

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4719 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 22 August 2023**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

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

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

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

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair, Councillor Steven TOOMEY, opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

Chair: I declare the meeting open.

Councillor HUTTON, any apologies?

No apologies, noted.

Confirmation of minutes, please.

## MINUTES:

**100/2023-24**

The Minutes of the 4718 meeting of Council held on 15 August 2023, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair: Councillors, I would now like to call on Mr Tyrone Noonan, who will address the Chamber on the Brisbane Winter Sessions Festival and the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships.

Welcome, Mr Noonan. You have five minutes.

**Mr Tyrone Noonan – Brisbane Winter Sessions Festival and the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships**

Mr Tyrone Noonan: Mr Chair, LORD MAYOR and Councillors, thank you so much. Thank you so much for the privilege of addressing you all today. Firstly, I would like to thank the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, the Turrbal and Jagera people. I would also like to pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging. I am honoured to be here, and not only because this moment completes a circle in my life. The last time I had the distinction of speaking in City Hall was prior to receiving an award from then Lord Mayor, Alderman Roy Harvey, for winning the Brisbane Youth Civic Forum.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Mr Tyrone Noonan: That was 1984. I regard the confidence I gained from this as directly contributing to my success as both a musician here and overseas. As you may be aware, my sister Katie and I founded George, one of the most successful bands to ever emerge from Brisbane. We sold over 300,000 records and I ended up living in London and New York City for a few years before deciding I wanted to come back and contribute to the culture of Brisbane.

I would like to thank the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Vicki HOWARD and her team, and all the other Council departments who all pulled together to help successfully deliver this year’s Brisbane Winter Sessions Festival. I know the musicians of Brisbane are extremely grateful for the support in this Chamber, and on a personal note, it was a privilege for me to be Festival Director this year. I know the musicians of—live music is one of the key cultural components of any thriving city. It creates and binds communities, ignites our spirits, soothes our souls, and fuels our nighttime economy to the tune of $20 billion in Australia last year, utilising multiple iconic venues in Fortitude Valley and beyond.

Winter Sessions showcased more than 35 independent artists, covering a range of genres including rock, folk, funk, pop, disco, over two weeks. It was amazing. I believe this extraordinary initiative that provides a platform for musicians to develop and excel, as well as giving audiences the opportunity to experience the magic of live music can continue to be built over the next nine years, until it becomes one of the keys that will establish Brisbane as one of the great cultural cities of the world during the 2032 Olympics. That’s what we all want, to have Brisbane be seen for what it is, a world-class cultural city. I think you are all doing an amazing job and I’d like to get involved in whatever way I can, and I have more to contribute than all things music, as I’ve always been immersed in multiple areas of art and culture.

I am very grateful to be the first adult recipient of the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowship, which afforded me the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles (LA) for a two‑week research, mentoring, and network expedition, with a focus on the effects of COVID on artists in America and how they survived, thrived, or pivoted. I found myself discovering great music, amazing art, and a thriving, creative culture in the city that will host the Olympics right before us. The people who contributed to my experience are too numerous to mention, but the mentorships I received in LA from expat Hollywood composer Bryce Jacobs and multimedia guru Andrzej Liguz were invaluable, including knowledge of major film production music preparation and how to utilise NFTs (non-fungible tokens) in my arts practice.

I gained important insights through attending performances and meeting musicians covering all styles of music at venues throughout southern California. I also had the opportunity to visit multiple recording studios, including Oscar‑winning film composer Hans Zimmer’s facilities in Santa Monica, as well as Grammy-winning rock producer Chris Lord-Alge’s complex in Tarzana. I also spent some inspiring time at The Brewery, which was established in 1982 by the Carlson family, and is now the largest artists’ colony in America, with over 600 artists living in 450 live-work studios.

One of the most extraordinary places I visited was the recently opened Future Factory, a sprawling venue across several old warehouses and open spaces in downtown Los Angeles. Future Factory has successfully fused art galleries, live music, dance parties, fashion, and hybrid art exhibitions into a symphony of cultural expression. Both of these venues reminded me of my experience at the Ormond Multimedia Centre while living in Dublin in the 1990s, and later from similar events while living in both London and New York, including the Danger List events and Punchdrunk theatre productions like *Sleep No More*. Immersive events like these can transform and bind multiple art forms, as well as the surrounding communities that support them. They can also recalibrate the experience of artists operating in their siloes.

Brisbane is uniquely positioned to capitalise on this growing trend. We have the space, the imagination, and with the 2032 Olympics, the audience and the opportunity to create a dynamic new cultural direction. This is a critical time for the arts, a time to strengthen our cultural cache as we are going to be Queensland’s showcase to the world.

Chair: Thank you, Mr Noonan. I’m sorry, your time has expired. Please feel free to take a seat.

Mr Tyrone Noonan: Thank you.

Chair: Can I invite Councillor HOWARD to respond?

**Response by Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee**

Councillor HOWARD: Oh, thank you, Mr Chair. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to respond, and I knew that we wouldn’t get through everything in the five minutes, Tyrone, because you are such a great ambassador for all of the things that we’ve been doing recently. I really want to say a big thank you for coming and talking to the Chamber today because we really do appreciate hearing firsthand. There’s many occasions when I stand up here and talk about all the fantastic things that Brisbane City Council does, but to hear it from someone who’s experienced that and to know just how much that has meant to not only you, but also, I know that Winter Sessions has been fantastic for our emerging artists.

I really want to say a huge thank you because it really is great to hear that feedback, and particularly from an established artist such as yourself. I’d also like to take the opportunity to remind the Chamber that the Lord Mayor’s Creative Fellowships will open for applications once again from 6 November until 18 December. So, while it might seem a little while away, please take note to talk to your creatives in your local areas. I’m hoping that we’ll be able to encourage Tyrone to maybe talk to some of the people that might be thinking about applying for that fellowship, because I know just how much that has meant to him.

Tyrone, I also want to thank you for the leadership and the service that you’ve provided to this city. I know that you’ve talked Brisbane up wherever you’ve been, and that is exactly what we want to happen. We want everyone to experience the great things that we have here in Brisbane, because whilst we’ve been able to give you support through the fellowship, you’ve gone over and above and given us back tenfold. Thank you for all of the work that you’ve done in supporting initiatives like the Winter Sessions. What makes Winter Sessions such a wonderful initiative is how it supports our talented local musicians and gives music lovers another reason to visit our exciting entertainment area precincts.

Again, I can’t impress enough how important it is for our local and emerging artists to know that they can stay right here in Brisbane and have a career, and for you to be that example is just amazing. So once again, Tyrone, thank you for your contribution to the Winter Sessions and for everything that you have done to support our creative sector. We are proud to claim you as Brisbane’s own and to look forward to continuing to work with you long into the future. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Mr Noonan. I’m sure that the Councillors here would love you to come back and do an encore at some time.

Mr Tyrone Noonan: Yes, to finish my speech.

Chair: Yes.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Councillors, we’ll move on to item four on the agenda, Question Time.

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

Councillor HUANG.

**Question 1**

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

 Councillor CUNNINGHAM, over the past few years, Brisbane has endured a global pandemic, a flood, interstate migration, and now inflation and a cost‑of‑living crisis. As Australia’s largest local government, managing these challenges has been an ongoing battle. Can you please update the Chamber on recent survey results reflecting on people’s opinions during this time?

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you to Councillor HUANG for the question. Mr Chair, Brisbane is a great place to live and work, and it certainly is a great destination for visitors, and haven’t we seen that in recent times? As our city grows, the Schrinner Council is committed to ensuring that we maintain the lifestyle that makes our city so great. So, I am pleased to update the Chamber on recent results of the Better Brisbane Index, an externally conducted survey commissioned by Council which shares the story of life in Brisbane and how we compare to the rest of the nation on a range of metrics.

This research study provides robust, independent and representative data, that will continue to be used by Council in all decision-making and strategic planning across all of our divisions. Once again, the results are strong for Brisbane, with 92% of local residents positively rating their quality of life and 89% recommending Brisbane as a great place to live. These ratings show that Brisbane residents are more satisfied with the quality of life in their city than residents in the southern capitals of Sydney and Melbourne, and also higher than in our neighbouring South East Queensland Council areas.

Mr Chair, like all of us in this Chamber, I would hope, the vast majority of residents in Brisbane love living here and they wouldn’t want to live anywhere else in Australia. Three in four residents in Brisbane agree, compared to just two out of three in Sydney and outer South East Queensland, 58% in Melbourne and 53% in neighbouring South East Queensland Council areas. With our city’s population growing and our profile on the rise since becoming an Olympic and Paralympic Host City, it is reasonable to expect that concern about how our city will change in coming years would have increased compared to the past two years and, Mr Chair, it has somewhat, but, Mr Chair, the level of concern in Brisbane remains lower than it is in Sydney, Melbourne, and the rest of South East Queensland, and also lower than it was in the five years pre-COVID and before when we were awarded the 2032 Games.

Mr Chair, we all know times are tough at the moment for our residents and the cost of living remains a key concern for many. Mentions of inflation and the cost of living, when asked about the most important issues facing Brisbane, more than doubled compared to the previous survey. That’s why, in our most recent budget, we had a laser focus on easing cost-of-living pressures, with an $80 million package of relief, including one of the lowest rates rises in Queensland, less than half the rate of inflation at the time of handing down the budget, slashing green bin charges, and slashing the cost of entry to our pools during summer. General concerns about housing and population growth also increased in the survey.

Mr Chair, as has been said many times, we are Australia’s fastest growing capital city. Some of the statistics I read out earlier are part of the reason why we’re on the receiving end of much of the interstate population shifts in Australia. As the LORD MAYOR has said, people from around Australia and the world are voting with their feet and Brisbane is getting their vote. We continue to focus on how much we can manage this growth through our Sustainable Growth Strategy, and by working with the State Government, we can ensure the growth occurs in the right locations.

Mr Chair, there are challenges facing all levels of government right around the country and, indeed, right around the world, but there are clearly reasons for optimism in Brisbane. When you compare our results to our South East Queensland neighbours, and particularly the results from Sydney and Melbourne, Brisbane has a bright future, and the Schrinner Council is determined to continue to deliver for our residents.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

 Any further questions?

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

Councillor COLLIER: My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

 It was widely reported that your speech at the Matildas reception on Sunday included anecdotes about your family movie nights, but no mention of support for women’s facilities at Council-owned sports clubs. As you would be aware, dozens of Council-owned sports lease sites have no suitable women’s or girls’ change facilities. The existing $200,000 grant program doesn’t come close to funding most of the works required to retrofit or build new facilities. Why don’t you really support women’s sport at Council-owned facilities?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Not sure how I can answer a question that’s based on no fact at all. The reality is, we know Councillor COLLIER is new here and still learning the ropes, still getting to understand how things work, but I don’t know how many times we have to have completely inaccurate questions based on inaccurate information peddled by the Opposition.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: There’s only one way to say this. The LORD MAYOR is deliberately lying to the Chamber, Mr Chair. He absolutely—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of order—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —referenced *Bend It Like Beckham*—

Chair: Your point—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and other movies.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I don’t—

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, Councillor COLLIER’s account is correct.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Just one moment. Just one moment.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am going to remind you that, in this place, when I am speaking, you do not. That is in the standing rules. Doing the opposite of that is an act of disorder. I do not uphold your point of order.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. This Administration has invested more into upgrading parkland and facilities and sporting facilities than any other administration, but I do remember when a plan was released for what is our premier women’s sporting precinct, what did Labor and the Greens do?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They opposed it, and they said it should be ripped up, ripped up.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, I know Councillor COLLIER wasn’t here at the time, but maybe her colleagues should fill her in on their history of opposing upgrades for our premier women’s sporting precinct in the Downey Park precinct—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —because this is what’s called in football terms, an own goal, an own goal, because we see Labor making absolutely false claims, yet forgetting the fact that they opposed upgrades for our premier women’s sporting precinct in the city. They’ve also forgotten about the incredible upgrade that is being rolled out in the Nudgee Rec Reserve, which will see an opportunity for even more women to get involved in football and touch football and other sport activities up there, and that is just one of so many upgrades we are supporting and delivering right across the city.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well, I can think of more than two that you’ve opposed, Councillor CASSIDY, but the reality is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just—Councillors, please. Just one moment.

 Councillor CASSIDY and the LORD MAYOR, can I remind you, if you are directing comments to each other, can they go through the Chair, please?

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: My pleasure.

LORD MAYOR: Look, while Councillor COLLIER is busy scoring own goals, I won’t interrupt, but the reality is, this Administration has a very proud record in supporting all sporting facilities across the city, but particularly encouraging and supporting and providing funding to those organisations which are growing female participation. Why? Because we are a team that absolutely not only believes in increasing female participation, not just in sport, but in politics—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —but in politics, which is why we have 60% of our team—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —60% of our team as female. We actually practise what we preach. We practise, we believe, we follow through, we fund. These are the things that we do. As usual, Labor can’t stick to one position on anything. For anything they say should happen, you don’t have to go back too far when they’ve been—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —opposing the same thing.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: You can find those examples.

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

 Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, just on relevance, the question was about the dozens and dozens of Council‑owned lease sites that don’t have female change facilities, and why the LORD MAYOR doesn’t support the rollout of those. I’m not sure where political representation came into this.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, relevance, yes, speech and debating your point of order, no. The LORD MAYOR has plenty of time to address your question.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, in terms of our support, the support is real and it is ongoing, and whether it is the $200,000 that we put towards Souths Rugby in Councillor JOHNSTON’s ward to, in fact, build female change rooms just within the last couple of months, or the $250,000 for Easts Rugby in Councillor COLLIER’s ward to do the same thing—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —to do the same thing, or whether it’s the fact that we’ve just opened the latest round of Better Suburbs Grants, where people can apply for even more funding—I mean, look, it is quite clear, Mr Chair, that these people ask questions but they don’t ever listen to the answers. They don’t ever do the research. They don’t ever base their question on any fact whatsoever.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They simply get together as a—

Chair: Councillors to my left, you’ve asked the question, but you don’t want to hear it in silence. Let the LORD MAYOR respond.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: They simply get together as a politic group and ask political questions without any substance, and I think it is disappointing, but in the end, we will continue our support for female participation, whether it’s in sport, whether it’s in business, where we introduced the Women in Business Grants, or whether it’s political representation, which you can see being delivered in this side of the Chamber, but not that side of the Chamber. It is very clear that we absolutely support female participation in our community. We’ve been growing it, we’ve been funding it, and we’ve been practising it.

Chair: Thank you.

 Are there further questions?

Councillor OWEN.

**Question 3**

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question today is to the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

 Councillor MURPHY, the Schrinner Council’s award-winning Brisbane Metro project is now receiving international attention. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest in the Brisbane Metro project, including those keeping a close eye on its progress?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, would you care to make an award-winning response?

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you, Chair, and I thank Councillor OWEN for the question because I know Councillor OWEN is keeping a very close eye on the Brisbane Metro project herself, Chair. As she mentioned in her question, though, there’s many other people keeping a close eye on the project, and last week, 35 delegates from the American Public Transport Association, which is known as APTA, were here in Brisbane to learn all about Brisbane Metro. The group were visiting as part of a study mission to Australia and New Zealand to explore sustainable and equitable public transport. The delegation included 35 senior executives from the public transport industry in the United States, representing transit authorities in Chicago, LA, Washington D.C., Seattle, Jacksonville, San Francisco and Dallas, just to name a few cities, Mr Chair. Together, they represented the transport authorities for over 21 million American residents.

The delegation spent most of the day with Transport for Brisbane talking about the future of transport and sharing insights, and while I’m on the record, Mr Chair, I would like to extend my thanks to the delegation for the time that they gave us here in Council. It was a real honour to host a group with such impressive expertise right across the sector, and I know that our Transport for Brisbane team learned a lot from them, but we had a thing or two to show them, as well, Mr Chair, and there’s no doubt that the award-winning Brisbane Metro was the highlight of the delegation’s tour. Here in this Chamber, we already know that the centrepiece of the Schrinner Council’s record investment in public transport is Brisbane Metro.

With Brisbane Metro, we will significantly increase the capacity of our city’s busway network by around 30%, and just this morning, the LORD MAYOR and I celebrated the completion of Platform 1 at the Cultural Centre busway station, where we’ve added an extra 30 metres to the platform, increasing the accessibility and capacity of that platform by 60%. We know that Brisbane Metro will make public transport trips in our city more frequent, more reliable and more enjoyable. People are getting onboard with our Metro and its accessible, modern systems. I talk regularly, Chair, to a range of stakeholders about Brisbane Metro and the benefits of the project.

We’ve now had visitors from almost every major city in Australia, and everyone who learns about the project or sees the vehicle for the first time is blown away by how transformative this will be for public transport in our city, but I’ll be honest, Chair, the delegation from the American Public Transport Association was a group of very experienced international transport leaders, so I must admit, I was a bit nervous to see what their impressions of our project would be. Seattle, as we know, has the Space Needle; Chicago has deep dish pizza; LA has the Hollywood sign; Memphis has, you know, rock and roll music and blues; Washington has—well, Washington is Washington D.C.; and San Francisco has the Golden Gate Bridge; Dallas has the mighty Cowboys, but what do they all have in common, Mr Chair?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: They loved Brisbane Metro. They loved it, and they were amazed by the vehicle, by the innovative flash-charging system, by the onboard experience and the manoeuvrability of such a long vehicle. The delegation was particularly impressed by the flexibility of the system and how it could be easily rolled out in cities with all different types of existing infrastructure, whether it’s road, transit lanes or busways. I think, personally, it’s only a matter of time before we start to see Metros pop up around the United States, Chair.

I also have to mention some of the comments from Dorval R. Carter Jr, who is not only the President of the Chicago Transit Authority, but is also the Chairman of APTA. He has a very long history in public transport, mostly in Chicago, but has also served in national roles in the US Department of Transportation. Dorval told us that in his 40 years in transport, Brisbane Metro is the most innovative public transport solution he has ever seen. They were so impressed with the vision and commitment that the LORD MAYOR has shown to public transport in our city that I will read these words from Dorval into the *Hansard*. “It takes someone who has strong leadership and strong vision to make these things happen, and there is no question in my mind today that you have vision here in this city. We are very excited to be a part of seeing what that vision is going to look like”.

Well, Chair, we are also in this Chamber very excited to be part of that vision, and I know the people of Brisbane are too. Brisbane Metro has now received award after award, accolade after accolade, and visit after visit. Now, at the very apex of the public transport academy internationally, we are generating a level of buzz that has never been seen before in the industry, and certainly never been seen before from a public transport project out of little old Brisbane.

So, as we inch ever closer to the opening day of Brisbane Metro, Brisbane residents can be assured that the strong, stable—

Chair: Councillor MURPHY—

Councillor MURPHY: —leadership of Team Schrinner—

Chair: —your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: —has what it takes to put our city on the map.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, do you have a question?

**Question 4**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

 LORD MAYOR, another day and unfortunately, another koala death on your LNP Council’s watch. A koala was hit and killed on Boundary Road at Camp Hill last night. That makes 22 koalas have been killed at that location in the last five years, 22. We’ve seen lots of social media posts from LNP Councillors, including yourself, Councillor ADAMS, and Councillor CUNNINGHAM claiming a speed reduction of 10 kilometres would reduce koala deaths, but it’s clear that nothing has resulted from this change. In fact, since the reduction in the speed, two koalas have been killed. When will your LNP get on with fencing this section of Whites Hill to reduce koala deaths, or are you more interested in media than koala lives?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, I think the question that we all have on our mind is when will the Labor Party stop playing politics with koalas in the same disgusting way that they have continued to do? These are the people who said that a reduction in the speed limit would solve the problems, and now they’re claiming something different. These are the people who claimed to know better than the experts who have said that the fencing is not the answer and, in fact, could make the problem even worse, could make the problem even worse, because one thing we know is that koalas in that precinct move in a permeable way throughout the suburb. They move through Coorparoo, they move through Camp Hill and Whites Hill, and they’re in people’s backyards, as well—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and front yards, and in fact, even Councillor CUNNINGHAM had one in her front yard just recently. If these koalas were fenced into the reserve, that would put the population at another kind of risk, as well, because we know that the koalas are moving around the area not only to find fresh leaves and food, but also for breeding purposes, as well. They’re particularly active at this time of the year for that reason. So, to fence them off into a smaller section, the experts know that is not the silver bullet solution. That is not the answer, the simplistic solution that the Labor Party is peddling here. So, we have always indicated that we are—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: We have always indicated that we are ready to put up any fencing that is recommended by the experts, not by politicians, not by Labor politicians, in particular, but by the experts, and that’s exactly what we’ve done. There’s already sections of fencing up there. There’s fencing in plenty of other locations where it has been recommended, but right in this location, where the koalas are roaming throughout the suburb, to fence them off would have other, unintended consequences which would cause problems for the koala population. So, stop pretending—through you, Mr Chair—Councillor GRIFFITHS, that you’re some kind of expert in koalas. You’re only an expert in playing politics, and that is a real shame because no one cares more about koalas than the people on this side of the Chamber, which is why we bought record numbers of bushland parcels of land, often opposed by the Labor Party—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —in fact, bushland in this precinct that’s been opposed by the Labor Party.

Chair: Councillors.

LORD MAYOR: Look, where are the Greens on this? They don’t even comment about the koalas. They don’t talk about the environment. They don’t comment on koalas. The Labor Party plays politics with it. The Greens are missing in action because they’re more interested in social issues than in the environment—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —and we see what a—

Chair: Point of order, LORD MAYOR.

 Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: LORD MAYOR, the question was when are you going to fence this area? Are you saying you’re not going to fence it at all?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: As we’ve already pointed out, Mr Chair, we will fence whatever the experts advise us to fence. We’ve made that really clear. Councillor GRIFFITHS, last time I checked, is no expert. He might have been here for 21 years, slumbering on a safe seat, but he is no expert in koalas. He’s an expert—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —in politics.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: He’s an expert in playing politics and, in the time I’ve been here, some of the most disgraceful political games have been played by Councillor GRIFFITHS, Mr Chair, and this is one of them.

Chair: Are there further questions?

Councillor LANDERS.

**Question 5**

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

 Councillor WINES, the Schrinner Council’s plan to upgrade Beams Road recently reached an important milestone.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor LANDERS: Can you please update the Chamber—

Chair: Councillors, show some respect, please.

 Councillor LANDERS, please continue.

Councillor LANDERS: Can you please update the Chamber on how investing in road upgrades gets Brisbane residents home sooner and safer?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair, and can I thank Councillor LANDERS for her keen and ongoing interest in what is a vital project for not only her residents, but all of the northside? I am really proud to be able to say we have signed a contract with a preferred tenderer for the Beams Road project. The tenderer is a company that we—that will be familiar particularly to you, but many of us, called Divall’s. Divall’s, of course, did the Gresham Street Bridge replacement. They have experience with Council and we are confident that they will be able to deliver this project.

We have always said that we will be starting the project to the west of the train line down to beyond—and that the Dorville intersection upgrade would be one of the fundamental actions that we’d take in the first tranche of works, and that is what is happening. The works will include four-laning of the road, a bikeway that doesn’t exist there at the moment, and we have also worked very closely with the State Government with the interface with their potential project, the Beams Road open level crossing removal, which we have had members of our own Council as part of the technical working group and the steering committee, because we would like to see that delivered, as well.

Disappointingly, there have been some baseless accusations that we have used the Federal Government as an excuse for the delays in the project. That is not true. We have been delayed as a result of their 90-day review, which has now ended. Those projects that were within the review have not been provided advice about whether they would proceed or not, so for those of you who are concerned about the Lindum level crossing proposal, we are still waiting. Now, some Members of the Labor Party State Parliamentary team have said that we have hidden behind the Federal Government because we have, in their words, botched the project, which has a tenderer, has a contract, and is well on its way.

Now, that particular MP (Member of Parliament) is, of course, Mr Bart Mellish, the Member for Aspley, who is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: He’s very quick to tip a bucket and then very quick to change his mind, in my experience. So, as I know, Bart Mellish, for those who don’t recall, tipped a bucket on the northside tunnel proposals and then, three months later, was cheering for the reversal—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor WINES: —of the State Government’s position.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES.

 Councillor CASSIDY, your point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, just on relevance. I was actually very interested in this project and I’d love for Councillor WINES to stick to the topic of Beams Road—

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: —and why he cut Stage 1C—

Chair: Thank you. Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: —why he cut Stage 1C from the project. We want to know.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY. We can hear from Councillor WINES now.

 Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks to the Leader of the Opposition for his protection. It’s much needed to keep me back on topic, but yes, Mr Mellish has accused the Council of hiding behind the Federal Government to delay the project, but because Bart doesn’t miss a chance to reverse on himself, inside the comments, he was asked directly by a resident, “I understand the approvals issue”, says the resident, “can you guarantee there isn’t some mud being thrown in all directions?” To which Mr Mellish replies, “Council got special dispensation last week to progress this from the Federal Government”. So, he reverses his own criticisms within his own post. That’s a fascinating position.

Now, he then goes on—after accusing us of hiding behind Federal Government delays on our project, Mr Mellish is then enquired from a resident in his own area, “when is the Linkfield overpass getting fixed?”, they enquire of him, to which he says, “we’re waiting on the Federal Government review”. Hey, I mean, I do enjoy—look, it’s just good fun to see Mr Mellish—at least with the northside tunnels, he waited three months to change his mind. He didn’t do it within his own post that same day, but look—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: I have also noticed, it was raised with me—what will we call it—a media outlet headline that was heavily critical of the Beams Road project. I thought, BrisbaneNow? I’ve heard of BrisbaneNow. I read about it here on the Facebook page of Labor candidate for Marchant Darren Mitchell’s page, where he says, with the demise of many community newspapers, did you know the Labor for Brisbane team provides community news called BrisbaneNow?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Oh, we must check the source, Mr Chair. Is that fair and balanced content? Is it fair and balanced criticism? No, it is not. No, it is not. Can I assure all people interested in the Beams Road project, the contracts been signed, the works have begun, and I look forward to the completion of section 1A, followed by 1B, followed by 1C, then 2, and then B in the coming years.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

 Councillor MASSEY, you had a question.

**Question 6**

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. My question is for Councillor DAVIS.

 Over the past years, former Councillor Jonathan Sriranganathan and most recently myself, in relation to 24-26 Archibald Street, have contacted you to encourage the purchase of land when it comes to market, routinely providing information about vacant land that would be suitable for a pocket park model for the suburb of West End, which is very low in greenspace. Considering this, recently, residents in West End on Raven, Rogers, and Ida Street received extremely unclear and confusing letters from Brisbane City Council about amendment changes to the LGIP (Local Government Infrastructure Plan), indicating possible resumptions of their properties for a park.

While they have received communication from Planning and Parks team suggesting this is indicative only, they continue to live in stress and anxiety. Through your Committee, will you support the designation of the proposed park, as set out in the draft Local Government Infrastructure Plan amendment, to be returned to unspecified, and support the BBC focus on a more robust and adaptable model of small pocket parks that is supported by myself and that takes account of the local challenges of attaining vacant land due to the largely protected traditional pre-1944 homes in this area?

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, please.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment, please, Councillor OWEN.

 Councillor MASSEY, do you have that question in writing? It was rather long and extensive.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, can I remind you that we do not call out across the Chamber?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, really.

 Councillor MASSEY, it was just very long, the question.

Councillor MASSEY: I can go straight to the question.

Chair: Please.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor MASSEY: The background was important.

Chair: Councillors.

 Just one moment, Councillor MASSEY.

 Quiet, please.

 Councillor OWEN, your point of order.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. In accordance with the Meetings Local Law, that was a noncompliant question—

Chair: I don’t uphold your point of order, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: —and can be taken on notice. I ask you to rule on this.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, could you read the question component out, please, again for Councillor DAVIS?

Councillor MASSEY: Through your Committee, will you support the designation of the proposed park, as set out in draft Local Government Infrastructure Plan amendment 1B, to be returned to unspecified, and that Brisbane City Council focus on a more robust and adaptable model of small pocket parks that is supported by myself, that takes account of the local challenges of attaining vacant land due to the largely protected traditional pre-1944 homes in this area?

Chair: Thank you. That’s a very long question—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: —and possibly two questions.

 Councillor DAVIS, would you care to respond or would you prefer the question in writing?

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. It was a very lengthy question and I would like to take that on notice and in writing. Thank you.

Chair: Noted.

 Any further questions?

 Councillor HUTTON.

