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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4685 (Special) meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Thursday 23 June 2022**

**at 6.30pm**

**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 A/Chair of Council, Councillor Peter MATIC (Paddington Ward) – 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 (Marchant)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge)  James MACKAY (Walter Taylor)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Angela OWEN (Calamvale)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Peter CUMMING (Wynnum Manly)  Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillor (and Ward)**  Jonathan SRI (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The A/Chair, Councillor Peter MATIC, opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

A/Chair: Please be seated. I declare the meeting open.

Apologies?

Councillor LANDERS.

## APOLOGIES:

**760/2021-22**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillors Kim MARX, Fiona HAMMOND and David McLACHLAN, and they were granted leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

A/Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

**761/2021-22**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Kara COOK, and she was granted leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Jared CASSIDY, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK.

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION – Investment Policy; Debt Policy; Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (Pensioners) Policy; Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (First Home Owners) Policy; Partial Rebate of General Rates (Not-for-profit Organisations) Policy; Not-for-profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy; Payment for overdue rates or charges Policy; Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (JobSeeker) Policy; Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (Not-for-profit kindergartens) Policy; Not-for-profit kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy; Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer; Brisbane Infrastructure Charges Resolution (No. 11) 2022; FMA701 SEQ Flooding Partial Rebates of Rates and Charges Policy; Report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee dated 13 June 2022; Uninhabitable Residence Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Significant Contracting Plan for the Brisbane International Cycle Park – Murarrie; and Delegations of certain powers of Council

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

**762/2021-22**

The A/Chair of Council (Councillor Peter MATIC) then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER) to move the motion. Accordingly, the LORD MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, that—

***COUNCIL RESOLVES:***

***(i) TO ADOPT*** *the Investment Policy at Attachment “A”;*

***(ii) TO ADOPT*** *the Debt Policy at Attachment “B”;*

***(iii) TO REVOKE*** *the “Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (Pensioners) Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(iv) TO ADOPT*** *the “Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy” at Attachment “C” for the 2022‑23 financial year;*

***(v) TO REVOKE*** *the “Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (First Home Owners) Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(vi)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (First Home Owners) Policy” at Attachment “D” for the 2022-23 financial year;*

***(vii)******TO REVOKE*** *the “Partial Rebate of General Rates (Not-for-profit Organisations) Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(viii)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Not-for-profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy” at Attachment “E” for the 2022-23 financial year;*

***(ix)******TO REVOKE*** *the “Payment for overdue rates or charges Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(x)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Payment for overdue rates or charges Policy” at Attachment “F” for the 2022-23 financial year;*

***(xi)******TO REVOKE*** *the “Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (JobSeeker) Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(xii)******TO REVOKE*** *the “Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (Not-for-profit kindergartens) Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(xiii)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Not-for-profit kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy” at Attachment “G” for the 2022-23 financial year;*

***(xiv)******TO REVOKE*** *the “Infrastructure charges debt management Policy” adopted on 24 June 2021 by Council Resolution 862/2020-21;*

***(xv)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Infrastructure charges debt management Policy” at Attachment “H” for the 2022-23 financial year;*

***(xvi)******TO DELEGATE*** *to the Chief Executive Officer all of Council’s powers under section 11 of the City of Brisbane Act 2010 specified in Column 1 of Table 1 on the general conditions of delegations as set out in Table 1;*

***(xvii)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Brisbane Infrastructure Charges Resolution (No. 11) 2022” at Attachment “I” with effect on and from 1 July 2022;*

***(xviii)******TO AMEND*** *the “FMA701 SEQ Flooding Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy” adopted on 8 March 2022 by Council Resolution 504/2021-22 as set out in Attachment “J” with retrospective effect to 15 June 2022;*

***(xix)******TO APPROVE*** *the Report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee dated 13 June 2022 at Attachment “K”;*

***(xx)******TO ADOPT*** *the “Uninhabitable Residence Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy” at Attachment “L” for the 2022-23 financial year;*

***(xxi) TO APPROVE*** *the “Significant Contracting Plan for the Brisbane International Cycle Park – Murarrie” at Attachment “M”, and*

***(xxii)******TO DELEGATE*** *certain powers of Council, specified in Column 1 of the Table of Delegations of Power to the delegates listed in Column 2 subject to any limits or special conditions listed in Column 3 and on the general conditions of**delegations as set out at the end of the Table of Delegations of Power, as set out in Attachment “N”.*

| ***Table 1*** | |
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| ***Section*** | ***Column 1 – Power*** |
| ***11*** | *To enter amend, reinstate or terminate a partial rebate in accordance with the Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To determine eligibility criteria, amend, refund, or terminate a rebate or partial rebate in accordance with Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges (First Home Owners) Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To approve, reinstate or terminate a partial rebate in accordance with the Not‑for‑profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To enter into an agreement to defer in full or in part the payment of rates and charges in accordance with the Payment for overdue rates or charges Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To consider and approve applications for a rebate of rates and charges in accordance with the SEQ Flooding Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To consider and approve applications for a rebate of rates and charges in accordance with the Uninhabitable Residence Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To consider and approve applications for a rebate of rates and charges in accordance with the Not-for-profit kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy* |
| ***11*** | *To transfer an overdue infrastructure charge debt as a rate on the land to be recovered in accordance with the Infrastructure charges debt management Policy.* |
| ***General Conditions of Delegations*** | |
| *(1) Each of the functions and powers delegated includes:*  *(a) doing any act and making any decision;*  *(b) giving or causing to be given any notice, notification, statement of reasons;*  *(c) issuing or causing to be issued, and endorsing, any certificate, permit or the instrument of authorisation, and any copy thereof,*  *if doing so is incidental to or entailed by the exercise of the functions and powers.*  *(2) A reference to a law includes a reference to:*  *(a) the law as originally made, and as amended from time to time since it was originally made;*  *(b) if the law has been repealed and remade (with or without modification) since the reference was made—the law as remade, and as amended from time to time since it was remade;*  *(c) if a provision of the law has been omitted and remade (with or without modification and whether in the law or another law) since the reference was made—the provision as remade;*  *(d) the law as renumbered or amended from time to time.*  *(3) In this Instrument of Delegation:*  *“delegate”, in relation to a position, means the person holding or acting in that position from time to time;*  *“law” includes a provision of a law;*  *“position” means the position as it appears or as subsequently renamed.* | |

A/Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

A/Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Seriatim *en bloc* for debate and voting – Items (xix), (xxi) and (xxii)**

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| At that time, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that item (xix), TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE DATED 13 JUNE 2022 AT ATTACHMENT “K”; item (xxi), TO APPROVE THE “SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR THE BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL CYCLE PARK – MURARRIE” AT ATTACHMENT “M”; and item (xxii), TO DELEGATE CERTAIN POWERS OF COUNCIL, SPECIFIED IN COLUMN 1 OF THE TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF POWER TO THE DELEGATES LISTED IN COLUMN 2 SUBJECT TO ANY LIMITS OR SPECIAL CONDITIONS LISTED IN COLUMN 3 AND ON THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF DELEGATIONS AS SET OUT AT THE END OF THE TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF POWER, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “N”, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

**Seriatim for voting – Item (xx)**

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| At that time, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that item (xx), ADOPT the “UNINHABITABLE RESIDENCE PARTIAL REBATE OF RATES AND CHARGES POLICY” AT ATTACHMENT “L” FOR THE 2022-23 FINANCIAL YEAR, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, procedurally at this point I’ll make it easier to do it all at once.

