#### " "

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4715 (Special) meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Thursday 22 June 2023**

**at 6.30pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[PRESENT: 1](#_Toc138846332)

[OPENING OF MEETING: 1](#_Toc138846333)

[APOLOGIES: 1](#_Toc138846334)

[CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION – Appointment of Clare Jenkinson as Councillor for Paddington Ward and their membership of Council’s Standing Committees; *Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy*; Investment Policy; Debt Policy; Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Not‑for‑profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy; Payment of Overdue Rates and Charges Policy; Not-for-profit Kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy; Brisbane Infrastructure Charges Resolution (No. 12) 2023; AP286 Brisbane Build-to-Rent Incentive Policy; Not-for-profit Affordable Housing Providers Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy; *AP258 Brisbane Green Buildings Incentive Policy*; Amendment to Administrative Arrangements; Appointment of Chair of Council and Deputy Chair of Council; Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan, Land Management Plan and Local Government Infrastructure Designation; Significant Contracting Plans for Brisbane Metro; and Delegation of Council’s powers 2](#_Toc138846335)

## PRESENT:

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LNP Councillors (and Wards)** | **ALP Councillors (and Wards)** |
| Krista ADAMS (Holland Park) (Deputy Mayor)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Fiona HAMMOND (Marchant)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge)  James MACKAY (Walter Taylor)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  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.

## APOLOGIES:

Chair: Are there any apologies? No apologies.

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION – Appointment of Clare Jenkinson as Councillor for Paddington Ward and their membership of Council’s Standing Committees; *Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy*; Investment Policy; Debt Policy; Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Not‑for‑profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy; Payment of Overdue Rates and Charges Policy; Not-for-profit Kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy; Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy; Brisbane Infrastructure Charges Resolution (No. 12) 2023; AP286 Brisbane Build-to-Rent Incentive Policy; Not-for-profit Affordable Housing Providers Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy; *AP258 Brisbane Green Buildings Incentive Policy*; Amendment to Administrative Arrangements; Appointment of Chair of Council and Deputy Chair of Council; Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan, Land Management Plan and Local Government Infrastructure Designation; Significant Contracting Plans for Brisbane Metro; and Delegation of Council’s powers

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

**744/2022-23**

The Chair, Councillor David McLACHLAN, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER) to move the motion. Accordingly, the LORD MAYOR moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS)—

*That Council resolves to:*

*1. APPROVE the Appointment of Clare Jenkinson as Councillor for Paddington Ward and their membership of Council’s Standing Committees as set out in Attachment “A”;*

*2. REVOKE the “Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy” adopted on 23 June 2022 by Council Resolution 762/2021-22;*

*3.* *ADOPT the:*

*(a) Investment Policy at Attachment “B” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*(b) Debt Policy at Attachment “C” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*(c) Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy at Attachment “D” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*(d) Not-for-profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy at Attachment “E” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*(e) Payment of Overdue Rates and Charges Policy at Attachment “F” for the 2023 24 financial year;*

*(f) Not-for-profit Kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy at Attachment “G” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*(g) Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy at Attachment “H” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*(h) Brisbane Infrastructure Charges Resolution (No. 12) 2023 at Attachment “I” with effect on and from 3 July 2023;*

*(i) AP286 Brisbane Build-to-Rent Incentive Policy at Attachment “J” with effect on and from 1 July 2023;*

*(j) Not-for-profit Affordable Housing Providers Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy at Attachment “K” for the 2023-24 financial year;*

*4. AMEND the “AP258 Brisbane Green Buildings Incentive Policy” adopted on 8 September 2020 by Council resolution 171/2020-21 as set out in Attachment “L” with retrospective effect to 1 July 2022;*

*5. APPROVE the Amendment to Administrative Arrangements as set out in Attachment “M”;*

*6. APPROVE the Appointment of Chair of Council and Deputy Chair of Council as set out in Attachment “N”;*

*7. APPROVE the Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan, Land Management Plan and Local Government Infrastructure Designation as set out in Attachment “O”;*

*8. APPROVE the Stores Board Submission – Amendment to the Significant Contracting Plans for Brisbane Metro as set out in Attachment “P”; and*

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

Chair: Is there any debate?

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Seriatim *en bloc* for debate and voting - Items 1, 5, 6 and 9**

|  |
| --- |
| At that time Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that item 1, APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CLARE JENKINSON AS COUNCILLOR FOR PADDINGTON WARD AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “A”; item 5, APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “M”; item 6, APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF COUNCIL AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “N”; and item 9, DELEGATE CERTAIN POWERS OF COUNCIL, SPECIFIED IN COLUMN 1 OF THE TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF POWER TO THE DELEGATES LISTED IN COLUMN 2 SUBJECT TO ANY LIMITS OR SPECIAL CONDITIONS LISTED IN COLUMN 3 AND ON THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF DELEGATIONS AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “Q”, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for debating and voting purposes. |

**S****eriatim - Item 1**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that item 1, APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CLARE JENKINSON AS COUNCILLOR FOR PADDINGTON WARD AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “A”, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim *en bloc* for debate and voting - Items 4, 7 and 8**

|  |
| --- |
| At that time Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that item 4, AMEND THE “*AP258 BRISBANE GREEN BUILDINGS INCENTIVE POLICY*” ADOPTED ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 171/2020-21 AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “L” WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT TO 1 JULY 2022; item 7, APPROVE THE VICTORIA PARK / BARRAMBIN MASTER PLAN, LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGNATION AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “O”; and item 8, APPROVE THE STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLANS FOR BRISBANE METRO AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “P”, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for debating and voting purposes. |

**Seriatim - Item 4**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that item 4, AMEND THE “*AP258 BRISBANE GREEN BUILDINGS INCENTIVE POLICY*” ADOPTED ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 171/2020-21 AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “L” WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT TO 1 JULY 2022, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim *en bloc* - Items 7 and 8**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that item 7, APPROVE THE VICTORIA PARK / BARRAMBIN MASTER PLAN, LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGNATION AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “O”; and item 8, APPROVE THE STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLANS FOR BRISBANE METRO AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “P”, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim for debate and voting - Items 2 and 3**

|  |
| --- |
| At that time Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that item 2, REVOKE THE “*INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY*” ADOPTED ON 23 JUNE 2022 BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 762/2021-22; and item 3, ADOPT THE: (A) INVESTMENT POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “B” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (B) DEBT POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “C” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (C) PENSIONERS PARTIAL REBATE OF RATES AND CHARGES POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “D” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (D) NOT‑FOR‑PROFIT ORGANISATIONS PARTIAL REBATE OF GENERAL RATES POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “E” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (E) PAYMENT OF OVERDUE RATES AND CHARGES POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “F” FOR THE 2023‑24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (F) NOT‑FOR-PROFIT KINDERGARTENS PARTIAL REBATE OF RATES AND CHARGES POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “G” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (G) INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “H” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR; (H) BRISBANE INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES RESOLUTION (NO. 12) 2023 AT ATTACHMENT “I” WITH EFFECT ON AND FROM 3 JULY 2023; (I) AP286 BRISBANE BUILD-TO-RENT INCENTIVE POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “J” WITH EFFECT ON AND FROM 1 JULY 2023; (J) NOT-FOR-PROFIT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVIDERS PARTIAL REBATE OF GENERAL RATES POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “K” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

Chair: Okay.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I have a question for the LORD MAYOR. I’m seeking information regarding item 4, which is the AP258—the Brisbane Green Building Incentive Policy. The policy presented before us today is retrospective. It talks about eligible development applications dating back from 1 July 2020, so could the LORD MAYOR please outline how many of these rebate or incentives have been approved and what is the total dollar value?

Chair: Okay. LORD MAYOR—hang on, so we’re starting—unless there are other—if there’s movement of seriatim on any other issues?

LORD MAYOR: Yes, point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, LORD MAYOR.

**Seriatim - Item 1**

|  |
| --- |
| The LORD MAYOR requested that item 1, APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CLARE JENKINSON AS COUNCILLOR FOR PADDINGTON WARD AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “A”, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your microphone.

LORD MAYOR: Am I right to go?

Chair: Yes.

LORD MAYOR: Okay.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Item A here is the appointment of the new Councillor for Paddington Ward, and also appointing that Councillor to the membership of Council’s Standing Committees as well. Now, obviously we’ve had the recent retirement of Councillor Peter Matic as the long-serving Councillor for Paddington Ward and as the City of Brisbane Act and State legislation allows, it allows for the appointment of a new Councillor within 12 months of the election and this is the opportunity which saves the ratepayer’s money in terms of the need to do by-elections.