**Question 7**

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the Chair of Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, Councillor ADAMS. DEPUTY MAYOR, the Schrinner Council’s Growing Precincts Together program for this financial year has now begun. Can you please update the Chamber on what’s in store for this year’s precincts, including some of the outcomes from last year’s program?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you, Councillor HUTTON, for the question, because business is growing in Brisbane under the Schrinner Council, and we are working hard to ensure our local Brisbane businesses are supported, connected, and have the right tools in their kit to be able to take on the day-to-day running of a small business. They are the backbone of our community, supporting thousands of families, local jobs, and making Brisbane an even better place to live, work and visit, but too often, we do find our small business owners are so busy working in the business, they don’t have time to take a step back and work on the business. That’s where we can step in and offer a helping hand.

Launched in 2022, the Growing Precincts Together program has worked closely with local suburban shopping strips as part of a three-step plan to activate, refresh and promote their precincts. We have over 300 suburban precincts in Brisbane and they range in size from just a few tenancies to a few hundred tenancies, each with their own unique character, identity, and offering. The Growing Precincts Together program is all about bringing these businesses together to build a sense of community and connection, and develop a shared vision for how they would like to see their businesses grow into the future.

In our pilot year, last financial year, the precincts of Racecourse Road and Rosalie were supported through the program. Racecourse Road, who had struggled very hard, struggled strongly after the construction of Kingsford Smith Drive and then, of course, the COVID pandemic, and the Rosalie Village, which was severely impacted again by the February 2022 weather event. More than 170 businesses in Racecourse Road and 60 in Rosalie came together to work with our Council’s Economic Development officers through a three-step program.

It starts with the understand stage, working through various audits, and insights from businesses and customers to understand where the opportunities lie and where improvements can be made. It’s a chance to get under the hood of what drives these local precincts, what challenges the businesses are facing, and how precincts could grow to attract more visitors, and then it draws in the locals and visitors, and what keeps them coming back.

The next step is to engage, bring the businesses together to run through the findings from customer surveys and precinct audits. It’s also an opportunity in some cases for businesses to meet each other for the very first time, get to know each other, and start to build those business-to-business relationships. During these regular coffee meets, businesses are encouraged to share their ideas and discuss a way forward, which Council takes away to develop what becomes the third step, the precinct playbook.

This is where it all comes together, and there is no single solution, but rather a combination of different support measures that we tailor to suit the needs of each of the businesses and the precincts as a collective. The playbook creates a framework of opportunities under key themes, promote, support, refresh, and activate. We’ve seen some fantastic outcomes with these businesses through one‑on-one business coaching, shopfront makeovers, vacant shopfront activations, digital marketing training, and precinct promotion campaigns. We were fortunate enough to have one of Brisbane’s most beloved artists, Debra Hood, participate in the first vibrantly vacant shopfront activation in Racecourse Road, more of which we will see roll out across the city.

I’d also encourage locals in this area to keep an eye out for the soon‑to‑be‑revealed, month-long celebration of local businesses in Racecourse Road. Kicking off in mid-September, the businesses will have a range of experiences and specials available across retail, dining, health and wellness, and more as they bring together everything they’ve learnt over the course of the program. With these two precincts all but wrapped up for what’s been a hugely successful pilot, we now turn to our two latest Precincts Together locations, Banyo and Wynnum town centres. Yesterday, we launched Stage 1 with the community survey, and soon, businesses will be receiving a knock on the door from one of our ED (Economic Development) officers to start the engagement on the program.

Both these communities are unique in their own special way, and we invite anyone with ideas on how to promote these precincts to visit the Council website and share your thoughts. Community surveys like this are how we can engage our local communities and get them involved to make Brisbane even better. Our city is growing, and that brings new and exciting opportunities for our local businesses to grow and to flourish. Most importantly, this is one of the many ways that we are making sure that Australia is the most small-business-friendly city in the country. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

 Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 8**

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

 LORD MAYOR, just six weeks after the start of this financial year, you’re bringing a budget review with some massive changes. This first review of the 2023-24 budget shows you have cut $85 million in the materials and services budget, the bread and butter of what Council does for ratepayers every day out in the suburbs. So, LORD MAYOR, can you detail, which services are you cutting to save this $85 million?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: OMG (oh my God). Councillor CASSIDY should be embarrassed by that question because, among other things, it shows that he simply cannot read a financial statement. Now, I would suggest, Councillor CASSIDY—through you, Mr Chair—that you contact the CEO and sign up for the Australian Institute of Company Directors course and learn how to read a financial statement because it is embarrassing that you have peddled a figure which is completely inaccurate and wrong.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor OWEN.

LORD MAYOR: The papers being voted on today show a $54 million increase in expenses, not an $85 million decrease. That’s what the papers actually show, and what Councillor CASSIDY seems to be referring to is the statement of cashflow. Cashflow. Does anyone know the difference? Maybe Councillor OWEN, do you know the difference between cashflow statement and other parts of the document? The reality is our expenses increased by $54 million, not reduced by $85 million.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Oh, he’s digging the hole even deeper.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: What’s happened in terms of cashflow is that we actually made a number of payments earlier than anticipated on a number of critical projects, projects such as the Moggill Road corridor upgrade, the Green Bridges Program, and also more purchasing, 4.2 million more purchasing of asphalt and aggregates, because we were resurfacing more roads than anticipated, earlier than anticipated. So, that was paid in the previous financial year, rather than projected in the current or the new financial year, why there’s a difference in cashflow. Councillor CASSIDY, really, do the research, understand the financial statements, stop peddling porkies.

This is, sort of, basic stuff. This is a person who wanted to be Lord Mayor of the City of Brisbane. This is a person who is the Leader of the Opposition and has been here for a while now, and should know something basic like reading a financial statement. I don’t want to believe that it’s a deliberate misreading of a statement. I believe it’s a misreading of the statement, but he has gotten it completely wrong. The reality is, the documents that are coming through show the budget remains balanced and in small surplus and, in fact, that surplus has grown slightly bigger as a result of this budget review. It shows that we’re actually spending more, not less, contrary to what Councillor CASSIDY claims.

This is a theme that is repeated time and time again. We see *Chicken Little* statements being made about cuts, but they can’t actually point out any cuts. They can’t point out any cuts. They claim that the suburbs are missing out. They can’t actually illustrate anywhere where they were in administration spending more than what we’re investing. They can’t point out anywhere where we are not spending more than ever before. The reality is, it all comes down to basics, like understanding a financial statement and that is where this Labor Opposition is desperately lacking, and this is also really concerning given that this is, you know, the alternative administration of this city, under the Green-Labor coalition of chaos, can’t even read a financial statement. They want to be running Australia’s largest Council.

Can you imagine the chaos? Can you imagine what that would bring to Australia’s largest local government? It would be a debacle of epic proportion. We’ve heard Councillor CASSIDY in the past getting up in this Chamber and ridiculing the fact—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —that we seek to run a surplus budget.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

 Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

 Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: The LORD MAYOR, I think, attempted to come close to detailing the 85 million, and he rattled off a couple of projects in his attempt at covering this up, but the question was quite specific.

Chair: So, your point—

Councillor CASSIDY: Give us the list. Give us the list.

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

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance, give us the list of all those projects.

Chair: Thank you. We’re not going to debate points of order, just making that clear for the second time this morning. LORD MAYOR—this afternoon.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I mentioned already, Mr Chair, that of the changes in terms of cashflow, that some of the major projects that are listed account for the lion’s share of it, including the Moggill Road corridor upgrade, where we made a payment early on that project, earlier than anticipated, which impacted on the cashflow. So, it reduced the cashflow this financial year, but increased it last financial year. We’ve just come out of the end of a financial year. The payment was made last financial year, and so it was effectively brought forward. So, if Councillor CASSIDY is criticising us delivering earlier than anticipated—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —then, you know, that’ll be an interesting claim to make. We’ve also made an earlier payment on the Green Bridges project, as well.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, I’m sorry, your time has expired and that also ends Question Time.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Disappointed, Councillor MURPHY?

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

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 14 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Last night, all of our assets were lit up in yellow to support Queensland Road Safety Week. Last year, regrettably, there were 299 lives lost on Queensland roads, and that’s the highest since 2009. Obviously, improving road safety is something we’re all very passionate about, and that’s something that we’re supporting, as well, in many other ways, but also through the lighting up of assets to bring attention to the work that’s being done and the work that needs to be done.

Tonight, the Story Bridge and Victoria Bridge will be lit up in purple and yellow to support Brain Injury Awareness Week. This annual campaign raises awareness of brain injuries and its impact on people’s lives, including celebrating those who live with a brain injury every day.

Also tonight, City Hall will be lit up in red, white, and blue to support the Brisbane Fashion Festival. The festival kicks off tonight in King George Square, showcasing and supporting our local fashion designers and creatives who do an amazing job in what is a global industry. They’re competing with global fashion houses, they’re competing with people who can make things a lot cheaper in mass production than they can here, but it’s fantastic to see our local fashion businesses and designers are doing so well and kicking goals, and this is about supporting those local businesses and showcasing the work that they do.

Tomorrow night, all of our assets will be lit up in green and gold. Councillor ADAMS, what is it for?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Nine years until the Paralympic Games.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: That’s all right. Councillor ADAMS told me in the first place, so it’s all good, but it’s a fantastic milestone. We obviously celebrated nine years until the start of the Olympic Games and nine years to the start of the Paralympic Games, as well, which is just as important for our city and our State, and something that we’re excited about. Councillor ADAMS actually, right from day one, as the Chair responsible for the Olympics also became the Chair responsible for the Paralympics. Other people took a little bit of time to get there, but Councillor ADAMS was a fan and an advocate right from day one.

On Thursday, City Hall will be lit up in red and white to celebrate the IndOz Conference. This is the largest Indonesian business event in Australia and it’s taking place right here in City Hall, and obviously something which we’re proud to support.

This Thursday is also Ukraine Independence Day, and the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in blue and yellow to recognise this day. Independent for 32 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine is fighting to get their independence or maintain their independence from the unlawful and terrible attacks from their neighbour.

On Friday, the Victoria Bridge, Reddacliff Place and Story Bridge will be lit up in white, blue, yellow, green and black to support Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day. This is celebrated annually on 25 August and recognises the day the Federal Government officially declared Australian South Sea Islander as being a distinct cultural group.

Also, on Friday night, the Sandgate Town Hall and City Hall will be lit up in purple and orange to support Dress to Express Day. This is the last event of the Brisbane Fashion Festival and will take place in the Queen Street Mall. The event encourages people to dress to express their unique style in solidarity with domestic violence survivors, who are taking control back of their lives. They’re unable to—sorry—they’re often unable to control, as a result of coercive control, what they were wearing on a day-to-day basis, but the expression of their own individuality now through what they’re wearing is something we should celebrate and champion.

Finally, on Saturday Night, City Hall will be lit up in red to support the Ladybird Gala Dinner. The Ladybird Foundation does important work supporting parents experiencing the anguish of losing a child, and their dinner on Saturday night is their main fundraising event for the year.

Well, over the last few weeks Brisbane has been an incredible hive of activity. It’s been something that we’ve all enjoyed seeing with the FIFA Women’s World Cup and something that has inspired us all. It has been inspirational for a number of reasons, too many to count, but firstly, it’s a little bit of a taste of what will happen here in 2032 with the eyes of the world on our city, holding a huge international sporting event. That is something that obviously brings a level of excitement to it, but more importantly, it was inspiring due to our Matildas and the amazing effort that they put in.

Obviously, we would have loved them to progress further in the competition, but they broke all the records. They broke every record when it comes to women’s football. They’ve helped this FIFA Women’s World Cup to be the best ever, the most successful ever, the most watched ever. They broke the TV viewing records, they’ve broken the attendance records, and it has all been thanks to their incredible efforts on the field and also their inspiration off the field that they have given us all. It is difficult to calculate the impact that their inspirational achievement will have, but I know that it’s out there in the community, particularly in our young girls and boys who are now motivated to get involved in sport.

Whether it is to play football or whether it is to get involved in another sport, they’ve seen what the Matildas have done and they’ve said, I want to do that. I want to be like them. I can understand that that is something genuinely exciting. It is, you know, a moment that is pivotal in Australian sporting history. Just in the same way that watching Cathy Freeman in the 2000 Olympic Games was inspirational, this has been equally inspirational, and will be a gamechanger going forward. I think the true impacts of what they have done will take time to flow through, but you cannot underestimate what that impact has been in so many different ways.

So, we celebrate our Matildas. We’re able to offer them the highest honour that a city can offer, the Keys to the City. I also note the Premier has also pledged a statue to be built, as well, which is another fitting tribute, as well, to what the team has achieved. That was a great announcement that we saw on the weekend. I particularly want to thank the Council staff, and also their cooperation with the State staff, in bringing together what was a big public event in such a short period of time. Literally in about 24 to 36 hours, they had to bring together an event for 4,500 people. The team within Council that worked on that, literally every minute counted, every hour counted, and they literally rolled up their sleeves, got into gear, and they did what needed to be done. These are amazing people in offices that don’t make excuses. They don’t say it can’t be done. They just said, we’re going to make it happen, and they did.

I also thank the State Government for their support, as well, because that was a joint event and it was obviously a great partnership in a very short period of time. I also want to thank the same staff who were able to help activate some additional live sites. Now, Councillors will remember that we had a situation where the South Bank live site was bursting at the seams and there was demand for more, and so once again, at very short notice, we were able to open up King George Square as a live site for the big Matildas game. We were then able to open up Riverstage, as well, and so that was also done at very short notice.

Once again, I thank the officers that were involved in making that happen, and also thank the State Government for their cooperation, as well, with some funding support towards that, too. Football is one of those things where, yes, you can watch it on TV, but the real experience is watching it in a crowd. Now, if you can’t be part of that crowd in the stadium, then at a live site is the next best thing. To get that community spirit, that team spirit that comes with that is just something truly special.

The other thing I think that the Matildas have done is they’ve brought a sense of unity to our community, which has just been absolutely wonderful to see. It was a unifying moment for our nation, for our city, for our State. Once again, all thanks to the Matildas. Seeing people who, you know, would normally be rugby and AFL fans becoming round ball fans or football fans was a great thing, and it just goes to show the unifying power of sport. Once again, that is the reason why the Olympic Games is so impactful, as well. Not only is it a big event that brings economic benefits, it also brings unifying benefits. It brings unity in a way that other things can’t bring.

So, really excited about that and congratulations once again to the Matildas and everyone who has supported the Matildas—

Chair: LORD MAYOR—

LORD MAYOR: —to get where they—

Chair: —your time has expired.

**101/2023-24**

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Moving to the items in front of us, item A is the first budget review. I have actually read this document. I do understand this document.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MARX.

LORD MAYOR: It is obviously—with any budget, it is an evolving, living thing, just like our household budgets evolve.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It may be a snapshot in time. I say it’s a living thing, Councillor HAMMOND. Just like as things change in our household budget, things need to change in our Council budget, as well. So, if you can set your household budget and nothing changes for a year, then good luck to you. I’d be interested to see how that works.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Just like we’re constantly updating our household budget as grocery prices change, as electricity changes, as car rego changes and other things change, obviously, we continue to update our own budget as things change. Now, it might be that things happen earlier than expected, like we’ve seen in this situation where there were $85 million of expenses anticipated this financial year, where we saw early incursion of those expenses, but we see once again a budget that is in good, solid shape and a budget that remains balanced with a small but reasonable surplus. As I was about to say before I was interrupted, Councillor CASSIDY has in this Chamber criticised us for having a surplus. He thought it was bizarre that we would have a surplus.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: He’s declared that he is not an economic conservative, and look, you know, at least he’s made his position clear, but we are the opposite. We believe in responsible budgeting. We believe that we should have a surplus, and the reason we have a surplus is for unexpected things that do invariably happen. Now, we’ve seen those unexpected things happen in recent years, whether it’s the pandemic, the flood, global inflation, a whole range of other challenges, work skills shortages, they all impact on the budget and they all mean that the budget does continue to evolve as the weeks go by.

This first budget review submission sees revenue projected to increase by $38.3 million, but that’s largely due to transfers of revenue from the previous year for the continued delivery of the Voluntary Home Buy-Back scheme, and also our Green Bridges project. The capital increased by $55 million, 55.3 to be precise. Most of that, though, is for the Voluntary Home Buy-Back scheme, and so that is additional acquisitions through that Voluntary Home Buy-Back scheme, but in the wrap up of the first budget review, it sees an increase in our surplus of $39.1 million. So, once again, we keep that surplus for unexpected events that invariably happen, and in this budget review, the surplus gets that little bit bigger to provide that little bit extra buffer zone that we will invariably need going forward.

Item B is the quarterly financial report for the year ending June 2023. So, this is obviously for the last month or the last quarter of the last financial year ending on 30 June. This report shows that we delivered more than $1.3 billion of capital infrastructure works in the last 12 months leading up to that report, $1.3 billion, $1.3 billion. Like, that is an incredible number. You know, if you look back through year-on, year-out, you would struggle to see any other year that equalled that number.

So, more investment in capital works, more investment in building infrastructure than virtually any other 12-month period in the city’s history, and that is something we are proud of. The great thing is that the majority of that investment, in fact more than 80% of that investment, went to the suburbs, 86% to be precise, in the last financial year. That’s grown to 87% in the current financial year. So, $1.3 billion of capital works, with the vast majority going out to the suburbs. This is something that we need to continue doing.

As Councillor CUNNINGHAM pointed out in Question Time, people are absolutely wildly optimistic about the city. They love living in Brisbane. They love the lifestyle in Brisbane. The main thing they’re concerned about is population growth and what that will do, and also housing pressures, and that’s understandable. That is absolutely understandable, given that we’ve come out of the pandemic as the fastest growing capital city in Australia. More people are moving here, and so that’s why we need to continue investing in the way that we are in infrastructure. I’ll also point out, there was a $156.4 million increase in contributions, donations, subsidies, and grants. This was largely made up of contributed road assets, and this includes the motorway upgrade to Darra Stage 1, the Logan Enhancement Project at Heathwood, as well as the Resilient Homes Fund revenue.

So, the contributed assets make up a big part of that, and that’s effectively works done by others that then become Council assets. So, they’re built by other people, handed over, become Council assets going forward.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Adding the Resilient Homes Fund revenue onto that, as well. Higher interest rates also generated increased revenue compared to the previous year, and that’s in terms of the money that we’ve invested. So, each year, you would be aware that our income comes in in lumpy components as rate bills are paid. So, four times a year, there’s significant income coming in, and the income that comes in that is not required immediately is invested, and because of higher interest rates, there’s been a higher return, as well, on that money that’s been invested. Of course, like households, Council faced many increasing costs, as well, and that was including a $74.4 million increase in materials and services. That’s mainly due to higher service and contract costs, higher fuel costs for bus operations, as well. So, just like households, we’re experiencing some higher costs as a result of inflation.

Speaking of buses, the report also showed the continued recovery of public transport patronage. Now, this is a good story because we’ve seen recent reports where the Brisbane CBD is bouncing back faster than other CBDs across Australia, and particularly places like Melbourne. So, more people are coming back into the CBD in comparison to other capital cities. That is also being reflected in a bigger relative improvement in public transport patronage, as well. So, we’ve seen TfB (Transport for Brisbane) bus patronage of 64 million passengers, and that was up from 46.3 million passengers just the year before, so that is a big increase in patronage. We’ve also seen ferry patronage up by a million trips, as well, over that 12-month period.

So, this is a good sign. We expect that to continue. As we’re adding in more capacity with Brisbane Metro, over the coming years, we’ll see the capacity opened up for an additional 30 million extra trips through the Brisbane Metro project. So, we’re seeing that patronage come back on. We’re preparing for more patronage in the future and it’s a big part of what we’re focused on.

In terms of other issues, there’s—you know, the record of delivery has been unprecedented, and we continue to deliver right across the suburbs of Brisbane. This report shows the funding that’s been put into parkland and greenspace investment, which continues to be at record levels compared to any other administration. It shows continued investment in road upgrades, which is absolutely critical as our population grows and will continue delivering those things that the suburbs of Brisbane need. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on these items before us today, and I’ll make a couple of observations about what the LORD MAYOR said. If this LORD MAYOR was running our household budgets, as he’s compared this budget to a household budget, we’d all be broke and homeless. We would all be broke and homeless if this LORD MAYOR was running household budgets for individuals in—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s right, even if we all had the $100,000 in our pocket like the LORD MAYOR does. The second observation is that it’s not your money, LORD MAYOR—through you, Chair—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —or the LNP’s money get around talking as if it’s all theirs to play with and equates it to a household budget, and they can just move things around here, there, everywhere, where they want. Call them different things and different line items, stop reporting on individual projects and their progress and how much they’re costing. Just, it’s like a big house of cards, this budget before us today. It is diabolical for the people of Brisbane, because this is proof in black and white that people in Brisbane are paying more and getting less under this LNP Administration, and they know it. That’s why they started changing the way in which budgets were being reported on in this place.

So, we are seeing cuts to services, a reduction in cash on hand, a massive reduction in cash on hand, and increased debt costs. The LORD MAYOR talked about the increased income from interest payments, but he didn’t talk about the increased cost of interest payments through the debt that this Administration has accumulated to fund the cost blowouts on this LORD MAYOR’s pet projects. So, there is a big write off in assets to pad out the bottom line to cover the massive $85 million cut in material and services. I thought the LORD MAYOR’s explanation was a bit cute in saying that somehow, the budget which was handed down in June and came into effect in July also, in the last six weeks, has had some payments that magically appeared in the year before.

I mean, this is ridiculous, Chair, that all of those Council payments, as we know as Councillors in running our ward office budgets, ceased in the middle of June. This budget was handed down in the middle of June and it came into effect on 1 July, and the LORD MAYOR is trying to get us to believe that $85 million in expenditure was somehow shifted into the past as if he’s got some time machine. When you look at the statement of cashflows, as the LORD MAYOR said, you look at the—I’ll jump between the two documents here momentarily. You look at the final review, as at 30 June last year, the final actual number for materials and services is just over $1.1 billion, when you take out write offs and write downs.

This year, in this amended budget that the LORD MAYOR is presenting to us today, that’s actually reduced to $1.054 billion. So, $143 million now, today, $143 million less is expected to be spent on materials and services this year than last year. How does he account for that, Chair? How does he account for budgeting—now, with this review, not talking about the budget that was handed out six weeks ago, the budget as it is today, how this LORD MAYOR can account for $143 million less being spent on materials and services than there were last year? Now, the LORD MAYOR also said that the $85 million that’s missing in the statement of cashflows is because he had a magic time machine and paid some old bills last year. However, what we do know, again from the final quarter review for last year, is that $300 million worth of projects and worth of expenses has been carried into this financial year.

So, the LORD MAYOR is presenting documents today which show there’s over $300 million in carryovers. Now, that’s projects and services that were running behind schedule that couldn’t be delivered last financial year, that he’s carried over into this financial year, included in the budget. So, he couldn’t deliver them last year. He is now claiming, in this year’s budget already, he’s paying last year’s projects off. Are they some of those? Well, maybe. He said Moggill Road is one of them. Well, that’s one that’s carried over, obviously, because that’s behind budget. The green bridges are behind schedule, and the green bridges is another one.

You know, we had Councillor MURPHY a year ago today saying that the Breakfast Creek bridge—it’s in an ABC article, he said it’ll be done in the next 12 months. He said this morning, no, no, no. Apparently, it was always—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: He said he never said that, even though it’s there in black and white. That project’s been delayed, as well as the Kangaroo Point bridge. We all remember last year where this LORD MAYOR had to borrow another $400 million to fund the cost blowouts on those green bridges and on the Metro. So don’t come in here, LORD MAYOR—through you, Chair—and say everything’s okay. It’s sounding a bit Joh-like. Don’t you worry about that. Don’t you worry about that at all, but we are worried. We’re worried on behalf of the people of Brisbane. So, you wonder why—what is the point of calling the June budget a budget if six weeks later you’re, it’s not a budget, it’s a sort of, you know, a general look and feel document. It’s a vibe document.

They’re going to maybe try and stick to it, you know. They’re within a couple of hundred million dollars here or there, but it’s not a budget. Given how much has changed—there’s hundreds of millions of dollars in changes to the income, expenses, and capital, and in the documents before us, no explanation. The LORD MAYOR rattled off one or two projects. One or two projects, that doesn’t add up to the $300 million that was carried from last year into this year, or the $85 million that was magically sent back to last financial year. The LORD MAYOR just asks us to believe him. As if. As if we are that stupid.

Materials and services cover things like footpath repairs, road resurfacing, waste collection, tree trimming, playground upgrades, street sweeping, all the basics out in the suburbs of Brisbane, all of the basic things that people expect to be funded through their rates, and especially when the LORD MAYOR goes out and puts his glossy brochure out into the letter boxes around Brisbane and says, here is this budget that he delivered in June for this financial year. When did those budget newsletters arrive? A couple of weeks ago. Well, he didn’t say in there that he was going to be shifting hundreds of millions of dollars delaying projects, and even the projects that he talked about then were actually last year’s projects that were brought forward. Nothing new, nothing new in that budget.

For all the spin of this LORD MAYOR and the LNP, you know, he’s laid bare today what the actual budget—if we can even call it that under the LNP—has been reduced to. So, just a few months ago when he delivered his so-called budget, he said it was $4.3 billion. That was his claim, that he was spending $4.3 billion this year. Well, he didn’t talk about the figure of capitalised expenses, which is writing down and writing off assets of $1.5 billion. Of course, that needs to be included in the balance sheet, of course, but you can’t go out to the people of Brisbane and claim that you are spending that $1.5 billion out in the suburbs of Brisbane. You can’t go out and say the budget is a $4.3 billion budget, when in reality, the operations were $2.3 billion minus capitalised expenses, minus write offs and write downs, just like that—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, the little sneaky little exercise that Councillor DAVIS let slip in the drainage budget. More was being spent on depreciating our drainage assets than actually investing in new ones in this year’s budget. More expenditure in the balance sheet was on depreciation of assets, rather than investing in new ones. It doesn’t sound like good value for money to me, Chair. $850 million in wages. That’s the budget. That’s the real budget, not the $4.3 billion that this LORD MAYOR talks about. So, you wonder why—when people think to themselves, when they see that $4.3 billion figure that the LORD MAYOR throws out a lot, people often think that’s a big number. We don’t see a lot in the suburbs for that. Yes, exactly. Where are the billions of dollars being spent in the suburbs?

It’s because it’s a little over half that figure expenditure, and we know that the Metro’s up to—what is it, $2 billion now? The two bridges are hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars now, in the inner city. The Victoria Park project blew out from $83 million to $141 million this year. So, this review before us today confirms everything that we knew to be true about this LORD MAYOR and this LNP Administration. They have totally lost control. The LNP aren’t the economic managers that they claim to be. The LORD MAYOR, we know in the midst of all of this, as well, is writing to people, telling them that he’s going to take their homes away, while at the same time in this budget review, sneaking cuts to materials and services and overseeing billions of dollars now on blowouts on his inner city projects. He’s not out of touch, he’s out of control.

The thing is, again, going back to my first point, is that it’s not his money. It’s the people of Brisbane’s money, and he’s playing with it as if it’s actually Monopoly money.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

**102/2023-24**

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. So, on his watch now, we’ve seen a 17% rates increase on this LORD MAYOR’s watch, and at the same time, we’re seeing a diminishing return in each and every budget. Each budget seems to be getting bigger, but when you track the level of depreciation on assets and the write-off of assets to pad out the bottom line, you actually get a real sense of what’s being delivered for this massive rates increase, and it’s not much.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: It’s actually not much. The devil is absolutely in the detail. People are paying more and they’re getting less. So, the LORD MAYOR said, finally on this item, that you can’t look at the statement of cashflows. He said, you have to look at the statement of the financial position because, apparently, the statement of cashflow doesn’t matter in a budget, according to the LORD MAYOR, except that’s just what’s actually being delivered. That’s actually what’s being paid for and being delivered in that financial year. Well, six weeks ago, six weeks ago in the statement of income and expenditure, there was $2,362,231,000 allocated for materials and services that we’ve been talking about and $2.436 billion, so more, was allocated in the statement of cashflow.

