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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4724 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 24 October 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 Chair  of Council)  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.

## APOLOGY:

Chair: Are there any apologies? No apologies.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmations of minutes, please, Councillor HUTTON.

**225/2023-24**

The Minutes of the 4723 meeting of Council held on 17 October 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 Clare JENKINSON.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**226/2023-24**

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you’ve got three minutes.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. I’d like to debate a motion first and foremost today at the start of this meeting, calling on the LORD MAYOR to come clean on why his budget has blown out by $400 million after just 12 weeks. So, 12 weeks ago, the LORD MAYOR said to us that his budget was one that planned for the rapid growth Brisbane was facing. That was his quote at the time, 12 weeks ago, but just one week ago, the LORD MAYOR told the people of Brisbane he needed to cut $400 million from that same budget. So, what we want to know today, right now, is why things went so wrong and how they went so badly wrong on Adrian SCHRINNER’s watch.

Now, he compared last week cuts of $400 million in a $4 billion budget to that of the average Brisbane household, which is an absolutely ridiculous assertion. To be as flippant as the LORD MAYOR was, blaming the blowout on—he said fuel, electricity, and some materials. Give us a break.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: It’s $400 million.

Chair: Point of—just one second, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, we just want to hear why he couldn’t put it on the notice paper. That’s all we want to hear here.

Chair: I’m tending to agree with you, Councillor MURPHY.

There’s been a week lapsed since those announcements. Councillor CASSIDY, can you please address why it’s not on the papers?

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s a great question.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: That is a great question, Chair. The LORD MAYOR should have put this on the agenda. Now, he had the agenda, which was released last week, but he also sent an amended agenda around yesterday at 4pm. Yesterday at 4pm, we waited to see what the LORD MAYOR was going to put on the agenda in terms of explaining why he is gutting $400 million in—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —suburban projects and services.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The agenda comes out on Thursday afternoon. This is not proving urgency.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY, you still have one minute and 15 seconds to make your case.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. We also got an agenda just 15 minutes before this meeting started. The LORD MAYOR could have put this on. So, the LORD MAYOR’s maths simply don’t add up. What the people of Brisbane want to know is why. They know the LORD MAYOR said that he’s going to cut $400 million from the budget and will demand to see where those cuts are, but they also want to know why. What went so wrong on this LORD MAYOR’s watch? Was it the Metro that’s blown out again? Was it Victoria Park? Is it the Green Bridge program? What has caused this $400 million cost blowout? Because it cannot simply be fuel and some rising costs that have occurred in a 12-week period. How did he get this so incredibly wrong? With these cuts that he has admitted, now means that services aren’t going to be delivered in the suburbs of Brisbane.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: They are his own words.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Surely, it’s an act of disorder to not follow your instructions to make it about the suspension urgency, relevance.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, can I draw you back to the reason why your motion that you wish to put on the agenda today is not on the papers as of yesterday, please?

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. That is a question the LORD MAYOR should answer right now in the debate on this motion, why he doesn’t think this is not the most important—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor CASSIDY: Why he—it’s 2.45, Chair.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY. Councillor CASSIDY, your time—

Councillor CASSIDY: My time has not expired.

Chair: You’ve got three minutes. You’ve just blown it. You’re 10 seconds over, according to my count.

Councillor CASSIDY: Why did that say 2.45? I paused the clock every time the LNP interrupted me.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I’ve got over three minutes here on mine. Can we put the—thank you.

We’ll now put the—Councillors, please.

We’ll now put the procedural motion.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 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, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair. Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**227/2023-24**

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

Chair: Three minutes, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. The decent thing for the LNP and the LORD MAYOR to have done in that previous suspension motion that I just moved would be to explain why the LORD MAYOR is cutting $400 million in suburban projects and services, but if he won’t do that, then he should at least come clean with the people of Brisbane about what he is going to cut to fund that $400 million blowout. So, the motion that I would like to debate is that the LORD MAYOR provide the ratepayers of Brisbane an itemised list of what services and projects will be cut to fund the LNP’s $400 million budget blowout. We’re at $12.8 million today. Tomorrow, that’ll be another 1.6, and then another $1.6 million the day after.

So, if he won’t tell us what mistakes he made getting us to here, he at least should be clear about what services and projects he’s going to cut in the suburbs of Brisbane, whether it’s going to be road resurfacing or park upgrades, drainage projects, safety lighting, bikeway and—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —footpath repairs, traffic calming—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor CASSIDY: —congestion-busting projects—

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, look, I’m just concerned that what we’re seeing here is a hijacking of the ordinary business of Council in order to have these fake urgency motions brought through.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, okay, Donald Trump.

Councillor MURPHY: We don’t even hear why they’re urgent.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Sit down, Donald Trump. Come on.

Councillor MURPHY: We just hear talking points and TikTok videos.

Chair: Councillors, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: There’s no point of order. Sit him down.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, that’s inappropriate and you know it.

Councillor CASSIDY: So is that.

Chair: I am dealing with this. You can control what you say, what you say in this place. That was inappropriate.

Councillor MURPHY, I don’t uphold your point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY, you have one minute, 20.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. So, if you add up every single project, every single small suburban project in the Council budget, in the Suburban Works Program, they come up to $430 million. All of those roads to be resurfaced in those LNP wards, all of those playground upgrades, all of those traffic—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY: —congestion projects and intersection projects—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, just one moment.

Councillor CASSIDY: —they will all be cut.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Again, a suspension of standing orders is to stop the standing orders of the day, and the three minutes is to tell us why, not to debate the motion he would like to debate if it’s suspended, why it’s urgent.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Hang on just one moment.

Councillor CASSIDY, can you just turn your mic off for a second, please? Thank you.

We are going to listen in silence, please. I cannot hear everybody talking when point of orders pop up. I cannot hear the person speaking. Silence, please.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: We think the people of Brisbane should know right now—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I just would like a ruling on my point of order, if he’s relevant to the suspension of standing orders.

Chair: Oh, my apologies, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY, I would draw you back to the reasons why the motion that you would like to put on was not put on the papers in a reasonable amount of time.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. Because the LORD MAYOR will not show leadership. The LORD MAYOR will not put this on the agenda. We got an amended agenda yesterday at 4pm, one again today at 12.45, and it doesn’t appear. So, we are taking the proactive step. We’re not going to be like LNP Councillors, just nodding along to these $400 million in cuts. What community grants and festival funding—is the Wynnum Fringe going to be cut from next year? What about Spooktacular Saturday over there in the Doboy Ward? Look, people want to know this information. Why won’t the LORD MAYOR give it to them?

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

We will now put the procedural motion before the Chamber.

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

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair: Councillors, I now call on Mr Tom Oliver, who will address the Chamber on the Wynnum Fringe Festival.

Mr Oliver, you have got five minutes. Please stand or feel free to take a seat, whichever you choose.

Your time will start from now.

**Mr Tom Oliver – Wynnum Fringe Festival**

Mr Tom Oliver: Mr Chair, LORD MAYOR and Councillors, thank you so much for having me today. How are you all going? It sounds quite tense in here, but it’s actually made me a little bit emotional in a really strange way, because about this time last year, my granddad passed away. He was heavily involved in local government in regional Queensland as a shire clerk, and he was even the President of the Shire Clerks of Australia Association for a couple of years, and him and my grandma would just be over the moon that I’m here in this beautiful building, especially with you, LORD MAYOR, talking about an event that I created. So, thanks very much for the opportunity.

I grew up as a creative dude in Brisbane and I thought that I needed to be anywhere else but here. Growing up, I wanted to move to Sydney or London or New York. Then COVID happened and I moved back in with my folks in Wynnum and started freeloading. I started this festival called the Wynnum Fringe Festival, and we’re now approaching our fourth year. In three short years, we have injected $2.5 million into the bayside economy. We have employed close to 1,000 arts workers and we have welcomed approximately 70,000 people into Brisbane’s bayside across three years. In three and a half weeks, we are approaching our fourth festival, from 15 November to 3 December.

This year’s line-up is huge. We have headliners like Marcia Hines and Daryl Braithwaite and Wil Anderson, Jimeoin, Rhonda Burchmore. We’ve got a whole Mini Fringe program for young people, which is headlined by local Brisbane hero *Bluey*, and Bingo, and every weekend from 10am ‘til 2pm, we’ve got this whole Mini Festival for young people. We are going to collaborate again with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation to enhance our First Nations program, which involves an opening ceremony in a First Nations zone, where you can have a yarn with an Elder. We’re also presenting the first ever Bay Pride, which is a pride event in Brisbane’s bayside which involves a march and queer business owners coming down with market stalls.

So, it’s 200 performances across three weeks, and it’s the biggest thing that’s ever happened in Brisbane’s bayside. I guess we’re here today because of the support of our sponsors, as well as you, the Council. Since day one, I remember going into Councillor HOWARD’s office and saying, ‘yo, I’ve got this crazy idea.’ Peter Cumming, and now Councillor WHITMEE, has been onboard from the start, as well as Councillor ATWOOD. I’m just so thankful for the support everyone in this room has shown me, and I’m really proud that we’re back for a fourth year. I’m here today representing my team, who are currently slaving away in the office in Wynnum, and also representing my family and the whole bayside community.

So, if there’s one thing that you could do after this meeting, I know everyone’s got some really gnarly networks in Brisbane and if you were to send a newsletter out to your constituents or post on social media and say that you found the perfect day trip in Brisbane for them from 15 November ‘til 3 December, I know the hundreds of artists that are about to swarm into the bayside will be very thankful. Thank you so much for your time today, and bloody love you, Brisbane.

Chair: Sorry, Tom, you don’t get away that easy, mate.

Councillor HOWARD, can I call on you to respond, please?

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

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you. Yes, Tom, you don’t get away that easy because you get to listen to me. I want to say a huge thank you to Tom. It is an absolute pleasure to have you here today, just as it’s been an absolute pleasure to work with you in supporting Wynnum Fringe Festival all the way through. I know how much time, effort and hard work you personally have put into making this a reality, and what a wonderful reality it has become. Now one of the most anticipated events on Brisbane’s calendar, Wynnum Fringe continues to get better and better every year. I want to remind everyone here in the Chamber that Tom established Wynnum Fringe Festival during the pandemic, with the first one being delivered in November 2020. Not only did it provide an incredible opportunity for struggling artists, but also a tremendous boost to the local businesses during a really, really tough time.

Now, I have warned Councillor WHITMEE that she has a hard act to follow in Councillor Cumming, who used to wear his T-shirt very regularly and he would stand up very regularly and tell us what was happening at the Fringe. I know that Peter Cumming, Councillor WHITMEE, Alex Givney, my sister, my brother‑in‑law, my nephew, everybody in Wynnum can hardly wait for this event to start because it has become such an iconic event for the bayside. We think that Wynnum Festival is just one of the many ways in which you, Tom, are working to enrich Brisbane and the thriving arts and entertainment scene, who did do it really tough during the pandemic. From that pandemic, not only have you produced the Wynnum Fringe that is just loved by all, but it also has seen other artists come home and other artists enrich Brisbane and make our city the beautiful place that it is to live.

On behalf of the whole Schrinner Council, I want to thank you, Tom, and I want to say that Brisbane truly is lucky and ever so grateful to claim you as one of our own. We look forward to continuing to work with you long into the future. Thank you, Tom.

Chair: Councillors, please thank Tom Oliver for coming in today.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Councillors, are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or Civic Cabinet Chair of any Standing Committee?

Councillor HUANG.

**Question 1**

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, the housing crisis gripping this city remains one of the biggest challenges we face as a growing city. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest offering available to housing providers, both private and public, to help get more homes onto the market?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor HUANG, for the question, and yes, absolutely. The housing crisis continues to be a major concern right across the community, as is cost of living. Two big issues right now, housing, cost of living and they’re two issues that we are actually moving forward on to reduce costs. When it comes to our budget, we’re reducing spending by a sensible amount, 10%, to keep the costs down for residents. That will have flow-on effects down the track to make sure that they pay less. It makes sure that there’s not ongoing pressure and that we keep the lowest rates in South East Queensland, as we have now. We made that commitment when we delivered a rate increase of 3.45% on average, less than half of the rate of inflation, so we’re working to keep costs down, but the other area we’re focused on is delivering more housing and reducing the costs of building housing.

Now, the reality is, our community is growing faster than it has in decades. There is more and more demand coming on, but costs are killing projects when it comes to housing. Cost pressures are real, and everybody knows it. Now, the Leader of the Opposition may be scratching his head and not realise that cost pressures are real. It’s not just Council or the State Government facing these cost pressures, it’s everyone across the community, including the people that build homes, especially them. On average, they deliver 4,000 new apartments in Brisbane a year. Right now, we saw in the last 12 months only 724 delivered. Is that because there’s no demand? Is that because the demand suddenly dried up? No, it’s because of cost pressures, because the costs of building things have increased significantly and makes so many projects unviable.

We’re stepping in to help. We’re stepping in to make projects more viable by reducing costs so that more homes can be built. This morning, I was out with Brisbane Housing Company (BHC) at Chermside, where they are about to build—they’ve started work—92 new homes, half of which will be social homes and half of which will be affordable homes. Forty-six social homes, 46 rent-controlled affordable houses.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor—

Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor CASSIDY thinks this is some kind of joke, which is a real shame. It’s a real shame—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —but what we will see here is a reduction in charges on this Brisbane housing development of new homes—92 new homes of almost $1 million. That is something that makes a significant difference to the cost of new housing. It allows Brisbane Housing Company to do more. It will allow other providers to do more. So, today, we bring forward real changes that will bring down the cost of housing. Now, it was quite interesting to see Labor try to cobble together a response to the housing crisis after being caught out opposing homes left, right and centre. Tens of thousands of homes for years that they’ve opposed, they’ve voted against and, suddenly, they’ve decided they need a policy. What was that policy? A big new tax on housing, a big new tax on housing, a new tax on housing.

Only a Labor-Green coalition of chaos could ever think that you’ll solve the housing crisis with a big new tax, but that’s exactly what they put forward. It is unbelievable. It is absolutely unbelievable that—I mean, my 11-year-old daughter knows that if you increase the price of something, the price is not going to go down. It’s basic. If you put a new tax on a product, the price of the product is not going to go down. An 11-year-old understands that, but apparently, not Labor and the Greens. This is something that should be of concern to everyone across Brisbane. They have opposed sensible savings to keep rates down, and now they’re opposing initiatives to keep the cost of housing down.