It also gives the residents of that area an opportunity to try before they buy, which I think is a positive thing. So, the LNP has been through a selection process—a pre‑selection process, and Clare Jenkinson is the LNP nomination for this role and has been put forward as the new Councillor for Paddington Ward. Clare has lived in the inner west of Brisbane for more than 40 years, knows her community back to front.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: Knows her community back to front and also works—or until recently, worked day-to-day right in the heart of the community as well, in an important community facing role in the local area. Clare has already hit the ground running, even before this official appointment, and I was out and about on the weekend with her at the Bardon State School May Fair, which was actually held in June, but it was a wonderful event. Clare, from my observation, is the perfect person for this role because she loves the community, she loves the people. She was straight into it.

Didn’t need to wait for any guidance or instructions, she was rolling her sleeves up, getting into it and really excited about this opportunity to serve the people of Paddington Ward in this place. I do wish Clare all the best in the coming months. This is a unique job and whichever side of politics you’re on, it is something that I know everyone goes into with a desire to serve the community and to build a better Brisbane and I want to welcome Clare officially on board as a Councillor, following this vote, obviously, and also wish her all the best for the coming months.

I really look forward to working with her, Mr Chair, and thank her for—oh, she’s here—and thank her for her interest and dedication to the people of Paddington Ward and also to the City of Brisbane. So, I commend this particular item to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate on item A?

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to note Labor’s support for this item in appointing Clare Jenkinson as the Councillor for the Paddington Ward and note former Councillor Matic’s long service to Council and to his community. Sixteen years, I think, was it? Yes, 16 years, almost I guess—retired—15 and a half years served his community and certainly put on record our appreciation for his service. We might have disagreed on plenty, but do welcome this item today in appointing the new Councillor so that community is represented.

I’m sure the incoming Councillor’s going to have a tough fight on her hands. I understand the Greens came within a couple of hundred votes last time, so it’ll be interesting. It will be interesting. One hundred and fifty-two, there you go. It’ll be a very interesting race to watch this time around and I’m sure—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, come on.

Councillor CASSIDY: I’m sure in Clare hitting the ground running, will have some views that we’ll look forward to around Council’s embarrassing court defeat over the behemoth billboard that was handed down just recently in Red Hill. There’s plenty of issues in that community that the incoming Councillor is going to have to sink her teeth into, but we’ll welcome her contribution to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you.

Any further debate on item 1?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor HAMMOND, please.

Come on, please, all of you. Calm down.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: What a delightful person Councillor HAMMOND is.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Stands up, rails against other female Councillors in this place, accuses them of terrible things and yet here she is, at it again. I rise just to speak on the appointment of Clare Jenkinson to the Paddington Ward. There’s a couple of things that I would like to note. I say this—I can see that must be the lady who’s just come into the Chamber and who is watching on. I presume this is because there is a swearing in scheduled very shortly and perhaps the LORD MAYOR’s off to that, I don’t know. But what I would just say is that Peter Matic has been missing in action as the Councillor for Paddington Ward for four years. Four years.

His residents are extremely unhappy with the way in which he represented them and that is reflected in the way in which his vote has declined over recent years. He abandoned much of his ward on development issues. He’s neglected maintenance of his suburbs. I think that generally—I don’t think he thought he would win in 2020 to start with and he’s just been essentially sitting here in this place marking time for the last three years. So, I say to the Councillor who’s coming in, whatever happens, this ward needs genuine representation.

I note the Councillor does not live locally and despite the way the LORD MAYOR’s dressing it up, she doesn’t, and I don’t know if that’s going to change. Obviously, not everybody lives in their ward, but there is a big difference between an inner city ward like this and the location of where this Councillor actually does live. That’s something that she will need to think carefully about as she goes about her role.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: What? I don’t think there’s anything wrong with that.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, come on.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh my gosh. Well, here’s the other little bit of good advice I’m going to give you. In reading all the Council papers, I see that all of this was stitched up in Councillor MACKAY’s office, the Councillor for Walter Taylor. The Councillor for Walter Taylor is on the skinniest of margins—

Councillor TOOMEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Mr Chair, on relevance. Neither the former Councillor for Paddington or Councillor MACKAY are actually in the papers before us.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Are you serious?

Councillor TOOMEY: Yes, I am.

Chair: Yes, Councillor JOHNSTON, I do bring you back to the matter that’s before us for debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Firstly, we are replacing the Councillor for Paddington Ward, Peter Matic, with the new or proposed Councillor Clare Jenkinson. The LORD MAYOR hopped up and praised Peter Matic and according to the almost-new Chairperson of Council, he’s not relevant. Well, thank you for supporting my case. The next—

Councillor TOOMEY: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Could you bring the Councillor for Tennyson back to what is in front of us, please?

Chair: Councillor, I’m going to allow the debate to continue. Councillor Matic’s name is mentioned in the motion, so as whatever Councillor JOHNSTON wants to say or whatever people believe her comments are, he’s mentioned in this report. But I don’t believe the Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward is mentioned in this report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, he is. Am I only the one that’s actually read the Council papers here today? Guess who the witness is for signing all the papers for the appointment of Miss Jenkinson to this role? Councillor James MACKAY. Where was it all done? Ticked off in the Walter Taylor Ward office. So—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, is the statutory declaration not correct, is it? The information you’ve provided to Council for the appointment of Miss Jenkinson, is it not correct? Because this says it was declared in the presence of Edward James Innes MACKAY, at the Walter Taylor Ward office, the appointment of Miss Jenkinson. Now, Mr Chairman, I’m extremely concerned that this is a fake document. So far, we’ve had Councillor TOOMEY and Councillor MACKAY say what I’ve said is untrue.

Now, this is the paperwork that we were given for the appointment of this lady. Is this false? Have false documents been signed now for the appointment of Miss Jenkinson? Mr Chairman, I’m asking you a serious question, or can I believe what is provided in these papers today?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you know I’m not in a position to be able to answer your question and I don’t intend to.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The only lies in here—

Chair: If you want to make an assertion about it, make it elsewhere.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Hey, I’m making it here because it is relevant and it’s in the report. The only people who don’t know what’s in these reports are in the LNP. One of them signed off on the documents and the other one’s about to be the Chairperson of Council. It’s in the documents.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Perhaps instead of the screaming and the yelling, we could look at what the document says, which is the witness’ place of employment. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD. That may resolve the issue.

I don’t know because I wasn’t there, Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, it doesn’t and it wasn’t—

Chair: Stop talking, I’m talking.

I wasn’t there to witness the signature so I can’t answer your question, but thank you, Councillor HOWARD, for your response on that issue.

Councillor JOHNSTON, you can continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Great, I can see now that now there’s another LNP Councillor that’s confirmed it. Now, this wasn’t the issue that I was going to raise. What I was going to pass on is some good advice to Miss Jenkinson and perhaps she’s got the idea from it now. You won’t be able to trust what they tell you. The Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward is on the way out the door. He has so many problems in his ward. He and the LORD MAYOR are supporting duplication of the Walter Taylor Bridge.

He wants to take one of the busiest and most popular libraries out of the major regional shopping town and build it on a stranded piece of land outside a major intersection. He has got the wrong priorities. I encourage you to look elsewhere for local advice and I hope that this is not a reflection of the people that you will listen to when you come to this place.

Chair: Further debate on item A? Any further debate?

I now put this to the vote.

**Item 1 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item 1 was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: According to the schedule I have for the movement of motions in seriatim, we now move to debate on items 2 and 3 in the agenda, items 2 and 3.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Congratulations to Councillor Clare, while I find the right documents. Okay, so these relate to infrastructure charges and rebates, is that correct, Mr Chair?

Chair: Infrastructure Charge Debt Management Policy.

LORD MAYOR: Yes.

Chair: Yes, and the various adoptions from (a) through to (j).

LORD MAYOR: Okay, so this should be a pretty straightforward process because it’s what we do every year. It is non-controversial and it is providing for important policy outcomes that support outcomes for rebates and infrastructure charges reductions for a number of different organisations. This is consistent with what we’ve done every year in the budget and so I’m anticipating there won’t be a lot of debate about this, but I commend these items to the Chamber as we see each year.

Chair: Thank you.

Is there any further debate on items 2 or 3?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair.