So, you sort of got a sense that they expected to be delivering some of what was carried over from last year and most of what was budgeted this year. Six weeks ago, he was optimistic. The LORD MAYOR was optimistic. Well, in the papers before us today, there’s now $2.412 billion allocated in materials and services, like the LORD MAYOR said that there was an increase in those papers for, you know, whatever it is. He wouldn’t tell us, really, but there’s an increase in materials and services in the statement of income and expenditure, but in the statement of cashflows, there’s been that $85 million reduction, $2.351 billion.

So, not only is there $85 million less in the statement of cashflow, but there’s now a $60 million deficit difference between the statement of cashflow. So, previously, the statement of cashflow showed a much higher amount than the financial statements. Now, it shows a much lower amount. It just doesn’t make sense. You cannot say the $85 million was covering something from last year when you’re carrying over $300 million worth of expenses and capital expenditure from last year, and claim it all balances. Now, we know they’ve increased write-offs in this budget review by $55 million, but that’s not service delivery. You can’t just write down the value of assets and write them off entirely and claim you’re actually delivering for the suburbs. The LORD MAYOR is not being truthful when it comes to these papers before us today.

Now, onto the final review from last year. The final quarterly review, annual operational plan and progress and quarterly financial report. This report’s a pretty bleak one, as well, and it ties into the mismanagement of this LNP Administration when it comes to this year’s budget. Cash is down. This is an important one. Cash is down by $457 million in a single year. So, cash in the bank at 2022 was $529 million. The LORD MAYOR budgeted last year to have $252 million in the bank. There was a change in policy, we know that, using more cash rather than borrowings, even though we’ve seen borrowings climb. At the same time, we’ve seen cash decline, but the LORD MAYOR ran that down to $71 million at the end of the year.

So, from $457 million down to $71 million in cash held doesn’t sound like the LORD MAYOR is planning for a rainy day, even though he says he is in his statements. This is at the same time—so, while the LNP is running down cash reserves in the bank, in Council’s bank account, debt servicing is increasing by millions of dollars, as well. So, the so-called change in policy in using cash reserves instead of borrowings also doesn’t add up when you see the debt servicing costs continuing to climb. That informs us why this current year’s budget is in such a mess. So, 18-months on, the LNP is still blaming the floods for their poor economic management. The only person who is responsible for all of this, of course, is the LORD MAYOR.

There was an underspend, as I said, of $146 million in operational expenses and $160 million in capital expenses. So, that’s over $300 million worth of projects that weren’t delivered last year and have been carried forward to this year’s budget, as well, and that’s after the cuts that we’ve seen in this year’s expenditure, as well. So, as we’ve come to expect, the two key inner city projects that we hear a lot about—even the Councillor for Calamvale could only today talk about the Metro, the inner city Metro. Nothing down, didn’t—couldn’t ask a question about anything down in the Calamvale Ward, like maybe a new library or something like that. No, had to be about the inner city Metro.

We know that that blew out by $400 million in November last year. What we also know from this final review is that those two projects, the bridges and the Metro, in that financial year, more was spent on those than the next 163 suburban projects combined. More money spent on the inner city Metro and the inner city bridges than the next 163 suburban projects combined. The report is chock full of carryovers, so those projects are being underfunded and they’re not being delivered. They’re being pushed out year after year after year. You actually really can’t even see what isn’t being delivered in this budget anymore, because of the way the reporting has changed in the last two years.

Now, I know a couple of those because they’ve happened in my ward. Those two drainage projects that I talked about over the last couple of weeks, the ones that the LORD MAYOR announced last year as the only two drainage projects in my ward, and then gleefully re-announced the exact same ones the following year, because they weren’t delivered and carried over and claimed as if they were being funded in this financial year. There are hundreds and hundreds of suburban projects like that around Brisbane that make up that $300 million worth of delayed spending in the suburbs. The money gets shuffled around. The projects get put on hold. The only people, ultimately, that miss out are people in the suburbs of Brisbane.

What did they underspend on? Well, we don’t know, as I said individually, but we know which program areas had massive underspends last year, and those projects have had to be carried over and delayed, and we’ll probably see them delayed by the end of this financial year, as well. In transport, a massive underspend. In infrastructure, a massive underspend. So, all their talk about road projects, all their talk about transport and active transport and walking Brisbane, all underspent, underspent, underspent, and a massive underspend in Program 3, Clean, Green and Sustainable. Parks, drainage, flood mitigation, all underspent last year, pushed into this year, which means more projects will be pushed into the next year, as well.

The only increase has been funding for the flood buy-back program. It has resulted in less money being spent on flood and stormwater related infrastructure in the suburbs of Brisbane. So, the suburbs are absolutely missing out under this LNP Administration. It just beggars belief that, on that side of the Chamber, there’s just 19 nodding heads. LORD MAYOR brings these papers in and says, don’t you worry about that, and they say, yes sir. We never see them get up and advocate on behalf of their communities and demand more, and ask the questions and say, why are these projects being delayed? Why are you spending less, LORD MAYOR, in the suburbs of Brisbane while you’re raising rates, raising rates in some LNP wards as high as 7.5%.

People aren’t getting good value for money. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, we’re seeing rates jacked up as high as 7.5% in some suburbs, but we’re not seeing any return on basic community infrastructure. It just beggars belief why this LORD MAYOR can come in here and hold his head so high about such a diabolical set of numbers, but people have an opportunity. In March next year, they will be able to exercise their democratic right and mark down this LORD MAYOR for, you know, the contempt that he has treated the suburbs of Brisbane with over his time in this job.

Change is coming, and we know they’re scared. We know they’re worried. We know their attacks, their political attacks are getting more and more desperate as time goes on, but the choice will be very, very clear. An LNP Administration that continues to focus on themselves and the inner city and jacking up rates and starving the suburbs, or a Labor administration headed by Tracey Price, who will focus on the suburbs of Brisbane, who will invest in the suburbs of Brisbane, and will keep down the pressure on ratepayers through investing in the basics, rather than in projects that we see blow out by billions and billions and billions of dollars. Change is coming, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Any further speakers?

Oh, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, I rise in support of this item on today’s agenda, and I think it’s very important that we get some factual context, not some fairy tales that we’ve heard from the other side of the Chamber. Now, Mr Chair, through you, there have been some comments made about value for money for rates, and let me just compare the rates that Brisbane ratepayers pay on an annual basis compared to other Councils. The 2023 rates for Brisbane are $847.12 on average. Logan is greater on $1,010. Ipswich is greater still on $1,054. Moreton is greater still on $1,100.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor OWEN: Redlands—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, yes, yes. I know. It’s a bit of an issue.

Chair: Councillors, please. Please, I can’t hear Councillor JOHNSTON.

 Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, of course not. They’re all interjecting. That’s why, Mr Chair. Yes, you’ve made some very specific rulings about needing to speak about what’s in the paper, and this definitely isn’t, so are you going to—

Chair: Sorry, I’m assuming your point of order is on relevance?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, no, it’s about enforcing your own ruling, Mr Chair. I’m not sure what you said was right, but as you’ve said it and it’s now the law here, my point of order is you’ve applied a rule to me. You’re not applying it to others. So, are you going to?

Chair: I’m not—

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s not in the report.

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, you can talk about what’s not in the report? Thank you for clarifying.

Chair: Please continue, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. To provide further clarity in retrospect to the statements that were made by the Leader of the Opposition, Redlands, their rates are $1,131; Scenic Rim, $1,163; Gold Coast, $1,223.97; Sunshine Coast, $1,333. So, let’s compare that back to the Brisbane rates budgeted for 2023-24, $847.12 is the average rates. So, our ratepayers here are getting good value for money. They are the lowest rates in this area of councils, so from the Sunshine Coast right down to the Gold Coast, and I think that’s very important context.

Now, just in relation to comments from the other side, and I really do take offence that there’s starving of the suburbs. Well, I think it’s really important because this is the Calamvale Ward budget newsletter, and let me say, my suburbs are not being starved at all.

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor OWEN: A hundred items—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order. Point of order.

Councillor OWEN: —all budgeted—

Chair: Sorry, just one moment—

Councillor OWEN: —all are getting delivered.

Chair: Councillor OWEN, just one moment, please.

 Point of order.

Councillor WHITMEE: On relevance, I don’t believe the budget newsletter is in the report.

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, I’m not upholding your point of order.

 Councillor OWEN, please continue.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you. I just referred to my budget newsletter of 2023-24, which is what this item is certainly about, our budget. I cannot understand the attitude of those on the other side, because they’ve got no credibility. When you’ve got a Leader of an Opposition who can’t even calculate that it has been 10 weeks since the budget was handed down, not six weeks, he can’t even do basic arithmetic that a five‑year-old can do. So, this is really demonstrating that there is that clueless coalition of chaos over on the other side of the Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor OWEN: It is just so important to the people of Brisbane that they have responsible financial management that we on this side deliver. Now, I can tell you that, from my past experience as a lecturer in Masters of Business and Masters of Professional Accounting and being a CPA (Certified Practising Accountant) for many decades, I can tell you that what has come out of the mouth of the Leader of the Opposition today is absolute rubbish, absolute rubbish. I just will quote what he said. He said, “what is the point of calling a budget a budget?” Well, let me reflect on that. My first-year accounting students would certainly be able to tell you that a budget is an estimate for a set period of time. An estimate, which is something that you plan to happen, but then there are certain circumstances that may arise that require flexibility. This is all done in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

A lot of the comments from that side this afternoon, I find them particularly disparaging to the accounting professionals that work within Council here, because they don’t shuffle money around. They don’t pad-out things to alter the bottom line, as has been assuaged by the Leader of the Opposition today. I find those comments disgraceful, because our accounting professionals—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Councillor OWEN: —that work in our finance team—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor OWEN.

 Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: I claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

 Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I’m sure that the *Hansard* will prove that exactly what I quoted was what he said. Now, it is very important that, when we are looking at these reports, that there is true understanding of what these reports actually reflect. The statement of cashflows is a financial report which shows where the money is coming from and where it is going to. It summarises the cash flowing in and out of our business organisation during a given period of time. In accordance with accounting standards, there are certain accounting practices such as accruals, such as timing differences, such as adjustments that are required to be made—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor OWEN: —under accounting standards—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please.

Councillor OWEN: —which have been applied through this budget review process. Now, many of the reflections that have come from the other side are quite so much the fairy tale, I believe. It is just so nonsensical as what has been said today. Now, when you have a family who has their own household budget or when you have a small business or another business whether it’s a small family business or whether it’s a larger family business or it’s a corporate business, they are all required to follow accounting standards when they’re doing their financial reporting. There are ways and means to test solvency of a business, and part of this comes through by doing the statement of cashflows.

The statement of cashflows is not just for short-term planning. It is also to assess longer term solvency. That is something that those on the other side do not seem to understand. Yes, there are certain items that do get carried forward, but there are accruals, and the purpose of doing first budget review, second budget review, third budget review throughout the year is so that we can continuously reassess Council’s position going forward, and to assess how projects are going. Should there be a situation—like we all know that from our household perspective, and I’m sure many people in Brisbane would know this, that since March-April last year, there’s been 12 interest rate rises. So people have had—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor OWEN: —people have had 12 interest rate rises on their personal mortgages under a Labor Federal Government.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor OWEN: Now, those people in each individual household would have budgeted that each month, their mortgage payment would have been X amount. Now, 12 months down the track on an average $750,000 loan, it is approximately $1,700 more per month; $750,000 loan, $1,700 more per month, that each household has to find that extra cash. Now, those people in every household did not do anything themselves to call for that extra increase. They have got to find that, they have got to readjust their budgets. In Council, we have also seen that there have been circumstances where there have been labour shortages, there have been circumstances where there have been material increases in costs.

So for many of those reasons, that is part and parcel, why in our first budget review, we have to review some of these factors. I take my hat off to all of those hard-working accounting professionals that we have behind the scenes, because I know that they are continuously working through this process and working hard to ensure that ratepayers do get value for money in this city, and to say anything different by those on the other side is absolutely disrespectful to all of those hard‑working Council officers that we have in this organisation.

So, through you, Mr Chair, I would say to them all on the other side, go and actually get some accounting training because you clearly need it. Your statements today prove that you do not have a proper grasp on what the financial statements actually reflect, represent and what they mean. We do not need a clueless coalition of chaos for this City of Brisbane.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Further speakers?

 Sorry, Councillor CASSIDY, your misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thank you very much, Chair. I think we can all agree we’re talking about Council budget today.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s what this was about. So the LORD MAYOR is responsible under the City of Brisbane Act for delivering a budget to Council. I wasn’t reflecting in my comments on Council accountants; they’re not responsible for the budget. This LORD MAYOR is responsible for budgets, so that’s where my—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, thank you.

 Just one moment, Councillor WINES.

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s where my comments were being directed, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I wasn’t actually going to speak.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, Councillors, sorry—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m saving it—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, just one moment.

 Whoever made that noise, be warned. Be very, very warned.

 Now, Councillor JOHNSTON is rising to speak. We’re going to hear Councillor JOHNSTON in silence. Thank you.

 Councillor—Councillor JOHNSTON, you’ve got the call.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I mean, thank you. I’m rising to speak on possibly both items today. But I mean, doesn’t that say it all that the LNP poke their tongues out at you when you stand to speak on the city’s budget. That’s what’s gone on just then. I—

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: I take great offence to that comment.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor OWEN: I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Chair: Councillors.

 Councillor STRUNK, you’re pushing my buttons this morning—this afternoon. Stop it.

 Councillor OWEN, there was a noise that came from the right-hand side of the Chamber. I don’t know who did it. I did not see it. I heard it. I don’t uphold your point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

 Councillor JOHNSTON—

 Councillor MASSEY—

 Stop it.

 Councillor JOHNSTON, you’ve got the call.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just keeps going on and on and on. Yes, look, that was a vintage performance from Councillor OWEN and there are a lot of new Councillors in the Chamber here today, so I’ll just say that 15 years ago, this used to be standard. Every finance report, Councillor OWEN would hop up and give us the 101 you‑know‑nothing-about‑accounting‑and‑I‑know‑everything‑about‑accounting speech. She did that for many, many, many, many, many, many, many, many, many years. But we haven’t heard it for a while. So I just say that was a vintage performance today. I didn’t hear the actual words accounting 101, but I heard a lot of other things I’ve heard her say many times.

However, all the puff and fury signifying nothing from Councillor OWEN and her attempted defence of this dodgy budget by the only coalition of chaos in the place, the LNP. They’re the only coalition of chaos in this Council Chamber. It is astonishing that the LORD MAYOR stands up and tries to say, well, you know, the Labor Party 20 years ago were really bad, don’t look at the fact that we’re really bad at the minute but just remember they were really bad before.

The budgeting of this LNP Administration led by the LORD MAYOR who the Deputy—sorry, the Opposition Leader is exactly correct. The LORD MAYOR is responsible for the delivery of the budget in this city. It is the one thing he’s personally responsible for. However, he seems to have delegated it off to a bunch of people who seem to be unable to deliver on even the most basic of projects. Footpaths, footpath rollovers, stormwater, stormwater rollovers, parks, park rollovers, and the budget reports before us today, both wrapping up last year and the first budget review show the level of mismanagement and incompetence by this LORD MAYOR and the LNP. There is no one else to blame other than themselves.

There are a few things that I want to put on the record that I observed out of the budget papers. I’m in the wrap up for the last year, the annual operational plan, if anybody wants to follow along. There’s a number of things in here that I think the residents of Brisbane should be aware of. Sorry, I just need to put my glasses back on.

Transport for Brisbane, let’s start there. You would think—you would think that delivering on flood recovery for the city would be a priority, and you would actually go about delivering on the repairs that the city needs after a major crisis. I mean, the LORD MAYOR stood up and said, I’ve got all this money to spend on the floods and we’re going to build the city back better. Well, no, he hasn’t. In the annual operational plan, it’s very clear for everyone to see that he’s not done that. Failed to provide expenditure, public transport, ferry services. Can’t even deliver on his Metro strategy. Like the Metro—lower than anticipated expenditure for the Brisbane Metro. This is his signature project, his signature project. I mean, the LNP have been at this for I don’t know how long now. First of all, there was the tunnel—I can’t remember what that one was called—but the tunnel where the Victoria bridge is, that didn’t go ahead. Then there was the crazy BaT (Bus and Train) tunnel, and now they’ve gone alone with their dodgy Metro, and the LORD MAYOR’s signature project, it’s blown out from about $944 million in total costs when he announced it, to approximately $2.1 billion in total cost.

But guess what? Even though he’s more than doubled the budget to deliver the project, he can’t even do it on time. He can’t actually deliver on the basic things that he said he was going to. Now, I understand there’s been some problems. I understand there was a major break-in and a theft at one of the sites. I understand that the Italian tiles that they ordered from overseas took six months to be replaced.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: So this LORD MAYOR’s got a lot to answer for when even his own projects cannot be properly delivered. Bikeways, ferries, footpaths, they’re all the same.

However, he is very, very proud that he’s launched the Kindy Active Travel pilot program. Good work, LORD MAYOR. So is everybody in the city.

Let’s have a look at the next one. Lower than anticipated—oh look, we can’t even get the bridges and culverts built, we can’t get the retaining walls built, we’re just struggling to do basic repairs to the city post the floods. They’re things you can see out my way. I mean they have not even started on repairing Cactoblastis Corner. It’s not—what are we—more than 18 months now since the flood, and let me say it again, they’ve not even started repairing Cactoblastis Corner. It’s just appalling that the LORD MAYOR can’t deliver on basics like that.

What else have we got in here? Oh, here’s one. So the LORD MAYOR is getting money in though. He’s getting higher than anticipated revenues in regarding Norman Creek, higher than anticipated revenues for Roma Street and South Bank, higher than anticipated grants and subsidies for sports parks in Brisbane. Now guess what? That’ll be money coming in from the State Government, the Federal Government and developers. Is this LORD MAYOR actually investing it in delivering in the projects that he announces in the budget? No, he is not. He continues to fail to deliver on even the most basic promises for the delivery of projects.

To give a great example in here, even though he’s getting—let me say it again—he’s getting more money in from the State and Federal Government and from developers, he cannot deliver sports parks and recreational upgrades.

Here’s a great example in my ward, the Walter Thompson park remediation announced last year, nothing done. Rolled over to this year. I suspect I’ll never see it happen. I don’t think this LORD MAYOR is actually capable of announcing a project and then delivering it. It’s just—I don’t know; I just don’t believe it’s actually going to happen. I mean, the Council had actually done a lot of the detailed design and documentation about six years ago when the park was first shut down—no, eight years ago. Now, this is a sports field in my ward in Chelmer that was shut down eight years ago as being unsafe to play sport on because it undulates, because of the poor remediation of the old tip site. So this is a junior sporting field that cannot be used, and it is very unsafe, and what’s this Administration done to fix it? Announced something last year, didn’t deliver it. They’ve re-announced it this year. Let’s see, because I reckon I’ll be back here and another six or eight months saying the LORD MAYOR couldn’t do it then either. This is their track record, announce a project and then not deliver it.

Next one. Okay, what else am I going to raise? Oh, we know what they have progressed, though. I’m in Future Brisbane now. The Suburban Renewal Precincts program.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, yes, it’s all right. The developers are getting a nice little push along, aren’t they? Who’d be helping them, do we think, with that? Is that the Better Suburbs Initiative Board?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Are they providing assistance and advice to the LORD MAYOR about the suburban renewal precinct? I think they might be.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: That tone of voice is clearly imputing motive and I asked Councillor JOHNSTON to cease.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair Councillors, please.

 Councillor JOHNSTON, please watch the tone of your language and the insinuation that came along with it.

 You’ve got the call, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just to be clear, I don’t like Councillor OWEN’s tone when she speaks down to us and pretends she’s the only person who knows about finance in this city.

Chair: It was the—

Councillor JOHNSTON: If Councillor—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON it was the imputing motive that came along with it. It’s very similar to the same tone that was used last week to describe another Councillor’s anatomy.

Councillor JOHNSTON: What?

Chair: Can you please—can you please go back to the report? Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is offensive. I didn’t impute motive. I didn’t say anything about anybody’s body parts and it is offensive that you are saying that I did.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: What are you talking about?

Chair: I’m talking about the comments you made in the last week’s meeting where the tone was bad. Can you please go back to your report?

Councillor JOHNSTON: I don’t like your tone either when you imply I’m doing things that I’m not. So let’s—this is outrageous.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I understand the DEPUTY MAYOR’s got to get up and she does this. This is what they’ve done for a long time. You want to make—the Suburban Renewal Precincts project is lock, stop and smoking barrels with the Better Suburbs Initiative. We know what you’re doing with the developers behind the scenes.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

 Are there further speakers?

 Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Boy, oh boy. I rise to contribute to the debate on the budget review, and can I just start by congratulating Councillor OWEN on a tremendous contribution in that debate and, in fact, I think she brought a lot of clear-headedness, sanity to the debate. I really—I did try to follow Councillor CASSIDY’s debating of the budget, but I genuinely couldn’t follow what point he was trying to make because some points he was saying there was a massive blowout, other points he was saying we had underspend in transport, but then he was on about the bridges and the Metro.

So I would challenge anyone to go and read the transcript of what Councillor CASSIDY said about the budget review and come up with a simple conclusion about what he was trying to say; let alone someone with an accounting background who I think was more confused by what he was saying, rather than less.

But Councillor OWEN has assured me that in a bipartisan manner, she is willing to offer night classes for Councillors who are interested to learn a little bit more about corporate finance and accounting who want to brush up on some of the skills that, as the LORD MAYOR mentioned, are taught at the AICD (Australian Institute of Company Directors) course, for those who haven’t done it. This is not something that Councillor OWEN has ever offered here before, it is a one-time offer. So any Councillors who want to take her up on that at morning—at afternoon tea break, they can just get in touch with her and she’d be more than happy to arrange a time for everyone to join in and do that.

I just want to address one of the first things that Councillor CASSIDY said in his debate today. He said that 12 months ago, I had said that the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge would be completely delivered by now, and he used a—some selective quoting, as he often does in this place, to try to pretend that that’s what I told the media. But actually I went back and—because you always have to do this, Chair, you always have to go back and look. So Councillor CASSIDY said 12 months ago you said this. So I went back and had a look at what I said 12 months ago. Do you know what I said 12 months ago? Do you think I said the bridge will be complete?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: No, I said marine works would be complete, and guess what? Marine works just completed. It’s been 12 months and marine works have just completed.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: So there you go. Once again, he will always tell you part of the truth so that it sounds convincing, but Councillor CASSIDY has a wonderful way with words in this place.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair:Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I think Councillor MURPHY’s tone in mocking Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —Councillor MURPHY’s tone in mocking Councillor CASSIDY is inappropriate, Mr Chairman. It’s imputing motive and I think that you should ask that it be withdrawn.

Chair: I don’t hold your point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

 Councillor MURPHY, you’ve got the call.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you, Chair. Look, I notice that no-one—

Councillor JOHNSTON: So just to be clear that all—point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —of Councillor CASSIDY’s team has got up—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —raised an issue with this, but Councillor JOHNSTON has.

Chair: Just one moment. Councillor MURPHY.

 Councillor JOHNSTON, point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Is it all women’s tone that you don’t like, Mr Chair, or just mine?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: That is, again, inappropriate and I do not uphold your point of order.

 Councillor MURPHY, you’ve got the call.

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, he also has claimed that the green bridges, and particularly Breakfast Creek Green Bridge is over budget. We know—our Transport Committee members who were present this morning, heard him inquire to the officers about the big blowout in the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge program cost. What did the officers tell him straight to his face? Actually, no, Councillor CASSIDY, there has been no blow out. We’ve had extremely difficult cost pressures on the project, but we’ve worked through those pressures and the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge remains within the original budget estimate, to which he was like, oh, okay, right.

So, what I said was consistent with what the officers said, and I think that surprised him that there wasn’t some sort of grand conspiracy theory to defraud the Council, which seems to be often what he is getting at when it comes to this.

Councillor—I made the point before that when you have a go at the movements of cash and the cash flows and the ins and outs that come through in these budget reviews that, oh, this—that they’re not criticising the officers, they’re criticising the LORD MAYOR. Well, through you, Chair, to Councillor CASSIDY, does Councillor CASSIDY genuinely believe that it’s the LORD MAYOR sitting there like the puppeteer directing all the cash flows and managing all the ins and outs of this project, or setting strategic directions and the accounting then flows downstream from that?

Well, of course, we set the strategic the strategic directions of the Council here in this place. That’s what the Council does, and the professional accountants and finance officers and—through the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) on down—actually manage those inflows and outflows of cash. That’s what happens in every Council in the State.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Once again, to the LORD MAYOR’s point, I think it would behove Councillor CASSIDY very well to do that introductory course to corporate finance that is offered by the Department of Local Government that is through the company directors’ course because it would help; it would help them come up with a cogent debate when it comes to corporate finance.

Now, we know on a range of programs and projects we have, and we’ve admitted in this place, we’ve suffered significant cost impacts, we know, for example, the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, in particular, represents significant engineering and construction challenges. Since our construction partners tendered for that work, and the project’s commenced construction, a number of internal factors have resulted in increased construction costs. Additionally, during the February 2022 floods, which some Councillors seem to have had had collective amnesia about, we paused works on a whole range of major Council projects in order to focus on flood recovery. But that did still mean that we incurred costs on those projects, holding costs, pausing costs, remembering we’ve enclosed the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge site for over a month to move piling work and barges to help the State Government recover the Drift Restaurant that they had let rot for so many years.

So that flood recovery work was very important. Council has worn costs that were not reimbursed by the State Government for that, and we had significant delays as a result that passed onto the project, that in concert with the rising cost of material, the inflation crisis, has meant that we have seen the bridge construction price for Kangaroo Point increased significantly. We know that there will be cost implications for that which we will be quantifying and bringing back to this Chamber soon. Because unlike downtown at George Street, where we have significant cost increases and pressures, we don’t cover them up. We don’t direct officers to cover them up; we bring them to this Chamber and we air them out in front of everyone to see—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —in the *Hansard*, on the video link.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: No, absolutely—I fundamentally reject that Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —and if you think that there’s something that needs to be done, then you know where to take that, in terms of that allegation, but this is the most open and transparent Council in the country. We publish more about what we are doing, and we have a—I won’t say a professional Opposition, Chair, but we have an aspiring professional Opposition that is trying to hold us to account, and they generally do a pretty good job. But when they get into corporate finance documents like they have today, with such a level of inexperience and such a political axe to grind, I find that they make mistakes and it embarrasses them, Chair.

In terms of—Councillor CASSIDY also mentioned Brisbane Metro; he mentioned Brisbane Metro, a lot. We know that the Brisbane Metro has also suffered from the unprecedented cost escalations that have happened in the market, in line with impacts reported throughout industry, Council’s experiencing increased costs, and other challenges such as significant lead times, adding to the complexity of delivering what I’ve said previously in this place is the most complex project that this Council has ever delivered, both in terms of new vehicles, like 10 work sites across the city, new charging infrastructure; a project of this type that’s never been attempted in Australia before. We have had significant pressures, like, for example, the cost of construction materials being up by 24% in the last 12 months and the ongoing pressure around demand for plant and material.

We know labour demand is projected to grow by 42,000 this year to a peak of 44,000. So, so much demand for labour and so many projects on the hop in Brisbane at the moment. Of course, we are facing cost pressures from that and so are many other projects, and I’ll reflect on that in just a second, but we hear this gargantuan lie from those opposite about the cost of Brisbane Metro and it just seems to keep getting bigger to them.

Every time they talk about—it was, I think, $1.9 billion, they talked about that, which was a made-up figure. Now they’re saying 2.1, and I just heard we finally cracked the $2.2 billion mark on this project. So the misleading around the cost of Brisbane Metro just continues to get bigger and bigger all the time.

So I want to really just set the record straight today for all concerned. So the cost escalations on Brisbane Metro has meant that the cost of Brisbane Metro has gone from $1.244 billion to $1.4 billion, a cost increase of $150 million. That is extraordinarily low, given some of the impacts that we have faced. All of this does not include The Gabba Metro station which is a $450 million project being delivered by the State, that is The Gabba busway station. That is not this Council’s project and it’s not this Council’s job to deliver it. We are, of course, a funding contributor to that that Gabba busway station, but it is not part of our project.

So if you look at the actual costs, those are the costs, $1.244 to $1.4 billion, and you will not hear an apology from those on the other side about lying to people about those costs. You will not, but that is the reality, Chair.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

 Just one moment, before we go on.

 Councillor JOHNSTON, the piece of glass that was broken over there, has it all been picked up?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: All right, thank you. Just be aware that there is—yes, thank you.

