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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4713 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 13 June 2023**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

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

The Chair of Council, Councillor David McLACHLAN (Hamilton) – LNP

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

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair, Councillor David McLACHLAN, 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.

Are there any apologies?

Councillor LANDERS.

## APOLOGY:

**688/2022-23**

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

Chair: Confirmation of minutes please.

## MINUTES:

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr Chairman, I just rise to put on the record that the minutes that were sent to Councillors as draft minutes earlier in the week had been altered by an unknown party in Council. I could see words had been removed. I know the policy was changed to do this, against my objections, but the minutes are actually incorrect and they’ve had language removed that should not have been.

Chair: Thank you. You are entitled to say no to this motion.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Fine, I’ll repeat.

**689/2022-23**

The Minutes of the 4712 meeting of Council held on 6 June 2023, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

Chair: Councillors, Question Time.

Are there any questions for the LORD MAYOR—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair.

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

**690/2022-23**

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

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

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor.

Councillor CASSIDY: There has to be a time set for things to lay on the table and this one was given by Councillor ALLAN to be a meeting, so had to lay on the table until a meeting would occur on Thursday after 1 June 2023. That time has now lapsed and that’s what was put on this motion to lay on the table as the end point for that. That point has now come, so it should come off the table. I’m just seeking a ruling.

Chair: Thank you. It’s my understanding that it has to come off the table by resolution of Council, not according to a timetable, so the resolution needs to be that it comes off the table. Thank you.

We need to vote on the minutes—I thought we voted on the minutes.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, we carried, we did that. Okay, thank you.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Now we go to Question Time.

Councillor HUTTON—sorry, Councillor LANDERS.

**Question 1**

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

Councillor WINES, over the weekend we saw the State Government adopt Schrinner Council policy by prioritising the construction of new roads and sending them underground. Can you please update the Chamber on what this means for Brisbane’s motorists?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair and can I thank Councillor LANDERS for the question, for her ongoing commitment to improving the welfare of her constituents through better infrastructure? Now, the Councillor is right, on Sunday we saw the State Government announce that in today’s budget there would be $35 million for a study for tunnels through the northern suburbs to address traffic shortcomings in that district. Now, this may seem familiar to some, this may seem familiar. This Council was tasked by the Federal Government with a quantum of $10 million to address this very thing, identify the problem and propose solutions. Now we identified that if there wasn’t a significant transport improvement in that district there would be catastrophic economic failure in that district.

We proposed a tunnel system. We were told it was ludicrous. Mr Bart Mellish told me that it was a Liberal Party crazy plan to toll underground roads and Mr Sullivan, the Member for Stafford, said that we should get on with the business of building roads and not doing hugely expensive tunnels and that spending $10 million was humiliating. Well, I suppose it must have been because the figure was very small that was humiliating and that rather it should have been much, much larger. Now, for our study we submitted these documents to the State, with the North west transport network business case, which includes road, rail, public transport, bikeway and pedestrian proposed improvements.

Now as part of that⎯that was submitted in November of 2021—excuse me, November of 2022—November last year. We were told it was a waste of money and it was ludicrous and not to bother. Then on Sunday, then on Sunday—actually hold on one moment. We proposed two potential tunnels, right, two potential road tunnels. A western alignment, which is the one that we published, because it solved more problems for more people, which goes through Stafford, along Stafford Road from the Airportlink and then north beneath the old North West Transport Corridor. We called that the western alignment. We also included an eastern alignment, which duplicates Gympie Road underground and that was in our proposal. Here is a large version of it. You may see an orange line that moves between just north of Kedron to just south of Carseldine.

Now there was a brand new, never before heard of project announced on the weekend and here’s the State Government’s map, which shows a line between just north of Kedron to just south of Carseldine. But what they’ve done—and I think Councillor MURPHY has hit the nail on the head, our map has the roads in blue and the proposed line in orange, but they’ve changed it up. Their roads are in orange and the proposed line’s in light blue, so it’s a big change that they’ve gone for, it’s huge. Once again, the Minister for Transport cannot help but beclown himself on this topic. He humiliated himself by not being across it when he attacked us gratuitously in March and for the benefit of the room, I hope that in that $35 million is the balance of funds owed to us which still exceeds $1 million, after he pledged that it would be paid to us.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please, no interjecting.

Councillor WINES: Now he said that his proposal—the State proposal was nothing like the Council’s proposal. ‘North west transport network program business case part B, project refinement and network combination sequencing assessment page 12’, submitted to the State in November. There you go, look at that, Mr Chair, there is their alignment for their project. Now here’s the hot tip, we’ve already spent $10 million and we know that it’s going to work. Why are they spending $35 million to do this? It’s already been done, it’s been done, apart from it’s just—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Councillors, order please.

Councillor WINES: There is a reasonable criticism of the State that they’re all studies and no follow‑through. Now, what I would call on them to do is—the study’s been done. This is what was submitted along with about, as you would well know, Mr Chair, about a metre and a half of technical documents that would print out to a series of binders about this long that was also available to them. Now don’t do a study, State; deliver improvements to the people of north Brisbane.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 2**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is the Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, tomorrow the LORD MAYOR will hand down his budget. You have been working on this pre-election budget with the LORD MAYOR. Since this LORD MAYOR came to office in 2019, he has jacked up rates by 12.5%, so instead of talking about the 1990s, can you give the people of Brisbane some comfort for the future and today commit to a rates freeze?

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair and now as we all know, budget day is tomorrow. Councillor CASSIDY’s budget reply day is Friday, I hope you’ve got that marked in your calendars. Because we will have plenty of time to discuss these matters after the budget is handed down. What I can say about the LORD MAYOR’s budget, Mr Chair, is that it will be a financially responsible budget. It will be a budget that is focused on matters that are important to people in the suburbs of Brisbane. It is a budget which has been put together with cost of living at the forefront of our minds. Now, Mr Chair, Councillor CASSIDY mocked the Administration over the weekend for the first budget announcement of our $2 Dips, which have been extremely—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance, the question was about a rates freeze.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I—

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, I do ask you to come back to the question, which was about general discussions about the budget to be delivered.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr Chair and what I said earlier is that budget day is tomorrow and Councillor CASSIDY has one more sleep to wait until budget day. Tomorrow, the LORD MAYOR will deliver a financially responsible budget for the people of Brisbane. We know that those opposite are opposing cheaper pool entry for our residents in the suburbs, so that’s the way, they oppose that and they seek to jack up rates by over six per cent when they’re in administration, Mr Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Not once, but four times, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Relevance, the question was whether Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the LORD MAYOR will commit to a rates freeze in the upcoming budget. We’re not talking about the 1990s here, we’re talking about people’s future.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, I ask you to come back to the question before you.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr Chair and as I have said now for the third time, budget day is tomorrow, Councillor CASSIDY. Now there’s still time for you to work with the Deputy Opposition Leader, Councillor MASSEY, on your budget reply speech. Can I recommend that you maybe look at Google Docs, you can share some ideas? I look forward to hearing what Councillor CASSIDY says on Friday, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair.

**691/2022-23**

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

Chair: Yes, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Residents are doing it tough and all this Administration is offering is glib responses. We just had that from the Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, who could say everything but this Administration will commit to a rates freeze.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Claim to be misrepresented. That was not glib. I answered the question.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you need to establish why you couldn’t put this on the—Question Time—

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. We thought that perhaps the Chair would have had the answer today, had some idea about offering Brisbane ratepayers some serious cost of living relief. But it’s clear today that it’s not, so Council, the 26 of us plus the LORD MAYOR, now has an opportunity to debate a motion that will call on the LORD MAYOR to bring a rates freeze in for the 2023-24 financial year. The poor political decisions of this LORD MAYOR over his few years in office have led to a 12.5% increase of rates for Brisbane residents. They’re paying more but getting less in the suburbs of Brisbane. We are deeply concerned that what we’re going to see tomorrow is a massive rates increase. We’re going to see more rates being taken from the ratepayers of Brisbane to pay for blowouts.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: We have been asked this question week after week, so why couldn’t this be a motion on the paper yesterday? The urgency.

Chair: Yes, to urgency, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Through the political decisions of this LORD MAYOR to—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you—

DEPUTY MAYOR: I ask you to make a ruling on asking—for him to answer why this could not be on the papers by one o’clock yesterday. That is what he’s supposed to be explaining.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR. If Councillor CASSIDY can establish urgency in regard to your request to suspend standing orders please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. So, the residents of Brisbane know, the residents of Brisbane know, that this rates increase that is coming tomorrow from this LORD MAYOR is all to fund the cost blowouts on his inner city projects, a $1 billion cost blowout on the Metro and the bridges. We just asked five minutes ago Councillor CUNNINGHAM, who has been working intimately with the LORD MAYOR in developing this budget and developing the rates increase that we are probably going to see—

Councillor LANDERS: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor.

Councillor LANDERS: The Councillor’s debating this, not telling us what—

Chair: Yes, Councillor CASSIDY, I do ask you to come back to the reason for why you couldn’t put this on the notice paper earlier.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. The LORD MAYOR has an opportunity right now, he and the Administration can support this motion, we can have a debate. All 19 of those LNP Councillors and the LORD MAYOR can apologise to the people of Brisbane, say they got it wrong over the last four years in jacking up rates by 12.5% over the last three and a half to four years to fund the blowouts on those inner city projects. They can apologise to the people of Brisbane and say they’re going to do it differently this time.

Chair: Thank you, your time has expired, Councillor CASSIDY.

The motion before us is for the suspension of standing rules.

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

Chair: Thank you, we continue on with Question Time.

Councillor MATIC.

**Question 3**

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

Councillor ALLAN, recently on the ABC’s *Insiders* program we heard the Greens continue to fight against the construction of new homes in the middle of a housing crisis. Can you please highlight the hypocrisy of the Greens when it comes to their own suggestions for housing?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair and through you I’d like to thank Councillor MATIC for his question. It was certainly interesting hearing the Greens’ views on housing and how they plan to fix the housing crisis. It was during an interview on the ABC *Insiders* program that the Member for Griffith mentioned a list of properties he had sent to the State for consideration for public, social and affordable housing. One of those properties is the former Bulimba Barracks site which received DA (development application) approval last year and has been a master plan in precinct approach to redevelop that old site. Mr Chair, I was intrigued to see this on the list of suggested sites, given the previous comments by the Greens regarding this particular site.

Last year, the Greens criticised the development, stating it will cause traffic chaos and destroy the Tugulawa Park. It is clear they made assumptions about the precinct and have just adopted their standard position on any type of development and that is not to support it. Instead, the development will achieve great outcomes for the local area and community. Not only will it deliver over 850 dwellings, it will deliver riverfront parkland for the entire river frontage, which is approximately 530 metres. Additionally, Tugulawa Park will increase in area from just over 5,000 square metres to just under 10,000 square metres, nearly double its previous size.

The development will also upgrade the Apollo Road intersection and increase connectivity with pedestrian and cyclist connections through the site. The existing stormwater infrastructure will be upgraded and there is provision for a multipurpose outdoor sport and recreation area. Despite all of this, the Greens argued that the site should not be developed because it was on a floodplain. This is a very typical argument from the Greens and one we have heard many times in this Chamber. Here we have the Bulimba Barracks site that is zoned as a Flood Planning Area (FPA) 5, the lowest of all our flood planning areas and one that does not trigger any flood overlay.

This is a great site for housing, however, it is not supported by the Greens. But naively and somewhat surprisingly, the Greens have suggested two other sites to the State Government for social and affordable housing, namely 42 Logan Road and 56 Manning Street. Both these sites have the same flood planning area as the Bulimba Barracks site, i.e. an FPA5, so Mr Chair, I am puzzled at how the Greens can opposed one development on the basis of potential flood risk, yet suggest other sites with the same flood planning classification for social and affordable housing. If this isn’t hypocrisy, I’m not sure what is. Not only is it a tenuous position to take, but it is also based on a misconception that building on a low rated floodplain is not feasible.

Some may recall that last year the former Greens Councillor moved a motion in this Chamber to not allow development on land mapped under the Brisbane Flood Planning Areas 1, 2A, 2B and 3. However, the motion failed to consider that there were over 40,000 properties included within the Flood Planning Areas 1, 2A, 2B and 3 across the city. For a brief moment we thought Councillor MASSEY would take a more balanced approach on housing supply and development than her predecessor. Just two weeks ago the Councillor claimed that she had not publicly stated that she didn’t believe in development in potential flood zones, yet last week the Councillor opposed the Kurilpa TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument) on the basis that it was rushed, unplanned and on a floodplain.

The Councillor opposed a precinct that is located within walking distance of the CBD and one that proposes 10,000 new dwellings. A precinct whereby remnant industrial land will be renewed and rejuvenated and made into a great and vibrant and sustainable community. The Councillor for The Gabba Ward states that the housing crisis is the result of inaction from every level of government. Yet. when we pull the levers available to us, we are criticised for moving too quickly. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 4**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, my question is to Councillor DAVIS, the Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee and I hope the LORD MAYOR’s listening.

About 12 years ago Council capital-listed a small, but vitally important project, in Princess Street Park, Fairfield, which was to install a shelter and a new barbecue. By some miracle funding popped up in the 2022 budget one year ago to undertake this important suburban park improvement project. I’ve been asking all year and this project has not been delivered. Why has this important local parks project, which is a shelter over some existing seats and a barbecue, which was funded in last year’s budget—just to be clear, I don’t want to confuse you. It’s about the budget that’s passed—why hasn’t it been funded and when is it going to be done?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair and I thank Councillor JOHNSTON for the question. I’ll have to take that on notice.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor MATIC.

**Question 5**

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

Councillor ALLAN, surely your previous answer was only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Greens’ hypocrisy on housing. Can you please share with the Chamber any other examples you have?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair and through you I’d like to thank Councillor MATIC for yet another question and potentially his last one in this Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

Councillor ALLAN: Mr Chair, unfortunately I only had the chance—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

Councillor ALLAN: I only had the chance to call out the hypocrisy of three of the properties the Greens have suggested for housing. The Greens have been clear that they are suggesting properties that could be considered for social and affordable housing that is zoned for medium and high-density housing and close to high-frequency public transport and public parkland. However, not all the properties the Greens suggested are zoned accordingly. Let’s take the Colmslie precinct and as the Greens stated, a site we are undertaking consultation on. Perhaps he hasn’t visited the site, because if he had he would understand that the precinct is not only zoned general industry with open space, but it also forms part of the Australia TradeCoast. The Australia TradeCoast is Brisbane’s most recognised industrial precinct due to its strong profile and association with the Port of Brisbane and Brisbane Airport, a precinct that is estimated to contribute $6.7 billion annually and employ 38,000 workers.

Whilst we are looking for renewal opportunities through our industrial strategy, there is also a need to support our existing traditional industry uses. Mr Chair, perhaps this site zoning was not understood or appreciated and an oversight on the Greens’ behalf. However, let’s move on to another suggestion put forward by the Greens, the old West End Police Station in Boundary Street. This site is appropriately zoned as district centre, which allows consideration for residential. The Greens have failed to mention that the station itself is heritage-listed. Perhaps it was the community comments on the Greens’ original post that has made them change their tune on this particular site and they are now suggesting the site be used for a community centre. But it is clear, Mr Chair, retaining heritage is not a key consideration for the Greens.

Another site suggested that is within the appropriate zoning is that of the vacant site along Laura Street at Stones Corner. Not only is this property within flood planning levels 4 and 5, but it is also directly above the Eastern Busway. Now I’m not an engineer, Mr Chair, but my understanding is any construction method would require drilling and excavation to establish the building’s foundation, at very significant cost and disruption. Mr Chair, the ongoing comments from the Greens show they lack any awareness of the current environment in the building industry and the real constraints in providing housing supply. Instead of proposing initiatives that would support the construction industry in delivering more dwellings, the Greens instead criticise the industry for trying to be profitable and sustainable.

A strong construction industry is fundamental to providing more housing. A strong construction industry is fundamental to providing more housing. Every week we see stories about construction companies failing and being unable to complete properties that they’ve been contracted to do. The Opposition must be living under a rock if they cannot understand what’s happening out there in the marketplace. So, the position that the Greens and in fact the Opposition Councillors should adopt is that construction plays a key role in the delivery of housing and we need these industries to be in a position where they can do just that.

Now in Brisbane we know we have over nine years of supply of approved multi‑dwellings across the city, which is more than two times the required target set out under the Government’s Shaping South East Queensland plan. These statistics demonstrate that Council is doing its part to assist the housing challenge through development approvals. This is despite the Opposition week in and week out not only supporting—not supporting housing supply, but they do that through opposing neighbourhood plans and also opposing planning amendments. So, Mr Chair, the Schrinner Council is committed to doing whatever we can to support housing in this city. We are using the levers available to us to do that, but it is extremely frustrating when we see the Greens putting to the State Government ideas that are absolutely impractical. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor MASSEY.

**Question 6**

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. My question is for the DEPUTY MAYOR ADAMS in your capacity as the Chair of Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In a 2019 *Brisbane Times* article, you talked about how a shabby and unkept local park was the catalyst for your political career. Today public spaces, including parks across Brisbane, are facing an even more significant threat, the 2032 Games. Raymond Park will be fenced off from residents and sporting groups to be turned into a warmup track. Crosby Park greenspace and established trees are in limbo due to the plans for a five-hectare Brisbane indoor sports and parasports centre.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Chair. Is there a question?

Councillor MASSEY: I’ve got two minutes.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, I’m allowing the question. I’m allowing this question to proceed.

Councillor MASSEY: Barrambin/Victoria Park announced as the city’s lungs, has had its plans called into question due to the development of a temporary five-kilometre track to cater for 50,000 spectators. Recognising that the Brisbane 2032 Games will stretch from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast to Toowoomba, with existing facilities and opportunities for alternative venues—

Councillor LANDERS: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Can we get to the question?

Councillor MASSEY: We are here, we’re at the question.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MASSEY: Will you stand for residents in Hamilton, Herston, Paddington, Albion, Spring Hill, East Brisbane, Kangaroo Point and more, as you stood for your local community and ensure the precious greenspace is protected and guaranteed metre for metre from the State Government in the Games?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you very much, Mr Chair and I did stand up in this place very early on to protect the parks and I have continued that for 16 years and I’ll continue that for as long as the people of Holland Park support me to do that role as well. The list of many parks that Councillor MASSEY has mentioned today are parks that have been considered—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

Sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR, you have the floor.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, are parks that are being considered by the State Government and OCOG (Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) for temporary uses across the Olympics. I will stand here every day of the week saying that the Olympics are a good outcome for the people of Brisbane. We know the Greens don’t like it, we know that the Opposition on that side do not support economic development for the city, but every park that you named then is something that looks like—is a temporary—and some of them not at all, temporary sites for the Olympics. That’s how Olympics are run and every bit of that will come back as public and open space after the Olympics. I support parks across Brisbane and will continue to do so.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor OWEN.

**Question 7**

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. I appreciate you giving me the call. My question this afternoon is to the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY, recent reports in *The Courier-Mail* suggest the State Government may have overcommitted on their promise to electrify all South East Queensland buses by 2025. Can you please update the Chamber on this news, including how the Schrinner Council is taking the sensible approach to electric buses?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair and through you, thank you to Councillor OWEN for the question. We know that the Schrinner Council is a leader when it comes to adopting sustainable, cutting edge technology that keeps our city clean and green. Our public transport network and our citywide buses are of course no exception to that rule. We’ve had electric buses on the City Loop for several years now and we were the first major Australian city to adopt e-scooters. We’re proud of the fact that we’ve started Council’s passenger fleet transition to zero emissions.

But of course, Mr Chair, we know that residents want Brisbane to be cleaner and greener in the lead up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and we know that we want to put our best foot forward. Councillors will remember that the State Government has mandated that all new buses in South East Queensland must be zero emissions from 2025. But in the more than 12 months since that announcement we have been working very hard behind the scenes to try and reach an agreement with the State to jointly fund new electric buses and their associated charging infrastructure. We’ve reached out to Minister Bailey to seek funding support for the State’s initiative and we have presented a proposal for how we might work together on this project.

We’ve developed plans for electrification of the Sherwood and Toowong depots, the places that we think should be the first to have charging infrastructure. We’ve also consistently committed budget to upgrade our bus fleet, but we’ve seen no commitment from the State Government. Now, we know Minister Bailey has been a bit distracted in recent times, involving himself in a range of other Council matters, but I’ll be honest, Mr Chair, from where I sit, Minister Bailey has majorly dropped the ball on implementing his own zero emissions target. Now, the one thing we know that the State has done is host an industry roundtable on the matter and last week we saw the outcome of that process, with TMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads) releasing their industry engagement findings and I’ll read some highlights from the paper, Mr Chair.

Quote, ‘the program timeline is seen as overly ambitious and may not support the objective of establishing sustainable local manufacturing’. Quote, ‘attendees were concerned about the industry’s ability to meet the project’s timeframes’. Quote, ‘lead times for upgrading grid connections and ordering batteries were a particular concern’. Industry also called for, quote, ‘rigorous definition of local content to provide clarity to manufacturers’. Finally, Chair, quote, ‘attendees identified a national skill and labour shortage which is already affecting industry capacity and capability’. Boy oh boy. Let me put it simply, as per usual, Minister Bailey is all talk and no action. He came out last year, he announced the mandate to much fanfare, but is still yet to provide any funding to allow anyone to achieve the target. But now we know not only does he not have the funding to deliver electric buses, he also doesn’t have any industry support. The timeline is unrealistic, the grid doesn’t have the capacity or the support to effect the transition and industry has said they don’t have the capability or the capacity to deliver it. But not to worry, Mr Chair, because Mr Bailey’s most recent letter to me indicated that he does not believe the situation is, quote/unquote, dire. But the reality is without the ability to begin procuring electric buses the situation is dire. Our fleet has a mandatory retirement age under our contract with Translink, which means at some point we will have to start taking buses off the road. But due to the State Government’s mandate we can’t buy diesel buses.

At the same time, we can’t buy electric buses because the State Government won’t provide us any funding or certainty on the charging infrastructure, so we can’t get diesel, we can’t get electric, we’re caught between a rock and a hard place, Mr Chair. So, how does Minister Bailey expect us to keep servicing our current bus network if we don’t have enough buses to run on it? Then there’s Councillor CASSIDY, Mr Chair, week in and out Councillor CASSIDY comes into the Chamber and he chides this Administration because our electric vehicles, be it bus or Metro, are made by industry leading manufacturers around the world. But how does Councillor CASSIDY expect us to support local industry when local industry themselves have told us that they cannot support the transition to electric buses without more certainty being provided by his mates in the State Government?

This was, I repeat, Chair, in a TMR released paper. It wasn’t industry, it was TMR who released this paper. What more evidence do we need that local industry is now not ready to support this transition? We have, I would say, Chair, a proven track record on this side of the Chamber of reducing our emissions across all of Council’s operations. I’ll be watching the State budget announcement very closely, Mr Chair. I’m calling on Minister Bailey and the State Government to finally do their part and honour their zero emissions commitment. Give us some certainty around how you’re going to roll out this plan, because the Schrinner Council is ready and willing to work with you. Look at Brisbane Metro, we are already rolling out the largest bus electrification project in the country.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: We have—

Chair: Your time has expired.

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 8**

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

Councillor ALLAN, will tomorrow’s budget include more discounts on rates and infrastructure charges for community housing providers and if not, why not?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Well thank you, Mr Chair and thank you to Councillor COLLIER for the question. Now, Councillor COLLIER’s new to the Chamber so I’ll give her the benefit of the doubt. It tends to be a bit of a longstanding tradition in this place, certainly ever since I was Finance Chair and before that the DEPUTY MAYOR and in the past the LORD MAYOR and everyone gets anxious, they all want to know what’s in the budget before it’s landed. I can understand Councillor COLLIER being anxious.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor ALLAN: The reality is Councillor COLLIER is going to have to wait until tomorrow, until the budget’s handed down. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor MACKAY.

**Question 9**

Councillor MACKAY: Thank you, Chair. My question’s to the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS, the Schrinner Council’s agenda to keep Brisbane clean, green and sustainable continues to kick goals. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest award received by this Administration?

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair and through you I’d like to thank Councillor MACKAY for the question. As Deputy of the EPS (Environment, Parks and Sustainability) Committee, I know that Councillor MACKAY watches very closely what the NEWS (Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability) branch is achieving and was as proud as I am that once again that our work is being recognised as industry leading and award winning. I’m pleased to report that our new and improved Flood Information Online (FIO) picked up the Flood Risk Management Project of the Year at the 2023 Floodplain Management Australia Excellence Awards, which were held as part of the Floodplain Management Conference recently held in Melbourne. The award is given to a project that demonstrates the highest level of achievement in areas of flood risk management, including public benefit, community involvement and innovative solutions.

As you know, Mr Chair, the updated Flood Information Online which was launched in September last year ensured that our flood information and awareness tools are up-to-date, accessible and fit-for-purpose, providing an improved user interface and historic flood mapping, as well as levels for the February 2022 flood event. The new FIO platform is a one-stop shop for flood information, including Council’s Flood Awareness Maps and FloodWise Property Reports, as well as critical information about flooding in Brisbane and staying safe during flood events. The previous version of the platform was refreshed and included improved functionality for tablet and mobile phone users, because it’s important that we can access vital information like this in as user-friendly fashion as possible. Brisbane is seen as a leader in this field and what we are doing is envied and considered best practice.

I also heard that the conference delegates were very impressed at the level of data that we provide on the platform, which now includes indicative flood levels. Not only did we receive lots of positive feedback about the platform during the conference, we also received terrific feedback about the industry leading work that we’re undertaking with our online flood information and awareness products and the Flood Resilient Homes Program. We also received great comments about our willingness to improve and update datasets based on information provided by residents. As part of the conference proceedings, officers from Council delivered three presentations on the great works that we are undertaking to ensure that Brisbane is safe, confident and ready for flood events.

After the 2022 floods, for example, we took significant works to ensure that reliable and accessible information was available to the public after the event. Officers also spoke about the Flood Resilient Homes Program, which as we know has formed the basis for the State and Federal Government’s Resilient Homes Fund. The Flood Resilient Homes Program was also recently presented to the Planning Institute of Australia national conference. Again, the work undertaken in the Flood Resilient Homes Program is seen as industry leading. There were accolades for Council’s commitment to delivering it and inspiration expressed to flood resilient design as a meaningful outcome for flood-affected regions.

Of course it’s now been expanded as the Flood Resilient Suburbs Program. Once again Council is a pioneer in delivering an adaptive resilience program for businesses and apartment buildings, which is the first of its kind. So, it’s no surprise that then that the conversations with other local and State Government delegates following the presentation at the Planning Institute of Australia Congress recently recognised that Brisbane City Council is an innovator, a leader and meaningful change facilitator. It shows that this was valuable knowledge sharing on a very important topic, including the economic benefits and the relationship to insurance fears that are increasingly being identified.

Delegates were keen to learn more about our risk-based approach to land use planning, our approach to updating our mapping products, the influence of flood resilience on flood insurance and real estate prices and the cost benefit of the program that Council delivers. We were excited also to learn that Brisbane was announced as the location for next year’s Floodplain Management Australia’s national conference, which will bring together over 400 flood professionals and community members with interests in floodplain risk management. Mr Chair, we very much look forward to sharing with and learning from floodplain management delegates in Brisbane next year. This is just another way that the Schrinner Council is delivering award winning products into the community.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 10**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Transport Committee.

Councillor MURPHY, 24 of the listed 2,221 footpaths awaiting repair across Brisbane have been completed to date. When will the remaining 2,197 footpaths be repaired?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you very much, Chair and thank you to Councillor GRIFFITHS for the question. The reality is that Councillor GRIFFITHS makes up a lot of figures when it comes to footpaths, because we know that Labor’s record on footpaths is absolutely horrific. Chair, we spend over $35 million annually on footpath replacement.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: No, in fact we do, Councillor JOHNSTON. I was walking around my ward down the Bulimba Creek Bikeway the other day—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

Councillor MURPHY: —and I saw the officers out there repairing and replacing footpaths. You know what they did? They actually widen them as well when they repair them, so not only we go around replacing like-for-like, we go around and we replace like‑for‑better. That’s this Administration’s record on footpaths and we know, Chair, Labor’s record on footpaths—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’d just bring the Chairperson back to the question. It was when will the 2,197 footpaths waiting to be repaired be repaired?

Chair: I don’t uphold your point of order, the Chair is being relevant to the question.

Councillor MURPHY: Well thank you very much, Chair. I’ve got a great little article here, Chair, from *The* *Southern Star*, Springwood, it came out in 2002. I’ll quote the article, quote, it says—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —Councillor Soorley—well we know Councillor CASSIDY loves to tell everyone he’s the economic dux of his school. We know despite the fact that he was the economic dux, we don’t know whether he’ll be the Lord Mayoral candidate for the Labor Party, Chair, because we are getting through budget and they still haven’t got a candidate for Lord Mayor.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, please, this isn’t relevant to the question. Could you come back to the question please?

Councillor MURPHY: I will, Chair and I was about to quote from this article in *The* *Southern Star.* Councillor Soorley told the—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance, Chair, the question was very specific about—and let’s be serious here for a minute. The figures that Councillor GRIFFITHS quoted were the figures this Administration gave us through answers to Questions on Notice.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: No, no, just a couple of weeks ago, LORD MAYOR.

Chair: Councillor—LORD MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY: Just a couple of weeks ago. So on relevance, on relevance, Councillor GRIFFITHS asked when the 2,197 footpaths that are awaiting repair will be repaired. He’s got lots of notes. The LORD MAYOR’s handed him some notes, Councillor MARX has handed him some notes, surely he can answer it.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor, thank you, you’re now debating your point of order.

Councillor MURPHY, if I can bring you back to the question please.

Councillor MURPHY: Well I appreciate Councillor CASSIDY bringing me back to the question here, because what I want to do—and I’m going to give him the stats that he’s after in just a sec, but I want to just set the scene for everyone. What did Councillor Soorley tell a meeting of Civic Cabinet—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: There are serious problems with footpaths, this is a reasonable question. Jim Soorley hasn’t been in this place since before Councillor MURPHY was in nappies, it is not relevant—

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and can you bring him back to the question?

Chair: Your point of order is on relevance. I uphold your point of order.

Councillor MURPHY, if I can bring you back to the specifics of the question please.

Councillor MURPHY: Well Councillor JOHNSTON has mentioned Councillor Soorley, we know Councillor Soorley does come up a lot. Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —often mentions him in this Chamber. He often says how he’s a mentor—

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MURPHY: —he’s a great guy—

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, there’s a point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know Councillor MURPHY thinks everything’s a joke but on a day when he’s releasing Brisbane’s Walkable strategy, why on earth can he not answer a simple question and be relevant to the question that was asked?

Chair: Yes, Councillor JOHNSTON, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Please, Mr Chairman, get him to answer the question.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MURPHY, can I bring you to the question please, or have you completed your answer?

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, well thanks, Chair. We have just released the *Draft Walkable Brisbane strategy*. I know Councillor CASSIDY has presented a feeble Brisbane mobility strategy in response to that, which is to spend, I think, less money than we’re spending at the moment on footpaths. We spend $35 million annually and he committed $25 million, so I don’t know what kind of a promise that is, Chair. But look, the reason I keep bringing up—and I know they don’t want me to say his name. The reason I keep bringing up Jim Soorley is because it’s very relevant, it’s very relevant to this debate, Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: They’re the ones who mentioned—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ve got a footpath that’s been waiting for a year. I’m interested in the answer. I am interested in the answer.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Why can’t the Chair answer and why are you allowing him to defy your ruling?

Chair: That is not a point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Why are you allowing him to defy your ruling?

Chair: That is not a point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Relevance.

Chair: That is not a point—your statement was not a point of order.

Councillor MURPHY, please can I bring you back to the question before us.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Your microphone please, microphone.

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, I think we’ve hit a nerve here and do you know why we’ve hit a nerve? I want to tell you why and maybe I can get this quote out—this fifth attempt, ‘Councillor Soorley told a Civic Cabinet meeting at Mount Ommaney on Wednesday 13 November—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —that Council had a $100 million backlog—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —of footpath repairs—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —in the city’.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: $100 million backlog of footpath repairs.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. Point of order. Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You’re a joke, you are a joke. You have told Councillor MURPHY to come back to relevance on at least four occasions, yet you are letting him defy your order. Mr Chairman, why will you not take action about the defiance of your orders in this place?

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

Councillor MURPHY, have you completed your answer?

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, I’ve got 50 seconds and I just want to use that wisely, because I want to say since we came—since this Administration has been in office, I want to tell you the condition of good footpaths in this city has lifted from 42% of footpaths to 77%, okay? So what this Administration has done is take a city with broken, crumbling infrastructure, footpaths that were ruined everywhere and has brought them up to standard by investing in them year after year after year. Do you know, those Councillors, when they have the opportunity through the SEF (Suburban Enhancement Fund) to spend money on footpaths in their own ward, almost none of them do. Almost none of them do.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired. Your time has expired and that ends Question Time for today.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee (E&C) report please.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**692/2022-23**

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

Chair: Okay, so you need to establish the rationale and reason for urgency.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’ve got three minutes to do so, yes. I’m moving this motion—

Chair: Well you need to establish why you couldn’t put it on the notice paper before this.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: It’s interesting the Councillor for this area didn’t bring this motion in. I’m moving this motion on action for clearing and splitting a block of koala land that has this land—and this is in the development application. This land is in a designated conservation area of an endangered species. That’s in our own paperwork for this site. This site is on Pine Mountain Road and it is to split one block into 10 blocks and create a road, clearing the land. This land has koalas on it, this is koala habitat that adjoins Whites Hill Reserve. We know around Whites Hill Reserve there have been at least 20 koalas killed in the last five years and once again, that information has come from this LNP Council. Those koalas have been killed around this site.

We know this is urgent, this is urgent because residents have contacted me today and have been contacting me over the last week, but today these residents gave up. They gave up because the Councillor for this area wouldn’t answer their calls. The LORD MAYOR for this city wouldn’t answer their calls. No LNP Councillors, none of the 19 Councillors sitting in this room would answer their calls to say we need to protect this land. We need to stop the clearing of this bushland, we need to stop the clearing of this bushland and what they want to see is the funds they pay through their bushland buyback fund, they want to see it used to purchase this land and we would support that.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Mr Chair, the reason for the three minutes is to establish why this could not have been put on the notice papers, is it by one o’clock yesterday? It is a point of order, for three minutes—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Sorry, I’m explaining that.

Councillor HOWARD: Through you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, I—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Come on, this is wasting my time.