**Seriatim - Item 3(b)**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that item 3(B), ADOPT THE: DEBT POLICY AT ATTACHMENT “C” FOR THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: So, 2, revoking the Infrastructure Charge Debt Management Policy, adopted by Council resolution last year, is item 2, something we will support. There’s a whole list here, (a) through (j), of items before us today, which includes the Investment Policy, Debt Policy, pensioner remissions, same level as last year when the LORD MAYOR went out with great fanfare and used the level of pensioner rates remissions as some sort of—saying that he’s offering lots of cost-of-living relief. It’s the same each year, but we do support that. The same for decades, that’s right, we do support that.

Not-for-profit Organisation Partial Rebate of General Rates, which is something we support as well as the Payment of Overdue Rates and Charges Policy, which is on a case-by-case basis and at some discretion. Kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates, we support and the Infrastructure Charge Debt Management Policy, which is required, and the Infrastructure Charge Resolution.

The Build-to-Rent—not item (i), Build-to-Rent Incentive Policy at Attachment J—there is no specified level in there—you’re referring to—refer to other relevant fees and charges within the budget, as it does also at item (j), the Not-for-profit Affordable Housing Provider Rebate as well. We’ll support these items, but you would think that there would be more specified level, a serious commitment, around the incentivising of build-to-rent, and also the Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy for not-for-profit affordable housing providers.

Now, Chair, this is one where we’ve raised this issue over the last 12 or 18 months where Councillor ALLAN and the LORD MAYOR and others and Councillor CUNNINGHAM continue to get up and say, oh, Council already offers rates rebates and remissions to affordable not-for-profit community housing providers. They say that they’re doing enough. What this policy doesn’t do is specify an amount. It doesn’t do that. It delegates that authority to somebody else and I know in talking to—Councillor ALLAN said earlier today that community housing providers apparently love Brisbane City Council and couldn’t ask for anything more.

Well, I’ve spoken to a lot of them and I know that for one of them—a pretty big provider in Brisbane, last year their rates remission was five per cent.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Five per cent. So, that’s not set in the policy, it’s obviously decided somewhere. I don’t know whether it’s E&C (Establishment and Coordination Committee) or a delegate or Council. So, we will support any support for community housing providers, but do recommit that we will offer genuine support, both in infrastructure charge discounts, development fee discounts and genuine rate support for community housing providers. We won’t be supporting the Debt Policy at Attachment C, which is 3(b), before us today.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate on items 2 and 3?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly with respects to items 2 and 3. I want to speak briefly about—first up the Debt Management Policy. It remains incredibly disappointing that this Administration’s botched financial management is putting Council into further debt. We’re being asked to approve today further increases to Council’s debt levels and those are going to rise by $395 million this year, an estimated $275 million next year, $245 million after that and so on and so on. Apparently, in the year of the Olympics, we won’t be borrowing any money.

Does anybody believe that? I don’t. I don’t think this document is worth the paper it’s printed on. The LORD MAYOR will be long gone by then, I presume, but I look forward to framing this document and perhaps leaving it for whoever comes after me—because I don’t think I’ll be here in 2032 either—that this Council and this LORD MAYOR aren’t going to borrow any money in 2032. What I do note, though, is that the profligate LORD MAYOR and LNP Council are causing debt to rise to unacceptable levels in this city. They are not spending it on things that are necessary for the city.

This money is going into the botched Metro project and we’re about to discuss that at a later point. But this debt is a direct result of the LNP’s financial mismanagement and mishandling of major projects in this city. The per capita net debt is going to be or proposed to be $2,500 for every single Brisbane resident and that will rise again next year to $2,638 per person per capita in Brisbane and up again the year after that. So, we just see the way in which this LORD MAYOR and this Administration waste money on bad projects.

We also see that one of the key financial indicators for the city, the net financial liabilities ratio, is sitting at a whopping 159% and that is forecast to increase to 161% next year. Now, former LNP Treasurer Peter Costello said the good indication of where that should be is at 60%, so this Council’s almost three times higher than where one of the LNP’s best financial managers thinks that net debt ratio should be. That is a warning to every single Brisbane resident that the finances of this city are not being well managed by the LNP.

The debt that has been run up—and this, for all the new Councillors, in 2009 this Council had no debt. It now—what, $3.2 billion? $3.2 billion I think debt is up to. In 2009, there was no debt. Every cent of debt that this city owes has been run up on a tab, on the credit card, by the LNP. A few years ago, they actually passed some debt policy saying, well, $500 million of that would never be paid off. It would just go in the bottom—it’s still there—it’d be sitting there and they will never pay it off. The interest being paid on this would be phenomenal. It'd probably fix every footpath in the city.

So, when this LNP Administration stands up and says they are good financial managers, they are not. They are not. I also note that the LNP is again messing with the market in terms of picking winners when it comes to partial rates rebates. I just want to note—and I listened to Councillor CASSIDY and I’m quite shocked—I’m not surprised because the documents themselves before us are only one or two pages, they’re not what I’d call a policy. It’s more like a statement of intent or something, it’s not a policy. Too much power is being delegated away to others.

But what concerns me is that this LNP Administration have failed to support flood‑affected residents with any rates rebates this year. Last year, I moved motions, the LORD MAYOR begrudgingly then put some money in the budget, but we still have, 15, 16 months on from the floods, people who can’t get back into their homes. They can’t find builders. They haven’t got enough money. Their insurers are not supporting them. There are so many problems that are happening out in our suburbs and we have derelict homes and we have residents who are still wanting support.

So, I don’t have a problem with giving money for kindies, although we’ve got plenty of kindies. We’ve got money for build-to-rent, we’re giving money to developers, but why is it that this Council cannot put in place some sort of rate relief for people who can’t live in their homes, in some places because of major subsidence, like at Sherwood. We’ve got people who can’t go back—their homes have to be demolished at some point. These homes are uninhabitable and this Council should be offering real rates relief to flood-affected residents who can’t live in their homes, for whatever reason.

It just is disappointing to me that this LORD MAYOR again has abandoned those residents and I certainly haven’t forgotten them and it’s not good enough in my view. So, whilst I support the rates rebates for our pensioners and kindies and things like that, it is very disappointing that the LORD MAYOR has failed to include rates relief for the worst flood-affected residents in our city, yet again.

Chair: Any further debate on items 2 or 3?

LORD MAYOR?

Okay, we now move to the vote on item 2, the revoking of Infrastructure Charges Debt Management Policy as per the Notice of Motion.

**Item 2 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item 2 was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 25 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE and Trina MASSEY.

ABSTENTIONS: 1 - Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: In regard to item 3, item (b) was taken seriatim for voting so we might go to the vote on that item first.

The vote is now for item 3(b), which is the Debt Policy as at Attachment C in the Notice of Motion.

**Item 3(b) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item 3(b) was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 19 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

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

Chair: The next vote is for the adoption of item 3, except for 3(b), so items (a) through (j), except for (b), as per the notice—on the notice paper, the agenda on the notice paper.

**Items 3(a), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g), 3(h), 3(i) and 3(j) put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of items 3(a), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g), 3(h), 3(i) and 3(j) was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 26 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillors, we’re now moving to debate on items 4, 7 and 8, as a block. Items 4, 7 and 8—4, 7 and 8, as per the agenda on the notice paper.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Just in relation to the question Councillor JOHNSTON asked about the Green Building Incentive, which is one of these items, the way that this incentive is structured is that a building must have an application lodged, it must be approved, it must be constructed and it must be completed to a certain standard at the end of the process to receive this incentive. So, there is a significant lead time before buildings qualify, so there’s a number of buildings at the moment that are in the process of being assessed finally about whether they qualify for this, but obviously, because of that lead time, we’re extending the policy out so that they can continue as they roll through that period, which takes several years, when you think about.

Application, then to construction, to finalisation and then final certification and assessment and so that process is ongoing with a number of buildings, but what we’re doing today will allow that incentive to be paid out, provided those buildings are certified as acceptable under this policy. So, there’s certain requirements that they have to meet in order to receive this incentive. It’s only paid once the building is completed and certified. The—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, just then to clarify, if the LORD MAYOR’s saying there are no buildings that have yet qualified and no funding has been—

Chair: Are you asking if the LORD MAYOR will take a question?