 Councillor HUTTON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **103/2023-24**At that time, 3.07pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors locked.Council stood adjourned at 3.10pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillors, are there any further speakers on E&C?

 Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item A. Mr Chair, let me join with my colleagues, Councillor OWEN and Councillor MURPHY, in mentioning some of the ridiculous claims made by the Leader of the Opposition. The numbers that were thrown around by Councillor CASSIDY and more importantly his interpretation of them, shows very clearly, Mr Chair, why the residents of Brisbane should be very concerned about the future of our city under a Green‑Labor coalition of chaos. They should be very concerned, Mr Chair. The papers being voted on today actually show a $54 million increase in capital and operating expenses. That’s on page two of the report in the statement of income and expenditure. Not an $85 million decrease; a $54 million increase.

 The vast majority if this is for the delivery of the State and Federal Government‑funded Voluntary Home Buy-Back scheme. This is something that we receive revenue for and which has been brought into the 2023-24 budget in this review. The figure referred to by the Opposition is not from the part of the budget that actually determines and gives the legal authority for the expenditure of Council funds. Rather, Mr Chair, he pulled them from the cash flow statement. Mr Chair, as you might have noticed, it’s 2023, the world has moved on from cash accounting. As the LORD MAYOR has said, the reason for the decrease in projected cash payments for materials and services this financial year is because Council actually has already made those payments last financial year.

 We made the payments early, that’s ahead of schedule, on a range of projects right across Council. Over $15 million, for example, was paid ahead of schedule for the Moggill Road corridor upgrade, $4 million for the Green Bridges projects, $4.2 million for the asphalts and aggregates purchases and 3.1 for road resurfacing. We hear claims from those opposite every week, Mr Chair, about the Labor economics and finances. I’m not sure what school that they went to, but this is an absolute new low when it comes to their sheer incompetence. They are not a serious Opposition, Mr Chair, and the residents of Brisbane should have serious concerns about the future of the city if they were elected next year.

 As the LORD MAYOR has noted, there are minimal movements in the submission. Our operating capability surplus has increased by $39.1 million in this review. Revenue will also increase by 38.3 million this year. There is an overall net decrease in operating expenses of just 0.8 million, largely due to corporate overhead adjustments which are required. Our capital spend is projected to increase by 55.3 million in this review, again prominently due to transfers from 2022-23 to future years for the Home Buy-Back scheme and Suburban Enhancement Fund projects. So hopefully, Mr Chair, that might also include some footpath projects commissioned by Labor Councillors, but I doubt it will. Borrowings remain at published levels with no change in the end of year forecast.

 Mr Chair, importantly the budget isn’t finalised on the morning of the budget. We know that Councillor CASSIDY sent a budget submission to the LORD MAYOR on the morning of the budget. Maybe he thinks that’s how it works, but Councillor CASSIDY has been caught out today. He has been caught out for his ineptitude and instead of trying to dig his way out, he just kept digging and digging and digging and he returned to some of his greatest hits. All I can say, through you, Mr Chair, is that the Leader of the Opposition should know when to stop digging.

 Mr Chair, briefly on item B, the annual operational plan progress and quarterly financial report reflects Council’s financial results for the year ended 30 June 2023. The quarterly financial report shows the approved budget as at 3BR (third budget review), against the full 2023-24 financial year results, while the annual operational plan and progress report provides information on the achievements and progress that has been made by our Council officers in the last year. The statement of comprehensive income outlines the final results compared to 3BR and the previous year.

 We can see a number of increased costs this financial year, including nearly 75 million in materials and services costs, and fuel, Mr Chair, has been a major contributor to that. Our employee costs also increased by roughly $20 million, which should be no surprise to all Councillors in this Chamber, given the administrative pay increase that was put forward for December. Our finance costs increased with rising interest rates, this was offset by increased interest revenue. The report also details our major infrastructure investment last year, as the LORD MAYOR said, $1.3 billion worth of infrastructure investment in Brisbane. This is an incredible achievement and I commend this report to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. Listen, I rise to speak on items A and B as a collective, I suppose. I just want to talk a little bit about some of the contributions that have been made on the other side. I think I’ll start off with Councillor MURPHY in regards to this project, this project called Metro and the unbelievable amount of time it’s taken to deliver this project. My goodness, it was—I came into this Council in 2016 and it was being promised by Lord Mayor Graham Quirk. I wouldn’t have thought that almost three or almost two terms later, we’re still—it still hasn’t been delivered. It’s hugely over budget and I don’t think Councillor MURPHY said what the actual amount is actually going to cost by the time it is delivered in 2025 fully, if it is even delivered by 2025 fully after the next election. So that’ll be like three elections, three promises, the same promise for three sessions.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

 Councillor STRUNK, you’ve got the call.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you. Listen, we’re responsible for what Council’s responsible for. We’re not—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor STRUNK.

 Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Will Councillor STRUNK take a question?

Councillor STRUNK: No.

Chair: No, I’m sorry, Councillor MURPHY, Councillor STRUNK will not take a question.

 Councillor STRUNK, you’ve got the call.

Councillor STRUNK: We’re responsible for what we promise. State governments, plural, are responsible for what they promise, right? To equate one for another is just hiding from the truth and the truth is that this Council, multiple Lord Mayors, right—have not been able to deliver a project for this city. What’s happened to the patronage on buses over the last seven or eight years is disgusting, it’s really unbelievably bad. I think recently, I was talking to one of my colleagues and they said that it had actually decreased by 20 million trips in 10 years. Now if you call that good transport—good public transport, delivering for this city, I think the majority of the 1.2 million people in this city would not agree, would not agree.

 Now I also want to talk about the contribution with—that Angela—Councillor OWEN contributed to this Chamber with a lecture in regards to accounting standards and purposes and goals and all that. Well honestly, your side of this Chamber obviously doesn’t appreciate the skills that you have. You’ve never been the Finance Chair for any Lord Mayor and I wonder why and I wonder why. I’m just—I’m not going to speculate why, I just say I wonder why.

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: I think that’s a very personal attack on a female Councillor and I think that’s not very kind. Can you ask that Councillor STRUNK please come back to the report at hand?

Chair: Will do.

 Councillor STRUNK, I’m assuming you’re talking in general and not directing your comments towards a single Councillor?

Councillor STRUNK: Correct.

Chair: Thank you, can you come—can you—

Councillor STRUNK: Insofar as—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK, can you come back to your speech please?

Councillor STRUNK: Excuse me, I am talking about the contribution—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK, I will remind you, as I have reminded other people in this Chamber, you do not talk while I’m talking. You do not do it. I give you the call.

Councillor STRUNK: Right, so I’m talking about the contribution that Councillor OWEN made and I’m not speculating as to the reasons why she hasn’t been given the Finance Chair. I’m just saying that I’m surprised that that side of the Chamber, the LNP, hasn’t given a person who has multiple degrees in this area—

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor STRUNK: —and recognised her ability.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor STRUNK.

 Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor OWEN is not in the report and I feel that Councillor STRUNK is getting very close to imputing motive.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

 Councillor STRUNK, please consider your comments. You’ve got the call.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor MURPHY, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor OWEN, they have attacked other Councillors by name in all of their speeches, all of them today. Are you making a ruling now that an Opposition Councillor cannot mention the name of an LNP Councillor? Is that what you’re suggesting?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, first of all, I don’t uphold your point of order, because I did not actually give Councillor STRUNK a direction. I asked him to consider his comments.

 Councillor STRUNK, you’ve got the call.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. So, I’ll just finish off by saying that we on this side of the Chamber, right, take very seriously the budget and the cost blowouts and overruns that have been happening for years. Not just this year, this budget, but for many, many budgets. Consequently, I think the people of Brisbane have the right to hear the truth in regards to the blowouts, the huge blowouts, especially on Metro, right, and the green bridges, Kingsford Smith Drive—I mean it just goes on—Toowong roundabout, it just keeps going on and on and on, right?

 It’s just amazing that they can justify all this with spin. They think anyone who talks about this shouldn’t be—they should just fall in line with their thinking, with their ways of doing the accountancy and actually explaining it, right? I just think it’s really sad that the ratepayers of this city have to tolerate the incompetence of this LNP Administration. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 Any further speakers?

 Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr Chair. I just want to raise a couple of points that Councillor STRUNK said, that went on about bus patronage like it’s—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, which items is Councillor HAMMOND talking about?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor HAMMOND: Sorry, I’m speaking in support of—

Chair: I do believe that Councillor HAMMOND actually said what she was speaking about.

 Councillor HAMMOND, you’ve got the call.

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you. Just going—just want to correct the record of what Councillor STRUNK said. He went on about bus patronage like that’s fully our responsibility in Council. What about the State Government’s involvement in that? Because they’re the ones that actually do the faring and the routing, so I think they’ve got a pretty much bit to say about bus patronage as well. I liked how Councillor STRUNK kept on going on about the blowouts, well—and that State Governments are responsible for what they announce, like what councils are responsible for the blowouts. But he failed to say the blowouts that have happened under the State Government, so I just want to—as he said, the people of Brisbane need to know, they need to know, so—

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: I’m probably going to just mention relevance before the Councillor starts talking about a budget that has nothing to do with Council.

Chair: Thank you, I do believe that Councillor STRUNK brought this into the budget debate, so Councillor STRUNK—

Councillor HAMMOND: He did and he talked about blowouts and everything else and he also talked about that people of Brisbane need to know the truth. So, they’re saying that the Metro, which is in the report, was announced under Graham Quirk, the previous Lord Mayor and that’s true, but else was announced? In 2019, there was an announcement of $53 million for the Northern Busway, which is a 2.5-kilometre of road. By 2021, that went up to $72 million and 2023 it’s now $172 million for 250 metres of road, so that’s 150% increase by my books. But then we go on to the rail blowout, that’s blown out by about $7 billion, I think, that I think was kind of hidden, that no one directed anybody to hide reports. Let’s not talk about Cross River Rail, Cross River Rail has been talked about for three elections by the State Government. So, I just want to say, how do you spell hypocrisy?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you, Councillor OWEN. On the other side, we do—

Chair: Just one moment.

Councillor HAMMOND: —a responsible budget—

Chair: Sorry, Councillor HAMMOND, just one moment.

 Councillor OWEN, please do not call out across the Chamber.

 Councillor HAMMOND, you’ve got the call.

Councillor HAMMOND: On this side of the Chamber we are financially responsible. We are delivering more and more for this city that those opposite have never been able to achieve. They go against everything. When we’re trying to improve for our suburbs, what do they do? They either stand behind the stalls or they vote against it. So, this debate that has happened from that side of the Chamber just shows the people of Brisbane that a red-green coalition will be very, very dangerous for our City of Brisbane. I stand and commend the report.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HAMMOND.

 Any further speakers? I see no one rising.

 The LORD MAYOR’s not here for a right of reply.

 We will now put the report.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, 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.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A 2023-24 BUDGET – FIRST REVIEW

**134/135/1164/940**

**104/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager, Organisational Services, provided the information below.

2. Section 162(2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* provides that Council’s budget for a financial year may be amended at any time before the end of the financial year.

3. The 2023-24 Budget – First Review has been prepared and considers:

- emerging issues requiring funding and changes to income and expenditure for 2023‑24 through to 2026-27

- contractual cost escalations and price escalations across a number of key materials and services

- impacts from supply chain disruptions associated with world events, economic conditions and market volatility impacting Council’s cost of operations and capital program delivery

- a tight labour market impacting Council labour and contracted works.

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

5. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT** **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2023-24 BUDGET – FIRST REVIEW**

As:

1. Council proposes to amend the budget to address emerging issues and changes to income and expenditure for 2023-24 through to 2026-27
2. section 162(2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* provides that Council may, by resolution, amend the budget for a financial year at any time before the end of the financial year,

then Council:

1. resolves to amend the *Annual Plan and Budget 2023-24* by adopting the amended budget allocations for Programs 1 to 8, and Businesses and Council Providers in accordance with Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### B ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS AND QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2023

 **134/695/317/1325**

**105/2023-24**

6. The Divisional Manager, Organisational Services, provided the information below.

7. Sections 196(2) and (3) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) state that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) must present financial reports to Council at least quarterly. The reports are to state the progress that has been made in relation to Council’s budget.

8. Section 166(3) of the Regulation states that the CEO must present a written assessment of Council’s progress towards implementing the Annual Operational Plan to Council at regular intervals of not more than three months.

9. The Annual Operational Plan Progress and Quarterly Financial Report June 2023 (refer Attachment B, submitted on file) includes:

- Section 1 – Quarterly Financial Report

- Section 2 – Annual Operational Plan Progress Report

- Section 3 – Commercialised Businesses.

10. The previous financial report for the period ended 24 March 2023 was presented to Council on 23 May 2023. The current report relates to the period ended 30 June 2023.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS AND QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2023**

As:

1. sections 196(2) and (3) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* require that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) present financial reports to Council at least quarterly
2. section 166(3) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* states that the CEO must present a written assessment of Council’s progress towards implementing the Annual Operational Plan to Council at regular intervals of not more than three months,

then:

1. Council directs that the Annual Operational Plan Progress and Quarterly Financial Report for the year ended June 2023, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file), be noted.

**ADOPTED**

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

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

The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, you’ve got the call.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before I get to the report that is on tourism and accessibility, I just want to say congratulations to the RNA (Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland) for the Royal Queensland Show last week, which saw absolute bumper numbers across the week of spectacular—very much Indian summer weather for an Ekka. But it was great to see the people of Brisbane, Queensland, and probably interstate as well and those that may have travelled for FIFA to be here and enjoy the fantastic 10 days that is the city meeting the country. I have to say Brendan, the CEO of RNA and Justice Thomas did an absolutely amazing job to put on one of the best shows that we’ve seen in many, many years. Over 208,000 dagwood dogs, I did contribute to that. Over 150,000 strawberry sundaes, I also contributed to that.

 But the big ones, 3,500 jobs created, 550 exhibitor stands, three tonnes of fireworks used each night and over 3,000 corsages made for those that would have visited the Council stand as well. That is just a couple of the Ekka numbers this year. It’s fantastic, over 400,000, haven’t seen numbers like that for decades and I thank the people of, as I said, Brisbane, Queensland, interstate or overseas for supporting those from the country that have done it tough over the last couple of years. An absolutely fantastic outcome for Brisbane and for people that are out spending in Brisbane as well.

 In the Business Hub, again we’ve got our yearly numbers that have come in, which are absolutely fantastic. It’s all about the stats at the moment. So, before I go on to what’s on this week, I have to go through the outstanding numbers that we saw for the 2022-23 year, which were an enormous increase, over 270% increase on our opening year. Co-working drop-ins last year, 6,371; 180 mentor sessions and on average about 34 attendees for events, depending on the days and what the events were. So absolutely amazing work done by the team over there in the Business Hub and it continues for the next week. Don’t forget to have a look and share it on your socials please.

 Getting Business Clarity is on tomorrow from 9.30am aimed towards start-ups, to establish medium-sized businesses who could do with a little help defining or redefining their message, from Faculte3. Surviving to Thriving on the 29th at 11 o’clock, for not-for-profits who need to think and approach a culture of philanthropy differently, and that’s being done by People Plus Science. Then on the 29th at four o’clock you can do your rooftop yoga, one-hour yoga class including breathing techniques, physical movements and resting poses to help you relax at the end of your day. A lot of variety there on what’s happening in the Business Hub. Please make sure you share with your business community so that they can drop in too and experience the wonderful opportunities that they have in the Hub.

 Last week, BEDA (Brisbane Economic Development Agency) presented too around the fantastic accessible tourism programs that they are running and how they are contributing working towards getting our tourism operators and those that are in the hospitality industry ready for some of these large events. Not just the Olympics, but we’ve got world cups coming up over the next couple of years and I’m sure there’ll be more than is even on the agenda on the moment. So currently there are three growth pillars to support and accelerate the visitation economy. Welcome and host engagement, which is around the guest experience and a new program called ‘Brisbane Welcomes You’, which was a pilot with the FIFA, where we go over 1,000 volunteers becoming volunteers to welcome everybody to Brisbane during those events; the Brisbane hotel concierge program and the BEDA volunteer training.

 Then their sustainability pillar, which is around eco-certified sustainable tourism destination programs and sustainable tourism certification program champions. Then there is the First Nations pillar, where we for the second year have done our tourism relationship building programs with our First Nations operators. A first for this year, is the Tourism Council’s cultural protocols training and cultural immersion program. So, it’s fantastic to see on these pathways more than 96 businesses supported, 46 businesses are part of the temp programs and 29 businesses really getting into the trade-ready level of these pillars as well. So, we will continue to deliver those programs across those three pillars to make sure that our hospitality and our tourism offers are absolutely ready for the visitor economy, which is just growing year on year. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

 Are there any further speakers?

 Being none, we’ll now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

**106/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Tourism, Business and Major Events, Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA), attended the meeting to provide an overview of tourism industry development programs (programs). She provided the information below.

2. BEDA is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) that promotes Brisbane as well as the Redlands, Scenic Rim, Moreton Bay, Logan and Ipswich regions both locally and globally, and supports local businesses with the development of tourism products through training and grant programs to create new jobs and boost economic growth. The visitor economy represents one of the most significant growth opportunities for Council over the next decade, with the potential to generate an additional $6.5 billion per annum in visitor expenditure by 2031.

3. The tourism industry development programs have the following goals:

- elevate Brisbane’s tourism product to be included in the ‘Best of Queensland Experience Program’ delivered by Tourism and Events Queensland

- diversify Brisbane’s tourism offering to appeal to and attract key markets

- increase Brisbane’s product offering to international markets.

4. BEDA also offer an industry development and recognition pathway with four main avenues to support local businesses.

- Step 1 – Listing businesses on Australian Tourism Data Warehouse.

- Step 2 – Access the Best of Brisbane Regional Experiences (BoBRE) Support Program.

- Step 3 – Join the Best of Queensland Experiences Program.

- Step 4 – Participate in the Transformational Experiences Mentoring Program (TEMP).

5. Each of the avenues significantly enhances business profiles through a number of means including:

- connecting businesses with industry partners and channels

- increasing exposure and promotion

- providing support guides and mentoring programs

- expanding competitive advantage through greater consumer advocacy, to help break into new markets.

6. BEDA currently has three key growth pillars to support and accelerate the visitation economy, with a number of programs offered under these pillars including, but not limited to:

- Welcome and Host Engagement:

- Guest Experience and Ambassador Host Strategy - Brisbane Welcomes You

- Brisbane Hotel Concierge Program

- BEDA Volunteer Training.

- Sustainability:

- Eco Certified Sustainable Tourism Destination Program

- Sustainable Tourism Certification Program Champions.

- First Nations:

- First Nations Tourism Relationship Building programs

- 2023 First Nations Tourism Council Cultural Protocols Training and Cultural Immersion Program.

7. Since 2021, BEDA has supported local businesses through core pathway development programs including 96 businesses in the BoBRE Support Program, 46 businesses as part of TEMP and 29 businesses through the Trade Ready Program. As part of the Welcome and Host Engagement pillar, Brisbane Welcomes You was piloted by 1,000 local businesses in June and July as hosts for the FIFA Women’s World Cup.

8. In 2022, BEDA delivered the second iteration of the First Nations Relationship Building Program. Seventeen First Nations businesses and 77 industry representatives participated in the program which has a continued focus on First Nations tourism development in partnership with First Nation tourism bodies and personnel. Included in the program is cultural awareness training, facilitated by local traditional owners, which is acknowledged by the Queensland First Nations Tourism Council as best practice for First Nations tourism.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee please.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Angela OWEN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, you have the call.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Chair.

**Seriatim *en bloc* - Clauses A and B**

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| --- |
| Councillor Ryan MURPHY requested that Clause A, COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – E‑MOBILITY UPDATE; and Clause B, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL RETAIN RENTAL E‑SCOOTERS IN WYNNUM MANLY WARD, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for voting purposes. |

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr Chair, last week’s Transport Committee presentation was a general update on Council’s e-mobility scheme. Chair, one of the most significant changes to transport in Brisbane in the last four years has been the exponential growth of e-mobility and, particularly, since the introduction of e‑scooters to Brisbane in 2018 under this LORD MAYOR. This year, in February, our scheme hit 10 million trips and in the last six months, we’ve been able to add a further 1.5 million to that total. Our city’s attachment to e-mobility is reflected with our average trips taken per month tripling from 100,000 in 2018, to just over 317,000 per month in 2023. This is just from 3,900 devices across Brisbane, so those devices are getting a lot of use.

 I’m happy to say that based off the success of the scheme thus far, Council has extended its e-mobility operating agreements from July 2023 through to July 2024. Over this time, operators will introduce new e-scooters, like the 200 seated e‑scooters from Beam, not sure if Councillors have seen them appearing around the city. They’ve been a real hit, very popular e-scooters with the seat on them and they’re getting a lot more use than the ones without a seat. Also, Neuron have introduced their new N4 e-scooter, which features a range of rideability, usability and safety improvements over the previous generation.

 Council is now in a very unique position in order to address emerging modes of transportation and e-mobility first, while fostering ongoing adaptation and evaluation of e-mobility’s applications across a range of different transport-related tasks. Part of our adaptation to e-mobility saw Council introduce a trial restriction on devices in both the CBD and Fortitude Valley’s safe night precincts between midnight and 5am on Friday and Saturday nights. These restrictions, as Councillors may recall, involve locking the shared e-scooters from our operators during those hours, as well as limiting the speed limit in the surrounding CBD and Fortitude Valley areas.

 Another part of our innovation around e-mobility can be seen in our first mile, last mile trials, in which we work with operators to incentivise residents and visitors who use e-mobility to catch public transport and use other parts of the offering that we have in the city’s public and active transport realm. This first mile, last mile trial has seen over 50,000 trips taken to dedicated parking zones at busway stations and we’ve seen more than 42,000 trips by users to dedicated parking zones at ferry terminals in Bulimba and Hawthorne. This number continues to grow, Mr Chair, with the operators now introducing incentivised fares in partnership with Council on 1 August 2023 and so far, we’ve seen a 10% increase in trips taken in those areas where we’ve reduced the fees to ride.

 Another highlight has been our work with Queensland Police Service, Stadiums Queensland and the operators to develop plans to operate during special events at The Gabba and Suncorp Stadium. This is some of the quiet work that’s done by the e-mobility team, but I want to really make sure that Councillors know about the impact that this quiet work is having. During special events at Suncorp Stadium this year almost 400,000 trips have been taken so far on e-scooters, on our hire scheme e-scooters, I should say. I take great delight in sharing with you that during the Maroons 32-6 win over New South Wales, our scheme had just over 12,000 trips arriving to or leaving from the stadium, which represents 23% of the game’s total attendance numbers. So, 23% of the people who travelled to or from that game arrived via Council’s e-mobility scheme.

 So, anyone who says e-mobility isn’t having a massive impact on the way people move around this city, you have to laugh them out the door, Chair, because e‑mobility is making an impact. It is getting cars off the road, it is connecting people in that first mile and last mile. Increasingly we’re seeing through research from some of our partnerships with UQ and Griffith, it’s visitors to our city that really love to take up e-mobility even more so than the residents themselves. It’s one of the reasons, if you have a look at some of the reviews in Brisbane on the hotels, hotel websites, you will see people say we loved the scooters around Brisbane; it was so close to our hotel, we were able to just jump on and get around the city using them.

 So they really are making a point of difference when it comes to the tourism offering in our city. Importantly though, it isn’t just tourists that love the scheme, it is being picked up in the suburbs as well. We had 146,000 trips taken across Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Brighton and Wynnum and Manly, where we took the scooters out to the suburbs. The suburbs have well and truly told us that they love them. These trial locations have been extended due to their success, brought about by high usage, high levels of parking compliance and plenty of positive feedback from residents.

 In that vein, Chair, the Committee considered two petitions last week. One requesting Council retain e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward, with 189 signatures and one petition requesting Council remove e-scooters from Wynnum Manly Ward with just 11 signatures. The petition to retain the scooters noted that e-scooters provide an additional mode of transport, fun and entertainment for visitors and residents to the area. Residents also noted that whilst improvements were needed, these can only occur where there is certainty of long‑term retention in the scheme.

 Both petitions had the same recommendation, that following the success of the trial that e-scooters will remain operating in the Wynnum Manly areas. The Committee voted unanimously to support the recommendation. The local Councillor, Councillor WHITMEE, was consulted, but did not indicate whether she supported or opposed the recommendations, so I’m looking forward to see what she has to say about it in the Chamber today. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES and thank you for reminding the Chamber how good the Maroons’ win was as well.

 Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak on the e-mobility update. Councillor MURPHY confirmed in his presentation last week that Council has no plans to ensure that e-mobility fills the last-mile space in terms of public and active transport in Brisbane. The presentation outlined that some work had been done by TMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads), the State Government and by Griffith University. He detailed that work and how Council was relying on that and some surveys that the scooter companies, these private companies that are there to make a profit for their companies, have done some work on that. But it’s disappointing to hear that Council, under Councillor MURPHY’s leadership, has no plans around the ability to use e‑mobility as a last-mile option for people. So, I think a lot more work needs to be done in that space.

 That’s certainly been evident in the trial in the Bulimba, Hawthorne, Norman Park area of Brisbane, one of the latest trials that’s come on board in Councillor COLLIER’s ward alongside the trial that’s going on in Councillor JOHNSTON’s ward. There was, I suppose, an intention that they’d like to see the last mile aspect in those trial areas used a lot more than the bayside areas, because it’s been confirmed over the last couple of years that almost no one is using hire e-scooters for last mile trips in the two bayside areas. Therefore recreation, as Councillor MURPHY has said and that’s a fair point as well, that people want to use them for that and with the changes that we have insisted on locally, are around making sure that they’re parked appropriately and footpaths and footways are kept clear for people.

 Particularly people who live down the avenues and the bottom end of the avenues in Sandgate in those public housing areas often have mobility issues, so early on it was real concern. So, we have worked on that and made sure that some changes have been made. But one critical piece that’s still missing in all this—and I’m sure Councillor MURPHY will elaborate in his summing up—is where is the money going? Council is raising millions of dollars from these scooter companies, sure. We are all accepting that they are here and they are being used by 10 million, I think he said. Where is that money going? We know, we know that some of it went into the inner city here, from previous details that Councillor MURPHY has advised the Chamber.

 Some of that money, some of those millions of dollars that have come in from the e-scooter companies has been spent on parking areas in the inner city. But I haven’t seen any wider footpaths, dedicated parking areas out in my community, or just generally increased active transport infrastructure in my community. Maybe this has funded the grid in the city, the separated grid and cycleways, not sure, that’s never really been made clear. If it has, that’s great, where is the money going to go? The answer can’t be that it’s going on the Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek bridges, not when these scooters are operating in the Wynnum bayside area and the Sandgate bayside area over in Councillor JOHNSTON’s ward and now in Councillor COLLIER’s ward.

 We need to see an investment in making sure that these scooter schemes are sustainable in the long term, that our footpaths and bikeways remain safe for everyone to use. That’s what we called for here and I’m sure Councillor MURPHY has all that information at his fingertips, wasn’t evident in the presentation and I’m sure he will clear that up in his summing up, because we are talking millions of dollars. When you look at the capital expenditure on new footpaths in the budget, was that $1.6 million, I think, the Safer Paths to School? Those 16 footpaths that the LORD MAYOR’s funded. We’ve seen no increase in SEF (Suburban Enhancement Fund) funding, in fact the cost of delivering those projects is far outstripping the increase that we’ve seen in SEF funding. So, a very simple question, where is the money going? I think everyone wants to know. We have been guaranteed that that income from those hire scooter companies is going to be spent on active transport, well we want to see where it is.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Thank you, I rise to enter the infrastructure debate and the very—it’s really interesting that these two petitions are taken seriatim and those opposite accuse us of playing politics.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: The Councillor opposite referenced that she was rising to speak on the infrastructure debate. This is actually the Transport Committee report. I just seek your rectification and clarification.

Chair: Thank you, thank you.

 Councillor WHITMEE, I’m assuming you are speaking to the Transport report, yes?

Councillor WHITMEE: I am speaking to Transport, my apologies.

Chair: That’s okay and to confirm, we’re taking A, B and C separately for voting now?

Councillor WHITMEE: A, B and C, A, B and C seriatim, yes.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor WHITMEE: Well no, they were already taken seriatim?

Chair: No, no, sorry, A and B were being voted together.