Chair: Councillor, there is a point of order, I’m happy to hear the point of order.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, I ask for your ruling on the fact that this point of order is about establishing urgency—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m trying to do that.

Councillor HOWARD: —and why it was not put on the papers—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD, I’ve heard your point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, you do have the right to establish urgency.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am.

Chair: If you are unable to put the question for the agenda by one o’clock yesterday—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am doing—

Chair: —under 12(3), under 9(3) you have to move suspension of standing rules and you do have up to three minutes, but you do need to justify why the rules under 9(3)—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m doing that now, got that here.

Chair: —couldn’t be justified.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’ve got that here, I just haven’t been able to speak in the Chamber. I’m doing this because we need to save this land. We need to get these koalas protected. Residents told me today desperately on the phone they haven’t been able to get Councillor ADAMS to answer her phone. They haven’t been able to get Councillor ADAMS to do anything.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am telling you why it’s urgent. It’s urgent because—

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, please sit, I’m speaking. Your time has expired.

We have a motion for the suspension of standing rules.

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

Thereupon, Councillors Jared CASSIDY and Steve GRIFFITHS immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost.**

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, you have the call for Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 5 June 2023.

## 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 5 June 2023, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Seriatim *en bloc* for debate and voting - Clauses A and B**

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| --- |
| At that time, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that Clause A, CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR APRIL 2023; and Clause B, STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – GRASS CUTTING SERVICES, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for debating and voting purposes. |

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, I’m also seeking the further following information about the items before us today. Firstly, with respect to item A on the E&C paper and this is item number 6, Flood Resilience 2022 – Pontoons, can the LORD MAYOR confirm the price for the Sherwood Arboretum pontoon? It’s not actually listed, so I’d like to know how much the Sherwood Arboretum pontoon is. Secondly, with respect to the same item, can the LORD MAYOR please explain why a public pontoon in Yeronga is being demolished but not replaced as part of the flood recovery process? That’s the second request on that one. Thanks.

Chair: Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I moved that motion, did I?

Chair: You did. Yes, we’re up to debate.

LORD MAYOR: Excellent, thank you. Last night the Victoria Bridge, Story Bridge, City Hall and Sandgate Town Hall were lit up in—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Just to be clear, so we all know, are we debating item A and item B?

Chair: The LORD MAYOR is doing his report. We can do A and B together, as you requested, in seriatim.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you.

Chair: But in terms of debate, I’ll point out to Councillors, the debate is for items A and B and then moving on to other items.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. As I was saying, as I always talk about the light ups that we’re doing in support of great causes, last night the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Mr Chair, someone thinks it’s funny that we’re lighting up our assets in support of great community causes. That’s okay, they’re entitled to that view, but it’s not funny to the organisations who request this and they do appreciate it.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR, please.

LORD MAYOR: Tonight our assets will be lit up in red for National Blood Donor Week. Right now three blood donations are needed every minute to keep pace with the demand. We have a situation where, particularly for rare types of blood, there is very much a shortage. Blood samples can generally only be taken or kept for 42 days and so if more than that is required or more frequently than that is required, there is a shortage. Right now we’re experiencing a shortage of a number of different types of blood types. I had the pleasure to give blood just recently and the Lifeblood new system that Red Cross is using is fantastic, because they actually now give you a message to tell you when your blood sample has been used.

They say it’s on the way to the Royal Brisbane Hospital right now to be used, which is fantastic because you can see the impact that the donation is having. But we definitely need more people to give blood, so if you’re in a position to give blood, please do. They’ve also changed the rules about people who might have been in the UK at a certain point of time as well. You’ll remember there was a prohibition on blood donation for people as a result of mad cow disease. That prohibition has been lifted and that opens up the number of blood donations that can be made across our community, which is fantastic.

Tomorrow is Migraine Awareness Month and all our assets will be lit up in purple to support this campaign. Migraines are a genetic neurological disorder and the Awareness Month advocates for better services and support for people who live with migraines. On Thursday night, Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in purple to recognise World Elder Abuse Day. Elder Abuse Day falls on 15 June every year and is an opportunity to better understand elder abuse in all its forms and obviously to fight back against this form of abuse.

On Friday, the Victoria Bridge, Story Bridge and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in red to support Hero for Heartkids. Heartkids is the only not-for-profit organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for all people impacted by childhood heart disease, one of the largest causes of infant death in Australia. On Saturday night, City Hall will be lit up in rainbow colours to support—Councillor HOWARD, what is it? The Queens Ball. This is an event that’s held every year in City Hall and in fact, I think one of the longest running events of its kind anywhere in the world and it continues to be supported here in Brisbane City Council. Finally, on Sunday, all our assets will be lit up in red to support Eve of Heart Failure Awareness Week.

Okay, last week was a bit of an interesting week and a bit of a busy week and a number of things happened. I met for a third time with a State Government Minister in about four weeks on the issue of Pinkenba. I had first met with Minister Leeanne Enoch and literally within a matter of a day or so she was no longer the Minister for Housing. So then I had to meet with the new Minister for Housing, Minister Meaghan Scanlon. We had an initial meeting and we agreed to meet again, so for the third time we met last week. It was quite an extraordinary meeting, because after we’d already met on this issue I was expecting a little bit more out of the meeting than was actually generated. We had a meeting which seemed to go nowhere and where it was suggested that Council should operate Pinkenba as a US-style trailer park.

I kid you not, this was the suggestion, it was that Council should run it as a caravan park. This was the Minister’s suggestion to me. Then she said well, other councils do this, I was like which ones? Oh, Sunshine Coast Council, that actually has holiday parks by the sea. This is something that they’ve done for many years, certainly not something that Brisbane City Council does, or has done or is interested to do. Pinkenba is no holiday park; it is no seaside holiday park and that suggestion was just mind-boggling. Interestingly, about an hour after I got out of the meeting, maybe even as little as half an hour after I got out of the meeting, the State Government announced that they would put $10 million towards the activation of Pinkenba. You would think that this would have come up in the meeting.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: No, not a mention, not a word, not a word about their commitment. In fact all they tried to do is to actually suggest we should run it as a US-style trailer park. Extraordinary.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, it does sound suspicious, Councillor MARX. The level of political gameplaying here is extraordinary and next level and it is no wonder why this government cannot deliver basic things when it comes to housing. Cannot deliver social and affordable housing, cannot do simple things that they are expected to do, because they spend all their time playing political games and no time actually delivering. Thankfully, the day after that meeting, when the State Government magically found $10 million which they didn’t mention in the meeting with me, the Salvos stepped up and they said we’d like to be involved in operating this facility.

Thank God for the Salvos because the State Government may have wanted to squib it, but great organisations like the Salvos are willing to step up and do the right thing and to activate this facility. Let’s hope that the State Government’s $10 million, our $1 million and organisations like the Salvos can finally get this facility up and running, because it is certainly better than people living in tents and cars.

We also had, as Councillor WINES mentioned, the extraordinary announcement on the weekend about a toll tunnel proposed, or a study for a toll tunnel proposed by the State Government. Now this was, as Councillor WINES pointed out, one of the options that was put forward in our report, the Federally-funded report which we commissioned had this as one of the options. Now I don’t know why they now have to spend $35 million to come to the conclusion that we already know. This is a thing, we should just get on and deliver it, or they should just get on and deliver it. To spend another $35 million to do another study, I would certainly hope that this is not a cynical, political ploy to get them through the next election without promising anything, to make people think there’s something happening when in fact there will be nothing happening. We need action, we need action.

It’s extraordinary that just a matter of weeks ago the Minister for Transport was ridiculing our report, ridiculing our $10 million as a waste of money and now he wants to waste more than three times more on another study. But while the State Government has finally decided that going underground is the right option, I really wonder about local members like Bart Mellish, who had been running an anti-toll road campaign in the local area for months and months and months. An anti-toll road campaign and even Councillor CASSIDY, who referred to the mega toll road, he was bagging our proposal as a mega toll road proposal, he said it repeatedly in this place and suddenly he supports a mega toll road.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: If the Labor Party had any credibility left on anything, it disappeared on the weekend. You cannot trust a word these people say, you cannot take them at their word. One minute they say one thing, the next minute they say the total opposite. It’s extraordinary. Meanwhile, people are sitting in traffic and they need solutions and they need action. On the weekend, when I was asked about this, I supported it because I want to see action. As tempting as it was to say you can’t trust the Labor Party and this is another cynical ploy to get them through yet another election without actually doing anything, I didn’t say that; I welcomed the announcement.

The reality is I certainly hope that this will deliver real action and real outcomes. Maybe there’s a little flicker of hope, maybe some people might say that I’m naïve to say that, but certainly I have that hope because it is needed. It is needed absolutely and the State Government and the Labor Party have neglected the northside for far too long, that needs to change. I did want to mention to Councillors here who might be making their final speeches today—

Chair: At that point, LORD MAYOR, I have to interrupt you. Your time has expired.

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, I recognise that was an attempt to shut me down, Councillor McLACHLAN. Councillor MATIC and Councillor McLACHLAN have been good and faithful servants of the City of Brisbane now for many, many years and they will both be sorely missed.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They will both be terribly missed. They have both served their local communities well as local Councillors, but also served in senior leadership roles of this Council for many years as well. That is a true testament to their love for this city, their commitment to Brisbane and the people that they represent.

Councillor MATIC was first appointed to Brisbane City Council in May 2007, I remember it well. Then he went on to successfully contest four elections, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020 and served with distinction in Civic Cabinet for over a decade, 11 years to be precise. Was the chair of multiple committees including Environment, Parks and Sustainability, Public Transport or Public and Active Transport, Field Services and Lifestyle and Community Services. He also as a local Councillor kicked some serious goals for his area.

The creation of Frew Park in particular, where you will remember the old tennis centre at Milton, which would have been otherwise shut down and developed, was turned into a park. Councillor MATIC was a champion for that project and the investment that was made has made it one of the most loved parks in Brisbane and also one of the unique parks where there’s parts of the playground and facilities that are designed for older kids. When I say older kids, I’m talking about not people that would appreciate playgrounds, but maybe a little bit more daring and adventurous. It was a ground-breaking playground and a great asset and legacy that Councillor MATIC has left.

There’s been multiple Village Precinct Projects, also one he championed for a long time, a new CityCat terminal at Milton, which was successfully delivered under his watch and through his championship of that. Also the Maroon CityGlider as well, a fantastic local service that not only services Councillor MATIC’s ward but other important parts of the city as well. I know that you don’t know exactly what you’re going to be doing next, but we certainly wish you all the best for the future, Councillor MATIC. As I said, you have been a great servant to the people of Brisbane, this city and in fact this team as well, so we do, on behalf of our entire team, wish you all the best for the future and we know that you won’t be a stranger going forward.

Councillor McLACHLAN, elected to Council in October 2006, this was a by‑election. I had come in in a by-election the year before that and I remember the by-election almost as well as you do because I remember the Labor Party’s plastic rack on the booth was, stop overdevelopment now. So in 2006 they were campaigning against the provision of new homes and they have never stopped, they have never stopped. They’ve been nothing if consistent in opposing the construction of new homes. But the people in that area rejected such NIMBY (not in my backyard) attitudes, as they continue to do these days and you were successfully elected in that by-election. Then again in 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020.

You were also a member of Civic Cabinet for 13 years, chaired multiple committees including City Business and Water Supply, Field Services, Environment, Parks and Sustainability, Infrastructure and the Chair of Council and also the first Councillor responsible for Citizenship and Civic Education. I do enjoy every month in our big citizenship ceremonies here in City Hall hosting those events together. It is genuinely, I know, a thoroughly rewarding experience to welcome our newest citizens into the local community. You’ve done a fantastic job in this role, but also as a local Councillor as well.

The champion for the Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade and one that was not without its challenges, a very complex project. But one that in hindsight, can you imagine whether we would be able to have the Olympics or the Olympic Village at Hamilton Northshore if we hadn’t done the work to upgrade Kingsford Smith Drive? Really we did that upgrade largely—and the largest beneficiaries were the State Government of Queensland who own all the land at the end of that upgrade. So you championed that project, that project has delivered a wonderful outcome, not only as a road upgrade and a boulevarding project, but as an active transport corridor. There are thousands upon thousands of people every day using that new section of riverwalk. They will soon be able to cross the new Breakfast Creek bridge and link in with the rest of the network.

You championed the creation of Ascot Park, which is the ironic conversion of a parking lot into a park. So it’s the reverse of that song where we paved paradise to put up a parking lot, this was taking a parking lot and turning it into a park. That was a fantastic outcome and I know one that you’re very proud of as well. Councillor McLACHLAN was also the Chair responsible at the time for our first mass transit study and it was under Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, wasn’t it?

Chair: Yes.

LORD MAYOR: Out of that mass transit study came the creation of the CityGlider concept and the creation ultimately of the first CityGlider, the Blue CityGlider, which remains if not the most popular, always one of the most popular and well-patronised services in the whole of Brisbane. Then became a blue—sorry, a Blue CityGlider became a Maroon CityGlider and obviously, as you know, we’re proposing a further CityGlider, the gold CityGlider, which we’re waiting for the State to sign off on our business case for. You’ve also been a champion of the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge as well, which is well underway for construction. I don’t think you’ll be in the role when it’s finished, but we’ll make sure we invite you to the opening ceremony.

But once again, a faithful and humble servant of the people of your community, but also of Brisbane and we thank you for your service and wish you and Nicole all the best. I won’t tell any stories about your time being the producer for the John Laws show or anything like that, I’ll leave those stories for you to tell. But thank you, both Councillor MATIC and Councillor McLACHLAN, for your fantastic service to the city and as I said, we wish you all the best for the future.

Item A, the contracts and tendering report for April 2023 and we’re doing item B as well together, is that right, Mr Chair, A and B together?

Chair: A and B together, yes, for debate and vote.

LORD MAYOR: The contracts and tendering report in relation to 12 contracts coming through, 12 out of 12 contracts are awarded to local suppliers, being 100% of contracts, well in excess of our 80% target for local contracts. So far this financial year, 184 contracts have been awarded to local suppliers, being 85% of all contracts, making a total spend so far to the end of April of $1.2 billion with local suppliers, $1.2 billion with local suppliers. In relation to questions that were asked previously by Councillor JOHNSTON, no doubt one of the chairs will be able to answer those questions in the further discussion.

Item B is the Stores Board submission relating to grass cutting. This is a contract that is very important, not only to Council but also to the people of Brisbane, because it helps to ensure that our city is looking well maintained, is maintained to an expectation that the community has. Also that we deal with, what is our unique subtropical climate, where the grass tends to grow and we resource very fully the grass cutting services. But we also make sure that those grass cutting services are provided in a way that provides best value for money for ratepayers as well. So not only is it a good level of service, but also an efficient level of service through the contract model.

Now we know that Labor Councillors like to rail against any kind of contracts with external providers. I will again point out that it was the Labor Party that very first outsourced the grass cutting contracts. It was under Lord Mayor Jim Soorley that they outsourced grass cutting from Council to external providers, but in fact—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**694/2022-23**

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Not only did they outsource the contracts to external providers, they outsourced it to a foreign company, a foreign company. Yes and when they say that they don’t support this sort of thing, don’t believe them. They outsourced grass cutting, they outsourced rubbish collection, two of the most basic services that Council provides, they outsourced. So you cannot believe a word they say when it comes to contracts or outsourcing. Look, they may have pre-prepared questions and statements provided by their union masters, but the reality is they don’t believe it, they won’t do it and—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: What’s so funny?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Councillors, please.

LORD MAYOR: They’re denying that they have union masters.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Wow, okay, I think you’d better tell your union masters that.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MACKAY, please.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, so we know Labor’s record when it comes to outsourcing to private contractors. It is there for all to see, it is there for history to show, but we’ll see what they say about it today. With this contract there are five key categories in the contract, commercial grass cutting, services of Council wards, cemeteries, closed landfill sites, social enterprise and community organisations and also long-reach grass cutting. When I say long-reach, I don’t mean Longreach, I mean hard to get to, hard to get to grass cutting and difficult sites. Multiple tenderers bid for multiple categories and the categories have been aligned to the equipment types required to service them and the skills and capabilities of the contractors that put up proposals.

The contract will begin on 1 July this year, with an initial term of three years and an option to extend for a further two years. In one single cut of the city alone, Council mows around 45 million square metres of grass, which takes almost two weeks to deliver, so one single cut across the city takes almost two weeks. In the summer periods of high grass growth, we’re mowing back-to-back. So it’s two weeks and then two weeks and then two weeks, it’s a continuous mowing schedule during those summer weeks.

Councillor MARX will speak more about this contract and also optimum grass growing conditions, which I understand are above 24 degrees Celsius with a certain amount of rainfall. But Councillor MARX is right across this because she’s very passionate about city standards and wanting to make sure that we maintain the highest possible standard through our city. These contracts will help achieve that and just as we have a proud record of investing more in the basics, whether it’s grass cutting, whether it’s road resurfacing, footpath repairs, we have invested more than any other Administration before in grass cutting and those basic services. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate, items A and B?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Just checking, no, there are no toys left in the cot. The LORD MAYOR’s chucked them all out there over his strange 30-minute contribution he started. He’s a sore loser really when it comes to—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please items before us.

Councillor CASSIDY: —all of those issues that he litigated in his first 10 minutes and then was quite a rollercoaster ride listening to the LORD MAYOR then. Clause A, these contracts before us today, another month and another group of projects that are being outsourced. As I have said many, many times, there are certain things, particularly even on this list, that are fair enough to get experts in the field to be delivering them. Council isn’t in the business of constructing pontoons as a speciality, we accept that. You go to a specialist and get that and get the best price for them. But one did really jump out to me and it’s contract number 7, the Smoother Suburban Streets construction package. This is resurfacing suburban streets, something that Council does do in-house.

There’s two lots of work that happens, one group of those streets which get resurfaced every year is done in-house by Council, purchasing materials to do that but carries out that work. Then there’s another group which is entirely contracted out, we see here before us today, this time it’s nearly $7 million. In conversations I have had with Council officers over the last few months about some of those cost pressures that are being placed on the Council budget—and this applies to other work that’s done in-house, particularly around tree trimming, the limited amount of tree trimming and the limited amount of tree planting that’s done in-house. Also around footpath work and particularly around resurfacing suburban streets.

There have been much lower cost pressures for the ratepayers of Brisbane on the work that’s done in-house as opposed to the work that’s done externally. So the price of those externally contracted jobs for road resurfacing has gone through the roof, whereas the work that’s done in-house by Council staff, who have permanency of employment, great working conditions and are paid decent wages, that is costing a lot less than that external work at the moment. So that tells you—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Better value for money, that’s right. So that tells you, paints a very clear picture as to the kind of conversation we should be having around genuine value for money. We know under this LNP Administration they don’t care about that. They don’t really care about the suburbs and delivering for the suburbs of Brisbane. We’ll get to this in a moment as well with grass cutting services. The argument, I guess, that the LNP mounts around value for money is that contract—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, sorry to interrupt you. We’ll stop the clock. There’s an issue with your microphone apparently that might be resolved if you turn it off and on again, the old turn it off and on again. Let’s see how we go.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Sure. How is that?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Fire away and let’s see how we go.

Councillor CASSIDY: Contracting out these services—I have lost my train of thought. Maybe I should start again entirely and I’ll come back to that. The LNP’s argument around—how are we going? Is it fine?

Chair: I’m getting the word—yes?

Councillor CASSIDY: Not sure. The LNP’s argument around contracting out these services is that it’s cheaper, is that it’s better value for money. That’s the argument that the LNP makes. When you actually talk to staff who are managing these projects, they tell you a very different story. I guess for the LNP, materials that those external contractors buy are the same as the materials that we are purchasing as a Council in-house, so the variable there is the labour costs. It has to be. So the external contractor doing this work not only has the same costs of material that Council does—the ratepayers of Brisbane do, when you do it directly in-house—but they have to make a profit as well in doing this work. If they are making a profit doing this work, this road resurfacing, and they have the increased cost in consumables and materials that Council also has, the only other variable for them to make a profit is to pay people less. That’s the simple equation in this.

What we should be doing as a Council, and what Labor commits to doing, is to having a root-and-branch review of all of these practices, because you can’t offer value for money for ratepayers when you continue to contract out basic services. Those services inevitably cost more than in-house services, and then under the LNP, you have to engage in contracts to manage those external contracts. So it really is not good value for money.

On grass cutting on Clause B, costs to Council, so costs to the ratepayers of Brisbane, on these grass cutting services, are going through the roof, and again that theme continues to come through the papers that are before us today in the contracts in Clause A. In this contract in Clause B, residents pay more and get less under this LNP Administration’s contracting program.

Just like I described on those basic services like road resurfacing, the time has come for a conversation and a full cost-benefit analysis of providing these basic services in-house. We need to have a clear-eyed view of what the costs to the ratepayers are in continuing to contract out basic services versus doing them in‑house and having total control and total flexibility over those services.

The LORD MAYOR got up and said, a previous Labor administration contracted out grass cutting services, therefore, we are not allowed, by extension, to raise these issues. I know he’s a real stickler for previous positions, so whatever apparently a previous Labor administration did, Labor Councillors have to toe that line. I know he does that with Sallyanne, the long lunches and the overseas travel, of course. He’s kept all of that up and that tradition in his Administration, those boozy affairs. But we’re in 2023. We’re in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. Residents expect to get decent value for money and a decent return in the suburbs for their rates. Why are we not looking at this, particularly when officers within Council are describing the better flexibility and the better value for money on in‑house services to us as opposed to contracting those out?

Does a full in-house grass cutting service work? We don’t know, because the LNP refuse to do that work, they are so hellbent on contracting those things out. Where is the comparison before us today? We’re often presented with paperwork that says, Council, we might have used to 10 or 20 years ago been able to perform certain duties; we can’t anymore because we don’t have that capability because of the continued contracting out.

There’s nothing—well, there are a few things—but grass cutting is well and truly in that category of basic ongoing work. It has to happen all year round across thousands of parks. We know where those parks are. The LORD MAYOR has gone through that scientific calculation on the square meterage cutting and the optimal grass growing weather, so we know that. We know that. We have those details. So where is the cost-benefit analysis?

As I said before, there’s no way—and also that will be illegal soon, same job, same pay, thanks to a Federal Labor Government—that external contractors and labour hire workers should or can be in the future paid less than in-house Council workers. They absolutely shouldn’t. That’s a statement of values and principles that workers deserve to be paid decently for the work they do.

The LNP’s approach is that they can get so-called better value for money for these services by contracting them out to companies that pay less. It’s the only argument they can make. It’s the only logical argument that the LNP can make. So the question does need to be asked, and without that answer as to the genuine value for money proposition for ratepayers, we won’t be supporting these contracts before us today.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate on items A and B?

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak briefly on item A of contracts and tendering, in particular the restoration and repair of Brisbane’s public pontoons and river access points.

In this contract, the Jamboree Ward had four of the seven pontoons that suffered significant damage during the February 2022 floods. The focus of this contract is more than just replacing the pontoons; it is focused on building back better. Each of the sites has a bespoke flood-resilient design, including a bow-shaped pontoon to deflect debris, increase pile heights—larger and stronger piles—a reinforced restraint system to keep the pontoons tethered, and most importantly, the emission of Styrofoam.

Many people probably don’t realise that most pontoons are made with a Styrofoam base. During the floods, hundreds of pontoons littered the pristine beaches of Moreton Island. The Styrofoam from the pontoons emerged as a major problem, exemplified by the presence of countless tiny balls scattered across the beach, resembling snow. The broken Styrofoam blocks, both large and small, could be found throughout the bay and washing into the island’s creeks, causing an environmental disaster for marine life and all wildlife in the vicinity of the shoreline.

In recognising the need for a more sustainable solution, we, as an Administration, have made the decision to transition to an environmentally-friendly pontoon that is free from Styrofoam. In speaking with the designers, these new pontoons will have an aluminium-encased air pillow that will create the buoyancy needed for the pontoon. The design and fabrication of these improved, lightweight, multichambered aluminium pontoons has demanded considerable resources and time.

I want to emphasise our commitment to building back better and restoring and repairing these public pontoons. I would also like to put on record my thanks to the officers for their consultation with the Centenary Rowing Club and our local dragon boat club to ensure these newly established pontoons support their clubs’ needs. By undertaking these efforts, we are creating stronger, more resilient infrastructure that will serve our community for years to come.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers on items A and B?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: First of all, a point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The LORD MAYOR said that a Chair would provide the answers to my question, and I’d like that information before I speak, so is someone going to do that?

Chair: Okay. Is that your contribution to this debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, that’s a point of order.

Chair: Point of order, okay.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. I can provide that information to Councillor JOHNSTON with regards to the Sherwood Arboretum and the cost of the pontoon: $970,000, and it has all of those features that were just identified by Councillor HUTTON. So it’s environmentally-friendly, it’s bespoke, and it will be better for all of the new construction elements.

With regards to the pontoon at Paragon Street, it will not be replaced. It is effectively sitting without public access in a gated community. After the 2011 floods, Council was not going to replace it either, but the gated community wanted to keep it so they replaced it, but we are not intending on replacing that pontoon this time.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I rise to speak on item A and item B, and I’ll start with item A. The first thing that I would like to put on the record relates to Contract 3. I want to thank Council, because I have been asking about this project and what is happening, and I was told it was secret. I was told I was not allowed to speak to the community about this stormwater project. I was not allowed to give any information out to the community—got it in writing—and yet here it is. Council’s letter contract weeks and weeks ago, no one has thought to advise me so I can advise a flooded community that their drainage is being upgraded, and here it is that I read it in the papers before us today.

The contract was actually approved back in April, I think. It is now June. Let me double-check that. Yes, April. It started in April. It is all underground, so I doubt they have actually started, but the big issue here is, despite asking questions and being told, it’s a secret, you can’t talk about it, here we are in the Council papers publicly announced.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON Yes, funny how it’s secret when they say it’s secret, and then suddenly, back in April months ago, apparently they let a contract for stormwater upgrades, and guess what? No one thinks to tell me. It’s not like I don’t come in here every five minutes talking about stormwater in Brisbane. Did anybody have the courtesy to tell me? No. Did any of the Council officers have the courtesy to tell me? No. Did either of the relevant Chairs have the courtesy to tell me? No. Am I on the Committee responsible for this? Did they bother to tell me? No.

This is how Council rolls. This has been the problem with flood recovery almost the whole way, that this Council could not be bothered to share information with the local community. The fact that they are not telling me—my residents say this to me all the time, all the time—Nicole, when they treat you like this, that’s how they’re treating us. They know it. They know it. So, how proud you must be over there, and to the officers who couldn’t be bothered to tell me, thanks so much. They did tell me they would keep me up to date, but of course, no.

Let’s move on, as it gets better. Finally, 15 months after the floods and a lot of prompting, Council decided to fix the pontoons around Brisbane. Okay, they are going to make them better, allegedly. We’ll see. We will see. It’s probably like they were going to make the ferry terminals better but then just forgot to activate the arms to lift them or move them so that they weren’t damage. Their brand-new shiny terminals after 2011 were damaged, so we’ll take that on notice. But how proud Councillor HUTTON must be when she stands up and says that they’re building back better. She repeated it over and over again.

Guess what I don’t think is building back better? Getting rid of a whole pontoon. Getting rid of it, just demolishing it. Guess who’s got form on this. Chelmer and Taylor Bridge Park after 2011, guess what Council did? Demolished the public pontoon and never replaced it, despite petitions, despite all of the issues.

I see Councillor HUTTON and Councillor DAVIS having a little laugh over there, but clearly they don’t know what this is. This is a riverfront parcel of land that is public riverfront land. As part of the development, which was before my time, Council conditioned a public pontoon and public access to that pontoon through the site. The site is one house away from—get this—Ken Fletcher Park. The idea here, from a long-term planning point of view, has been to make sure that portion of riverside park is ultimately connected up through town planning requirements of public land on the riverfront.

Guess what? Now we’re getting rid of a pontoon, a public pontoon with public access on public land, conditioned as part of a DA. So Council is actually breaching the DA here. I’m sure the body corporate is going to be thrilled, and I’m going to dig into this one, because this Administration has got form on failing to replace public assets after the floods.

This is the second pontoon. My ward has hundreds of kilometres of river and creek frontage, and there’s barely a pontoon in the place other than on private property, because Council keeps knocking the public ones down. This is a public pontoon, through you, Mr Chair, to Councillor DAVIS. It was conditioned. It’s on public land, and there is public access. So how do you explain that? How do you explain facilities being knocked down and not replaced? Not once, which is what is happening now in Yeronga, but twice in Chelmer, in a public park under the Walter Taylor Bridge. That pontoon was never replaced either.

That is how this Administration roll. They like to stand up and say they’re building back better. Through you, Mr Chairman, Councillor HUTTON, knocking down public facilities is not building back better; it’s actually doing it worse. It’s taking facilities away. While you stand up and say how proud you are of knocking down a little golf club over in your area—we know what you’re up to over there; I mean, what a mess you’ve got yourself into there, promising something you can’t possibly deliver—you’re happy to stand up and talk about how proud you are of knocking down public pontoons. How proud you all must be. This is not proper flood recovery for the city. Guess what? All Council has to do—

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you.

Councillor HUTTON Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor JOHNSTON: This will be explaining why I am all wrong, I’m sure, not misrepresentation, because the only thing I’ve actually attributed to her is building back better. But I don’t think building back better is knocking down public pontoons, like Councillor HUTTON does, because I think that’s actually a worse outcome—less public facilities, less access for residents. Guess what? There is a planning process underway to connect up all that land, so how proud this Council must be. Again, I will let my community know that this Administration is prepared to pay rolled gold upgrades in LNP wards but demolishes stuff in my ward without any plan to replace it. It’s not once, it’s twice.

Demolition of Voluntary Home Buy-Back package. This is the demolition of the houses that are happening once Council buys back with the State Government money. The first thing I would want to do is put on the record that I’ve made a couple of simple requests to Council, and it’s clearly too complicated for them. Firstly, we wanted some yellow lines in narrow streets to be included as part of the package. It has been a shemozzle trying to get them to understand. Again, secrecy.

The CEO won’t tell me where the houses are. I know, because the Spencers and people talk to me, but officially, for the record, I’m not allowed to know. It’s a secret. So when I ask for a yellow line, Council goes, no, you can’t have a yellow line there, and I have to explain, guess what, it’s actually Council land now. So this has been an absolute debacle for something that should be easy.

Secondly, we’ve had complaint after complaint about the demolition process itself. Every single tree on all of these blocks is being raised by the demolition contract. I do not know why Council is knocking down good native trees in good condition. There’s like 90 of these houses in my ward. We are losing hundreds and hundreds of trees. Some of them may be weeds, some of them may not be appropriate to be kept, but instead of doing the right thing and preserving the green cover and the shade, and all the benefits of biodiversity that come, this Council is knocking down every single tree on every single buy-back block.

Who thought this was okay? Who is the genius that decided knocking down trees on public land—because we own it; it’s our land—who thought knocking down trees on public land was a good idea? Who thought that maybe we should be looking at these blocks and going, let’s do a survey, let’s identify—there are half a dozen native trees on here; they’re in good condition, we’ll keep them. That’s a weed; we’ll get rid of that. Did anybody do this? No, they did not.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers—oh, point of misrepresentation first—

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. I would like to put on record that I am very proud of our reputation in building these things back better, whilst I disagree with Councillor JOHNSTON. We are doing great work in the public pontoon space.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just to be clear, are you saying that was misrepresentation?

Chair: I heard the response that was provided from Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So we can—

Chair: I’m not going to debate with you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So you’re saying that was. I’m just saying—

Chair: Please sit down. I am speaking. Please sit down.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m just trying to clarify; you’re saying that was a valid point of misrepresentation.

Chair: I’m not upholding your point of order. Please sit down.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So it wasn’t a valid point of misrepresentation.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Mr Chair, week after week I sit in this Chamber and hear the same Councillor, who is now arguing with you, doing exactly the same thing as she has just accused other people.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, that is not a point of order either.

Councillor HOWARD: I know, but let’s move on.

Chair: Are we done? Thank you.

Councillor TOOMEY, you have the floor.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item B, the Stores Board submission for grass cutting. As we’ve heard, this item seeks to establish a corporate procurement arrangement in the form of a panel arrangement for an initial term of three years with options to extend for an additional period of up to two years.

Mr Chairman, our grass cutting contractors cover a sum of 73,000 hectares across our city, but more importantly, I would like to drill down on something that Councillor CASSIDY mentioned. He said he would like a house review to pull the jobs from our contractors back into Council. While that’s an idea, as we know, when Labor put ideas forward, there are always unintended consequences. What are some of those unintended consequences? Specifically, this kind of idea would affect my ward dramatically, because we know that with one hand Labor taketh away and with other hand they just keep taking away. Let me put some context around that.

Our community groups and our sporting clubs are funding out huge amounts of money in bulk charges at the moment, charges imposed on them by the State Government. This contract seeks to go out to our community groups and provide them with the ability to provide services not only to their own facilities, and cut their own fields and their own pitches, but also to get paid for it.

Some of those community groups that would be affected by this idea would be clubs like Valley Cricket Club. Isn’t that right, Councillor WINES? Some 1,500 members. GPS Rugby Club would also be affected. I believe Ferny Grove Flyers would also be affected. This loss of revenue for them is paramount. They need an alternate source of revenue. Clubs cannot survive on beer alone. It’s not possible. This contract provides our clubs the ability to go out and earn some additional income from a completely different stream, one that is normally not opened up to them. This helps them ensure their viability.

Additionally, they get to cut and look after the pitches the way they want. We know that, specifically with Valley and the Ferny Grove Flyers, these pitches are paramount for them because they are putting some of our cricketers into the national league. It’s all done on these grounds. So going out with this idea could ultimately affect the future cricketers that are playing in the national league.

I do want to make the point that while Councillor CASSIDY is putting this idea forward, he hasn’t thought about all of the unintended consequences, and those would dramatically affect a lot of our community groups, a lot of our sporting groups, our very successful sporting groups that have seen cricketers like Matty Hayden and rugby players like John Eales go on in successful sporting fields, and they’re supported by these clubs that rely on this revenue. That’s what we’re doing: we are providing a revenue stream for other clubs.

I would finally like to say that I am in 100% support of this item B going through. Our clubs are important to us, and in my ward particularly, where we have the largest cricket club, the largest rugby club, the largest netball club, and the largest soccer club in South East Queensland—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor TOOMEY: Yes, we do, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor TOOMEY: This is vitally important that this contract go through and that we maintain—give the ability for these community groups to exercise their rights under this contract. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers on items A or B? Any further speakers?