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, no, my question to the LORD MAYOR was how many buildings have received the incentive and what’s the total amount? So, I just want to be clear that I get an answer to my question.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I’ve answered the question. So, in terms of the other—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: In fact, my question was how many buildings may have received this incentive and what was the total amount, and the LORD MAYOR has made some general statements about how the scheme operates, which I understand, but my question is quite specific and I am entitled to an answer. So, I’d appreciate—if it’s zero and zero, that’s great, if not, I would appreciate an answer to my question, please.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. As I was saying, I’ve answered that question and Councillor JOHNSTON may not be happy with that answer, but I’ve answered it. So, moving on, the Green Building Incentive program, as I’ve just referred to, was initiated a number of years ago to make sure we support what, in many cases, are higher-cost buildings. So, the sustainability features that we’re encouraging come at a significant construction cost and, obviously, it’s something we want to encourage. Councillor JOHNSTON herself earlier said that buildings need to have more sustainability features and listed off features that she believes should be added to buildings, and so in acknowledgement that it can cost more to build a green, sustainable building, this is the reason why we’ve got an incentive program in place to support those buildings going forward, but it also signals to the market that this is the type of building that we would like to see more of.

It is certainly leading to a number of projects, either under construction or just finalising construction, who are excited about the opportunity to get this incentive. So, by approving this policy today and the extension of this program, we can ensure that those buildings are assessed and certified and if they qualify, receiving this incentive. Item O is the Victoria Park Land Management Plan and Local Government Infrastructure Designation.

As I’ve referred to previously, the Victoria Park Master Plan, the final version of that was released on Budget Day and that involved extensive community consultation—two rounds of community consultation and engagement. What that showed is a strong level of community support for what we’re proposing here and there is no doubt about that. Eighty-six per cent overall support from the community following two extensive rounds of community engagement. That’s a positive thing because there was significant time and effort put into making sure that the community was engaged. Now, I acknowledge that there are some people living close to the park who would not like to see this as a destination park for the city.

I understand that’s their view, they’re entitled to that view, but this was always intended to be a destination park, just in the same way that some of our other major parklands are parks that people travel to from different parts of the city. The great thing about it is that it will be serviced by two Metro stations. It will serviced by a new Cross River Rail station, eventually, when that project is completed. It will have great access to public transport. It will also be in a close walking distance and cycling distance from a lot of the growth that’s happening in a very quickly growing area of the city.

I’m not just referring to Fortitude Valley nearby or places like Spring Hill but also Bowen Hills State Development Area, or Priority Development Area, where there’s significant growth and development occurring. So, this will be an asset for the entire city, but we’ve also, as a result of the consultation process, made a number of changes to the planning. So, based on that community feedback we have scaled back some of the built form in the parklands. There will still be some important facilities built there, but an important part of our plan is the rewilding of the park, which will see around 60% of the site having tree cover, which I think is an important thing for community.

It will provide shade, it will provide habitat, it will provide wonderful greenspaces for the community to enjoy, but also, we know that people like things to do when they go into greenspaces as well. The pathway network, new playgrounds and facilities, are all part of this plan as well and so this now moves forward to start the construction phase of this project. But as part of our process going forward, the Land Management Plan, which is based on the community consultation and planning work we’ve done, and also the Local Government Infrastructure Designation needs to go forward for approval.

Those two documents will go to the State Government for approval. So, this is the next step that we’re voting on now, we’re effectively voting on our submission to the State Government and they’ll then make assessments based on our thorough planning process. We’ve certainly heard that the State Government has been supportive of the process that we have engaged to this point in time, the extensive community consultation that’s occurred, and they are—from what we’ve heard—overall very supportive of what we’re proposing for Victoria Park.

So, we look forward to working with them on getting these two plans approved and then rolling into the construction phase. Item P is the Stores Board Amendment to the Significant Contracting Plans (SCP) for Brisbane Metro. Brisbane Metro involves many different components, one of which is very important is the construction of the Metro depot at Rochedale. Council awarded fixed-price contract with the constructor of the depot. That contract was essentially in our favour, but that contract also has created some challenges for the construction company because the time between now and when we awarded the contract, construction prices have moved significantly. Significantly.

We know what the Opposition will say all about this, but they’ll conveniently ignore Cross River Rail, they’ll conveniently ignore every single State Government major project underway at the moment, which is under massive cost pressure, and they’ll somehow suggest that this is just an issue that’s related to Council. I call BS on that one, Mr Chair. The reality is every major project of scale is facing construction cost pressures. So, what we are doing here is we’re proposing an amendment to this construction contract to help the contractor with some of the increased costs that they have incurred.

What I will say is that the construction contractor has been under a lot of pressure in terms of what they are expected to deliver under this project and us, being a reliable partner to work with ADCO on this project, requires us, I think, to amend the contract. Even though we could technically enforce the fact that this is a fixed‑price contract, the reality is that would then bring on the risk that the contractor could no longer complete the job. That would not be a good outcome for anyone.

We’d be back to square one, finding a new construction contractor, negotiating and awarding a new construction contract part of the way during construction, and so I think we have to be really upfront here that, like so many other major projects, this major depot construction is under significant cost pressures due to national and global impacts, supply chain issues, commodity costs, things such as steel and concrete are all under massive pressure. So, what we’re proposing here is a change to the contracting plan to allow us to cover some of those additional costs.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired on this item.

**745/2022-23**

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: So, as I said, this is the choice that we have here is potentially to see a contractor unable to proceed due to the incredible cost pressures on them, or us to be a good partner which will work with them in a reasonable way to help meet some of those costs. Those costs have not occurred because of anything the contractor has done, those costs have not occurred because of anything Council has done. They are the reality of the currently changing global and national construction market at the moment. So, by making this change we can ensure the depot can continue to proceed with construction.

I was just out there the other day and you can see the major frame of the main building in place now. Massive earthworks have been done and you can see the depot really starting to take shape, so it’s an exciting part of the project, but we need to make this change as an act of good faith to make sure that this project can continue. So, that was the third item. The figures are available there in front of every Councillor to see, they can see how those figures are proposed to change and in accordance with State legislation and also Council requirements, those figures are commercial-in-confidence, but they’re obviously available for every Councillor to see.

When Councillors claim that the figures are secret, they can see the figures right in front of them. There is nothing secret to these Councillors in the Chamber. They can see this. They can use that to make their decision. They can either vote against it, they can vote for it, they can abstain, but in the end, the figures have been provided to each Councillor.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY, 4, 7 and 8.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. Can I just check which of these is seriatim for voting at the moment, between them?

Chair: Item 4, and then 7 and 8 together.

Councillor CASSIDY: Seven and 8 together. Yes, that’s fine, thanks very much. I think the LORD MAYOR protesting a bit much in saying oh, well, I think these people might say this about it and they might—they sound very worried. They seem very worried about their record. Yes, it’s a fair bit, isn’t it? Millions and millions of dollars. We’ll come to that in a moment, the Metro.

On item 4, the Brisbane Green Building Incentive Policy, very similar to the other incentive policies, we will support this one to 50% discount, like there was on the five-star hotels—not something we supported—which saw I think it was $8 million in developer discounts given to private developers who developed five‑star hotels. It might have been friends, who knows? It might have been mates. To build five-star hotels in the CBD. There are other incentives. So, this is a policy lever that Council can pull. When Councillor ALLAN gets up and the DEPUTY MAYOR gets up and the LORD MAYOR and Councillor CUNNINGHAM, they all get up and say, Council is doing everything it can in the housing space, it’s pulling every lever, which at the moment is TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument) at Kurilpa and a million dollars—$1 million for Pinkenba and a pop‑up library. Yes, that’s right, the mobile library.

They claim on the one hand that’s all the levers they can pull. The LNP can only pull those levers, but for other types of development—in this case it’s green buildings—they can pull another lever, which is infrastructure charge discounts. This one’s at 50%. Do you know, that’s a lot higher—that’s an awful lot higher than the discounts that are given to community housing providers? To community housing providers. An awful lot higher.

When we got those figures recently, the $8 million for five-star hotel developers and $250,000 to community housing providers, and Councillor ALLAN got up and said, well, the way to explain it is that the value—to this Council, anyway—the value of five-star hotels is much greater than the value of community housing, of social housing and affordable housing. That’s what they said. That’s what they said. So, they value those developments over community housing providers, so the Moreton Bay Council is now giving a 100%—

Councillor ALLAN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Could you bring Councillor CASSIDY back to the policy in front of us? He’s drifted off into another space.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, I’m allowing the debate to continue.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. Could be offering a 100—we could offer 100% discount for green buildings if Council want. Could do that. Moreton Bay Council is currently offering 100% discount for community housing providers. The LORD MAYOR said in his speech just now that these buildings are extremely expensive to build as five-star, six-star and beyond now green buildings. I’ll tell you what’s really difficult to build as well for not-for-profit community housing providers is anything. They’re run on the smell of an oily rag and every single dollar—so let’s offer more than five per cent rates discounts.