Councillor WHITMEE: Voted together, okay, perfect, all right. No, look, there’s obviously some confusion on where we all stand and to be blatantly honest, I absolutely support the scooter initiative, I think it’s fantastic. I also support ending the trial, because I think like most people on this side of the aisle, are starting to think that the LNP have commitment issues and just want to continue and extend trials, rather than to commit to anything. So, I support both petitions, I support the petition to keep e‑scooters and I support the petition to end the trial and actually make it permanent.

Chair: Thank you.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on the Transportation Committee report. Firstly, look, I acknowledge I think scooters are a great part—e-scooters are a great part of the future electrified—electrified future of active transport. I myself have ridden nearly all of the e-scooters devices and I think they are an important part of it. Not only in relation to making sure that we get people out of cars to do those trips, but also clearly there’s a big push now for tourism, you know. We can see that because there are now more e-scooters riders crossing the Victoria Bridge to South Bank and Kangaroo Point than there are cyclists, because they take the Goodwill Bridge.

 But you know, in recognising that I think that actually puts a greater scope on the fact that this is also being carried by the active transport network, right? Where we have missing links, we have no protected—we have cycleways that aren’t protected. If anything, the shift to e-scooters and e-bikes and that push not only from this commercial endeavour, but also privately with people privately owning e-scooters, should create a greater focus on those active pathway connections across the city, especially in the central parts of the city. It’s really critical, as I mentioned, that Victoria Bridge has lots of people using e-scooters, but even future bikeways in that area connect to nothing and that’s dangerous. That’s dangerous for people on bicycles and that’s dangerous for people on e-scooters.

 The other thing—point that I just really want to say is with the increase of e‑scooter use we have a really big challenge, especially in the Gabba Ward with where they’re parked. Kangaroo Point is a particularly difficult area because we have a riverwalk that has different sizes as you walk across it and some of it can be very narrow. This becomes a trip hazard to residents across Kangaroo Point. I think the move to those facilities or endpoint and parking points as compulsory has to be really important, because what we want is our residents across all our wards, especially where e-scooters are being used, to actually be safe and ensure that our footpaths are accessible as can be. So, I just speak to say a couple of those things. I hope to see more work in this area and I really hope in the future we’ll move that focus away from just the Central Ward, where there was a lot of work in, and move that to the other wards where e-scooters look like they might be thriving. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I also rise to speak on this item regarding e-scooters. I suppose I’m on the record as having concerns about e-scooters and I believe they were reflected in what Councillor CASSIDY said today, in terms of not enough money is going into building infrastructure for our suburbs and for our city. I’d just like to give a picture of what I saw just recently, the last couple of weeks, where I was buying a coffee at a local shop and I saw a young man going along School Road, that’s Yeronga, on his e-scooter. He was zooming along in front of these cars and I suppose it’s driving along and he didn’t have a helmet on. Sure, he didn’t have a helmet on. What concerned me most was the baby that was strapped to his back, that concerned me the most.

 What I’m seeing with e-scooters more and more and what I’m hearing in my ward is more and more complaints from residents about their safety on footpaths, about their own safety and the elderly residents. I know it’ll be my mother sometimes will go, how safe is that, to have a scooter zoom up behind you? It just takes a step to the side or someone miscalculating and you’re hit and you’re over and you’re sometimes—yes. So, I think we haven’t really thought this out. We aren’t seeing the spend in infrastructure that I think we as a city need to do and yes, I understand the inner city has the majority of footpaths built and I understand the inner city’s got pedestrians and got a lot of tourists, but for the rest of the city we haven’t.

 Certainly, my parts of the city that I represent, I’ve got 100 footpaths waiting to be built, over 100, over 100 footpaths waiting to be built. I’m wanting them to be built for people to walk on and people to use their wheelchairs. If I get another complaint about people wanting to use prams on a footpath but they can’t because we can’t afford to build them, I just think that’s not on. Learning today that more revenue is coming into this Council and not going to be put on footpaths is just absurd, so that’s what I don’t support about the proposal, is the fact that we aren’t building the infrastructure to go with the need that is being created here. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

 Councillor MURPHY, right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Chair. Just briefly, I want to thank all Councillors for their contribution on this debate. I accept and understand that some Opposition Councillors do have genuine concerns about e-mobility and about the scheme. But there have been some things raised in this debate that are incorrect or are spurious. We should just start with Councillor CASSIDY and he has asked, I think quite fairly, where the money from the scheme goes, the revenue, what is it used on? My simple answer to that is that the revenue from this scheme funds Council’s biggest ever build of public and active transport in the history of this city. We are spending more this year and every year going forward on public and active transport than we ever have before.

 So yes, we are raising a small bit of additional revenue out of the e-mobility scheme, but that is nowhere near our expenditure on public and active transport, which as we’ve seen through the budget process and at the budget information sessions, is growing out size. In fact, our spend on public transport alone over the forward estimates, doubles, goes from $99 million to just under $200 million once Metro is operationalised in 2024. So, a very significant investment that this Council is making in active transport and people will see it, people will be able to walk on it as we open the Breakfast Creek green bridge early next year and the Kangaroo Point green bridge shortly thereafter.

 It was interesting to hear in Councillor CASSIDY’s debate that now he’s sort of asking, you know, we’re not doing enough on first mile, last mile. I thought that was interesting because I’ve mentioned the First Mile Last Mile Trial in this place on a number of occasions and Councillor CASSIDY hasn’t particularly been interested in it. But now apparently, we’re not doing enough, not moving fast enough. He has skipped over the part where he has been quite hard to pin down for a number of years on whether he actually supports e-mobility in this city. I think when the residents of his ward showed that they did in fact support the e‑scooters out there, he has had a road to Damascus conversion on it. That’s fine, but Labor have never had—Labor have never come to this place with a consolidated policy position across all of their Councillors when it comes to e‑mobility.

 I think you see that today, Chair, because Councillor WHITMEE also said that we had commitment issues. We had commitment issues on e-mobility, the people who championed the trial of them here in this city in 2018, the first city in Australia to have them here, the team that has the first and only e-mobility plan in the country, the team that has had repeated increases in the number, the size and scope of the hire scheme and the team that has never once reduced the numbers of e-scooters in this city, apparently we are the ones who have commitment issues. I thought that was interesting from a Councillor who wouldn’t give a recommendation on whether she supported or opposed whether we keep e-scooters in her ward, so I thought that was interesting comment to make around commitment issues.

 But if she had perhaps read the recommendation, she would have found in the recommendation, the recommendation that was being made was to end the trial and make it permanent. So, I don’t know if she fully read the response, but that was in the response that she did not make a recommendation on. So I will hope—and I’m glad, Councillor WHITMEE, that you have made public now your commitment to e-mobility in your ward, because certainly Councillor Cumming was sceptical to begin with, but came full circle on e-mobility and even to the point where he was putting lovely photos of himself riding e-scooters on social media, which I think we all appreciated in this Chamber.

 Councillor MASSEY, you asked a question around parking, well I think made some comments generally around the missing links. I’ve said repeated in this Chamber that we know that this is a city built for cars, we’re retrofitting it for other modes, that’s difficult and will take time and significant expense. So, there are missing links all around the city that we are endeavouring to fix.

 In terms of where the revenue from this scheme will go, I can tell you, Councillor MASSEY, $400,000 we’ll spend this financial year on parking zones. $400,000 this year we’ll spend on parking zones in the CBD and in your ward, so we understand that parking issues are affecting everyone and we are working with the operators to roll out solutions, parking solutions to those zones.

 Councillor GRIFFITHS illustrated that he still, unlike some of his colleagues, has concerns about the safety and efficacy of e-scooters and he mentioned the speed of some of the scooters, I think, travelling on School Road. Is that in Yeronga, Councillor GRIFFITHS? Yes, so that will be outside the scheme area, that wouldn’t be a scheme scooter; that would be a private e-scooter. The LORD MAYOR, myself, other Councillors in this place have raised issues about the speeds of the private e-scooters that are out there. Some of them are capable of top speeds of over 100 kilometres an hour when the governing is taken off on those scooters. We’ve also shared our concerns around them. If it was a hire scooter, Councillor GRIFFITHS, then I’m happy to take that up with the operators and look into that for you. We’re happy to leave the debate there, Chair, and recommend the report to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY and can I remind you to direct your comment to other Councillors through the Chair?

 We’ll now put item A of the report.

**Clause A put**

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

Chair: Item B of the report.

**Clause B put**

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

Chair: Item C of the report.

**Clause C put**

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Angela Owen (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steven Huang and Trina Massey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – E-MOBILITY UPDATE

**107/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Contract Delivery, Commercial and Contract Services, Transport for Brisbane, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane’s e-mobility usage. He provided the information below.

2. The Committee was shown a graph of total e-mobility trips for each year from 2018 to 2023 and by average trips per month. In 2018, there were 110,900 average trips per month which has grown to an average of 317,700 per month in 2023. Council has introduced trial restrictions for shared e-scooters at both the Brisbane CBD and Fortitude Valley Safe Night precincts, which restricts shared e-mobility use after-hours to reduce injury to riders. Virtual parking hubs have been established with incentivised pricing.

4. Council, Queensland Police Service, Stadiums Queensland, and shared e-mobility operators have developed specific plans to operate during special events at The Gabba and Suncorp Stadium precincts. During special events at Suncorp Stadium in 2023, almost 400,000 e‑mobility trips have been taken to date.

5. A seated e-scooter trial with 200 devices commenced in July 2023 and has an average of more than four trips per device per day. This is 20% higher than e-scooters and more than five times higher than e-bikes. E‑mobility operators have upgraded their firmware to improve device connection and responsiveness to GPS. These firmware improvements have assisted with use of virtual parking hubs.

6. Council extended the shared e-mobility trial from operators Beam and Neuron in the Bayside areas of Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Brighton, Wynnum and Manly. The trial commenced in December 2021 and has been extended due to the high usage and positive feedback. More than 146,000 trips have taken place in these areas with high rates of parking compliance in the dedicated virtual parking hubs.

7. The First Last Mile Trial has seen more than 54,000 trips to dedicated parking zones at busway stations. E-mobility operators have introduced incentivised fares for this initiative from 1 August 2023. The Bulimba and Hawthorne trial of dedicated parking zones at ferry terminals has seen more than 42,000 users.

8. Council has extended e-mobility operating agreements from July 2023 to July 2024. During this time, operators will introduce:

- 200 seated e-scooters to replace 200 e-bikes

- new N4 e-scooter rollout (from operator Neuron)

- a trial of incentivised fares for additional first and last mile areas

- rollout of CBD fixed parking hubs.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL RETAIN RENTAL E-SCOOTERS IN WYNNUM MANLY WARD

 **137/220/594/90**

**108/2023-24**

11. A petition requesting Council retain rental e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward, was received during the Autumn Recess 2022.

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

13. The petition contains 189 signatures. Of the petitioners, with the majority of the petitioners 127 residing live in the Wynnum Manly Ward, 57 live in other wards within the City of Brisbane and five live outside the City of Brisbane.

14. Council developed *Brisbane’s e-mobility strategy* (the strategy) to provide guidance to private and public enterprise and support the use of sustainable and more energy-efficient transport options across Brisbane. The strategy outlines Council’s priorities on e-mobility including policies, plans for infrastructure and safety considerations for future partnerships.

15. Council’s vision is for a connected city, where transport enhances liveability, supports business and investment, takes advantage of new technology and keeps riders and pedestrians safe.

16. As part of the strategy, Council has expanded e-mobility to the suburbs with a trial of shared hire e‑scooters from Beam and Neuron in the bayside areas to support tourism, local businesses and make connections to public transport. The trial commenced in December 2021 in Sandgate, Wynnum and Manly, with up to 200 e-scooters included in the Wynnum and Manly areas.

17. Council has undertaken a review of the 12-month trial of shared e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward. All feedback to date, including petitions, have now been collated and considered.

18. Council’s review demonstrates that e-mobility services provide a benefit to the bayside community, with high seasonal demand. Safety concerns have been addressed through the combination of a designated parking model in June 2022 and safety initiatives and reforms implemented by the Queensland Government on 1 November 2022. Council will continue to implement initiatives and infrastructure that improve the safety, accessibility and amenity of e‑mobility devices.

19. It has been determined that following the success of this trial that e-scooters will remain operating in the Wynnum and Manly areas.

Consultation

20. Councillor Sara Whitmee, Councillor for Wynnum Manly Ward, has been consulted and has not indicated whether she supports or opposes the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

23. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/90

Thank you for your petition requesting rental e-scooters be retained in the Wynnum Manly Ward.

Council developed *Brisbane’s e-mobility strategy* (the strategy) to provide guidance to private and public enterprise and support the use of sustainable and more energy-efficient transport options across Brisbane. The strategy outlines Council’s priorities on e-mobility including policies, plans for infrastructure and safety considerations for future partnerships.

Council’s vision is for a connected city, where transport enhances liveability, supports business and investment, takes advantage of new technology and keeps riders and pedestrians safe.

As part of the strategy, Council has expanded e-mobility to the suburbs with a trial of shared hire e‑scooters from Beam and Neuron in the bayside areas to support tourism, local businesses and make connections to public transport. The trial commenced in December 2021 in Sandgate, Wynnum and Manly, with up to 200 e-scooters included in the Wynnum and Manly areas.

Council has undertaken a review of the 12-month trial of shared e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward. All feedback to date, including petitions, have been collated and considered.

Council’s review demonstrates that e-mobility services provide a benefit to the bayside community, with high seasonal demand. Safety concerns have been addressed through the combination of a designated parking model in June 2022 and safety initiatives and reforms implemented by the Queensland Government on 1 November 2022. Council will continue to implement initiatives and infrastructure that improve the safety, accessibility and amenity of e‑mobility devices.

It has been determined that following the success of this trial that e-scooters will remain operating in the Wynnum and Manly areas.

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

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING REMOVAL OF E-SCOOTERS FROM WYNNUM MANLY WARD

 **137/220/594/130**

**109/2023-24**

24. A petition requesting removal of e-scooters from the Wynnum Manly Ward, was received during the Winter Recess 2022.

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

26. The petition contains 11 signatures with nine petitioners residing in the Wynnum Manly area.

27. Council developed *Brisbane’s e-mobility strategy* to provide guidance to private and public enterprise and support the use of sustainable and more energy-efficient transport options across Brisbane. This document outlines Council’s priorities on e-mobility including its policies, plans for infrastructure and safety considerations for future partnerships.

28. Council’s vision is for a connected city, where transport enhances liveability, supports business and investment, takes advantage of new technology and keeps riders and pedestrians safe.

29. As part of this strategy, Council has expanded e-mobility to the suburbs with a trial of shared hire e‑scooters from Beam and Neuron in the bayside areas. The trial commenced in December 2021 and includes up to 200 e-scooters in the Wynnum and Manly area. With this area being popular with visitors, the introduction of e-scooters to bayside suburbs supports tourism, local businesses and connections to public transport.

30. Council has undertaken a review of the 12-month trial of shared e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward. All feedback to date, including petitions has now been collated and considered.

31. Council’s review demonstrates that e-mobility services provide a benefit to the bayside community, with high seasonal demand. Safety concerns have been addressed through the combination of a designated parking model in June 2022 and safety initiatives and reforms implemented by the Queensland Government on 1 November 2022. Council will continue to implement initiatives and infrastructure that improve the safety, accessibility and amenity of e‑mobility devices.

32. It has been determined that following the success of this trial e-scooters will remain operating in the Wynnum and Manly areas.

Consultation

33. Councillor Sara Whitmee, Councillor for Wynnum Manly Ward, has been consulted and has not indicated whether she supports or opposes the recommendation

Customer impact

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

35. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

36. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/130

Thank you for your petition requesting Council remove all e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward.

Council developed *Brisbane’s e-mobility strategy* to provide guidance to private and public enterprise and support the use of sustainable and more energy-efficient transport options across Brisbane. This document outlines Council’s priorities on e-mobility including its policies, plans for infrastructure and safety considerations for future partnerships.

Council’s vision is for a connected city, where transport enhances liveability, supports business and investment, takes advantage of new technology and keeps riders and pedestrians safe.

As part of this strategy, Council has expanded e-mobility to the suburbs with a trial of shared hire e‑scooters from Beam and Neuron in the bayside areas. The trial commenced in December 2021 and includes up to 200 e-scooters in the Wynnum and Manly area. With this area being popular with visitors, the introduction of e-scooters to bayside suburbs supports tourism, local businesses and connections to public transport.

Council has undertaken a review of the 12-month trial of shared e-scooters in the Wynnum Manly Ward. All feedback to date, including petitions has now been collated and considered.

Council’s review demonstrates that e-mobility services provide a benefit to the bayside community, with high seasonal demand. Safety concerns have been addressed through the combination of a designated parking model in June 2022 and safety initiatives and reforms implemented by the Queensland Government on 1 November 2022. Council will continue to implement initiatives and infrastructure that improve the safety, accessibility and amenity of e-mobility devices.

It has been determined that following the success of this trial that e-scooters will remain operating in the Wynnum and Manly areas.

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee report please.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Fiona HAMMOND, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. I just will make some comments generally about the presentation that we saw last week. It’s on a thing called Kerbside Asset Information Systems (KAIS) and it is an operational device that we use to monitor and maintain our kerbside assets. Council has completed a full spatial audit of all parking signs and associated roadside infrastructure across the city. The audit found there was no asset register necessarily holding signs and lines in a single database.

 Well now we do, through the Kerbside Asset Information System, which is an end-to-end solution created to allow all users to view interactive imagery of assets remotely, utilise artificial intelligence to process and analyse captured data, integrate data into corporate systems, generate automatic notifications when asset condition ratings are not met. That means if there’s vandalism, or a sign is missing or if it’s damaged in any way, we are notified and can replace it, maintain location data and create plans for changes to signs and lines. The Kerbside Asset Information System commenced in mid-2022 by introducing up-to-date parking asset register and spatial data collection. It followed Council’s ongoing rationalisation of on-street assets, or kerbside assets.

 The Committee was shown a video of data being captured and as well, you can see that the footage utilises mobile equipment, including high-res cameras, remote sensory technology and GPS receivers to obtain data on existing kerbside allocation of assets, their positions, metadata, and current condition. Along with data capturing, the KAIS uses machine learning technologies which utilise visual pattern recognition and a workflow to extract geographic referenced data of assets and vehicle movement and an artificial intelligence (AI) change detection process. The AI change detection process automatically categorises assets and defects by applying a condition rating and allowing users to analyse data, including panoramic, 360 degree, and direct imagery to review those assets and then make recommendations on them.

 So, what it’s about, it’s about a single source of truth to make sure that we understand all of the assets that we have on our footpaths. That includes your signs, that includes your parking meters, that sometimes includes things like bins and benches and other types of Council assets that sit just beyond the kerb line. What this allows us to do is to manage that better. We’re always looking for opportunities to manage our assets more cost-effectively and in a more timely manner and this system will allow that. This session we focused a lot on operational matters and how we can—and the things that Council is doing to identify issues and correct them quickly, as well as to be able to make sure that the on-street parking that we do possess, which is often a highly contested and very valuable asset to many local residents, can be monitored and amended as appropriate.

 There were some conditions—excuse me, there were some petitions considered by the Committee last week and I look forward to comment by Councillors.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

 Further speakers on the Infrastructure Committee report?

 Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak in item B of the Infrastructure Committee report.

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

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| --- |
| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause B, PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL URGENTLY UPGRADE THE INTERSECTION OF CLIVEDEN AVENUE AND OXLEY ROAD, CORINDA, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: Thank you, noted.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise today to say sadly I’m not surprised, but I am disappointed by the inaction by this Council with respect to the dysfunctional and dangerous intersection of Cliveden Road—sorry, Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road in Corinda. For those of you who don’t know, this intersection is a major east-west connection point. All along Oxley Road we have problems connecting east-west because of the rail line and this is a major east-west connection point between Oxley, the Centenary Suburbs and the Oxley Road corridor. This intersection also services a number of major community facilities, including a huge, huge retirement village that has been built. It services Corinda State School, 600, nearly 700 students. It services Corinda State High School, almost 2,000 students. It is the closest intersection to the Dunlop Park Memorial Pool.

 Anybody who drives along—anybody who drives along Oxley Road or uses Cliveden Avenue knows this intersection is a basket case. The reason it is a basket case is because there are no proper turning lanes. You basically have one or two lanes, depending on which way you’re coming. There are no turning lanes, there are no indented turning lanes and there are no controlled green arrows to help you safely turn the corner. Now we know that there is a lot of traffic coming from the Centenary Suburbs and it is Councillor HUTTON’s residents who are equally impacted by how dysfunctional and dangerous this intersection is. Many, many people in her ward would be taking their children to school at Corinda State School and Corinda State High School and it is, I think, incumbent upon all the local Councillors who rely on access to these schools to make sure that people can get there safely. That’s Councillor STRUNK, myself, Councillor HUTTON and certainly Councillor GRIFFITHS, because Oxley is split across four suburbs.

 But I guess my concern is that Council has identified that there is a problem, so the report before us today says—and I quote, Council ‘conducted a preliminary investigation for the purpose of developing an interim upgrade solution to improve safety and reduce congestion at this intersection. Preliminary investigations have been identified the interim upgrade solution would require the resumption of adjacent land and further detailed work to clarify the scope and design.’ There’s no funding allocated to undertake the work.

 ‘Council anticipates delivery’—this is the weird bit, ‘Council anticipates delivery between 2023 and 2026.’ Well it is 2023, so Council’s saying no, they’re not going to do anything, but then they say well yes, we will. So, I think Council’s trying to have a bob each way here and I know Councillor HUTTON will want to stand up and speak strongly in support of this action, because her residents will want to see a better intersection to facilitate access to schools and the main road. I’m quite certain the candidates running out in Councillor HUTTON’s area at the election will be happy to point out her track record on supporting intersection upgrades that will benefit the wider community.

 So, look, I don’t think Council’s done enough here. They have identified that there is a problem, well you know, we knew that, nearly 500 residents have signed this petition, many of them who are immediately local to the site. It is dysfunctional. In fact, Councillor MARX went out there a few years ago with me and we had to sit through multiple changes of lights before we could get through that intersection. She said Councillor JOHNSTON, why don’t you do something about this intersection? Well guess what, I have been. This is an important intersection that needs to have an increase in capacity, functionality and safety. We need to make sure pedestrians can cross safely, we need to make sure there’s bike infrastructure to encourage safe travel to school.

 We also need to make sure that there are proper and sufficient turning lanes and arrows for drivers who are turning in all directions because of access to Oxley Road. This Council’s response is clearly inadequate, because Council won’t do its job, I will do its job for it and I move the following amendment.

**Motion for amendment to Clause B:**

|  |
| --- |
| **110/2023-24**It was moved by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS, that Clause B, PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL URGENTLY UPGRADE THE INTERSECTION OF CLIVEDEN AVENUE AND OXLEY ROAD, CORINDA, of the report be amended as follows:*(i) in paragraph 16, delete the last sentence starting ‘Therefore,…’ and add the following sentence ‘Undertakes immediate upgrades including, traffic light upgrades including green arrows to more effectively manage traffic movements and uses the existing verge, which has been designated road reserve for more than 30 years, to provide for a dedicated left turn, straight through and right turn lanes on the western side of Cliveden Avenue at Oxley Road, until a major intersection upgrade can be undertaken in future.’**(ii) in paragraph 20, Attachment A, the fourth paragraph, delete the last sentence starting ‘Therefore…’, and add the following sentence ‘Undertakes immediate upgrades including, traffic light upgrades including green arrow to more effectively manage traffic movements and uses the existing verge, which has been designated road reserve for more than 30 years, to provide for a dedicated left turn, straight through and right turn lanes on the western side of Cliveden Avenue at Oxley Road, until a major intersection can be undertaken in future.’* |

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, to your amendment please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you.

Chair: My pleasure.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Look, my amendment is fairly simple. Council has identified that there is a problem here and I certainly recognise that within the scheme of the budget there are lots of things that need to be funded. However, it is unreasonable for Council to state that it needs to acquire land to complete an upgrade to this intersection when land has already been delegated as road reserve. Back in the 1980s, Corinda State School was relocated from the corner of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road, further down Cliveden Avenue and a large townhouse complex was built on the corner. At that time, in the 1980s, a large section of land was reserved for future intersection upgrade. It’s just that over the last 30-plus years Council has not done the work to upgrade the intersection.

 Now the amendments that I’ve put forward today only address a small part of what needs to be done. More importantly, there needs to be proper indented turning lanes on Oxley Road, both turning into Cliveden Avenue heading east and heading west. This would require some resumptions, I presume, on the other side of the road, but the two initiatives that I’ve put forward in the amendments here today can be done by Council now without any resumptions.

 (1) That is to upgrade the traffic lights, that could be done by Council tomorrow. Part of the problem at this intersection is that the traffic lights are not fully controlled at this intersection. We have those fade lights where the turning vehicles don’t get a green arrow. So, if you’re waiting to turn, you block up the lane and you can’t get through because of all the oncoming traffic, particularly in the afternoon peak. So, we need proper management via traffic lights of traffic movements through the intersection. That protects pedestrians and it enables an orderly movement of vehicles through the intersection. So that’s just a basic, Council could upgrade the traffic lights, that’s a matter of just changing the existing traffic lights that are there. It doesn’t require resumptions.

 Secondly, I’m suggesting that one of the biggest issues is as you are heading eastbound towards Oxley Road, when you come over the rail line bridge—and this is particularly beneficial to Councillor HUTTON’s residents. I used to represent that part of Oxley and I know how many of them come through there. I understand why her residents would be concerned about this and have signed the petition in strong numbers. It will facilitate proper safe access, both to the school precinct and also to Oxley Road. At the moment, you essentially have a small, indented right-turn lane and one traffic lane, which is for the left turn and the straight through. What’s actually happening in practice is that cars are jamming up next to each other in one lane so that there can be a left-turn lane, there can be a straight‑through lane and there can be a right-turn lane. But it’s not wide enough to do that, it is dangerous, what is happening.

 Council required these setbacks when the school left this site and the land was developed more than 30 years ago, anticipating that the intersection upgrade would be undertaken. Now that’s an early version of the LGIP that Council’s botched. They’ve just forgotten about this project ever since. It is easy for Council to adjust the lane widths in this area to make sure that there are turning lanes and straight through lanes. Now much, much more needs to be done, but I understand that that would be more expensive and require resumptions and require a major intersection upgrade. But these upgrades are things Council can do as interim measures to make sure that we are progressively improving infrastructure for residents of the western suburbs and the south-western suburbs.

 I want to see my residents being able to safely move around the local area. I want residents in Oxley, in the Centenary Suburbs, as much as I’d like them to stay in the Centenary Suburbs the school catchment for Corinda State High School and Corinda State School covers those areas. So those people are coming here, we want to make sure they come safely and in an orderly way. We also want to make sure that pedestrians and cyclists are getting upgrades as well, so rather than Council just say no, no, it’s all too hard, you go on the future waiting list, well guess what, it’s not on the LGIP, it’s not on the LGIP or the LTIP (Long Term Infrastructure Plan). So, when Council says it’ll be considered in line with future priorities, it’s not on any list anywhere at all.

 So, I want to make sure that Council does what it can now by upgrading the traffic lights and also upgrading at least that intersection, where there is the land available to do the change. I think that that would make a huge difference to the functionality of that intersection. Absolutely the biggest problem, of course, is dealing with the Oxley Road north-south alignment, which does not have proper turning lanes. It needs indented turning lanes and it needs green arrows and we need to make sure that that is dealt with as soon as possible. But these are things that Council can do straightaway. They could make a difference and they will deliver some relief for residents in Oxley and certainly surrounding suburbs. I just want to see people be able to get to where they’re going more safely, more efficiently and certainly reduce congestion around our local schools. I would hope that Councillor Sutton will support this, it will be hugely beneficial for her residents.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I hear the DEPUTY MAYOR sniping away, but let’s hope she hops up and speaks to this amendment.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Through the Chair please, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Maybe she’ll stand up and speak to it. I mean koalas die in her area, she gets road improvements. I don’t know, does it take someone to die here? Is that what has to happen? I hope it doesn’t come to that. I want to see Council investing in the infrastructure needed to support local communities and the safe, orderly movement of traffic. I don’t think Oxley Road necessarily needs to be turned into a highway, I’ve not been supportive of this. I want to see the intersections upgraded along Oxley Road so that local traffic movements can be better facilitated. We don’t need to attract more traffic into the Oxley Road peninsula, we just need it to move more safely and more effectively. So, these two amendments will do that and I encourage all Councillors to vote for the amendment.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

 Further speakers?