LORD MAYOR—sorry, Councillor MARX, are you speaking on A and B?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MARX: Sorry? Councillor CASSIDY doesn’t want me to talk, sorry Chair.

Chair: Councillor MARX, please, are you rising to speak on items A or B?

Councillor MARX: I’m rising to speak on item B.

Chair: I’ve given the call to Councillor MARX.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please. Are you taking a point of order? No. Thank you.

Councillor MARX—Councillor MARX was rising to her feet.

I wasn’t sure if you were intending to speak. Councillor MARX, you have the call.

Councillor MARX: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I’m more than happy to speak on item B. I want to reiterate exactly what the LORD MAYOR said earlier about this grass cutting contract and the fact that, yes, we do have ideal grass growing conditions here in Brisbane. The temperature at 24 degrees and light showers, what we mostly hear on our BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) coming through every day, is ideal grass growing conditions. In fact, we’ve had some situations in the last few months where literally you can watch the grass grow before our eyes. Yes, our contractors do go in on a two-weekly basis. Pretty much, they finish a round and then they go back and start all over again.

One thing that a lot of people have trouble understanding in this space, however, is the very fact that cutting, as much as our contractors do across Brisbane, is not the same as your own front yard. When you’re mowing your own front yard and it has rained a little, you can wait a day or so. The grass and the ground will dry out. You can get your trusted little lawnmower out and you can mow it away, and away you go.

That is not the case with Council. When you are maintaining over 73,000 hectares of land using industrial equipment, it only needs to take a little bit of rain and the officers and the contractors cannot go in and mow, which is then where we have the situation with grass growing and we can’t get in there and do it. I make the point there that I want Councillors in this space to be mindful of that fact. Residents I know are very understanding that you cannot compare what you do in your own home with what you do as far as Council goes.

To give you an indication of the size that we’re talking about here, we’re talking about 1.5 times the size of South Stradbroke Island that we do. I know the name has been mentioned a little here this afternoon, and it seems to be the flavour of the month intentionally and unintentionally, but 1997, Councillor Soorley at the time did outsource the cutting of the city. Apparently, this has been forgotten some time ago, but officers will continue to work with our contractors to make sure we get the best value for money for our residents.

I find it—I was going to use the word offensive but I probably won’t use that word—disheartening that those of the opposite side, through you, Mr Chair, find that the work that the officers have done in this space is not good enough for them. Can I say, the Council officers who have been working not only with this contract but with the contractors for the last almost 10 months have worked extremely hard in this space to get really good value for money for our residents, and they have succeeded.

The other thing is I know they talk about the jobs. Let me tell you, those jobs support more than—there are 350 jobs that are supported with these contractors. These are mums and dads, families, businesses who are out there mowing our parks and street roadsides for us. Some places though, the person mowing the lawn could be the potential only income earner for that family. You take that away from them, and then suddenly you have a family who have zero income, and I don’t know that that in anyone’s book is a good outcome.

I just want to say—the other thing that Councillor TOOMEY mentioned was about the community groups and the social enterprises. We now have 12 of those on our books. Social enterprises are ones where they will have people who potentially might not be able to get a job in what we would call mainstream employment. They are taken on in this space, and we’ve got Nundah Community Enterprises, we’ve got Whats up Kwagga Limited, we’ve got Active Refugee and Migrant Integration in Australia, commonly known as ARMIA, who have an office in my ward, and they work specifically with migrants who have been in this country and have not had employment for more than seven years. They work specifically with that range of migrants, so now these migrants, who are living in this country, are now out there doing a solid day’s work mowing our parks and our roadways.

I think to say they don’t deserve this job is a bit disingenuous on their part, so I don’t agree with anything that they on the Opposition have said. I want to finish by saying I want to congratulate again the officers for the amount of tremendous work, and I look forward to working with all the contractors in that space. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Is there any further debate? No further debate?

LORD MAYOR, summing up, no?

We will now move to the vote on A and B.

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

ABSTENTIONS: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE and Trina MASSEY.

Chair: Councillor LANDERS.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **695/2022-23**  At that time, 2.58pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, 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:**

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

We continue with the E&C report. We’re up to items C, D and E.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair.

**Seriatim – Clause E**

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| The LORD MAYOR requested that Clause E, MAJOR AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – BRIDGEMAN DOWNS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

LORD MAYOR: Item C is the renewal of telecommunication leases at various locations, and particularly for both Telstra and Optus telecommunications towers on Council land. The leases for these sites are currently on holdover while Council has been negotiating with Telstra and Optus on the renewals. The submission today recommends 10-year leases for all of the sites, with various amounts payable in rent to Council. Some of the sites, Council manages in trust from the State, which will mean Ministerial approval is required for these sites. Obviously, it’s something that’s been done in the past and we’ll seek again. Much like we do with community leases that come through to the Chamber, these submissions seek an exemption which allows Council to renew a lease directly without going to tender.

Item D is the integrated mass transit service contract extension, and so this previously was known as the bus contract. It is now the integrated mass transit service contract.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, that’s right, but ultimately, it helps support the provision of bus services across the city via TfB (Transport for Brisbane), and that includes the State paying us to provide services, but obviously, as Councillors are well aware, it doesn’t cover the full cost of running those services. So, we receive a contract payment from the State Government and then, to meet the gap, we provide a transport operating subsidy. It is the reason why we have far better services in Brisbane than all of the surrounding Council areas have, because we subsidise the provision of services and we supplement them. So, routes that wouldn’t be seen as so viable in other areas, we continue to provide because we are committed to public transport, but obviously, that is one of the reasons why we’re doing the bus network review.

Councillor MURPHY has discussed the release of consultation on the bus network review just in recent times and the outcome of that consultation, and obviously, that’s something that we’re taking into consideration when it comes to finalising and planning the new bus network, to coincide with the commencement of Metro services. It’s a very exciting period in the city’s history when it comes to public transport. This particular contract helps us get through to that period until Metro starts and then, obviously, we’ll continue talking to the State Government about how we gear up services as Metro opportunities arise.

In July 2019, we entered into our current integrated mass transit service contract with the Queensland Government, with a term of three years with a one year extension, which means it’s now time to renew that agreement. The item before us today extends the current contract again, providing for a further term of up to two years, expiring at the earlier of 24 June 2025 or the commencement of Metro services. Otherwise, the item before us maintains many of the same aspects as the current contract with a few notable exceptions.

First, we know that once Metro services come online, they’ll be subject to a separate contract which we will work out with Translink, and we continue to work on that in a collaborative manner. Contract also acknowledges the implementation of zero emission buses, which includes the provisions for us to collaborate with Translink to finalise a plan for that transition. Councillor MURPHY referred to this in Question Time earlier. It’s something that we’re very keen to have resolved and certainly keen to have some clarity around how the State intends to ensure that all operators, whether they be TfB or other bus operators across the State, particularly in the urban area, can transition our fleet to zero-emission buses.

We stand ready and willing to kick off that as soon as possible, bearing in mind the industry capacity constraints which were highlighted by Translink themselves. We know that when we went out to tender for electric buses a few years back, the local industry could not meet requirements at that time, and there are still question marks over whether they can meet those requirements now, although that industry capacity is gearing up. There’s been a select few local buses that have been produced—electric buses that have been produced, but very, very small numbers. Councillors would be aware, our fleet exceeds 1,200 buses, and so the type of scale that we’re talking about here requires a massive upskilling and gearing up of production capabilities if they’re to be built locally.

This is definitely something we need urgent clarity on from the State. We have pitched a very detailed proposal to the State on our transition to zero-emission buses, and we are obviously waiting for that to be approved or at least negotiated with the State Government, so hopefully we can get that resolved, as well. In the meantime, this particular contract extension largely continues the same arrangements that are in place at the moment, and then working towards that change for the Metro.

Item E is the major amendment to the *Brisbane City Plan 2014* for the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan. Well, really, the most important thing Councillors need to be aware of at this point in time is that this plan helps facilitate the creation of up to 3,800 new homes, so almost 4,000 new homes. What will Labor and Green Councillors do? Will they support the provision of new homes or will they oppose the provision of new homes? Will they find some NIMBY excuses to latch onto or will they get out of the way and support urgently needed homes? This is obviously one of many neighbourhood plans that have come through that have helped facilitate thousands upon thousands of new homes.

We have seen around 80 to 90% of all neighbourhood plans opposed by Labor Councillors in this place, which is a truly shameful outcome and one that very clearly puts them in the NIMBY camp and really makes them part of the problem rather than part of the solution. That is really disappointing because we know that, as our city continues to grow, we will need more houses, not fewer houses. We will need real supply coming online. This idea that some Councillors espouse that is, oh, we support new housing, but just not any of the housing that’s been proposed, is just a recipe for disaster and a recipe for failure. It’s a Greens approach, it’s a Labor approach, and if it was unchecked, our city would have a far greater housing problem than it does at the moment.

I don’t think anyone has ever suggested that we are somehow a NIMBY Council or an anti-development Council. We have certainly done our part to increase supply, but sadly, there is an alternative approach and that alternative approach will make things much, much worse, much, much worse. I would simply say there’s an opportunity to redeem themselves in the Chamber today and support the creation of up to 3,800 new homes, and those homes—you know, if it gives them any comfort—are not in Labor wards.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They’re not in Green wards. So, if you have that NIMBY vein running deep through our body, allow yourself to support the creation of homes in an LNP ward, because that is what is being proposed here because—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —we are happy to support provision of new homes at a time when they are greatly needed. I commend item E to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**S****eriatim - Clauses C, D and E**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause C, RENEWAL OF TELECOMMUNICATION LEASES, VARIOUS LOCATIONS; Clause D, INTEGRATED MASS TRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT – DEED OF VARIATION; and Clause E, MAJOR AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – BRIDGEMAN DOWNS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes. I’ll start on item C, the renewal of the telecommunication leases at various locations. We will support this item today, given that it will ensure the continuity of telecommunication services across the city, right across the suburbs of Brisbane, so we don’t have any issues with those leases, and they also derive an income for ratepayers. So, we’ll be supporting that item today.

Clause D, the integrated mass transit service contract deed of variation. When a new service is included into contracts, variations are required to that contract to reflect and incorporate those changes. In this case, it’s the Brisbane Metro bus project. We’ve been advised that these are basic, back end contract amendments for a period of time. We are a little wary, a little wary about these changes because we know they are the result of a project that has this LORD MAYOR’s fingerprints all over it, the bendy-bus project, which we now know is—and as a result, these changes, the variation in this contract has to be delayed, as well, because the project has been delayed by more than a year now, by more than a year, and over budget by $1 billion.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: No, not rubbish. Not rubbish, Councillor MURPHY. I’ll take that interjection. The Metro as proposed by this LORD MAYOR was to cost $944 million. It was to be online, from my memory in 2023-24, when those services were to start. We are now advised that it’ll be post-2025 and that price tag is continuing to rise. The last figure we had was $1.7 billion, but knowing that is rising, as well. So, that probably will be in excess of $1 billion over budget. Those services, we know that contract for those overseas-made buses, those Swiss-made buses, which were designed to look like a tram, we know their manufacturing cost has gone up astronomically, as well.

We know that this Administration is playing in the foreign trading, currency trading game to try and maintain that contract, just putting undue risk on the ratepayers of Brisbane. We also know that that contract for those buses from that Swiss company is over a 10-year period, so of course, there’s a bit—there is some trepidation, I guess, in going into these deeds of variation for the bus service contract when there are so many unknowns, so many unknown variables coming into this, as well. We really are not sure when those Metro services will start. We don’t know how many of those buses are going to be delivered in 2025 and we have no idea what the final cost on that project will be.

Included in these amendments to the contract are details about the transition to zero tailpipe emissions, and I’m glad that discussions are finally being had between Council and the State Government about that, because I remember sitting almost a year ago, just under, about a week shy of a year ago, sitting in that budget information session with Councillor MURPHY where he admitted that no forward planning had been done to accommodate the transition to zero tailpipe emissions a year ago.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: None whatsoever, because Council’s plan under the LNP was just to continue from 2023 on, even though an announcement had been made about transition to zero tailpipe and electric buses. Council’s position was to continue to buy diesel buses, new diesel buses. There was no plan around a transition. So, I’m glad that that is actually happening now. I suppose it’s better late than never when it comes to the LNP. We know their so-called environmental credentials are only when they’re dragged kicking and screaming or when they’re shamed into things. The LORD MAYOR tries to distract and say that Council has a bus fleet of 1,200—1,260-odd buses and it would be too hard to convert them all to electric overnight. That’s not the intent of the policy.

It’s that new buses purchased and planned for in the future are transitioned to zero tailpipe emissions, so new buses are made—and wouldn’t it have been amazing if we had the political leadership here in Brisbane that made the decision to work with local bus manufacturers years ago to deliver world-class electric buses. That facility at Eagle Farm, the Volgren facility, is the most advanced of its kind anywhere in the world, and they say they can gear up and make electric buses, but they’re never given the opportunity, because when Councillor MURPHY and LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER announced with great fanfare a couple of years ago that they were rolling out two of the first electric buses on Brisbane streets, they went straight to a Chinese company and had them import it instead of working with the industry, not supporting local manufacturing, not supporting local manufacturing when they were on the hunt for biarticulated buses for the Brisbane Metro.

The local companies that were vying for that work were knocked out—and we know this as a fact—were knocked out of contention because their bus looked a little too much like a bus. Their bus looked a bit like a bus. The LORD MAYOR’s specifications in those tender documents were that those buses were to look like trams, and that Swiss company were able to deliver that, something that looked a little bit like a tram, which is now costing hundreds of millions of dollars more for the ratepayers of Brisbane than would otherwise have been necessary. So, certainly glad that that conversation is happening around the transition to zero tailpipe emissions.

We know there are other consequences, as well, and further variations to Council’s service agreement will have to be made in the future, as well, because of the bus review which was triggered by the introduction of the Metro service, as well. We know that there were 18 routes that were either merged, truncated, stopped early or completely cut. There’s no investment in new suburban services in the outer suburbs of Brisbane. There’s only been merges, cuts, changes to service as a result of this Metro bus project, all because this $1.7 billion plus project is going to apparently—and I suppose that’s yet to be seen—add, I think, about 2,500 seats an hour capacity to the South East Busway network.

So, there are some huge suburban ramifications for certain communities in Brisbane around now a greater lack of public transport access. There’s also—this review totally missed the opportunity to look at increased suburban public transport services and new links in the outer suburbs of Brisbane, as well. You know, we understand these things technically have to be done, but there is a great sense of trepidation going into them when they’ve got the LNP’s fingerprints all over them for us.

On item E, the major amendment to the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan. On this one, this is the final stage of where this is coming back to Council. I’ll just be one moment. I note that there has been—I note at the outset there’s been a change to what Ministerial condition—I’m not sure if the LORD MAYOR talked about that. I was listening, but I didn’t hear this section. A Ministerial condition that’s been included which is in section 7.2.2.5, item section B, which is to amend the overall outcome—sorry, 3B in part seven there where it says, it will now read multiple dwellings are not accommodated in a low density residential zone, including where in a precinct or potential development area.

There hasn’t been a lot of explanation about that in the report before us today, and obviously in the neighbourhood plan as presented, it’s just not there, except for the fact that there’s been this change in the wording there as part of the State interest check and the Ministerial designation. I remember this section well because I did talk extensively about it when the neighbourhood plan came here last year, in that the Administration was—so, that relates to not allowing multiple dwelling units and townhouses in a low density residential area. It also included another line which is now no longer there, which also banned units and townhouses, multiple dwellings in the emerging community zone in the draft neighbourhood plan which was brought to Council last year and sent up to the State Government, which was the first time I certainly had ever seen that before.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. That’s certainly the first time I had ever seen that, where the purpose of emerging community’s land was largely—didn’t have a specific zoning on it at the time, and then whether through a planning scheme amendment or a development application process and then reflected in a planning scheme amendment, the zoning would be changed to whatever was appropriate, but the Administration tried to limit the amount of housing choice through multiple dwelling units in emerging community’s land in the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan area. So, I guess the LORD MAYOR, through this process, was caught out in the midst of a housing crisis in trying to limit the amount of housing choice that would be included in the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan area. You know, last week, the LORD MAYOR made a big song and dance about limiting suburban sprawl in this Chamber. He said we had to go up instead of out—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —and we accepted that argument. We accepted that argument.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: We accepted that argument when that development and density is supported through the provision of community infrastructure. We made that very clear. It’s to support that growth. That wasn’t demonstrated last week and it’s not demonstrated again—off he runs—this week. He’s talked about an additional 3,800 dwellings accommodated out here in the LORD MAYOR’s own proud words, but where is the infrastructure to support that. That is the question everyone was asking last week. It continues to be the question everyone asks every time this Administration talks about the development of new housing. Poor old Councillor ALLAN before was—you know, their care and concern is for the developers.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: He was making that case. He was imploring, won’t somebody please think of those developers? Won’t somebody in here, won’t someone amongst the 19 LNP Councillors think about the community?

Councillor ALLAN: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor ALLAN. Microphone.

Councillor ALLAN: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Sorry, can you say that on mic?

Councillor ALLAN: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor CASSIDY: So, where is the infrastructure? Last week, during that TLPI debate, it was made very clear by the DEPUTY MAYOR that, through that process, the provision of community infrastructure was not included. The community was to be ignored when it came to the provision of infrastructure. That’s happened again, and I suppose we were being a bit generous last week in saying that, through a planning scheme amendment, that sort of thing can actually be included, because when you look here at the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan, which is a planning scheme amendment, that also isn’t the case. The community infrastructure isn’t to be included.

When you look at the feedback that the community gave on this neighbourhood plan, there are a couple of clear themes. Delivering basic services and infrastructure alongside development is certainly one of those. It was made well and clear ahead of this neighbourhood plan process starting, given the amount of unplanned growth that was occurring in the area, and it’s also been made really, really clear in the consultation that occurred during this neighbourhood plan. There were clear themes. People wanted Council to deliver services and also, importantly, protect the unique bushland of the area through this neighbourhood plan. Residents said alongside growth, they wanted to see things like better parks, better footpaths, better roads and drainage, and better transport options. Yes, pretty simple. Not rocket science.

You know what the response from the LNP LORD MAYOR and their local LNP Councillor, Tracy DAVIS, was? No. No, sorry, that’s not part—this is what they said to residents—that’s not part of the planning process under the LNP. They take the—their approach to neighbourhood planning is all about density, we know that. It’s about height limit. It’s about gross cover, site cover, but it’s not how a neighbourhood moves or interacts with one another, how a neighbourhood looks and feels. It’s all about developers. It’s never about the neighbourhood, unfortunately. Residents made clear they wanted better bushland protection, given the threat of destruction of the bushland at 415 to 427 Beckett Road, Bridgeman Downs. That’s just one of many examples out in that part of the world, but it’s one that’s certainly galvanised the community.

The neighbourhood plan talks about ecological protection in the significant Mountains to Mangroves Corridor, but in reality, it doesn’t deliver any protection. All we have seen throughout this process and previously under the LNP is destruction of that corridor. So, if there was a serious intention to protect this land and bushland in this area, while accommodating that increased growth and housing choice—and we certainly were very critical of the LNP in ruling out multiple unit dwelling in the emerging community zone. I’m glad to see that’s changed, but if there was a genuine approach to bushland protection, we might have been inclined to support the neighbourhood plan. In the spirit of doing a deal here today, I’ll condition our support of the neighbourhood plan with the following.

I’ve finished what I’m going to say here, Chair, but I’ll now rise on a point of order

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

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Could I ask your direction on a motion that may have been presented to Council in recent times and dismissed, therefore it cannot be presented again? I’m not sure on the timing—

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —but I do know we have debated this in a motion.

Chair: Yes.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I just ask for your ruling.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY, it is a repetition of a point of order that has previously been raised, but as you’ve moved a motion for the suspension of standing rules, I’ll allow that urgency motion to be moved by you.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. This piece of land absolutely needs to be saved. It’s clear before us today, the papers that are being presented to this Council Chamber today does not include enough protection for that piece of bushland at 415 to 427 Beckett Road, Bridgeman Downs. Any development on that site is not good for that critical habitat. There are threatened native species on that site, including koalas.

Councillor LANDERS: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: Platypus have also been filmed in nearby creeks.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: This is to urgency, Chair?

Chair: I’ve allowed—

Councillor LANDERS: So, why it couldn’t be on yesterday when everyone had the ability to read what was in the report?

Chair: Thank you. I’ve allowed for the motion to be moved.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. It’s really clear that this piece of land, which is a critical link in Brisbane’s extremely sensitive biodiversity—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Under the rules of suspension of standing orders, the three minutes is to say why it cannot be on the papers—

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —at one o’clock yesterday. You got the papers last Thursday. Why is the—

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

I’m allowing you to cite why you believe this to be urgent, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. This piece of land is well-known. Councillor DAVIS knows this. Councillor—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: The DEPUTY MAYOR knows this. Councillor LANDERS knows this needs to be protected. They also know that the neighbourhood plan before us today doesn’t protect this land. They know that it doesn’t protect this land. What we can do today is move a resolution to commit that Council buys this critical piece of the Mountains to Mangroves Corridor using the Bushland Acquisition Fund. We know that that needs to be changed. What is it, 18% of—

Councillor LANDERS: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —that fund is used to purchase—

Chair: Point of—

Councillor LANDERS: Why could this not be—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Hang on, hang on. One at a time, please.

Councillor LANDERS: Why couldn’t this have been put on the agenda yesterday?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I’m allowing—Councillor LANDERS, I hear your point of order. I’m allowing Councillor CASSIDY to move his rationale for suspension of standing rules.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I was going to say, Mr Chair, I asked a question. Do you believe he’s showing a rationale for yesterday or debating the motion? I ask your ruling.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, I’m not going to respond to that point of—that question you raise in your point of order. I’m allowing Councillor CASSIDY to establish the rationale for moving a suspension of standing rules.

Councillor CASSIDY: This piece of land is not protected under the neighbourhood plan that the LNP Councillor Tracy DAVIS and the LORD MAYOR proposes to put through this Council today. We need to send a strong signal to that community out there who said their number one issue, their number one issue as well as service delivery in the suburbs was protecting this piece of land and other sensitive land.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Mr Chair, do you—

Chair: Point of order to you.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Can I ask—

Chair: Sorry, hang on.

Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR, yes? Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: May I ask you a question? That is a point of order.

Chair: Is it a point of order?

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of orders, under section 53, a point of order can be made if a Councillor needs to ask a question. Under section 53, section E, seeks a question.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Okay, Councillor, I’ll allow you to ask the question.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Mr Chair, do you believe he is proving urgency or debating the motion?

Chair: I’m not going to respond to that question, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: You need to make a ruling or answer my question.

Chair: I’ll make a ruling that I’m allowing Councillor CASSIDY to complete his rationale for the reason for suspension of standing rules.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order.

**Procedural motion – Motion of dissent**

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The DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.

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

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. How rude of the DEPUTY MAYOR. I mean, this is an incredible—this is an—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Rude and incompetent, absolutely. I’ll move on. This is incredibly—this piece of land at 415 to 427 Beckett Road, Bridgeman Downs is a critical link in the Mountains to Mangroves Corridor. The LNP are refusing to protect it. The community wants it protected. They wanted it protected through their neighbourhood plan. That is not happening. We think this is a great way to protect it. We should buy this land.

Chair: Your time has expired, Councillor CASSIDY.

The motion before us is for the suspension of standing rules.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: We return to debate on E&C items C, D and E.

Is there any further debate?

Councillor ALLAN. Further debate, Councillor ALLAN?

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item E, the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan. This is the final step in the adoption of this neighbourhood plan. Prior to the amendment process, Bridgeman Downs was covered by both the Bracken Ridge and district plan and the McDowall-Bridgeman Downs plan, adopted in 2010 and 2008 respectively. It was clear that an updated neighbourhood plan is required for the area to guide future development and land use and coordinate long-term infrastructure planning for the area. Since the neighbourhood plan process commenced in 2019, we have undertaken several rounds of community engagement.

As the LORD MAYOR indicated, this included over 600 submissions, either written, online or via interactive mapping tools, and community information sessions and kiosks attended by over 340 residents, so quite a lot of engagement in the consultation phases. This engagement with residents, along with technical research and reports, informed the new Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan that includes changes to zonings, overlays, and planning scheme policies. Councillor CASSIDY spoke at length about infrastructure provision. The draft Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) has also been updated to provide new infrastructure to support growth in the area.

Future infrastructure planned for Bridgeman Downs includes three new Local general recreational parks at Roghan Road, Beckett Road, and an expansion to Kensington Place Park, and one new District general recreation park on Neville Road, amounting to over 5.7 hectares of additional parkland. There will be three new road corridor projects at Graham Road, Beams Road between Bridgeman Road to Ridley Road, and Beams Road-Ridley Road to Gympie Road, as well as cycling routes connecting Tiverton Place to Camelot Place, Neville Road to Bridgeman Road, and Retreat Street to Bridgeman Road.

The LGIP 1B amendment will soon be made available for public consultation. This new neighbourhood plan will also enable future development for residential areas that supports sustainable growth. For example, there are proposed zoning changes to over 900 properties, including 431 properties changing from rural to low density residential, as well as 403 properties changing from emerging community to low density residential. It has been estimated that the new neighbourhood plan will support nearly 4,000 new dwellings in the area. However, the neighbourhood plan also endeavours to maintain a rural feel by supporting acreage and larger suburban lots in selected precincts that will protect the neighbourhood character of the well-separated houses in a bushland setting and protect the environment.

We are seeking a balanced outcome with this plan that provides for housing, but at the same time recognising the character and environmental values of the area. The community feedback during this process indicated that protecting the environment and the wildlife which live and move through Bridgeman Downs is a high priority. As such, through the neighbourhood plan, we will continue to protect and enhance the environmental and diversity values along Albany Creek, Cabbage Tree Creek, South Pine River, and tributaries and east-west ecological corridors. Through the LGIP 1B, we will look to acquire 158 hectares of waterway corridor, from tributaries of the South Pine River and over 3.6 hectares of waterway rehabilitation along Cabbage Tree Creek.

The Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan is just one way the Schrinner Council is ensuring Brisbane is a city of neighbourhoods, where residents are close to the services they need and the lifestyle and leisure opportunities they want. Now, with respect to the Ministerial condition, you know, that’s obviously the prerogative of the State to look at these things. We obviously will incorporate that in the plan. The objective of everybody is to ensure that we get sustainable and appropriate growth in this particular neighbourhood plan, and I believe the plan achieves that. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers on C, D or E? Any further speakers?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Well, thank you very much, Mr Chair, and I rise to speak on item E, a major amendment to the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan. Mr Chair, our journey to today started in 2019 when the first community planning team meeting was convened, and since then, we’ve been working with local residents to ensure that we can preserve the character of this suburb while also accommodating for population growth, because Brisbane is growing and it will continue to grow. We have seen a steady stream of people choosing to call our city home, and as Brisbane is transformed for the Olympic Games, we know that more will come.

They’re very welcome, Mr Chair, and they’re choosing suburbs like Bridgeman Downs which, as I have said many times before, is a terrific place to live, relax, and raise a family. With larger acreage lots, easy access to shops, services and schools, as well as plenty of greenspace, Bridgeman Downs balances a rural feel with all of the convenience of the city, so it’s not a surprise that people want to live there. As a Council, we’ve worked hard to deliver a plan that balances the things that make Bridgeman Downs that wonderful place to live with the need to support population growth because every suburb has a role to play. I’d like to thank the Neighbourhood Planning team in CPED (City Planning and Economic Development) for all of their work on the plan, as well as the residents who took the time to participate in our consultation process and provide feedback to us.

Since 2019, the Neighbourhood Planning team has facilitated online surveys, community planning team meetings, regular email updates, information kiosks, and formal consultations to ensure that everyone who lives in Bridgeman Downs has had an opportunity to have their say on the future of their suburb. As well as through the formal consultation process, feedback came through my office. Over the past four years, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting with a number of residents one-on-one to discuss the plan and to hear about what they want to see for the future of their neighbourhood.

In October 2020, a draft strategy was released for the community to provide their feedback on, and after taking onboard all this feedback, two further formal rounds of consultation were conducted and the most recent was in March 2022. I know that since then, the Neighbourhood Planning team has worked very closely with property owners throughout Bridgeman Downs to address specific feedback about their respective properties. The feedback from the draft strategy consultation provided a clear picture of what residents in Bridgeman Downs saw as the future of their suburb.

Three key themes have been at the centre of the neighbourhood plan preparation process, and that included protecting our environment and greenspace, maintaining residential neighbourhoods, and providing infrastructure and services. One of the very strong themes that came out of the community consultation was the preference for single dwelling homes, and I’m very pleased that the plan reflects this feedback. Within the four new residential precincts that have been established, there’ll be areas where there is retention of acreage and areas of low density residential development, but I would like to put on the record, Mr Chair, that following the State interest check, the Minister, the Deputy Premier Steven Miles wrote to us about the Roghan Road precinct, conditioning it as an emerging community zone.

Given the character of this area as a very lower density and biodiverse neighbourhood, the community would be rightly concerned about the potential for the development of multi-unit dwellings in the emerging community zone. So, I wrote to the Deputy Premier, raising those concerns and urging him to reconsider the decision, but I am disappointed that, to date, I have not seen a response, because we don’t want this decision to adversely impact on the intention of the neighbourhood plan and the expectations of the community. Through this neighbourhood plan, inappropriate development near our waterways corridors will be prevented and a diversity of lot sizes are provided to allow for enough spaces for the retention of habitat in backyards.

Through the LGIP, as Councillor ALLAN mentioned, we’ll be providing the infrastructure and services that the community needs to grow sustainably, and this will involve improving the open space and park network in Bridgeman Downs and ensuring that the community facilities meet the need of the local area in a safe and accessible way. Once again, the Neighbourhood Planning team has been extremely helpful and available with addressing queries, concerns and feedback, and available—as it came through from the community. On a personal level, I’d like to thank them for their professionalism and their support and assistance that they have given me and my team out in the ward office through this process.

Mr Chair, the Schrinner Council takes community consultation very seriously, and this has never been more evident than through the process of preparing the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan. We’ve ensured that everyone who has come to us with a specific concern about what this new plan will mean for them or their property has received a comprehensive answer in an open and transparent way.

I would say, though, Mr Chair, I am disappointed by some of the commentary by the Leader of the Opposition. This neighbourhood plan went through a very significant process where we really did engage the community to hear about what they wanted. Very strongly, they did not want multi-unit dwellings. For the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and try to be political about an issue that is extraordinarily important to this community—this had been a rural community and, you know, it has changed over the last 20 years significantly, even 30 years. So the process was meant to engage, listen, consult, and deliver on what the community was after, and I believe that this neighbourhood plan goes a very long way to supporting what the local community needed.

With regard to the two blocks of land on Beckett Road, it’s unsurprising that the Leader of the Opposition has tried to make this political once again. He knows full well that, if the State Government had called in the development right at the beginning, we wouldn’t be going through this at all.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: The State Government had the powers to call in this development and we would not be in the position today, but do you know what, Mr Chair?

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor DAVIS: I don’t think that the Leader of the Opposition wanted it called in because all he cares about is the politics. He doesn’t care about wildlife. He left the EPS Committee, so all of a sudden, he’s back and engaged and worried about wildlife and habitat in the Bridgeman Downs area. I’m pretty sure his GPS goes straight from where he lives in the Deagon Ward to 415 to 427 Beckett Road. He wouldn’t know what else is in Bridgeman Downs. It is disgraceful. It is a shame that the will of the local community—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: —is not being supported by the Deputy Leader—the Leader of the Opposition. Council has taken every step that they can through the planning process—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: —through the planning process—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor DAVIS: —to ensure that we get a good outcome, to ensure that we get a good outcome. The Leader of the Opposition can walk into this Chamber and say, buy it, buy it. Well, how much does the Leader of the Opposition think we should pay for these two blocks of land?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please stop shouting out.

Councillor DAVIS: How much does the Leader of the Opposition think that we should invest in this block of land? We are being sensible. We are being sensible. We are being considerate. There is a process. He knows full well that the opportunity for—the proponent of the development can take through the Planning and Environment Court. We are challenging it. We are fighting it tooth and nail in the Planning and Environment Court. We will continue to do that, but always remember, Mr Chair—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor DAVIS: Let us always remember, Mr Chair, that the reason that these blocks of land are going through the Planning and Environment Court is because the State Labor Government chose not to call the development in.

Chair: Further debate on items C, D and E?

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: It is appalling that I have to sit here and listen to the Leader of the Opposition calling Councillors on this side of the Chamber liars. Could you please ask him to stop?

Chair: Councillors—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Oh, Councillor CASSIDY. You can express an opinion—

Councillor DAVIS: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor DAVIS.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Sorry, I’ll deal with that point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY, you need to be mindful of the language you use in this place, and I remind you that there are no rules against protection from defamation in this place.

Councillor DAVIS, point of order.

Councillor DAVIS: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Okay.

To your point of order, Councillor HOWARD—

Councillor DAVIS: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you. Sorry, who’s asking a point of order now?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I ask that those comments be withdrawn.

Chair: Yes. Councillor CASSIDY, comments were made, shouted across the Chamber which the Councillor has taken exception to. I ask you to withdraw those comments.

Councillor CASSIDY: No. I believe Councillor DAVIS intentionally lied. I won’t withdraw. I’m sorry.

Chair: Well, Councillor DAVIS, the Councillor has said he won’t withdraw those comments. Councillor DAVIS, point of order?

Councillor DAVIS: Point of order, Mr Chair. I would ask whether that is an act of disorder.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

I’ll respond to that point of order, Councillor DAVIS—

I ask you please to withdraw the language that has been used because exception has been taken, offence has been taken by the Councillor.

Councillor CASSIDY: If you are asking me to withdraw those comments, then I will, but I just maintain—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I just maintain that Councillor DAVIS has deliberately—

Chair: Excuse me. Councillors, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: —misled not just the Chamber, but—

Chair: Yes.

Councillor CASSIDY: —also the people of Brisbane on that matter.

Chair: To the question, I am asking you to withdraw those words, please.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: You have withdrawn? Thank you.

I’m going to move on with debate on items C, D and E. Is there any further debate?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Mr Chair, look, I rise to speak on item D, the integrated mass transit services contract extension. As the LORD MAYOR said, this item seeks Council’s approval to enter into a new contract with Translink for Brisbane’s bus services. We know Transport for Brisbane has been delivering services for Brisbane residents for 90 years, and Brisbane City Council is the largest bus operator in Queensland and the city’s major provider of public transport. We employ 2,500 drivers, servicing over 200 regular routes and another 200 district routes.