Let’s offer—more than over a decade, $250,000. I think it was over a decade. That $250,000 was spread over a decade. That level of support is not adequate. We support this today, but we say to the LNP, you can’t come in here on one day and say you’re doing everything you possibly can and then the next day, provide yourselves wrong. Prove yourselves to be absolute hypocrites. Everybody sees that. Everybody sees that. The next item, item 7, is the Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan Land Management Plan and Local Government Infrastructure Designation.

LORD MAYOR has just explained to us that this project, one of his signature projects, is very—we’ll go back a step. Councillor DAVIS earlier today said that it used to be $84 million because that’s all that was funded up to a certain point last year. That’s all it was then and today it’s $141 million because the project’s moving on. I hate to see what it’s going to be next year. Can you imagine that? If it goes up $54 million in one year—and the LORD MAYOR’s just got up and explained that that’s as a result of removing items from the master plan.

He said there’s less hard structures and less—as a result of community feedback there’d be more reforesting of the park, but it’s going to cost $54 million extra. What is going on? Which leads to the other common denominator—LORD MAYOR was very defensive very early, very defensive very early about these Metro blowouts. He said, well, it’s everyone else’s fault, of course, and not his own, on this fixed-price contract blowing out. Last time we had a fixed-price contract he didn’t seem to worry too much and sent the company broke. That was on the Kingston Smith Drive project.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Which was a $100 million blowout. Had Adrian SCHRINNER’s fingers all of it. There was a $60 million blowout on that IT contract a few years ago. Had the LORD MAYOR’s fingerprints all over that one. The $13 million—actually, it had gone up to $18 million in the end by the time that contract was paid on CityCycle. Remember that one?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: There’s a common denominator in all of this and that is this LORD MAYOR. We can add now the Victoria Park / Barrambin project to that, which is a $54 million blowout on trees. It’s just incredible, getting bigger and bigger, and all these projects, they’re all the LORD MAYOR’s vanity projects, they’re all his handpicked ones. That’s not to mention—sorry, the overall blowout as well, $1 billion extra on Metro and the hundreds of millions extra on the green bridges. Remember it was going to be $550 million for five and that was a 75% contribution and then I remember they said, oh, they’d go it alone if they had to, they’d like other money, but they’re going to go it alone?

All that’s going to be eaten up by the time that this is all said and done. This was one of the last fixed-price contracts, by the way. I’m not sure whether Council’s realised this. This and the Kangaroo Point bridge is the last fixed-price contract, so in the future, all of these contracts for major projects of this LORD MAYOR for the next nine months that he’s in this job—anything that’s signed up for, all of that risk is assumed by ratepayers because, as we now know, when private companies are looking at this Council run by the LNP, they go—well, they look at how these projects are managed and they go—they’re not bidding for them.

We were explained on major projects, major ones like, for instance, the Metro or green bridges, in the past you might have got eight or 10 companies tendering for these projects and they had to assume all that risk, of course, because that’s how it worked, now, today, they’d be lucky to get one and the ratepayers of Brisbane have to assume all that risk. So, there is a common denominator and it’s the LORD MAYOR. It’s the political decisions he’s making in his budget and he is the reason that we’re seeing these cost blowouts on his projects.

He’s claiming that they’re not secret, but he won’t release them publicly but they’re millions and millions and millions of dollars. Every time there’s an item, every single time there’s an item about the Metro that comes to this place, there’s a cost blowout and apparently, it’s somebody else’s fault. That’s the theme of this LNP Administration. We won’t be supporting either item 7 or 8 tonight.

Chair: Further debate on items 4, 7 or 8?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. I rise to speak on 4, 7 and 8, but particularly item 4 and item 8. I’ll start with the Metro. God. I mean, it’s a shame—it is honestly a terrible shame for the residents of Brisbane that this LNP Administration is throwing more and more and more money down a black hole after this bad project. We can see from the papers before us today, which are redacted and we’re not allowed to talk about—so the LORD MAYOR says, ooh, Councillors can see the figures, but I’m not allowed to talk about them. I’m actually not allowed to say what these numbers are and they are putting this Council further into debt.

What we are allowed to talk about is why. There’s a couple of things I want to say here. This Metro project has been botched from the very beginning and I said that earlier today. It’s just been badly planned, badly designed, financially mismanaged. This is the Administration that started building on State Government land or about to start building on State Government land without State Government approval and they had to pay out the contractors that had done the work. Millions of dollars for no purpose. Wasted money on a tunnel under the Cultural Centre that was going to disconnect residents and their car park at the Cultural Centre from the Cultural Centre.

It was botched. What did they do in response to that? The biggest problem on the southside of Brisbane is that connection between the exit of the busway and getting across to the city on Melbourne Street and this Council’s not going to do anything. It’s not going to do anything. So, that problem—there’s gates there to try and stop people crossing and getting hit by bus—it’s just a debacle. Yet, they’re spending—billions more dollars goes into building 200 metres of tunnel here in the city and we can hear it, boom, boom, boom, underneath where we’re sitting right now.

Now, today, we find out there are more problems and what a shock it is, more problems. First up, it seems there is a problem with the buses. Council has to increase the budget for verification services for the design and manufacture of the vehicles. Has the LORD MAYOR come clean to say what they are? No, he has not. Yet he says to us we need millions of dollars more because the verification process has been reviewed and we need more money than we first estimated. So, what’s the problem?

The LORD MAYOR has stood up in this Chamber for months and months saying, oh, the bus is rolling around Brisbane, it’s going really well, there’s no problems, the bus is excellent. We’ve got the bus. We’ve already ordered 60 more. We’ve already ordered 60 more, so why is it four years after the contract, we now find problems with the buses? Suddenly we need more money for verification. What’s that? To send people overseas to Europe so that they can check whether they’re built properly?

Is it for airfares? Is It because there’s a problem? Is there a design change that needs to be made to the bus? Is there a problem that’s been found in testing? Has the LORD MAYOR come clean to the people of Brisbane what the millions of dollars he’s asking for today are actually for? No, he has not. It’s a secret. So, not only is there a problem with the buses themselves which are being manufactured overseas, there’s a problem with the depot. The same depot the LORD MAYOR has said for years is under construction, it’s underway, it’s well-built. He’s in here every five minutes proclaiming the Rochedale depot is the best part of the Metro.

As it turns out, it’s also been botched. This is building a car park and a shed out on greenfields in Rochedale and he’s botched it. It’s a carpark of buses and a shed for people to work in and he’s botched it. I cannot believe—and this is millions and millions and millions more for this. It is such bad financial management from this LNP Administration. Guess what? This contract was let in 2019. Four years later, a car park, a shed and a battery terminal haven’t been built. That’s what’s going on here. The reason this project is going so badly is this LNP Council cannot deliver on its promises.

The LORD MAYOR can’t deliver on the Metro, he can’t deliver on his signature green bridges. He is incompetent and he’s leading an incompetent Administration. The two things that the LORD MAYOR, for the last—because there’s not much else going on with the Metro, there’s a bit of tunnelling going on, but the two things that he claims are going so well for the city, it turns out they’ve been stuffed up. Stuffed up. He can’t build the shed and the parking lot and apparently there’s a problem with the buses. To fix this, he needs millions of dollars more.

Well, as we found out through estimates, the total value of this project is somewhere north of $2.1 billion. Council’s component of that is over $1.7 billion and I’d be guessing—I predicted it’d be over $2 billion ages ago. It was easy to see that’s the case. This is a botched project and this underscores how bad the administration of this project is by the LNP. The two things the LORD MAYOR reckons being going great. He’s been caught out right now, having to come begging for more money to fix up more problems created by his own mismanagement, who, after four years since letting a contract to build a bus depot, hasn’t got it built. Four years.

It’s not good enough. It is absolutely botched. Just on the green building standards, I presume the answer to my question earlier today is actually zero and zero, and it’s just a shame that the LORD MAYOR can’t be upfront with people about this. Now, this is a policy area in which Council has absolutely failed the City of Brisbane. Their idea of a green building has a trellis with some pot plants cascading down over the edge of a building. The much-vaulted Buildings that Breathe policy was written by Councillor Julian Simmonds when he was the Planning Chairperson. How long ago is that now? Five or six years?

