeze through with no further speeches to get to that first speech and we said we hadn’t—it’s true, we said we hadn’t decided on what we were going to do with the motion.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, you were heard in silence, I expect you to do the same for other people in General Business.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I just—under what standing order in the Meetings Local Law is it for you to pass judgment and make commentary to me directly on matters that Councillor MURPHY is speaking to?

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Could you please provide?

Chair: Yes.

Councillor COLLIER: Where?

Chair: I can. You are not supposed to be speaking while other Councillors are speaking and that is what I am pulling you up on. Okay? You were heard in silence when you did your General Business and we expect Councillor MURPHY to be able to have his say. It’s not open for you to debate it.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: So do you think, Madam Chair, that if Councillor CASSIDY was very keen to move an amendment on the motion that was coming, a notified motion, that he would have said at that point, ‘actually; I’m really keen to move an amendment to that motion which requires a speech and a vote, so we probably can’t agree on this, we’ll have to go to dinner’. Do you think he said that? Or do you think he said, ‘yes, I agree, let’s do the deal’ and then just went and did the amendment and now is trying to retcon things, blame us, you know, all the personal attacks on me, which I don’t mind by the way, Councillor CASSIDY, I’m used to that from you. Do you think any of that was disclosed? No. No, it wasn’t and so that how we arrived at dinner, because Councillor CASSIDY, unlike you, who often leave the Chamber and go away, our clerks who are here cannot, they have to stay there and they require breaks. So, we were willing to move 15 minutes for them and then when you moved an amendment, you clearly went back on whatever deal you thought we had and so we went to dinner.

But I’ll say again, the only reason that we went to dinner is because your side of the Chamber continually enables one Councillor to disrupt the business of this place.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: One single councillor, constantly seconded, constantly enabled to just waste hours of all of our time on pointless speeches and personal attacks that do nothing for her community and go nowhere. So maybe you want to consider how you waste that time, rather than coming in here and attacking me.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: There it goes. I’ve got a big enough voice, you’d probably hear me anyways. Anyway, I rise to speak on a couple of items, two events and I want to reflect on a petition that I wasn’t able to speak to because we had a deal. But then Councillor MURPHY says he doesn’t do deals, but then he just said he does deal, so anyways, I’m confused, but anyways, I’ll let that go. Right, in regards to—I’m wearing a Vietnamese heritage flag or something that represents the Vietnamese heritage flag because I want to speak about the day of mourning that occurred at 2pm at the Freedom Place at Inala.

Councillor MARX: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Sorry, just there’s some roadworks happening just out the window here, which is why I actually can’t necessarily hear what Councillor STRUNK’s saying, just interested what this was meaning and I can’t hear you. Sorry.

Chair: Sorry. Councillor, yes, use that big voice that you said you have into the mic please.

Councillor STRUNK: I’ll try to overcome that.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor STRUNK: The jackhammers. Okay, yes, Madam Chair, I rise to speak on the day of mourning, an event that happened out at Inala at Freedom Place and I’m wearing a scarf that actually represents the heritage flag of Republic of Vietnam. Anyways, I got permission from my leader to attend the day of mourning and there was three levels of government that were there, Senator Scarr from the Federal Government, Margie Nightingale, the new Member for Inala, her first mourning day service and I’m sure will be many more to come and myself on behalf of—well as a local Councillor. So, this is my eighth day of mourning and, of course, it’s to commemorate the horrendous losses of the Vietnamese people after 1975 where they had to flee Vietnam because of the communist regime that was taking over and over three million fled over a period of time. Of those, one million of them perished, which is just phenomenal, when you think about it.

As I say, this was my eighth service that I attended to as a Councillor and it was well attended, even though it was on a Tuesday. It’s a working day for a lot of people, but there was a great turnout from community leaders and organisations and community leaders. We had three serving inspectors of police there, which is the most inspectors I’ve actually seen there at the service, which is really good. So, the police service turned out in numbers as well to pay their respects to the Vietnamese people who lost their lives fleeing Vietnam to other countries like Canada, United States, obviously Australia and others. I’m very fortunate to actually look after a ward that actually has a substantial Vietnamese community because they’re some of the hardest working and some of the most generous people that you will ever come across.