What’s the alternative? More taxes. That’s Labor’s alternative, more taxes. We know the Greens love taxes, there’s no question about that, but you know what? Labor has pinched the Greens’ policy on housing, which is the solution to every problem, according to the Greens, is a big new tax, a tax on everything.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Oh yes, there’s a lot of those around. Yes, there’s heaps of those around, yes. We’ve just heard Councillor MASSEY confirm that the solution to every problem is a new tax. Apparently, it’s only billionaires that they’re taxing—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —but what about all the—

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —mum and dad investors that they’re going to tax?

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Councillors, there’s a lot of chatter. Can I remind you that Question Time will be heard in silence, please? Both for the questions and for the answers.

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

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

The LORD MAYOR has said that you fully support the $400 million worth of cuts the LNP is making to the budget. The employees of Brisbane City Council deserve answers. How many casual staff, like bus drivers, library workers or frontline employees, will you sack?

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair, and thanks to Councillor COLLIER for the question. Mr Chair, as I have outlined in this place before and as the LORD MAYOR has been very clear, upfront and transparent, we are making the sensible savings now so that residents don’t pay more later.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: When it comes to job security for Council employees, Mr Chair, let me share some things with the Chamber, because the only people who are stoking fear among Council employees and Council casuals is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: That’s right. Thank you, Councillor HAMMOND. It’s Councillor CASSIDY and his comrades, because it’s really important, I think, that we inform the Chamber of what the Services Union have said to their members and shared publicly on their website. I’ll give you a direct quote, Mr Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: We do not call out across the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. We do not call out across the Chamber.

Councillor CASSIDY, I’m assuming you’re rising on a point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thank you, Chair. Just on relevance, the question was which staff the LNP are going to sack, not what appears on a website of a union.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: It was a very specific question.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, to the question, please.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr Chair. As I was saying, I want to inform the Chamber of what the Services Union has said to employees and has—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order—

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: I’ve got five minutes to answer the question.

Chair: Point of order—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: I mean, what’s the problem?

Chair: Councillors, stop. Stop.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. On relevance, the question was about how many staff this Administration is going to sack, not what the Services Union said.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Councillor CUNNINGHAM does have five minutes to answer the question.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: As I was saying, Mr Chair, if they would let me get the words out, this is what the Services Union has said, “it’s times like these that it’s important to remind yourself and your colleagues that you have a fantastic EBA (enterprise bargaining agreement) that is absolutely focused on job security”. This is from the Services Union themselves.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Let me continue, “it also includes comprehensive processes to deliver redeployment where that is necessary and guarantee no forced retrenchment”. We have been very clear in—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance, the question was about casual staff.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I’ve spoken to three casuals who have now been sacked.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Can we have a bit of silence, please? I cannot hear Councillor CASSIDY speak.

Councillor CASSIDY: Three casuals were called and sacked after the LORD MAYOR’s announcement so far. The question was how many casuals is this Administration going to sack, not about the EBA, not about what the union says. It’s a very clear question.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM does have two and a half minutes, effectively, to answer the question.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. So, we’ve heard what the Services Union has said. Why are they so completely focused—this is the Leader of the Opposition and his comrades—on fostering a sense of insecurity amongst hardworking Council staff? Because they are focused on their own job security, that’s why, Mr Chair. All they can focus on is their own job security.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Now, when it comes to casuals—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor CUNNINGHAM. Just one moment.

Councillor COLLIER, we are not going to yell across the Chamber. Let me make that very clear. Do that again and I will give you a warning.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Chair. So, when it comes to casuals, it’s important to remind everyone in this place that Council has just a very, very small proportion of casuals when you exclude our bus drivers. In fact, it’s around two per cent of our overall workforce, Mr Chair. Casual bus drivers are a key part in the delivery of our bus services, and we have said very clearly that there will be no changes to these services as part of our savings drive. They continue to mischief-make, Mr Chair. They are focused on their own job security and spreading fear and innuendo amongst Council employees, and they should be ashamed of themselves. What we are doing is making the sensible savings now so that people don’t pay more for their rates later on.

Now, other governments might respond to this by massively increasing taxes, as we have heard, or increasing, I know, coal royalties. Well, guess what, Mr Chair? Brisbane City Council doesn’t have coal royalties. We can’t open the bottom drawer and introduce a new tax. We are a level of government that delivers service and we need to make sensible savings, within our envelope, to make sure that residents don’t pay more later, and that is exactly what this LORD MAYOR is doing and he has my full support. Quite frankly, Mr Chair, the Opposition should be ashamed of themselves. All they are concerned about is their own job security.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor HAMMOND.

**Question 3**

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the Chair of City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN, we have just heard from the LORD MAYOR about the importance of facilitating the creation of new housing. Can you please update the Chamber on the Schrinner Council’s housing supply action plan, and are you aware of any other alternative plans?

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

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you, Councillor HAMMOND, for the question. Mr Chair, we have just heard from the LORD MAYOR about our latest housing supply incentive, and whilst it is clear this side of the Chamber is pulling every lever available to help address the housing crisis—and I would note that we have nine years of potential supply. The Labor-Green coalition of chaos continues to oppose and impede more housing supply. Mr Chair, just over the weekend, Labor announced its first major policy and their plan to address housing supply across Brisbane. Under their plan, the way they intend to increase housing supply is by making it more difficult and costly. Their plan includes penalising and imposing further costs on the building and construction industry, the very industry that builds 96% of new homes across the city.

We know the industry is facing challenges such as increasing material costs, labour shortages, increased labour costs and supply chain disruptions, and instead of understanding the challenges and looking at ways to reduce these impacts, the Labor Party wants to add fuel to the fire. The Green-Labor coalition of chaos’ plan for a big new tax on housing in the middle of a housing crisis is reckless and absurd. You can only imagine the follow-on impacts, not only to the industry, but also the long-term impacts to housing stock across the city if further costs were added to projects. The only thing the Green-Labor coalition of chaos’ big new tax on housing will achieve will be to drive up costs for buyers and renters right across Brisbane.

Mr Chair, the announcement was chaotic at best, and lacked detail and a basic understanding of the housing industry and the challenges in Brisbane. This side of the Chamber raised 14 questions about their poorly developed and misinformed policy that remain unanswered, but for the benefit of the Chamber, I’ll read them again and you can decide if this is just an embarrassing Labor thought bubble. So, number one, who would face fines—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Number one, who would face fines for not being able to build? Two, how much are these fines? Three, is the fine regime even legal? Have they got legal advice? Would State legislation changes be needed? Has the Planning Minister Steven Miles agreed to these changes? Are there fines for—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor ALLAN: Yes, he does indeed. Are there fines for vacant land, vacant approved land, vacant approved residential land? We don’t know. What size land would be part of the fine regime? A single, suburban home lot? What if labour and supply shortages caused the building delay? Is there a way to apply to avoid a fine in certain circumstances? How long would land need to be vacant before the fine is issued? What if the owner doesn’t want to build and they face a fine? What is the impact on that? What low-density suburbs are the Green-Labor coalition of chaos proposing to allow much higher density? Will the neighbourhood planning process be dumped and residents robbed of their rights?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor ALLAN: How high will the—

Chair: Just one moment. Just one moment, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MASSEY.

I have already stipulated that we are going to listen to the answers in silence as well as the questions.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. How high will the Green-Labor coalition of chaos allow development in low density residential suburbs? What input do the Greens have in drafting this policy?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor ALLAN: Lastly, given the Green-Labor coalition of chaos opposed 10,000 homes in Kurilpa, do they support further sprawl and traffic congestion and less greenspace? Mr Chair, these are all reasonable questions. Despite the lack of detail, there is no doubt that Labor’s plan is misguided and naive.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor CASSIDY, point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes. Does the—am I to answer these questions now?

Chair: No, no.

Councillor CASSIDY: Sorry, I misunderstood what Question Time was. Sorry, I thought they were all questions to us, hey? Whoops.

Chair: So, I’m assuming this is not a point of order. You can resume your seat.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. We are going to stop, right now.

Councillor ALLAN, you’ve got the call.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair, and while the Labor-Green coalition will continue to oppose housing supply across the city, we will continue to get on with the job and progress the initiatives and actions from our housing strategies. These include implementing the Kurilpa Sustainable Growth Precinct, which I note is supported by the State Labor Government. So, they are opposing Kurilpa, but happy to pursue high-density development in Brisbane’s low-density suburbs. Number two, our suburban renewal program and transition of over 70 hectares of land that will deliver mixed-use outcomes in communities, whilst delivering additional housing supply. A citywide review of major centres, the Short-Stay Accommodation Taskforce, facilitating subtropical design, and also looking to establish a framework that encourages build-to-rent housing and incentivising that housing.

Mr Chair, this Administration is getting on with supporting initiatives that will bolster housing supply while those opposite—

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 4**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, Councillor WINES.

The LORD MAYOR has said that you fully support the $400 million in cuts the LNP is making to the budget. The people of Brisbane deserve answers. What will be cut in your program area? Will it be local congestion-busting projects in Mitchelton, intersection upgrades in Wavell Heights or safe school travel infrastructure in Kedron, or many, many other places? Councillor WINES, will you come clean today and confirm which infrastructure projects will be cut?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair, and can I thank Councillor CASSIDY for his question. As the LORD MAYOR has announced last week, Council will be reducing spending in response to the inflation crisis to make sure that we keep costs down for Brisbane residents. The Council-wide review is underway to identify the savings across the organisation. We’re going to spend less, so residents do not have to pay more. With costs rising, governments have a very clear choice between reducing spending or increasing prices, and we won’t shy away from these tough decisions to ensure that our budget stays balanced and we keep the costs for residents down.

The destructive Green-Labor coalition has opposed every proposal, meaning their only option will be to tax Brisbane residents harder and harder.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Chairman, I seek your ruling on this issue. There have been no proposals put forward to this Council, and every time someone has attempted to put one up, the LNP have voted it down. That is imputing motive, it is a direct—

Chair: Sorry, what’s your point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: That is a procedural breach of the rules. It is untrue. It’s imputing motive on other Councillors, and it’s just a ridiculous statement to make when no proposals have been brought here to consider. It’s untrue. It’s untrue, it’s imputing motive.

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

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. Just in response to Councillor JOHNSTON’s statement, let’s not forget that the Labor Councillors in this place have an unfunded $100 million footpath proposal which means a five to 10% rate increase for each and every household in this city to be able to fund that. That’s a live proposal. That is a standing tax increase that Councillor CASSIDY and his team are putting forward at next year’s election. Don’t you forget, Mr Chair, that the number one housing policy that the Labor Party has put forward has been a tax on vacant land, taking new taxes to a new level. As they say, if it moves, tax it; if it doesn’t move, shove it so you can tax it, but how do you tax vacant land? This is a proposal that the Labor Councillors have put forward in this place—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor WINES.

Point of—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, just on relevance—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor CASSIDY, my apologies.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance, the question was about which infrastructure projects Councillor WINES is proposing to cut. He’s been talking about State-based taxes, all sorts of—

Chair: Yes, thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: —things other than in response to the question.

Chair: Thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WINES, can I draw you back to the question, please?

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. It was indicated, as Councillor ALLAN just said, there’s a question mark over whether Councillor CASSIDY could, in fact, tax vacant land, as he proposed on the weekend. He just told us that he intends to get the State to do it for them.

Councillor COLLIER: Chair, point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Just on relevance, this has absolutely nothing to do with the question and I ask that you draw the Chair back to answering the actual question.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor WINES, I do draw you back to the question.

Councillor WINES: No, thank you, Mr Chair, and as you would well know, my responses were made in both response to Councillor JOHNSTON’s statements about me and Councillor CASSIDY’s statements about me. They were responses to those particular mentions—

Chair: Understood.

Councillor WINES: —of me that were made through this Question Time. As I say, the Green-Labor coalition has opposed every plan, meaning their only option is to raise taxes, and that is something that they have announced—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. I draw your attention to—

Chair: Sorry, point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I draw your attention to the Meetings Local Law. It says that questions cannot be debated. It says that questions must be answered. I and other Brisbane residents—

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —want to know which infrastructure projects are being cut. Can you please ask the Chair to answer the question?

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor WINES, you have roughly less than 45 seconds remaining to respond to the question, please.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair, and I appreciate the amount of time left, which is why I think it’s important that we just respond to the principal question here. The thing is—and we’ve said this many times, I answered these questions in Committee last time to the relevant Councillors when they were there—but the Council-wide review is underway to identify the necessary savings to ensure that we keep rates low, to keep the pressure on households down, as was told to all Councillors last week. The answer is not going to change this week. That advice will be presented in the future as we go through the ordinary process, and that Councillors in this place will be—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you.

Chair: Your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 5**

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you. My question is to the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES, in General Business last week, there was a strange claim from the Councillor for Wynnum Manly about the Lindum open level crossing. Can you explain what’s actually happening at Lindum, so that Labor Councillors don’t get caught misleading our community?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Ah, thank you.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor WINES, before you start.

We’re going to hear the answer in silence, all right? Councillor WINES hasn’t even said anything and there’s already heckling coming from this side of the Chamber.

Councillor WINES.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. Thank you.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, that also included you.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. Look, we are talking today very quickly in response to Councillor ATWOOD’s question about the Lindum level rail crossing project. Now, Councillor ATWOOD has been a tremendous advocate for that community. Her ward oddly moves around and through that intersection, for the bulk of it to be included in Doboy Ward, and I know that she has been interested in that in a whole range of ways. We have, over the last few years, been working on two separate projects in the Lindum crossing area. There was the project which we’ve discussed in this place on the past, the initial make safe, which is this project here, which is complete.

It included a lengthening of the boom gate. It included new traffic arms to control the intersection at certain points, and it also included increased and improved road markings to ensure that people did not take on the lights. Now, we had two fatalities at this particular crossing in recent years, one a pedestrian, the other a motorist taking on a red light. That is now much more difficult for individuals to do, to ensure that they stay on the right side of the train line and stay safe, remembering that there is a very large school, the Iona College, not far from this location. Now, that’s work that this Council has done already.

Now, it’s important to remember that rail crossings belong to the State Government. They are a State Government jurisdiction issue, but the Federal Government has paid us to do these things, and with—we’ll call it somewhat of a level of cooperation with DTMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads), QR (Queensland Rail), we’ve been able to secure that outcome. What we’re working on now is a short-term signalisation, and this is what this project is, a second project in that area to try and make this crossing safer. As you can see, it’s a shortened crossing and it includes increased pedestrian options and it also includes some cycle options and some controlled turns.