 No?

 Councillor GRIFFITHS, are you standing to speak?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, I’d just like to get up quickly to support Councillor JOHNSTON’s motion. Certainly, what Councillor JOHNSTON is proposing I think is a reasonable solution. It’s an action that is using available land and available resources. We’ve seen 500 residents sign this petition and I know there are thousands of residents who are affected, as well as one of the southside’s largest schools. Oxley Road experiences significant delays, it’s unsafe and it’s congested.

 That’s not only for pedestrians and bikes and active travel, but also particularly for pedestrians. There has been—and Council, this Administration, has done—allowed significant density to increase along Oxley Road and at Sherwood. But what we haven’t seen and what people should realise is that we don’t get the infrastructure that goes with that density. Certainly, my residents in Oxley and Durack—and I have represented this area that you now represent, Councillor JOHNSTON, has been an issue for a long time. I suppose this is in stark contrast to what I heard the LORD MAYOR claiming before, that 89%—I think it was 89% or 90%—of Council’s $4 billion budget is spent on the suburbs. Well it’s not. We know that there’s $1.7 billion being spent on a 200-metre tunnel, $560 million was spent on Kingsford Smith Drive, $200 million on the Kangaroo Point bridge, $70 million on Breakfast Creek bridge and we know another $140 million is being spent on another inner-city park.

 I’m very interested to see Councillor HUTTON’s response and whether Councillor HUTTON will stand up for her local community, because I know the people at Oxley want action. They’ve wanted action for years. They don’t want someone who’s sitting back, lounging in Council, lounging in an Administration where there’s no voice, where there’s no speaking up and where there’s no action. That’s—unfortunately I gave Councillor HUTTON the time to stand up and speak, put her—have her say, but unfortunately, we’ve had nothing come from that say. So, I call on—through you, Mr Chair, I call on Councillor HUTTON to have a position, to say that she will speak up. Say what she will do for the residents, so that we get some action from this very ineffective, very lazy LNP Council that is not spending money on the suburbs. I support this motion, it’s a good motion and it’s a sensible motion and everyone in this Chamber should support it. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor, can I just remind you also to direct your comments through the Chair, even if it’s to your colleagues on the same side of the Chamber. Thank you.

 Any further speakers?

 Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Yes, thanks, Mr Chair. Look, just really quickly, in response to this proposed amendment, you can even consider it through the petition that is before us today that the advice, the predominant advice is that the turning arrows would not be able to be added without an additional lane. The additional lane would require land resumptions, that is spoken to within the petition formally. There’s no objection in concept, but there is further work that must be done, so the urgency in this is not able to be satisfied and as a result, there’s been quite a bit of debate on this already.

**111/2023-24**

Councillor Andrew WINES moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the amendment be now put.

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

Chair: So now I will put the amendment. All those in favour—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, I still get a right of reply.

Chair: Sorry, just one moment.

 Councillor JOHNSTON, my apologies, you do have a five-minute right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I thought I did, thank you. Look, thank you to Councillor GRIFFITHS for standing to speak on this issue. I think twice you’ve represented that part of Oxley that adjoins this area and now you’re just a little bit further south, so I know you understand how dysfunctional this intersection actually is. Councillor WINES sort of had a bob each way with that, it was quite interesting. It wasn’t a bad idea, he didn’t say it in quite those words but you know, said there was some merit in it, but still said he wouldn’t do it. Now that’s not good enough. Council already has a huge section of road reserve on this intersection on the Cliveden Avenue—the north-western corner of this intersection and there is room here to widen and to install upgraded traffic lights.

 That would make it safer for residents going to Corinda State School, Corinda High School, going to the Dunlop pool, going to the shops, the train station, everything. Just—it would be such a functional and practical upgrade that would deliver immediate benefits to how traffic moves through our area. Most importantly what it would do would discourage—or it would provide a better way for people to use the arterial road, rather than rat run through the back streets of Corinda and Sherwood, which is what’s going on. This traffic—because these intersections on Oxley Road are so congested and are not properly controlled by traffic lights, we are getting a huge volume of rat running through the back of Corinda.

 That is all the traffic from Councillor HUTTON’s area as well and those cars desperately want to avoid Oxley Road and the intersections because they’re so dysfunctional. I think it’s disappointing that the LNP are choosing to say no, they won’t support this, because it is something they can do. We already own this land, it is wide enough and designated for road. It has been since the mid-1980s, when the school was moved up the street, you know, 500 metres. It’s just that Council has neglected this area for so long that they’ve forgotten that they already have designated this land for future road upgrades, they’ve just never done it. So, because Council won’t do it, I think it’s incumbent upon me to do it and I appreciate the support of Councillor GRIFFITHS as the former Councillor for the southern side of this intersection.

 It is disappointing though, of course, that the LNP aren’t prepared to support the amendment and I’ll be very happy to tell Oxley and Corinda residents that Councillor HUTTON voted against upgrading this intersection, because it will hugely impact her residents and I’m quite certain that her failure to support local intersection upgrades will be noted. I guess she won’t be putting a sign up over there saying I don’t support this intersection upgrade. I mean she’s put signs up everywhere else in her ward, I’m told, residents keep asking me what are these signs? But anyway, I just think this is an important project, I want to see it proceed. We need to do something to relieve this dysfunctional and unsafe intersection and upgrading the lights and providing indented and properly controlled turning lanes is the way to do that. I encourage all Councillors to vote for the amendment.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 We will now put the amendment to the report.

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to Clause B of the report of the Infrastructure Committee to the Chamber resulting in it being declared **lost** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

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

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

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

 Councillor MARX, you’re not speaking to the—you’re not a further speaker to the report? No?

 Councillor WINES, you’ve got right of reply. No?

 We will now put the report of item A, starting with item A.

**Clause A put**

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

Chair: Item B of the report.

**Clause B put**

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Fiona Hammond (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Sarah Hutton, Claire Jenkinson and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – KERBSIDE ASSET INFORMATION SYSTEM

**112/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Kerbside Asset Information System (KAIS). She provided the information below.

2. Council completed a full spatial audit of all parking signs and associated roadside infrastructure across Brisbane to ensure Council’s asset register was accurate and up to date. The audit found there was no asset register for signs and lines as well as a database for up to date on‑street parking infrastructure.

3. The KAIS is an end-to-end solution created to allow users to:

- view interactive imagery of assets remotely

- utilise artificial intelligence to process and analyse captured data

- integrate data into corporate systems

- generate automatic notifications when asset condition ratings are not met

- enable visualisation and historic changes to parking areas via a user interface

- maintain location data

- create plans for changes to signs and lines.

4. The KAIS commenced in mid-2022 by introducing an up-to-date parking asset register and spatial repository. This followed Council’s removal of the coin payment option from all parking metres in early 2021, replaced by electronic-only payment. Parking occupancy forecasting is an algorithm used to estimate occupancy at metered parking. This information is available to the public through parking information apps.

5. Ten business areas across Council are now using KAIS including City Standards, Asset Management, Customer Services, Compliance and Regulatory Services, City Projects Office and Development Services. The spatial repository enables the business areas to respond to customer enquiries and complaints regarding parking signs and lines, plan kerbside infrastructure works and scheduled maintenance planning. The KAIS integrates with corporate systems including:

- OPTIMISE

- SAP

- Information Insights

- ArcGIS

- BrisMaps

- Road Closure Permits

- Open Data.

6. The Committee was shown a video of a data capturing approach which utilises mobile equipment including high resolution cameras, remote sensing technologies and GPS receivers to obtain data of existing kerbside allocation assets, positions, meta-data, and current condition. Along with data capturing, the KAIS uses machine learning technologies which utilises visual pattern recognition, a workflow to extract geographic referenced data of assets and vehicle movements, and an artificial intelligence (AI) change detection process.

7. The AI change detection process automatically categorises assets and defects by applying a condition rating, and allows users to analyse data including panoramic, 360degree imagery, review the history of assets captured and virtually inspect condition changes, missing assets or work being undertaken. The Committee was shown images and a video of the KAIS user interface with examples of recorded data available, and search capabilities.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL URGENTLY UPGRADE THE INTERSECTION OF CLIVEDEN AVENUE AND OXLEY ROAD, CORINDA

 **137/220/594/193 and 137/220/594/203**

**113/2023-24**

10. Two petitions requesting Council urgently upgrade the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road, Corinda, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 28 March 2023, by Councillor Nicole Johnston, and received.

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

12. The petitions contain a total of 445 signatures. The first petition (137/220/594/193) contains 353 signatures of which nine live on Oxley Road, 27 live on Cliveden Avenue, 296 live in Tennyson Ward and 57 live in other wards in the City of Brisbane. The second petition (137/220/594/203) contains 92 signatures of which eight live on Oxley Road, 22 live on Cliveden Avenue, 50 live in Tennyson Ward and 42 live in other wards in the City of Brisbane.

13. Oxley Road is classified as an Arterial road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) road hierarchy. Arterial roads connect major centres of the city and provide an important link in Brisbane’s public transport and freight network. Cliveden Avenue is classified as a Neighbourhood road in City Plan. Neighbourhood roads primarily provide access to local residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

14. The petitioners’ concerns regarding congestion and safety at the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road is noted. Council’s longer term road planning includes upgrading Oxley Road to four lanes between Sherwood Road, Sherwood, and the Ipswich Motorway, Oxley, to improve safety and capacity through this road corridor, including at the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road. However, there is currently no budget or timeframe to complete this upgrade.

15. Council acknowledges current congestion concerns at the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road. As such, Council has conducted a preliminary investigation for the purpose of developing an interim upgrade solution, to improve safety and reduce congestion at this intersection. Preliminary investigations have identified that the interim upgrade solution would require the resumption of adjacent land and further detailed work to clarify the scope and design. At this stage, there is no allocated funding to undertake detailed investigations to progress the interim upgrade to detailed design, Council anticipates delivery between 2023-26.

16. Due to a high demand for road network improvements throughout Brisbane, all proposed upgrades must be prioritised to ensure Council’s resources are directed to areas most in need of such traffic management works, including those that offer the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity to the wider community. Therefore, Council’s consideration to progress the upgrade of the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road is subject to an assessment of its priority, relative to other similar citywide projects.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

18. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

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

20. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition References:** 137/220/594/193 and 137/220/594/203

Thank you for your petitions requesting Council urgently upgrade the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road, Corinda.

Your concerns regarding congestion and safety at the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road is noted. Council’s longer term road planning includes upgrading Oxley Road to four lanes between Sherwood Road, Sherwood, and the Ipswich Motorway, Oxley, to improve safety and capacity through this road corridor, including at the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road. However, there is currently no budget or timeframe to complete this upgrade.

Council acknowledges current congestion concerns at the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road. As such, Council has conducted a preliminary investigation for the purpose of developing an interim upgrade solution, to improve safety and reduce congestion at this intersection. Preliminary investigations have identified that the interim upgrade solution would require the resumption of adjacent land and further detailed work to clarify the scope and design. At this stage, there is no allocated funding to undertake detailed investigations to progress the interim upgrade to detailed design, Council anticipates delivery between 2023-26.

Due to a high demand for road network improvements throughout Brisbane, all proposed upgrades must be prioritised to ensure Council’s resources are directed to areas most in need of such traffic management works, including those that offer the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity to the wider community. Therefore, Council’s consideration to progress the upgrade of the intersection of Cliveden Avenue and Oxley Road is subject to an assessment of its priority, relative to other similar citywide projects.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Damian Burke, Senior Strategic Transport Planner, Policy Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 7676.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: City Planning, Councillor ALLAN.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Item A was a Committee presentation on 301 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley. The approved development is a 32-storey tower comprising of 327 build-to-rent units and incorporates both residential and commercial aspects, featuring office and retail space. The build-to-rent model aims to provide housing security and affordable rental options for tenants seeking longer term tenancy arrangements. The development’s diverse infill dwelling supply addresses challenges related to land supply and growth in the Brisbane area. The development is conveniently located within proximity to the Fortitude Valley train station and other high-frequency public transport options.

 301 Wickham Street provides convenient access to local shopping and amenities. Unit composition of 301 Wickham Street includes 50 studios, 128 one-bedroom units, 75 two-bedroom units and 74 three-bedroom units. Private balconies and window gardens are incorporated into the design, ranging in size from eight square metres to 69 square metres. Parking infrastructure spans five levels, including two basement levels and three podium levels. Residents will have access to 361 car parking spaces, while visitors will have access to 50 car parking spaces. For cyclists, the development provides 435 bike spaces for residents and 45 bike spaces for visitors.

 This well-designed development encompasses various communal amenities, such as dedicated work from home zone, a gym, a yoga studio, a massage room and communal lounge areas. Additionally, the rooftop communal recreation area comprises of a pool, sundeck, dining room with a kitchen, bar and games room and barbecue areas. The design aims to enhance energy efficiency, resident comfort and operational cost savings. Sustainable features include rooftop solar panels, rainwater harvesting, water efficiency fixtures and a subtropical architectural design that aligns with Council’s Buildings that Breathe principles.

 Landscaping incorporates vertical greenery integrated into the podium, elevated gardens on the rooftop deck and podium as well as ground floor landscaping and public spaces. The development was approved because it encompasses a comprehensive range of features and amenities that aim to create a thriving and inclusive community within a well-designed and strategically-located building. Importantly, the development provides 327 units in a busy and economically vibrant part of our city. Lastly, 301 Wickham Street supports the Schrinner Council’s vision to ensure Brisbane remains highly liveable, affordable and sustainable for current and future generations. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

 Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

 Councillor ALLAN, right of reply? No?

 We will now put the report.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 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, Julia DIXON, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, 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.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Lisa Atwood (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lucy Collier, Fiona Hammond, Clare Jenkinson and Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 301 WICKHAM STREET, FORTITUDE VALLEY (A006165119)

**114/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Planning Services, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on 301 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley (the site). She provided the information below.

2. The site, which is located on the corner of Wickham and Constance Streets, comprises of 11 allotments that make up a total area of 2,781 m². The development application included Material Change of Use for Multiple Dwelling, Food and drink outlet, Indoor sport and recreation, Office and Shop. The proposed development is a single 32-storey building which includes 327 built-to-rent units in the following sizes:

- 55 m² studios (50 units)

- 58 m² one-bedroom (128 units)

- 95 m² two-bedroom (75 units)

- 137 m² three-bedroom (74 units).

The proposed development also provides three retail tenancies on the ground floor comprising a greater floor area of 496 m² and a commercial office tenancy at level five.

3. The site is located in the Principal centre zone, on the north-east edge of the Valley heart precinct under the Fortitude Valley neighbourhood plan as part of *Brisbane City Plan 2014* and has access to high‑quality public transport, employment and lifestyle opportunities. A two‑storey commercial property was demolished to facilitate the construction of the development.

4. The building design is a separated podium and tower form, with ﬂuted façade and customised window shading. The ground floor includes outdoor dining, weather protection and public seating with integrated landscaping on the street, podium roof and rooftop levels.

5. The proposed development demonstrates the key strategies of Council’s *New World City Design Guide – Buildings that Breathe* (the guide). Fundamental to the tower’s architectural intent is the permeable, subtropical arrangement which corresponds to the eight key elements included in the guide:

- orientate yourself

- occupy outdoor spaces

- illuminate with daylight

- natural air and ventilation

- shade and protect

- living greenery

- identity matters

- reduce energy and waste.

6. The ground level design is highly pedestrianised and holds retail tenancies with outdoor dining surrounding the lobby entry. The design also includes street furniture, wayfinding cues and lighting incorporated into the publicly-accessible areas of the site to encourage engagement and activation.

7. The development has many communal amenities both within the lower levels of the tower and on the rooftop garden including a yoga studio, massage room, resident lounge, communal kitchen, work‑from‑home spaces, games room, dining room, cinema and pool. Balconies and wintergardens are a critical element of the design, taking advantage of the superior aspect whilst maintaining resident amenity. The balconies are built into the tower form to provide optimal outlook and aspect and quality private outdoor spaces for residents. The location of the wintergardens at the west and south of the building are a direct climatic response to avoid harsh western sun and to maintain a high-level of privacy and amenity between habitable spaces, while ensuring access to natural light and ventilation.

8. The proposed development includes 961 m² of soft landscaping including:

- vertical greenery integrated into the podium

- elevated gardens on the roof-deck and podium

- ground level landscaping and public space.

9. The proposed development provides a 3.75-metre-wide footpath on Constance Street and allows for a truncated corner to facilitate improved right-turn movements from Wickham Street to Constance Street which enhances safety, accessibility and manoeuvrability around the site. Significant street trees along Wickham Street will be retained. The proposed development provides for an awning design which is shaped to protect the health and wellbeing of these street trees. Street trees along Constance Street will be replanted to maximise shading opportunities along this frontage.

10. The subtropical building design will save energy, improves comfort for residents and reduces operating costs. The following sustainable elements have been included in the design:

- a solar array on the rooftop

- a ventilation system to the apartments and commercial and recreational spaces.

- four-kilolitre rainwater harvesting system for rooftop and podium levels landscape irrigation

- dedicated visitor, office staff and resident secure bicycle parking facilities and end‑of‑trip facilities for the commercial staff.

11. Access to the site is provided via an eight-metre-wide driveway on Constance Street. The driveway crossover will facilitate access to the car parking area and loading bay. Parking is provided over five levels including two basement levels and three podium levels. The building provides the following parking provisions:

- 361 resident spaces

- 50 visitor spaces

- 435 resident bicycle spaces

- 46 visitor bicycle spaces.

12. The proposed development provides the following community benefits.

- Deliver more diverse infill dwelling supply, which responds to the recent land supply and growth challenges experienced in Brisbane and wider South East Queensland.

- Provides housing security and affordable price points for tenants seeking longer tenancy arrangements.

- Revitalisation of an underutilised site within Fortitude Valley with strong access to transport, services, recreation and employment opportunities.

- Improved housing diversity for Fortitude Valley with a balanced mix of unit typologies.

- Improved all-abilities pedestrian connectivity and amenity through streetscape design and wayfinding signage.

- Infrastructure and streetscape upgrades to Wickham Street and Constance Street.

- Designed to achieve sustainable development criteria.

13. The development was approved for the following reasons.

 - Design excellence and subtropical building design.

- Provides a high-density accommodation use at a concentration and intensity that is commensurate to the location of the site.

- Supports the creation of a walkable centre that optimises the potential for residents to live within walking distance of, and be well-connected to, high-frequency public transport, employment, entertainment, and community facilities.

- Provides a building design that positively contributes to the immediate streetscape and pedestrian environment with highly articulated building façades and varied roof form elements and to the vibrancy of the city.

- Useable and high-quality communal and private open space opportunities for residents, that are accessible and attractive.

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

15. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor DAVIS—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: A bit of shush please, Councillors.

 Councillor DAVIS, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee please.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation was on the recently completed Bradbury Park improvement project, which has already become one of Brisbane’s favourite park destinations. The Committee heard about the evolution of this project and the design process for Brisbane’s most distinctive play space since the unique and hugely popular playground at Frew Park. The transformation of Bradbury Park has been a three-year project with Stage 1 completed in 2020. This stage included the construction of the Magic Forest, a nature play space for younger kids, as well as the award-winning scooter track. Stage 2 was completed earlier this year and delivered the new play space, as well as an upgraded car park, pathways, amenities and landscaping.

 The concept brief for the new playground was based on the idea of a biological city and reflects the natural environment around it. That vision was integrated into the design, with the play space structured around towers or hollows and connected by bridges to create endless possibilities for play, interaction, creativity and discovery. It features a number of innovative designs, coloured glass panels are strategically placed to allow multicoloured light to change the mood in the hollows at different times of the day and that’s been inspired by the local rainbow lorikeets that you can find around the park.

 Importantly, the design was modelled and positioned around the existing trees, so that the structure achieves 80% shade cover for most of the warmer months of the year. Charred hardwood has been used for the structure’s external cladding, mimicking the trunks of the neighbouring ironbark trees and also keeping maintenance low. As I said last week, Mr Chair, I toured the park with a delegation of Mayors and CEOs from Perth who made sure that Bradbury Park was on their itinerary. They were absolutely blown away with the scale and uniqueness of what they saw and what Bradbury Park has to offer. There was no doubt that there was a lot of play scape envy and I was very proud to showcase this extraordinary architectural play space, which is just another example of what the Schrinner Council is delivering for our residents and visitors to enjoy.

 Mr Chair, we also had two park naming submissions. The formal naming of Kanumbra Street Park, Coorparoo, as ‘Pat Ryan Park’, and the formal naming of Prospect Terrace Park, Kelvin Grove, as ‘Billy Mateer Reserve’, with that I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

 Are there any further speakers?

 Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor HAMMOND: I rise very briefly because I’ve spoken about the fabulous Bradbury Park many times in this place. I would like to thank Councillor DAVIS for showcasing Bradbury Park to the Committee, so everyone can actually truly appreciate how wonderful this play space is. If you haven’t been over there and had a look, please do. You might have had Perth residents going to have a look, I’ve got very envious Moreton Bay Shire Council coming to have a look with me very shortly, but again, come and have a look. Another big shoutout for the Kedron Heights Kindy, because without stumbling on to them, the Magic Forest would never have eventuated. So, thanks again to Kedron Heights Kindy, thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 Further speakers?

Councillor JENKINSON: Mr Chair, I rise to speak about the renaming of Prospect Terrace Park.

Chair: Councillor JENKINSON.

Councillor JENKINSON: Sorry. Council received a petition requesting Prospect Terrace Park at 57 Prospect Terrace, Kelvin Grove be named as Billy Mateer Reserve. Prospect Terrace Park is a local landscape amenity park and features a bus stop and additional sheltered seating. In 1893, Brisbane experienced its biggest flood in recorded history. Mr Billy Mateer, a skilled stockman, was visiting the homestead of Henry Somerset when he volunteered to ride eastward to Petrie to notify the Postmaster-General in Brisbane of the massive flood on its way. The ride was more than 60 kilometres in cyclonic conditions over rough mountainous terrain to warn the residents of Brisbane.

 Mr Mateer was a local resident of Paddington/Red Hill area and a former Brisbane City Council tram driver. Mr Mateer’s tram route stopped outside the air raid shelters located on the corner of Prospect Terrace and Kelvin Grove Road. As a gateway to the Central Business District from the northern suburbs, this non‑descript precinct forms a part of Brisbane’s history. A 2018 paper titled, *Unpacking a Legend*, compiled by Dr Margaret Cook and Brisbane City Council archivist, Ms Annabel Lloyd, documented the heroic ride and Mr Mateer’s links to the local community. Furthermore, Mr Mateer’s efforts have been documented in a feature length film, *Deluge*, directed and produced in Queensland.

 It’s proposed to erect a park naming sign on Kelvin Grove Road at the frontage of the park. Formally naming Prospect Terrace Park as Billy Mateer Reserve will provide recognition of Mr Mateer’s heroics and his contribution to Brisbane’s history. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JENKINSON.

 Any further speakers to the report? I see no one.

 Councillor DAVIS, right of reply?

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. It was remiss of me not to mention earlier the great work by Andrew Ensbey in terms of coming up with this concept but in no small way this came because of the advocacy of Councillor Fiona HAMMOND for her community. This was a dustbowl of a park and to see what we have today, as I said, is in no small part to the vision of the local ward Councillor. Thank you very much, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

 We’ll now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor James Mackay (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Julia Dixon, Sandy Landers and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRADBURY PARK

**115/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on Bradbury Park. He provided the information below.

2. As Chermside and surrounding areas continue to grow, it is important that Council’s parks continue to meet the recreational needs of residents. Improvements to Bradbury Park in Kedron are an important part of meeting this demand.

3. The $10 million improvement project has been delivered in two stages:

- Stage 1 was completed in 2020 and delivered a nature play space called the Magic Forest which was designed to encourage creative and imaginative play in a natural setting. This stage also delivered a scooter track and fitness equipment.

- Stage 2 was completed in June 2023 and delivered a large play space, car park, toilet block, picnic facilities, pathways and landscaping.

4. The creative brief Council provided in its offer of tender for the delivery of Stage 2 was based on the idea of a ‘biological city’. The play space needed to mirror the complexity and interconnectedness of a natural environment. Additionally, the play space needed to reflect the overarching themes of home, physical connection, social interactions and biomimicry.

5. Epoca Constructions, Alcorn Middleton Architects and Cusp Landscape Architects were the winning tenderers for the project. Conceptual plans for the project featured:

- complex travel paths and connections through large ‘hollows’

- sub-terranean, terranean and arboreal levels

- challenging structures to accommodate older children including balance pads and high balance beams

- areas for quiet play

- sensory elements in lower levels to cater to children of different abilities

- hangout perches and teamwork obstacles to encourage social interaction and connection.

6. Bradbury Park features several innovative design features. Coloured dichroic panels are strategically placed to allow multicoloured light to change the mood in the hollows at different times of the day. These colours were inspired by the imagery of a rainbow lorikeet emerging from its hollow. Modelled and positioned around existing trees, the structure achieves 80% shade cover for most of the warmer months of the year. Charred hardwood is used for the structure’s external cladding, mimicking the trunks of the neighbouring ironbark trees. A non‑prescriptive accessible path sits in the lower parts of the structure, allowing children to feel as though they are part of the play even if they cannot reach the same heights.

7. The Committee was shown:

- a video showing the development of the park from August 2022 to June 2023

- concept art of the play area

- photos of families utilising the play structure and surrounding amenities.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PARK NAMING – FORMAL NAMING OF THE PARK KNOWN AS KANUMBRA STREET PARK (ROAD RESERVE), KANUMBRA STREET, COORPAROO, AS ‘PAT RYAN PARK’

 **161/540/567/238**

**116/2023-24**

10. The General Manager, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

11. Council received a petition requesting Kanumbra Street Park (Road Reserve) (D1812, B‑RE‑0700), Kanumbra Street, Coorparoo, be formally named as ‘Pat Ryan Park’ in honour of the late Ms Patricia Clark-Ryan. The petition contains 94 signatures, and the recommendation to proceed with the park naming was adopted by Council at its meeting held on 21 March 2023.

12. Kanumbra Street Park is classified as a Local general recreation park within Coorparoo Ward.

13. Ms Patricia Clark-Ryan, known as ‘Pat Ryan’, was a resident of Coorparoo for most of her life, and made a significant contribution to the community through her acts of service and service on committees such as:

* Camp Hill Ward Heritage Advisory Committee
* Coorparoo and Districts Heritage Group
* Coorparoo Red Cross
* Royal Queensland Art Society.

14. Before her marriage to Mr Steve Clark-Ryan, Patricia was a qualified physiotherapist, having graduated from the University of Queensland. Patricia passed away on 14 July 2019.

15. It is proposed to erect a park naming sign and history panel on the Lade Street frontage of the park, near the path and wombat crossing, with the following wording:

*‘Pat Ryan Park*

*Mrs Patricia Clark-Ryan, known as ‘Pat Ryan’, was a local resident of Coorparoo for most of her life and made significant contributions to the community. Pat served on the Camp Hill Ward Heritage Advisory Committee, Coorparoo and Districts Heritage Group, Coorparoo Red Cross, the Queensland Art Society, and numerous church and school committees.’*

Funding

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

Consultation

17. Councillor Fiona Cunningham, Councillor for Coorparoo Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

18. Formally naming Kanumbra Street Park (Road Reserve) as ‘Pat Ryan Park’ will provide recognition and acknowledgment of the contribution made by Patricia Clark-Ryan to the local community.

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

20. **RECOMMENDATION:**

 **THAT APPROVAL BE GRANTED TO FORMALLY NAME THE PARK KNOWN AS KANUMBRA STREET PARK (ROAD RESERVE), KANUMBRA STREET, COORPAROO, AS ‘PAT RYAN PARK’, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL’S *OS03 NAMING PARKS, FACILITIES OR TRACKS PROCEDURE.***

**ADOPTED**

#### C PARK NAMING – FORMAL NAMING OF THE PARK KNOWN AS PROSPECT TERRACE PARK (ROAD RESERVE), 57 PROSPECT TERRACE, KELVIN GROVE, AS ‘BILLY MATEER RESERVE’

 **161/540/567/244**

**117/2023-24**

21. The General Manager, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

22. Council received a petition requesting Prospect Terrace Park (Road Reserve) (D1625, B‑RE‑0501), 57 Prospect Terrace, Kelvin Grove, be named as ‘Billy Mateer Reserve’. The petition’s recommendation, which was to proceed with the park naming, was adopted by Council at its meeting held on 23 May 2023.