A/Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

**Seriatim *en bloc* for voting – Items (xix) and (xxii)**

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| At that time, Councillor Jared CASSIDY rose and requested that item (xix), TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE DATED 13 JUNE 2022 AT ATTACHMENT “K”; and item (xxii), TO DELEGATE CERTAIN POWERS OF COUNCIL, SPECIFIED IN COLUMN 1 OF THE TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF POWER TO THE DELEGATES LISTED IN COLUMN 2 SUBJECT TO ANY LIMITS OR SPECIAL CONDITIONS LISTED IN COLUMN 3 AND ON THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF DELEGATIONS AS SET OUT AT THE END OF THE TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF POWER, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “N”, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim *en bloc* for voting – Items (ii), (xi) and (xvi)**

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| At that time, Councillor Jared CASSIDY rose and requested that item (ii), TO ADOPT THE DEBT POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “B”; item (xi), REVOKE THE “PARTIAL REBATE OF RATES AND CHARGES (JOBSEEKER) POLICY” ADOPTED ON 24 JUNE 2021 BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 862/2020-21; and item (xvi), TO DELEGATE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ALL OF COUNCIL’S POWERS UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE *CITY OF BRISBANE ACT 2010* SPECIFIED IN COLUMN 1 OF TABLE 1 ON THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF DELEGATIONS AS SET OUT IN TABLE 1, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for voting purposes. |

A/Chair: Is there any debate?

LORD MAYOR, you could speak to everything else starting with 1, so 1 to 18.

LORD MAYOR: I assume that because these are all taken together that it should be a pretty straightforward process, Mr Chair, given that these policies are the policies that come through each year and relate to things that are essentially ongoing programs providing support to pensioners, for example, for partial rates and charges rebates, providing support to first homeowners, providing support to not‑for‑profit organisations including some kindergartens as well.

The other policy sections, the investment policy and the debt policy—I’m not sure what benefit there is in having too much of a discussion about them, because they are ongoing policies. They were in place last year. We’ve updated them for the new financial year, but as you can see there are no drastic or dramatic changes in those policies. I guess I’ll leave my comments at that.

A/Chair: Further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. There mightn’t be much change in the policies. There is some. But there is a very big change in circumstances in which these policies will be dictating how this Council Budget operates for the year ahead, so we Labor Councillors do have some concerns, and I’ll go through them as briefly as possible.

On point 1, the Investment Policy, this is updating last year’s investment policy with the new dates, 2022-23 financial year, so that will stay the same, and that’s something we will support. We won’t be supporting the Debt Policy this year, because this LNP Council now is the single biggest borrowing council in recent memory and certainly the highest borrowing council since the Liberal administration of Sallyanne Atkinson loaded Brisbane ratepayers with debt in the 1980s. It took a decade after that administration to break the back of that Liberal Party debt at the time.

Since this LORD MAYOR has become LORD MAYOR in 2019, he’s loaded up ratepayers with $1 billion of debt and in this Budget another $600 million worth of debt. So, under this LNP Mayor we’re seeing an increase in debt by $1.6 billion and nothing to show for it in our suburbs. Once again, it’s Brisbane ratepayers who will foot the bill for this LNP debt, and instead of fixing suburban footpaths and suburban drainage and potholes their rates increase will be servicing this LNP Mayor’s debt repayments.

We have no detail about what this $1.6 billion is being borrowed for under this LNP Mayor. Councillors today are essentially being asked to sign a blank cheque without any information on why this debt is necessary. This is the most secretive Budget we have seen in this place for a generation.

We know that this LNP Administration has poor form when it comes to managing money and debt. For example, in the 2021‑22 budget the LORD MAYOR said he needed to borrow $200 million to buy some property for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. That was his big borrowing, but instead that of course wasn’t needed last financial year. So, what did the Mayor do with that? He’s propped up his failing Brisbane Metro, which is now costing $1.7 billion instead of $944 million as he promised. We can’t trust this LNP Administration with financial management when they have such a shocking track record.

Clause 3 is to revoke the Partial Rates and Charges Pensioner policy. These comments can apply from clauses 3 to 10, 12 to 15 and 17, revoking those existing policies on investment remissions of pensioners, not‑for‑profit organisations, not‑for‑profit kindies and deal with late payment of rates, infrastructure charges which are set at budget time for the financial year, which were items we will be supporting.

Labor Councillors support the rates relief for these groups—the pensioners, not‑for‑profits and so on—and in this year’s Budget these groups are needing more relief from this LNP Mayor’s massive rates hikes more than ever. So, we’ll supporting all of those items.

Item 11, however, is revoking the Partial Rebate for Rates and Charges for people on JobSeeker. That was adopted by Council on 24 June 2021. Unlike changes and updates to other rates rebate policies, clause 11 is the end of this partial rebate for JobSeeker payment recipients. At a time this LNP Mayor is digging deeper and deeper into the pockets of Brisbane residents, he’s taking away relief for people who are doing it particularly tough in our community. So, this is a real kick in the guts for residents who are still on JobSeeker payments and are being expected to not only pay their rates in full but also cop those massive increases this financial year. So, we won’t be supporting that item.

On number 16, which is the delegation to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of all of Council’s powers under section 11 of the City of Brisbane Act, this is the delegations for the CEO in relation to the Budget. There is some further debate later about other delegations. While Labor Councillors have supported the delegation in the past, we won’t be supporting this today in its current form.

This Budget, as we have outlined, is the most secretive and least transparent Council budget in a generation. The way this Budget was structured deliberately removed all oversight of the Budget from elected representatives. The LNP Finance Chair seems to think that taking Councillors out of the decision‑making process to make changes to the Budget is a good thing. Labor Councillors disagree with that.