That project has an approximate cost of $40 million, right? So, this Council has corresponded with the Federal Government and we’ve said, we’re prepared to go in for $10 million, so long as the State goes in for $10 million and the Federal Government goes in for $20 million, half of the project. Now, here is the problem. This project—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: —is within the 90-day review.

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, we do not call out across the Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. This project is within the Albanese Government’s 90-day review. Now, I’m sure that you’re all counting down to the end of the 90-day review. We are at day 187 of the 90-day review. We have been reliably told—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: We have been reliably told—

Chair: Councillor MARX.

Councillor WINES: —not to expect anything before December. So, we will not know whether the Federal Government will be upholding their commitment on that particular project until December. Now, the risk to that project is from the Albanese Government. Councillor WHITMEE, who has no history on this matter, has asked us—has tried to pin the Albanese Government’s cuts to infrastructure on us, and that is not true.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, if you are going to direct any comments to any other Councillor in this Chamber, you do it through the Chair.

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order.

Chair: Please sit down. I haven’t finished yet. We do not call out across the Chamber. Is that clear? Thank you. On your point of order.

Councillor WHITMEE: Imputing motive.

Chair: I don’t—

Councillor WHITMEE: I very clearly said the $10 million earmarked for that Lindum level crossing.

Chair: Councillor WHITMEE, you haven’t said anything.

Councillor WHITMEE: You’re referring to my statements, though.

Chair: Do not call out across the Chamber.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. Councillor WHITMEE attempted to accuse this Administration of being the risk to this project, and that is not at all the case. We have done one project already. We are so deep into the other project that we have already begun demolishing the houses next to the crossing in preparation for the work, but the risk remains that the Federal Government may cut this. Now, we know that Councillor WHITMEE is very heavily union connected, and I would ask her to use those connections to make sure that the Federal Government looks after this community. This area—their previous Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor HAMMOND, I’ll start with you. Don’t.

Councillor MURPHY, and I think it—correct me if I’m wrong, Councillor ALLAN. You didn’t say anything? My apologies, Councillor MURPHY. For once, you said nothing. It was somebody in that general direction.

Councillor WINES, you’ve got the call.

Councillor WINES: I can understand why Councillor WHITMEE would be concerned that someone other than the Brisbane City Council would do this project. We have intervened on the Beams Road open level crossing removal to make it safe for pedestrians, to make it safe for motorists, and to make it so that households near the crossing, the open parts they’re proposing, will not flood houses within the nearby area. That has been Council’s intervention. Now, when Council doesn’t intervene, we get things like this, the Coomera Connector, which is a State Government project which, as a result of their poor planning and no Brisbane City intervention because it’s on the Gold Coast, will have to be shut and rebuilt, coming off the brand-new housing estate. This is the sort of thing why an individual would not want the Queensland Government involved in major projects, and why Councillor WHITMEE is right to continue to pressure this Council to deliver the project, because you would be very afraid of the State Government’s ability to deliver such a thing.

Chair: Councillor WINES, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 6**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, our community relies on critical funds delivered through the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund (LMCF) and the Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF) for local events, facilities and small infrastructure upgrades. Will you confirm today that the sensible cuts, as described by your Finance Chair, will not be applied to these essential funds?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I can confirm that there will be sensible spending reductions, as we’ve said. I can also confirm, yet again, that those discussions and decisions are being made. This is a process that is underway. It has not been finalised. This is something that I said last week and I’m happy to say it again. Chairs that have been asked the question have confirmed this again. There’s a process underway, and any changes to the budget will be coming through the normal budget review process. We made this clear right from day one, right from the moment we announced it. We’ve made the timeframe clear. We’ve made it clear that this is a process that is underway, and what we’ve seen is various Councillors trying to scare people, various Councillors spreading misinformation, various Councillors opposing pretty much any change to the budget, but it’s interesting because Councillor CASSIDY and the Opposition are a bit like one of those toys where you press the button on the belly and it says the same thing every time, cuts, cuts, cuts. Press his button and it says cuts, cuts, cuts. It’s the only thing he can say. I think he wakes up in the middle of the night saying, cuts, cuts, cuts, but if you look up the road where his factional mentor and leader is the Treasurer of the State, you don’t have to look far to see—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, relevance, Mr Chair. My question is about the LORD MAYOR’s cuts to the Suburban Enhancement Fund and the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund, and would he confirm that they will not be applied to these two essential Council funds?

Chair: Thank you. Thank you.

LORD MAYOR, can I draw you back to the question? Thank you.

LORD MAYOR: Yes. Actually, Councillor JOHNSTON has reminded me of something which is very relevant to this issue, because the only changes that have been made to the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund is the State Government stepped in and cut the budget, mandatory cut to the budget. Remember that? They actually—we had a much bigger community fund and the State Government stepped in by law and required a cut. Councillor JOHNSTON dishonestly accused us of making that cut when it was based on State legislation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: She’s got form in this place.

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Firstly, I’ve not been dishonest, Mr Chairman. That is imputing a motive upon me, and I would ask that that is withdrawn.

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

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: If you improperly and inappropriately call someone dishonest and that is raised by another Councillor as imputing motive, what else do we have to do to show you that that is an offensive comment that is imputing motive and should be withdrawn?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chairman.

Chair: Just one moment. Just one moment. I’m going to give the LORD MAYOR the call because he—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You have to rule on my point of order. It’s not hard. I ask, you answer.

Chair: All right, then, I will.

LORD MAYOR, you have—my maths isn’t working—what’s that? One minute 45 remaining to respond to the question and address Councillor JOHNSTON’s concerns.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, please, Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR, you’ve got the call.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Just one moment.

Councillor JOHNSTON. The LORD MAYOR—I’ve directed the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: You have given me a request on whether I’ll withdraw—

Chair: Can you please resume your—

LORD MAYOR: —and I’m happy to answer that request.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No. Point of order, Mr Chairman.

Chair: Yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I have asked for a ruling on my point of order about motive, imputing motive. You’ve just ignored my point of order and said to the LORD MAYOR, you’ve got one minute 45 to go and you can say whatever you want.

Chair: That’s not what I said.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s what you said.

Chair: That’s not what I said.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You have not made a ruling on my point of order. I’ve asked you if someone’s called dishonest in this Chamber, what else do we have to do to show that someone is imputing motive if you won’t accept that that is imputing motive when we ask?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. The minutes will show that I am giving the LORD MAYOR the time—before you go and fly off the handle, to give the LORD MAYOR the time to actually readdress his comments, all right?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Understanding that there is no privilege in this place.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I know it’s not.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON and Councillor CASSIDY, stop.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR, you have the same amount of time that I said before, one minute 45 remaining to answer the question and address Councillor JOHNSTON’s concerns.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I require you as the Chair of Council to address my concerns. The LORD MAYOR isn’t—it’s not part of his question. I want you to address my concerns about imputing motive. It is your responsibility. I don’t want you to ask the LORD MAYOR to talk more about me. I would like you to address my point of order, which is about what else you have to do after someone’s called dishonest and you raise it, what else do you have to do for it to be considered imputing motive? It’s not the LORD MAYOR’s responsibility to answer that. It is yours as the Chair of Council, and I would appreciate a ruling.

Chair: My ruling is, Councillor JOHNSTON, that there is no privilege in this place, so if accusations are made against you, you have rights.

LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: You sure?

Chair: Yes, please. Let’s go.

LORD MAYOR: Happy to, happy to. Look, what I can say is, by the end of this meeting, I will provide proof which I will table in this place that Councillor JOHNSTON dishonestly claimed that we had cut the budget when, in fact, it was the State Government that cut the budget by regulation, a requirement on Council that we did not have a choice, yet she continued to claim dishonestly that we had made the cut.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Oh, there we go. There we go. Again, she’s just proven herself to be dishonest. She’s just proven herself to be dishonest. Look, I will provide that proof. I’m more than happy to. It’s happened on so many occasions, it’ll be very easy. In fact, it just happened today, and so—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: She wants to work around State Government laws. That’s pretty dishonest, too.

Chair: Stop, Councillors. Councillors.

Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY. Just one moment.

LORD MAYOR, any—if you’re addressing other Councillors in this place, it’s through the Chair.

And we are not going to call out across the Chamber. It doesn’t matter whether you are sitting or standing, you do not call out across the Chamber.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance, the question was whether the LORD MAYOR would guarantee no cuts to the SEF or LMCF funds. I think every Councillor in here wants to hear that answer.

Chair: Yes, thank you—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: We are trying to hear the LORD MAYOR’s answer and I appreciate you, Councillor CASSIDY, asking the LORD MAYOR to come back to the mic. Right, we’re going to do this. The LORD MAYOR is going to finish answering his question in silence.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I’ve answered this question already. I’ve explained yet again that we are going through a process. That process is not finished. Any changes to the budget have to go through the Council Chamber as part of the budget review process. This is very clear. Every Councillor knows this. It is concerning to me that certain Councillors pretend that they don’t know this information again and again and again, because they are only interested in scaring people. They are only interested in misleading people. They are only interested in scoring political points, rather than sensible savings, sensible savings to keep rates down, sensible savings to relieve the cost pressures on the people of Brisbane.

So, I state again, we are going through a process. The process will be a sensible process. It will be a measured process. It will be a process that will keep costs down for residents and any changes to the budget will come through the normal budget review process.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

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, recently, Brisbane hosted the Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) forum, an event that brings together cities of the Asia Pacific to drive commercial outcomes and exchange ideas. Can you please update the Chamber on the success of the 2023 APCS forum?

Chair: Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you, Councillor HUTTON, for the question because the Asia Pacific Cities Summit this year was absolutely so spectacular, and it’s my great honour to be able to talk about it today, the success it was, and how wonderful it was for Brisbane City Council, in particular the LORD MAYOR, to host the APCS at the home of APCS here in Brisbane. It was first held in 1996 and continues every two years, alternating between Brisbane and an Asia Pacific location. This year was the 14th edition of the APCS and it was our biggest and best by far. As the region’s landmark event for city leaders, businesses and decision-makers coming together to have meaningful and insightful conversations about the future of our city, it was wonderful to look at the challenges, the opportunities and the learnings from each other on how to make our cities better for the future.

Cities do play an absolutely integral role in shaping our society. We all know in this room that we work at the grassroots, side by side with our communities, tackling the day-to-day together and always striving to make our city better, but being able to meet again in person at the APCS meant that the conversations were even livelier. The insights were far more poignant, sharing what we’d been through over the last few years, and the networking opportunities were second to none. It was an opportunity we didn’t take for granted after the events of the last few years, and we are very proud to be able to continue the more than 25-year legacy of this fantastic event in our city.

There were some fantastic highlights and some milestones achieved, the highest attendance ever we’ve had for Mayors at an APCS, 118 Mayors from around the world came to join us, close to 1,200 delegates in total, 171 cities from across the Asia Pacific and well beyond, 70% from outside Australia. Another record number with 140 young professionals joining the Griffith University Young Professionals program. Of course, an incredible line-up of keynote speakers and presenters, Anthony Pratt, Andrew Liveris AO (Order of Australia), Bo Seo—world debating champion, extremely interesting—and Charles Montgomery about Happy Cities.

Mr Pratt, the Chairman of Visy, kicked off the summit with an inspiring keynote on the future of recycling in a world that is striving towards a zero waste future. Bo, as I mentioned, a debating world champion, coach of the Harvard University debating team, challenged us to think differently about how we approach conversations and dissecting the art of productive argument, which a few people in this room could have really used that. Charles Montgomery, renowned author of Happy Cities, explored the connection between communities and cities, and Andrew Liveris delivered perhaps what was the most inspiring and enthusiastic presentation, giving his thoughts on how to leverage opportunities in our cities off the back of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He talked about the benefits that can be delivered for communities through leveraging the momentum that comes with hosting major events like Brisbane 2032.

Shaping Cities for our Future was the central theme, and together with the subthemes that drilled down and explored them more, Cities of Connection, Cities of Sustainability and Cities of Legacy. More than 130 speakers packed out the agenda over two days. There was buzzing in Innovation Alley, showcasing some of the brand-new decision makers we have in the Asia Pacific region. There was a tour of the Brisbane Metro, which was perhaps one of the most popular activities, drawing in delegates to see the most advanced sustainable technology for public transport. There were business deals signed. There were new relationships formed and not about anything else, everyone walked away having learnt something new, a new idea or learning why they really need to spend more time in the beautiful City of Brisbane.

It was an enormous couple of days. I have to say, my highlight was probably being on a panel with Lord Ian Botham, and there may have been a few Councillors that had to come along and get the selfie, as well, with Ian. He was very generous with his time, I have to say. It was a very interesting, again, panel on how to leverage major events, but I need a lot of people to say thank you to. International Relations and Multicultural Affairs team here in Council, long days and nights. Every detail and piece of the puzzle was perfect. The summit ran like clockwork and was driven by a small but mighty team who we’re very fortunate to have here in Council.

We had more than 40 sponsors and supporters that joined us this year for the APCS, presenting partners Visy, international media partner Bloomberg Media, and our principal partners, our Sister Cities who joined us and their representatives that worked so hard, and all the other delegates, businesses, local, national and international. Thank you for coming, thank you for joining us, thank you for contributing, and we look forward to many more successful APCS in the years to come.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

That then ends Question Time.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

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

**228/2023-24**

At that juncture, the DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the motion submitted by Councillor Jared CASSIDY at the meeting on 30 May 2023, be taken off the table.

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

Chair: Just to bring everybody up to speed, the motion was originally moved by Councillor CASSIDY and seconded by Councillor COLLIER. Councillors who have spoken have been Councillor CASSIDY and Councillor ALLAN.

We’ll get the motion—once the motion is distributed, we’ll get it re-read, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Everybody has got one. The motion reads, Brisbane City Council notes its support for the Federal Government Housing Australia Future Fund.

Other further speakers on the motion?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Oh, thank you, Mr Chair. As we’ve heard in Question Time today from the LORD MAYOR and from Councillor ALLAN, there are clear priorities for this Administration when it comes to housing. When you compare with the ideas and policies of the Green-Labor coalition of chaos, things couldn’t be further apart. Over the weekend, we saw a plan for a new tax on homebuilders in the middle of a housing crisis. It was quite extraordinary. Councillor ALLAN went through just some of the questions that we need to ask because it seems ludicrous that this was even put forward.