The policy before us today that we are being asked to approve was actually overseen by a Councillor who shot through when he knew the writing was on the wall, who became the Federal Member and got kicked out unceremoniously, mainly because he stuffed up how development was handled in his own ward, and yet this Council wants to implement that as policy in this city. Buildings that Breathe policy is lightweight. It is lightweight and I’m interested in Councillor MASSEY’s feedback on this. In my view, we need practical measures—and they’re in the National Standards, they’re in there, they’re in the Building Council Standards, they’re in the Carbon Standards—I’ll talk about that in a moment—but the big problem is that the developers in Brisbane are not delivering them.

So, I’m interested in how many new buildings in Brisbane have water capture and reticulation systems built into the high-rise building. If there’s one—well, actually, there probably is, Common Ground, I think that’s the one that people point to, but I’d be really interested in what private development for commercial sale has built that kind of water reticulation and reuse systems into their high-rise. That should be the standard because that is a practical standard that can be met and that can be put into practice.

(2), energy. Without question, all of these buildings should be built with solar panels, solar power, other energy-efficient systems and battery power to support them. The reason they need battery power is so when these poor residents get trapped because of floods and they’re trapped in their buildings, like all the people in West End just last year, with no power, no way to exit their building, no lighting, no way to get into their—yes, nothing. Nothing. So, it’s clear none of the buildings built in Brisbane today in the intensification of the inner Brisbane area have got alternate power sources.

So, here’s a no-brainer: this should be a mandatory standard. It should be. Water sensitive design and energy efficiency and things like intelligent lighting. I mean, most high-rise in Brisbane basically turn the fluoros on and they don’t go off. Finally, I’ll just say this: I think this will be one of those policies where we might end up with one or two of these. It looks good, but we know it’s hollow promise from the LORD MAYOR.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Is there any further debate on items 4, 7 or 8?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to just contribute to the debate on item P, the Amendment to the Significant Contracting Plan for Brisbane Metro.

Chair: Number 8?

Councillor MURPHY: Sorry, item 4 in this group. Look, as noted by the LORD MAYOR, this item is to allow for an amendment to the Significant Contracting Plan that was previously approved by this Council for Brisbane Metro, in particular, to amend the contract for the construction of the depot and the Metro vehicle verification contract. Now, as we know, Chair, and as the LORD MAYOR mentioned, the construction industry is facing some very significant challenges at the moment. We have supply, cost issues, so raw materials, we have lead time issues on those materials coming to site and coming to the country, which means additional time delay costs as well, there are skilled resource shortages, so you can’t get some contractors to site in a timely fashion and there has to be delays as a result of that.

Then there’s the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and that has concertinaed through the construction industry, and then there’s just general cost escalation because everyone is trying to build everything all at once in Australia and, particularly, here in Queensland, the fastest growing state, and Brisbane, being the fastest growing city in the fastest growing state in the nation. Of course, all of that means Council is experiencing increasing costs and other challenges in terms of delivering projects and infrastructure for our city and the effects of some of those impacts are referenced in this submission.

Now, we know that the Metro depot is one of the key elements of the Brisbane Metro project. It will be a state-of-the-art facility. It will have a five Green Star rated facility and it will be home to our Brisbane Metro fleet. However, as outlined in the submission, the depot works have been heavily impacted by increase to the cost of materials, supply chain delays, as well as wet weather. Particularly, at the start of the project, Councillor HUANG, the local Councillor, will remember we had months and months and months of continuous rain during the bulk earthworks period where we had to move a significant amount of earth on that site around to build the profile pad for the depot.

We couldn’t work for months on that site due to the wet weather so I’m sure that’s our fault as well, through you, Chair, Councillor CASSIDY and Councillor JOHNSTON had a good crack at us over that. I’m sure the wet weather was our problem. Look, the contractor that we have out there, ADCO, has absorbed many of these price increases themselves, but this amendment increases the contract value for the depot works to ensure that we can see this critical project through to completion.

On the vehicle verification contract, as part of our vehicle manufacturing and testing process we are undertaking a range of inspections and technical tests to the vehicle. We know our Metro vehicles are being manufactured by a company called HESS. They are a global leader in this space so there’s nothing to worry about, Councillors, in terms of the quality of the vehicle, but look, a number of these tests need to be completed on-site and where is on-site? On-site is in Switzerland, so there needs to be—so there are, of course, some additional costs and technical tests that need to be undertaken—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you were listened to in silence. Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MURPHY: —as a result of the vehicle production facility location. Due to COVID, some of the necessary vehicle verification inspections were delayed due to travel restrictions so there’s a backlog. As everyone knows, the cost of travelling at the moment is significant, so that has gone up as well. So, this SCP amendment extends the contract to account for COVID delays and it allows us to complete those necessary activities. It’s important to note—and I notice that no Opposition Councillors have mentioned this—and it’s important to note that while we do ask for these increases in contract value in the SCP, there is no requirement to increase the Metro project budget overall because this can be drawn from contingency.

So, despite that lie that you hear them repeat time and time again, that the Metro project—it’s now $1 billion, they’re saying the blowout is. Literally every time we come into the Chamber it gets bigger and bigger and bigger and the figure is not grounded in reality at all, Chair. They just make it up. They just lie. They have no problems coming in here and doing that time and time again. So, Chair, Councillor CASSIDY made a bit of a flippant comment and I just want to reflect on that. He said that this was the last fixed-price contract that we are entering into because I don’t know, I think maybe it was a reflection on the fact that Council is now entering into a lot more pain share, gain share contracts.

Well, that goes to show how far Councillor CASSIDY is from the coalface, the reality of what it is like in the building and construction industry in this city at the moment. Large firms will not take on fixed-price contracts in an environment where their input costs and materials and labour are changing all the time, are so rapidly changing. So, if Councillor CASSIDY were here in the LORD MAYOR’s seat—and we don’t yet know if he’s actually running for LORD MAYOR, he’s leaking that he’s running for LORD MAYOR along with a number of other celebrity candidates who immediate deny it, but we don’t know whether he’ll be running.

But if he was sitting in this chair this time next year, Chair, and he was doing fixed‑price contracts, what he would find is that no one in the industry would bid for them. That is the reality of the situation out there in industry at the moment. I do pose the question to Labour Councillors and Councillor CASSIDY: what would they do in our position? What would they do with a fixed-price contract when the contractor is now definitely no longer making any money out of it and there are subcontractors who will potentially not get paid if it falls over? Subbies will be out of work. What would they do, the Labor Party, the party of the workers? What would they do?

Well, they’ve said—okay, I write down what they say about what they would do in terms of project management. They say they would manage it properly. They say they would manage it properly. They would do it better. They would streamline it. They use buzzwords and aphorisms, but they never tell you actually what they would do differently. They just magically would do it better. So, Mark Bailey’s saying very similar things that I’m saying, which are the reality of the industry at the moment.

Now, Mark Bailey and I don’t agree on much, but we do agree on the state of the construction and building industry in this State and in this city at the moment and it is a very difficult time to be building. So, this Administration, this LORD MAYOR, is proud to be on the side of workers here in supporting some reasonable increases to these contracts in order to make sure that everyone gets paid, that the job gets completed to a high degree of quality.

Then, Chair, we had a really poor contribution from Councillor JOHNSTON and she likened our state-of-the-art Metro depot at Rochedale to a car park and a shed. That is a literal quote from Councillor JOHNSTON, said a car park and a shed. I’ll take that interjection from Councillor JOHNSTON. She said she’s worked for an engineering firm and we know that’s—she is a fake engineer, Chair, because she was a spin doctor, I think, for FKP for a while, not a very good one, and then she’s come in here, now she’s a Councillor and it's funny, Chair, because I remember the last car park and a shed she campaigned against, which was the Sherwood depot.

You would think if that was just a car park and a shed, then there would have been no problem with that depot, but what did we see? Councillor JOHNSTON death charged her own political career over that depot and you know what? It operates safely and peacefully in that community right now. The drivers love it, the residents love it, everyone’s on board, but Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MURPHY: Who apparently still hates bus depots to this day. She still hates bus depots to this day. I think, Chair—and we know that Councillor JOHNSTON represents all of them over there, she is the Leader of the Opposition at the moment, I think—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I’m not too sure—

Councillor MURPHY: Well, I agree. I agree with you, Councillor WHITMEE. I would claim to be misrepresented and I’m glad that you’re standing up and saying, you know what, Councillor JOHNSTON doesn’t represent Labor Councillors here because for far too long, she’s run your agenda, she tells you what to do, she tells you how to vote on things, so if you start to—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —stand up and take a little bit of—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —accountability.

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor MURPHY: My point that I’m making here, Chair—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON?