Previously, the CEO would have to bring a budget review document to E&C (Establishment and Coordination) Committee for approval, where there were changes to the budget each quarter, which was an extensive report which in turn came to this Chamber for debate and voting for the democratic oversight. Changes to the budget during the financial year previously under the previous delegations would be tracked and reported and voted on in a public way, and we would all be held publicly accountable for those decisions we make as elected representatives. Now these changes are being made entirely behind closed doors. There’s no oversight by elected Councillors. The Budget changes throughout the year will remain entirely secret. That’s why we won’t be supporting these delegations today.

I think the final one is 18, which is the $250 rebate for ratepayers impacted by the 2022 February rainfall and flooding event. That is something that we will be supporting today. I think that’s it for this section.

A/Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Briefly on the matters on the special meeting before us today. The matters before us in this section of the special meeting are fairly straightforward. They’re ones that we would normally debate at the end of the Budget, but I do want to put on the record my concern about the following issues. Firstly, the Council Debt Policy at item B.

This Administration stand up, as they did here today, and tell the people of Brisbane that there is no debt, that this Council runs a budget surplus—which at an operational level it does and is required to do. But what it doesn’t tell people about is the $3 billion in debt that’s sitting on the credit card that they’ve just forgotten about. It’s like, that’s not our responsibility; that’s somebody else’s responsibility.

Under this LORD MAYOR, who has been the Finance Chair, the Deputy Mayor and now the LORD MAYOR, that debt has gone from zero to $3 billion, and there is zero plan to pay it off. What’s worse is, interest rates are going up, so this is going to cost us more and more to pay for the increased debt out of our operating revenues, which reduces the level of investment we can make in ordinary projects and suburban projects around the suburbs, and particularly in my ward that misses out all the time.

The debt policy before us today basically is asking over the next two years, so for this forthcoming year, to borrow an additional $326 million. That’s more than what we’re spending on the Metro this year. The LORD MAYOR has given zero explanation about what this is actually for. What is it funding? The LORD MAYOR says, we don’t borrow for operational reasons. $326 million of debt that this Council wants to take on this year, and there is zero explanation from the LORD MAYOR about what it’s for.

It probably is, part of it I think—part of it will be for the botched Metro for sure, but what else is it being spent on? Is it paying for Moggill Road? Is it paying for basic road upgrades? Is that what is being paid for? Is it funding Councillor ADAMS’s trips to Greece? We don’t know, because we’ve got a brand-new secretive Budget that doesn’t allocate funding, and we don’t know what it’s for.

This LORD MAYOR is asking this Council and the ratepayers of Brisbane to write him a blank cheque for $326 millions with zero explanation to the ratepayers of Brisbane about what it’s for. That’s this year. Next year it’s even worse. This is on top of the existing $3 billion in debt that we have now. Next year, the LORD MAYOR is asking for an extra $600 million in debt‑funded revenue for this Council. What’s that going to go on? Down the black hole of the Metro? What other projects? We don’t know, again because this LORD MAYOR is not accountable to the residents of Brisbane about how this Council spends money.

We have seen it over the last two days that the structure of this Budget has been changed to hide that financial accountability from the people of Brisbane. The LORD MAYOR says, I’m going to take on $1 billion of debt over two years without any explanation. The LORD MAYOR stands up in here tonight and goes—didn’t even use his whole 10 minutes—there’s nothing to see here; this is all very straightforward. But he wants a lazy billion dollars in blank check to stick in the Council finances where it is unaccounted for in our Budget.

That is not prudent financial management. That is not responsible financial management. That absolutely is not strong financial management. The LORD MAYOR should stand up here today and say, this is where every cent of that $326 million is going, because I know that this Administration is not spending it wisely. When its signature project doubles in cost from $944 million to $1.7 billion, and this Administration borrows more than that, more than it needs to fund that project in the financials that we’ve seen, or the supporting information as it’s called now­, then there is a real problem with how the finances of this city are run.

This Administration wants a blank cheque to stick in its slush fund so that it can run this city behind closed doors without any transparency and accountability, and I do not support that. It is a huge problem. What’s worse, they’re still borrowing beyond that, but probably a bit like Scomo, they think they won’t be around. They’ll have run the credit card up to $4 billion in an election year with no plan to pay it down, with increasing interest rates, with the cost of financing that interest skyrocketing over the next few years.

This Administration is just getting the credit card out, and when they’ve botched their major projects they go and ask for more money from the State Government who hand it over, and the residents of Brisbane are the ones who are missing out here. They are the ones who are missing out because the funds aren’t being spent in the suburbs. They’re not being spent in my ward. My residents are paying for this debt binge by the LORD MAYOR and the extra $1 billion that he wants to spend over two years, he wants to borrow and spend over two years. Meanwhile, he doesn’t think he has to account for it. That is not good enough. I don’t support it, and I won’t be voting for item 2.

There are some other issues with what is proposed here again. The LORD MAYOR glossed over all of this. I don’t know why we’re removing the rebate for JobSeekers. I think there’s something wrong with that. Certainly, I think there are people doing it very tough out there, as I’ve said over the last few hours. I’m not sure why this policy is being revoked. Certainly, there’s been no discussion about it with Councillors. There’s been no explanation from the LORD MAYOR about what’s going on. It’s unreasonable that the vulnerable people in our community are being short‑changed, so I don’t support that.

I certainly have some concerns about the debt management policy that Council has, but most importantly there is a really big problem with the way in which this Administration is funding its Budgets. It is incredibly problematic—because this LORD MAYOR has no intention of being transparent with the residents of Brisbane about how much debt he’s run this Council personally as Finance Chair, LORD MAYOR, Deputy Mayor—how much money he’s run this Council into in debt, $3 billion today, and under his leadership by the next election it will be $4 billion with zero accountability, zero explanation about what it’s for and zero plan to pay the debt down.

All of us know—again before they jump up and I get a Councillor OWEN 101 accounting lecture—I’m not saying that debt is bad. But what I’m saying is that we are the custodians of ratepayers’ funds in this city, and it’s our job to make sure that it is being done in a transparent and an accountable way. This is where the LORD MAYOR has fallen down yet again. He just wants $1 billion on the bank card and doesn’t want to tell you what it’s for.

I don’t think it’s good enough and I don’t think it should be supported. I urge all Councillors to vote against this Debt Policy, because it’s going to cause misery for our community. When we can’t fund—next year there might not even be 18 footpaths because there’s not enough money to fund those, but meanwhile the LORD MAYOR is getting $1 billion in extra debt and we don’t know what it’s for. It’s not good enough.