Also, through that announcement, they decided they would densify the suburbs as opposed to the inner city, the exact opposite of what we hear clearly from the residents of Brisbane time and time again. When this motion before us today came to the Chamber, the Future Fund didn’t exist. It wasn’t law, and there were plenty of unknowns. From the outset, it was producing more questions than answers, as well, which is very clear why we didn’t dive in headfirst and vote for something that we really didn’t understand or have the full details about. What we do know today, with the help of their coalition partners, the Federal Labor Government have been able to create the fund, but unfortunately, it still remains quite unclear what it actually means for Brisbane residents, because the reality is, we aren’t going to support something that doesn’t benefit our residents in this city. For that reason, I move the following amendment.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

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| --- |
| **229/2023-24**  It was moved by the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *Brisbane City Council notes its support for the Federal Government’s Housing Australia Future Fund, subject to confirmation of what the Fund will deliver for the Brisbane Local Government Area.*  *Further, Council notes that 96% of all homes are delivered by the private sector, and support is also needed in this sector.* |

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. As we have said time and time again in the many years that I have been here, and definitely over the last two weeks, we are laser-focused on making sure that the cost of living, whether that be housing, economic support, rates, is our laser-focus on our residents. We are doing sensible savings to make sure that the next rates that come through Brisbane aren’t increased. We are making sure that we deliver precinct areas like Kurilpa and a housing action plan that delivers the growth that we need in Brisbane without getting rid of the suburban amenity and the things that our residents love. We have seen many, many Federal policies over the years for first home buyers and the like that have very tight restrictions on where the houses can go, how they can be built, who builds them.

So, that’s why we have the questions. What does it mean for the Brisbane Local Government Area? That’s why this amendment is here today. We’re about the residents. We hear what the residents want. They want anti-sprawl. We’re happy that there’s a Future Housing Fund, but what does it mean for us? Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers to the amendment?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. What does anything the DEPUTY MAYOR just said then mean? You know, that is an exercise in just some waffle to fill some space and to move an amendment and to not commit to something, to anything at all. This amended motion now will say that Brisbane City Council supports the development of 30,000 new social and affordable homes, maybe. That’s what this motion now reads, that somehow, we’ll park this somewhere, and then if someone—I don’t know, is the DEPUTY MAYOR supposed to figure that out and later just then email someone up in Brisbane Square and say, oh well, she figured it out now, you can now release the support for social and affordable housing?

I understand why the DEPUTY MAYOR would be getting up and talking on this and not the LORD MAYOR, because we know he described social housing as slums. He didn’t want areas in Brisbane that didn’t have them to be slumming it, in his words. So, we know that the LNP don’t really support social housing. They don’t really care about affordable housing, only when it’s politically expedient to do so. So, this motion has been laying on the table since May 2023. All of a sudden, today, when everyone is talking about the housing crisis and the LNP has been dragged kicking and screaming to do something, months after Councillor ALLAN got up in this place and said, Council’s doing everything—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: They laugh and they laugh and they laugh. Councillor ALLAN got up and said the Council apparently was doing everything it possibly could, except all of the things that Labor were suggesting it could do, like working alongside the community housing sector, providing infrastructure charge relief to the community housing sector. When we suggested that, Chair, to get more affordable housing in every suburb in Brisbane, the LNP got up and said they were already doing it, apparently. They didn’t need to do anything. The community housing sector apparently didn’t need any more support. Well, until now, when clearly they do, according to the LNP.

Well, I don’t think their commitment to social housing and affordable housing and putting a roof over the heads of people is genuine in any way. It’s quite clear that the motivations of the LNP less than five months out from the next Council election are all political. They are all political. The LORD MAYOR and the DEPUTY MAYOR and the LNP Administration have drawn the battle lines when it comes to housing and planning and development at this election. They are lining up with big-time, profit-making developers. They are being led by them, and Labor is lining up with the people of Brisbane. We are lining up with community housing providers (CHPs). We are lining up with communities that want to have a say.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Relevance to the amendment that I’ve put forward.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Councillors, please.

Councillor CASSIDY, I draw you back to the motion—the amendment, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. Yes, the motion was about the Federal Labor Government’s ambitious $10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, which will see 30,000 new social and affordable homes built for women and children fleeing domestic violence situations, built for veterans, built for those who are doing it tough in this country and deserve a home. The parochialism of the LNP is to say that, unless they are satisfied on their terms, they’re not going to support social and affordable housing. Well, they never will because we don’t have to look at what they do, we need to hear what they say, and the LORD MAYOR said he thought social housing was slums. That is the type of people that they are.

So, why don’t the LNP support the Housing Australia Future Fund? They don’t at a Federal level. The Dutton-led Liberal-National Party Coalition down there don’t support the fund. Right-wing reactionaries are lining up, including all of those Queensland LNP Federal Members who have proven their true colours recently, they’re lining up with Malcolm Roberts and Pauline Hanson and that crazy senator from Victoria.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, sorry. Councillor CASSIDY, can I draw you back—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You’re lining up with Mark Latham, yes. Yes, Councillor MURPHY. I’ll take that interjection from Councillor—

Chair: I haven’t—no, there’s—

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh, sorry.

Chair: No. Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor CASSIDY, I am drawing you back to the amendment before us, please. What’s happening in Canberra—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Federal Government, it’s there.

Chair: I know it’s a Federal matter.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, we’re not going to debate, you and I, this, right?

I would like to draw Councillor CASSIDY back to the motion before us.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Yes, I’ll take that interjection from Councillor MURPHY. His mate, Mark Latham, he’s lined up with him, as well. The company you keep, Chair, in the LNP leaves a lot to be desired, but this is all about politics for the LNP because when sensible solutions were put on the table months and months and months ago, not just by us but by the community housing sector, who have been crying out for a Council in Brisbane to work with them, who have seen partners in other councils like in the Moreton Bay Regional Council and Ipswich, Logan and other areas that are leading the way in their innovation and their partnership with community housing providers.

Every time those providers try and go somewhere with this LNP Administration over the last six, 12 months, they have hit a brick wall. It’s only taken 12 or 18 months of a genuine crisis before the LNP will do something, because the pressure is applied to them to be seen to be doing something, and that’s what this is all about. This is all about the visuals, the optics, the photo opportunities, the media conference for this LNP Administration. It’s not really about the policy outcome and we shouldn’t lose sight of that because the policy outcome here is that housing should be a human right in this country. Everyone should have access to housing and they shouldn’t have a—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —LORD MAYOR who calls social housing slums.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m just conscious of the time. Is Councillor CASSIDY for or against this amendment?

Chair: I don’t uphold your point of order because that’s a question.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Well, yes, it shouldn’t—I mean, goodness me, the LORD MAYOR doesn’t have to whisper instructions into the DEPUTY MAYOR’s ear to get up on a point of order and say a particular thing. Let’s just debate—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, can we get back to the—

Councillor CASSIDY: Let’s just debate—

Chair: Can we get back to the amendment, please? Thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Sorry, I hear Councillor HOWARD’s interjection, but I don’t understand what her meaning is behind that. So, instead of flagging our support for affordable and social housing, the biggest investment that this country has seen in almost a generation, this LNP Administration decides to play politics with it, and that shows anyone who’s watching along here, anyone who sees what goes on here, everything you need to know about the priorities of this LNP Administration. After 20 years, they are clinging on for dear life. They are all about their own political future. The absolute chaos that is going on in the LNP Administration now is incredible to watch. There is policy being made on the run. There’s these cuts and chaos going on in the budget. There are LNP Chairs who have absolutely no idea what’s going on and the LNP Mayor starts making announcements on the fly. It is absolute cuts and chaos in this LNP Administration, and the people of Brisbane deserve better. They deserve better than a 20-year-old chaotic LNP Administration that is just clinging onto power and doesn’t actually care about a good policy outcome.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, can I draw you back to the amendment, please? I draw you back to the amendment.

Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, and hello to the former Deputy Mayor of Brisbane. Nice of you to join us today. I presume that’s because of the non-local candidate soon to be sworn in for the seat of Walter Taylor, but that will be a different issue today.

I would like to rise to speak on the amendment moved by the DEPUTY MAYOR, and just put a few issues on the agenda. The debate that’s been going on in Canberra over affordable housing has been a very genuine one that is looking at helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We know, I know, in my ward, every single day, someone reports someone living rough on the street. We know that these are families in some cases, they’re elderly women, we know that they are certainly older men, and many of them are vulnerable, they have health issues, and these are people who there are just not room for in the traditional market. They cannot afford the rent. They may have other issues in terms of being able to maintain secure accommodation.

Very rightfully, there’s been a debate about how government, government who is here, we take rates, we take taxes, we take money from the people, how can government assist people who are vulnerable to find secure housing? Now, this has been a big issue at the Federal level and the Greens have driven a lot of policy, and I’m sure we’ll hear from Councillor MASSEY about this. Labor have led in terms of trying to find a solution. To be fair, there’s been agreement down in Canberra, finally, over what this Future Fund would look like. That was five weeks ago, and I know the Labor Party have moved several times now to have this motion brought back onto the agenda and it’s been voted down every single time by the LNP.

So, for four months, the LNP Administration here in Brisbane City Council have refused to have a debate about what our city needs for affordable and social housing. They’ve used their massive majority to block the debate. Even after a solution has been reached in Canberra, one which Brisbane could possibly benefit from, this LNP Administration has blocked debate on this issue because that is what they believe in. The DEPUTY MAYOR’s amendment today before us is completely dishonest. It is a dishonest amendment. It wants to say, well, we note that the housing fund is there, but until you tell us what we’re getting out of it, we don’t really want to see it. We don’t want to know anything about it. We don’t really care about it.

We don’t care if it helps people in the Gold Coast or Logan or Redlands or Cairns or Townsville or Mount Isa or Weipa or Millmerran or Toowoomba, we don’t care about those people. We only live in a community where what the LNP wants in Brisbane City Council matters, but for everybody else, we don’t care. Well, not only am I part of a community here in Brisbane, I am part of a state and a country that wants to make good policy decisions for people. Investing more money into social and affordable housing is critical, is critical, and all this DEPUTY MAYOR wants to do is hold her hand out and say, what’s in it for me? What’s in it for me? If there’s nothing in it for me, I don’t want to have any part of it. That’s what the LNP are like here in Brisbane. That is dishonest.

If I was the Brisbane housing corporation, an excellent organisation who this Council, this LNP refuse to properly resource, I would be absolutely out there tomorrow—well, four months ago—saying, righto, BHC, get in there and you get the money you can from the Feds to help you start, because we have a vehicle here at Brisbane City Council that can deliver affordable and social housing, and this LNP Administration refuses to properly resource it. Even when the opportunity comes up to use somebody else’s money, so the Federal Government’s money, they still say, no, we don’t want to talk about it. We don’t want anybody to know about it. We don’t want to have any part of it.

It’s only five weeks after the money’s on the table that the DEPUTY MAYOR goes, uh oh, we haven’t really been supporting that. We’d better actually look like we’re supporting it now so we can get what’s coming to us. That’s what they’re like. Not good policy, not good planning, not working in a cooperative way to make sure that this city and its residents and the other people of the State and the country we live in are going to be supported, but playing politics, what’s in it for me. That is fundamentally dishonest.

Now, what we did hear from the DEPUTY MAYOR about this amendment, which is a joke, we just need to get on and figure out how we’re going to fund the affordable and social housing. Let’s talk about what’s actually happening in Brisbane. So, down in the Kurilpa precinct, this LNP Administration brought in a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) that did not include any affordable or social housing. Let’s be clear, the DEPUTY MAYOR has stood up today and said, oh, everyone’s blocking this, the Greens, the Labor Party, they’re blocking it, they’re blocking it. There wasn’t a single thing in that TLPI to support affordable or social housing from the LNP Administration. They just wanted their developer mates to get 10,000 units in a key part of Brisbane.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The Councillor is misleading the Chamber and imputing motive.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor JOHNSTON, can I draw you back to the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, can I draw you back to the amendment before us, which clearly doesn’t have Kurilpa in it?

Councillor JOHNSTON: The amendment is about Brisbane getting affordable and social housing, and I am pointing out that this LNP Administration does not support affordable and social housing. I understand why it’s hard for you, Mr Chairman, because I can’t imagine there’s a lot of it happening out your way in Ashgrove or The Gap, but in my area, we support public housing and we support affordable housing for key workers. The LNP Council here today had to be forced by the State Government to include some affordable and social targets into the TLPI, and I’m sure Councillor MASSEY is going to tell us why it’s all wrong in a little bit, but let’s be clear.

The LNP didn’t want to do it at all. The Labor Party have put something in, and I’m sure that the Greens will say that’s not good enough, either, but the point here is, the LNP Administration, when they have had the opportunity to deliver policy that will reflect affordable and social housing, have failed to do so at every step. Now there’s the sniff of cash from the Federal Government, the DEPUTY MAYOR is going, oh, we’d better look like we’re supporting this, uh oh, because the poor Brisbane Housing Corporation—who I have a lot of respect for, they’ve done things out in my ward—do you know who they’re having to work with to get their projects up? The State Government, because Brisbane City Council will not resource them, will not fund them, will not talk to them about land deals.

The LNP Administration instead continues to give subsidies to private developers, and that’s the other part of the motion here before us today. Do you know what the only housing policy this Administration has? It’s to give subsidies to developers, subsidies for developers. Who’s next? Subsidies for this, subsidies for that. That’s what the DEPUTY MAYOR is all about. Then, they go and appoint their property industry professionals and their developer mates to the secret Better Suburbs Board full of developers and property people. They recommend to Council, oh, you know, there’s a little bit of land out there that we could build on, and the LORD MAYOR goes, oh sure, yes, I’ll do that, quick, quick, quick, and announces just like that—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —no neighbourhood plans, no nothing.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, can I draw you back to the amendment, please? You’ve had—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ll definitely talk about the amendment.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillors.

You’ve had a fair bit of leeway. Can I draw you back to the amendment before us, please?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, and that’s talking about funding developers, funding developers, private homes. That’s the amendment that the DEPUTY MAYOR has brought in. She wants to make sure that this Council continues to support private development. Subsidies for developers. Developer mates and property people on boards, directing Council officers behind the scenes. That is not—

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Hang on a sec. Hang on a sec. DEPUTY MAYOR, I know where you’re going.