Councillor JOHNSTON: I claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Okay.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: In accordance with the Meetings Local Law, a Councillor is required to have spoken before being able to claim misrepresentation.

Chair: Yes, thank you, Councillor OWEN. I was going to make that point at the conclusion of Councillor MURPHY’s speech.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, I was actually out at a bus depot today, Chair, at Eagle Farm, for the first hundred drivers that have been through our new streamlined recruitment program, Chair. You know what? Those bus drivers don’t think that their depot is a shed and a car park. They think it’s a great place to work and they think that they are making an extraordinary contribution to the City of Brisbane, not by driving for a company or a third party, by driving buses for the Brisbane City Council, a proud organisation that has served people in this city for 90 years.

I think they would be appalled to know what Councillor JOHNSTON calls their place of work a shed and a car park. In fact, I think it’s disgusting. She should be ashamed of herself and she should apologise to 2,500 bus drivers who she has offended through that appalling comment.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor WHITMEE, you can’t claim misrepresentation if you haven’t spoken in the debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of misrepresentation?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. The deluded diatribe by the Transport Chairperson claimed I stood up and said that I had worked for an engineering company. In fact, I didn’t actually address that in my speech at all, I actually spoke to the report. Secondly, the allegation that I’m the Leader of the Opposition, it’s as tired, old and useless as the schoolboy politics of Councillor Ryan MURPHY.

Chair: Thanks, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Any further debate on items 4, 7 or 8?

LORD MAYOR, summing up?

Okay, we now move to votes. So, we’re dealing with item 4 first, which is Attachment L, has been referred to the Brisbane Green Building Incentive Policy.

**Item 4 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item 4 was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 26 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillors, as a block we’re voting on items 7 and 8, otherwise known as Attachment O and Attachment P.

**Items 7 and 8 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of items 7 and 8 was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 19 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

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

Chair: Okay, we now have 5, 6 and 9 for debate and vote. Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. So, the items in this group, the Amendment of Administrative Arrangements, changes in this submission are minor in nature and reflect a change in the name of some branches of Council. Over time, roles and responsibilities change and so too must the organisational structure. For example, Human Resources will be changed to People and Culture. There are two new branches being created from the existing workforce: Business Engagement and Performance, and Property Services, both to better manage the internal goings on in Council. City Parking will also move from Asset Management to Transport Planning and Operations.

As I said, the changes are relatively minor in nature. Item N, Mr Chair, relates to you. Your days are numbered, Mr Chair, and that’s a sad thing, but with you announcing your pending retirement, we’re obviously moving to appoint a new Chair and a new Deputy Chair of Council. So, this submission appoints Councillor TOOMEY as the new Chair and Councillor Sandy LANDERS as the new Deputy Chair of Council.

Obviously, I flagged that this was coming a little while ago. It won’t be a surprise to anyone, but I did want to take this opportunity, Mr Chair, to thank you for your time in the Chair and, once again, for your service to the people of Brisbane. I do wish you all the best for the future. We watch eagerly to see what will happen with the next Councillor for Hamilton Ward. It is relevant that there’s a racetrack or two in your area, because there’s a Melbourne Cup field coming out to replace you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, we’ll have a pre-selection. There will be a pre-selection. Finally, item Q is the Delegation of Powers. Every year, City Legal reviews Council’s delegations to make sure the organisation is making decisions correctly and effectively. Council is delegated powers through multiple bits of legislation, like the City of Brisbane Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Planning Act. Often, these State Government laws are changed or amended and Council delegations also have to change. In this submission, around 70% of the delegations remain the same, however, there are a number of new delegations.

These primarily reflect amendments to State legislation, also together with the operational needs of specific work areas, including those relating to rates concessions and rebates and making sure that those concessions and rebates can be efficiently and effectively provided to the people of Brisbane. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate on these items?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair, and could I also check which of these items has been taken seriatim for voting, if any?

Chair: None.

Councillor CASSIDY: None at the moment? So, this is 5, 6 and 9.

**Seriatim - Item 6**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that item 6, APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF COUNCIL AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT “N”, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thank you. So, on the first one, item 5, which is the Administrative—approve the amendment to the administrative arrangements as set out at Attachment M. The continued tinkering after 20 years in office, which is just conforming the organisation of Council to the new reality of the LNP and their practices here through continued use of contracting out—the organisation increasingly seeing elected Councillors—well, certainly Labor ones and I’m sure the Independent and Greens Councillors as well—as a bit of an annoyance to the process. A bit of an afterthought, brief, last, if at all, about projects and things like that.

I’m not talking about the officers we work with on a day-to-day basis on the ground, but the corporatisation and the bureaucracy being at a high level in Council, being, I suppose, melded with the political level here in the Chamber, on the Civic Cabinet level, has been concerning for a number of years. The changes we’ve seen to the administrative arrangements, like we’ve got here today, is another step down that road. To see those changes that the LORD MAYOR just talked about now, as well as a lot of the on-the-ground changes we’ve seen in the organisation over the last couple of years, have not delivered good outcomes for the ratepayers.

They’re certainly in line with that MBA (Master of Business Administration) thinking around management structures and corporate organisations, but not around the delivery of services to the suburbs of Brisbane. That certainly isn’t what these changes are aimed at at all. We know the level of contracting out, the amount of contractors being engaged to manage those contractors that are doing basic work in Council, is obviously requiring significant changes to the way in which Council delivers services. Not in a good way. Not in a good way, in a bad way.

So, we won’t be supporting the changes to the administrative arrangements and commit to a root and branch review of all of those contracting practices and the way in which Council’s structured and we will fundamentally restructure Council to be a service delivery organisation once again. So, we won’t be supporting this item today before us. Item 6, I’ll leave that to the end. Item 9 is the delegation. On a similar vein, obviously, we accept that some things need to be delegated to E&C in the first instance when Council doesn’t sit. When we’re in recess, obviously, there does need to be decisions made on a regular basis.

They are made, whether we think their decisions are good or bad or the people, the intent of the people who are making them, whatever, they are elected Councillors who are representing the community broadly. There are certain things, obviously, that should be delegated to Council officers with the agreement of Council, but the level of delegations that we’ve seen in recent years we think is excessive. So, we won’t be supporting this item as we haven’t over the last couple of years. Finally, item number 6 is the approving of the appointment of Chair of Council and Deputy Chair of Council.

So, this item removes you, Chair—I don’t know if it’s voluntary, it's all going to be voted on. I don’t know whether they’re going to drag you out of the Chair. I suppose you have to be removed by resolution out of the Chair and replaced by Councillor TOOMEY and then TOOMEY replaced by Councillor LANDERS in that role. You’ve served I think since 2006, since that by-election?

Chair: Yes.

Councillor CASSIDY: That was I think the—was that after the State election in 2006 or just before?

Chair: It was after the State election.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, indulge your conversation here at the moment. So, that would have been the third election I worked on, was that by-election. The first one, of course, was the 2004 Federal election. Don’t mention that one too much in Labor circles. I never kept any of that Mark Latham gear, I can tell you that. Then the next would have been the 2006 State election and then the Hamilton by-election with Anna Herzog, who was the Labor candidate at the time in that election. Certainly remember handing out ‘how to votes’ then. That seems like a long time ago, I’m sure it does for you in many ways.

I just want to put on record our thanks for your service. Again, there have been lots and lots of disagreements on our side with decisions that you have made in various roles, and you’ve had lots in this Council. I’ve always found on a personal working relationship basis that you were very reasonable in that role, whether that was, particularly, in the environment parks space, where we met on many occasions and it feels like it was more regular back then than it is these days. That working relationship I thought was positive.

I have—and you’ve indulged me a lot in an often-rolling critique of the chairing of meetings, but I have definitely—and I’m happy to put this on record—thought you have been the best Chair of Council that I have experienced in this place, the fairest, and someone that has tried to engage debate in a respectful way. I’m sure we don’t always follow that all the time and have appreciated you trying to guide that through there. So, thank you very much for your service, Chair, and I wish you well in your retirement, whatever you choose to do for the rest of your life.

Chair: Thank you very much. Making me blush.

Is there any further debate? Further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry, I just thought someone from the LNP might want to speak. I rise to speak on the four items, the—oh no, it’s only three now.