23. Prospect Terrace Park (Road Reserve) is classified as a Local landscape amenity park and features a bus stop and with additional sheltered seating.

24. In 1893, Brisbane experienced its biggest flood in recorded history. Mr Billy Mateer, a skilled stockman, was visiting the homestead of Henry Somerset when he volunteered to ride eastward to Petrie to notify the Postmaster General in Brisbane of the massive flood on its way. The ride was more than 60 kilometres, in cyclonic conditions, over rough mountainous terrain to warn the residents of Brisbane.

25. Mr Mateer was a local resident of the Paddington/Red Hill area and a former Brisbane City Council tram driver. Mr Mateer’s tram route stopped outside the air raid shelters located on the corner of Prospect Terrace and Kelvin Grove Road, Kelvin Grove.

26. As a gateway to the Central Business District from the northern suburbs, this non-descript precinct forms a part of Brisbane’s history.

27. A 2018 paper titled ‘Unpacking a Legend’ compiled by Dr Margaret Cook and Brisbane City Council archivist, Ms Annabel Lloyd, documents the heroic ride and Mr Mateer’s links to the local community. Furthermore, Mr Mateer’s efforts have been documented in a feature length film, *Deluge*, directed and produced in Queensland.

28. It is proposed to erect a park naming sign on the Kelvin Grove Road frontage of the park.

Funding

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

Consultation

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

Customer impact

31. Formally naming Prospect Terrace Park (Road Reserve) as ‘Billy Mateer Reserve’ will provide recognition of Mr Mateer’s heroics and his contribution to Brisbane’s history.

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

33. **RECOMMENDATION:**

 **THAT APPROVAL BE GRANTED TO FORMALLY NAME THE PARK KNOWN AS PROSPECT TERRACE PARK (ROAD RESERVE), 57 PROSPECT TERRACE, KELVIN GROVE, AS ‘BILLY MATEER RESERVE’, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL’S *OS03 NAMING PARKS, FACILITIES OR TRACKS PROCEDURE.***

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MARX. City Standards Committee report, please.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Kim MARX, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair, I just want to briefly mention that we had a presentation last week on the unfortunate situation where we were having to replace copper wiring with aluminium cable. Shane MacLeod as always managed to do a very good presentation and I’m happy to leave debate to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

 Are there any further speakers?

 Being none rising, we’ll now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Greg Adermann (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Sarah Hutton, Nicole Johnston, Steven Toomey and Sara Whitmee.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – THE ALUMINIUM CABLE REVOLUTION

**118/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Construction, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the aluminium cable revolution. He provided the information below.

2. Aluminium and copper cables are used for lighting in Council’s parks. The copper cables are 16 millimetres and 61% more conductive than 25 millimetres aluminium cables.

3. Copper cables use tin plated copper lug connectors, whereas aluminium cables use bi-metal lugs consisting of both aluminium and copper. The Committee was shown images of aluminium cables being prepared for lug installation.

4. To install bi-metal lugs, a battery-operated hydraulic crimper is used which can apply 12 tonnes of pressure when crimping the lugs. A file is then used to remove any sharp edges left as part of the crimping process.

5. Following installation, the lugs are bolted together and covered with gel filled caps creating a bell joint. This protects the electrical connection and prevents corrosion. The Committee was shown images of a gel cap being installed and an active connection after a gel cap had been removed.

6. A two-part gel is used to seal the base of the bell joint cable entries preventing water intrusion as the joints are located within underground pits at each light pole.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD. How are you?

### COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair, and before moving to the report I would just like to put some comments into the *Hansard*. Mostly because of Councillor COLLIER’s question to the LORD MAYOR earlier today which was about why does this Council not support women’s sports at Council-leased facilities. So, Mr Chair, through you, I just want to put on the record that the Schrinner Council has spent $3.2 million as a testament to women’s sport and it would—I know that Councillor COLLIER is a new Councillor but perhaps she should talk to some of her local organisations because no less than three of the 12 that we have been funding in just this last 12 months alone are in her ward.

 So, through you, Mr Chair, I really want to impress on this Chamber the support that this Council gives to women’s sport. That was absolutely on display at the FIFA World Cup Matilda handing over the Keys to the City as the LORD MAYOR mentioned earlier. I was thrilled and delighted to be there. It was very moving. I don’t know about *Strawberry Kisses* and whether that might ever become—

*Councillor interjecting*.

Councillor HOWARD: I’m not sure that might ever become a hit again but you know, with my nighttime economy hat on, I’m happy to go to a night club and sing *Strawberry Kisses* if that’s what it takes. We’ve had lots of Gold Star and Little Star ceremonies right across the city and I really encourage all of our Councillors to attend those ceremonies. They are extra special. I want to give a big shout out to the libraries as well for the 24/7 library lockers. They’re proving to be absolutely amazing.

 I also want to give a big shout out to the Brisbane Kite Festival. I understand that was a huge success, Councillor ATTWOOD and Councillor MURPHY. Of course, the India Day Fair and the Korean Cultural Festival. It was a big weekend and I was off to the Ekka, just to finish it all off, because I thought that I couldn’t let the week go without one more visit to the Ekka but before I did that, I went to the Sporties for their bakeoff.

 The Annual Sporties Bakeoff. You can’t get any better than to go along there and to see the most amazing array of pickles and food and entertainment. I just want to say a big shout out and a big thank you to Sporties who have constantly supported our LGBTIQ+ community for years and years and years. It was wonderful to see them all there yet again and to support them.

 Now, moving to the report. We had a presentation on the Business Hotline supporting our community, and supporting our community it absolutely does. It’s a 24/7 number. It’s been going since 2012. We have applications to film in Brisbane which are just amazing. I think one of the Hemsworth brothers might have been around a few years ago and we know that people love filming in Brisbane. We have applications to hold festivals and events, commercial park use, gourmet food trucks and requests to light up Brisbane, all done by the amazing team that we have with our Business Hotline. I want to send a big thank you to all of the Council officers that make this such a special hotline that we know are helping all people right across Brisbane. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

 Further speakers to the report? No one standing.

 We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair), and Councillors James Mackay, Steven Toomey and Sara Whitmee.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BUSINESS HOTLINE – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

**119/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Customer Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on Council’s dedicated Business Hotline (the Hotline). He provided the information below.

2. The Hotline is open 24/7 and can be contacted on 133 BNE (133 263). Founded in 2012, the Hotline provides a specialised service for Council’s business customers who are often seeking information and advice on Council services. More than 98% of enquiries received by the Hotline are resolved by a single phone call. If the enquiry is more complex and requires follow up, a dedicated officer will manage that enquiry. Since its foundation, the service has evolved to provide additional services, including:

- applications to film in Brisbane (processed by Filming Approvals Liaison Officers (FALOs)

- applications to hold a festival or event (processed by Festival and Events Liaison Officers)

- commercial park use applications (processed by Commercial Activities in Parks officers)

- gourmet food trucks (assisted by the Gourmet Food Truck Initiative)

- requests to light Brisbane landmarks (light ups) such as the Story and Victoria Bridges to promote charities and awareness campaigns (supported by City Activations Liaison Officers).

3. The Hotline provides a tailored service to businesses by connecting them with the relevant authorisers and decision makers within Council. While the Hotline is not a decision maker itself, the team provides all relevant information to enable an application to be assessed and considers the unique elements of each application.

4. In 2022-23, the Hotline:

- received the following telephone inquiries:

- 533 for filming permits

- 405 for fixed food businesses

- 242 to register and login for Strategic Procurement

- 196 for light ups.

The Hotline also supported Council’s business customers leading to:

- 346 filming approvals

- 229 light ups

- 64 gourmet food truck renewals and new permits

- 46 banners being displayed

- 226 festivals and events approvals

 - 231 commercial activities in parks approvals.

5. Council’s FALOs assist applicants in understanding and co-ordinating the requirements for filming and still photography in Brisbane. The FALOs connect the applicant to Council work areas who provide consent which may be required, such as road use permits, footway or park consents. The FALOs manage different application types including those for student films, Australian television shows and major Hollywood productions such as *Thor: Love and Thunder* and *San Andreas*. New Farm Park and Captain Bourke Park in Kangaroo Point are popular filming locations; the latter being featured in Australian television shows *Harrow* and *The Bureau of Magical Things*.

6. Similarly, Festival and Event Liaison Officers assist applicants in understanding the necessary permits required to hold a festival or event in Brisbane. This can include road use permits and footway or park use consents and other requirements with external stakeholders such as the Queensland Police Service. There were 226 approved events held in 2022-23 including the Night Noodle Market, the Jacaranda Festival, Peggs Park Family Fun Fair, Wynnum Fringe Festival and the Bracken Ridge Carols Spectacular.

7. Applications for light ups or to place a banner on one of Council’s assets including the Story or Victoria Bridges and City Hall are processed by City Activation Liaison Officers. Light ups and banners are used to promote events such as the FIFA Women’s World Cup or raise awareness for campaigns including Daffodil Day, Epilepsy Awareness Day and National Reconciliation Week.

8. Gourmet Food Truck Liaison Officers (GFTLOs) assist with the application process for Gourmet Food Trucks. The GFTLOs assist customers through the application process and to understand what insurances, public liability and food safety requirements are required for the approval of a gourmet food licence. A gourmet food license gives the customer several operational options including:

- having a profile on the Brisbane Food Trucks website

- access to 12 premium sites on Council land which require pre-booking

- access to drive-up sites on Council road reserves with no pre-booking required.

9. The Hotline team are dedicated to their roles and are proud to represent Council. Recognition for the Hotline’s services have been received both within Council and through external organisations such as Auscontact which is the peak industry body representing the contact centre industry.

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

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM. Finance Committee report, please.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 15 August 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. Last week in Committee, we had a presentation from our City Resilience Manager updating Councillors on our plans in Council to prepare residents ahead of the severe weather season. As many of us in this Chamber would know, we run an annual awareness campaign with targeted messaging, this year, for high bushfire and flood risk suburbs. We want to make sure that all residents in Brisbane check and know their bushfire risk. Check and know their flood risk. Sign up for our Brisbane severe weather alerts, prepare their emergency kits and have an evacuation plan.

 Events proposed for the next 12 months include, in addition to the Ekka show, the Emergency Services Expo which will again be held at Victoria Park, information nights and pop-up events and special sessions for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Council’s stand at the Ekka this year, many of you would have got along to, I hope, provided residents with information about how to prepare for all hazards including severe weather, storms and floods, bushfires, and heat waves.

 I am pleased to inform the Chamber that across the 10 days we had over 2,600 meaningful engagements and conversations with residents. These included interactive opportunities for visitors including residents checking their flood and bushfire risks, how to prepare their homes adequately and what to pack in emergency kits. I also want to sincerely thank those officers who gave up their day job to support the Ekka stall this year. I commend the report to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

 Are there any further speakers? I see no one rising.

 We’ll now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Trina Massey, Angela Owen and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BE PREPARED CAMPAIGN

**120/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, City Resilience, City Administration and Governance, attended the meeting to provide an update on Council’s Be Prepared campaign (the campaign). He provided the information below.

2. Council runs an annual campaign to encourage Brisbane residents and businesses to prepare for severe weather. In previous years, the Queensland Government has provided funding through the Get Ready Queensland program to support these activities. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority confirmed funding for Council in 2023-24 under the Get Ready Queensland program.

3. The campaign events proposed for 2023 and 2024 include:

- The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka)

- Get Ready Queensland Week (Emergency Services Expo)

- information nights and pop-up events

- culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities train the trainer model.

4. Council will have a stand at this year’s Ekka in the Agricultural Hall. The objective of the stand is to provide visitors with information about how to prepare for all hazards in Brisbane including severe weather, storms and floods, bushfires, and heatwaves. The stand has interactive opportunities for visitors including how residents can check their flood or bushfire risk, how to prepare their home and what to pack in an emergency kit. The stand will also provide an understanding of the role of Council in responding to and recovering from each hazard.

5. Council will lead the Emergency Services Expo (the Expo) as part of the Get Ready Queensland Week which commences on Saturday 14 October 2023 and will take place at the Victoria Park / Barrambin precinct, attracting residents of Brisbane and its neighbouring Local Government Areas. Work areas from across Council will engage with attendees to provide information on topics such as:

 - flood management

 - animal management

 - building compliance

 - litter prevention

 - waste collection.

 Council will also partner with key stakeholders including:

 - Australian Defence Force

 - Bureau of Meteorology

 - Community Recovery Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

 - Queensland Disability Network

 - Australian Red Cross

 - Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

- Queensland Police Service

- Queensland Ambulance Service

- RSPCA.

6. Community and business engagement events will be run targeting areas at risk of bushfire, severe thunderstorms, flooding and isolation to build on community capacity in preparedness and community led response. Activities will include local events such as street meets, information nights and community consultation. Council will also lead the Queen Street Mall activation on Thursday 12 October 2023. A similar activation was run in November 2022 resulting in an increase of Brisbane Severe Weather Alert subscriptions.

7. Council has distributed a letter to more than 20,000 residents to provide notification of Queensland’s bushfire season which traditionally runs from August to December. The letter also provided the following resources.

- Check your property’s bushfire risk: Search ‘Know your risks’ via www.qfes.qld.gov.au.

- Maintain your property: Clear undergrowth around buildings, fill in gaps around windows, doors and eaves, rake up leaf litter and maintain access to your property.

- Understand bushfire warnings: The Australian Government’s Australian Warning System has been updated to ensure timely and clear messaging. Search ‘Tune in to Warnings’ on the QFES website for further information on bushfire warnings in Queensland.

- Prepare your bushfire survival plan: Use QFES’s Bushfire Survival Plan via www.qfes.qld.gov.au.

- Be aware of planned burns in your area: Search ‘planned burns’ on Council’s website for more information on Council’s program and tips to help minimise health impacts.

- Register for free Brisbane Severe Weather Alerts and follow social media: Follow Council and QFES for the latest information during bushfire season.

8. The purpose of community events for CALD residents is to raise awareness about severe weather in Brisbane and the ways they can be prepared. Council have organised community education and awareness programs which aims to educate CALD community leaders to share information with their communities around understanding local risk and what to do before, during and after severe weather events in a CALD adapted format.

9. The 2023-24 advertising campaign aims to broadly raise awareness to residents about Brisbane’s propensity for severe weather while supporting targeted messaging for high bushfire and flood risk suburbs.

10. Council’s messaging objective for the campaign in 2023-24 is to build community resilience to all hazards and for residents to:

- check and know their bushfire risk

- check and know their flood risk

- sign up for Brisbane Severe Weather Alerts

- prepare an emergency kit

- have an evacuation plan.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any petitions?

 I see no one rising—oh, Councillor GRIFFITHS, you’ve got a petition? You’re alright, mate.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you. I just have a petition in relation to the naming of Joy Taylor Place, I’d like to present to Council.

Chair: Thank you.

 Are there any further petitions?

 May I have a motion to accept the petitions please, Councillor HUTTON?

**121/2023-24**

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

The petitions were summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/243 | Steve Griffiths | Requesting Council create a new place name Joyce Smith Place, in Nyundare‑ba Park, Oxley. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: General Business.

 Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of the Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee orders? I see no one rising.

 Councillors, are there any items of General Business?

 Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, I rise tonight to speak on two matters—or sorry, three matters. Firstly, a young local man who has just recently participated in the world championships of speedcubing, the Brisbane Super Kings turf wicket and also Vietnam Veterans’ Day.

*At that time, 5.08pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, assumed the Chair.*

Councillor OWEN: Can I firstly say, in regard to young Charlie Eggins, he—I have spoken about him in this Chamber before. For those of us who were around when Rubik’s cubes first came in, we will know how difficult those Rubik’s cubes are. The fact that Charlie can solve these not only in seconds but blindfolded, it just still amazes me. All he does is looks at the colours on the cube and then puts the blind fold on and he’s away. It’s seconds.

 Charlie competed in the world championships recently, three weeks after breaking a finger. So, he was first in the first round and then came out not quite at the top of the field in the final but I just think it’s amazing that we have young people like this competing on a world level in a particularly complex craft. Can I say, it’s not just about looking at the colours and trying to just move them all about. There’s a lot of algorithms that apparently go on behind the scenes and he spends hours and hours and hours practicing and really going through that. So, I just think it’s amazing and we need to acknowledge our young people when they’re achieving at this level.

 I’d also just like to reflect on the Brisbane Super Kings’ new turf wicket. Yesterday—sorry, on Sunday, I joined with Councillor STRUNK and the Speaker of the Federal Parliament, Federal Member for Oxley, former Councillor Milton Dick and Senator Paul Scarr to support the Brisbane Super Kings. Can I say, Councillor STRUNK and I were on the Council team and Milton Dick and Paul Scarr were on the Federal team. Councillor STRUNK and I have the auspicious reflection of being able to say that we took a wicket. You know, I didn’t realise my bowling was that good until I took out former Councillor Milton Dick.

 But it was a great opportunity to join with a local club that has got its foundations up at the Matthew Conwell Sports Fields at Heathwood. They’re expanding so rapidly and we’re supporting junior sport so much that our young girls’ team have got the facilities—both facilities have actually got changerooms that are capable of supporting people from all different teams and making sure that they’re non‑gender specific. So that is a way that we have stepped this forward but it is a great opportunity to expand the options for young people and to make sure that they actually have these facilities in the local community in walking distance of their home.

 I will suffice to say, Councillor HAMMOND, I’m not playing in your cricket tournament because, yes, I’ve got a bit of a record with a bat and a ball so I think for a workplace health and safety perspective, it’s probably a good thing.

 Importantly, I would like to reflect on last Friday being Vietnam Veterans’ Day. This is an important day in the calendar for many people. It’s also a day of reflection for how many servicemen came home and were not treated appropriately for the service that they engaged in. In particular, during the Vietnam War, we had the situation of conscription and national service. Eight‑hundred-and-four-thousand, two-hundred-and-eighty-six young Australian men registered for national service. As the patron of the National Serviceman’s Association of Queensland, I thank them all for their service.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor OWEN: Two-hundred-and-ninety-thousand wore the uniforms of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Airforce. They saw active service in Borneo, Malaya, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea. Many of them actually did their basic training and like my father-in-law, never deployed. The foundation that they received from undertaking national service was a foundation for life. It was one of resilience, strong friendships that would last a lifetime but it created an unbreakable bond.

 Unfortunately, for 212 of them, two in Borneo and 210 in Vietnam, they also paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. On Friday, I was able to join the National Serviceman’s Association branch of Bayside to honour four of our Nashos, Kenneth H. Gant, Raymond C. Kermode, Ian W. Kingston and Joseph S. Ramsay, who are all acknowledged on the memorial down at Darling Point at Wynnum. They were all Wynnum boys.

 As the mother of a 21-year-old, I really feel for Kenneth Gant’s mother because when he left, he was 21. He never came home and his nickname was Bing. He actually recorded a number of songs for his mother and I actually have a recording of the songs that he made. It’s quite eerie when you hear him sing and I just would like to put into the public record some information about Kenneth H. Gant because it goes to speak of the many young men who signed up for National Service—who signed up as Nashos but also who, when they were called up, whilst it might not have been their first choice, they did their duty for our country.

 Kenneth Howard Gant was born on 6 January 1945 to Howard and Beryl in Brisbane. He grew up in Belmont, went to Belmont Public School and became a butcher. An outgoing, warm personality, Kenny Gant fancied himself as a singer. His family nicknamed him Bing. He regularly sang at parties and on one occasion at a pub when the band gave him the microphone, he wouldn’t get off.

 He was called up for national service on 30 June 1965. His mother, Beryl, later said that neither he nor she agreed with it but he wasn’t a coward. Like most National Servicemen, he’d never heard of Vietnam. He had no idea where it was. He did his training at Puckapunyal with the 3rd Infantry Training Battalion and then went into 6th RAR (Royal Australian Regiment) Delta Company, Shoalwater Bay and other training areas before he deployed to Vietnam in mid-1966.

 As many of you know and some actually have heard, the Australian Taskforce at Nui Dat was attacked on 17 August 1966 and Delta Company 6RAR was out there in the Long Tan plantation on the afternoon of 18 August 1966. At four o’clock in the afternoon, the enemy attacked and 11 Platoon was surrounded on three sides. Kenny Gant was one of the first killed. A machine gunner, along with others, he was killed with ground-level, 50-calibre machine gun fire. He was only 21 years old.

 Seventeen Australians were killed that day at Long Tan. What is less often said is that 11 were National Servicemen. The day after the battle, Private Robin Langdon ‘Pom’ Rencher, of Delta Company 6RAR was one of those clearing the battlefield and he said, “I came up to 11 Platoon position. My mates lying in an arc, facing upwards, rifles still on their shoulders as if they were frozen in a drill and only needed a touch to bring them back to life again. They hadn’t been touched by artillery, thank goodness, and the rain had washed away any blood. They looked peaceful and dignified, dying in place, doing their duty.”

 That’s when the tears started. No one was dried eyed. I know I wasn’t. Neil Rankin was the platoon sergeant from 10 Platoon. Three years later, again in Vietnam, he was tasked with finding the place where the Long Tan cross would be placed, then behind enemy lines. He said, I looked for the 11 Platoon position and with the heal of my boot, I marked the spot. I wanted the Long Tan cross to be placed on earth soaked by blood of young Australians fighting and dying for what they believed. What we can say now to all of them is Thank You for Your Service.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor OWEN.

 Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on three items tonight. The Voice referendum, housing and women’s facilities at Council-owned lease sites. I spent time over the weekend speaking to and hearing from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about what the Voice would mean to them. About recognising Australia’s 65,000-year history in our Constitution and about the outcomes the Voice would deliver in communities. The opportunity is real and it’s before us right now.

 To see what the other side of politics was up to regarding the referendum over the weekend was absolutely shocking. To see Liberal Party members holding no rallies, Liberal politicians attending the CPAC (Conservative Political Alliance Conference) conference alongside some of the most offensive racists I have ever seen in my life says a lot about the LNP. The LNP have become one of the most regressive political parties. The decision by the LNP to oppose recognition and consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was a political calculation by Peter Dutton and supported by his friend, Adrian SCHRINNER.

 Now, I thought to myself, Brisbane’s LNP Mayor would call out the base racism that’s being peddled by the No campaign, but given how deeply involved the LNP are in that campaign, I’m not surprised that he doesn’t. I cannot believe that all 20 LNP politicians that sit in this place would support the No campaign and advocate for the status quo.

 I have been impressed by Liberal politicians like Bridget Archer; Mark Speakman, the leader of the New South Wales Liberals; the Tasmanian Liberal Government for breaking ranks and speaking out in support of the Voice. It’s a shame to think that Brisbane’s LNP is not in the progressive camp of the Liberal Party. The Voice is about recognition, it’s about listening and it’s about better outcomes in the community. I simply don’t understand why the LNP oppose that.

 Now onto housing. I continue to be disappointed in the LNP and the Greens at a Federal level teaming up to block new housing. What Labor’s plans for housing this year means is investing over $11 billion in housing and homelessness services, that means for long-term solutions, that means $575 million in immediate investment. A national housing accord and another $350 million from 1 July next year, $1.7 billion from July this year for states and territories to invest in social and affordable housing, build-to-rent changes in the last budget and an additional $2 billion in financing for the National Housing Finance Investment Corporation.

 What we’ve seen over the last week as well is additional support agreed to by the National Cabinet. An extra $3 billion in performance-based funding and $500 million in competitive funding programs for local and state governments to support new housing and new infrastructure to fast-track housing.

 But, to try and fathom why the Liberals and the Greens have teamed up together to block new housing supply and to block the Housing Australia Future Fund is beyond perplexing. The Community Housing Industry Association Chief Executive, Wendy Hayhurst had to say this about their actions, “every day the bill is delayed is another day that thousands of vulnerable people are made to wait for a safe and affordable home.” That’s what the Liberals and the Greens are doing.

 The rejection of this signature housing policy will prevent 12,000 homes being built in the next financial year alone and the creation of 36,000 jobs. Those 30,000 homes that will be supported by this fund will be for women and children escaping family and domestic violence, they’ll be for frontline workers, for veterans and for First Nations Australians. That’s the Labor plan supporting housing while the LNP continues to stand in the way and it’s very disappointing.

 To finish on women’s facilities at Council-owned lease sites. We just heard from Councillor HOWARD that apparently 12 new facilities have been delivered in the last 12 months, so I assume what Councillor HOWARD meant by that was that there are 12 brand new changerooms catering for women and girls at Council‑owned lease sites. You would think they’d be screaming that from the rooftops, don’t you? Don’t you think you’d see that all over TV? You think you’d see it all over social media. It sounds really great, but I really don’t believe Councillor HOWARD when she just said that 12 new facilities have been built in the last 12 months because the evidence just doesn’t stack up. I presume what Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I presume what Councillor HOWARD is talking about are few of those Better Suburbs Grants to the tune of $200,000. Now, I’m not sure whether LNP Councillors have these sort of magical powers that they can turn $200,000 into a brand new changeroom facility but in our experience, they cost a lot of money. A lot more than $200,000. On the rare occasion that a club has a facility that can be retrofitted, and they are very creative and they have a lot of support from their volunteer committee, they might be able to get something done.

 The Zillmere Eagles is a great example of that. A $200,000 investment is going to see facilities for women and girls. Facilities that will allow women and girls to play AFL again at Zillmere because they led the way years ago in encouraging girls to play AFL but they were knocked out of the competition entirely because Council’s facilities didn’t meet standards. So, they got $200,000 and we’re going to see the return of women’s and girls’ AFL at Zillmere Eagles. Guess where that funding came from? Not Council. State Government, of course.

 Now, I was there, I was there in late 2019 when the LORD MAYOR, this LORD MAYOR, went to the Brighton Bulldogs Soccer Club in my community. He stood up at the gala day and said he was going to fund a new changeroom for women’s and girls soccer at Brighton. That was four years ago that he promised to do that. He delivered $200,000, to his credit, which I supported. It’s not enough. So, four years has gone by, LORD MAYOR, since you—through you, Deputy Chair, went to that club and promised new facilities to encourage women and girls to play soccer. What has happened since then? Well absolutely nothing.

 So, to hear the LNP get up today and try and re-write history and re-write the Australian speech that the LORD MAYOR gave at the Matildas’ community reception is quite incredible. What they admitted today is that there is nothing new. They are just continuing with the status quo. There is nothing new on the table despite an extra $200 million in funding committed by the Federal Labor Government, but for a genuine legacy for that amazing tournament and that amazing show of community support for the Matildas, an extra $200 million from Labor and what do we get from the LNP? Crickets. Nothing.

 Not a thing for facilities that are Council owned and that we are putting the pressure on community sporting clubs to maintain let alone go and try and scratch together enough money to encourage women and girls to play sport. That is beyond disappointing and the LNP won’t get away with re-writing that history.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you, Acting Chair. I just want to—I’m going to stand up to speak about three things. There’s a negative first, which is the Northern Busway, the Councillor Fiona HAMMOND 11 and also the First Nations garden. So first of all, on the negative, the Northern Busway. Not only has it blown out from $53 million to $172 million out on the northside, in a cost-of-living crisis, it is destroying the local businesses out here. Before those opposite say it’s just about car yards, it’s not car—just car yards out there. Aldi is now affected, there’s lawyers, there’s engineers, I think there might even be a sewing shop that could be affected as well out there.

 But more importantly, they’ve taken away the left-hand slip lane on Kitchener Road onto Gympie Road. That is causing massive, massive amount of impact to the local streets in the northside. But this is quite scary, there was a fire. Some of you might have been following my Facebook and seen me talk about this. There was a fire in one of the car yards where one of the batteries blew up. When the firies came—two trucks, thank goodness—they’re hardworking firies—when they turned up to the car yard, first of all it was difficult—very, very difficult to get access and then when they tried to plug into the water to put the fire out, there was no water.

 So luckily, we had two fire trucks out there that had the water onboard to actually contain this fire. If Consign-A-Car, Yvette, as she rightfully said, if it happened across the road, it was a petrol station, there’d be a big hole in Kedron right now. It is absolutely disgusting that the State Government not only for 2.5 kilometres of road, have actually—destroying businesses, destroying the road network, but switching off water so they couldn’t turn off a fire. Big shout out to our firies, you do an amazing job. Also, the people on the north don’t call it, the Northern Busway—we call it, the Band-Aid Busway, because that’s exactly what it is.