They fundraise on a regular basis for floods, famines, they did a huge fundraiser for Ukraine back about 12, 18 months ago and they continue to do that work because I think they appreciate the fact that they live in a very safe and tolerant country now, one that they can thrive and they just show their respects for those other cultures that are doing it tough as well. I just want to pay tribute to also the chapter who runs the event every year, on 30 April every year, no matter what day it’s on, Dr Cuong Bui, who is the president of the chapter who is an icon in my community and I’m sure is very much so right across Australia as well. He’s very well-known and very well-respected.

Turning to Anzac Day, it was my turn to attend the Forest Lake Anzac Day service. I normally alternate between the Inala service and the Forest Lake service because they do them at the same time every year, even though we try to convince one of them to maybe change it a little bit, anyways, they still do it and both of them have parades as well as a service, which is really challenging to the local constabulary because they’ve actually got to obviously manage people moving up and down roads and cars and vehicles and all that sort of stuff a well while people are trying to get elsewhere that may not be participating in the services. So, I do thank them very much for what they do.

Now this is the first year that Forest Lake RSL subbranch undertook a dawn service, five o’clock or so, 4.30, five o’clock dawn service. They also did the morning service as well and then they do a dusk service as well over at Dogs Queensland to commemorate the dogs of war. The first service, they didn’t know it was going to be like, it was their first one, the dawn service, there was near 400 or 500 people there, which was quite amazing. Then, of course, they then, at about 9.30 when the morning service took place, it was packed. Literally, I don’t think there was a square inch of space left, it was standing room only in a lot of cases and it was just so well supported by the community, I was just so proud to be part of that. It’s been big before, but it has never been as big as it was on Anzac Day this year.

Then of course the dusk service over at Dogs Queensland as well, again was very, very well attended. It’s in the Moorooka Ward actually and thank you for the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, I represented the Councillor for Moorooka, I think. No, it was, anyway, so you can imagine three big services for a small volunteer group in the RSL that actually pull it all together and sadly the President and the Secretary, Steve Ford and Sharon Ford, had a bereavement, a close family bereavement the night before. They just nailed it anyways, they just sucked it up and then they pushed through and they got there and I just pay tribute to them because this is their last year as President and Secretary, they’re stepping down for the next generation, as they say and we’re looking forward to that transition as well. But they’ve really done an enormous amount of work with the RSL over the last six, seven years now, establishing a facility at Boundary Road at Wacol there and where the Nashos are. They’ve just done some tremendous amount of work over the last five or six years as a couple, along with, of course, a great supporting group as well.

Now finally, I want to talk a little bit about this petition that actually I didn’t speak to during the Committee reports and this was the library and community centre that the people from The Gap were looking for support to actually establish a new library and a community centre at The Gap. Now we know within The Gap Ward there is one library, which is not a huge library, it’s about a bit over 700 square metres, which is a little bit smaller than my Inala library, considering that some of the libraries can be up to 3,000 square metres, so that just gives you an idea. Yes, the current library, which as I say, is in The Gap Ward, is at one end of the ward and if I can paint a picture, The Gap Ward is a very elongated ward and the library that’s currently there, that’s currently been serving the community for years, is at one end of Waterford Road or Waterworks Road and of course at the other end is some kilometres down the other end of Waterworks Road as well.

So, it’s a fair distance and, of course, that road is a very congested road at times. So, it’s not easy to traverse from one end to the other, especially during peak hour, so I thought it was a fair request that the community ask in their petition. I would just hope that the local Councillor may take this on board and maybe in his budget submissions, maybe request a new library and community centre to be established within his ward. Interesting enough, the comments at the end of the Council officers, they talked about the library—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK, your time has expired.

Councillor STRUNK: They didn’t talk about the community centre. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: There’s no one on that side? Thank you, Madam Chair. I just rise to speak on four issues. One is congratulations, second one is in relation to issues, third one is about accessible footpaths and fourth one is about the RSL.

I just want to first off congratulate Councillor KIM. Well done. It’s good to have a new person on the team and you’ve certainly got a lot of energy and a lot of enthusiasm and I hope you have a fruitful career of service going forward. It can be a really rewarding job and I hope you find it that way, although maybe after tonight you won’t think that. So, I wish you all the best.

The second thing is, I want to talk to a number of issues related to Field Services and I raised issues above Field Services last time and surprise, surprise, one of the issued I raised was about four seats, public seats on footpaths that haven’t been able to get action for a long time. They got fixed, like that, this week. So, thank you for getting them fixed. It’s amazing what a little spotlight will do on an issue and it gets resolved or fixed.