Councillor MARX: Point of order.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, that is completely inappropriate and I strongly suggest you withdraw that statement.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I will correct myself, and I’ll withdraw and say I have been told that this is what is happening behind the scenes, and I have also read the minutes that show the secret discussions that are going on between this Better Suburbs Board and Council officers.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s going on, on a monthly basis, week after week.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am strongly suggesting you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: —exercise caution in the direction you are going.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sure. Of course, there’s no privilege, and if someone wants to sue me, they will, won’t they? We’ve had that.

Chair: Yes, they will.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Good. So, may I continue, please?

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: I’d just ask for your ruling as to whether that constitutes an act of disorder under the Standing Rules, because if that doesn’t, Chair, I don’t know what would.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, just hang on.

Councillor JOHNSTON has, I think, withdrawn. Can you confirm that you did withdraw that statement for me?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, thank you. Thank you. I’ll take that, even though you didn’t say that into the mic. I’ll take your head nodding that that was a yes, you did withdraw that statement.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Okay, thank you. You may continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I can see why the LNP do not want to discuss this. Their only objective here today is to talk up private development. That is what the amendment is here about. “Further, Council notes 96% of all homes are delivered by the private sector, and support is also needed in this sector”, that is the DEPUTY MAYOR’s—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —own words in the amendment today. It’s not good enough.

Chair: Your time has expired, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you. I’ll speak to this amendment and I’ll try to be brief.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MASSEY: What does it mean? This was something that was—

Chair: Sorry, I should clarify that. I’m just glad you’re speaking to the amendment. Please continue. Sorry.

Councillor MASSEY: What does it mean? How many times was that said? What does it mean? The Housing Australia Future Fund means delivery of social housing and affordable housing. It’s the distribution of money that will go down to states, and then, eventually, we as the city will benefit from it, noting that the housing crisis is hitting renters and is hitting people that are having mortgage challenges, and it’s also playing out, as I’ve said many times in here, across our streets, noting that for every single—like, for one person that you see rough sleeping, there are seven other more that you don’t see, for everyone.

So, we know that this crisis is here and it’s affecting so many people that are on the borderline. What this Housing Future Fund talks about, that robust debate that happened at a Federal level that they have come to terms with, what it talked about is how we could possibly deliver support because housing—being housed is not a privilege for some. It should never just be a privilege for some. That’s what it means. That’s what it means, DEPUTY MAYOR. The dignity of having a home, because no one chooses to live in a park, no one, and yet we see them every day. This motion, the reason, to me, that this motion is in place is only for one reason. It’s the creation of a framework that is politically motivated to reduce the role of what Brisbane City Council can do in this space, right?

What it is all about, saying ‘96% of all homes are delivered by the private sector and support is also needed there’, is basically creating the excuse for this Council to not do anything else, to say that’s the only thing that we can do, to say that we couldn’t possibly in the future work more proactively with community housing providers. It’s saying that we have no ambition at all to work with affordable housing. We know this because there is never a mandate for any affordable housing, not in the previous Kurilpa TPLI 1, and certainly not in the State Government TPLI 2, but I won’t talk too much on that.

What it means, what this is about is creating a narrow and unimaginative and unfair framework to dictate the only space that we can be as a Council. Do you know what? That’s wrong. That’s wrong because people are sleeping in parks, and there is more that we can do, rather than just create tax cuts and subsidies for big developers. To me, this is offensive in that sense. It’s offensive because that’s what it’s doing. It’s setting up the framework, to build a framework where you can only work here. If you don’t work within that framework, well, you hate housing.

That’s just incorrect, and that’s why I’m going to vote down this motion, because we have had time to debate this motion. This motion has been asked to be put on the table multiple times, and each time I have voted to take it off the table. This party, the Administration has voted it down simply because they want to create a political play that enables them to say, yes, we kind of support it, but also what is it? What does it mean? Private sector, don’t forget the private sector. No one forgets the private sector. No one is forgetting the private sector, that today is going to get heaps of tax breaks.

So, I’m voting this motion down, and I think it’s a real disservice to our political system when these very obvious political, and the narrowing role of what Council can do is presented in this way. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks, Chair. I’m just speaking to this amendment. It’s completely disingenuous and, to me, when you move an amendment like this, the real question is, does this amendment help those people who are experiencing homelessness? Of course it doesn’t. It’s completely disingenuous, and the original motion was so simple. It was a simple question with a simple answer that this Administration refused to debate for months and months and months. Now, it’s become yet another part of their sick political game. They think that people sleeping rough is a political plaything that they can take advantage of.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Imputing motive again around—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Please continue.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The accusation that we think sleeping rough is a political game is offensive, and I ask her to withdraw.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, would you care to—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Please continue.

Councillor COLLIER: The original motion was a simple question with a simple answer that the Administration refused to answer. The real faces of housing insecurity in this city do not look at these amendments and think, that’s going to help me. What will actually help is supporting the Federal Government’s initiatives that will deliver real homes for people right across Australia, 30,000 new homes. It’s not just turning up for a photo op like some may like to do. The real faces of housing insecurity—you know, 77% of households who are experiencing food insecurity are experiencing it for the first time in the past 12 months. That’s the Hunger Report from Foodbank.

Every time the Labor Councillors come in here and bring up housing insecurity and homelessness and the housing crisis, the answer from this Administration is, there’s no problem here. We’re doing enough. We’re doing absolutely everything we can. We couldn’t possibly do another thing. So, to fiddle and tinker around with some words on a motion, it’s just completely disingenuous. This Administration shows, by what it does and what it says, that it’s not interested in actually addressing the issue at hand. You know, a question that comes out of today, for example, is out of the $400 million of cuts, are Public Space Liaison Officers (PSLOs) going to lose their jobs? Is that program area going to get cut? They do incredible work, but still no answer. Is Homeless Connect going to be cut? These are all real things. Pathways out of Homelessness Grants, these are all on the chopping block.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Grants to community centres, I’ll take that interjection. So, the choices of this Administration today are clear. Playing politics is your only answer. That’s what you show.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes, I just wanted to get up really, really quickly and say that last night, I was at an event that was also attended by the Lady Mayoress where we heard about how older women are the fastest-growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness, and every single politician in that room was delivered a serve by community housing groups for not doing enough to stand up for them, not doing enough to help people get out of vulnerable situations, and making their job so much worse. I think it’s really telling that the very next day, the LNP put this kind of motion to the floor.

Chair: Further speakers? I see no one rising.

DEPUTY MAYOR, right of reply.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The planning Chair has already spoken, but anyway, not quite sure where to even start on that extremely personal attack from the other side about how I feel about social and affordable housing, and how this is all about how we feel on this side. This is not about what’s in it for me, as we heard from multiple Councillors on this side. This is about what’s in it for Brisbane, because we are the ones that spoke to the State Government and surprisingly got them, kicking and screaming, to a round table on housing crisis. We are the ones that got the Deputy Premier to approve the possibility of 10,000 more homes in Kurilpa, and yes, we had social and affordable housing in Kurilpa, but you know what would be really helpful?

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: If this—

Chair: Just one moment, DEPUTY MAYOR.

No. No calling out.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m happy to re-table our Kurilpa TLPI that had social and affordable housing in it, but you know what the difficulty about putting in social and affordable housing into a planning instrument is? There is no State legislative definition of it.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: It makes it very, very tricky.

Chair: Just one moment. Just—

DEPUTY MAYOR: It’s not too hard. It’s actually not possible.

Chair: Just one moment, DEPUTY MAYOR.

We’re not calling out.

Councillor COLLIER, understood? Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: We worked closely with the State Government officers on our TLPI before we presented it to this Chamber to get the closest to what they think may be kind of a definition on social and affordable housing, and it was damn well within that Kurilpa TLPI. So, do not believe the callouts from those who know nothing about planning and accuse us of not caring when, when you consider about it, it was their side of politics, their team that brought a Federal Government policy to this Chamber to help their Labor mates because they couldn’t get a deal through for the coalition of chaos with the Greens.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Now—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, do not call out across the Chamber.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —they got their little deal with Adam Bandt, and even Adam Bandt said, oh no, that’s just so we can take it to the Senate, so let’s wait and see what happens when it gets to the Senate. I make no apologies and Team Schrinner makes no apologies for being so-called parochial, if that means we stand up for the residents that we represent, because I can tell you right now what happened with the, oh well, this is good for Brisbane, thank you for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant extension. Oh, but not in Brisbane. No extension to Brisbane. What about the State Government grant for the community funds during COVID recovery? Millions of dollars. But not where? In metro Brisbane.

So, don’t lecture from that side of the room that this is good for Brisbane and will always be looked after. Thirty thousand new social and affordable housing is absolutely spectacular, but the question that this amendment puts forward today simply and clearly is, but what is in it for Brisbane? So, don’t bring a Federal Government policy to this Chamber, then get upset when we ask, but what’s in it for Brisbane? Because that’s what they’ve done today.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’ll take the interjection from the extremely rude, screaming, bullying Councillor for Tennyson today—

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —who screamed for 10 minutes, personally at me on what I think about social, called me she many times, that if I did, I’d be thrown out of the Chamber by her.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The Councillor did so call me she on several occasions, which is not acceptable in this place.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, you’re rising on a point of order? Yes.

Councillor COLLIER: Just on relevance, are we now just debating who’s personal attacking who? How is this relevant?

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

DEPUTY MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I was talking about the behaviour in the debate—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Don’t, Councillor COLLIER.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —as I wrap up the debate. I was talking about the behaviour in this debate as I was wrapping up the debate. The level that it went to down there—except for Councillor MASSEY because she stood up and clearly made forward her philosophy without the attack back—is absolutely shameful in this place, but as we get closer to March, that’s what we expect. They’re desperate. They need to help their Labor mates, they need to help their State mates, and they’ll do whatever they can to deflect. We are merely here to do what we have done in this place for many years. Stand to support the residents of Brisbane. Stand to know what policies from other levels of government mean for our Brisbane residents, and make sure that we can address a housing crisis, from those who sleep rough—

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR—

DEPUTY MAYOR: —to those who need housing—

Chair: —your time has expired.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —and I support this amendment to the Chambers.

Chair: We will now put the motion—sorry, we’ll now put the amendment to the motion.

**Amendment put:**

The Chair put the amendment motion to the Chamber resulting in it being 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 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, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

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

Chair: Councillors, are there any speakers on the substantive motion?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. For some reason, my—yes, that’s right, it’s been reset. Well, there’s been some extraordinary things happen here. Now, we know that this motion was originally moved in this Chamber to wedge the Greens. Labor tried to wedge the Greens because, as we know, Councillor CASSIDY is more interested in other levels of government than he is in Brisbane City Council, so he was playing politics—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —with the original motion.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: If you hadn’t have ruled Councillor ADAMS as, you know, that was imputing motive, that statement clearly is imputing motive. The LORD MAYOR said Councillor CASSIDY moved a motion to try and wedge the Greens. That is imputing motive in its purest form, and as you have said that that is not allowed, I’m sure you’re going to rule that out of order, Mr Chair.

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

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Of course not, Mr Chairman, because it’s only imputing motive if it’s said—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —about an LNP Councillor.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you for clarifying the rule.

Chair: Please resume your seat.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Because you will remember, the way that this played out was that the Labor Party and the Greens were having a big stoush. The coalition of chaos is in action down in Canberra as we speak. They are literally at each other constantly, and they cobble together these crazy policies. We see the coalition of chaos operating down in Canberra. So, Councillor CASSIDY moved this motion as a wedge for the Greens, and what we see now is some simple additions being made to it which ask, what’s in it for Brisbane residents? What out of the fund will come to Brisbane? Is that a reasonable question for the Brisbane City Council to be asking? Is that a fair and reasonable question? Because time and time again, we get short-changed by other levels of government, particularly when it comes to the Labor Party.

We have seen the State Government give out oodles of funding to other Councils, but not to Brisbane. Guess what? The State Government will be a key player in deciding which projects go ahead, where this money goes, and it is fair and reasonable for us to know what is planned for Brisbane. It is not unusual for us to advocate for Brisbane. That is what we do, and in fact, it’s a key part of our role, yet Opposition Councillors—in fact, all of the different parties over there thought it was outrageous that we would actually ask for information. They thought it was outrageous. They called it playing politics, that we simply wanted to know what was in it for Brisbane residents.

The second part of it was acknowledging that social housing makes up about four per cent of all housing in the country, because Labor Governments have failed time and time again to deliver social housing, and that 96% of housing is provided by the private sector and they need some support, too. You won’t solve the housing crisis by focusing on the four per cent. You will solve it by focusing on the 100%. So, I think if you can’t accept that simple fact, then you’re not really caring about the housing crisis. You are ignoring the 96% and you’re focusing on the four per cent only. Those two things are really reasonable to add into this, simply saying we’d like to know how Brisbane residents, how the Brisbane community will benefit from this housing fund, and secondly, don’t forget that this is only a small part of the overall picture and that we need to focus on the 96%.

Two very reasonable things, yet what did Labor and Opposition Councillors do? They voted against those two very reasonable things, which just shows, Mr Chair, their original motion was nothing more than a political stunt. It was a wedge against the Greens, because what we have now is a very reasonable motion, I thought one that we could get crossline support for, right across the spectrum, yet no. The other side is only interested in playing politics with housing. I shouldn’t be surprised, but I’m disappointed. In the end—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Cocaine? Did anyone hear cocaine? Right.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Okay, I can confirm there’s none of that in the Chamber, okay? So, we have a really reasonable, modified motion here that asks, what’s in it for Brisbane, and points out that you also have to focus on the 96% of housing that is under massive pressure, as well.

I also did want to address this ongoing, this ongoing misrepresentation, and I’ve done it repeatedly before, but I wanted to address it again, about my thoughts on social and public housing. I’m happy, once again, to put them on the record. I was very proud to represent the Carina Heights residents in public housing who are concerned about getting kicked out of their housing by the State Government. Now, Councillor CASSIDY doesn’t want to talk about that part of the issue. Within the first 12 months of me becoming a Councillor, it became clear to me that the State Government wanted to kick out public housing residents from their homes in Carina and redevelop. So, of course I was going to fight for my community, absolutely.

My response was always very clear, that if you were going to build new public housing or social housing, it should be using the dispersed model rather than concentrated all in one area. Now, that’s not revolutionary. That’s been a lesson and experience that so many cities around the world have learnt. You see in places like New York and London and even Melbourne, these high-rise public housing estates, and they haven’t worked well. So, the dispersed model is accepted as best practice, and my point was, if you were going to replace the 300-plus public houses, don’t do it all in one area, in a low-density area, mind you. Disperse them throughout the community.