As I’ve said on many occasions, Mr Chair, in Brisbane, two-thirds of public transport passengers use the bus. Before COVID-19, we were taking about 80 million trips on our bus network, so a very significant, very substantial part of Brisbane’s public transport system. We need to keep this in context State-wide, as well, because it’s State Budget Day today. The Brisbane bus network moves more passengers each year than the entire rail network in South East Queensland, so outside of Brisbane, as well. We have a rapidly growing population and demand for public transport services is only going to increase in our city, so we need to continue to invest in that network to meet the travel demands of Brisbane’s future population and employment growth.

As the State Government through Translink is the authority for public transport, we operate bus services under a contract with the State. Now, our current contract will expire at the end of this month, so we’ve been working hard behind the scenes for some time to finalise an agreement moving forward and as you can see from the item before us, we have agreed a further extension of the current third generation contract for a period of up to two years, or until such a date as Metro services come online. We were initially thinking that we would be working towards a new contract altogether, Mr Chair, a fourth generation contract, but ultimately, we’ve agreed on a contract extension with a view to working together on some of the impending changes to our bus network, which have not yet been finalised.

This contract extension maintains the same core elements of the existing contract, but there are a couple of new items specifically called out in the agreement, and I’ll just talk to those briefly. As we know, the current third generation does not cover operation of Metro services, so this extension will include provision for the development of appropriate agreements with Translink on the commencement of Metro services. We also know that the State has announced the purchase of all new buses in South East Queensland will be zero emissions from 2025. So, this Administration is, of course, very supportive of that concept, being a leader in decarbonisation of transport, but there are a number of logistical, technical and, importantly, financial issues that need to be resolved before that can take place.

We have been trying for some time, as I mentioned during Question Time today, to get clarity from the State around bus procurement requirements and a commitment to them to assist in the substantial funding uplift in the transition from diesel to electric, but that detail has still not been provided. This contract extension calls out the need for us to continue working with Translink on the implementation of the State’s target. We’ll, of course, be working on a formal business case which we will submit to Translink in the very near future on electrification, as I mentioned, of two depots, Sherwood and Toowong. Of course, funding provided in this third generation Translink contract does not fully cover the cost of operating public transport services in our city. That will continue to be supported by Council’s operating subsidy, and there’ll be more to talk about in respect of that on Budget Day and in the budget debates in the days to come.

This contract also contains our agreements for special services, like the Blue and Maroon CityGliders. Can I thank the officers, particularly the officers in Transport for Brisbane, the Commercial and Contracts team, ably led by the wonderful Sue Phillips, for their years of hard work on this item. We’re very pleased to be able to reach this mutual agreement with Translink so we can continue to provide vital services for Brisbane residents. Mr Chair, just before I wrap up, I just couldn’t let go some of Councillor CASSIDY’s comments in his opening debate on this, and he as usual went around the world on Metro and introduced a few new—well, I won’t say the L word, Chair, but I will say these are the opposite of truth, the direct opposite to truth. He said Metro services won’t start until 2025. Not true, they will commence in 2024. He said Metro was—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: He said Metro was $1 billion over budget. That’s wrong. We know that the Metro budget did increase to $1.24 billion after 18 months of delays introduced by the State Government in procurement and execution of the project. Then, the project budget did increase by $450 million because we are including The Gabba Metro station in that figure to arrive at the final figure of $1.7 billion, reminding you, Chair—reminding the Chamber, Mr Chair, through you—that The Gabba Metro station, being a very significant part of that project and being supported by all three levels of government, Federal, Council, and State, is a $450 million component, not entirely delivered by Council. That part of the project is State-led.

He said we had no plan around transition to electric vehicles. Well, it wasn’t our target. It is a State target and, of course, in terms of transition to electric vehicles, this Council is leading the way with the game-changing, award-winning Brisbane Metro, the largest bus electrification project in the country. So, I don’t accept what he said, that we have no plan around that. Certainly, whether State has set a target, it should be up to the State to provide the appropriate goalposts for us to reach in terms of getting there. He also said that the Volgren facility was the most advanced in the world, as if Council had nothing to do with it. Council actually built the facility with Volgren out at Eagle Farm together with them, so I just wanted to correct that.

Also, in terms of industry capacity, don’t believe what I’m saying, believe what your Labor colleagues in the State Government are saying around industry’s capacity to deliver electric buses in Queensland. He also said the opposite of the truth when he said we tended for tram-looking buses. The reality is, the Metro performed the best in terms of performance requirements, in terms of price and non-price criteria in what was an open market tender in which there were three shortlisted vehicles, and the Metro, the HESS lighTram actually performed the best. So we got the best product, and it had nothing to do with how it looked, Chair. He also said the opposite of truth when he said Metro would carry 2,000 passengers per hour. The reality is we all know Metro will carry 6,050 passengers per hour increase to the busway, Chair.

So, I hope Councillor CASSIDY is listening at the budget information sessions this week and has plenty of good questions to ask me, but I also hope that he has some retained knowledge, and when I give him those answers, that he keeps them in mind when he comes into this Chamber and uses some pretty crazy dates, pretty crazy figures and costs and, indeed, passenger numbers for Brisbane Metro. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thanks, Chair.

Chair: Is there any further debate on items C, D or E?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly with respect to item D, the mass transit service contract. The way I read this is, this is like a get out of jail free card for the LNP because it’s very clear, and it has been right since the beginning of the Metro project, that Council was going to do what it wanted to do without any consideration of other levels of government, service agreements, what land they owned, what right of way we had, and so on. The Metro, as the Transport Chair has just outlined, has doubled in cost, not because of other people’s incompetence, but because of this LNP’s incompetence. I mean, this thing was thought up on the back of an envelope in the lead up to an election. The LNP have proposed all manner of different routes and, you know, options, and went ahead and let contracts to deliver it on somebody else’s land, on State Government land, that impacted on public facilities like busways and QPAC (Queensland Performing Arts Centre).

I mean, the incompetence that has been shown in the way this project has been run is staggering, and that all comes from the top, Councillor MURPHY, the LORD MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR, and all the other LNP Chairs who have just tick, tick, tick, tick, ticked this dodgy project from the beginning. Here, it turns out that another component of that is, apparently, we’ve gone and bought all these buses, very, very, very expensive European overseas buses which we don’t actually have any agreement with the State Government to fund to run.

So, we’re now going cap in hand, and you’ve heard the Chair. Earlier in Question Time, he was like, Mark Bailey is the devil or a clown, I’m not sure which way he was going, really, this morning, but today, oh Translink, we love you, Translink, because what this is, is an admission that Brisbane City Council has a massive, massive problem, which is it’s got a hugely expensive contract to buy 60 European buses and it has no agreement with the State Government to fund their running. Now, basically, we’ve put a Hail Mary clause into the new service agreement and we’re going to go cap in hand, Councillor MURPHY has to go cap in hand to Mark Bailey and go, oh Mark, I really love you, mate. I’m really sorry I’ve been mean to you publicly, but we’re going to need some money to run our buses. Yes, you know those buses—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You know those buses that we went and bought and that we’re going to run through your busways that we didn’t ask you about or get your permission to do? Well, or guess what? We also now need your retrospective permission to fund them so we can run them. I mean, the LORD MAYOR, he’ll get up and insult me. You’re not an engineer, what would you know—but I did work for Australia’s largest engineering company for five years. The CEO always used to say, good projects get better and bad projects get worse. This is absolutely the rolled-gold example of a bad project that is just getting worse and worse and worse.

I’m fairly certain, of course, that Councillor MURPHY will go in there with a demure smile on his face, oh Mark, mate, mate, we really need some money from Translink to run our buses. You watch. You can’t believe what they say. You watch what they do. I mean, this project is just getting worse and worse, and now it turns out we’ve got to have this Hail Mary clause in this contract just so we can get the operational phase of these buses being funded from Translink. Well, good luck with that. I’m quite certain that that’s going to go really well for you, Councillor MURPHY. I hope you enjoy having to suck up to Mark Bailey so you can get the money you need to run this project.

Chair: Your point of misrepresentation, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thanks, Chair. Councillor JOHNSTON said that I would be having to go cap in hand to Mark Bailey to ask for the money to run Brisbane Metro. Very clearly, as I said in the information sessions when she asked about it last year, we will be funding the uplift required to operate Brisbane Metro’s part of Council’s bus operating subsidy for the city.

Chair: Thank you.

Is there any further debate on items C, D or E? Any further debate?

LORD MAYOR, summing up.

LORD MAYOR: I had to step out for a little bit, but it seems I didn’t miss much. The reality is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: The reality is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

LORD MAYOR: The reality is, Labor Councillors—

Chair: Councillors.

LORD MAYOR: —continued to oppose development, continued to oppose good projects, and made lots of stuff up. It’s another Tuesday in Brisbane City Council. The reality is, what we’re seeing here is Labor opposing the creation of 3,800 new homes in an LNP ward, mind you, in an LNP ward. What we’re seeing here is Labor selectively deciding that they like some parts of development, but not others, that they want to listen to residents sometimes, but not others. For example, when residents say they don’t want townhouses in low-density areas, Labor doesn’t like that. They were quite happy to see the State Government come in and force townhouses in low-density areas.

They were actually delighted to see that, but we know that you won’t find bigger NIMBYs than Labor and the Greens. Week-in, week-out, they have proved that to be the case. Thankfully, we have a sensible Council in Administration here that actually supports new houses for people that need them, but that is certainly not a given. There could be an alternative scenario where your Council is run by the NIMBYs. I saw you look up, Mr Chair. I know that concerns you, and it would no doubt concern the people of Brisbane because that would see less and less housing provided—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, the LORD MAYOR should not be talking about Council officers like that.

Chair: I’m not too sure what the point was to—

Councillor JOHNSTON: He just called them nitwits. I don’t think that’s appropriate, is it?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Oh, okay. Councillor JOHNSTON thinks that Council officers run the Council. Oh, okay. Fair enough. Well, the Council runs the Council, and this Council, the people sitting here, the people who are elected to run the Council, run the Council.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please stop calling out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, for goodness’ sake.

LORD MAYOR: Anyway, no, look, there are no NIMBY Council officers that I’m aware of, but there’s plenty of NIMBY Councillors to my right, and they out themselves every week without fail. When it comes to public transport, though, it’s classic to hear Councillors railing against these terrible Swiss Metro vehicles. If you ask the average person on the street, do you think that we should buy the best Metro vehicles in the world or maybe the second best or third best, what would they say? What would they say? They would say, buy the best. They would say, buy the best.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: And if you ask them, maybe Swiss Metro vehicles, is that a good thing or a bad thing?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I don’t know, but I think they’re barking up the wrong tree here, Mr Chair, because the game-changing—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please.

LORD MAYOR: The game-changing Brisbane Metro pilot vehicles are literally causing excitement throughout the public transport industry, not just locally, but around the world, around the world, but that’s okay. Councillor CASSIDY wants us to, without a competitive tender, give a contract to a local company who, when we went out to competitive tender, couldn’t provide what we needed. That’s what he would like us to do. That was his position even after he found out that Translink agrees that local manufacturers can’t deliver what we’re asking them to deliver, but never worry about the facts when Councillor CASSIDY gets up to speak because they never form part of his speaking points. It is always just a political line, never based on any fact or truth, but I digress.

The point is, this contract will see us providing a continuation of public transport services and the subsidy that we provide, and also progressing towards Brisbane Metro, which will truly revolutionise the way people move around this city. So, it’s an exciting time. We’re continuing to invest more and more in public transport. With item E, we’re also continuing to make sure there is more and more housing supply available to be built in our city in places that it is appropriate. It is very disappointing that we will see Labor and the Green Councillors oppose the provision of 3,800 new homes.

Chair: Thank you.

We now move to the vote on these items. Item C first, item C.

**Clause C put**

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

Chair: We now move to vote on item D.

**Clause D put**

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

Chair: Move to the vote on item E.

**Clause E put**

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

Thereupon, Councillor Sandy LANDERS and the DEPUTY MAYOR 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, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

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

ABSTENTIONS: 2 - Councillors Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

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

**699/2022-23**

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; and

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 APRIL 2023, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

| **Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for April 2023** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contract number/contract purpose/successful tenderer/comparative tender/price value for money (VFM) index achieved** | **Nature of arrangement/ estimate maximum expenditure** | **Unsuccessful tenderers/VFM achieved** | **Comparative tender price/s** | **Delegate/**  **approval date/start date/term** |
| **BRISBANE INFRASTRUCTURE** |  |  |  |  |
| **1. Contract No. 512032**  **INTERNAL PIER CONCRETE REPAIRS WILLIAM JOLLY BRIDGE**  **Dynaciv Pty Ltd – $427,670**  Achieved VFM of 20 | Lump sum  **$427,670** | One offer received. | Not applicable (N/A) | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  27.04.2023  **Start**  03.05.2023  **Term**  20 weeks |
| **2. Contract No. 512037**  **WATER RETICULATION MAIN RELOCATION, DEAKIN STREET, KANGAROO POINT**  **GCE Contractors Pty. Ltd. – $702,550**  Achieved the highest VFM of 12.02 | Lump sum  **$702,550** | Oakridge Services Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 8.75 | $649,889 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  27.04.2023  **Start**  03.05.2023  **Term**  13 weeks |
| **3. Contract No. 512122**  **PIPE RELINING AT HARTE STREET, CHELMER**  **Pipe Lining Pty Ltd as trustee for Pipelining Trust – $335,398**  Achieved the highest VFM of 25 | Lump sum  **$335,398** | *Offer not recommended*  Rangedale Queensland Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 12  *Non-conforming offer*  Abergeldie Contractors Pty Ltd | $263,319  N/A | **Delegate**  EM  **Approved**  20.04.2023  **Start**  27.04.2023  **Term**  Eight weeks |
| **4. Contract No. 512141**  **ENERGEX CORE WORK ACTIVITIES FOR PUBLIC LIGHTING AND SPILL LIGHT TREATMENT**  **Energex Limited** | Fees and charges as offered for each work activity  **$2,000,000** | Contract entered into under Exemption 3 of Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022‑23* which allows for exemption from tendering where the marketplace is restricted by third-party ownership of a public utility plant asset. | N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  20.04.2023  **Start**  01.07.2023  **Term**  Two years |
| **5. Contract No. 512142**  **UPGRADE OF ALFRED AND LUCINA BEST PARK, THE GAP**  **Glascott Landscape and Civil Pty Ltd – $389,163**  Achieved the highest VFM of 21.4 | Lump sum  **$389,163** | *Offers not shortlisted*  Interface Landscapes Pty Ltd as trustee for Newscape Group Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 19.4  Ace Landscapes Queensland Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 19.0  The Landscape Construction Company Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 17.9  *Offers not recommended*  Naturform Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 16.0  Bland 2 Brilliant Landscapes Pty Ltd as trustee for Bland 2 Discretionary Trust  Achieved VFM of 12.6 | $447,866  $431,579  $466,875  $507,155  $474,615 | **Delegate**  EM  **Approved**  27.04.2023  **Start**  01.05.2023  **Term**  17 weeks |
| **6. Contract No. 533469**  **FLOOD RESILIENCE 2022 – PONTOONS**  **Centenary Rowing Club (Riverhills)**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $1,128,430**  Achieved VFM of 76.2  **Riverhills Recreation Hub**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $1,947,975**  Achieved VFM of 44.1  **Tinchi Tamba (Bald Hills)**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $141,130**  Achieved a VFM of 60.9  **Jindalee Boat Ramp Pontoon**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $1,033,425**  Achieved VFM of 85.2  **Amazon Place Park Pontoon (Jindalee)**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $935,030**  Achieved VFM of 92  **Sherwood Arboretum Pontoon**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $969,255**  Achieved VFM of 88.7  **Paragon Street Pontoon (Yeronga) – demolition only**  **The Marina Specialist Pty Ltd trading as The Jetty Specialist – $56,955**  Achieved VFM of 151 | Lump sum  **$6,212,200** | **Centenary Rowing Club**  *Offer withdrawn*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  **Riverhills Recreation Hub**  *Offer withdrawn*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  **Tinchi Tamba**  *Offer withdrawn*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  **Jindalee Boat Ramp Pontoon**  *Offers not shortlisted*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd (Offer 2)\*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd (Offer 1)\*  *Offer withdrawn*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  **Amazon Place Park Pontoon**  *Offers not shortlisted*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd (Offer 2)\*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd (Offer 1)\*  *Offer withdrawn*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  **Sherwood Arboretum Pontoon**  *Offers not shortlisted*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd (Offer 2)\*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd (Offer 1)\*  *Offer withdrawn*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.  **Paragon Street Pontoon – demolition only**  *Offers not recommended*  Envirostruct Services Pty Ltd\*\*  Epoca Constructions Pty. Ltd.\*\*  *\*VFM N/A as offers were removed from further consideration as high risk.*  *\*\*VFM N/A as award of one site only was considered high risk.* | N/A  N/A  N/A  $275,330  $273,380  N/A  $332,840  $287,340  N/A  $393,290  $235,600  N/A  $55,640  $17,949 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  17.04.2023  **Start**  24.04.2023  **Term**  50 weeks |
| **7. Contract No. 533579**  **SMOOTHER SUBURBAN STREETS – CONSTRUCTION PACKAGE 14**  **Quality Civil Construction Pty Ltd trading as River City Asphalt – $7,426,177**  Achieved the highest VFM of 115.8  *\*Comparative tender price normalised for possible delay costs and potential variations claimable by the contractor.* | Schedule of rates  **$6,945,204**  *.* | Allen’s Asphalt Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 111.7  Colas Queensland Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 82.7 | $7,566,371  $10,887,090 | **Delegate**  CEO  **Approved**  11.04.2023  **Start**  28.04.2023  **Term**  26 weeks |
| **8. Contract No. 533611**  **REPAIRS AT INDOOROOPILLY CANOE CLUB**  **Blackwood Projects Pty Ltd – $392,100**  Achieved the highest VFM of 22.95 | Lump sum  **$392,100** | Probuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 20.38  Building Solutions Brisbane Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 18.40 | $430,760  $489,222 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  12.04.2023  **Start**  19.04.2023  **Term**  14 weeks |
| **9. Contract No. 533630**  **THRUSH STREET PARK TOILET BLOCK (INALA)**  **Green Park Amenities Pty Ltd – $482,174**  Achieved the highest VFM of 15.5 | Lump sum  **$482,174** | Probuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 15.2  Solutions Built Queensland Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 13.3  J. Mac Constructions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 12.9  Dart Holdings Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 11.4  Corearth Construction Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 11.1 | $526,116  $594,684  $640,024  $568,300  $673,184 | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  05.04.2023  **Start**  05.04.2023  **Term**  16 weeks |
| **10. Contract No. 533642**  **FIRE BREAK CULVERT UPGRADES**  **GCE Contractors Pty. Ltd. – $237,245**  Achieved the highest VFM of 34 | Lump sum  **$237,245** | HEH Civil Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 31  BMD Constructions Pty Limited  Achieved VFM of 21 | $259,345  $409,871 | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  05.04.2023  **Start**  08.04.2023  **Term**  16 weeks |
| **11. Contract No. 533760**  **DEMOLITION VOLUNTARY HOME BUY‑BACK – PACKAGE 3**  **W.J. and M. Allendorf trading as WMA Demolition – $538,690**  Achieved the highest VFM of 15.97 | Lump sum  **$538,690** | *Offer not shortlisted*  The trustee for Paterson Demolition & Recycling Trust trading as Paterson Demolition & Recycling  Achieved VFM of 13.29  *Non-conforming offer*  Logan City Demolitions Pty Ltd | $594,400  N/A | **Delegate**  EGM  **Approved**  28.04.2023  **Start**  02.05.2023  **Term**  14 weeks |
| **CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **CITY PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES** | | | | |
| **12. Contract No. 510872**  **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIRST AID EQUIPMENT**  **Alpha Vital Pty Ltd** | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  **$286,646** | Extension of CPA entered into under Exemption 6 of Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2022‑23* which allows for extension of contracts without a tender process where the value obtained from a significant number of frequently sourced, low value procurements is limited. | N/A | **Delegate**  CPO  **Approved**  26.04.2023  **Start**  01.06.2023  **Term**  21 months |
| **TRANSPORT FOR BRISBANE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |

**ADOPTED**

#### B STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – GRASS CUTTING SERVICES

**165/830/179/849**

**700/2022-23**

8. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

9. The Chief Executive Officer and the Stores Board considered the draft resolution as set out at Attachment A (hereunder) and the submission, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file), on 29 May 2023.

10. Entering into the Grass Cutting Services contracts represents an increase in the estimated expenditure provided in the Significant Contracting Plan approved by Council on 30 November 2021. Along with all organisations Council has been subject to increases in costs for services stemming from the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated supply chain disruption. Significant cost increases in labour, equipment as well as costs associated with complying with the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads updated *Queensland Guide to Temporary Traffic Management* requirements for road grass cutting, has presented significant challenges to Council and have been reflected in the rates offered to Council.

11. Based on historical volumes, estimated expenditure is anticipated to be in the order of $152 million over the potential maximum five-year term. Weather conditions and annual budgets will influence the per annum expenditure for grass cutting services as will any changes to rates that may occur through the rise and fall provisions of the contracts.

12. The draft resolution and submission are recommended to Council as it is considered the most advantageous outcome for the provision of the required services.

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

14. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR GRASS CUTTING SERVICES**

As:

1. Council approved a Significant Contracting Plan (SCP) for Grass Cutting Services on 30 November 2021
2. Council resolved to amend the SCP for Grass Cutting Services to make allowance for increases in costs for services stemming from the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated supply chain disruption

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

then:

1. Council resolves to amend the SCP for Grass Cutting Services, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### C RENEWAL OF TELECOMMUNICATION LEASES, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

**112/445/444/1409**

**701/2022-23**

15. The A/Divisional Manager, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the information below.

16. In accordance with section 217 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation), Council cannot enter into a valuable non-current asset contract (relevantly, a lease in respect of land or contract for the disposal of land) unless it first:

(a) invites written tenders for the contract; or

(b) offers the valuable non-current asset for sale by auction.

17. Section 226 (1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation provides an exception that Council may apply to the disposal of an interest in land other than by way of tender or auction, for the purpose of renewing the lease of land to the existing tenant of the land, while section 226 (1)(c)(vi) provides another exception that Council may apply to the disposal for the purpose of a lease for a telecommunication tower.

18. Council has 16 leases with Telstra Corporation Limited (Telstra) and 16 leases with Optus Mobile Pty Limited (Optus) for telecommunication facilities (telecommunication towers and associated communication installations) at various sites which have expired. Telstra and Optus have continued to occupy the sites under the holdover provisions in the lease agreements pending renewal. Negotiations for the lease renewal and associated rent has now been concluded.

19. Council engaged valuers to provide market rent assessments for each site to ensure proposed rents for the renewed leases are at market value to comply with section 226 (3) of the Regulation which requires any disposal of land or interest in land to be equal to, or more than, the market value of the land, or the interest in the land.

20. To continue to offer telecommunication services as well as equipment for broadcast services and emergency services across Brisbane, both Telstra and Optus have made arrangements for the tower infrastructure providers Amplitel Pty Limited as trustee for the Towers Business Operating Trust and Indara Corporation Pty Ltd to enter into leases for their tower infrastructure. Both will continue to offer telecommunication services as well as equipment for broadcast services and emergency services across Brisbane.

21. To ensure the continued delivery of telecommunication services across Brisbane, it is proposed for Council to renew all of the expired lease agreements for a period of 10 years in accordance with the terms detailed in Attachment B (submitted on file). Commencing rents are to be in accordance with the valuer’s market value rent assessment with rents to be increased annually by three percent on the anniversary of the commencement date.

22. The leases will otherwise be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Asset Management, Brisbane Infrastructure, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance. Two of the sites are on land for which Council is Trustee, therefore Council will also be required to obtain approval from the Queensland Government, represented by the Department of Resources, to renew leases for these sites.

23. The A/Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

24. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO DISPOSE OF AN INTEREST IN LAND BY LEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 226 (1) OF THE *CITY OF BRISBANE REGULATION 2012***

As:

(i) Council is the owner of the land (freehold), or the trustee of the land, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file), which is used for telecommunication facility purposes

(ii) Council proposes to renew existing leases in respect of land which is used for telecommunication facility purposes

(iii) section 226 (2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* requires that Council decide by resolution that exceptions set out in section 226 (1) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* may apply before disposing of a valuable non-current asset other than by way of tender or auction,

then Council:

1. resolves those exceptions outlined in section 226 (1)(c)(iii) and Section 226 (1)(c)(vi) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* apply to the disposal of the interests in land by way of lease, as described in Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### D INTEGRATED MASS TRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT – DEED OF VARIATION

**188/45/750/25**

**702/2022-23**

25. The Divisional Manager, Transport for Brisbane, provided the information below.

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

27. In July 2019 Council entered into the Integrated Mass Transit Service contract (3GB contract) with the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), through Translink.

28. The 3GB contract is a service contract under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* (TOPTA). Under this arrangement, Translink require Transport for Brisbane (TfB) to deliver bus services within the Brisbane area.

29. The term of the 3GB contract is from 19 June 2019 to 24 June 2022, with an option to extend by an additional year, to 24 June 2023. The option to extend was executed by an exchange of letters dated 13 May 2021 and 27 May 2021, continuing existing contract payments and practices through the extended term.

30. The estimated 3GB contract revenue for 2023-24 is $[Commercial-in-Confidence] (as at 2022-23 budget), subject to confirmation of 2023-24 escalation rates for the Consumer Price Index and the Wage Price Index. The contract fees from the 3GB contract are not sufficient to cover the cost to provide the services. Council therefore funds a Council Transport Operating Subsidy, being $[Commercial-in-Confidence] in 2023-24 (as at 2022-23 budget). The budget provides sufficient funding to support execution of the Deed of Variation and ongoing provision of the required bus services.

31. TMR is responsible for developing the next generation buses, infrastructure and contracts to implement the policies of the Queensland Government described in *Queensland’s Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022-2032* and *Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan 2022-2024.* This includes an initiative for every new Translink funded bus added to the fleet to be a zero emission bus (ZEB) from 2025 in South East Queensland (ZEB Program).

32. Council is undertaking the Brisbane Metro project(Metro Project) consisting of the procurement of 60 high-capacity electric vehicles, a new depot and major infrastructure works affecting Busway assets in order to improve capacity and travel times.

33. Many elements relating to the operation of the ZEB Program and the Metro project are yet to be finalised and require a framework for collaboration and cooperation in good faith between TMR and Council over the period 2023 to 2025. The Deed of Variation provides for the establishment of the TfB Services Framework Arrangement for this purpose.

34. The proposed Deed of Variation will provide for:

- a further extension of the term of the 3GB contract for up to 2 years, expiring at the earlier of midnight on 24 June 2025 or commencement of Metro services

- the parties to work together and finalise the key elements of their respective programs and to support the successful implementation of the Metro project and the ZEB Program

- the establishment of a framework for negotiation of future bus and Metro services.

35. Under section 43 of TOPTA, there are prescribed financial penalties associated with conducting a public passenger service without a service contract or other written agreement. It is therefore important that Council finalises recent extensive negotiations with TMR regarding a further extension of the 3GB contract by approval of the proposed Deed of Variation before 25 June 2023.

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

37. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES ENTRY INTO A DEED OF VARIATION OF THE INTEGRATED MASS TRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT DATED 19 JUNE 2019 BETWEEN THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT’S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND COUNCIL FOR THE PROVISION OF INTEGRATED MASS TRANSIT (BUS SERVICES), GENERALLY WITH THE TERMS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** submitted on file**, AND TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL**.

**ADOPTED**

#### E MAJOR AMENDMENT TO BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014 – BRIDGEMAN DOWNS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**152/160/516/512**

**703/2022-23**

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

39. At its meeting of 1 June 2021, Council resolved to amend *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (the planning scheme) to include the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan (the neighbourhood plan), make associated amendments to planning scheme policies, and undertake consequential amendments (the proposed amendment). Council also resolved to send the proposed amendment to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Minister), to request a State interest review, and approval to publicly consult on the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment necessitated consequential amendments to the Bracken Ridge and district and McDowall‑Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plans.

40. By letter dated 21 October 2021, the Minister confirmed that State interests were appropriately integrated in the proposed amendment, and advised that public consultation may proceed, subject to conditions.

41. Public consultation on the proposed amendment was carried out from 14 February 2022 to 28 March 2022 in accordance with the *Minister’s Guidelines and Rules* (the Guideline).

42. At its meeting of 6 September 2022, Council resolved to modify the proposed amendment in response to submissions received, to make an associated amendment to planning scheme policies pursuant to the Guideline, and to request the Minister’s approval to adopt the proposed amendment.

43. By letter dated 15 November 2022 (Attachment B, submitted on file), the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure granted approval for the proposed amendment to be adopted in the planning scheme with one condition, that being to amend the wording of the overall outcome 3b to read as “*Multiple dwellings are not accommodated in the Low density residential zone, including where in a precinct or potential development area*”. The proposed amendment to be adopted has been updated to comply with the Minister’s condition, as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file). The proposed amendment is consistent with the *Planning Act 2016*.

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

45. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO AMEND *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* AND ASSOCIATED PLANNING SCHEME POLICIES TO INCLUDE THE BRIDGEMAN DOWNS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

As Council:

(i) decided, pursuant to section 16.1 of Part 4 of Chapter 2 and section 2.1 of Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the Minister’s Guidelines and Rules (the Guideline) to amend *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (the planning scheme) and planning scheme policies to include the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan and make associated consequential amendments to the Bracken Ridge and district neighbourhood plan and the McDowall‑Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan (the proposed amendment)

(ii) sought, pursuant to section 21.1 of Part 4 of Chapter 2 of the Guideline, the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (the Minister) approval to adopt the proposed amendment to the planning scheme

(iii) was advised by the Minister, by letter dated 15 November 2022 (Attachment B, submitted on file), that it could adopt the proposed amendment subject to one condition which has been reflected in the proposed amendment,

then Council:

1. decides, pursuant to section 22.1 of Part 4 of Chapter 2 of the Guideline, to adopt the proposed amendment to the planning scheme as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file)
2. decides, pursuant to section 5.1 of Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the Guideline, to adopt the proposed planning scheme policy amendments as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file)

(iii) directs that notice of the adoption of:

(a) the proposed amendment be given in accordance with section 22.1 and section 22.2 of Part 4 of Chapter 2 of the Guideline

(b) the proposed planning scheme policy amendments be given in accordance with section 5.2 and section 5.3 of Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the Guideline.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee report, please.

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

The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Firstly, what’s on in the Business Hub for the next week? There’s a thing on every couple of days, many things on this week, but I encourage you to share the information around these workshops that are on in the next week. The Neuroscience of Success: What Would You Do If You Knew You Would Succeed? by our supporters, NeuroTrust Institute. Your Simple Guide to Developing a Sustainable and High Performing Team, tips to create a happy and high performing environment by Jodi Cottle. A BDO Masterclass, obviously by BDO, on Forecasting Your Financials. Building Inclusive Cultures by the Multicultural Professional Network. The 2023 Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) and Mayors’ Forum opportunities, which is being supported by the IRMA (International Relations and Multicultural Affairs) team that are running the 2023 APCS is on the 20th from 9.30 in the morning, as well. So, lots on this week, on top of all the other just drop in and network opportunities. Please share them.

That’s a nice segue to the APCS, the Asia Pacific Cities Summit, which is on in October this year, and Councillors will be getting their invites coming to their inboxes very shortly. I’m delighted to announce that we’ve secured Charles Montgomery as the keynote speaker for this year’s APCS. He’s an award-winning Canadian author and urbanist, best known for his acclaimed books *The Last Heathen* and *Happy City* that combine investigative reporting with true stories to explore the connection between culture, science, design and human wellbeing. As I said, 11 to 13 October in Brisbane, bringing city and business leaders from around the world together to share knowledge, experience, and develop partnerships. Over those three days, we’re expecting more than 1,000 delegates from more than 140 cities to join us. It will be the 14th APCS and the ninth time it’s held in Brisbane.

To the report we have last week, we just saw then that they didn’t support 3,800 houses in Bridgeman Downs. I don’t expect they have changed their minds over the Kurilpa TLPI, but let’s be very clear, the Kurilpa TLPI is an appropriate response to the current housing crisis. We have been told time and time again—through you, Mr Chair—I’m sure, LORD MAYOR, that we have to find a solution. Well, we are offering the solutions, and the one way that you can fight demand is by providing supply. This is an appropriate response to the current housing crisis. There’s several measures designed to improve the viability of the sites in the precinct, as well as increasing housing diversity and affordability, as well. In the midst of this full-scale housing crisis, this would deliver much-needed housing supply, as I said.

Excuse me, very dry throat. It is around the changing and emerging planning issues we see in the city. We’ve got many, many people moving in and we need to make sure that we go anti-sprawl. We don’t see this lovely definition that’s come out of the South East Queensland Regional Plan called gentle density. Gentle density, now, that’s going to be an interesting definition. I think it’s more of the Soorley six-pack, is what they’re talking about. As we used to say in the sardine suburbs, double the driveways, halve the trees. That is not what we want to see from our Administration. We want to see up, not out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Now, I want to clarify—through you, Mr Chair—that is the State Government’s Labor plan, because their plan is do nothing. Don’t build in the suburbs. Don’t build in the city. Don’t know what ideas they have. This is the ALP State Government’s plan of gentle density. However, we are about making sure that you put the density in where the infrastructure is actually already and can be improved even more so. I recommend the TLPI to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you.

Is there any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

*At that time, 4.35pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Steve TOOMEY, assumed the Chair.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on this item, which is not actually the TLPI. We’ve had the debate on the TLPI and I may refer to it, but we ventilated that quite well, but it’s very sad to see the LNP doubling down on their decision to put more Brisbane residents in harm’s way and more residents that will experience the devastating impacts of flooding around Brisbane by jamming them into inappropriate living spaces in the Kurilpa peninsula.

I just rose to speak very briefly on this issue of *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*. The idea that the DEPUTY MAYOR and the LORD MAYOR and others promote, that Brisbane, this Council—and I’ll go with the LNP for now, because they run the majority here—the LNP wants to provide a sufficient supply of well‑designed housing, quote, in the right location. Now, that’s the issue I’d like to just speak briefly about first. The LORD MAYOR has said over and over and over again recently—it’s become his new mantra—that we should be going up and not out, and the DEPUTY MAYOR has reported that here again today.