So, I’m going to try again for another issue this week and just see if we can get some magic happening. Councillor HUTTON, I know that you’ve got a big job ahead of you, I know it’s a big job restructuring and looking at what’s going on there, but this issue concerns me, it’s about lighting of a bus stop outside the Princess Alexandra Hospital on Ipswich Road. You would think that this was a remarkable request, two sides of Ipswich Road have bus stops, people regularly use them who use the bus stops, I regularly drive past there and see people sitting in the dimness of these bus stops. I put both requests in, I’ve also had residents raise the issue of the lighting at these bus stops, put both these jobs in, one got done like that, one outside Target, new light. The one outside the hospital remains dim. It’s very hard to see people there, but you can see their shadows and the response I’ve pushed it back to Council three times is, no, it meets acceptable standards. It’s like the officers are saying to me, to us, it makes sense to upgrade this light.

To me, I drove past it last night, looked at it again, it was dim. A lot of rubbish under the seats, maybe the Council officer can’t see that, but the fact that I’m having to raise in this Chamber that we have a dimly lit bus stop on Ipswich Road outside a major hospital is just stupidity. It is just stupidity. It should be a service that we just provide and fix up and if the organisation was running well, it should just happen, like it happened outside Target on the opposite side of the road. So, I will hand that over to the Administration and see whether you can get the light outside a major public hospital on the southside upgraded, the electricity is there, you’ve just got to change the light so that it’s brighter for the people at the bus stop. We’ll see, see what a week will deliver.

I need to also raise the issue of accessible footpaths. I didn’t mix this up with the debate earlier today, but I don’t know if many of you are aware of it, but I certainly haven’t heard any LNP Councillors raise it, but it’s certainly—I’m told, an issue right across the city that we went and upgraded all our bus stops, but we actually didn’t connect our bus stops to the footpaths and we didn’t provide ramps at those bus stops because the legislation didn’t require us to. So, the common-sense approach didn’t click in and we’ve upgraded these bus stops with no ramps and no connections to the footpaths. Now in a council that operated on common sense, I would say that is crazy, that is bizarre and I don’t understand how we have all these executives sitting up in—I call it Qantas House, they’re all sitting up there having a lovely time, but how they can allow this craziness to happen.

So, I am requesting in the upcoming budget that we put money aside for accessible footpaths to connect our accessible bus stops to the nearest footpath. I had a lady come and raise that with me. The officers came back to me and said, you have to pay for it. Can I tell you, I am—the only footpaths I build now and the LORD MAYOR did, he was fair in what he said before, I do build footpaths, the only footpaths I’m building at the moment are accessible footpaths. They are only for people with mobility devices. I’m not doing it because someone wants to walk, I’m doing it because someone needs to get their accessible device somewhere. So, I think we actually need to look at our footpath funding. I agree, the funding we have for footpaths and parks is for stuff you want to do, but stuff that people require, we should be doing it just as a right. I think we should be doing it as a right and that fits, I had a look at our accessibly plan, it actually fits with Council’s accessibility plan.

So instead of me having to choose which disabled person gets a footpath next year, I actually think I should be able to go to Council and go, look here’s the need, here’s the proof, we actually need an accessible footpath here. I have to say, in my area, I’ve got a lot of working-class area, but I’ve got a huge amount of industry and let’s face it—the State Government, the Federal Government, we all want people to be at home, living at home, doing more in their homes, being accessible at home, we then need to back that up with the service. Many of those people also work, so they work in industrial areas, they actually need a footpath to be provided from the bus stop to where they work. So, I really would plead with the LORD MAYOR and plead with the development of the budget that we put some money aside for fixing this problem and have it as an ongoing issue into the future. I’ll certainly be working with my residents on that because I think we need to catch up with the times there.

The final thing is I just want to raise, I was at an RSL event and I really enjoy them, it’s good to hear other Councillors talk about it. At Salisbury, there’s a very large event there, that land is held in trust by the State and as part of the draft Moorooka-Salisbury-Nathan plan, it is proposed to become a park. I mentioned that at the event that was there. The RSL are very keen to work with Council to ensure that they have continued involvement with that site. So, when the Moorooka-Salisbury-Nathan plan comes up, I think I’d like to have a meeting between the Administration and myself and the RSL so we can find a way forward so that they don’t feel like they’re being pushed out of this park by Council.

That’s all I have, thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

As there is no further business, I declare the meeting closed.

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 8.08pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Ashleigh O’Brien (Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer to the Lord Mayor and Council Orderly)