A/Chair: Further debate?

No further debate.

LORD MAYOR, would you like to reply on items 1 to 18.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you. They were two genuinely embarrassing contributions on these very simple matters, embarrassing in so many different ways. Where do I start? Let’s go to the first issue of debt. Councillor JOHNSTON, I will spare you the Councillor Angela OWEN lecture on basic finance and accounting, because I can give you that basic lecture.

There is a difference between a deficit budget and debt. They are two different things. A deficit budget is very different to debt. A deficit budget means that you are spending more than you bring in, simple. That’s a simple thing there. But as I pointed out very clearly just before, we only ever borrow to build things. If Councillor JOHNSTON can’t work out what we’re building, she hasn’t read the Budget, because it’s very clear what we’re building.

*Councillors interjecting.*

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

LORD MAYOR: Let’s see how this fairy tale lasts that all of these things aren’t in the Budget. When things continue to get built and bills get paid, Councillor JOHNSTON will have some egg on her face, because it is all funded and it is in the Budget. But here are some simple facts. Councillor JOHNSTON was saying $4 billion repeatedly.

Let’s break this down to simple terms. If you’re in a household that earns $100,000 a year, you have a $100,000 and you’ve got to pay for your expenses and work out what you do with those, what you invest the money in and what you allocate the money to, would it be completely unreasonable of you to take out a mortgage on your house of $100,000? No, not at all. In fact, people on an income like that usually take out a mortgage of many, many times their annual budget. Many times.

So, $100,000, borrowing $100,000, is that outrageous? No, that’s actually quite conservative. So, we’ve got $4 billion. Down the track, our borrowings for infrastructure will be $4 billion. That is a very sustainable and conservative level of borrowing given the amount of infrastructure that we have built.

We hear this claim that the debt was zero. I’ll tell you why the debt was zero, because we used to have these things called dams which we owned. The State Government forcibly removed the dams from councils and in return they reduced the borrowings to zero. But what they did was they took away an income‑producing asset from councils, one that returned millions or tens of millions of dollars a year, and then they repaid the debt at that point.

So, what has happened since the debt was zero? We’ve built over $10 billion worth of infrastructure, over $10 billion we have built, and we have only borrowed a fraction of that infrastructure that we have built. Very responsible level of borrowing. Very responsible level of borrowing, and we have delivered over $10 billion worth of infrastructure since the time when the debt was zero.

We have responsibly managed our borrowings. We only ever borrow to build infrastructure against assets. We don’t borrow for operating expenses like other levels of government do. That’s called putting it on the credit card. We don’t do that. We only borrow against assets. We only borrow for assets. This is pretty simple stuff here, but obviously it’s not so simple for some people in the Chamber.

One final thing. Talking about the removal of the COVID rates rebate for JobSeekers. As much as some people might want the pandemic to keep going and going, I think we’re at the end of that process now. What happened in the beginning of COVID when we introduced this policy was that we saw an expectation of mass unemployment. Remember that? The beginning of the pandemic, everyone was predicting mass unemployment.

What is the unemployment rate today? Three point nine per cent. If there is a better time to find a job, I’d like you to point it out. I would like you to point it out, because the unemployment rate is at historic low levels, and in fact employers right across the community are saying, we can’t find people to fill all the jobs.

I was talking to an engineering firm just the other day who said that they had 600 jobs to fill in Queensland and they couldn’t find people to fill those jobs, 600. We saw the very clear positive change from an expectation of mass unemployment, where lots more people would be on JobSeeker, to now fewer people being on JobSeeker than we’ve seen in decades. That’s why the policy is ending. Unemployment is at record and historic low levels. People that want to go out and get a job are getting jobs. There’s lots of jobs that need to be filled, and so we have a very different situation than was anticipated at the beginning of the pandemic when this policy was first introduced.

A/Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

We will now move to the vote on items 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18.

**Items** **(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x), (xii), (xiii), (xiv), (xv), (xvii) and (xviii) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of items (i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x), (xii), (xiii), (xiv), (xv), (xvii) and (xviii) of the notified motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

A/Chair: I will now move to the vote in items 2, 11 and 16.

**Items (ii), (xi) and (xvi) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of items (ii), (xi) and (xvi) of the notified motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Peter MATIC, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES,

NOES: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Peter CUMMING, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Jonathan SRI and Nicole JOHNSTON.

A/Chair: We will now move to items 19, 20, 21 and 22.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. We have included in this tranche—we have some changes to the administrative arrangements within Brisbane City Council and the structure of the organisation. This particularly relates to the Host City Office for helping to coordinate our efforts and input into the delivery of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, led by Dy Currie.

It also relocates the International Relations and Multicultural Affairs Unit from in the Lord Mayor’s Administration and Engagement Branch and it will become its own branch which will sit under CPaS (City Planning and Sustainability), which is led by Nicole Andronicus. We have the further attachment, which is for uninhabitable homes, which we sort of had a debate on already, not sort of, we did have a debate on already, so I won’t touch on that one again because it has already been covered.

We also have the Murarrie Recreation Reserve and the plan to create an international-standard cycling track, which is jointly funded by all three levels of government, a fantastic example of cooperation between all three levels of government. I was asked recently about why this facility was different to say the Anna Mears Velodrome. This is not a velodrome. This is a road cycling track and also a speedskating track. It can be used for many different things, and also available to the community.

I know there’s a lot of informal use already that’s down there, and this will only increase with this improvement and upgrade. We want to see the next generation of athletes, whether they’re cyclists or speedskaters or other events, inspired to get involved in the 2032 Games, and this is one of the ways that we’re doing it in partnership with the three levels of government. Have I missed an item, Mr Chair? Is that the items you were talking about?

A/Chair: No, that’s—

LORD MAYOR: I’ll leave my comments at that.

A/Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. The LORD MAYOR did miss an item, delegations, talking about them anyway. But they’re here for debate. I’m sure he will in his sum-up. Can I confirm that 19 and 22 are being voted on together and 20 and 21 separately?

A/Chair: Yes, 19 and 22 for voting and then 20 and 21.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks. Firstly on clause 19, this is the amendment to administrative arrangements to change Council’s organisational structure as well as function and responsibilities of those divisions, groups and branches. This feels like something that is happening every few months in this Council these days. We’re having an item being brought to Council to change organisational structure, to change where people work, change how people work, who they report to, whether they can talk to Councillors or not.