 Next, the Councillor Fiona HAMMOND 11. On 17 September—thank you, Greg—Councillor ADERMANN, for being one of my umpires. You didn’t want to pick up a bat, but that’s okay. I will be bowling, and Councillor DAVIS will be out there batting for us.

But the best thing about this is it’s all inclusive. The one thing I really love about this game is we’ve got blind cricket playing, there’s two T20s (Twenty20) happening at Gibson Park at Stafford on the 17th—starting at 9.30, the Blind Bowlers—LORD MAYOR, you’ll be happy to know I’m not going to say what the announcement’s going to be, but I will speak about this again, but blind cricket—let me just put it this way—blind cricket has a rattle in the ball, which they roll, and whatever, but when they hit the ball and it goes flying through the air and stops, they can’t hear the ball. So, that just gives you a snippet of what the announcement might be on 17 September out at Gibson Park.

LORD MAYOR, I hope you can be there because it’s going to be a ripper. All the proceeds for the day go to my charity of choice—Michelle from Hearts of Purple, you do an amazing job, and she’ll be there selling merchandise. She also has a second shop which has great shoes, ladies, so if you ever want some great, cheap shoes that are brand new that gets donated, I recommend going down there and supporting this charity. They have raised over $100,000 on those 10 cent coins for their charity, and that was this year they have done that, so they are outstanding. They just don’t talk to the talk—they walk the walk.

The First Nations garden—everybody in this Chamber knows that I had a very big soft spot for Terry Hampson, who was the previous, previous Labor Councillor to myself out there in Marchant Ward. This man was outstanding. I want to let you know, Terry, that I’m—the late Terry OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia)—I’m continuing your vision with the First Nations garden out there at Huxtable Park.

A big shout out to Josh, who’s coming onboard. We’re getting new signage out there and we’re getting a yarning circle. I’m sure, Terry, if you were still with us, or maybe you’re looking down, and with deep pride, I am finishing your project and hopefully our schools to learn so much more about our First Nations people.

I support our First Nations people and always have. I was one of those lucky people—children who were brought up with a strong Indigenous education in our family. Not only was my father brought up with an Indigenous lady, but he also served as the Flying Doctors and did a lot of work for our community out there.

I’m absolutely privileged and honoured and, dad, I love you for it—that you taught us everything that you knew and passed on to us about the fabulous First Nations people and their culture, which runs very, very deep in our veins, and, again, dad, I am very, very proud of you. I can’t wait for this project to finish with the new signage. Sorry, Terry, I didn’t like your signage. I didn’t think it was very appropriate, but I love you, and it would’ve been appropriate at the time but that’s all getting changed now.

So, come on down. Everything’s happening in Marchant. If you are bored or looking for something to do on 17 September, again, come down and support all abilities cricket. Not only do you have fabulous players like Councillor DAVIS and I, my husband will be playing as well, but one young man on our team actually has half an arm and he is playing on our team.

We are playing our Indian community, now, I know they can be a bit competitive, so I have told them that my team is not regular players, so just tone it down for us a little bit and don’t smash me out with the ball when I do my bowling. I’ll be heading to the nets at Bradbury Park shortly to practice my bowling. I’d like to thank everybody involved in that one, and that is it. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor HAMMOND.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thank you. I rise to speak on three items of General Business, (1), about a petition I’ve launched, secondly, about The Nappy Collective, and (3), about a tragic incident that occurred in my community over the weekend. Firstly, I stand with my community and today, I’ve launched a petition in support of local residents to upgrade a very dangerous intersection in my community.

Residents have, for too long, experienced near misses, and recently a pedestrian injury at the corner of Barton and Hawthorne Roads in Bulimba. I stand with my community. I have launched this petition today, and I hope that the Administration will support my community’s calls for it to be upgraded. We have been calling on the Administration to do this for quite some time. I hope that they will finally listen.

 Secondly, too many families go without the basics when they are experiencing a crisis, and for many families, this means going without nappies. The Nappy Collective, this Father’s Day, are aiming to collect 400,000 nappies to support these families experiencing a crisis. They tell me that in Brisbane alone, they need to collect 10,000 nappies.

So, in my community, LoloPops Baby Gifts store, which is on Oxford Street, is a local collection point. I urge anyone who is able to donate, or a lot of parents, you’ve got spares because your kid grows out of them, if you have any spare, clean, unused nappies, please do drop them off. I particularly want to acknowledge Lola, who is the owner of LoloPops, for her incredible advocacy in this initiative.

Thirdly, I do need to acknowledge the very sad passing of a gentlemen this weekend in my community. Sorry. On the weekend, there was a very tragic incident in the tightknit community of Hawthorne, and sadly, a man has lost his life. It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the significant contribution that Mr Hugh Walker has made to the local community, and I particularly want to acknowledge his family and all of those who knew and loved Mr Walker. May he rest in peace.

I particularly want to give a plug to the St Peters Lutheran College, who were rallying around Hugh Walker’s wife, Julie, and have started a GoFundMe fundraiser. Losing not only your husband, but your home in one fell swoop is just a terribly tragic incident. Our community is very closeknit, and we will be reeling from this loss for a very long time.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise, this week, about two items tonight—the Colmslie Beach Party, and also, the Brisbane Kite Festival that was held last weekend. Last Sunday, thousands of Brisbane residents converged down to the Minnippi Parklands to celebrate a great day out with a simple, common goal to fly a kite. This event was organised by our local Balmoral, and Rotary—sorry, Balmoral and Carindale Rotary Clubs.

I want to say a massive thank you to Theo, Barry, Colleen, Hilary and Gareth. You sold the last six months of your life to make the Brisbane Kite Festival come to life, and it was an absolute pleasure to work alongside you and help wherever I could. I also wanted to thank the Carina Men’s Shed for all your help on the day to set up, and pack down, and in particular, with our traffic management. I don’t think any of us could have seen 1,500 cars converge within the five hours. It was a bit of a nightmare, but they did an incredible job. We’ve got a lot of lessons to learn, but certainly we look forward to next year.

It was our first year at the Minnippi Parklands, as the Murarrie Recreation Reserve, where it’s been held for the last 11 years, is undergoing extensive works as Brisbane City Council makes it the best cycling facility in Brisbane. But, Deputy Chair, I think we have certainly found our new home, and we won’t need to go back to the rec reserve as the kite flyers and the residents absolutely loved it. The kite flyers told us that they loved the big, open space, allowing them to get a number of their big kites up into the sky.

The residents also told us—so Kelly said, “I absolutely loved it, I think it is a much better venue than the old one—more shade, more areas, we’re separated from all the kites with a great selection of food.” Yes, parking and access from the Tingalpa side was tricky, but it was perfect from the Meadowlands side. Jessie said, “it was a great day out, much better set up than last year. We got in around 10am, and there was no troubles at all. Great job to the Rotary guys for organising such a great event. The food, altogether, and the kite flying was such a great event.”

Krysten said, “we had such a wonderful time. Our four-year-old looks forward to this event every year. We got in early and didn’t experience any queuing. We had our faces painted, kites purchased and flying, a sausage sizzle consumed, and snow cones devoured all before noon. Thank you, Lisa, and the Rotary Club, for putting on such a wonderful event.” So, again, thank you to the Balmoral and Carindale Rotary Clubs. It’s a shame the wind didn’t blow a gale like it did on Saturday, but all in all, it was great to see so many smiling faces on our Sunday at the Minnippi Parklands.

Now, to the Colmslie Beach Party. I want to say a massive, massive thank you. I think it’s no secret how much every single person in this Chamber loves the wonderful Andrew Ensbey.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: But once again, there were so many others who helped to deliver this amazing park upgrade, so I also want to acknowledge Paul Songhurst, who took over from Andrew as he went on long service leave; Shane, from CPO (City Projects Office) landscaping; David White, who was our sculptor, told me that he didn’t think anyone could be as OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) as him, but when he met Shane, he knew that there were going to be a perfect pair. He said “he was incredible to work with. I never thought I’d meet someone as OCD as Shane and getting every detail perfect made me so happy, so thank you, Shane, you were a pleasure to work with.”

I also wanted to mention Bassal, Sarah, Sapphire—I’m so sorry—Darryl and Monique, from our CPO team. Many of them came down to the Colmslie Beach Party on the Friday night, and together, it was incredible to watch the children play and interact with the different play elements and to see their faces light up as they figured out how to activate the different waterplay features, and it was so wonderful.

But I think the residents also had a fantastic night as we celebrated it with the LORD MAYOR. Jessica said, “we went there today. What an amazing upgrade and a beautiful space for nature play. Great for such a big range of ages. Absolutely loved the hidden sensor rocks with water effects”. Vanessa said, “the upgrade was very well done, very innovative, and clever. The atmosphere on Friday night was amazing”. Kylie said, “the revamp is so great. Thank you to everyone involved in making it happen. The kids are already desperately trying to get me to take them back”.

So, thank you, LORD MAYOR, for all of your support, and funding this incredible project. The Doboy Ward, and I’m sure the Chandler, and Morningside, and Wynnum Manly, and everyone on the eastside are absolutely loving it. I can’t wait to start working on the next park project, and the Doboy Ward thanks you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ATWOOD.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor STRUNK.

 Sorry.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Yes, you’re up first.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on four items, tonight. Two—sorry, three—well, actually—four events, actually—one coming up. Let me first start off with last Saturday, I was proud to accompany Labor’s candidate for Lord Mayor, Tracey Price, to the India Day Fair event at Roma Street Parklands. The reception was quite phenomenal, actually.

I’ve been to the India Day Fair a number of times, but people that we came across were really, really interested in what Tracey had to say, and they were coming up and asking lots and lots of questions. It was really warm, friendly, and again, I think one of the reasons why she made such an indelible—I can’t think of the word—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Impression—sorry—thank you very much, Councillor GRIFFITHS—is that she is a community person. She is an absolute community—outstanding community person, and you could just see when she was interacting with the people that she’d never met before, it was so easy, so comfortable, and so she’s going to be quite an outstanding—and she is an outstanding candidate for Lord Mayor. I’m so looking forward to being part of her administration in the—after the election in 2024.

 Let me say, the India Day Fair—as I say, I’ve been there a number of times and this year was an exceptional year, I believe, and it certainly was in regards to the entertainment, but the weather was just unbelievably good, right—very, very good. Even when we were sitting in some parts of the stadium—we were sitting in the sun—it was still quite comfortable.

 As I say, there was—all three levels of government were there in attendance, so was the respect of those—of the three levels of government for this FICQ (Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland) group that actually puts this together every year. I think they were expecting up to around about 18,000 people over the day, and I’m sure they achieved that because the stalls were just filled. You had to wait in line, and it was just a wonderful, wonderful day. It went very, very quickly actually, because you were having such a great time.

 The other couple of events—certainly, the Vietnam Services Day at Wacol in Boundary Road—the Nashos site where the Forest Lake Sub Branch undertook the service for the Vietnam vets—what a great turnaround it was. They filled the chapel onsite, and they had a barbeque and everything afterwards as well with a few drinks, as servicemen—ex-servicemen like to have a drink every now and then.

 I thought I was going there for probably about an hour or so, but I sat down, and we started talking, and about two and a half hours later, right, I decided I better go home because I had a big a big day the following day. But it was a really respectful and well-delivered service on behalf of the Forest Lake Sub Branch, and I thank Steve Ford and Sharon Ford, who arranged—along with their community, they arranged the service for a wonderful group—our Vietnam veterans.

 Let me also speak about the new turf wickets at Phillip Place there at Forest Lake. As Councillor OWEN mentioned, the opening of those turf wickets are a great achievement by the—well, of course, on behalf—well, actually the lease for this site of the course is through the Wasps Rugby Union Club, and of course, the Super Kings have taken up a sublease on that and they’ve done some wonderful, wonderful work. There’s a lot that still needs to be done, and Councillor OWEN and I spoke about that on the weekend.

Now, the first thing is that we’ve got to put up a retaining fence near a creek so that the cricket balls don’t run into the creek because I didn’t know how expensive those cricket balls are now—$50 each, and you don’t want to sort of lose too many of those. So, that’s one thing that’s number one on my list—is to try to stop that loss of their resources, initially.

But we also have to do something about other infrastructure within that—within the—on that oval, and certainly one of the ones that they would love to have—and it won’t probably happen in a couple of years—is more lighting for that field. That’s a big cost. It’s a big ask, and we’ll just have to hunt around and find that pool of money that can actually support that. So, I made a commitment that I would continue to work with them, right, to achieve what they wanted to achieve.

 Finally, the Forest Lake Festival is this Saturday. Again, our candidate for Lord Mayor, Tracey Price, will be with me. It’ll be a huge event this year. This is the third year, and this year we actually had to close a road to expand it, because it’s—it starts at about two o’clock and finishes at stumps at 8pm with a big fireworks display over the lake, which is just phenomenal. I’ve seen fireworks on the lake over the years, and it’s just such a treat to actually watch that—the reflection on the water with the fireworks, and everything.

 But I just want to—Kylie, who oversees this particular project, and her committee, with the support—huge support from the Heritage Community Bank—this is the third year, and it just keeps growing year after year after year, and I just—we’re so looking forward to it. It looks like the weather’s going to be good, so I just hope the BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) is right, and we should have a really, really great day. So, if you haven’t got anything on this Saturday between 2pm and 8pm—even if you come for the fireworks at eight o’clock, it’ll be a real treat for the kids. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you. I stand to speak on two items—the Kiosk at Boundary Road, and also the Kurilpa Derby. The Kiosk on Boundary Road is a Council-run—well, it’s a Council ward facility that is run by community plus West End Community House. It plays a really, really important role, particularly for First Nations people in People’s Park. Unfortunately, this Council facility is incredibly rundown and isn’t always available for operation, from challenges with the roller doors that have injured volunteers, all the way to sewerage issues with the toilets.

It’s got an important role to play in West End. It’s the positive effects from what Kylie and the team from West End Community House do in that space, have flow on effects throughout that whole road, and while I have heard that there was some plans for design upgrades to the Kiosk, I’m yet to see them, and I’m hopeful that this Council will look at investing, particularly in that really important role for First Nations people that it plays in investing and upgrade and look at this Kiosk.

 Secondly, I’d like to speak about the Kurilpa Derby, which is happening on 10 September. Brought to the community by the amazing West End Community Association (WECA), a group of avid volunteers that deliver this festival, that is a combination of food stalls, performances, and community-based races where everyone gets dressed up. Obviously, everyone is welcome.

It is exciting to have the Derby back. It’s an incredible part that demonstrates the culture of West End, and I am very much looking forward, and I’d like to thank Harmony, in particular, for the role that she’s playing, and if you’d like to volunteer, please just check out the WECA website. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

 Further speakers?

 Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Thank you. I rise to speak on two topics of General Business. The first is the Hear and Say charity auction with the Quota Club of Wynnum Manly and Vietnam Veterans’ Day. On Friday night, I had the immense pleasure of participating in Quota’s Hear and Say charity auction, hosted at the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre. Not only did we come together and raise over $9,000 just in auction sales—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: It was good—but we also were treated to an unforgettable budgie smuggler fashion show, which, trust me when I say, it was a class A performance. What truly touched my heart, though, was witnessing the generosity that was shown in that room, not only by those bidding on classic rocky road recipes and Broncos jerseys and celebrating women and sport, but also the busboys who get shipped down every year on a party bus.

I never miss an auction. My son had stolen my paddle and was bidding on two particular toys, and he was outbid by these busboys who then handed the prizes over to my son. It really did leave my son speechless, which was—anyone who knows him knows that’s an accomplishment in on itself. I want to congratulate Quota on an absolutely amazingly successful auction, and I cannot wait to be a part of it next year. I really do value the positive impact that you have on our area.

The second item of General Business is Vietnam Veterans’ Day. Now, I’d like to thank Councillor OWENS for eventually making it down to our service just in time for her photo op, and I’d like to thank—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WHITMEE: I wasn’t attacking, I—through you, Chair, I wasn’t attacking—I was thanking her for making an appearance.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, I think you may need to readdress that. Please continue and address any other people through the Chair, please.

Councillor WHITMEE: Now, I’d like to thank the Bayside National Servicemen’s Association for including me in their very moving service in the morning, as well as the Wynnum RSL (Retired and Services League) and the Manly-Lota RSL, for inviting me along to their midmorning services as well. I also wanted to speak on Kenny Gant’s recording. This was truly eerie to hear knowing the horrors that he was about to face.

I highly recommend that everyone in this room gets a copy of the recording, and while you listen, remember that Kenny would be dead within weeks of this recording being made. No matter your views on service and war, it’s important that we continue to take the time to remember and acknowledge our forebearers sacrifice. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Madam Acting Chair. I rise to, tonight, talk about a couple of initiatives in Moorooka Ward that have been very successful. The first one I want to speak about is free koala walks. This is a first for Brisbane and has been just loved by residents since we initiated it in mid-June. The free koala walks have been done in conjunction with the Griffith Uni environment hub.

Basically, we’ve formed a partnership where the hub—or the environment hub—some students from Griffith Uni which actually take residents on a walk into the forest—into Toohey Forest, which is only—what—seven kilometres from here—into the forest to see happy, healthy, breeding koalas. It’s quite amazing to see koalas in their natural habitat and other wildlife and flora and fauna in their natural habitat.

I’ve just been amazed by the response we’ve had from residents from not only in Brisbane, but outside of Brisbane, who are coming along to these walks and really enjoying it. I’ve spoken about the amazing opportunity with Griffith Uni before. They have an environment hub that was set up 40 years ago, and it was set up for the purpose of doing—of looking at urban bushland or preserving urban bushland in our city environments. To think 40 years ago that was a topic—that’s a topic that we are just now really discovering. I think they’re a world leader in that. They’re certainly doing a brilliant job, and it’s been amazing to work so well with them.

I’d like to thank Dr Wade, I’d like to thank Leah, and I’d also like to thank Brad for the work they’ve done with me, and also the ambassadors—the eco ambassadors who are students from Griffith Uni, who are actually leading residents on those walks. I’ve received nothing but positive comment from the hundreds of residents who’ve done that.

 Which leads me to the second initiative we’ve got coming up, and it will be on Sunday 8 October. We’ll be doing an evening event around koalas, jazz, and blues. It’ll be a bit of a festival at Griffith Uni. It will be in the car park, so it’s—and in the EcoCentre. For those of you who use the South East Freeway, as you’re driving through along the South East Freeway, you’ll see two natural areas that you go through. This will be in one of those natural areas, and you enter that space, and you’d swear you’re in the middle of an incredible forest—not anywhere in Brisbane.

Really, what we’re hoping for that event is to be a mellow event, is to be an event that people come along, get the opportunity to see wildlife, see native flora and fauna, and see what incredible wildlife we have in our city. Really looking forward to that event. I was disappointed, I reached out to the Administration, I was disappointed they didn’t want to be involved in either of those events.

The next thing I’d like to talk about is koala fencing. We’ve had success with putting koala fencing and flora and fauna fencing in along the South East Freeway. What was raised with me by residents when we did a koala forum—we did a wildlife forum, was that they want to see better fencing. They want to see more fencing in other parts of Brisbane so that our wildlife isn’t being lost. Certainly, the experts who were there were saying this is the way to go.

Now, I know we’ve just received money, or we’re in the process of receiving money from the Federal Government to do an underpass on Toohey Road, and part of that underpass, it’s recommended to do fencing to actually stop the wildlife going onto Toohey Road. So, it can be done, it should be done, and we’ll certainly—I’ll be pushing for it to be done along Toohey Road. I’d be interested in citing some of the evidence or the advice, and certainly, I know the community would be interested in citing some of the evidence and advice of saying you shouldn’t fence roads. It would be interesting to see that.

We’ve got coming up this weekend, in Moorooka, the Moorooka Family Fun Day, which is a—has been an event that’s been going on for over 25 years now. It draws in thousands of people. We run in conjunction with the Lions. We have a lot of free activities, and it’s a really lovely afternoon that the community gets involved in—a really chilled out event and always love having a stall there and having a chat to residents who come along that day.

Then, on International Dog Day, we’re going to have a Puppypalooza, and the Puppypalooza will be held at the bowls club at Moorooka, and once again, that’s a fantastic day. Bring your dogs along, come along, have a drink, have a bite to eat, and show off your pup. Molly and I will be there as well, and I know Molly’s really looking forward to that activity as well. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

 Any further speakers?

 As there is no further business, I declare the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (received on 17 August 2023)**

**Q1.** What was the cost to Council for each of the live sites set up at King George Square and the Riverstage for the FIFA Women’s World Cup semi-final between Australia v England held on 16 August 2023?

**Q2.** How many community groups are on the wait list for leases of Council-owned spaces?

**Q3.** How many calls and emails were received by Council in relation to the recent LGIP / LTIP letters?

**Q4.** List the current membership of all Brisbane City Council Boards (including any remuneration paid to those members) for 2022/23 and 2023/24 year to date.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Trina Massey (from meeting on 15 August 2023)**

**Q1.** How many properties in Brisbane are currently being used for a ‘Transitory Accommodation Purpose’?

***A1.*** *990 properties have been identified as being transitory accommodation as of 11 August 2023.*

**Q2.** How many properties in each council ward are classified under ratings category ‘23 - Transitory Accommodation’? (Please provide a breakdown by ward)

**Q3.** How many properties in each council ward are classified under ratings category ‘24 - CTS Transitory Accommodation’? (Please provide a breakdown by ward)

***A2 and A3.***

| ***Transitory Accommodation by Ward as at 11 August 2023*** |
| --- |
| ***Ward*** | ***Category 23*** | ***Category 24*** |
| *BRACKEN RIDGE* | *4* | *1* |
| *CALAMVALE* | *8* | *1* |
| *CENTRAL* | *10* | *338* |
| *CHANDLER* | *11* | *1* |
| *COORPAROO* | *10* | *15* |
| *DEAGON* | *39* | *4* |
| *DOBOY* | *6* | *3* |
| *ENOGGERA* | *9* | *6* |
| *FOREST LAKE* | *9* | *4* |
| *HAMILTON* | *11* | *38* |
| *HOLLAND PARK* | *6* | *0* |
| *JAMBOREE* | *4* | *0* |
| *MACGREGOR* | *10* | *8* |
| *MARCHANT* | *6* | *8* |
| *MCDOWALL* | *4* | *3* |
| *MOOROOKA* | *10* | *6* |
| *MORNINGSIDE* | *14* | *23* |
| *NORTHGATE* | *7* | *4* |
| *PADDINGTON* | *33* | *33* |
| *PULLENVALE* | *6* | *0* |
| *RUNCORN* | *7* | *0* |
| *TENNYSON* | *13* | *9* |
| *THE GABBA* | *9* | *177* |
| *THE GAP* | *7* | *1* |
| *WALTER TAYLOR* | *8* | *20* |
| *WYNNUM-MANLY* | *17* | *9* |

**Q4.** In the 2022-23 financial year, how much rates revenue was collected from Transitory Accommodation properties?

***A4.*** *$788,897.82.*

**Q5.** Approximately how much rates revenue does Brisbane City Council expect to collect from Transitory Accommodation properties in the 2023-24 financial year?

***A5.*** *Properties can move between rating categories relative to their use. Therefore, an accurate revenue forecast is unable to be determined.*

**Q6.** What is the overall capacity of the Brisbane Business Hub?

***A6.*** *Approximately 390 people.*

**Q7.** How many individuals currently make use of the Brisbane Business Hub?

**Q8.** How many businesses currently make use of the Brisbane Business Hub?

***A7 and A8.***

 *This information varies on a day-to-day basis.*

**Q9.** What is the wait time for individuals to get a space in the Brisbane Business Hub?

***A9.*** *The Brisbane Business Hub is a drop-in facility. The information requested can vary on a day-to-day basis.*

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (from meeting on 15 August 2023)**

1. Please advise how many fines have been issued for dogs off leash in Toohey Forest.

***A1.*** *This question cannot be answered without the request of a specific timeframe.*

1. Please provide a list of stalls / pop-ups / activations etc. in King George Square, including date, fees, and the name and details of the business/organisation for the 2020/21 financial year.
2. Please provide a list of stalls / pop-ups / activations etc. in King George Square, including date, fees, and the name and details of the business/organisation for the 2021/22 financial year.
3. Please provide a list of stalls / pop-ups / activations etc. in King George Square, including date, fees, and the name and details of the business/organisation for the 2022/23 financial year.
4. Please provide a list of stalls / pop-ups / activations etc. in King George Square, including date, fees, and the name and details of the business/organisation for the 20203/24 financial year to date.

***A2 to A5.***

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

1. What is the timeframe in which enquiries entered into the Customer Relationship Management System must be responded to and what percentage of the enquiries in each three categories are responded to in this timeframe?

***A6.*** *There is no specific timeframe. Timeframes are set by different work areas of Council and can vary depending on the nature of the enquiry. For example, a request for information can be answered during the initial call, and a request for service will be logged with the relevant work unit, with the timeframe depending on the nature and complexity of the job.*

1. How many Requests for Information (RFI), Requests for Advice (RFA), or Requests for Service (RFS) have been received in relation to flooding or drainage in Doboy Ward in the following period - February 2022 – July 2023, broken down by month and by suburb?

***A7.*** *Council officers have advised that suburb data for Requests for Information cannot be identified. Only whole suburbs in the Doboy Ward have been provided.*

*Requests for Service is a request for Council to perform an action which includes, but is not limited to, on-site inspections, maintenance, repair work, cleansing, construction, and compliance investigations relating to private or public development. The data below also includes multiple contacts on the same issue, as well as follow up contacts on existing jobs.*

|  | *Cannon Hill* | *Carina* | *Hemmant* | *Murarrie* | *Tingalpa* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *February 2022* | *22* | *36* | *20* | *13* | *47* |
| *March 2022* | *23* | *11* | *17* | *9* | *7* |
| *April 2022* | *10* | *7* | *10* | *7* | *12* |
| *May 2022* | *9* | *22* | *14* | *11* | *21* |
| *June 2022* | *8* | *9* | *9* | *2* | *13* |
| *July 2022* | *1* | *7* | *10* | *9* | *12* |
| *August 2022* | *12* | *6* | *11* | *14* | *15* |
| *September 2022* | *16* | *12* | *10* | *5* | *10* |
| *October 2022* | *9* | *18* | *9* | *13* | *22* |
| *November 2022* | *10* | *23* | *7* | *8* | *11* |
| *December 2022* | *3* | *13* | *6* | *6* | *8* |
| *January 2023* | *16* | *17* | *13* | *15* | *18* |
| *February 2023* | *8* | *12* | *10* | *6* | *6* |
| *March 2023* | *9* | *13* | *12* | *5* | *13* |
| *April 2023* | *8* | *6* | *7* | *4* | *6* |
| *May 2023* | *11* | *10* | *10* | *12* | *14* |
| *June 2023* | *12* | *14* | *9* | *6* | *6* |
| *July 2023*  | *15* | *10* | *8* | *4* | *8* |

*Requests for Advice is a request to Council to provide specialist advice, whether verbal or written, from a particular business area about any Council service.*

|  | *Cannon Hill* | *Carina* | *Hemmant* | *Murarrie* | *Tingalpa* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *February 2022* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *March 2022* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *April 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *May 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *June 2022* | *0* | *4* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *July 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* |
| *August 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* |
| *September 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* |
| *October 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *November 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *December 2022* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *January 2023* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *February 2023* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *March 2023* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *April 2023* | *1* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *May 2023* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *June 2023* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *July 2023*  | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |

1. For Brisbane City Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan, what is the status of each action, deliverable and whether the timeline outlined for each will be met, and if not, why not?

***A8.*** *Of the 90 deliverables, 42 have been implemented, 44 are underway, and four are to commence. All deliverables are on track.*

1. Please advise the number of meetings held with stakeholders, including the dates of which they occurred, regarding the development of policies and procedures for the display of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Council owned and managed assets?

***A9.*** *Meetings with stakeholders regarding the development of policies and procedures have been held on the following dates:*

*19/10/2022, 16/12/2022, 16/01/2023, 17/02/2023, 21/04/2023, 08/05/2023, 08/06/2023, 17/07/2023, 21/07/2023, 04/08/2023 and 10/08/2023.*

1. How many responses (in total and by all accepted forms of response) to the Walkable Brisbane Strategy were received as of 27 July 2023?

***A10.*** *464.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 5.58pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

 **CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

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