What is actually happening under this LORD MAYOR’s Administration of Brisbane City Council—and, as we’ve heard, he runs the Council. He’s said it very clearly here today. It’s not the officers doing this. It’s him, he runs the Council. Brisbane City Council out my way and, clearly, in the DEPUTY MAYOR’s area, is about to knock down land that is mapped as koala habitat and trees, going to knock down trees in land that is mapped as koala habitat, in land that we map and the State maps as being of high biodiversity significance. The decision to do this is all happening in the suburbs.

My question to the DEPUTY MAYOR, of course—because this is happening in her own backyard. A block with one house on it is going to be converted into a bunch of townhouses, and I’ve had a look at it because it has similar zoning to the one in Corinda that is problematic, from my point of view. It is shocking to see that the LORD MAYOR, the DEPUTY MAYOR, and the LNP Chairs who run this Council, as we’ve been told today, are prepared to see areas of significant biological diversity with lots of vegetation, koala habitat, knocked down for houses, but here we are. They said—they say, and they say it over and over again, well-designed houses in the right locations.

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: I hear that Councillor JOHNSTON is talking about koala overlays and that doesn’t appear to be in the presentation. Can you just ask, through you, Chair, where this is in the presentation?

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, would you mind providing evidence of where the koala mapping was in the presentation?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I’m pretty sure Councillor HUTTON hasn’t read it, but I’m talking about paragraph four—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —which is *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*, and I’m also talking about well-designed housing in the right location. I’m actually quoting directly from the document. Now, I’m talking, obviously, about what the LNP thinks well-designed housing in the right location is, and that’s knocking down trees in middle suburban areas and removing—

Deputy Chair: Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Deputy Chair: I’ve just had a quick peruse of paragraph four. There doesn’t appear to be any mention of koala mapping in paragraph four.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m talking about *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy* and I’m talking about—so, on the second line, I’m talking about sufficient supply of well-designed housing in the right locations. Now, I am allowed to explore the right locations.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Because I’ve got more, it gets better. We’ll leave that for now because I don’t think—let me just put on the record very clearly my views about that. I don’t think the right location is knocking down trees, removing koala habitat and native vegetation to build houses. Now, in my area, it’s zoned rural. In another area, it’s not.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair. This is about the Kurilpa TLPI—

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, it’s not.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —and the stretch that it refers to—another strategy, because that’s where it came from—is not the intent of the report.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillors, Councillors, enough. All right? Enough.

Councillor JOHNSTON, can you please come back to the report, please?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yeah. I’m definitely talking about what’s in the report. Just to be clear, for all those following along at home, the report is called Inner City Economy: Addressing Housing Insecurity and Supply. I’m talking about paragraph four, which is *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*. Now, up until now, they’ve been very proud of *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*, they’ve been wanting to talk it up, but the outcome of this strategy is this Council says it is going to supply well-designed housing in the right locations. Now, what would those right locations—would they be? Would you think that, in an area marked for low to medium density residential development, would some units on that site be acceptable? That’s what it’s zoned for.

I think that’s probably okay, right? I fought the five storeys pretty hard in Sherwood, but it’s approved. There’s five storeys coming. Not this LNP Administration. In the middle of a housing crisis, they want to convert it to commercial, and now there’s no demand for commercial. So they’ve rezoned, through a material change of use, a site that is actually zoned residential, and now it’s not being built on at all. This is happening in blocks of land all over Brisbane, right through my ward, where we’re seeing houses being removed from the supply and land that is zoned for residential housing being removed from supply to allow developers to up zone because it’s cheaper for them to knock down a house and to build some sort of giant, commercial monstrosity.

Meanwhile, the suburban neighbourhood precincts can’t get redeveloped because this LNP Administration continues to allow inappropriate development contrary to the zoning in the City Plan. The City Plan was a debacle back in 2014, but since then, the LNP Administration has just allowed developers in this city *carte blanche*. Now, we have something called *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*, which isn’t about the inner city area because this is the dodgy document that is supposed to be changing the zoning out in Yeronga, not in the inner city area. So, this is where the LNP are trying to convert other parcels of land for other uses without consultation in the local community.

So, do I think this LNP Administration is making any effort to promote well‑designed housing in the right locations? No, I do not. The Kurilpa precinct, not the right housing in the right location. The Whites Hill Reserve townhouses in koala habitat, not the right housing in the right location.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, sorry, I do need to interrupt. Can you please come back to the report?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Deputy Chair: Please, because under paragraph five, it actually lists the suburbs that are identified under the strategy. Can you please come back to the report?

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, but that’s not—the strategy is much broader than that, I’m sorry.

Deputy Chair: We’re not debating this. I have asked you to come—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Deputy Chair, if you don’t know what’s in the strategy—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you know full well you should not be speaking when I speak. I am asking you to come back to the report, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, and I’m speaking about the *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*. It includes the things I am talking about here today. I’ll just continue by saying it’s not appropriate to knock down trees in koala habitat in Corinda, in Whites Hill. It’s not appropriate to knock down—it’s not appropriate to knock down units or allow commercial to be built in areas that are zoned residential. That is not well‑designed housing in the right locations. It’s not. This LNP Administration, as I said, they botched City Plan. The *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth* *Strategy*, it’s a poor document. I don’t even know what to say.

Like every other planning document the LNP put out, it really lacks an understanding of the impact on the city. There’s platitudes in there that make it sound good, but they’re certainly not delivering, as they say, well-designed housing in the right locations. Well-designed housing in the right locations would meet minimum standards under Brisbane City Plan. Do you know how often Brisbane City Council relaxes? That was a Question on Notice I had from a few weeks ago. Thousands of relaxations given by Brisbane City Council for setbacks and knocking down trees, thousands and thousands of them.

This LNP Administration have such a poor track record when it comes to putting well-designed houses into the right locations, and unfortunately, they’ve been completely captured by the development industry. These are not, as they say, anti‑sprawl measures because they’re allowing the sprawl. These are not allowing things to go up but not out, because it’s impacting everywhere in the outer suburbs. These are not appropriate responses, knocking down trees in areas of high biological significance, mapped under the koala corridor, is not an appropriate response to any kind of housing needs in Brisbane.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Is there any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: My pleasure.

Councillor MASSEY: Just a few things that I’d like to talk about. We talked about a bit last week, but there are some things that we should get on the public record in this presentation. The TLPI relies heavily on green bridge accreditation, noting that the TLPI in this Council could actually seek Green Star community status from the Green Building Council for the whole TLPI area, not just the buildings, not just the buildings, but the public space as well, ensuring that there was community consultation. Clearly, not an option.

In relation to affordable housing, the two out of the six community benefit benchmarks, noting developers only have to choose two and they don’t actually have to deliver on housing affordability anytime soon. One of the benchmarks is the development for multiple dwelling provides a minimum of 20 dwellings, at rents at least 10% below market price for the minimum of five years. If we break that down today, even though we noted that there would be no stock delivered maybe for five or so years, the average rate in The Gabba Ward, $680 for a Council profile data source. What that means is 10% under the average, 600—600 and something, unaffordable. Noting, in 2021, there was a 7.3% rental increase. Noting, in 2022, there was an 11.4% rental increase. So when these houses are ready, they’re definitely not going to be affordable.

I just wanted to touch base, also, on the item about supporting community and wellbeing and liveability. Last week, I talked about 3.5 hectares. Here we are. There it is, the 3.5 hectares that I talked about. Interestingly, though, it’s not mentioned that 1.3 hectares is already within the Local Government Infrastructure Plan for delivery, 2021-2026, for the current population of Kurilpa, meaning the actual delivery of this TLPI will only deliver 2.2 hectares of new greenspace because it’s already set for delivery. That’s for maybe 20,000 people, a five times increase for the population in Kurilpa.

I’ll also touch base on the fact that the current, again, the current Local Government Infrastructure Plan has a local community centre and a library extension already in there for delivery, 2021-2026. The DEPUTY MAYOR mentioned this last year as part of a new delivery by this TLPI last week, when in fact, it’s been there since 2016, seven years. So, I just wanted to get that on the public record about this TLPI presentation. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising and the DEPUTY MAYOR is not here.

We will now put the report.

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

Thereupon, Councillors Sarah HUTTON and Sandy LANDERS immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried.**

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 22 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES, the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 1 - Councillor Trina MASSEY.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – INNER CITY ECONOMY – ADDRESSING HOUSING INSECURITY AND SUPPLY

**704/2022-23**

1. The General Manager, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the inner city economy and addressing housing insecurity and supply. He provided the information below.

2. Brisbane is the fastest growing capital city in Australia. By 2041, it is estimated that approximately 1.55 million residents will live in Brisbane, with 473,000 residing within the inner suburbs. The Queensland Government’s *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017* (*ShapingSEQ*) requires an additional 188,200 dwellings by 2041 for 386,800 expected new residents.

3. Brisbane’s property prices are currently 27.9% higher compared to August 2020, with dwelling prices increasing to more than double the rate of wages. Brisbane’s rental vacancy rate is at the lowest level experienced in the past two years at approximately 1.1%. Due to fast population growth, property price increases and high rental demand, Brisbane is experiencing acute housing demand and short to medium‑term sustained housing stress.

4. *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy* is Council’s commitment to ensure there is sufficient supply of well-designed housing in the right locations, delivering diverse housing options for all stages of life and maintaining and enhancing our city’s lifestyle. Council has four key housing priorities:

- Housing supply for our growing and evolving city – deliver suburban renewal, inner city precincts and Urban Enterprise Areas to facilitate housing supply and jobs for the city

- Housing diversity and affordability – create new housing options for all residents at every stage of life

- Right housing in the right locations – create sustainable, liveable suburban and inner city precincts close to jobs, community services, recreation and transport

- Sustainable, liveable and well-designed subtropical homes – embed subtropical design principles into *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) to ensure new residential buildings are appropriately designed to suit our climate and lifestyle.

5. *Brisbane’s Inner City Strategy* (the strategy) is four pillars which set the strategic directions that will shape the future of Brisbane’s inner city sustainable growth precincts and provide guidance for the private sector and the community, as well as Council’s forward program of precinct planning. In 2023‑2025, the priority precinct investigations program will include the Kurilpa, Albion and Newstead Precinct Plans and the City Centre Master Plan. Each pillar of the strategy is supported by future directions that have been informed by the community and will help shape the future of Brisbane’s inner city. The pillars are:

- Celebrating Brisbane’s subtropical lifestyle

- Curating cultural experiences

- Connecting places and transport

- Creating inner city neighbourhoods.

6. City Plan’sstrategic framework has identified the Kurilpa peninsula as part of the City Centre. The City Centre is the city’s largest and most powerful engine for growth and accommodates a wide range of uses at high densities. Kurilpa is identified as a priority sustainable growth precinct containing Brisbane’s largest remaining inner city riverfront renewal precinct. The Kurilpa Sustainable Growth Precinct plan will renew the precinct with a focus on additional housing supply in locations well serviced with existing and planned infrastructure and transport and access to employment, social and community services.

7. The Committee was shown a map of inner city venues for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games including existing, new, upgraded and temporary facilities.

8. A number of new infrastructure and community facilities will be delivered, including:

- Brisbane Metro and Cultural Centre station upgrade

- Neville Bonner Bridge

- South Bank Parklands expansion

- ongoing revitalisation of Fish Lane, South Brisbane

- a new 1,500 seat theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

9. In 2022, Council launched Inner Spark which is a citywide engagement program with the aim of generating ideas from the community to shape the future of the inner city. Engagement was organised around seven themes: Green, Welcoming, Beautiful, Connected, Animated, Future Focused and Resilient.

10. Since the late 1800s, South Brisbane has been home to major industrial uses. Some former industrial land in the precinct has already transitioned to mixed-use development. South Brisbane still contains three major industrial land uses occupying 13.6 hectares – a milk factory, glass factory and concrete batching plant.

11. South Brisbane is 500 metres from the City Centre and offers exceptional connectivity with:

- South Brisbane and South Bank rail stations

- South East Busway stations – South Bank and Cultural Centre

- Kurilpa Bridge, Victoria Bridge, Goodwill Bridge and Go Between Bridge

- high-frequency bus routes (including Blue CityGlider)

- riverwalk and river access infrastructure

- major existing parkland and open space, such as South Bank Parklands, Davies Park, Musgrave Park, South Brisbane Riverside Lands Park and Kurilpa Point Park.

12. The Committee was shown a diagram of the Kurilpa planning history which included Brisbane hosting World Expo 88, adoption of the South Brisbane Riverside neighbourhood plan in 2011, release of the Draft Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal Masterplan in 2014, Brisbane announced as the Host City for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the South Bank 2.0 concept.

13. The South Brisbane Riverside neighbourhood plan was updated in 2011. The South Brisbane Riverside is a diverse community, supporting a growing local population and workforce as well as a cultural district of international reputation. The Kurilpa precinct provides for the transformation of industrial uses into high-density mixed-use development, supporting the core function of the City Centre.

14. The Kurilpa Sustainable Growth Precinct Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) area accounts for predominantly Principal centre, Mixed use, High density residential zoned land. The key strategy outcomes of the TLPI include:

- increasing the supply of housing including build-to-rent and key worker housing within proximity to places of employment, amenity and supporting infrastructure

- supporting CBD-style heights for residential buildings

- requiring design excellence and sustainability

- delivering community benefit outcomes for higher density residential buildings

- reflecting city core car park requirements to encourage use of active travel and public transport networks

- ensuring infrastructure planning and delivery is aligned with and supports expected population growth

- maintaining and enhancing the intrinsic urban neighbourhood values of Kurilpa and support community wellbeing and liveability.

15. A TLPI temporarily suspends or affects the operation of the City Plan and introduces a new code, referred to as the ‘Kurilpa sustainable growth precinct plan code’. The TLPI also creates a defined term known as ‘higher density residential building’ and applies to development for a material change of use, reconfiguration of a lot, operational works, or building work in the TLPI area. A TLPI has effect for a period of up to two years while a major amendment to City Plan is progressed, including full community consultation.

16. Higher density residential building is development that exceeds the maximum building height specified in the South Brisbane riverside neighbourhood plan and where more than 80% of the proposed total gross floor area is dedicated to one or more of the following uses:

- multiple dwelling

- residential care facility

- retirement facility

- rooming accommodation.

17. Development within the proposed TLPI area, not seeking to access the new entitlements for increased building height, will be assessed under the same provisions that exist under the South Brisbane Riverside neighbourhood plan. There are three levels of assessment triggers under the TLPI:

- building height

- five-star Green Star design

- green plot ratio.

18. The TLPI requires significant public open space provision alongside South Brisbane Riverside Lands Park and Kurilpa Point Park which will result in 3.5 hectares of public parkland. Delivery of community facilities and renewal of industrial land will transform the precinct and supporting population growth. The TLPI will be sent to the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning for approval for Council to adopt. Preparation will commence on the Kurilpa Precinct Plan and major amendment to the City Plan which will include full community consultation.

19. Community benefit requires high-density residential development to make a positive contribution to the community by:

- delivering housing choice through a mix of dwelling types and sizes, rental and affordable housing options

- delivering public benefit outcomes through public space, arcades, public art and creative lighting

- providing publicly available cultural and community facilities

- delivering access and inclusion standards.

20. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manger for his informative presentation.

21. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Move on to the Transport Committee.

Councillor MURPHY.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Angela OWEN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Look, as I said earlier in the afternoon, we want to put our best foot forward when it comes to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and part of this will be done through our *Draft* *Walkable Brisbane strategy* which was presented to Committee last week. Initiatives such as Council’s award‑winning Active School Travel program already encourage residents to stay active and healthy, and the Walkable Brisbane strategy expands on our commitment to supporting active travel. The strategy has been designed to support transport connections and enhance liveability in Brisbane by addressing some of the barriers to current walking routes and improving pedestrian access, connectivity, capacity and amenity through our network of footpaths. It aims to enable residents and visitors to move around the city safely and easily, making walking a viable and effective travel choice.

The strategy includes six principles to help Brisbane become a more walkable city: comfort and enjoyment, connectivity and legibility, safety, inclusivity, fit‑for‑purpose, and inform. Now, combined with Council’s largest ever investment in public and active transport in the current financial year, we hope that this strategy will enable more people to choose to walk as part of their commute, for exercise and recreation as the various actions unfold over the coming years. Through this strategy, we will implement a variety of creative and practical measures that will address each of the six principles outlined, measures like retrofitting shade to Council assets to improve comfort and enjoyment, more inclusive processes when it comes to footpath construction, speed limits for shared paths to protect vulnerable users like pedestrians, and planting more street trees for shade and cooling effects, rather than just for visual amenity.

Mr Chair, Council is not only making changes on path, but we’re also making changes to the way we plan and design the walking infrastructure in the city’s footpath network. The strategy includes a focus on enhanced data collection and analysis through targeted education programs such as travel behaviour in order to improve pedestrian access, connectivity, capacity and amenity. The Committee was shown Council’s five-year action plan with Council’s short-term goals to be achieved over a one to two-year period and medium goals over a three to five‑year period. It also contains ongoing goals that will direct the strategy into the future. Residents that may be listening, Council is now seeking your feedback on the strategy and how you think we can make Brisbane more walkable.

Community consultation opened on 1 June and will be open for residents to have their say via an online survey on Council’s website until the end of July, 27 July to be precise. I’m happy to report, Mr Chair, that in the first week of consultation on Walkable Brisbane, this Council has received over 250 submissions already. That is a fantastic outcome, a lot of people interested in how we make our city more walkable and how we ensure that we are investing to achieve those goals. It’s already received support from peak walking and cycling organisations like Bicycle Queensland and Queensland Walks, with the latter calling the strategy a move in the right direction.

Queenslanders With Disability Network has also welcomed the strategy’s release, noting the opportunity for Council to help shape the future of the city. I’m extremely excited to see the early feedback from the community and, of course, that will inform the final version of the strategy and the various funding arms that will fall off that as we go into another pre-budget exercise for Walkable Brisbane. This will help us set the standard on how we will make walking a viable travel choice for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and even further beyond. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you very much, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Deputy Chair. Obviously, Councillor MURPHY is very proud of this strategy, all 48 pages of it that is presented with all those glossy pictures and interesting points that he’s pulled out of it for his contribution today, but what is interesting about the strategy or the draft strategy before us is that what it does do is it lists all of the LNP’s failures. It does that quite well, if you read through those pages. It’s laid pretty bare about all of the problems about how unwalkable Brisbane is and all of the things that need to be overcome to address those issues of access and inclusion in the suburbs of Brisbane.

The strategy does talk a lot about problems when it comes to how walkable, accessible, inclusive Brisbane is, problems that have come to light due to the inaction of successive Transport, Public Transport, Public and Active Transport Chairs—of which the LORD MAYOR was one and Councillor MURPHY is another now. We relaunched our mobility plan on the weekend and, in one page, that one page there, that is more ambitious and more forward-thinking than the 48 pages of Councillor MURPHY’s draft plan. The draft strategy tells us that—and what it says is some streets—this is from the strategy—some streets in Brisbane don’t have footpaths.

The figure that they are scared to put in print but comes from them, comes from the Administration, is that there are 6,183 streets in Brisbane that don’t have any formed footpath at all. That’s 41% of the streets in Brisbane have no formed footpath at all. Another few thousand, I think it’s 2,500 or 2,600 streets have incomplete footpaths, so if you walk down the street, you get a little bit on concrete, bit on grass, bit on concrete, bit on grass. People are forced to walk down the road. The draft strategy also tells us—very helpfully, of course—that separation for pedestrians, separation from traffic helps create safer walking experiences, but offers no details on how this Administration hopes to get us to that nirvana of walking.

So, thank you to Councillor MURPHY for laying that out so beautifully for us today, that pedestrians and cyclists don’t mix well with traffic. They’ve come to this—it’s taken them to 2023 to come to that realisation, as well, and we’ve seen some devastating effects of that over the last few years. We spoke to people with lived experience in trying to get around some of Brisbane’s suburbs and how difficult that is, and what they think there needs to be to improve the walkability of our suburbs and our neighbourhoods. I guess the question is, why produce this draft strategy when there are no concrete actions associated with it, as well, no funding commitments?

What we heard last week in the presentation from Councillor MURPHY is that this strategy is just that. We have to just on a hope and a prayer wait for the LORD MAYOR’s budget to come down to see if anything will be funded, and we do that each and every year, and perhaps expect something different to happen each year and to see that massive backlog, was it 2,229 broken footpaths to be fixed, to have an end date on them when only 24 do. To see some serious investment in rolling out footpath infrastructure. I think last year was just 80 new footpaths. That’s going to take a very long time to chip away at that 6,183 streets that don’t have a footpath at all.

So, why produce this document if there are no concrete actions in terms of delivery? It’s almost as if Councillor MURPHY’s produced this document not realising that they’re in charge, that they can actually do something about it, so Councillor MURPHY’s gone through this process of producing a 48 page document and outlining all of the bad things and how unwalkable Brisbane is, but forgetting that he sits around that Cabinet table with the LORD MAYOR and makes the political decisions about where our resources are allocated in Council. Since the LORD MAYOR came to office just a couple of years ago, we know that he’s jacked up rates 12.5%. We have yet to see what that’ll be added to tomorrow, but we haven’t seen a massive increase in basic services in our suburbs in terms of walkability and footpaths.

The LORD MAYOR said—he shouted out at Councillor JOHNSTON earlier, I’m not sure if you picked up this one, but he said, why don’t you just use your SEF funding to fix those footpaths? That’s what he said. The LORD MAYOR said, just use your SEF funding. So, the LORD MAYOR allocates a static amount and has for the last four or five years and even longer. It largely hasn’t gone up. Out of that money, a few years ago, the LORD MAYOR said that Councillors were expected to invest in community and sporting clubs with that money as well as parks and new footpaths—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: And roads and safe crossing points and buildouts and splinter islands and things that should be done under a capital budget. Now the LORD MAYOR is saying today in the Council Chamber that he thinks that that Suburban Enhancement Fund money which was originally designed to deliver new footpaths should be spent by Councillors on fixing broken footpaths.

So he’s outsourcing the reporting of broken footpaths and the assessment of how walkable our footpaths are to the residents of Brisbane in saying that if the residents don’t report a broken footpath and they trip on it, it’s their fault basically. That is the position of the LNP and he’s also now saying, the LORD MAYOR, the position of the LNP, is that there won’t be an increase in capital funding for footpaths and footpath repairs, you just do it out of a measly $500,000 per ward.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: No idea. It’s absolutely crazy. Maybe there’s some massive disconnect. There clearly is between the DEPUTY MAYOR and the LORD MAYOR now, serious cracks are appearing there. Maybe there’s a huge disconnect between all the Chairs and the LORD MAYOR? I don’t know. Maybe Councillor CUNNINGHAM has more of a direct line to the LORD MAYOR now. Maybe they have a better working relationship in terms of developing the budget. They’re not talking to their fellow Chairs about what is needed in delivering basic services in the suburbs. It’s all getting very interesting, all of that.

But Labor’s—you know, the LNP, they’re not very good at listening. We know that. So we’ll put this very clearly on the public record that we do need, we do need a big increase, when it comes to funding of new footpaths. We need a Chair of the Transport Committee who oversees the building of a more walkable Brisbane to be a genuine advocate in going and rattling the cage instead of saying to the LORD MAYOR, well here’s a strategy, please fund it if you wish or not.

Labor’s commitment is very clear as we’ve worked with users, with disability advocates, with people who are trying to teach their kids how to ride their bike for the first time on their local streets in a safe way, pushing prams down the streets. We need to see a serious uplift in investment. An additional $20 million a year over and above what is currently committed would deliver 200 kilometres of new extra footpaths over the next four years, an additional $5 million a year would knock off those 2,200 broken and dangerous footpaths that are plaguing our neighbourhoods right around Brisbane.

So the Chair can get up, Councillor MURPHY can get up and laugh away at it and talk about Jim Soorley and just—and keep saying nobody cares, nobody cares. Well people do care out in the suburbs. The lady who is in her 80s who tripped and fell on Lascelles Street in Brighton and cracked her cheekbone and had black eyes, had lacerations down her shins. She cared. She cared about those footpaths being safe. To the family of the lady who tripped on a Council footpath out the front of the Sandgate Senior Citizens and died, they care. They care, Councillor MURPHY.

So you know, Council should be a level of government that has its highest priority on service delivery in the suburbs. It shouldn’t be a joke like the LNP treat it and we have—we have a rock-solid commitment to this.

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, they can giggle away over there but you know, that’s fine. Labor has a rock‑solid commitment to service delivery in the suburbs and that will be very, very clear and there’ll be a very clear difference come March next year.

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh yes, thank you so much. I rise to speak on item A, the *Draft* *Walkable Brisbane* *strategy*. I’d like to just start by saying that this is probably the greatest work of fiction that Brisbane City Council has ever produced and I—

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It—I genuinely mean this. I have never read a document that is more disconnected from the reality of what is happening in Brisbane, on the streets, in the paths—in the parks and all around Brisbane than what is said in this strategy versus what’s happening on the ground. It is an absolute fiction—it’s a beautifully written fiction. It’s a bit like a Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale. I mean it looks beautiful but this document bears no resemblance to reality in any way, shape or form. Brisbane’s own report goes—states that walking is one of—often most overlooked modes of transport. Yes, by Brisbane City Council. Yes.

*Councillors interjecting*.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. So let’s go back and start. In 2018, Brisbane produced an absolutely hollow transport plan. That transport plan was supposed to produce a walking strategy for Brisbane. Five years later, here it is in a draft. Guess what? There are two—one to two-year short-term—they’re not even projects or programs. I mean there’s—they’re some sort of concept ideas and I’ll get to those in a minute but there’s some short-term—short-term objectives, I’ll say. Objectives. In one to two years.

Do any of them include building new footpaths? No. Do any of them include building new shared pathways? Do any of them include building zebra crossings, wombat crossing, refuges? Bridges to help people cross their local creeks or culverts? No. No. No. No. No. There’s actually not a single practical thing in this report before us today.

Instead, the short-term actions that are in here are—we’re going to do a survey and we’re going to look at developing a plan. Well great. Good for you. Here’s some feedback for Councillor MURPHY, back in sort of 2017 and 2018, Brisbane did a very good piece of work called Move Safe. It asked Brisbane residents where the problems were in their neighbourhoods. So that’s six years ago. Five to six years ago. They asked Brisbane residents where the problems were.

The Brisbane residents spoke up. They dropped pins. They geotagged on the map where the problems were. Have we seen anything delivered out of that? No, we haven’t. It gets better because the strategies here go on to talk about—here’s some of the things that they talk about and Councillor MURPHY raised some of them. There’s going to be more public art. That’s great. We’ve got—now we’ve got kindy active travel. That’s great. I’m sure all the mums who can barely push their prams over the dodgy footpaths out in the suburbs are going to be thrilled by being told by LNP Councillors to push their kids to school—to kindy and then onto school and to work. Good for you, you must be very proud of what you’re doing.

Apparently we want to have safer spaces so we need lighting. I mean a good starting point might be to, say, fund some of the lighting projects that have been waiting for decades to be funded. I mean in my ward alone, there’d be at least half a dozen and I’m sure every other Councillor has some as well but maybe they’re so out of touch in this LNP Administration that all their wards are lit up like Christmas trees and they think it’s easy to get around, because it’s not.

It gets better. So, so important is this strategy to—oh, forgot the shade trees. Forgot the shade trees. Yep, then the shade. That was great. There’s no footpaths but there’s going to be shade trees, so that’s excellent. Thanks for that. I just wanted to put on the record because obviously I do talk to some people from time-to-time.

It is very interesting to note how the LNP announced this project. Do you think they stood side-by-side somewhere where new footpaths were needed or did they do anything that was going to promote the idea of active transport? Do you know what they did? They went out and stood with the RACQ, Queensland’s Royal Automobile Club. Royal Automobile Club. So to announce the Walkable Brisbane strategy, Councillor MURPHY stood up—

*Councillor interjects.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Stood up with the car club of Queensland. Not Queensland Walks. They weren’t invited to his press conference/project launch and he announced the strategy. I can see why he didn’t want Queensland Walks there because it’s not far from endorsing his proposal. Queensland Walks has been quite scathing in fact. They have said, why would BCC launch a strategy and not invite your peak pedestrian advocacy organisation but instead a vehicle-based lobby group? I think that’s a good question, don’t you?

I would have thought that if you’re announcing a walking strategy, your walking groups might be invited but no. This strategy talks about speed limits and bikes and e-mobility, not a single word in here is about building new footpaths or footpath-related infrastructure. I don’t think the word zebra crossing appears in it. The word wombat crossing does not appear in it. The word refuge does not appear in it. The word green walk signal does not appear in it. This is a walking strategy without any walking infrastructure, plans, projects, funding, deliverables, KPIs. It is a dream-like work of fiction that is designed to look pretty and deliver nothing.

Absolutely nothing. Queensland Walks has actually called for $200 million for a pedestrian priority program and $20 million to be allocated to the Walking Brisbane strategy. Now, there’s no money attached to this. In fact, the only reference to money is the big lie. I’m going to call it the big lie of—because Councillor MURPHY was exposed a few years ago through my questions in estimates because he tried to blame Councillor MARX but Councillor MARX was very clear, it wasn’t her, it was him. They’ve stopped funding footpaths in the Council budget.

The only new footpaths they fund now are the school—Safer School program footpaths and replacing some footpaths that are damaged or broken. As we’ve heard, the Deputy—sorry, the Opposition Leader said and the LORD MAYOR was shouting it across the Chamber earlier, we’re supposed to be doing that as well now. Unfortunately I have to, some are that bad.

But what we’re not seeing is any kind of action, deliverables, funding from this LNP Administration. The big lie is, they say they’re investing $35 million into footpaths in Brisbane but that actually conflates all the Councillor’s SEF, Suburban Enhancement Funding and not footpath—dedicated footpath funding. The amount is much, much lower. It’s just a few million dollars and then they add the green bridges in and they claim it’s much higher.

But guess what? Out in the suburbs, you can wait over a decade for pedestrian infrastructure. In fact, longer. Jane Prentice was the Councillor when the refuge was sought outside Graceville State School. It’s been over a decade since I’ve sought a zebra crossing outside Graceville rail station. We want wombats, we want refuges, we want green walk signals. Annerley Road and Noble Street, Annerley. I mean how many people have to be hurt or killed before this Administration will actually improve pedestrian facilities in Brisbane?

Because this LNP Administration—this tired, out of touch, LNP Administration with their massive majority have spent 20 years running the Council. They’ve had five years to develop a coherent story about footpaths and improving walkability of Brisbane. What have they come up with? We’re going to put some street art in and we’re going to put some shade trees in. There are no footpaths. There are no zebra crossings. There are no wombat crossings. You can’t get across slip lanes.

Move Safe gave you the blueprint to fix pedestrian safety in this city and this Administration is ignoring it. Great example. When I raised pedestrian safety issues in a road project at Villa Street and Cracknell Road and Ipswich Road at Annerley and I raised pedestrian issues which had not been considered in the intersection upgrade, do you know what happened? Councillor McLACHLAN stood up in this place and goes, oh, Councillor JOHNSTON’s all opposed to it, we’re going to cut the project—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —I just asked—

Deputy Chair: —your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —for footpath stuff to be put in.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Thank you, your time has expired.

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Chair. Listen, I rise to speak on this item. This presentation. The first thing—the first comment I would like to make, of course, is in regard to the title of the presentation. It should have been a Draft Safe Walkable Brisbane strategy and I’ll come to the reason I think that should have been part of the title of the presentation.

So I want to tell a story and the story started a few months back when I was invited up to one of my local schools for a Safe School Travel program that they were initiating which is not easy. As Councillors know on both sides of the Chamber, it’s really hard to get some of these schools because they’re so time poor but when it’s really, really important that their students actually walk to school because the drop-off and pick-up is pretty chaotic in some schools, right? It just makes perfect sense.

So we—they initiated the skate to travel and of course Council, of course, did a fantastic presentation in the assembly. Jeez, we had performances, we had all sorts of things happening. The school and of course the students were really, really up for it. They were going to come up with three walkable pathways through to the school. I wish they had chosen the other two but they chose the one which made sense to the school because it had good parking around the location and it was about a kilometre to the school. Maybe a little bit less and it was going to be achievable for the students to—because these are, you know, primary school students of course.

So I went off to the kick-off morning down at Elizabeth Bruce Park and we started down Japonica—sorry, down Japonica, up to Biota and then over to Rosemary Street where the school is. I tell you what, yes there was footpaths but I’ll tell you what, there wouldn’t have been 20 metres—and there was hundreds and hundreds of metres we traversed but there wouldn’t have been 20 metres that was in good shape. The rest of it all needed to really be reconstructed. I mean it was so badly cracked and undulating that even grinding was not going to make it safe.

So I went back to the office after being really embarrassed on behalf of Council that I had some footpaths that were this bad in my ward, that we booked the job. Finally, they came back to us and said we haven’t got the budget to fix that. This is—you know and I—so I had to ring the school and of course tell them that who knows, maybe with the new budget coming down but listen, if we got money to always cover our mosquito spraying—because they—there’s no budget to that, well when it comes to safe pathways to where we want to go, footpaths, there shouldn’t be a budget either. It should just be done.

If it’s dangerous—and Council officers were out there within a day assessing. They just couldn’t believe it either, how bad it was, on those two streets. One of those streets was in Biota Street which was—we just had a SCIP (Suburban Centre Improvement Project) done a couple of years ago. Why that wasn’t included in the SCIP to reconstruct those footpaths is beyond me.

There was also trees that were actually had grown into, across the footpath, right? So that had to be done. There was some budget for that, I believe, to be fixed up because that was quite dangerous but that’s—but we really just need to do something about these footpaths.

So anyways, it was a wakeup call for me because I said, I’m going to go around and have a look at all the streets around Elizabeth Bruce Park and gosh, there’s going to be quite a lot of jobs coming through. I don’t know how quickly because you guys just don’t spend enough money on reconstruction let alone building new footpaths that—I don’t know, it could take a decade before all these reconstructions—because we’re talking about a suburb that was kicked off, you know, back in the 50s and no work has been done. Of course, they’re only about that wide because back then, that was the required width but now it’s 1.2.

So it’s just really sad and I was really embarrassed on behalf of this Council how bad that was because I could see the Principal. She didn’t—she wanted to be kind and she wanted to be nice and she wanted to be respectful. She didn’t say too much about it but some of the parents that were walking with me weren’t so respectful in regard to the quality of what those kids had to walk on. The kids were pretty nimble but I tell you what, the adults, they had to be careful on some of those—on some of that pathway through to the school.