That was my position then. That remains my position to this day, and in fact, on the day I released our housing action plan and incentive policy, one—Councillor CASSIDY was on the media saying, you shouldn’t put all of the public housing in one area. You should disperse it through the community. What was he saying that to? Jonathan Sri’s proposal to put all the public housing into the Eagle Farm Racecourse. So, Councillor CASSIDY, you and I are on the same page when it comes to our views on social housing, and so please refrain from continuing to misrepresent me, because we share the same view when it comes to how public housing should be built.

It should be built in a way like we saw today, when I confirmed that we will be providing almost $1 million towards a social housing project in Chermside, in the right area, in an area that’s zoned appropriately, not in a low-density area, an area that’s zoned appropriately. That’s the right way to do it, but there is also a wrong way to do it, as history has shown. If you do it the wrong way, you only exacerbate social problems. You only exacerbate problems in the community. We want to improve the situation. So, once again, I’m happy to place my position on the record when it comes to social housing and public housing.

I’m also happy to confirm that, yes, I did fight to support those local residents in public housing in Carina, and I stopped them from getting kicked out of their homes. In fact, in an area that was always a Labor area, Carina Heights, I was happy, shortly after that, to receive more than 60% of the vote in that Labor area. Why? Because I stood up for them. I fought for them. I didn’t let them get kicked out of their homes. I am passionate about this issue just to this day, but we’ve got to do it right. We’ve got to do it right, and so this motion is a sensible one. It talks about what’s in it for the Brisbane community and it talks about, don’t forget the fact that 96% of all housing is delivered by the private sector, and if you ignore that, you’re not going to solve the housing crisis.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **230/2023-24**  At that time, 2.58pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor Clare JENKINSON, 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 3.01pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillors, are there any further speakers to the substantive motion?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on the substantive motion and respond to some of the accusations that the LORD MAYOR has levelled against us and his contribution there. I thought it was interesting that the LORD MAYOR claimed that the Housing Australia Future Fund was a crazy policy. He said that the Federal Government got elected, the Albanese Government, and then embarked on—and this is using his quote, he said ‘these crazy policies’. That’s how he described the Housing Australia Future Fund. It was in fact a core election commitment that the Albanese Government took to the people of Australia and was endorsed at the election, so that’s how those things work. The LORD MAYOR was a bit confused about that.

They’re elected on that platform of implementing the Housing Australia Future Fund and we’re pursuing it. The motion we moved was to note—well try and note Brisbane City Council’s support for that, because the LORD MAYOR talked a big game, the LORD MAYOR talked a big game about supporting housing and supporting affordable housing and social housing. We thought we would test that support, whether that was the case, back in May 2023, five months ago, over five months ago now. The answer to that proposition, based on the amendment that was just passed, is no, they don’t really support the Housing Australia Future Fund. It was a simple yes or no proposition and they couldn’t bring themselves to say yes, they support this Housing Australia Future Fund.

The LORD MAYOR went on to say that this amended motion before us today now, the motion before us today, is asking questions and seeking information. How? It’s a set of words. What was proposed was to note—and it would have been on the record—that Brisbane City Council supported the Housing Australia Future Fund. The LORD MAYOR has indicated now that the way this motion now currently stands is that it is somehow seeking information, but there is no mechanism to do that. Maybe what the Administration is going to do is write to the Federal Government and say what they have here today, that they support the Housing Australia Future Fund, if they can see some of those homes built in Brisbane, which there will be and then I guess they’ll make a public statement, the LNP will then make a public statement saying they’re in full support—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Surely that’s how it will be, because I’m sure, I’m sure the DEPUTY MAYOR wouldn’t have done this and the LORD MAYOR wouldn’t have got up and said that if it wasn’t all just about politics, surely, surely they wouldn’t have. The LORD MAYOR said again in his sort of spin about social housing and affordable housing that it’s only four per cent of people are housed, or developments for people to be housed in, are social and affordable housing. The idea of this policy is to make it more. But the LORD MAYOR’s comments to me seem to be saying he wanted it to stay at the status quo, that his preference was for private development over affordable development, done by community housing providers and over social housing.

Again that is true to form, because he cannot run from the facts about what he said when he described social housing as slumming it. The article which the LORD MAYOR was talking about in his contribution says this and this is quoted directly from that article, Chair. Carina Heights could become a slum if the State Government goes ahead with plans to increase public housing, a local Councillor says. Nothing more black and white than that, nothing more black and white than that. The quote from Councillor SCHRINNER in this says, ‘if the State Government thinks local residents will stand by and watch Carina Heights turn into a slum, they are gravely mistaken’, and I’ll table that front page for the Chamber and for all Councillors to have.

So the LNP have shown their true colours, they’ve shown their true colours through their actions, through their words and what the LNP want is the status quo. They don’t want an increase in social and affordable housing. The LORD MAYOR says today that he wants to see social housing dispersed, but in the policy around infrastructure charge discounts that we’re going to debate shortly he’s put restrictions on community housing providers in where and which they can build, ruling out low-medium density, ruling out medium density. So the LORD MAYOR’s own policy will only see, if it is brought into full effect, that social housing and affordable housing would be concentrated. Because unlike the Moreton Bay Regional Council policy, it isn’t dispersed right around the City of Brisbane.

The DEPUTY MAYOR got it wrong again and we’re getting really used to this, I guess, but it is actually really quite worrying. Because the DEPUTY MAYOR has, we think, carriage of the Kurilpa TLPI alongside maybe Councillor ALLAN as the planning Chair, maybe the LORD MAYOR, we’re not entirely sure but the DEPUTY MAYOR does talk a lot about it. The DEPUTY MAYOR said that there were social housing requirements in the TLPI, which is totally false, totally false. The DEPUTY MAYOR said that this LNP Administration included social housing, which was totally false.

In fact there is a definition of affordable housing and I’ll let the DEPUTY MAYOR know, through you, Chair, what that is. The *Planning Regulation 2017* defines affordable housing as no more than 30% of that household’s income being spent on that housing. That’s about supporting people into housing. The definition of which the LNP put into that TLPI was that—which has been rejected, of course, because it did not meet the needs of the community—the LNP’s definition of affordable housing was that 20% of those units that were built would be just 10% below market rent. So if a similar—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Totally unenforceable, totally unenforceable. So if the market rent for an equivalent unit, whenever these are to be built, in five years or 10 years, according to the DEPUTY MAYOR over there in Kurilpa is $700 or $800 a week. That means that unit would be $630 or $720 a week. That’s not the definition of affordable housing, so either the DEPUTY MAYOR was deliberately trying to mislead people into thinking that they support it, or she doesn’t understand it at all, not across the detail. I suspect that it’s the latter, I suspect the DEPUTY MAYOR actually doesn’t know what’s in the TLPI.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. So we know that the LNP are hellbent on private developers and we’ve heard some compelling evidence of that through their actions and through what they say. They’ve reaffirmed that today and the LORD MAYOR has doubled down on that, in conflating the two issues here. The Housing Australia Future Fund is specifically about social and affordable housing. There are other programs, there are other funding streams, that are aimed at the development industry, at first home buyer schemes, the co-contribution schemes, all those sorts of things.

This one is specifically about social and affordable housing and on an issue that is specifically about social and affordable housing, what does the LNP do? They make it all about private developers. It’s just the playbook, you just open the playbook up and go LNP, dash, private developers, when it comes to social housing get rid of that and talk about private developers, full for-profit private developers. There is a great need, there is a great need for more supply from the private development industry, who are going to make a significant amount of profit out of their product. There’s also a significant need for more affordable and social housing to be delivered by, social housing and public housing by the State Government and affordable and social housing products by the community housing sector.

The thing I’ll finish on, which demonstrates the LNP’s approach most clearly, is this. When the LNP Administration devised their Kurilpa TLPI, they did so in direct consultation with the development industry, the Property Council and private developers and private owners in those sites. Not with the community and not with the community housing sector. When the LNP have developed their housing incentive policy, the infrastructure charge policy, which is supposedly aimed at affordable housing, they didn’t pick up the phone and talk to the community housing sector. They didn’t work alongside them and develop this policy with peak organisations like Q Shelter (Queensland Shelter) or QCOSS (Queensland Council of Social Service) or other organisations that are directly delivering affordable housing products. So who did they get their marching orders from?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: We presume developers, once again and that’s what the LNP is all about.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR, your misrepresentation.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. Look, I will apologise, we were talking social and affordable housing, social and affordable, I said social and affordable. It was only affordable, we can’t make social housing be put into our planning instrument, so I do apologise for that. But affordable housing was in the TLPI, clearly in the TLPI, reinforced now that the TLPI’s a State Government TLPI. It was there, has been, has never been ceded.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on this substantive motion and certainly there’s been a lot of discussion in the lead up to this. I did want to make a point that the Opposition Councillors have misrepresented the amended motion, to suggest that we do not support social and affordable housing is absolutely and demonstrably incorrect. Now this Administration has done a lot to support both social and affordable housing, our most recent efforts in this regard to provide a 100% infrastructure charge discount for community housing providers. We have a reduction in the application fees they charge, so look, we could cover a lot of territory evidencing our support for this sector. But as we’ve come to experience in this Chamber, the Labor-Green coalition of chaos regularly, regularly impede housing supply. This side of the Chamber—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Just one moment,

Councillor, can you just turn your mic off for a second, Councillor ALLAN?

Respect was given for Councillors previously speaking. Can we please afford the same respect for Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN, you’ve got the call.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Councillor CASSIDY said how? The Kurilpa TLPI, a great case in point, supported, supported by the Labor State Government and yet in here they choose not to support it. So, this Administration is open to any solutions and funding that will increase housing supply in all its forms across the city. Now there were comments earlier about why the Housing Australia Future Fund stayed on the table until today. Can I—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Would Councillor ALLAN take a question?

Councillor ALLAN: No.

Chair: No, I’m sorry, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor ALLAN, you’ve got the call.

Councillor ALLAN: So they made much of why the Housing Australia Future Fund motion lay on the table, but can I just remind everybody that this thing did not exist until five or six weeks ago? It was just a notion and an idea and until the bill was passed, we had nothing to debate and consider. Now, so despite this $10 billion fund being passed five or six weeks ago having been on the radar for a long time at Federal level, there’s still virtually no detail on how it will operate. There is still no mention of the fund on the Housing Australia website, so it would not be unreasonable for Brisbane City Council to want to know a little bit more about the detail, and as the DEPUTY MAYOR and the LORD MAYOR have said, how it affects Brisbane.

Now those on the other side of the Chamber might have been happy just to progress on the vibe of the whole thing, but we weren’t. We just wanted the detail. We’re used to the Labor team announcing big ticket flashy items for a media op, but they don’t back it up with the detail, we’ve seen—and we’ve seen that on the weekend. So the Federal Government through this fund is proposing to disburse $500 million across the country, undefined as to where and how, off the back of the earnings of a fund, a fund that they aren’t even sure will produce that sort of an earning. So the ability to provide this funding is questionable on an ongoing basis and then how it’s going to be disbursed around the country at state and local government levels is not clear.

So at this point in time, there’s no additional information that’s been shared on it, the grant scheme, how it’ll work, how local governments might be able to apply, or even whether local governments feature in this at all. Ultimately, we’re at the peril potentially of the State Government making decisions on how these funds will be disbursed. As the LORD MAYOR touched upon earlier, we don’t often do terribly well out of funding that’s disbursed by the State Government. I will sort of recall to the Chamber that I did meet in June to discuss the opportunities with representatives of the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC), who are now called Housing Australia.

We spoke a bit about what was happening in Brisbane and where we were going. They were very interested about our housing strategy and what we were intending to do around the city. Contrary to Councillor CASSIDY’s diatribe and misinformation, we actually welcome the opportunity to have further discussions with Housing Australia as they firm up the details for this particular fund and how it will impact and benefit the residents of Brisbane. You could appreciate that we might be a little bit cautious about funding that is going to come from the Federal Government, because as Councillor WINES indicated earlier and the LORD MAYOR, we often don’t see the funding that’s promised. So we do look forward to the next step in the Housing Australia Future Fund and will engage with the delivery partner, which is Housing Australia. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Just to speak on the amended motion before us today.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, we’re on the substantive motion.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, which has been amended.

Chair: Sorry, yes, you’re right.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I didn’t vote for the amendment, but the majority did, Mr Chair.

Chair: Understood, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I’m speaking on the amended motion, thank you. I just want to clarify just a few things about what the LNP is doing here today. Most interestingly, the LORD MAYOR and the planning Chair, when they’ve entered this debate, have been the most telling in all of this. I understand something wrote something for Councillor ADAMS and out she trotted thinking she was, you know, going to help things, but it didn’t. What we got from the LORD MAYOR though and the planning Chair is crystal clarity about how important this is to our city. The LORD MAYOR did not mention at all the second part of the amended motion, the new part that the LNP have brought in. That Council notes 96% of all homes are delivered by the private sector and support is also needed in this sector.

LORD MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The LORD MAYOR spent ages and ages talking about how he was poorly misunderstood and he didn’t call public housing in Carina slums and he wanted to put it on the record. He said the terrible, terrible Labor Party was misrepresenting him and that’s never, never what he meant, so he spent ages talking about that. But what he did not do, what he did not do is talk about why in a motion and a debate about supporting public and affordable housing he supports money going to private development. Does that mean he’s going to try and funnel the money that we may get to private development through Brisbane City Council? Is that what they’re intending to do? If the State—if the Federal Government enters into some sort of funding arrangement with Brisbane City Council, is this Council—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, on the recommendation of the better Brisbane suburbs board, or whatever it’s called, is this LORD MAYOR going to try and negotiate with the Federal Government that the money that the Federal Government has set aside for public and affordable housing, that this Council says that that money needs to go to the private sector? Because that’s what this motion says. It specifically says that support is needed for private housing development. That is what the LORD MAYOR wants this city to do. Now I would hope that the LORD MAYOR can work out that if they try and negotiate something that redirects public funding for social and affordable housing to subsidise private developers, that the Federal Government probably won’t give Brisbane anything, nothing.

So the LORD MAYOR and the DEPUTY MAYOR and the brains trust that came up with this today are putting any hope Brisbane City Council has of getting any of this funding to effect real change—because that’s where I started in this debate, there are homeless people—there’s a man who’s been living outside the Corinda Library for over a year. I’ve got people down at Hyde Road Park, Yeronga, I’ve got people camping on benches out the front of my office. There are people living rough all over Brisbane and I see them every day in my ward. What I do not see and what I did not hear from the LORD MAYOR and I didn’t hear it from Councillor ALLAN at all, is what we are going to do to support public and affordable housing and we have the vehicle through which to do that, the Brisbane Housing Corporation.