Chair: Three.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The three items, the delegations and the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair. I want to start with the appointment of the Chair and the Deputy Chair in the first instance. I think that the problem with how these meetings are chaired is that successive Chairs have not engaged fairly with applying the rules when this meeting is underway. For many years, I have been the person who’s been kicked out, ejected and so forth. Now, that has eased, but I had to go to the Supreme Court and this Council had to be embarrassed and Angela OWEN, particularly, into what was an abuse of power, which is how the Supreme Court described it.

The fact that I’ve had to do that just to simply exist in this place is pretty appalling. My view is that even over the last few days when I’ve been on a warning, almost every other Councillor in here, particularly, though, Councillor HAMMOND, Councillor WINES and Councillor MURPHY, has been interjecting nonstop. None of them were warned. So, in my view, nothing has changed. I don’t know whether it will change under Councillor TOOMEY and Councillor LANDERS, but we will see.

The rules have to apply to everybody. They can’t just apply in one way to the LNP and one way to Labor and in a different way to me and now we have Councillor MASSEY, perhaps in a different way to her, I don’t know. It is unreasonable and unfair what’s happened in this Chamber over a very, very, very long time. Sadly, I also can’t agree with Councillor CASSIDY about your performance as a Chair in other areas. The decision to stand up and cut the upgrade of the Cracknell Road Ipswich Road intersection on the spot in this Chamber was an appalling decision.

The only thing I was calling for was pedestrian safety improvements to be included in the scope of the project and they weren’t included, which was getting a safe crossing point across a slip lane. Councillor David McLACHLAN, the then-Chair, just unilaterally stood up and cancelled the whole project, to not come back on the agenda, and meanwhile people keep dying on Ipswich Road and it is one of the worst and most dangerous roads in Brisbane.

So, unfortunately, that’s the legacy I’m left with, chairing that has been applied unfairly and projects cancelled on a whim by the LNP Chairman because he didn’t like constructive feedback given about including pedestrian safety in a road project as an Infrastructure Chair. I don’t think that’s a legacy to be proud of. I also note that the LNP had said over and over again that in refusing to debate the motion to appoint me to the Parks and Environment Committee that we needed to appoint the new Councillor and we needed to—because of the changes to the Chair and the Deputy Chair—and it might have even been Councillor LANDERS who stood up and did that, I can’t remember, but I think it might have been Councillor LANDERS.

She stood up and said, oh, we can’t possibly appoint you to the Environment Chair at this stage because there’s Councillors retiring and we have to appoint a new Chair and Deputy Chair. Well, she’s got a brand new, shiny job and she’s going to be sitting in the Deputy’s chair, but has the LNP brought back the motion on the table today to fill the vacancy in the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee? No, they have not. So, that just demonstrates what liars they actually are. It is disappointing in my view that these changes are being made today without addressing that issue.

It was the sole reason given by the LNP for tabling the motion and, as far as I know, procedurally speaking, we cannot bring that back on tonight because the agenda of the special meeting has been set and it can’t be altered. That’s my understanding of the rules. But perhaps they’ll move it. Perhaps Councillor LANDERS, as her final act as a backbench Councillor, will stand up and the motion she took off the table regarding the vacancy on this important Committee, she will put it back on the table. I don’t think that’s going to happen, but perhaps she will try. Perhaps she could try and do the right thing before she steps into the speaker’s chair.

Finally, on the issue of delegations and the administrative arrangements. You would think based on what the LORD MAYOR has said here tonight that a change to the structure of Council—it’s just something that happens in the passage of time. This LNP Administration almost every year has come in here and made wholesale changes to the names of departments, the chairs of departments, the structure of departments, year after year after year after year. The problem with the way in which this Council keeps slashing and burning within the organisational structure of Council is it has an adverse impact on officers. We can see that.

They’re running out the door faster than you can shout, oh my God, there goes a Metro bus, and there’s only one going around Brisbane so you don’t see it very often. There’s huge turnover of staff. They’re desperately unhappy with how this Council is being run. Council officers will complain directly to you now, which when I started they were so proud to work at Council, they were so happy to work at Council. They’d been here a long time. They felt they were part of a family and a community. The butchering in this term by this LNP of Council’s operational arm has been astonishingly bad.

The changes the LORD MAYOR says here today, oh, they’re only minor changes, there’s not much to see here, essentially the Council revolving door of administrative changes and governance chances is just continuing. You can’t get anything new from this tired old Council Administration. It is a revolving door and the people who should be shown the way out are the LNP. Finally, the delegations. For as long as I’ve been an Independent, which is about 13 years now, I have stood up and said I don’t support delegations. I do not support it. This document here today—and I’ll put it in simple terms—is akin to a coup by the executive arm of Council.

All of the delegations before us today empower the Establishment and Coordination Committee, a committee comprised solely of LNP Councillors—solely of LNP Councillors—and to the CEO, the person who is appointed solely by the LNP LORD MAYOR. Even that decision on the CEO’s contract was delegated to the LORD MAYOR. So, the LNP used their massive majority to undertake these delegations to give themselves more power at the executive level of Council and take away scrutiny, public scrutiny by elected representatives, the Councillors in the Chamber, and from the public, because the E&C decisions are made behind closed doors and whilst we might get a list of the items considered, we don’t see the detail of that coming through to Council.

So, this is essentially a coup by the LNP. I can’t remember, what did I describe it as a few weeks ago? I mean, that’s essentially what it is. It’s like some Stalinist, fascist—fascist—dictatorship. This is how it happens. This is how it happens. There is a democratic Council. Slowly, the powers of the democratic Council are taken on by the executive. They are taken on by the executive. They control more and more power, they hoard more and more power and eventually, any sense of democratic governance is gone. That is what is happening in Brisbane City Council and it’s been going in increasingly under this LNP Administration.

There are 88 new delegations in the hundreds of existing delegations that are being rolled over. Centralising power in the hands of the LNP executive is not the way to run the city. It shows this Council is being run as a corporation and not as a community service organisation responsible to the people of Brisbane. I do not support what this LNP Administration is doing and I will not vote for it.

Chair: Thank you.

Any further debate on items 5, 6 or 9? No further debate?

LORD MAYOR?

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I just wanted to offer my thanks to Councillor CASSIDY for his words about yourself, which made you blush. I’ve never seen you that red. No, I actually do appreciate those words and I know every member of our team does. So, thank you, Councillor CASSIDY for that. I just did want to say as well, there’s a thing called Goodwin’s Law, which relates to online discussion threads. Goodwin’s Law is that the longer a thread goes on and the more heated it gets, the more likely someone will call someone else a fascist or a Nazi. At that point, the discussion ceases to function because someone’s gone there. That’s what we saw today and it is—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

LORD MAYOR: It is a shame, but it is not surprising because we’ve seen it happen before. It is a classic example of the Councillor who cried wolf, who has been crying wolf for years and years and years and none of those claims have ever been proven to be accurate or correct. In fact, the credibility—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: —of those claims gets lesser and lesser with every year it goes on. It is a shame and it’s something we’re disappointed in, but sadly, not surprised. Thank you, Mr Chair, again for your service and welcome aboard to Councillor TOOMEY and Councillor LANDERS in your new roles.

Chair: Thank you.

Point of misrepresentation, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr Chairman. The LORD MAYOR stated that I’d implied that there were—I’d referred to Councillors in this place as Nazis. I did not do that in any way.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m sorry, no. I’d like to finish. This is important. The LORD MAYOR stood up in here and implied that I had referred to Nazis and Nazism as part of my debate. I—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you now—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I would like to make my point of order without interjection, if that’s okay.

Chair: You’re now debating the point of order and I—

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, I have not made my misrepresentation. I’m sorry, I’d like to make it, please.

Chair: Go on.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. The LORD MAYOR stood up and in his speech implied that I had referred to Councillors as Nazis or referred to Nazism. I did not do so. That is a false statement.

LORD MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: The terminology used was fascist dictatorship. Fascist dictatorship.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: One last time.

Councillors, we now have to move to the votes on items 5 and 9 together.

**Items 5 and 9 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of items 5 and 9 was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

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

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

Chair: We have one more item to vote on.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I want to make sure of this one.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. You are not the Chairman, you have to step down.

Chair: No, read the papers, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You are not the Chair.

Chair: It comes into effect on 1 August. Read the papers for a change.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh, God.

Chair: Okay. Read the papers for a change. Okay. We’re now—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, for bleeding’s sake.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Do we want to vote on this item? Okay, item 6, which approves the appointment of the Chair of Council and Deputy Chair of Council as set out in Attachment N.

**Item 6 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of item 6 was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Well, there are no further items. I declare the meeting closed.

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 8.21pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Ashley Bailey (A/Council and Committee Officer)

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