So I think a story really sometimes cements what we’re not doing and what we should be doing. We need to get more money in our trust funds if that’s what it takes. I mean, I’m quite happy to do the work and scout around and get these jobs ready. You know, loaded up. Give us the money to do it but if you don’t give us the money and you don’t spend it yourself, what’s the point? Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Is there any further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY, right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair—Deputy Chair, and I appreciate Councillors having their say on this important item for our city. We know that footpaths and pathways are critical infrastructure when it comes to encouraging walking and they need to be connected for it to be continuous, safe and convenient. This strategy does indeed speak a lot about that.

We know that Brisbane has almost 5,000 kilometres of established footpaths and as I said in my answer to the question from Councillor GRIFFITHS before, no one has invested more in footpath infrastructure in the history of this city than this Administration. We have invested a record $35 million in building new and improved footpaths in this financial year, right across Brisbane.

Just for context, because Councillor CASSIDY mentioned this figure, all these streets that are un-footpathed. Just 1,348 kilometres of Council’s network of 5,812 kilometres of roads don’t have footpaths. So vast majority of our roads do, in fact, have footpaths. We know that when we do surveys out there in the community, not all—

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor MURPHY: Not all residents in different streets want footpaths. So you know, if Councillors opposite had read the strategy, they would understand that one of the issues that we are seeking to address in the strategy is how we address that issue of equity for people in terms of being able to access what I would call—and certainly what Queensland Walks and others would call, critical infrastructure for people to move around the city. How we address that issue of equity when it comes to people who don’t want footpaths for perhaps amenity reasons or visual reasons, how we address that for people is an important part of the draft strategy.

Councillor CASSIDY, he was quite critical of different parts of the strategy and being, I think—in fact quite honest and open about our shortcomings when it comes to footpaths in the city, the way in which we procure them, the way in which we design them, the way in which we build them. I actually think that’s what’s great about this strategy. This is a strategy that doesn’t actually seek to paper over what I think the shortcomings are in what we’re doing today but it sets about a course to take us forward as we head towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games in doing what we already do a lot better.

Mr Chair, it’s a shame that Councillor CASSIDY played politics with this strategy because I want to remind the Chamber again, that in the last Labor budget in   
2003-04, they only spent $11 million on footpaths in Brisbane and believe me, it showed. Just over half of Council’s footpaths at that time were rated in a very good condition. Under the Soorley administration, more than 10% of our city’s footpaths were in a shocking, appalling state and since Lord Mayor—former Lord Mayor Graham Quirk was elected in 2011, Council has lifted the good condition of footpaths to over 75% as of December last year.

So these are some incredible turnarounds in terms of the condition of the asset of footpaths in this city. They claim that we’re doing nothing, but the fact is that in every year of this Administration, we have spent more money on footpaths than any year under Labor. I’m not just quoting one figure from the last year. They never spent more money than us on footpaths and in fact, it wasn’t even close.

So they like to say we’ve been around here for a long time and that we compare our record to our record but the reality is, people have a choice, don’t they? Between a Liberal Administration that actually does invest in footpath infrastructure and a Labor administration who historically didn’t. So I can’t compare a future Councillor CASSIDY-Councillor MASSEY administration, what they might spend on footpaths because they haven’t told us what they would do. In fact, actually, Councillor CASSIDY, he criticised our 48-page policy while he released a one box Twitter piece which was Labor’s mobility policy which, in fact, said they would spend less money than we spent on footpaths.

So you know, for all the criticism of our very big, bold strategy with pretty pictures, I mean he didn’t exactly try harder, did he, Deputy Chair? He actually tried a lot less hard, but I do like to think, Chair, that the officers did get something right with this Walkable Brisbane strategy in that Councillor CASSIDY had not released any mobility plan for Brisbane and then one week after we released Walkable Brisbane, out he came with that square image on Twitter which was—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor MURPHY: —Labor’s mobility—

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor MURPHY: —plan.

Councillor CASSIDY: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Well—okay, well we will see. Look and finally, Chair, just really—Deputy Chair, just really quickly, some of Councillor JOHNSTON’s comments. I won’t address the bulk of her comments as she clearly has not read the strategy at all but in terms of that announcement, she said we made the announcement with RACQ or something like that. We were actually making the announcements at one of our beautiful kindy active travel schools which is part of the pilot program that was down there at Hanlon Park where we made the announcement where we have delivered a massive amount—

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor MURPHY: —of pedestrian infrastructure in the last financial year and you know, here’s the other thing, Chair. She said the Queensland—she said Queensland Walks has been really critical of the strategy online. Well this is what they said about the strategy, ‘a walking strategy is an important move by Brisbane City Council to identify the gaps in our walking networks and to plan ahead. We all want to see Brisbane become the most walkable and accessible city in Australia and the Walkable Brisbane strategy will kickstart this process’. So she said they’ve been really, really critical of the strategy but that’s the quote.

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor MURPHY: That’s what they said about the strategy so you know, I just—people who listen to Councillor JOHNSTON in this Chamber, just be aware that you don’t often hear the truth, you hear some confected perversion of the truth or, you know, what she thinks some of the short-takes online from some anonymous accounts on Twitter. She goes, oh, that’s what they said but that’s not actually what they said.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: You can quote me. That’s what they said. You can go and look that up.

Deputy Chair: Just one moment, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

Councillor MURPHY, you’ve got the call.

Councillor MURPHY: Then just finally, Chair, from Councillor STRUNK. We’ve—we actually had the same debate 12 months ago when he brought up lack of investment in footpaths. Well what do you know? What did Councillor STRUNK spend this financial year just going on footpaths? Because I think last year it was 11%. Do you reckon he’s improved on that this year?

*Councillors interjecting*.

Councillor MURPHY: Would you believe, he has spent 5.6% of his SEF on footpaths this year. So you know, he has actually managed to more than halve his expenditure on footpaths in his ward which is a pretty big achievement, actually, Chair. So credit to him and I—look, I commend the item to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor CASSIDY, your misrepresentation, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yeah, thanks very much, Deputy Chair. The LNP’s commitment is what I said and Councillor MURPHY misrepresented me on this. The LNP’s commitment to footpaths is around $35 million a year. I’ve outlined Labor’s which is $60 million a year and we first released our mobility plan in the first half of 2020. He might have just missed that, though.

Deputy Chair: Thank you very much for keeping that concise.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your—

*Councillors interjecting*.

Deputy Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Unfortunately, Councillor MURPHY has misrepresented me. He stated that I’d been relying on some sort of anonymous and fake—I think Twitter remarks. In fact, I was quoting directly from advice from the CEO of Queensland Walks.

Deputy Chair: Thank you very much.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I think it’s disrespectful to hear that he has described her as fake—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and a troll.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Not appropriate.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you do not go into debate on a misrepresentation, you just state the facts and then sit down. Thank you.

We will now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – DRAFT WALKABLE BRISBANE STRATEGY

**705/2022-23**

1. The Transport Policy Manager, Policy Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the *Draft Walkable Brisbane strategy* (the strategy). He provided the information below.

2. The strategy is a key initiative of the *Transport Plan for Brisbane - Implementation Plan 2018*, which supports the outcomes and directions of the *Transport Plan for Brisbane – Strategic Directions*. The strategy has been designed to support transport connections and enhance liveability in Brisbane by addressing barriers to current walking routes and improving pedestrian access, connectivity, capacity and amenity throughout the city’s network of footpaths. The strategy aims to make walking a more viable and effective travel choice for residents and establish Brisbane as one of the world’s most walkable cities. Council aims to ensure walking is a primary consideration in the planning, design, operation and maintenance of the transport network and understands that improved journey experience can promote a healthier and more active lifestyle.

3. The strategy includes the following six principles to help Brisbane become a more walkable city:

1. Comfort and enjoyment

2. Connectivity and legibility

3. Safety

4. Inclusivity

5. Fit-for-purpose

6. Information.

4. By improving the enjoyment and comfort of Brisbane’s walking environment, Council hopes more people will choose to walk as part of their commute, for exercise and recreation. The strategy aims to achieve this through implementing a variety of creative and practical measures, including the incorporation of cultural and art features into the design of pedestrian places and routes. Council will also use the strategy to guide the design, development and review of streetscapes around Brisbane to deliver high-quality and enjoyable walking environments for pedestrians, including through the improvement and provision of seating, shade, street trees and other features on priority routes. Council will continue to identify opportunities to work with local communities to improve the walkability of their suburbs.

5. Council’s vision for the strategy includes improving the legibility and connectivity of Brisbane’s network of pathways to assist residents and visitors in planning where they want to go. Having a clear and comprehensible network of pathways that connects people to local destinations and public transport will encourage Brisbane residents and visitors to integrate more walking trips as part of their daily activities. Council aims to achieve this outcome by continuing to identify and complete gaps in the network through a Pedestrian Network Plan. The strategy also includes the development of walking plans to improve connectivity, remove barriers and inform future infrastructure investment. Council will continue to identify priority pedestrian routes and barriers on walking routes, as well as opportunities for direct walking routes through and within large blocks, centres and developments by implementing effective wayfinding tools for pedestrians.

6. Council aims to make walking in Brisbane a safe travel option for all times of the day and night. The strategy focuses on safety as a fundamental consideration in the planning, design, operation and maintenance processes of Brisbane’s transport network, which involves ensuring footpaths are managed and maintained. This includes providing unobstructed and consistent walking paths for pedestrians, with sufficient lighting in place and infrastructure that separates pedestrians from incompatible transport modes, particularly in high-traffic environments. Council will investigate and implement a range of safety measures, such as creating a shared pathway hierarchy and provisioning convenient crossing points, through the strategy. Monitoring pedestrian behaviours, real and perceived levels of safety and encouraging the development of plans for major institutions can also assist with addressing pedestrian access and safety issues.

7. Inclusive access to well-designed streets, paths, parks and public spaces is essential to being able to take full advantage of Brisbane’s subtropical climate and liveability. The strategy aims to make walking a viable option for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds by making priority pedestrian routes and areas compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992.* Council aspiresto provide an enjoyable and comfortable experience for all users of walkways and footpaths. As part of the strategy, Council will incorporate accessibility features such as tactile signage, braille trails, rails and ramps in walking routes and investigate options to assist with the delivery of targeted footpath improvements. These measures assist with creating a seamless connectivity between accessible parking, passenger pick-up and drop-off zones, public transport stops and the walking network, for people with disability.

8. The strategy aims to deliver streets and public spaces that meet the needs of the people walking through them. Walking infrastructure will be designed and built to provide a level of service that is appropriate for user demand and needs, which will be done in cooperation with the Queensland Government and other stakeholders to plan and deliver walking programs, such as undertaking precinct plans for major facilities and public transport hubs to facilitate easy, safe and comfortable walking.

9. The strategy includes a focus on enhanced data collection and analysis to help improve pedestrian planning and investment in walking programs. Council will aim to enhance the way it collects and shares data to assist with the planning and design of walking infrastructure and networks. Targeted education programs, such as travel behaviour, is one example of how Council can engage with the community through data collection and analysis. Council will aim to distribute information and resources to the community regarding tools, infrastructure and programs that facilitate, support and encourage walking among Brisbane residents and visitors to the city.

10. The Committee was shown the strategy’s five-year action plan, which is broken down into three categories. These include short-term goals, which cover a one-to-two-year period, medium‑term goals, which consider delivery of the strategy from three to five years, and an ongoing vision that helps to direct the strategy into the future. The strategy was released for community consultation on 1 June 2023 and will be open to the public via an online survey on Council’s website until 27 July 2023. Feedback collected through the survey will help to inform the final version of the strategy, which is currently scheduled for release in late 2023.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee, please.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Peter MATIC, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, you got the call.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. Can I begin by recognising Councillor MATIC and his outstanding contribution to our city.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Peter’s been a person I’ve known for gosh, 20 years, some. His contribution to our city, our Council and our party has been tremendous. I think it’s fair to say he demonstrated his commitment to the cause by running against the guns in Inala—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor WINES: —some years ago.

Deputy Chair: Just one moment, Councillor WINES.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yeah, Councillor WINES is allowed to speak about portfolio issues but some sort of valedictory—

Deputy Chair: No, no, no, Councillor JOHNSTON, you full well know that Councillor WINES being Chair of that Committee can speak to his Committee. He can do that, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Ah—

Deputy Chair: As Councillor MATIC is part of his Committee—

Councillor WINES: He is the Deputy of the Committee—

Deputy Chair: He is the Deputy Chair.

Councillor WINES: —and I can make mention of my gratitude to my Deputy.

Deputy Chair: Can you please resume your seat.

Councillor WINES: What an appalling—

Deputy Chair: Please resume your seat, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor WINES: What an appalling—

Councillor JOHNSTON: It—

Councillor WINES: What an appalling attempt to silence—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Hang on, hang on.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: —a favourable—

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES. Thank you, Councillor WINES. Can you resume your seat as well? I’ll give you the call back.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Deputy Chair—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you know full well and I will say it again for the second time this afternoon that you do not speak while I’m speaking. I have identified that Councillor MATIC has and is the Deputy Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and Councillor WINES has the right to speak on members of his Committee. Can you please resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Deputy Chair, that’s not—

Deputy Chair: I have given you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s not what I want to talk about. I’m sorry. I’m rising on a point of order—

Councillor WINES: Point of order. The Councillor doesn’t get to talk about—

Deputy Chair: Hang on, Councillor—hang—

Councillor WINES: —anything. She can—

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: —listen and then contribute later.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, just wait up.

So, can you please re-make your point of order, please. Your first point of order was about Councillor WINES speaking about Councillor MATIC. The call has been made on that. Are you issuing a new point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: May I speak?

Deputy Chair: I would love you to.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Mr Deputy Chair, if you’re going to continue as the Chair of this Council—

Deputy Chair: Are you making a point of order?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: All you need to do is say the words, Mr Deputy Chair, point of order. That’s all you need to do.

Councillor JOHNSTON: May I speak?

Deputy Chair: Once you’ve said, can I make a point of order, yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ve already done that.

Deputy Chair: No, you’ve done it once and we dismissed that point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m not allowed to speak when you’re speaking but you—

Deputy Chair: No. You’re not.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Mr Chair, can I ask—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Please say the words, point of order, Deputy Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: May I speak?

Deputy Chair: Not until you say, point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ve said, point of order.

Deputy Chair: You said it once and that point of order was disposed of. Are you rising for another point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ve already said that I am.

Deputy Chair: Can you please say the words so I can hear them.

Councillor JOHNSTON: May I speak?

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I would like to speak to my point—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, unless you are making a point of order, please resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I have repeatedly said to you that I am making a point of order but I’m not allowed to speak when you’re speaking and you keep interrupting me, hence I am stopping speaking. May I speak?

Deputy Chair: On the point of order that you’ve risen to your feet to, yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Mr Deputy Chairman, if you are going to continue as the Chair, I would appreciate it if you would allow me to make a point of order and not cut me off so that you can make a ruling on that point of order and you have refused to do that here today. I am very concerned that I’m not able to speak and raise these issues with you and I would ask you to take that on board.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON and I would remind you it is protocol that when you do stand and rise to your feet, you do say the words, point of order. Thank you.

Councillor WINES, you have the call.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair, and can I say, can I recognise Councillor MATIC in his ongoing contribution to our city and our cause through his selfless act of running in the State seat of Inala when it was tougher than it is even today. To be able to join our Council in 2007, to represent what was effectively St Lucia and to have waved St Lucia in the rear-view mirror as you travelled north and become a pure northsider, it’s been a pleasure—can I say it’s been a pleasure to be on Council with you for all these years. It is going to be sad to see you go and that your work with our Committee and with our Council has been really appreciated. I know as a person whose parents fled dictatorship, to be able to contribute in a democracy in this way is something you and your family should be really proud of.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: To be part of the great story of this country and this city and I thank you so much for everything. So can I also make mention that last Wednesday, I had the great pleasure of chairing the electronic vehicle roundtable which brought in a whole range of industry stakeholders to contribute to how our city should form a strategy to best remove the barriers to purchasing an EV (electric vehicle) and what Council needs to do to address this new move that consumers are making towards electric vehicles. So what are the barriers that occur that this Council can address, what are the policy settings we need to consider?

So for example, as an organisation of our nature, we have to manage the road network. We have to manage town planning concerns. We have to manage the disposal of the vehicle and any materials associated with that. That becomes into our remit as well. So all these matters were discussed and can I thank all the contributors to that roundtable? It was a really good day and I will say what I—in the concluding remarks I made that day, that when I see events with butcher’s paper, I do put a question mark next to them but can I say, the material points that were made by contributors that day were really valuable and will materially improve the way this city progresses in engagement in this new model of vehicle that we are seeing increasingly common in our streets.

Can I also reflect upon the State Government’s announcement on Sunday of their new study that duplicates our old study to see the benefits of a tunnel through the northern suburbs of Brisbane. Now, as I said earlier, Council conducted a study that identified that if there were not traffic and transport issues addressed in the north and outer northern suburbs, there would be catastrophic failure of that district along with significant economic loss.

That was mocked by the State at the time for a range of reasons. Then as we discussed in Question Time, they adopted the eastern alignment option we provided to them in November last year. So look, I’m not going to sit here and say we said it was a good idea and they said it was a bad idea and then once—

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor WINES: Then once it comes to this point, they say it’s a good idea and I’m going to say it’s a good idea. Did we prefer the western alignment? Yes because it provided more solutions for more people and that’s why we preferred it. This one will be cheaper and it will satisfy a great many concerns along Gympie Road. There’s no doubt about that but please don’t anyone here or anyone listening confuse my comments earlier with me not supporting that proposal. Very much I’m very keen to see traffic and transport improvements in a meaningful way for the northern suburbs. Any way that I can provide assistance, I look forward to that.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: On the topic, we had a presentation on the City Reach Boardwalk rehabilitation project which was a range of—which is going to be an ongoing feature of our organisation for some time. The boardwalk occurs in—the principal issue with the boardwalk is there’s seven separate ownership types in the length of it from lease to privately held to publicly owned to body corporate and some of the boardwalks can leave it in the building, some of it’s a boardwalk in its own right. It’s a real moveable feast of issues that one. So we will be working on that for some time but I thought it was important that the Committee heard about those issues early. There was also a petition which I understand was supported by all Councillors.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

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

We’ll now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Peter Matic (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, Fiona Hammond, Sarah Hutton and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CITY REACH BOARDWALK REHABILITATION PROJECT

**706/2022-23**

1. The Manager, Policy, Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure and the Program Director Civic and Building, Project Management, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the City Reach Boardwalk (CRB) rehabilitation project. They provided the information below.

2. The City Reach precinct is a premium riverfront, global business and lifestyle destination in the CBD. City Reach is one of eight global precincts identified for their scalable industry activity, world-class business environments and global reach. The CRB fulfills both a place and movement function, providing spaces for people to meet and enjoy the view, and transition spaces with dining and entertainment venues while also catering for people walking and wheeling between inner city precincts.

3. The CRB comprises of 15 sections suspended over the Brisbane River between the Story Bridge and City Botanic Gardens. The CRB is used by people walking, cycling and using e-mobility devices. Council is planning to undertake rehabilitation works on the CRB in three sections at:

- Customs House, 427 Queen Street

- 443 Queen Street

- Admiralty Towers II, 501 Queen Street

4. The CRB was progressively constructed by developers between the late 1980s and 1990s, with each section of boardwalk being constructed with its corresponding adjacent private building development. The CRB was originally owned by the Queensland Government, under the Port of Brisbane authority. The majority of the CRB was transferred to Council on 30 June 2010, however, some sections remain privately owned, with Council holding leases or licences for public access.

5. Maintenance inspections identified that rehabilitation works were required to repair and replace sections of the boardwalk to extend the structure’s life. These rehabilitation works are required to repair and replace sections of the boardwalk to extend the structure’s service life by up to 10 years and to ensure it remains safe for ongoing public access. The current project comprises of rehabilitation of sections at 443 Queen Street and Customs House with works being delivered as two separate packages.

6. Package 1 works, at 443 Queen Street, includes:

- demolition of the existing structure above boardwalk level to access degraded concrete deck panels

- replacement of five degraded concrete deck panels

- reconstruction of the structure above boardwalk level to match the landscape design for the adjoining development.

7. Construction of Package 1 commenced in mid-November 2022 and required the CBR to be closed to facilitate completed replacement of five degraded deck panels. The CBR reopened in late March 2023. The contractor is undertaking reinstatement works at the same time as landscaping within the podium area. Package 1 is expected to be completed by mid-2023.

8. Package 2 works, at Customs House, includes:

- concrete crack repairs of precast panels and girders

- carbon-fibre strengthening of precast panels and girders

- application of protective coating system to concrete and steel elements

- installation of new steel beams to provide supplemental support to the boardwalk structure.

9. Package 2 contract was awarded on 8 February 2023 with mobilisation and site establishment completed in late April 2023. The CRB was closed to facilitate construction works from 10 May 2023 and will continue until mid-June 2023. During closure of CRB, four degraded concrete deck panels will be replaced. Concrete repair and corrosion protection works will continue under boardwalk level. Package 2 is expected to be completed by late 2023.

10. During the closure of CRB, localised detours are in place using Eagle and Queen Streets with a wider detour using the CityLink Cycleway on Elizabeth and Edward Streets.

11. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager and the Program Director Civic and Building for their informative presentation.

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING PARKING LIMITS BE REDUCED TO TWO-HOUR PARKING FOR JEAYS STREET AND HURWORTH STREET, BOWEN HILLS

**137/220/594/150**

**707/2022-23**

13. A petition requesting parking limits be reduced to two-hour parking for Jeays Street and Hurworth Street, Bowen Hills, was received during the Spring Recess 2022.

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

15. The petition contains eight signatures. Of the petitioners, none live in Hurworth or Jeays Street.

16. Jeays and Hurworth Streets are classified as Neighbourhood roads in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy and have a mix of residential housing and commercial businesses. Current parking‑metered spaces on both streets are limited for either nine-hour (9P) or 12-hour (12P) parking. While it is unknown if the petitioners work at nearby businesses, it is noted that most of the businesses in the area have off-street parking available. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

17. The petitioners’ request to reduce the existing metered spaces on Jeays and Hurworth Streets from 9P and 12P to 2P is noted. There is a limited supply of on-street parking in many inner city areas to meet the demand of residents, businesses and visitors. While Council works hard to balance the limited on‑street parking spaces available for all road users, it is inevitable that high parking demand will exceed the limited supply of parking spaces.

18. On-street parking is a valuable community resource, and Jeays and Hurworth Streets include a number of multi-unit dwellings where residents and visitors rely on on-street parking to supplement off-street parking.

19. Notwithstanding this, Council proposes to consult with directly affected businesses with the view to introduce 2P parking outside 22 and 26 Jeays Street. Should they be in support, these parking changes will be implemented.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

21. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

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

23. **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:** 137/220/594/150

Thank you for your petition requesting parking limits be reduced to two-hour parking (2P) for Jeays and Hurworth Streets, Bowen Hills.

Your request to reduce the existing metered spaces in Jeays and Hurworth Streets from nine‑hour and 12-hour (12P) parking to 2P is noted. There is a limited supply of on-street parking in many inner city areas to meet the demand of residents, businesses and visitors. While Council works hard to balance the limited on-street parking spaces available for road users, it is inevitable that high parking demand will exceed the limited supply of kerbside spaces.

On-street parking is a valuable community resource, and Jeays and Hurworth Streets include a number of multi-unit dwellings where residents and visitors rely on on-street parking to supplement off-street parking.

Notwithstanding this, Council proposes to consult with directly affected businesses with the view to introduce 2P parking outside 22 and 26 Jeays Street. Should they be in support, these parking changes will be implemented.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Karl Brough, A/Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 7391.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

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

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair, and before moving to the Committee report, I did want to touch upon a couple of things relevant to the portfolio. In particular, it was remiss of me to not mention earlier today, the terrific contribution of the Council officers in preparing the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan and I do thank Councillor DAVIS for acknowledging them.

They have done a terrific job to deliver a very balanced outcome that respects not only the environmental considerations out there but also the character expectations of the community but also the significant need to deliver additional housing. So I would express a very heartfelt thanks to the Councill officers who worked on that neighbourhood plan.

I’d also like to join Councillor WINES in acknowledging the contribution of Councillor MATIC to the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee. He’s always been an active member of the Committee and I’ve certainly appreciated Councillor MATIC’s insights over the years I’ve been a Councillor. He’s a great guy to be with and has great knowledge and is certainly one who is great to watch in full flight in debate. So I wish Councillor MATIC all the best in the next part of his life’s journey.

I’d also like to take the opportunity to touch upon a point that Councillor GRIFFITHS made earlier in the meeting. Particularly about 284 Pine Mountain Road, Carina. This is another classic example of Councillor GRIFFITHS firing from the hip without actually doing any homework on the topic. Now he’s not in the Chamber at the moment but as I said, it’s a classic example of Councillor GRIFFITHS getting it all wrong. Firing away before really investigating the facts.

Particularly the 284 Pine Mountain Road contains three separate lots, namely 284, 284A and 60 Bendena Terrace. All subdivision proposed, including the extension of Liam Street, are located on the former healthcare site or the former healthcare centre, Xavier Children’s Support. This site is at 284 Pine Mountain Road, Carina Heights. The lot fronting Pine Mountain Road.

So I can confirm that there is no development occurring within the Whites Hill Reserve section of these lots. There is a request to undertake minor filling along the northern side of the Liam Street extension. This filling is proposed to avoid the use of retaining walls that would restrict fauna movement to koala food trees that are also proposed to be retained within the development.

So I’m also told that the proposed filling does not remove any existing habitat trees within the White Hill Reserve. So at this point in time, the application is under assessment by Council’s independent planning officers. It’s not, as Councillor GRIFFITHS would suggest, some sort of mass destruction of koala habitat but that’s because he hasn’t investigated the application. If he’d have done that, it would have been fairly obvious.

So, look, I would encourage Councillor GRIFFITHS to quickly check on that and I must say, it was beautiful to watch Councillor JOHNSTON dive in the deep end without even considering whether Councillor GRIFFITHS facts would be right. So between the two of them, I’d suggest they both have a look at the DA and acquaint themselves with the facts.

Moving on to the Committee report. The Committee presentation was on the State Government’s recent changes to thePlanning Act and Regulations. This presentation was to update the Committee on recent changes that had been made by the State Government to the Planning Act and Regulation and follow-on impacts that had in terms of Council’s planning scheme and activities.

One of the changes to the Planning Regulation that was discussed was the change to secondary dwellings and granny flats. Council was advised of this change on Friday 23 September with the changes coming into effect the following Monday with no consultation being undertaken with local governments prior to the announcement. The changes focus on removing restrictions on the people who may occupy secondary dwellings, including granny flats for example, occupants no longer needed to be related to the people in the principal house.

The changes also meant our City Plan needed to be amended to remove this restriction of number of unrelated people living together which, up until this time, had been five. As a result, Council is now unable to regulate the number of people living in a house or dwelling and we imagine this may flow on—have flow on impacts to the amenity of our suburbs, including car parking, waste collection and noise.

Council was notified of another change to the Planning Regulation on Monday 24 October regarding emergency accommodation. The changes came into effect on the proceeding Friday and with no prior consultation. The changes allow for the use of the infrastructure designation pathway for the provision of social and affordable housing by a community housing provider or under a State Government funding program. Additionally, it also allows local government to deliver emergency housing in response to a disaster without need to a material change of use, for example, within parkland.

There was a third change to the Planning Regulation in December and again, we were provided details of this change just one day prior to it becoming—coming into effect. This change centred around small-scale rooming accommodation and removed the requirement for assessable development application where it met certain criteria.

Despite this, recently the State has been seeking feedback regarding upcoming proposed changes. One proposed amendment bill proposes changes to broadening the scope of the State Planning Minister’s power to direct amendments to a local planning scheme as well as give local governments no power to make an alternative policy that is inconsistent with the State’s Planning Act.

Finally, Council recently provided feedback on the State’s proposed amendment to the Minister’s guidelines and rules that would allow Council to re-zone land that has been purchased through the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program as a minor amendment. As I said, a lot of this stuff has been advised to Council with no consultation and either taking effect immediately or within a matter of days. Often with a weekend separating the actual application of these changes.

As a result of the Committee presentation, Councillor COLLIER raised a couple of questions. In particular, she asked whether we’d been engaged in the housing roundtables and the summit and was advised that the LORD MAYOR had been an attendee at both of those events and perhaps if she’d done a little bit of homework, she would have appreciated that the LORD MAYOR was engaged in both of those key events.

She also asked why I hadn’t been engaged and spoken to the State about these planning regulation changes. The reality is, I don’t have a crystal ball. None of us were advised. There was no consultation. These were just a directive from the State Government. There was no consultation so it’s pretty hard for me to have consultation or engagement on something that’s a direction with no advice but at any—

*Councillors interjecting*.

Councillor ALLAN: At any rate, you know, these changes have occurred. We will be implementing them. We’ll be managing them as best we can at a local level and I think that it would be useful from the context of Councillor COLLIER’s position, is that she needs to appreciate that a lot of engagement with the State on planning matters is low on consultation and engagement and ultimately—and ultimately, becomes a directive in a lot of cases.

In addition to the presentation, there was a petition containing 258 signatures to re-name a road to Nikola Tesla Street in recognition of the inventor, Nikola Tesla. Now, this street that they were seeking to rename was Gooderham Road North. It has frontage to Camden Road. In accordance with Council’s street naming policy, the required denomination would need to be a road, not a street, so their request would have to have been Nikola Tesla Street. But irrespective of that, Council requires that every house or every owner that has a property fronting that street must support a change of name and that was not achieved. So the response to the petitioners was provided and the local Councillor was consulted and supported Council’s recommendation. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you, Deputy Chair. Listen, I just want to rise to speak in regard to the relaxation of that rule that was in place for I don’t know how long, that you couldn’t have more than five unrelated people in a property. I congratulate the Queensland Government for relaxing that rule.

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor STRUNK: I do. Whether you’re related or unrelated, so long as you’re living at an address in a respectful way and you’re parking your vehicle on the road legally and you’re not disturbing the neighbours, what’s the difference? What’s the problem? So I don’t know, I have—

*Councillors interjecting*.

Deputy Chair: Councillors.

Councillor STRUNK: I have a lot of people out my way that are really doing it tough at the moment when it comes to accommodation and I think if they can live together in a respectful way, in a peaceful way, then—and they can afford to live that way until circumstances change, then they should be allowed to. So I don’t think it was a—I just think Councillor ALLAN really—I don’t think there is an issue here in regard to the relaxation of that rule. That was my understanding, anyways and that’s what—that was what the presentation was about or somewhat what the presentation was about. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item A of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report on the impact of State Government’s recent changes to the Planning Act and regulations. Mr Chair, those of us who were a part of the current City Plan’s original formulation will remember that overcrowded rooming accommodation was a big issue back in 2014. Safety concerns and amenity issues were giving our city a reputation as a city who exploited international students. We also experienced a tragic house fire in Logan that claimed 11 lives.

Following this tragedy and considering the international reputation our city was creating, this Council creating the rooming accommodation code in our City Plan and lowered the number of unrelated people that were permitted to live under one roof. Mr Chair, we noticed there was need for student and affordable accommodation in our city. We addressed those issues through good policies and proper planning. Initiatives such as infrastructure charge reduction which resulted in quality student accommodations built in the right place at affordable prices.

Mr Chair, in contrast, these changes in the StatePlanning Act and regulations is simply a kneejerk reaction to cover up the State Government’s lack of action on social housing and stigmatisation of the local housing providers. Mr Chair, the changes brought by the State Government is a cover for their incompetence and their lack of plan to address the housing crisis. Just remember, if anything like the Logan house fire happens again, the blood is on this State Government’s hands.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUANG.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Do you think that’s appropriate—point of order. Do you think that’s appropriate, Mr Deputy Chair? Those remarks?

Deputy Chair: It’s—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: It’s fine. Can we please move on?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay, that’s fine. That’s fine. Okay. Just briefly, City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report, I don’t think that’s fine. I don’t think that’s appropriate. As much as some of us would like to say these things occasionally, mainly over Council’s inaction when pedestrians die in the City of Brisbane and Council does nothing, I’d like to say it a lot, I don’t think it’s an appropriate thing to say and it’s very sad that’s what Councillor HUANG has said.

However, I just want to say very briefly, I love the confected outrage from Councillor ALLAN. It is confected outrage because have we seen him protesting in the streets with the State Government? Have we seen him taking the fight up to George Street? No, no, you’ve got this wrong. Has he gone and talked to the—I think the Deputy Premier, probably, on this issue? I’d be really interested to know what he’s actually done to point out the problems with what the State is doing.

Without question, there are very big problems with what the State is doing because I don’t reckon Councillor ALLAN will have done anything. Not a sausage. Is he moving a motion in here? I mean they like to come in here and what was it last week? There was all that outrage about Councillor GRIFFITHS whose name had to go in that motion last week about that planning issue. Are we seeing any motions come through this place condemning the State Labor Government for their poor planning policy changes? No. We’re not seeing that.

What are we—we’ve actually sort of gone and gone, oh, we really don’t like what the State’s doing but we’ll just go along with it. We’ll just go along with it. I cannot believe that Councillor ALLAN is standing up in this place saying yeah, yeah, yeah, we don’t agree with what they’re doing but doing nothing to stop it. Clearly, he secretly supports what’s going on here otherwise we would see action from this LNP Administration.

They’re prepared to stand up and fight on almost every other issue going out there. I mean today, it’s been all about the State doing a study on a State Government road and they’ve spent so much time talking about that. On an issue that directly impacts our Council, the amenity of our suburbs, how enforcement happens, how planning happens, have we even written a letter up the road saying, woah, big bad State Government, I think you’ve got this wrong? I doubt it.

Maybe Councillor ALLAN is going to stand up and go oh, Councillor JOHNSTON, you don’t know what you’re talking about, I’ve written 10 letters up to the Deputy Premier saying this is not right. Your planning changes are wrong. You need to consider this. Has he done any of that? My guess is no.

In fact, what we know is this LNP Administration has been engaged in all these conversations, participated in these conversations. Supports the changes that are being proposed here and they will have adverse impacts on our neighbourhoods. The Planning Chairperson is simply waving this through because he wants to see more development happening in Brisbane. Not good development. Not development—not appropriate development or well-designed development in the right areas, just more development. Scattergun approach. Just everywhere.