The question I suppose that we ask and the residents will ask is, how do these sort of items help deliver better value for money for residents out in the suburbs? How do these fiddling around with organisational arrangements in the context of a secret Budget help deliver more footpaths to make their streets accessible or improve their parks, have Council proactively seek out and repair damage, footpaths and potholes? The answer is nothing.

They just continue to fiddle with the way in which the Budget is delivered and the way in which Council runs as an organisation. They seem to be very inwardly focused, this Administration these days. What this organisational structure does not address is the ongoing outsourcing of Council jobs to insecure casual labour hire companies.

As at the Budget information sessions, Council has a head count, as they say, of 9,718 people working for Council. Just 7,008 are permanent. What we now have is a situation here in Council—largely I think as a result of this LNP Administration fiddling around with divisions and branches and the organisation—we have 1,137 staff who are temporary within Council now. They’re on temporary short-term contracts.

There are also though 809 casual workers, and on top of those temporary contracts of people working in ongoing roles here in Council there are also 764 contractors who are employed by labour hire companies working alongside Council employees, some of which are now kept on tenterhooks in temporary roles, moved around, shifted around, insecure employments.

*Councillors interjecting*

Councillor CASSIDY: Insecure employments. Exactly right. That’s what these organisational changes are all about for the LNP. They think it’s a big game. They’re treating people’s lives as a big game. They can just move pieces around like on a chessboard. That’s a terrible way to run an organisation that should be people‑focused, because as a Council we should be outwardly‑focused, in the community representing us, the people that elect us. Those people we employ—there shouldn’t be 1,137 on temporary short-term contracts, they should be working for the people of Brisbane. That’s what they want to be doing, rather than having to look over their shoulder all the time to make sure they still have a job next week or next month or next year.

We’re seeing so much of that at the moment, so much uncertainty from our Council workforce about the very future of the kind of work that they will be doing for the people of Brisbane. So, it is really no wonder that Council, this Administration was left scrambling when natural disasters like the South East Queensland (SEQ) 2022 floods and weather event hit us. There weren’t even enough Council officers on the ground to fill sandbags, to close roads, to deploy what little equipment we still had. That is a direct result of this LNP Administration fiddling around and trying to control this organisation through changes like this, so this is not something we will be supporting today.

Item 20 is the Partial Rates Rebate Charges Policy, which there was some discussion of earlier. Labor Councillors agree that Council should not be kicking residents when they’re down. That weather event was just a few months ago, four months ago now. There are still residents struggling with those impacts. Many of those homes are still uninhabitable, vacant, bordered up with, danger, do not enter signs—you walk up and down the street.

In Councillor GRIFFITHS’s area, streets of Rocklea are being described as ghost towns now. People will be vacant from those places for many months, potentially years to come. The story is the same in places like Brighton and Deagon and Boondall in my ward as well, which is absolutely heartbreaking for our community. We support efforts to cut the rates bills for residents whose homes are impacted. It’s the very least Council could do for them.

On item 21, the Significant Contracting Plan for the Cycle Park at Murarrie, this is a significant contracting plan, has received funding support from other levels of government, $2.5 million from SEQ Community Stimulus program and over $6 million from the Federal Government’s Local Roads Community Infrastructure program.

This investment by Council does come after years and years of neglect of this site, by this Administration. They’ve neglected it for almost 20 years and then they announce one thing with nearly $9 million in funding, and they go like that: well done to us, we’re building one thing; we’re building one thing in the suburbs so that makes everything else okay. That makes their $1.6 billion in debt that they racked up in two years okay. With the support of those other levels of government, I doubt this Administration will have been able to afford this, given the dire state of this Budget.

*Councillor interjecting:*

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s right. It’s just on the LNP’s credit card though. We have been very clear about the way in which we would support the Olympics here in 2032, the Olympics and Paralympic Games as Labor Councillors, and that should be that there is a legacy of boosted investment in our local communities, in our sporting groups, in our community organisations and tackling Brisbane’s housing affordability crisis; under this LNP Council, we’re seeing a failure to invest in either, in a large scale. One single project does not leave a good legacy, we need to see some serious investment, otherwise people will be left with a very bad taste in their mouth from this LNP Administration.

The final item which the LORD MAYOR didn’t talk about—and I suspect I know why—is the delegation of powers that are non-Budget related, so Clause 22 seeks the approval for 420 delegations of decisions, about 25% of which are new, increased by 25% this financial year. So, that means that the CEO, E&C or a combination of the two—will have the power on things like compulsory land resumptions, writing off a reportable loss of a Council asset and *ex gratia* payments as well; those things will no longer have to have oversight here in this Council.

Now, while some delegations do make sense—like the issuing of show cause notices, conducting food safety audits—more and more, though, we are seeing decisions being made behind closed doors and not being brought to this Chamber for public scrutiny. That is—outside of having a ward office and meeting with constituents and representing them throughout the organisation of Council. That is our job. That’s what we are here to do, we have statutory obligations to make sure that there is oversight of the Administration of this Council and holding the LORD MAYOR to account.

Under decisions like this, we’re seeing 420 delegations this year being sought to be made and so—just like the 2022-23 Council Budget that we have just debated over the last few days—we’re seeing less and less transparency from this LNP Administration in all aspects of Council now. It’s no wonder that Brisbane residents feel that they’re not getting value for money for their rates, they are paying more and more and getting less and less and they’re finding out less and less about it under this LNP Administration.

A/Chair: Further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on these four items, and I’ll start with the Establishment and Coordination—well, I might come back to that one. I’m going to start with the Significant Contracting Plan for the Cycle Park at Murarrie. This is a fascinating exercise in a new way of governance for the city. This item actually hasn’t even been through E&C, so it was actually signed off by the senior Council officers over two weeks ago—before the last Council meeting—but it wasn’t taken through E&C and now it’s been whacked onto the back of the Budget agenda, so there’s no scrutiny of the decision making.

Now, I don’t know that there’s any big issue with E&C not rubber stamping it because, clearly, they pay no attention other than to tick off on things—boom, approved and then it comes through to Council—but the really fascinating part of what is going on with this project is that they have bypassed the normal process altogether. You would think with a signature piece of infrastructure like this that they would want to do it in a very open and transparent way, but they’re not.

They’ve tacked it onto the back end of the Special Meeting at 7.30 on a Thursday night, and they don’t want any scrutiny of it, and I can see why; I can see why. So, what I read, with respect to this matter, is there’ve been a range of—there’s some restrictions on what I can say because of commercial in confidence, but the different figures that have been mentioned about how much this is going to cost and what it’s going to do and all those things—over the last few days—have been quite interesting.