The Brisbane Housing Corporation, who are skilled at doing this, who have the structure to do it and who have the connections to do it. This Administration barely mentioned them, you would not think that they were part of Brisbane City Council, you would not think that they were. It just is disingenuous to think that a Federal Government initiative to support the homeless or people at risk of homelessness should be redirected to private developers. That is what the LNP are doing here today. We know this is what they want to do right across the city, it is, it’s what they want. They want to support private developers. This idea that the Kurilpa TLPI had any kind of affordable or social housing in it, despite the DEPUTY MAYOR’s little display earlier, is complete fraud, it’s a fraud, it’s a fraud on the public.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: We’ve already heard this speech before. Have we got to hear it again? Another 10 minutes of the same speech?

*Councillors interjecting.*

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

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It is a fraud and you know, the DEPUTY MAYOR had to stand up and correct herself. The Council TLPI for Kurilpa didn’t include affordable housing as it’s defined and it did not include any public housing either, didn’t include any.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: She still wants to go on with it, but you can stand up and claim you’re misrepresented and talk yourself into a deeper hole there. It didn’t, and this Council has lost its way when it comes to development. The latest fraud on the people of Brisbane is this build-to-rent thing that’s going on now, as we found out in the planning Committee none of it’s enforceable, none of it’s enforceable build‑to-rent, no, no. There’s absolutely nothing Council can do to make sure that build-to-rent actually stays as build-to-rent. There’s no price limits, there’s no DA (development approval) controls, nothing. But we’re giving them a rails run, the private developers doing build-to-rent are getting a rails run from this Council.

I just think this—I can’t support this motion as it’s been written because I don’t believe, as this motion does, that the Australia Future Fund should be used to support private developers. I just don’t think that’s right. We want to see any funds that the Federal Government has set aside for social and affordable housing go into social and affordable housing. So here’s what I say to the LNP and to any Council officers listening. Please, get the Brisbane Housing Corporation involved, make sure that they have access to any funds that are coming from Brisbane. Support them so that they can deliver affordable and social housing outcomes for our community, so that the homeless people I see every day, every single day on the street in my ward and I know there must be in other parts of the city as well, have somewhere to go.

Private developers are big enough to look after themselves. They already get generous support from the LNP and they’ve got a huge cheer squad behind the scenes doing their secret business with the better suburbs board. But it is people who are most desperately in need of housing, public and affordable housing, that deserve to have this money reach where it needs to go and that is not into subsidising developers. So the LNP needs to rethink what it’s saying here, because this motion as it’s been put forward essentially says now to the Feds yes, well we kind of note that you’ve actually done something you said you were going to do. Where’s ours? If you give us some, we really think it should go to the private development market.

That is what this motion says. That is bad policy, that is a fraud on the people of Brisbane who are expecting Council to do something positive when it comes to social and affordable housing. You know what, I actually think that that second line got tacked on in response to the Labor announcement on the weekend. If this motion had simply said subject to confirmation of what’s deliverable for the Brisbane local government area, it probably would have been all right, right? But they just went that one step too far and had to play dirty pool and put in an amendment saying we support private developers, because nod, nod, wink, wink, you know, okay, we have to do this affordable and social housing stuff, but we’re going to support you. We’re going to make sure that even if we get social and affordable housing, we’ll make sure you get looked after too.

That is what this motion from the LNP is all about. It is putting the wrong emphasis and the wrong priority on the problem, on the problem and the problem is making sure any funds get to people who can deliver social and affordable housing for people without a home.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

LORD MAYOR, your misrepresentation please.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, Councillor JOHNSTON claimed that I didn’t mention the second part of the motion. I mentioned it repeatedly in reference to the fact that the housing crisis is a problem of 100% of housing and social housing represents four per cent of housing. The 96% of housing is also relevant to the housing crisis and we can’t forget that. There was no suggestion that money for social housing should be diverted to the private sector, no one ever suggested that. But having said that, the private sector does build social housing as well and so it was quite clearly a misrepresentation of what was said and Councillor JOHNSTON wasn’t listening.

Chair: Thank you.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks, Chair. I mean the contributions today from the Administration, if they weren’t so true to form it would be shocking. Like we are here in this place to represent our communities and to be, you know, representative of what people think and what communities need. So for Administration Councillors to come in here and say on the issue of housing and homelessness we do a lot, that’s what the planning Chair said today, we do a lot, well what we have heard today is it is a developer-first approach.

This Administration will not listen to communities, will not listen to community housing providers, won’t consult with them, won’t listen to people who are actually experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. They’re good people, like people who find themselves in the situation where they are experiencing housing insecurity are good people who deserve support. For the Administration to come in here today and say you know, the TLPI is kind of the only thing we’ve got and we—yes and that’s great and we do a lot with property developers, well like that just shows how disingenuous this Administration’s approach to addressing housing and homelessness is. How out of touch can you get?

I just want to also touch on some very, very interesting comments made by Councillor ALLAN. We just want the detail, he said. That’s very interesting because you know what we would like the detail of and the community has been asking the detail of? What is being cut out of this $400 million budget blackhole announced by the LORD MAYOR. We just want the detail too. You say you want the detail, but we won’t get told, the community won’t get told and it’s relevant because what is being cut out of homelessness support, what is being cut out of, you know, community housing provider support, what is being cut, you know, from the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund that can support organisations who deal directly with those experiencing food insecurity, escaping domestic and family violence, all of these are contributing factors to why people might experience housing insecurity or homelessness. So that is—like we just want the detail too.

The other thing that is just honestly incredible, I just want to wind back the clock a minute and talk about when we brought this motion to Council it was a very simple yes or no answer and it’s been completely conflated into something that it’s not. But we brought this motion on 30 May this year and at the time, the Chair said we need to put it back because we’re having a meeting in a week and we need to discuss the detail then and then we’ll come back and debate the motion. It’s now nearly six months later and you say you want the detail, but you’re in constant contact with Housing Australia, like what is it? So if you are genuine in your commitment—

Councillor ALLAN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor ALLAN: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor COLLIER: It’s a completely—

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

Councillor COLLIER: Sure. It’s a completely disingenuous statement from the planning Chair. Again I honestly would be completely shocked, but it is just so true to form and come March next year people will have a genuine choice to make.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor ALLAN, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor ALLAN: Two things, (1) the—when we met with NHFIC, the Housing Australia Future Fund wasn’t approved and (2) there was no commitment that we would have a continuous dialogue. We were waiting for the fund to be approved.

Chair: Thank you.

Are there any—

Councillor COLLIER: Chair, point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Chair, from the Minutes when the debate was deferred from the motion it said that—Councillor ALLAN said so given that this meeting will occur on Thursday—

Chair: Sorry, Councillor COLLIER, what’s your point of order?

Councillor COLLIER: —of this week, I propose that we move that the motion lie on the table until after 1 June 2023.

Chair: It’s not a point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No, that was definitely not a valid point of order.

Any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thanks, Chair. I speak on to this motion, like I guess in a sense I’m becoming like a little bit of a repetitive—like it’s a repetitive motion that keeps happening in this Chamber, where developers come first before communities. Every time, developers first, community last. Developers get a speak or a say over what communities don’t and how the city will move forward. Developers get the tax break, the handout, the hand up because, you know, the multi—the hundreds of millions of dollars that developers get every year is not enough of a hand up. As we stand here, you know, when we have this talk on this debate and I hear the words, specifically from Councillor ALLAN, saying we’ve done lots for social housing and affordable housing and then quoting the TLPI on that, remembering that’s been acknowledged that the initial Temporary Local Planning Instrument for Kurilpa that was delivered was rejected on the third criteria by State Government, which is affordable housing.

Then of course this last one, the Kurilpa Temporary Local Planning Instrument 2, which clearly has the LNP Administration step in step with the State Labor Government, standing here and saying they’re delivering affordable housing, when you literally just have to read the document, right, which is front of me. The only area, which is PO27 (performance outcome 27), AO27 (acceptable outcome 27), says very clearly development for multiple dwelling provides for a minimum of one of the following housing affordability and diversity measures, (a) affordable housing, as defined from Councillor CASSIDY from the 2017 Planning Regulation, or the delivery of developments for a multiple dwelling provides—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor MASSEY.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I question the relevancy of planning in the Kurilpa TLPI on the Housing Australia Future Fund, relevance to the debate.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, I’m going to allow this through because it’s been mentioned quite a few times.

Councillor MASSEY, please continue.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. Or, let me be clear, or it’s affordable housing or the developer delivering a combination of different dwelling types. That’s not mandated affordable housing. There are literally 37—37? No, 39,000 people in Brisbane that are experiencing acute housing stress right now. What that actually means is that they’re facing homelessness, right? In here we’re literally debating whether the potential—like a Federal Government policy that does plan to deliver only affordable and social housing, right—some of that money should—you know, we’ve got to remember that the developers—don’t forget the developers. Please while we’re going to deliver this fund, please do not forget the developers, 39,000 people facing homelessness.

We had a Kurilpa TLPI that has no mandated housing affordability. How are these people going to pay rents when rents have gone up 30% since the pandemic? We keep saying build more privatised housing stock, build more privatised housing stock, but how does that help anyone if they can’t afford to live there? Which is literally what we’re seeing play out right now across the city. So to again spend most of this motion, like nearly 50% of it, going but don’t forget the private sector, I think is just a very clear indicator of what this might—this LNP Administration prioritises. That might be philosophically different, we might have that difference, but I just think that is disgraceful.

Chair: Any further speakers? I see no one rising.

We will now put the motion.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion 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: 21 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK and Sara WHITMEE.

ABSTENTIONS: 2 - Councillors Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillors, before we move on to E&C, can I acknowledge Denver Beanland, former Alderman for Auchenflower and also Taringa and also, I didn’t even know this, was also the last Vice Mayor of Brisbane, so welcome, Denver. I always learn something in this place.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, also ran City Hall because Sallyanne couldn’t, but we all know—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s true, it’s true.

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

**231/2023-24**

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

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you have three minutes to indicate to the Chamber why it was not put on the papers before one o’clock yesterday.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you.

Chair: My pleasure.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Earlier today I asked the LORD MAYOR a question in Question Time about whether or not there would be cuts to the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund and the Suburban Enhancement Funds. These are two local funding vehicles that provide funds for local projects in the community. The Lord Mayor’s Community Fund provides $36,000 for each Councillor and it funds everything. I fund food and emergency support, I fund community festivals, I fund Movies in the Park, low‑cost events for community. I provide support for neighbourhood centres, sporting groups, you know, dozens and dozens of grants to help community organisations to defray the cost of living or to help others. That’s what the funds are used for.

The Suburban Enhancement Funds are often the only point of funds that my ward has to deliver local community facility upgrades, such as footpaths or playground upgrades and you know, there’s already—I think it’s listed for about $580,000 in the budget, of which $40,000 of that goes straight off the top for corporate overheads, which means that there’s only about $540,000 to spend, you know, on projects. The LORD MAYOR—

Chair: Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON, this is about why you couldn’t get this motion on the paper before one o’clock.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes and that’s because the big issue is of course that the LORD MAYOR today did not rule out any cuts to these two funds. It is ridiculous, in my view, that we know for example that there’ll be no cuts to the Lindum open rail—level rail crossing. We heard that from the Infrastructure Chair very clearly today, it’s all the State Government—the Federal Government’s fault that project’s been cut. We’re not getting fruit and cheese for afternoon tea anymore, fair enough, but that budget’s already been cut and those cuts are real. But the LORD MAYOR stands up and hides behind a review that’s going on when it comes to the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund and the Suburban Enhancement Fund, both of which are critical.

So because the LORD MAYOR’s not prepared to, I want to move a motion that quarantines the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund and the Suburban Enhancement Fund from the 2023-24 budget cuts announced by the LORD MAYOR and instead cuts all overseas travel for Council officers and Councillors. I ask that standing orders be set aside so that we can debate this motion and ensure that funding can get to local groups and we can help local community organisations in all our wards and the funding cuts are found through cuts to travel overseas for Councillors and Council officers.

Chair: Councillors, we’ve got a procedural motion before us to suspend standing orders moved by Councillor JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor MASSEY.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Charles STRUNK, Sara WHITMEE, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 16 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Chair: Councillors, we move on to item 5, Consideration of Committee reports.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report 16 October please.

## 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 16 October 2023, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before I move on to the items ahead of us, I just wanted to table the proof that I flagged previously that I would provide. As we heard, Councillor JOHNSTON continues, even in this meeting, to declare that I was responsible for reducing the budget of the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund when I in fact pointed out that it was State Government legislation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Just give me one moment, LORD MAYOR, I’m really over this.

Councillor JOHNSTON, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and in accordance with section 21(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, I hereby request that you stop calling out across the Chamber.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now Councillors may not be aware of the history of this fund, but I certainly am. I remember every stage of it very well. This fund is known as a Councillor discretionary fund and if there’s any doubt that it’s discretionary all you have to do is listen to Councillor JOHNSTON’s words just before, when she said I fund this and I fund that and I fund this and I fund that. So in her own words, she makes the decisions, she’s the one that decides on what gets to fund—what gets funded. Is that Councillor discretionary funding? I’d say so, I would say so.

Now why there was a scrutiny on Councillor discretionary fund? We have Ipswich City Council to thank for that, because under previous Ipswich City Councils and previous Ipswich City Mayors, they allocated their Councillors each a discretionary fund of $1.4 million, $1.4 million, with pretty much no scrutiny over how that money would be spent. It was entirely up to the Councillor. Could you see how that might get some people into some trouble if they, you know, weren’t interested in following the rules?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: You know, there were Councillors that went to jail over this. So Belcarra review was done by the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) and that recommended that changes be made to Councillor discretionary funds and, the State Government accepted that recommendation and by law limited Councillor discretionary funds to a set percentage of total income of the Council. In fact that number is 0.1% of the Council’s revenue from general rates from the previous financial year. That is law, L-A-W, law.