Because we know that there would be more outrage in this place if the State Government was really doing the wrong thing according to the LNP. We’ve seen it today. I mean road projects, what else have they been—the big nasty State Labor Government about today? Every—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Tunnels. Yeah, the tunnels. Yeah, I mean the big nasty State Labor Government are doing X, Y and Z but this one, no problems. Just wave it on through. So I think that’s quite interesting and it’s just staggering as well for the Planning Chairperson to stand up and talk about how the big, mean State Government didn’t consult him when the Planning Chairperson is responsible for bringing in the most dictatorial adverse temporary local planning instruments that impact on residents without any consultation whatsoever. Whether it’s in Moorooka or South Brisbane. I mean you’d think that he’d have at least some idea that he’s been doing this to the people of Brisbane for months and—if not years.

But it’s okay when he does it. It’s no problem when he does it but it’s terrible when that big, mean State Labor Government does it to us but we’re really not going to complain about it because we secretly like it. I think that’s what we’ve heard here today.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Thank you. Sorry, Mr Deputy Chair, I was just waiting for my microphone to reset my time. Yes, thank you. I’m standing up to speak on item A in the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report regarding this new—well I’m not going to say new law. It’s a change to the existing local law that we had up until place—in Brisbane City Council up until September last year as the Chair mentioned. Which, I might add, we found out through no official channels that this had actually happened, which is not a great way for the State to work with local Council on this issue.

Councillor HUANG is 100% correct when he said that Councillor STRUNK, through you, Mr Deputy Chair, was not in this place as a Councillor when Graham Quirk, the Lord Mayor at the time, brought this law in. It was brought in for a very real issue, problem, that was arising and overcrowding.

Now, I understand, Councillor STRUNK, through you, Mr Chair, suggests that he supports this removal of this law and I think potentially in his utopian world of—that he lives in, that it might be a good thing because people are—don’t all have houses to live in but the reality of what actually happened in this situation when it wasn’t the law is far from utopian. I can tell you that right now.

Overcrowding—and we’re not talking six people or seven people living in a house. We’re talking 13, 14 and 15 people being crammed into one house doing hot bedding. That’s one way they did it. Now, if you don’t understand hot bedding, I’ll tell you exactly what it means. It means one person gets out of bed after sleeping there through the night, then the other person gets back into that bed after sleeping through the day. They literally swap—shift for beds.

We’re talking—and yes, you know, most houses they’ll have one rubbish bin. One yellow bin, one green bin, one red bin. You know, you can imagine trying to fill or keep a household of 14 people under control with waste. I mean it’s just not reality.

Safety issues alone. Fire issues. The reason—and when the law was in place, there was only one avenue that Council had, which was in the compliance space. That if they had any complaints about this from anyone in the area, was the only way we could enter the property was with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service. That was the only avenue open to us. So if someone put in a complaint and we had safety concerns of overcrowding. Often times it was a situation where they literally built the garage in and they punched a hole in the garage wall and then shoved an air conditioning in there. So no natural light. No natural amenities.

There was one house on the corner which is in Councillor HUANG’s ward which I then inherited, which was in Councillor Graham Quirk’s ward, they had a Portaloo in the backyard. That was their bathroom facilities. Now, I don’t know if anyone else in this place thinks that’s an acceptable way to live but I sure don’t and the compliance officers were completely hamstrung. The only way they could make any investigation was the Queensland Fire Service. That now has gone.

So not only are the Queensland Fire Service gone from this space, compliance are also now gone. So can I suggest to you, Mr Deputy Chair, when the complaints start rolling in about this, I would suggest potentially you head your complaints towards Councillor STRUNK and the Forest Lake Ward because he completely supports this amendment. I think it’s appalling. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

Are there any—Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair—

Councillor LANDERS: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor LANDERS.

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| **708/2022-23**  At that time, 6pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, 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 6.03pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillors.

Councillor MASSEY, you have the call.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: My pleasure.

Councillor MASSEY: I just wanted to note that I think, through you, Chair, that the Chair of this Committee said maybe five or six times no consultation, no engagement and how that was a big frustration. Fascinatingly the TLPI for the Kurilpa precinct of course has no consultation and interestingly enough, it is an interesting question. Because of that no consultation, I wonder what the Chair has done. I know the Kurilpa community has sent letters, sent emails attended Chambers and who knows what they’ll do next. I guess we’ll see. But I just wanted to make note of that, that no consultation five or six times, that was—I found that interesting. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

Are there any further speakers on City Planning and Suburban Renewal? I see no one rising to their feet.

Councillor ALLAN, right of reply.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair and look, I thank everybody who has contributed to the debate. What I would point out is that Councillor STRUNK’s points were obviously heartfelt and fair and I can see the point that he’s making, but I think the reality here is that there are unintended consequences which I think Councillor MARX really illustrated pretty well. So we will have to wait and see how some of these things play out over time, but we do share some concerns. To Councillor JOHNSTON’s point, have we done anything in terms of engaging with the State? Yes, we’ve written to them about these things, we’ve specifically asked how certain items were going to be applied, how we should support them, how we should give effect to them and we haven’t received any feedback.

To Councillor MASSEY’s point and to a point that Councillor JOHNSTON made, certainly you can’t have it both ways in this Chamber. You can’t say that we’re being dictatorial and overriding people and not supporting planning changes with appropriate consultation, but then in this very Chamber, this very evening, vote against a neighbourhood plan where we did all that consultation, the process took a couple of years. So to vote down something that was heavy in consultation with lots of community engagement that gave rise to a really good housing outcome, to vote that down and then call us dictatorial on the other hand, it doesn’t make sense. Because it doesn’t matter what we do in the Chamber here, whether we bring through a TLPI, some other planning change or a major amendment like a neighbourhood plan, the other side of the Chamber will vote against it.

Right now we have a housing crisis and a TLPI was the best way of moving forward and bringing on housing supply and those on the other side have opposed it again, so as I said, they oppose things purely for the sake of opposing it and in the last two weeks, they’ve stood in the way of a potential 14,000 new homes. That is appalling. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

I will now put—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillors. Councillors.

I’ll now put the report.

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 Fiona Hammond (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Lucy Collier, Peter Matic and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – IMPACT OF STATE GOVERNMENT’S RECENT CHANGES TO THE PLANNING ACT AND REGULATIONS

**709/2022-23**

1. The Manager, Strategic Planning, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the impact of the Queensland Government’s (the State) recent changes to the *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017*. She provided the information below.

2. The Committee noted recent and proposed changes to the State planning framework, which include:

- *Planning (Secondary Dwellings) Amendment Regulation 2022* (PSDAR)

*- Planning (Emergency Housing) Amendment Regulation 2022* (PEHAR)

*- Planning (Rooming Accommodation) Amendment Regulation 2022* (PRAAR)

*-* Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (POLAB)

*-* Minister’s Guidelines and Rules proposed amendments.

3. The PSDAR was announced by the State on 23 September 2022, and effective from 26 September with no prior consultation. PSDAR made changes to residential definitions to remove restrictions on how members of a household live together. The key changes include:

- people living in a secondary dwelling are not required to be part of the same household as the people in the primary dwelling

- an amendment to *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) to remove the restriction on the number of unrelated people living in a dwelling house, which was previously limited to five people

- amendments to the definitions for dual occupancy, household, multiple dwelling and secondary dwelling

- the ability for secondary dwellings to be rented to another household

- the provision for takeaway alcohol at food and drink outlets, and to broaden workforce accommodation

- changed definitions for food and drink outlet, non-residential workforce accommodation, rural workers’ accommodation and tourist park.

4. Council responded to these changes by amending parts of City Plan to reflect the intent of the new residential definitions, including:

- West End-Woolloongabba district neighbourhood plan – acceptable outcome

- Dwelling house code – purpose, acceptable outcomes and performance outcome

- Dwelling house (small lot) code – purpose, acceptable outcomes and performance outcome.

5. Council was advised of the PEHAR by the State on 24 October 2022, and it was in effect from 21 October with no prior consultation. PEHAR made changes that allow the State or a local government to deliver emergency accommodation in response to an event (as defined under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*) without seeking a material change of use approval.

6. The PRAAR was approved by the State on 1 December 2022 and effective from 2 December with no prior consultation. PRAAR introduced a number of changes including:

- making rooming accommodation not assessable against a planning scheme where certain requirements are met

- removing the ability for certain overlays to regulate development for rooming accommodation and dwelling houses

- clarifying the types of housing that can be expected in residential zones

- material change of use for a dwelling house being assessable under City Plan in certain conditions.

7. The State released POLAB for consultation between 3 April and 5 May 2023, including 18 proposals that outlined policy changes for feedback. The key changes proposed included:

- expanding the scope of the Planning Minister’s powers and processes to direct amendments to a local planning instrument

- minor changes to processes, including new timeframes for assessment

- making submissions and accessing documents and notices

- urban encroachment provisions, including new and changed registrations.

8. The State released proposed amendments to the Minister’s Guidelines and Rules for consultation between 24 April to 26 May 2023. These amendments are intended to support the Voluntary Home Buy‑Back (VHBB) program and the proposed change would allow Council to rezone land as a minor amendment where the land has been purchased through acquisitions. Council supports the change as it will remove the need for a development application to comply with the requirements of the VHBB.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSIDER RENAMING CAMDEN ROAD, WILLAWONG, AFTER INVENTOR NIKOLA TESLA

**137/220/594/215**

**710/2022-23**

11. A petition requesting Council consider renaming Camden Road, Willawong, after inventor Nikola Tesla, was received during the Autumn Recess 2023.

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

13. The petition contains 258 signatures. Of the petitioners, 23 live in Moorooka Ward, 146 live in other wards within the City of Brisbane and 89 live outside the City of Brisbane.

14. The petitioners suggest Camden Road, Willawong, as a suitable candidate for being renamed ‘Nikola Tesla Street’ given Nikola Tesla’s Serbian/American heritage and the presence of the Serbian Australian Centre at 338 Gooderham Road North, Willawong, which has frontage to Camden Road.

15. Council’s *AP153 Street Naming Policy* (the policy) allows for the use of the name ‘Nikola Tesla’, however, to maintain consistency with the policy, the road hierarchy in this location would require denomination as a ‘road’, not a ‘street’.

16. Although the suggested name is considered acceptable, Council’s process relating to a request to change a street name requires the written agreement of the owners of all properties with a frontage to the impacted road, be obtained and accompany the request. This petition has not been accompanied by the written consent of all owners of land with frontage to Camden Road.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

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

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

20. **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:** 137/220/594/215

Thank you for your petition requesting Council consider naming a road in Brisbane after the inventor Nikola Tesla. It is acknowledged your petition nominates Camden Road, Willawong, as a suitable candidate for being renamed ‘Nikola Tesla Street’, given Nikola Tesla’s Serbian/American heritage and the presence of the Serbian Australian Centre at 338 Gooderham Road North, Willawong, which has frontage to Camden Road.

Council’s *AP153 Street Naming Policy* (the policy) requires a request to change a street name to obtain the written support of all landowners of properties with a frontage to the subject street. It is noted that this information was not provided with your petition. Should you wish to pursue your proposal to change the name of Camden Road, Council requires the request be accompanied by written support of all landowners of properties with frontage to Camden Road.

With regard to the suggested renaming of Camden Road to ‘Nikola Tesla Street’, the use of the denomination ‘street’ is not consistent with the policy, which requires consistency in road naming terminology pertaining to the function in the road hierarchy. The use of ‘road’ would be required for a replacement name for Camden Road. As such, any such future request would need to be based on ‘Nikola Tesla Road’.

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

Should you have any further questions about the application, please contact Mr Paul Bartels, Principal Building and Construction Management Officer, Building and Construction Management Team, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, on (07) 3178 0315.

Thank you for raising your concerns.

**ADOPTED**

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

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Before I get into the report, can I take a moment to acknowledge Councillor David McLACHLAN who has been a really important member of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee. When I first came into Council about four years ago, Councillor McLACHLAN was actually the Infrastructure Chair, and I remember very well Councillor McLACHLAN introducing me to the wonderful world of CPO (City Projects Office) and negotiating my way around—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: Still—my way around it and he was very helpful with a number of projects in my local area. But thank you, Councillor McLACHLAN for all your assistance to me as Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee because of the work that you did when you were the Chair of the same committee. We appreciate your presence in the Committee, your contribution and from a personal perspective, thank you. I’m sorry I don’t have any lovely stories to tell like Councillor WINES had to share like he did with Councillor MATIC because of my short time here. But the stories that I have heard have always been so very positive about your contribution to this team and to Council and to your residents.

Deputy Chair, item A was our Committee presentation which was on natural area outdoor concept planning. I’m very proud that Brisbane is Australia’s most biodiverse city and one of the reasons for this is the natural areas that we manage. The concept planning of our natural areas is set to be—is to set the balance between protecting the environment and meeting the outdoor recreational needs of the public. Some of the outdoor recreation activities that we encourage within our natural areas include bushwalking, off-road cycling, horse riding through to picnicking and bird watching. Deputy Chair, this is part of our *Brisbane Vision 2031* to make our city accessible, active and healthy. It goes without saying that this is also a part of our clean, green and sustainable commitments by providing outdoor recreation opportunities in those natural areas including new activities in acquired bushland.

Our approach to planning for these areas lies in identifying which recreational activity fits in best with each individual natural area so that both are maximised. It’s no good having bird watching tours where the birds are hard to find. In recognition of this ongoing process, we have a rolling program to develop our concept plans which, of course, are informed by community feedback. This program supports our vision to achieve 40% natural habitat cover by 2031, with 75% of that habitat in good or better condition. Deputy Chair, we also had one petition requesting Council prioritise funding for rejuvenation of the waterway traversing through and adjacent to Hyde Park Road, Fehlberg Park and Leyshon Park, Yeronga. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

**Seriatim - Clause B**

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| --- |
| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause B, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL PRIORITISE FUNDING FOR REJUVENATION OF THE WATERWAY TRAVERSING THROUGH AND ADJACENT TO HYDE ROAD PARK, FEHLBERG PARK AND LEYSHON PARK, YERONGA, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor JOHNSTON: With respect to the petition here before us today and Council’s do-nothing response, it’s just not good enough anymore. I want to thank Kate Wall and all the residents who have supported this petition and indicate that I won’t stop fighting to get better drainage for Yeronga residents. It is not good enough that this Council can invest $20 million-plus just around the corner in Norman Park catchment, but can’t be bothered to even clean out a drain in Yeronga and one that floods in heavy rain. Residents watch what’s happening in other parts of the city and they don’t see the same level of interest, maintenance, upgrades, even basic work being done in Tennyson Ward than there are in other parts of the city.

So one of the people who was supporting this petition is an experienced landscape gardener and somebody who really helped our community through the 2011 floods as a volunteer, so she’s got a lot of experience in dealing with the impacts of floods in our community. She’s spoken to me about Norman Creek and the outcomes over there and said, why can’t we have that? Well there’s no reason other than the LNP Administration just say no to everything. They significantly underinvest in drainage everywhere in this city. There are dozens and dozens and dozens of projects in my ward—drainage projects in my ward, that are waiting for funding, that are just on Council’s never-never list. We had the Council officers out to talk to the retirement village that are logging complaints every week, every single week there’s a complaint about this drain. It’s not maintained properly, it’s cracked, it’s full of weeds, it’s full of debris, it’s full of rubbish, the banks of it aren’t maintained properly, like it’s just a mess. It’s just a mess. It doesn’t have enough capacity.

The whole situation with drainage in Yeronga West is appalling and Council knows this. A report was done in 2001 that said there should be no further infill development until Council invests in stormwater drainage upgrades. So what did Council do? Took all the stormwater drainage upgrades off the Council’s Long term infrastructure plan, out of the PIP (Priority Infrastructure Plan), out of the LGIP and now there’s just no upgrades happening at all. This one’s been on the list for about 12 or 13 years and it is in terrible, terrible shape. It’s the main stormwater drain out to the Brisbane River and a huge amount of runoff comes down through these stormwater drains and into the park. It’s not just in floods that this floods, it floods every time there’s heavy rain. So this is a do-nothing response. I mean the wording in here is just—it’s almost belittling in the way that residents are being spoken to and I just can’t support this kind of—I can’t support this kind of do-nothing response by Council.

‘Council acknowledges community sentiment’. Community sentiment? How about fixing a public asset that Council recognises needs to be fixed instead of saying, oh no, no, it’s really a drain, we’re not going to do anything about it, it’s already capital-listed, we’re going to fix it. So if I—my guess is that the same listing from 12 years ago is probably sitting in the capital works list waiting for the never-never funding from the Administration. I doubt anyone’s properly scoped what needs to be done. I doubt anyone’s thought about an upgrade rather than just patching up where the concrete channel’s actually cracked, and I doubt that anyone’s thought is there a better stormwater solution for this precinct that’s going to help mitigate localised flooding impacts and carry the huge, huge, huge increase in volume and velocity that has come from all the infill development through Yeronga. No one’s probably looked at those issues.

So I just—this Council’s response over and over again is it’s on the capital works list. But it’s not getting done and that is not good enough. I feel really, really sorry for residents in Yeronga because this Administration has absolutely sold them down the river, they’ve jammed so many more people in there, they’ve announced they’re changing the low-impact industry zone to mixed use residential without any consultation with them. They took out all the infrastructure out of the LGIP, so now the developer doesn’t even have to meet LGIP standards. So this is how the LNP roll. They want to jam more people into a catchment that floods, into a catchment that can’t handle current stormwater loads and current stormwater needs and when the community says fix it, please fix it, please make it better, please use innovative best practice, this Administration goes, we appreciate your sentiment. Well I think that’s patronising. I think it’s inappropriate. I’m fully behind my residents. We need better stormwater drainage.

This Council spends less than $40 million a year on stormwater drainage out of a $4 billion budget. It is grossly inadequate. It is negligent. It is a negligent investment in what is actually needed in this city and it is appalling that the LNP are simply ignoring the needs of this community. They deserve better.

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

Councillor DAVIS? No?

We will now put item A of the report.

**Clause A put**

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

Deputy Chair: We will now put item B.

**Clause B put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 15 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor James Mackay (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, Sandy Landers and David McLachlan.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – NATURAL AREA OUTDOOR RECREATION CONCEPT PLANNING

**711/2022-23**

1. The Manager, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on natural area outdoor recreation concept planning. He provided the information below.

2. Council manages more than 130 natural areas, covering approximately 10,000 hectares, through various plans and initiatives such as *Brisbane Vision 2031*, *A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019‑2029* and *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031*. Natural area planning focuses on the conservation of biodiversity in Brisbane while respecting heritage and Indigenous culture, providing a diversity of outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities and preserving landscape amenity and scenic views.

3. Outdoor recreational activities are those undertaken in natural spaces where there is a relationship between the participant and the outdoor environment, involving either interaction or appreciation. Examples of outdoor recreational activities include:

- bushwalking, trail running, off-road cycling and horse riding

- picnicking and nature study, such as bird watching

- orienteering

- canoeing and kayaking.

4. Council’s outdoor recreational planning approach focuses on identifying and protecting reserve values, recognising local recreation demands and interests and designing outcomes that capitalise on the natural area. This can be achieved through concept plans which guide the delivery of outdoor recreation infrastructure. These plans are:

- implemented on an annual rolling schedule

- informed by community feedback and ideas

- internal or community-facing.

5. The Committee was provided with an outline of existing natural area concept plans for Oxley Creek to Karawatha, Keperra Bushland, Brisbane Koala Bushlands, Boondall Wetlands and Anstead Bushland Reserve. Natural area concept plans have the following objectives:

- identify and plan for outdoor recreation opportunities

- support habitat restoration and enhancement

- enhance wildlife movement

- expand access for all abilities

- identify and manage site constraints, such as flood and fire risk

- educate the community about natural area values

- incorporate opportunities for new technology and trends.

6. The Anstead Bushland Reserve Concept Plan:

- identified opportunities to protect and enhance natural and historical values

- provided a variety of safe, accessible and attractive outdoor recreation facilities for all ages and abilities

- created opportunities to learn about local bushland reserves, flora and fauna

- encouraged residents and visitors to utilise the outdoors for fitness

- promoted community stewardship of the reserve.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL PRIORITISE FUNDING FOR REJUVENATION OF THE WATERWAY TRAVERSING THROUGH AND ADJACENT TO HYDE ROAD PARK, FEHLBERG PARK AND LEYSHON PARK, YERONGA

**137/220/594/191**

**712/2022-23**

9. A petition requesting Council prioritise funding for rejuvenation of the waterway traversing through and adjacent to Hyde Road Park, Fehlberg Park and Leyshon Park, Yeronga, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 21 February 2023, by Councillor Nicole Johnston, and received. The petition also requested that the outcomes of the rejuvenation works be in a similar style to the works recently undertaken in Norman Creek, Stones Corner.

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

11. The petition contains 181 signatures.

12. Hanlon Park / Bur’uda was identified as a location for these significant works in the *Norman Creek 2012‑2031 Master Plan*. The naturalisation of the waterway traversing through, and adjacent to Hyde Road Park, Fehlberg Park and Leyshon Park has not been identified and is not currently being considered for inclusion in a future budget. However, a project has been listed in Council’s drainage infrastructure capital works program (the program) to repair damaged sections of the existing concrete drain.

13. Projects listed under the program are limited to maintenance and restoration work to improve the current condition, rather than a large-scale natural channel rejuvenation project, as has been requested. The project to repair the concrete drain will be prioritised on a citywide basis against other similar projects, and as such, it is not possible to provide an indication of when these works will be completed.

14. Council is continually reviewing the process of how sites are prioritised for rectification works and acknowledges the community sentiment and the potential social and environmental benefits at this location. While each of these concrete-lined channels presents potential opportunities, the practicalities and feasibility of rejuvenation needs to be given full consideration.

15. Council is obliged to follow the recommendations of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the independent body responsible for the assessment and registration of herbicides. Council adopts a harm minimisation approach to ensure that herbicide application is delivered in the safest possible way. This is managed by selecting the safest herbicide available for the purpose required and use of best-practice techniques by the operators applying the herbicides.

16. Council programs its grass cutting schedule on a seasonal basis. The frequency of this service increases in summer when grass grows faster. However, this can be disrupted by significant rainfall or periods of extended dry weather. In these events, services are rescheduled as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. These services are generally provided by external contractors. Although Council has not been made aware of any issues relating to mowers getting bogged, Council will reconfirm with the contractor to ensure they are assessing whether conditions are appropriate prior to commencing works.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

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

19. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Steve Griffiths dissenting.

20. **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:** 137/220/594/191

Thank you for your petition requesting Council prioritise funding for rejuvenation of the waterway traversing through and adjacent to Hyde Road Park, Fehlberg Park and Leyshon Park, Yeronga, and that the outcomes of the rejuvenation works be in a similar style to the works recently undertaken in Norman Creek, Stones Corner.

Hanlon Park / Bur’uda was identified as a location for these significant works in the Norman Creek 2012‑2031 Master Plan. The naturalisation of the waterway traversing through, and adjacent to Hyde Road Park, Fehlberg Park and Leyshon Park has not been identified and is not currently being considered for inclusion in a future budget. However, a project has been listed in Council’s drainage infrastructure capital works program (the program) to repair damaged sections of the existing concrete drain.

Projects listed under the program are limited to maintenance and restoration work to improve the current condition, rather than a large-scale natural channel rejuvenation project as has been requested. The project to repair the concrete drain will be prioritised on a citywide basis against other similar projects, and as such, it is not possible to provide an indication of when these works will be completed.

Council is continually reviewing the process of how sites are prioritised for rectification works and acknowledges the community sentiment and the potential social and environmental benefits at this location. While each of these concrete-lined channels presents potential opportunities, the practicalities and feasibility of rejuvenation needs to be given full consideration.

In regard to your concerns surrounding Council herbicide application in proximity to waterways, Council is obliged to follow the recommendations of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the independent body responsible for the assessment and registration of herbicides. Council adopts a harm minimisation approach to ensure that herbicide application is delivered in the safest possible way. This is managed by selecting the safest herbicide available for the purpose required and use of best-practice techniques by the operators applying the herbicides.

In regard to your concerns about mowers getting bogged, Council programs its grass cutting schedule on a seasonal basis. The frequency of this service increases in summer when grass grows faster. However, this can be disrupted by significant rainfall or periods of extended dry weather. In these events, services are rescheduled as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. These services are generally provided by external contractors. Although Council has not been made aware of any issues relating to mowers getting bogged, Council will reconfirm with the contractor to ensure they are assessing whether conditions are appropriate prior to commencing works.

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

Should you require more information, please contact Mr Chris Vos, Program Officer Engineer, Waterway Health Integration, Water, Energy and Environmental Systems, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, on (07) 3178 0740.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX, City Standards Committee, please.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Kim MARX, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Chair and before I get to the report, I just want to mention everyone has been mentioning Councillor MATIC in his role as their deputies in the various committees. Well, he’s not been one of my deputies, but I was one of his deputies and so I want to thank him for introducing me to the world of chairmanship and just what a tough gig it was and I appreciate having him there on the other end of the phone every time I needed his help with something. As far as Councillor McLACHLAN goes, I was also on one of his committees and at that time it was called Field Services. I went to visit his ward office one day and there was a table out there in the garage spread with a whole lot of waste; apparently, he was doing his own waste audit. I’ll never forget that. I thought, I’m never going to do that. Turns out I actually did do that one day, but anyway, that’s the nature of the job I guess. So I’m looking forward to their valedictory speeches because I know that they’re going to do great and we’re really, really going to miss them.

So I just want to talk, last week’s Committee was on CARS’ (Compliance and Regulatory Services') involvement in the personal appearance services, which I think a lot of people would not be aware of and it was a very—I’m not going to say entertaining, maybe it was entertaining— Committee, but anyway, it was very good. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

Are there any further speakers?

Being no one rising, we will now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Sarah Hutton, Nicole Johnston and Sara Whitmee.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – PERSONAL APPEARANCE SERVICES

**713/2022-23**

1. The General Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services (CARS), Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of personal appearance services (PAS). She provided the information below.

2. The Queensland Government’s *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003* (the Act) covers all aspects of PAS in Queensland, this includes services such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, tattooing, body piercing and body modifications. PAS are broken down into two categories: Higher risk and Non-higher risk. All PAS are to operate under defined infection control guidelines regardless of a licence being required. In addition, anyone who performs tattooing services or operates a tattooing business in Queensland also requires a licence administered by the Office of Fair Trading and Queensland Police Service.

3. Higher risk PAS involve any of the following skin penetration procedures, in which the release of blood or other body fluid is an expected result:

- body piercing, other than closed ear or nose piercing

- implanting natural or synthetic substances into a person’s skin, such as hair or beads

- scarring or cutting a person’s skin using a sharp instrument to make a permanent mark, pattern or design

- tattooing (including cosmetic tattooing).

4. Non-higher risk PAS involve any other personal appearance service not defined as higher risk, such as hairdressing and beauty therapy services. These services are not required to be licensed and operators are required to take all reasonable precautions and care to minimise the risk of infection.

5. Council is responsible for ensuring licensed Higher risk PAS businesses are meeting the requirements of the Act and infection control guidelines to ensure the health and safety of customers. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) from CARS are public health professionals and authorised persons under the Act. EHOs ensure the health and safety of customers by:

- monitoring compliance with the Act by inspecting PAS businesses

- responding to incoming customer reports

- targeting unlicensed operators through customer reports.

If a complaint is received for a Non-higher risk PAS business, EHOs will complete an investigation of the business’ practices to ensure they are complying with the infection control guidelines.

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

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee please.

### COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, there’s some very important speeches still to be had tonight, so Mr Deputy Chair, you’ll be very surprised to hear that I’m going to say we had a wonderful Committee presentation on library reading programs for children. Everyone in this Chamber knows how important they are and I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: That would have to be the shortest Committee presentation ever. Thank you.

Are there any further speakers? No?

There being no further speakers, we will now put the report of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, James Mackay, Steven Toomey and Sara Whitmee.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – LIBRARY READING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

**714/2022-23**

1. The General Manager, Library Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on library reading programs for children. She provided the information below.

2. In the early years of a child’s development, reading builds a language and literacy foundation and is an essential basis for learning. It allows children to develop cognitively and emotionally and fosters imagination, creativity and cultural awareness. Reading and literacy contributes to a child’s success and opportunities at school and beyond, which underpins the vision, values and role of Council libraries. Council libraries support reading through physical and digital collections, spaces, programs and other resources.

3. Reading programs, such as the First 5 Forever early literacy sessions held in Council libraries, build on early literacy foundations and pre-reading skills for children from birth to five years of age. These programs and events aim to:

- connect children to Council’s library collection

- create the foundation for a successful learning journey

- embed reading as an enjoyable activity

- foster positive connections with reading and libraries.

4. Council’s key library reading programs have significant engagement with children and families across the city. In 2022-23, almost 13,000 children participated in the Gold Star, Little Stars and Summer Reading Club programs. With more than 800 events for children and families and more than 23,000 attendees, Council libraries continue to develop and evolve early literacy and reading programming.

5. Under Eights Week is an annual celebration led by Early Childhood Australia that recognises the importance of play as a crucial part of early childhood development, and supports the protection, preservation and promotion of play for children’s wellbeing and development. Libraries across the city hosted 31 staff-led, play-based events to tie into the 2023 theme of PLAY – You, me and our community. The aim of the week was to nurture natural curiosity and playfulness with a variety of nature, music, baby and dramatic play activities planned. Council also collaborated with a number of schools and day care centres throughout the week.

6. National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual initiative led by the Australian Library and Information Association, which promotes the value of reading and literacy. Every year an Australian picture book is chosen and read simultaneously across the country on the same day and time across libraries, schools, early education centres, bookshops and in homes. The chosen book for the 2023 celebration was *The Speedy Sloth*, by Rebecca Young and Heath McKenzie. The event was held on 24 May at 11am across 27 libraries and community spaces.

7. Celebrating its 20th year, the Gold Star and Little Stars Reading Club programs promote literacy and encourage reading among children up to 12 years. More than 110,000 children have participated since 2004, fostering a sense of belonging through connections to local libraries. This year, the reading clubs will run for two months from 1 June to 31 July. The theme of this year’s program is Discover the Magic of Reading, and participating children will receive a reading map, much like a treasure map, that allows them to log their reading time as well as complete challenges. Award ceremonies will be held from August to September with medallions and certificates awarded to celebrate reading achievements.

8. Each school holiday, Council provides equitable access to quality events for children and families that promote reading, learning, culture and inclusion. Activities delivered include:

- engagement with authors and illustrators

- robotics and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) workshops

- interactive performances

- music and cultural activities.

9. In the upcoming June-July school holidays, there are approximately 200 events occurring across the library network. Featured events include:

- Real Pigeons live stage show

- Red Rocket 3 and Nana Magic performances

- workshops with authors Dannika Patterson, Cate Storey and Sandhya Parappukkaran.

10. In addition to the featured events, library staff will also deliver:

- fact finders on topics such as dinosaurs and birds

- make and create activities

- science and tech workshops

- podcasting for families

- LEGO brick-building clubs.

11. Other events scheduled for 2023 include:

- Children’s Book Week from 19 to 25 August

- Harry Potter Book Day on 12 October

- Summer Reading Club commencing in December.

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

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, Finance and City Governance Committee please.

### 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 6 June 2023, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Just briefly to the report, Mr Deputy Chair, I wanted to speak about bushfire preparedness as this is an important issue in the leadup to summer. So the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is the lead agency of bushfire prevention, preparedness and response. Our team in City Resilience assists residents with preparedness and engages with relevant stakeholders and community groups to keep Brisbane safe in the event of an emergency. The Committee heard that Council City Resilience team is currently preparing for the risk of bushfires due to dry conditions and warmer-than-average temperatures predicted for Queensland during the 2023 winter season. This will likely contribute to elevated fire activity in parts of Queensland.

Managing bushfire risk is a shared responsibility among local councils, private landholders and emergency services. Council’s Program Planning and Integration branch lead fire hazard management on Council-owned land. Private landowners are legally responsible for mitigating and managing bushfire hazards on their property. However, we, at Council, are playing an active role in preparing the landholders and the broader community. We’ll be continuing our bushfire and flood information sessions, workshops for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as facilitating an engagement program for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. People living in particular risk areas will receive even further communication from Council and QFES. Council will be advising residents who live close to bushland or in rural areas to prepare a bushfire survival plan and practise implementing it with their family. The engagement priority areas have been identified in conjunction with QFES.

Finally, I just wanted to mention that if Councillors weren’t aware, QFES actually has this really useful website which provides interactive mapping about the bushfire risk to communities and to residents and if Councillors weren’t aware that that existed, please make sure that you log onto that and check out for your own wards in the next few months. Mr Chair, I commend the report to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Listen, I rise to speak in regards to bushfire preparedness. It was a very interesting presentation with the head of the disaster management team now, Malcolm, who is new to the job, but he was quite well prepared—

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: I think Councillor STRUNK just called the Council officer by the wrong name. It’s Howard. Did you say Malcolm? It’s Howard.

Councillor STRUNK: It is Howard? Sorry, I thought it was—it’s Howard. Sorry. Thank you for the correction. He was reasonably well-prepared, he’s only been in the job for a few months, but the—well I would—raised, is an issue that has come up many a time, we’ve had a number of presentations about bushfire preparedness from the head of disaster management over the years while I’ve been in the Finance Committee and I raised the issue of bushfire in my ward actually, which is—I don’t have big swathes of green in my ward, but we do have these concentrated pockets of bush area within the Forest Lake suburb itself that was developed back 30 years ago, and also of course within Doolandella and, of course, Ellengrove as well, which is a fairly big acreage area as well.

My concerns were that we’ve, especially in the Forest Lake area, we’ve been building up fuel, especially in the small pockets for 30 years now, of course, and it’s never really addressed. Now you can’t backburn in these little pockets because you’re close to houses and it would be a bit of a disaster I would think, would be hard to control, for the firies to do that. So what you’ve really got to do is you’ve actually got to go into those pockets and actually retrieve or do something about the fuel that’s actually been built up in these pockets. Now I’m not the only Councillor that raised this issue in the Committee as well, so there are plenty of areas around Brisbane that we’re not—just not doing the work that we need to be done to reduce the fuel load because at some stage, it’ll get—someone will throw, I don’t know, some sort of accelerant in there and honestly, it will burn the fence down behind the house and then it may even get into the house as well.