The public figures do not—do not in any way—match up with the figures that are in this document before us today.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, well, I think it’s—look, there’s a whole range of issues here. As the report itself outlines today, the financial situation and the construction market has deteriorated so it’s costing more. So, Council’s on the hook now for more than what it thought it was going to have to pay for this and you know how they’re paying for it, well it’s on the bank card. I mean, the LORD MAYOR’s not here, but they’ve just borrowed $326 million so they can afford to borrow to pay for this cycling track, and that’s what they’re doing.

The LORD MAYOR will say, oh this is infrastructure, but cycling is a pretty core responsibility of this Council. But then we look at what’s been publicly promised, that’s not actually what’s being built under the Significant Contracting Plan. I know there’ve been other projects where the LORD MAYOR stands up and promises we’re going to do A, B, C, D, E and F but he only then ever does A and where’s some other good examples of that?

Well, green bridges, there’s a great example of it. I’m going to do five green bridges and I’m going to go it alone and I’m going to pay for them, meanwhile there’s now two and there won’t be any more. Well, that’s pretty much what this is starting to look like as well because, publicly, the community has been told there’s BMX tracks and there’s this and there’s that, but not in this contracting plan that’s before us today.

So, this Administration is, again, over promising and under delivering and I do not support this item and I won’t be voting for it. It is not acceptable that this LORD MAYOR feels that there is this level of borrowing that can go on to pay for something that is not needed this year—this is not a critical project—but he will not support residents who are flooded. He will not fund footpaths, he refuses to fund the upgrade for drainage in my ward, he refuses to fund a green walk signal at Fairfield; well, I refuse to agree to fund a cycling track at Murarrie.

If this LORD MAYOR can’t invest in the residents of Brisbane for a few hundred thousand in Tennyson Ward then there’s no way I’m supporting a bit of pork barrelling in the LNP Eastern Suburbs; there’s just no chance, particularly when the finances are so tricky and the big difference between what’s been publicly said and now what is being brought though in the dead of night on the credit card is so very different, so I will not be supporting it.

Just briefly on the uninhabitable rates—sorry, yes, the policy. Look, I’m sorry that wasn’t taken up, changing the policy now—I did think about doing another amendment, but we really needed the financial amendment which can only be done through the Budget. So, I’m very disappointed that this Administration has failed to support what was a very sensible change that would really help people in need, but it’s okay because while Rome’s burning, they’re going to build you a cycling track at Murarrie. I’m sure all the residents in my area who’ve got nowhere to live and are paying bills that they can barely afford to pay will be quite happy to know that there are millions and millions of dollars that Council’s borrowed to pay for a cycling track.

The other really cracking little—there’s two other items, and I’ll speak on them briefly, but one of them that’s really interesting is the org chart changes. Just briefly on this, when you do a bit of a comparison about what is happening—I mean number one clearly shows how redundant Councillor KRISTA ADAMS is in this whole structure because it’s not like this is going into a portfolio that she might actually have some say in, it’s actually going in Councillor ALLAN’s portfolio, so it’s going into City Planning.

Interestingly enough, I mean earlier today Councillor ADAMS said that it was critical that she was doing the Olympic stuff and she had important Olympics duties.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, apparently, she doesn’t, Councillor ALLAN does and of course joining an association of past cities that have participated in Olympics is not actually contributing to the running of the Olympics. That’s actually done by BOCOG (Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) and Councillor ADAMS is not on BOCOG, we know that the LORD MAYOR tried, but he had to get his other LNP mate nominated to go onto BOCOG—the Redlands Mayor failed candidate for the Liberal Party—so it’s fascinating.

But the other really interesting thing about this org chart before us today is currently the standing committees of Council are up, sort of just diagrammatically, next to Council. So, they’re associated with Council—which makes sense of course—because the Council committees make decisions and then they come through here to Council for endorsement and adoption; well, according to this, not any more. So, I don’t know what’s going on here, but now the Council and standing commitments report to the LORD MAYOR, they don’t actually report to the Council, and I thought that was quite an interesting little change as to what’s going on here.

So, this org chart, I think, has a few problems with it and certainly I think that there needs to be some explanation about why the Council’s Standing Committees that report to Council are now in the new organisational structure reporting to the LORD MAYOR. Because I’m not aware that the City of Brisbane Act or the regulations have actually changed and that suddenly the LORD MAYOR is now responsible for approving the outcome of Committee decisions.

But, according to this, he is, so I don’t know if anything else has changed, there’s no writing to reflect this. I don’t know if it’s just some eager beaver up there in the CEO’s office who has decided the LORD MAYOR gets to be in charge of everything, but I don’t think that’s quite good enough. That’s clearly a pretty fundamental mistake that senior Council officers don’t know where the Council Committees report; they report here to full Council not directly to the LORD MAYOR.

Finally on the delegations, I absolutely do not support this item. Since I’ve become an Independent, it’s one of the best things that I’ve been able to talk about is the way in which this LNP Administration has eroded democracy and basically put unelected Council officers in charge of decision making in this city; it is wrong. We heard Councillor CUNNINGHAM—who gets paid extra to make decisions—stand up today and say she doesn’t think that she should be accountable for making sure that the finances of this city are actually accounted for.

She doesn’t think she should have to tick off on changes to Budget items, she doesn’t think that how the financial accountability of this Council is being delivered is something that she’s responsible for and she’s the Finance Chairperson. So, I do not support the changes to the delegations before us today, like Councillor CASSIDY I noted that there’s been a pretty big increase in—

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —the number of delegations.

A/Chair: Oh, I’m sorry Councillor JOHNSTON, you can continue, I just thought there was an error.

*Councillor interjecting.*

A/Chair: Yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Yes, that’s what I thought. Seven minutes 28.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Yes, I know, I was on a roll, thanks for that. I am nearly finished though, I won’t keep going. But, like Councillor CASSIDY, I did notice that there is a very big problem with the level of delegations—the number of delegations. It’s pretty clear that this LNP Administration is very tired, they’re very out of touch, they just want to put things on the credit card, they don’t want to be accountable for the financial expenditure, they don’t want to be accountable back to this Council, which is the elected body that makes decisions.

They have run out of ideas, they’ve run out of steam, and it is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, Councillor MURPHY, I welcome your contribution.

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

A/Chair: —I have to tell you your time has expired; your timer is frozen at 7.28 but the time has now ended.

Further debate?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I rise to speak on these items, and particularly item 21, but I will just say it’s so ironic that the person who we’ve heard most from today stands here and says, she won’t be lectured from Councillor OWEN, and we’ve had nothing but lectures for the last two hours. Lectures that make absolutely no sense, particularly being lectured on the Budget, the Rates and the Resolutions, from a Councillor who voted directly against economic development in this place by voting against Program 7, the program that supports local businesses, that supports the mums and dads businesses.

She has so much hatred for the fact that I’m representing the city for the Olympics in 2032—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —that she can’t get—

A/Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, just one moment.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

A/Chair: Claim to be misrepresented.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The division will show she voted against Program 7. She did not support Program 7, let’s go that way; she did not support Program 7, she didn’t support the work we do for the mums and dad businesses who probably have also been flood affected as well, but that doesn’t matter because she can’t get past the hatred of the Brisbane City host operations—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —and activities that we have now—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —as an Olympic city.

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

A/Chair: Claim to be misrepresented.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Well, maybe there’s other reasons why she’d not support the economic development. However, I did need to make sure it went into the record that not everything that comes out of the Councillor for Tennyson’s mouth is actually the full truth, because there was some commentary there about the Significant Contracting Plan not doing what we’ve been talking about.

I just wanted to put into the record that it’s very clear in paragraph 2.0 in the Significant Contracting Plan that, as the announcement, there will be a destination premier wheeled international precinct which will include a criterium track upgrade, an inline skating track, new clubhouse, new car park, new learn to ride track, new pump BMX track, new lighting services.

It’ll be in a stage managed with an international level criterium, then the car park with future recreational activities, then the clubhouse, café, community space, retail and being done in partnership with the Queensland Government under the Community Stimulus Program and the Australian Government under the LRCI (Local Roads and Community Infrastructure) Program.

Now, we heard from Councillor JOHNSTON that none of that was in the Contracting Plan; it was actually on the very first page. Very first page. It is a spectacular program, kind of like the spectacular $12 million park that was over in the Tennyson Ward after the last floods when we went and got the money paid back and got the Ken Fletcher Park made in Tennyson. Did any of us jump up and down about the outrage of the money spent in the Tennyson Ward after 2012 and that fantastic park? Actually, maybe one person did.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: That’s right.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: That’s right. Didn’t want it in her ward either.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: But this—

*Councillor interjecting.*

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

*Councillor interjecting.*

A/Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

A/Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, please continue.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor JOHNSTON got a $12 million park and still whinges, I rest my case.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I rest my case, it will never, ever, ever be enough.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: As I said earlier.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m just going to let it go through to the keeper, Mr Chair. As I said earlier today, not only this is a fantastic outcome for the residents of Brisbane, with a fantastic premier cycling club at Balmoral Cycling there—with the work of men like Jim Cockerill and many others that have started this so many, many years ago—but for us going forward to 2032 and beyond, this is the type of level of delivery of precincts we are going to see through the Brisbane City Host Office and our planning in line with OCOG (Olympic Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games) and through the urban renewal.

For the administrative changes, I welcome Ms Andronicus and the IRMA (International Relations and Multicultural Affairs) team into my program that I have oversight of; the work that they do is absolutely outstanding.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: The work that they do is absolutely outstanding with BEDA (Brisbane Economic Development Agency) and the ED (Economic Development) team, and now IRMA all in there under making sure that the economic benefits of the opportunity we have in 2032 are absolutely beyond anything this city has ever seen before.

A/Chair: Further speakers?

Oh, sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON, you had two claims of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, they’re both the same. Councillor ADAMS repeatedly said that I had a hatred for her in representing the city on the Olympics. In fact, in my speech today, I said that her involvement in travel and in the Olympics was unnecessary and a waste of rate payers’ funds, the word hatred was never used and never implied.

A/Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. I think some of us are perhaps a little overtired and maybe need to chill a little bit. I won’t name names. I just wanted to really briefly speak on the Murarrie cycling track. I think reasonable people can disagree about spending priorities across the city, I certainly have my views about where the money is most urgently needed and I’m obviously also very critical of the Olympics and maybe that factors into this a little bit. But I did just want to particularly point out—and I hope the Mayor’s listening to this one—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor SRI: No, I wouldn’t count on it either, I don’t think he is listening. Maybe Councillor MURPHY will listen and pass it onto him, I don’t know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor SRI: Look, the Council’s about to spend—am I allowed to say the figure? I’m not allowed to say the figure of how much? No.

A/Chair: No, it’s commercial confidence.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor SRI: Council is about to spend a lot of money on this facility, okay, and I see in the scope of the project there’s also new car parking *et cetera*, *et cetera*, and I think it’s probably fair to say that quite a bit of money will be spent on that new car park. I just wanted to remark upon and highlight the paradox that right now it’s very hard to safely cycle to this precinct and, LORD MAYOR, I would ask you to reflect on the fact that—I don’t know, has anyone else ridden along Wynnum Road, am I the only one, maybe a few times?

That stretch, it’s got a very narrow, painted bike lane but it’s pretty hairy when you’re riding on the road and the footpath is not really wide enough for people to ride safely at a decent clip. So, you’re going to have this world class, cycling facility, really high-quality infrastructure—that’s great, love it, good stuff—but you won’t actually be able to ride there safely. So, maybe—Councillor MURPHY, LORD MAYOR, Councillor DAVIS—you should have a look at whether as part of this project you can upgrade the bike lanes that actually lead to the Murarrie Recreation Reserve.

I would suggest that there’s already a bit of space there—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor SRI: Yes, it does actually, I think, is that what you said? Anyway, Wynnum Road has already got the bike lanes—it’s already got the painted lanes there—what it needs is some barrier separation. Similar treatment to what you used in the city, doesn’t cost a lot—couple of thousand dollars—whack in some extra barriers along Wynnum Road so that, as part of this project, if you’re going to deliver this world class cycling facility, people will actually be able to ride to it. I don’t care much for the kind of cyclists who just drive to the destination and then take their bike off the back of the car and ride around the track and drive home again, but I know that is a demographic that we have to cater for.

But I think—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor SRI: I accept that and I’m not knocking them, but I guess I would just say, it would be nice to have a cycling facility that people can safely ride to and, LORD MAYOR, I hope you would agree with that. It’s a simple premise, just chuck a couple thousand bucks towards some separators so that you can make those existing bike lines that are already there on the road, so that you can make them safe.

I think that should happen as part of this project, you’re already spending part of the Budget on transport infrastructure in the form of car parking, so if as part of this project you can build more car parking to carry more cars to this precinct, you should be able to improve the bike lanes and put in some safe separated cycling facilities so that people can ride to this project. While you’re at it, maybe drop the speed limit, because that stretch of Wynnum Road is still 70 kilometres an hour which is dangerously fast.