So we really have to identify those areas and I raised that and the Chair decided to say, well if you want to send me a list of those places that you have concerns or your residents have concerns, we’ll have a look at that. So I thought about it overnight and when I went in on the Wednesday, I said to my team, Nayda and Pam, this has come up during the Committee presentation, we’ve had all these calls over the years in regards to people’s concerns, let’s put out a survey or a question first, right. So we decided to, within a few hours, we had that survey ready to go, along with that question, of course, is which we asked residents are they bushfire ready. Now we had, within a week, we had 276 replies, which seemed a lot to me. Seems I’m not the only one thinking this way in regards to these bushfire areas that aren’t being maintained.

So we put that, so going to the survey, we asked four basic questions really and I’ll cover over on these, I think I’ve got time. How important is the bushfire safety in your suburb, 82% of the people say very important to them; which was a great response, people are thinking about it. We’ve got to do more. What do you know—sorry—did you know what to do in the case of a bushfire, now 42% of the people said yes or about 43 actually said ‘yes’ and 21 said ‘no’, and 35 said ‘I think I know’. So honestly, over 50% of people really don’t know, so there’s a lot of education we’re going to have to do in this space, not just through the work on the ground, but we actually have to inform and educate the residents, we at least in my ward and I’m sure this would be duplicated right across Brisbane. Another question was do you know about the Brisbane City Council’s severe weather pack and that it includes a bushfire safety guide and 57% of the people said no. So again, if they don’t know about it, they can’t do anything about it, they can’t be informed about it, so again, maybe we should do more in *Living in Brisbane*, in that magazine that goes out every month in regards to this area. I know we do a little bit, but maybe we should have a real concerted effort, especially coming into storm season.

The last one was, would you like to collect a Brisbane City Council severe weather pack, that includes bushfire safety guide and 68% of the people said yes. So we’ve been going through a lot of those actually over the last couple of years actually, once we discovered during another presentation that they existed and people are still—every time we put it up on the Facebook page, people just come in to grab them because they don’t always have the information they need to know about storm issues and what they do, but also they—it’s one of those satchels that actually they can put all their invaluable documents in there. So if fire happens or there’s a bad storm or a flood or whatever, they can just grab that satchel and leave with that information intact, which really helps when it comes to getting back into the house and insurance companies and all that.

So I thank very much for the presentation, but I think we have to spend the money to make it safer in those areas where it’s needed and I think every one of our Councillors here in the Chamber would know those little pockets, or big pockets in some cases, and we really need to put the word on the LORD MAYOR that we need to allocate more money to look after these areas so that we can keep our residents safe. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

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

Councillor CUNNINGHAM? No?

We will now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Trina Massey, Angela Owen and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

**715/2022-23**

1. The General Manager, City Resilience, City Administration and Governance, attended the meeting to provide an update on Council’s bushfire preparedness strategies. He provided the information below.

2. Council’s City Resilience branch assists with bushfire preparedness in the Brisbane Local Government Area (LGA) and engages with relevant stakeholders, community groups and residents to deliver strategies and information to keep Brisbane safe in the event of an emergency. City Resilience is currently preparing for the risk of bushfires due to dry conditions and warmer than average temperatures predicted for Queensland during the 2023 winter season, which will likely contribute to elevated fire activity across inland parts of Queensland. The Committee was shown a map detailing the bushfire potential in regions across Australia from the Seasonal Winter Bushfire Outlook, which is predicting normal fire potential during the winter period for Brisbane. Therefore, people living and working in the area need to remain vigilant of fire danger and risk.

3. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is the lead-agency on bushfire prevention, preparedness and combat responsibilities. However, managing bushfire risk is a shared responsibility among local councils, private land owners and emergency services. Council’s Program Planning and Integration (PPI) branch lead fire hazard management on Council-owned land. Private land owners are legally responsible for mitigating and managing bushfire hazards on their property. Due to current warm and dry conditions, Council is proactive in land management and engagement with relevant bushfire stakeholders, including:

- Australian Defence Force, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

- National Parks and Wildlife Service

- Brisbane Airport Corporation

- Seqwater

- Griffith University

- neighbouring councils

- private property owners.

4. Council manages its bushfire risk approach through various committees and programs, including the following.

- Bushfire Working Group – made up of staff from relevant Council branches including Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability (NEWS), City Resilience, City Planning and Economic Development (CPED), City Legal, Compliance and Regulatory Services and PPI. The group prepares and reviews an annual risk management statement, advocates on behalf of Council for funding opportunities and reviews Council’s preparedness against bushfire inquiry recommendations.

- Natural Hazards Steering Committee – a high-level strategic committee made up of General Managers from relevant hazard-focused areas including NEWS, CPED, PPI, Asset Management, City Resilience, City Communications, Corporate Risk and Corporate Finance. The committee advises and provides guidance to Council concerning the allocation of corporate resources towards managing risk, ensuring due diligence and legislative compliance associated with natural hazards. The committee implements actions, policies and processes that manage and mitigate natural hazards.

- ‘Be prepared’ campaign – an annual preparedness campaign run by City Resilience that is funded through the State Government’s ‘Get Ready Queensland’ initiative.

- Planned burns and asset management – PPI have ongoing arrangements in place to maintain natural assets, conduct planned burns and train fire staff. The branch is responsible for a range of bushfire prevention initiatives, including vegetation control, construction and maintenance of fire access trails, fuel reduction, patrolling known hotspots during periods of heightened fire danger and protection of significant trees.

5. Council plays an active role in preparing the community for bushfires. Council’s community engagement strategy conducts bushfire and flood information nights at community information hubs, workshops for seniors and people with disability and facilitates an engagement program for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. People living within vulnerable areas will be targeted for direct engagement from Council and the QFES. Council is advising residents who live close to bushland or in rural areas to prepare a bushfire survival plan and practise implementing this with their family. The engagement priority areas have been identified by City Resilience in conjunction with QFES for the Brisbane LGA. Identified areas include:

- Upper Brookfield and Brookfield

- Mt Crosby and Karana Downs

- Lake Manchester and Kholo

- Gumdale and Burbank

- The Gap and Chapel Hill

- Moreton Island / Mulgumpin.

The priority areas will be notified about community events through letter box drops and social media. City Resilience will be hosting a wide range of engagement events such as information nights, drop-in sessions and community information hubs to educate residents who are at risk.

6. Council maintains specialist equipment and trained staff to undertake risk mitigation work and respond to bushfires, which is coordinated through PPI. Council’s operational capability includes 135 bushfire‑trained staff, who have undergone fuel hazard and fire weather training and planned burn supervisor experience. Council’s bushfire operations fleet includes special vehicles and ultra-high frequency (UFH) communications that are compatible with QFES channels.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillors, we move onto item 5 of the agenda, Petitions.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, are there any petitions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. I have a petition calling on Council to install lights on a bikeway between Bungama Street and Ashford Street.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I have a petition requesting Council to install wheelchair‑accessible upgrades to connect St Vincent’s Hospital to the Kangaroo Point Riverwalk.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I am tabling a petition on behalf of Tennyson Ward residents calling on Brisbane City Council to resurface Oxley Road, Oxley, which is in a shocking state.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

Can I have a motion to accept the petitions please?

**716/2022-23**

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

The petitions were summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/230 | Jared Cassidy | Requesting Council install bikeway and pathway lighting between the bridge at the end of Bungama Street, Deagon, and Ashford Street, Shorncliffe. |
| 137/220/594/232 | Trina Massey | Requesting Council install wheelchair accessible upgrades and infrastructure accessible to connect St Vincent's Hospital and Aged Care to the Kangaroo Point Riverwalk. |
| 137/220/594/231 | Nicole Johnston | Requesting Council undertakes resurfacing of Oxley Rd, Oxley, in the upcoming 2023-24 Council Budget, as a matter of priority. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of an Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee order? I see no Councillors rising.

Councillors are there any items of General Business?

Councillor MATIC. Councillor MATIC, you have the call.

Councillor MATIC: Mr Deputy Chair, thank you. Mr Deputy Chair, I rise to speak on my decision to retire from the position of local Councillor for Paddington Ward. This was not a decision taken lightly. After 16 years, I’ve decided it was time to write a new chapter. In looking back over the last 16 years, I would like to share a few of my thoughts and experiences. It has been a wonderful journey, filled with many highs and some lows, but without question, the good has far outweighed the not so good. During this time I’ve had the opportunity to deliver many outcomes for the ward and the city and that, of course, is a good thing. To be in a position to deliver outcomes for your community is one of the most rewarding elements of the job. This was my primary motivation to nominate and it’s what has kept me going throughout. A few of the significant deliverables have been Frew Park, the Green Heart CitySmart program and supporting the arts. There have been many more, however for me, tonight, I would like to focus on the people.

The people I had the privilege to meet along the way will stay with me forever. In this position, we don’t walk this path alone. Along the way there have been many hands that have contributed and made the work lighter and more enjoyable. Firstly, the ones that came on this journey with me from the beginning, we all have those people and for me I want to thank Fraser Stephen, the late Bob Harper and the late Geoff Esdale. More than friends, these men guided me, helped me at the outset and on the journey. My admiration and gratitude to them is immeasurable and to Geoff who only passed away recently, I miss you in so many ways mate.

Next, the residents of originally Toowong Ward, which then became Paddington Ward, without them I would not be standing here today. Thank you for trusting me to be your local Councillor. It has been an honour and a privilege. It was a long-held dream to hold a position in political office and it is the community that has afforded me that opportunity and all of the associated experiences. I have met so many wonderful people, connected and engaged with, laughed and cried with. I will be forever grateful to this community and I thank you all for your kind wishes on the announcement of my retirement from office.

But not only am I inspired by the residents; they have also helped me grow in the job. One of my standout memories is that of an elderly lady I met in the early days. She had an issue with an embankment located in the middle of the road, the overland flow was coming across the road into her driveway and the ground floor of her house. She was tenacious, to say the least and would not stop asking me what I was going to do about it. I calmly explained the extent of the works involved, that we would need to make a budget bid for the next financial year, sounds familiar. This seemed to fuel her even more and she was quiet clear when she told me she was old and that she most likely would be dead before I fixed it. Now as a newbie, my naïve and frustrated response to her was that perhaps I would be dead before her. She didn’t miss a beat. She calmly looked at me and replied, oh darling, only the good die young. So the budget came and the wall got delivered and we both lived to tell the tale. This was an important early learning for me and has helped me so many times along the journey.

I want to turn next to this incredible team I am so lucky to be part of. To the LORD MAYOR and Lady Mayoress, thank you for your friendship and your support. I have never taken it for granted and have always valued it. Can’t look at him. LORD MAYOR, it has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of your visionary Administration. To my colleagues, we spend as much time with each other as we do with our families. We are a family. Over the years, this has always been our greatest strength and one of the defining reasons for our continued success and even though I’m leaving, I won’t say goodbye, but rather see you later. We’re all busy people, but I look forward to staying in touch with all of you.

To the Opposition Councillors, I wish you all well. I know that we come from different perspectives, but we all share the same purpose and that is to do the best for our communities and our city. I want to acknowledge and thank the previous Lord Mayors, Campbell Newman and Graham Quirk. I learnt a great deal working with both of you and I’m grateful for the leadership and support. A rather fond memory now, but not then, is the time in Cabinet that Campbell turned to me and asked if I had done a particular task. I replied that no, Lord Mayor, we are still working on it. His annoyance was instant and as he turned to me he said, MATIC, there are 260 working days in a year and you just wasted one of them. Campbell taught me the importance of delivery. His motto was you’re only in this job for a short time, so do as much as you can, you don’t get a second chance. This was sound advice that I’ve always tried to follow.

To the staff of the LORD MAYOR’s office, thank you for your support, hard work and guidance. Your expertise and professionalism have been invaluable. To all the amazing PLOs (Policy Liaison Officers) I have worked with and in particular Fiona, Mark and Steve, I could say a lot about Steve, we could all say a lot about Steve, but I’ll just say thank you to all of you. I want to thank the current and former Council officers and executive. I have learnt so much from all of you and it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you to deliver so much for the city. You all live the Council motto, Dedicated to a better Brisbane. This beautiful Chamber, there have been so many memories created here, the joy of the debate from both sides of the Chamber is something I’ve always enjoyed listening to and participating in. The many characters that have come and gone, all bringing their own unique contribution, I would just like to touch on a few of those moments.

LORD MAYOR, when you were Finance Chair in 2008, during the budget debate you kept referencing Brian Mellifont, who was the ALP’s Finance Chair in previous years. Now the ALP and John Campbell in particular, who was the opposition spokesman on Finance, did know where you were going with it and in his budget debate speech, he said he knew Brian Mellifont personally and didn’t think he would be impressed by a Liberal referencing him. Of course you can’t speak for John Campbell without recalling his favourite catch phrase every time he spoke about the budget, poor and reckless financial management. It got to a point we could call it out from the other side of the Chamber with him. It got so predictable that even he had a smile on his face when he said it.

Or course, Mr Chair, Mr Deputy Chair, I refer to this Mr Chair, I have to mention Kim Flesser and his favourite topic of mosquito spraying and his suggestion of putting the gambusia, an invasive fish, into the local waterways to manage the mosquito population, which in turn would have destroyed the natural habitat. How many years, Mr Chair, did you entertain us with your gambusia speech?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MATIC: Now, I want to take this opportunity to thank the clerks and the wonderful staff led by Billy. Thank you also, Billy, for providing the gluten-free biscuits. All of you think of us fondly as you continue to enjoy them. To the wonderful staff in my office who I’ve had the pleasure of working with, thank you, in particular Carolyn, Paula, Lorraine, Fiona, Liz and Joyce. You were all the Councillor for Paddington Ward. I could not have done the job without you. You made me look great. Thank you a million times for your selfless commitment to me and the work that you did and for making the office such an enjoyable place to work, I am so lucky to have had you all in my life. To Judy and Joanna, thank you for coming on board and for learning so much so quickly. The office is in great hands and I know that you’ll be such an important aid to the next Councillor.

To the supporters, branch members and volunteers for the elections, thank god they’re only once every four years. We all know the logistical, emotional and physical effort. Thank you for your selfless work and generosity, I would not be here without you. To my father, Michael, and my mother, Milena, my sister, Nada, my brother-in-law, Chris, and my nephew, Michael, thank you for your advice, love, admiration and support on this journey. To my family, my son, Alexander, and daughter, Olivia, who also grew up in this job, thank you for coming to all the events even when you didn’t want to and thank you for understanding when I missed school events and birthdays along the way while I was serving the community. To my wife, Moira, my love, my partner in all things, none of us can do this job without that person, our partner on the journey that carries the load and allows us the freedom to do this job. Moira who was mother and father for so many years while still pursuing her own career, words cannot describe my gratitude and love, but I’ll spend the rest of my life expressing it and according to that elderly resident, it should be for a long time to come.

Mr Chair, as I said before, I’m not big on goodbyes. Brisbane is a small town and all our paths will continue to cross. I simply say see you soon. But to this amazing role and this wonderful Chamber, I’d like to quote one of my and Councillor ADAMS’ favourite musicals from *The Sound of Music*, ‘so long, farewell, *auf Wiedersehen* and goodbye’.

Now the steak knives. Now, Mr Chair, in the spirit of rap that seems to have entered this Chamber, I’d like to recite a short piece written by my freestyling son, Alexander. Gather round, gather round, politicians that are here, if you come near, I want you to listen to my verse click, he’s a politician whose name is MATIC, who’s gone far, who’s served many of the residents’ scars, have come to him about complaints and he ain’t never run away, that ain’t my man today. My dad stuck around, helping out everybody that he seen, a Councillor to trust, come close residents, let him give you a hug because he’s here, don’t worry, I’m about to make your story clear, it’s the end of the story. Trust me when I say my father’s career ain’t never been boring, a political ride, what a wild time, peace out. And I did it without swearing. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor MATIC and congratulations.

Councillors, are there further items of General Business?

Councillor McLACHLAN. Councillor McLACHLAN, you’ve got the call.

Councillor McLACHLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair and I won’t be finishing with rap poetry, let me tell you. I’ll leave that to you, Councillor MATIC. But I do rise to speak on my 17 years of service as—well, nearly 17 years as Councillor for Hamilton Ward, as Chair of various committees and five elections contested since 2006, and I did think this would be hard to distil into a cogent speech and it hasn’t been easy and I’m sure there will be things I miss. But when it comes to the decision I made to not recontest the 2024 election, that call was made easier by knowing I’d be leaving a team which with or without me has no other focus than building a better Brisbane. The Schrinner team is united in its resolve to making the Brisbane of tomorrow better than the Brisbane of today. The newest member of the team to take over from me hasn’t been selected yet, but this is the last opportunity for me to say thank you, farewell, *auf Wiedersehen* in this Chamber. I am pleased, Mr Deputy Chair, that my replacement will be selected by the democratic processes of the LNP, it won’t be imposed by a union heavyweight or thanks to a family political dynasty.

Mr Deputy Chair, I am proud of what our team has achieved in the time I’ve been here serving alongside three Lord Mayors. I’m grateful those Lord Mayors put their faith in me to undertake significant leadership roles on behalf of the whole city while working, as always, to improve outcomes for the residents in Hamilton Ward. Of course, all Councillors here, regardless of political persuasion, do the best they can to improve outcomes for the residents they represent. Ours is a 36 and a quarter hours working week. It’s on your payslip, but I know there’s no one here who doesn’t put in whatever hours are needed in serving the community they’re elected to represent. That does mean sacrificing precious time with family and friends, not enough holiday time and no long service leave, I’ve discovered, more vocation than job.

I often get asked what are the issues you’re dealing with. The reality is, there’s really only one issue, it’s change. Just about everything we deal with is because of change and I’ve always seen my role is to help people deal with that change. Knock off the rough edges where possible, help people to understand the whys and wherefores, but not to try and wish it away. Mr Deputy Chair, the LORD MAYOR said it earlier in the debate today, in my first election campaign in 2006, which was a by-election, my political opponents ran with that slogan, stop overdevelopment now. The implication of the slogan and their campaign was that any development, any change was bad. It didn’t work for Labor then and it’s not working now for the Greens-Labor alliance to stand opposed to growth and change.

Brisbane is an evolving city, defined by change and growth with the suburbs in the Hamilton Ward arguably at the forefront of that change. Standing against growth means standing against new housing for our growing population, opposing infrastructure and services renewal. Mr Deputy Chair, that misguided ‘stop overdevelopment now’ campaign helped me to better define in my first speech in this place in 2006, what the best possible outcomes I could aspire to achieve for my constituents in the reality of evolution. I’m proud I made renewal of Kingsford Smith Drive (KSD) a priority in that first speech, acknowledging its significant role as a critical road artery for the whole city, indeed for all of South East Queensland. The opportunity arising from the need to address the road capacity for the benefit of the whole city’s development was replacement of a myriad of ageing 19th century underground services no longer meeting the needs of the local community. Most importantly, it provided the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to replace nasty, downright dangerous active transport options between Bretts Wharf and Breakfast Creek with safe, separated paths for pedestrians and cyclists, now relied on by thousands and thousands of residents every day.

Our political opponents went to two elections opposing the road upgrade and by default, the provision of safer and inclusive pedestrian and cyclist facilities, a chronic failure to recognise the importance of improving infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing city and the need to provide safe, active transport connections along this critical road artery. Mr Deputy Chair, as Chair of Infrastructure, I was pleased to oversee the completion of the KSD upgrade for the enduring benefit of trade coast businesses and their employees from all over the city, for cyclists and for pedestrians. State Labor recognises its Northshore Hamilton Priority Development Area set to be home for 24,500 new residents and the future Olympics Athletes Village would not be possible without the KSD upgrade undertaken by Council, with no State support, I might add.

Mr Deputy Chair, as Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability, I had great pleasure in overseeing delivery of numerous projects, too many to individually mention here now, however, I’m really proud to have got one started that still has many years to go, thanks to the foresight and vision of former Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, who agreed to provide a 20-year timeframe and a budget of $100 million for delivery of the rehabilitation of Oxley Creek. Cleaner water is the objective, relying on rehabilitation of the degraded lands either side of it, the unfortunate legacy of past times when creeks were treated only as convenient drains. Critical elements are being constantly delivered and I’m delighted to see, amongst many outcomes, the Oxley Common is protected and recognised as a paradise for birdlife with more species here than in Kakadu.

As Chair of Field Services, I recall being anointed by journalist Kat Feeney, then with the *Brisbane Times*, as the ‘Rubbish King’ of Brisbane. I wore that crown with pleasure as we initiated numerous reforms and improvements in the delivery of the city’s waste services, like the introduction of the green waste collection service and we got rid of the inefficient single truck pickup for rubbish and recycling, a failed system introduced the last time Labor got their hands on waste collections in this city. By improving the efficiency of waste collection services, with dedicated trucks for general waste and for recycling, we overcame the endemic contamination issues that prevailed during the era of Labor’s single truck system. New contracts with a modern fleet meant we could keep downward pressure on the cost of bin pickups and continue with weekly service for general waste when councils across Australia were moving to fortnightly general waste pickups to save on costs and to find a way otherwise to charge residents more for the service. We won the approval of the revered TWU (Transport Workers’ Union) warhorse, Hughie Williams, for the accompanying driver benefits in those contracts.

Mr Deputy Chair, focusing on local matters, I’ve already mentioned the delivery of the wonderful Lores Bonney Riverwalk alongside Kingsford Smith Drive which delivered the active transport connection along the Hamilton reach of the river and at the southern end of Racecourse Road, the Bretts Wharf Plaza open space. At the northern end of Racecourse Road, I was proud to have fought for and to deliver the new Ascot Park, returning for public use and enjoyment, a degraded area that had been used for over 50 years as a car park. Seeing kids in the new playground and families enjoying the open space, the barbecues and other park facilities is one of my proudest achievements. Just as valuable though are the thank yous for smaller achievements. Here’s a few.

From Simon and Maria, thank you for asking us about and then getting installed a section of footpath outside our home. From Marcus, thank you for arranging to have new litter bins installed in our street to cope with the departing racetrack patrons, quote, you’ve restored my faith in local government, I’m happy my original email to you came to an actual result, he said, end quote. From Stephen, thank you for arranging a team of knowledgeable officers to come and talk to us; the residents are grateful for your time and effort in addressing our concerns.

Mr Deputy Chair, none of us are in this job, this vocation, to collect thank you notes, but it’s appreciated when achievements big or small are recognised. None of what I’ve been able to do here in City Hall, in my ward over the past 17 years would have been remotely possible without my darling wife, Nicole, by my side. Her birthday is in the middle of Council budget week. Since 2007, Nicole has had to endure me prioritising spreadsheets over everything else. This will be the last year, I do promise. It’s been journey for our whole family, none of who signed up for it, with the volunteers, they’re the conscripts. My daughter, Maisie, was a baby in photos for my first campaign material, still my baby, but now at uni, looking forward to helping her perfect reverse parking. No pressure there. My son, Joe, was conscripted into that obligatory family campaign pic, now post uni and out in the commercial world and, thankfully, no interest in establishing a family dynasty in politics. My eldest son, Angus, recently moved here to Brisbane with his wife Georgie, and my two gorgeous grandchildren, Teddy and Zoe. My other daughter, Lucy, lives in Hawaii with her husband, Charlie, when they’re not sneaking in a visit here and I’m sure they need more frequent visits there from dad. When retiring politicians say they want to spend more time with family, for some of us that’s very real and I’ll certainly be doing that.

Mr Deputy Chair, before I finish, I want to send a heartfelt thank you to all who have put up with me over the years in various offices and as Chairs. Julie, seven years with me now, fantastic, thank you Julie, couldn’t do this job without you. Catherine with a ‘C’, Steve, Jane, Helen one, Helen two, Hannah, Katherine with a ‘K’, Judy, Georgia, Dominic, Lucy, Shaun, Paul. The City Hall ninjas, Councillors past, present and emerging, to all the great Council officers, our great party standing up for the principal of reward for effort, local members of the LNP who have been out to support me and our City Hall team in rain and tempest in the five years I’ve contested. To my predecessor as Councillor and now State Member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, thanks mate. Many more I know I’ve missed, but thank you all.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor McLACHLAN.

Councillors, are there any other items of General Business?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair and I just would like to speak to reflect on the valedictories we both had, we just both all heard then and I’m speaking on behalf of the team that you would have heard from many of the Chairs this evening in their reports to say thank you to Councillor McLACHLAN and Councillor MATIC. I’m just going to call them Dave and Pete now they’ve done their valedictory. But there’s many that haven’t had a word here, but they have had a word in their ear and I’m not going to look at them either or I’m going to start crying. It has been 16 years at least since I’ve been in this place and they were already here. David ventured out onto the by-election to get here, brave man, it was the Clem7 Tunnel, I think, the exhausts I remember hearing about David McLACHLAN and Councillor MATIC, obviously, came in on a vacancy just after that as well. They have been friends from day one and wonderful mentors for that time as well.

I did sit on a committee with Councillor MATIC straight away, the Environment and Parks. We did a few things in community gardens together, if I remember, Councillor MATIC. I’ve never had the joy of being on a committee with Councillor McLACHLAN, he was always another Chair while I was there as well, but many, many hours in Cabinet as well. There have been many highs, there have been many lows, there’s been a lot of laughter and now we’re getting to the tears. You mentioned, David, that it’s about change and your change will be noticed, from both of you. Thank you, Billy. You have made a change in your wards; you have made a change to all of us in this family that we call the LNP Administration. Frew Park for Pete is a standout for me and KSD for David was an absolute standout. But I am remembering now the Hughie Williams and the Rubbish King and all of those things that we have been through over the many, many years, it is absolutely fantastic. As long as we are in these Chambers, you will be remembered and I think the community will definitely notice that you’re no longer there and they will notice the change that you’ve made in the years you have been here because that is what it is about and that’s what we’re committed to and you are exemplary examples of what this team stands for and you will be sorely missed. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

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

Councillor WINES: I’ve got—I’ve got it, all right, I’ve got one more. All right, I can’t let this go, all right. So look, can I say—

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, you’ve got the call.

Councillor WINES: Thank you. Can I say, look these are always the hardest nights and David and Peter have been great friends, great friends. David, thank you so much for your friendship, he’s been a neighbour of mine now for a long time, we went through the floods last year together and it was our communities that did suffer markedly in that and it’s been wonderful to work with you to work together to form a plan about how we’re going to do that. Great, fun people, but I have to tell a story and I think this was going to get by the by, but I have to do it.

There was a time when Councillor MATIC was going to wear a bow tie to Council and he was in the pre-Party room and then Graham Quirk’s like, what’s this? What’s with the bow tie? Pete’s like, what do you mean, I’m going to try a new thing. No bow ties. Graham very rarely lost his temper, but down came the open palm on the desk, no bow ties. Then Peter’s like, oh okay, so the bow tie went away, but next week he wore a tie with bow ties in the tie as his protest. So I didn’t think it’d be right to leave tonight without remembering some of the good times as well. Anyway, thank you.

Councillor MURPHY: All right, I’ve got to follow up with that, Deputy Chair, just briefly while we’re here, I just had to say something because both Councillor MATIC and Councillor McLACHLAN were extremely generous to me when I arrived here in 2012 at the age of 23, as a very, very young Councillor. Many, many people, all of whom aren’t in the room tonight, they did not think I would be here for long and so did not make an attempt to invest in me, but these two did and they were very great at taking me aside and helping me learn the ropes of this very unfathomable and complex beast that is Brisbane City Council and I just wanted to thank you for that.

To Councillor MATIC, particularly love, have always loved the passion that you have brought to this job. I don’t think I’ve ever heard you say if it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well, but to me you live that through example and everything you did in your ward. When you were Chair of various committees, you had a real passion for the job that was just infections. You’re an extremely skilled orator. In the Chamber, you have absolutely no peer other than perhaps the LORD MAYOR and I had to say that as well because he’s over there, so you know, you are, to be fair, well you are very good on your feet and I can understand why so many Labor Councillors retired over the years when you were their opposition number.

I particularly remember many exchanges between you and Helen Abrahams, in particular, where you would hold up a prop, which I think was the book that she wrote on roads and not building more roads and the—and you’d often then just get a bit carried away with yourself and just start talking about her socialist template for the City of Brisbane and their socialist template and you’d start to invoke Karl Marx and Engels and Lenin and it would get a little bit carried away. I think Margaret De Wit had to pull you up a couple of times. But I particularly enjoyed when you would break out the socialist template, that was the very fun one.

Councillor McLACHLAN, your achievements are there for all to see, as they say. Kingsford Smith Drive, an incredible project, one that would have been watered down by the Opposition to just a couple of intersection upgrades, but you fought the good fight for all of the active transport users, the scooters, the bikes that use that link every day, it’s incredible. Importantly, you have consistently for over a decade brought attention to Northshore Hamilton, its negative effects on the city and the negative effects of taking planning away from the Council that is elected by the people and handing it to unelected bureaucrats and authorities. I just think that’s been great and you’re also a lovely user of props in the Chamber as well and a fierce debater. Actually the first election I ever handed out for the Liberal Party in was your by-election when you were running against Anna Herzog with the stop overdevelopment—against the stop overdevelopment now stuff. I thought that was incredible.

You’ve had a great—both of you had a great time as Chairs, you’ve reached the pinnacle of your career and you retire, both of you, completely undefeated and that is just an incredibly legacy. You’ve made a great contribution, as the LORD MAYOR said, to the city, to the Liberal Party, now the LNP and I wish you both really well in your retirement, I won’t say your retirement, but the next thing you do, the next contributions that you will undoubtedly make. David, we’ll have to catch up, as we have done for many years now, for a beer down at the Pinkenba Hotel. No, I’m just joking, Deputy Chair, we’ve never done that, but perhaps now he’s retired, he may do that and I might have to Zoom in or something, but yes, thank you.

Deputy Chair: Dare I ask, is there any further General Business?

Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: It’s a 20-second speech, Sarah, it’s okay, it’s okay. I just want to make sure we put on record thank you to these guys. I’ve known these guys for 20 years at least and when Pete first started, it was just after I ran as the candidate for Mt Coot-tha when I got absolutely flogged by Andrew Fraser who was the last decent ALP politician I’ve met. Pete won the preselection and he said, oh can you take me for a drive around Paddington so I can get to know it a bit? It was really good because Pete was running, had just run as the candidate in Inala against Henry Palaszczuk I think—it was Annastacia at that time, so he got flogged as well and it was just so good to go from being a candidate with this passion in a deep red seat to being the Councillor who made such a change in so many ways and so many people in the inner west. So I just want to say thank you to Pete.

Dave, when I first started in 2019, you had a bung leg and you were like a wounded lion and very grouchy, but you still made me feel welcome, so thank you very much for everything you’ve done too.

Deputy Chair: Is there anybody else? No?

I declare the meeting closed.

See you tomorrow, Councillors, for budget.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (from meeting on 6 June 2023)**

**Q1.** What was the residential owner occupier rates cap applied by the Lord Mayor in the Brisbane City Council Budgets in the following years:

i. 2008-09

ii. 2009-10

iii. 2010-11

iv. 2011-12

v. 2012-13

vi. 2013-14

vii. 2014-15

viii. 2015-16

ix. 2016-17

x. 2017-18

xi. 2018-19

xii. 2019-20

xiii. 2020-21

xiv. 2021-22

***A1.*** *The information requested is contained within the relevant Annual Budgets.*

**Q2.** How many residential owner occupier properties received a 5% of higher rates increase. Please list the number of number of properties by suburb.

***A2.*** *It is unclear from the question which financial year the information is sought.*

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (from meeting on 6 June 2023)**

**Q1.** Please provide the total number of properties/addresses that are serviced by regular waste collections, broken down by property type.

Number of properties/addresses serviced by waste collection:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total | Single Dwelling/Houses | Multiple unit dwellings | Parks | Commercial | Industrial |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

***A1.***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Total* | *Single Dwelling/Houses* | *Multiple unit dwellings* | *Parks* |
| *494,859* | *307,577* | *181,841* | *4,067* |

*Council does not collect general waste for commercial and industrial properties.*

**Q2.** Provide a list with details of all vacant Council buildings, including their interior square meterage.

***A2.*** *The below buildings cater for either commercial or community uses. Discussions and lease negotiations with prospective lessees are currently underway for several of the sites. Some of the sites either require substantial repair to make them fit for occupation, will shortly be put out to tender, have been put out to tender and Council officers are assessing applications received, or need a building report to determine the scope of improvement works required.*

| ***Site*** | ***Approx sqm*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Café space, King George Square* | *26* |
| *Hangar 7 - 101 Terminal Drive, Eagle Farm* | *2,800* |
| *Shed - 16 Garfield Drv, Bardon* | *14* |
| *Cathedral Square Coffee Cart Building* | *10* |
| *Substation - Cnr Gregory Tce & Bowen Bridge Rd, Herston* | *145* |
| *Building - Thrush Street, Inala* | *70* |
| *Building - 110 Edmondstone St, Newmarket* | *150* |
| *Building - 128 Miskin St, Toowong* | *220* |
| *School of Arts - 166 Ann St, Brisbane* | *750* |
| *Building - 173 Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights* | *105* |
| *Signals Building - Moreton Island* | *32* |
| *Building - 289 Freeman Rd, Inala* | *210* |
| *Building - 29 Macquarie St, Teneriffe* | *60* |
| *Building - 31 Newington St, Tarragindi* | *70* |
| *Building + Sheds - 38 Lytton Rd, East Brisbane* | *738* |
| *Building - 46 Delaware St, Geebung* | *200* |
| *Building - 59 Gailey Rd, Toowong* | *810* |
| *Building - 670 Samford Rd, Mitchelton* | *210* |
| *Witton Barracks - 9 Lambert Rd, Indooroopilly* | *1,085* |
| *Building - Bethania St, Lota* | *80* |
| *Shed – Gilchrist Ave, Herston* | *160* |
| *Building - Blaker Rd, Keperra* | *115* |
| *Building - Guilfoyle St, St Lucia* | *130* |
| *Building - Jellicoe St, Coorparoo* | *90* |
| *Building - Paterson Pde, Northgate* | *65* |
| *Building + Shed - Stumers Rd, Mt Crosby* | *195* |

**Q3.** Please provide a breakdown of the number of footpath closures approved by Council.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Financial Year | 2019/2020 | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 to date |
| Number of approved closures |  |  |  |  |

***A3.*** *Footpath closures are temporary in nature and are approved for a range of reasons including for both public and private construction projects, the construction of a new footpath, or to connect to Council stormwater drainage for example.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Financial Year* | *2019/2020* | *2020/2021* | *2021/2022* | *2022/2023 to date* |
| *Number of approved closures* | *7,312* | *8,027* | *7,692* | *6,180* |

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 8.08pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Courtney Randall (A/Council and Committee Officer)

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