I’m kind of interested to see how this project evolves, I think there’s a good opportunity there, but my usual criticisms of large centrally managed projects stand, and I think there will be a lot of waste and a lot of fat in terms of how this is actually rolled out. You’ll probably find that what actually gets delivered on the ground could have been delivered a lot cheaper if we’d done it a bit more sensibly, particularly when we know that these private contractors are going to add in quite significant profit margins of their own.

But anyway, I think probably people know where my broader thoughts on some of the other items that we’re discussing here today, so I won’t take up too much more of the Chamber’s time. Thanks.

A/Chair: Further debate?

Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I too rise to speak about item 19, approval for the Significant Contracting Plan for the Brisbane International Cycling Plan. I just also wanted to quickly mention—in Councillor SRI’s speech—about bikeways. We just invested $4.5 million to do a new bikeway to help better connect it up to the suburbs around it, so—

*Councillor interjecting:*

Councillor ATWOOD: No, it’s a bikeway, bikeway.

*Councillor interjecting:*

Councillor ATWOOD: Yes.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: Yes. Fully separated, so it’s a great addition.

But when our LORD MAYOR became the LORD MAYOR in March 2019, he shared a vision for his city. For Council to deliver a premier wheeled international criterium track and facilities for future recreational activities; to establish the Reserve as a destination premier wheeled international precinct in the future. But, Chair, it’s not too often that we’re given the opportunity—as Lord Mayors or Councillors—to deliver an iconic project for our community that will leave a transformative legacy for South East Queensland and I firmly believe that the proposed upgrade to the Murarrie Recreation Reserve—or ‘Muzz’, as locals call it—will do just that.

Over the past two years, we’ve consulted AusCycling, Speed Zone, Balmoral Cycling Club, Queensland Cycling—just to name a few—and there is nothing else like this in Australia. We’ve engaged with the industry’s best to deliver the best, including Bligh Tanner, Cox Architects, who was involved in the Anna Meares Velodrome—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: —yes, fantastic—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: —and Brisbane City Council’s own landscape design team who have ensured that the draft concept planned is validated and all of the proposed delivery element optimises the site’s full potential for many, many years to come.

The committed funds will deliver an international level of embellishments which will attract Australian and international cycling events. According to Austroads, around 3.4 million Australians ride a bike for transport or recreation every week and cycling was one of the most common forms of exercise. Comparing these statistics to other popular sports—such as AFL (Australian Football League) or football—in 2019, AFL had 1.6 million participants and football had 1.8 million.

Now, I just want you to think about your own communities and how many football clubs, how many soccer clubs we have—and I support them, they are fantastic—but how many cycling facilities do we have in Brisbane?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: Well, it’s very different, Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: —we’re talking about the Olympics — in training, so it’s very different. Cycling enjoys a widespread appeal from Australians of all ages and backgrounds. Despite its popularity, cyclists and enthusiasts are often provided poor or no facilities to ride on and have no alternative but to share the road, in many cases with cars or trucks.

With Council’s help, the Balmoral Cycling Club can continue to foster their junior and senior cycling programs and keep delivering some of Australia’s finest riders like Harry Sweeny, James Moriarty and Blake Quick, who all spent a lot of time at the Muzz, growing and developing their skills. These new opportunities will help foster our next generation of cyclists and prepare them for the 2032 Olympics in Brisbane. I would encourage every Councillor to support this terrific upgrade for Brisbane and I warmly welcome you to visit it once it’s opened. Thank you.

A/Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Is there any further debate? No further debate?

I will now put the motion on items 19 and 22.

**Items (ixx) and (xxii) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of items (ixx) and (xxii) of the notified motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Peter CUMMING, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Jonathan SRI and Nicole JOHNSTON.

A/Chair: We will now move to the motion on item 20.

**Item (xx) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item (xx) of the notified motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

A/Chair: We will now move to the motion on item 21.

**Item (xxi) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item (xxi) of the notified motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 21 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUMMINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Peter MATIC, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Peter CUMMING, Steve GRIFFITHS and Charles STRUNK.

ABSTENTIONS: 2 - Councillors Jonathan SRI and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows—

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx.

**A AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

**155/455/468/40**

1. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.
2. Section 193(1) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* provides that Council must adopt, by resolution, an organisational structure that is appropriate to the performance of Council’s responsibilities.
3. The most recent amendment to administrative arrangements occurred in 2021. Since this time, there has been ongoing functional realignment resulting in roles and responsibilities of some divisions, groups and branches across Council’s organisational structure requiring amendment. In addition, further amendments are required to improve Council’s operations.
4. It is proposed that the current organisational structure (refer Attachment B, submitted on file) be revoked, and that Council adopt a new organisation structure in line with the proposed administrative arrangements as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file).
5. The Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.
6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A  
Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO REVOKE EXISTING ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND REPLACE WITH A NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL**

As:

1. Council has established divisions, groups and branches and has allocated roles and responsibilities to those divisions, groups and branches
2. there has been ongoing functional realignment resulting in roles and responsibilities of some divisions, groups and branches across Council’s organisational structure requiring amendment
3. in accordance with section 193(1) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, Council must adopt by resolution an organisational structure that is appropriate to the performance of Council’s responsibilities,

then Council:

1. resolves to revoke the existing organisational structure of Council as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file) and responsibilities, functions and duties set out in Resolution 800/2020-21, effective from the date determined by the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer
2. resolves to adopt the proposed new organisational structure of Council as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file), effective from the date determined by the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer
3. determines that if an officer had responsibilities and performs functions and duties in a division, group or branch under the existing organisational structure, and those responsibilities, functions and duties are to be performed within a new division, group or branch, that officer will continue to have those responsibilities and perform those functions and duties in that new division, group or branch
4. authorises the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance, to do anything necessary to update Council’s Register of Delegations to reflect the new organisational structure adopted by Council
5. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make any additional minor administrative arrangements as are deemed necessary to fully reflect Council’s decisions.

A/Chair: Councillors, can I just make a note in conclusion that Councillor McLACHLAN, despite his illness, has persevered in watching the Chamber for two days, so I want to give him a shout out⎯and Councillors, and LORD MAYOR, as that concludes the business of the special meeting, I declare the meeting closed.

**RISING OF COUNCIL:** **7.52pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Ashley Bailey (A/Council and Committee Officer)

Kristy Ramirez (A/Council and Committee Officer)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer to the Lord Mayor and Council Orderly)