That is in the Local Government Act and it is in the City of Brisbane Act, it was introduced by the State Government and it was introduced for a very specific reason. In fact when we made that change, Councillor JOHNSTON dishonestly continued to claim that it was our decision to make that change, when it is quite clearly false. I table the City of Brisbane Act which highlights very clearly that we must do this and I also table multiple examples of where Councillor JOHNSTON suggests that we should get around the rules of the CCC, around the rules recommended by the CCC.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment, just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: So this is a very serious matter and it goes to the credibility of what Councillor JOHNSTON says. She’s effectively saying don’t worry about the CCC, we’ll bend the rules, that’s what she wanted to do. It’s outrageous, it is wrong and I am sick and tired of hearing her misrepresent the truth on matters like this. So that’s why I’ve tabled the evidence, that’s why it’s important to call it out, because time and time again we see Councillor JOHNSTON do this.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So what Councillor JOHNSTON wanted was that she could still make the decisions, but someone else would sign off on her decisions. Because we heard today, she funds this, she funds that, she funds this, she funds that, that’s what she said, her own words. But no, no, someone else can just tick off—rubberstamp my decisions. It’s still discretionary fund even if people, you know, tick off on your decisions. So we’ve done this the right way, we’ve followed the State Government legislation. We respected the recommendations of the CCC, Councillor JOHNSTON has not respected those recommendations, Councillor JOHNSTON has said in fact we should bend the rules to get around them and it is wrong and it needs to be called out.

Moving on, today we have heard Councillor CASSIDY—came into this meeting very hairy chested and he’s like words to the effect of I’m going to demand answers from the LORD MAYOR on these budget changes, tub thumping, talking the big game. During Question Time he didn’t ask me a single question, a single question, not one question.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

LORD MAYOR: If there’s any illustration about the political games and cheap point scoring that Labor is engaged with, that just says it all. Telling everyone, talking the big talk, he’s going to demand answers from me and then not asking a single question of me in Question Time. Really, people can see through this. It’s really shameful, it is really shameful. But I would simply say—and I was beginning to mention this when Councillor JOHNSTON reminded me of her opposition to the State Government’s regulations on the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund. Councillor CASSIDY would have you believe that his side of politics would never rein in spending, they would not do that, they would not do the sensible things that need to be done, they’ll just keep spending. Yet his factional leader, who is the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, the most senior member of his faction, the right faction—and when I say the right faction I don’t mean that it’s right or wrong; I mean that it’s not left.

I remember very distinctly that during COVID, the Treasurer was very proud to say I’ve got the razor gang out and I’m looking for $3 billion worth of savings over the next three years. So this is the Treasurer speaking and let me read the article—this is from *The Courier-Mail* in 2020, “Treasurer, Cameron Dick, has detailed the scope for the government’s razor gang, as he’s celebrated already having saved $352 million, savings have been achieved across a range of measures including”, listen to this list, “reductions in agency staff, expenditure on travel, contractors and consultants and other suppliers and services.” He’s like we’ve done this already, isn’t it great and we’re targeting $3 billion over the next three years.

Councillor CASSIDY’s factional leader is—has already claimed credit for doing some of the things, the sensible things that we’re doing now and Councillor CASSIDY pretends that he’s somehow outraged about this. He’s okay when things happen up the road in George Street, but when the same things happen here oh, the way he carries on, the way they carry on. It is pure political theatre on their part. Don’t listen to what they say, look at what they do when they’re in office. The best way to have a look at what the Labor Opposition will do is to see what the Labor State Government does right now and they’re doing it right now. I can tell you I’ve heard on really good authority that the State Government’s budget Committee, the CBRC (Cabinet Budget Review Committee), is cutting like you have never seen before. They are slashing left, right and centre. They are making the deepest cuts they’ve ever had to make.

They are pushing back projects, they are cutting everything, yet they actually haven’t told anyone about this because they’re not upfront with people. We’ve taken a different approach, we’ve been very upfront, saying we’ve got a target of 10%, we need to reduce our spending by 10%. Up the road, Labor’s doing all the same things in secret, not telling anyone about it. Councillor CASSIDY has asked what’s changed since the budget? Okay, well I’ll mention one little thing, since the budget we’ve discovered $4.5 billion—$4.3 billion in blowouts from Mark Bailey’s portfolio alone, since the budget. He goes oh, the budget was only a little time ago, it was just a short time ago, what’s changed since then?

$4.3 billion or $4.5 billion worth in blowouts in one State portfolio alone and does anyone take the irony that this is the same amount as the entire Council budget? So in one State portfolio the blowouts are equal to the entire State budget and Councillor CASSIDY said oh, what’s changed since the budget? I think there’s been some changes since the budget. I think there’s been some pressures on every level of government since the budget. Just in *The Courier-Mail* right now another construction company has fallen over, with jobs being lost in the private sector because of the pressures that are on. If you do not understand that we are in a very different world now to what we have been in in the past, you are not fit to run Australia’s largest Council.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**232/2023-24**

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: So it’s clear, everyone sees it. As I’ve moved around the community since last week and been talking to people, I’ve got to say the vast majority of people have said you’re doing the right thing by reducing spending. Now I know Councillor CASSIDY wants to run a scare campaign, but people out there, they’re hurting themselves, they’ve had to do the same thing in their own budgets. Businesses have had to do the same things and in fact I’ve had a number of business people saying we’ve had to reduce our spending by far more than 10%. So 10% is sensible, it’s reasonable. We’re not talking about 20, 30, 40%. Ten per cent is a reasonable target to have and not unlike the type of saving targets that business have had, small business have had, people have had in their household budgets, yet all Councillor CASSIDY wants to do is scare people. It’s shameful.

The State Government is doing the same thing, even though they’re not being upfront about it with people. They have to get caught out and we see them getting caught out like literally almost daily. We’ve heard the Northern Transitway project has been slashed, the budget has been slashed, people have been laid off, yet they won’t even admit to it. So we’re being upfront, we’re doing the right thing, we’re doing the reasonable thing and we’re doing it for the very clear reason that we want to keep rates down in the future. We want to continue to offer the lowest rates in South East Queensland and I think people get that.

Councillor CASSIDY can scare people all he likes, but I think he is underestimating the intelligence of the people of Brisbane. I think they can see through what he’s saying. I think from all of the people that I’ve talked to there’s a great understanding that these are challenging times we are in. Why should governments be exempt from having to tighten the belt when everyone else is tightening the belt? Why should governments be exempt from those same pressures? We face the same pressures as other people do and we need to take the same sensible measures that other people are.

As I’ve pointed out, this process is underway, it has not been finalised. When it is finalised we will bring the budget documents through to this Chamber, like we always do, for the quarterly reviews and the budget reviews. The documents and any changes to the budget will come through this Chamber, I made that clear. But when I’m asked can you confirm this or that or the other, we have not finalised this process, we haven’t finalised it. When we do and as soon as we’re in a position, we will communicate that both to the people of Brisbane and to the Chamber itself, to explain how we’re going in terms of that 10% target.

But the other thing I will point out is that getting to this point and we’re reaching the end of October, this is about predicting and projecting forward where we might be at the end of the financial year. It’s not about where we are right now; it’s about making sure we’re in the best possible position by the end of the financial year. So the changes that we have to make now are all future focused, they’re about making sure that we are in a strong position going forward to the end of the financial year. We also are aware that if we don’t make changes there will be concerning challenges by the end of the financial year. So it’s about taking the action right now to prevent that from happening, to keep the pressures down on ratepayers and do the right and responsible thing in an open and transparent manner with the people of Brisbane.

Now it’s easy to say rule this out, rule that out, before we’ve actually made the decisions, it’s easy for them to play that game. But in the end it will be sensible savings, it will be sensible reduction initiatives and unlike the State Government, who are cutting everything at the State Government CBRC budget Committee but not being upfront about it, we will continue to be upfront with the people of Brisbane. That is the difference between these two sides of politics. There’s a quite clear trend of a certain side saying one thing before elections and then doing the opposite after.

We saw this in the past, where in the election against Sallyanne Atkinson, where they campaigned on the Lord Mayor’s pay and allowance, remember? They said that Sallyanne Atkinson got paid too much and they would cut the salary. What they did, when they got elected, they cut the Lord Mayor’s salary and then they introduced an allowance to make up for it, that’s exactly what they did. Now they’re complaining about the allowance that they introduced. So this is who they are, this is who they are. They say one thing before an election and after an election they do the opposite. It’s just like when Anna Bligh said there’ll be no asset sales before the 2009 election—sorry, the—was it the 2009 election? Then after the 2009 election they sold everything that wasn’t bolted down.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor STRUNK and Councillor WHITMEE, do not call out across the Chamber. Councillor STRUNK, when you do call out, please don’t do this either, because it makes it way too obvious.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So they’ll tell you they’re against various things and then they’ll do the opposite straight after the election. We’ve seen it again and again and again. I mentioned asset sales, they said they were against it in the lead up to the 2009 election and after the election they sold the motorways, they sold the Port of Brisbane. They pretty much tried to sell everything that wasn’t bolted down. So there’s a word of warning here to anyone who wants to believe what Labor politicians say before an election, but I can tell you if someone’s upfront before an election and says that we need to make savings because it’s the right thing to do, well then you should believe that.

Because when we say we’re going to do something like that we will do it and we will keep it sensible and we will make sure that the ratepayers of Brisbane don’t have to pay in the long run. That’s exactly what we will do and people know that they can trust us, because time and time again we’ve kept rates low. The first rate freeze in 35 years, the second budget in a row where rates have risen substantially less than inflation and in fact this year more than half of inflation. So we have a clear record of doing the right thing responsibly and financially on behalf of the people of Brisbane and we will continue to do so.

Moving on to the items in front of us. It is a really important day when we are supporting more supply of housing and that’s exactly what’s happening today with our housing supply action plan. Now we can see here that what we will achieve through this is providing 100% discount to community housing providers, as we announced today with the example at Chermside with the Brisbane Housing Company. Also above and beyond this policy, we’ll be making changes on an ongoing basis to our budget documents as well, so the 100% discount for community housing providers covers every single area of Brisbane. Not just the areas outlined in this policy, this policy is aligned with our Sustainable Growth Strategy and is targeted at specific precincts.

The community housing provided discount on infrastructure charges is for everywhere in Brisbane, I want to make that very clear and we will be updating the relevant budget documents to make sure that that occurs. We also have been communicating that to community housing providers as well. So provides 100% discount for community housing providers, it provides a 75% discount for already approved DAs in those areas where it’s located close to infrastructure and facilities, areas that are located in high-density zones, areas that are located in major centres and in those well-located areas. Why would we provide a discount in those areas on infrastructure charges? Because those areas have good infrastructure.

If you’re talking about greenfield areas with very little infrastructure, not as good transport, there’s an extraordinarily expensive task in building the infrastructure in those areas. They shouldn’t get a discount in those areas because the infrastructure is needed and the infrastructure in many cases doesn’t exist to the standard that we need it. However, in these locations we have selected there is good infrastructure in place and plans to make it even better. Kurilpa is the perfect example. You will hear a Greens Councillor arguing that somehow there’s no good infrastructure in Kurilpa. Every other Councillor in this Chamber would disagree, because the infrastructure in Kurilpa is some of the best in Brisbane in that precinct or near that precinct.

We’re locating this incentive based on where the infrastructure is and it’s appropriate that there’s a reduction in infrastructure charges where there is already good infrastructure. But it’s also appropriate because we need to help bring down the cost of building new homes. There’s no magic pudding here where you can tax your way into builders building more, it doesn’t work like that. As I said before, the demand is higher than it has been in decades. If you have a block of land and you’re able to build something on it, you would be building something on it right now, because the choice you’ve got to make is okay, well do I keep my powder dry and hope that the demand is better down the track in five years—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, I’m sorry, your time has expired.

**233/2023-24**

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: The idea that somehow people are just sitting and land banking land—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Okay, we’ve heard the Opposition Councillors yelling out, yes they do, or they’d do it. The idea that they’re waiting for some event in the future that might make them more money when the demand is at record levels right now, why would anyone sit on their land right now? They would build it if they possibly could. They would build it if building companies weren’t falling over. They would build it if they could get contractors and workers. They would build it. It’s a basic principle of supply and demand and the demand is at record high levels, the supply needs to catch up and the only thing preventing that supply coming on is building costs are prohibitive right now and you cannot get either construction companies or workers. There’s a skills shortage.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: There’s been countless construction companies fall over and you’ll hear the Opposition saying everyone’s making record profits.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well they’re not, they’re not; they’re falling over, they’re at risk of falling over. So only a Labor-Green coalition of chaos would think that a big new tax would be a solution to a housing supply shortage. It just is ludicrous, it is unbelievable. We’ve got an approach here that we believe is the best way that we can help, by targeting the new homes and the incentives to the places where they have the good infrastructure. So there’s a 75% reduction for the preapproved homes, these are homes that have been approved since January last year and there are at least 3,000 ready to go. Three thousand that have been approved in these areas that are ready to be built if the market is financially viable, if they can actually get a builder; if they can make a project stack up.

So 3,000 there and then we’ve given a further commitment of a 50% reduction for new applications in these areas that have come in since September. This is a real commitment to bringing down the price of building new homes and it’s something that is really desperately needed right now. As I said before, it’s easy to focus on the four per cent of social housing and put all the eggs in that basket and think that that’s going to solve the housing crisis. But we also need to focus on other types of housing that are required and there is a shortage of virtually every kind of housing. So this will help, this will help in a sustainable way and this will help bring down construction prices and improve feasibilities for projects to go ahead. I think it is the right and responsible thing to do.

Look, this is a decision which we don’t take lightly, because if this housing challenge we have right now wasn’t a top priority, there are obviously other things that we would normally put the money towards. But it is top of mind, it is right there at the top of the list for the people out on the streets at the moment. It is the top of the list for people wanting to get a home to rent. It is right up there in terms of their priority list and we’re doing the right thing to bring the price of building homes down. Now the idea that you will suddenly encourage investors or home builders to build more homes if you tax them. That’s already been put to the test, because the State Government has been targeting investors for the last couple of years, egged on by the Greens.

Remember they called investors greedy landlords, remember that? They called them parasites, there was a big push against people that owned investment properties, vilification of those people. The whole range of extra taxes and requirements that have been placed on those people, that often are mum and dad investors, has made them reconsider whether they want to be investors anymore. So 40% of all investors in Queensland have sold their properties in the last few years, 40%.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: If you think that you’ll tax your way out of this housing crisis, just have a look at what has already happened. Step aside, take a bow, Labor and the Greens are responsible for making the housing crisis worse by targeting property investors. They are responsible, take a bow, take a bow.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: So if you think that by bringing in a new tax it will change that, it will make it worse, it will make it worse.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I feel passionately about this because I can see the road that Labor and the Greens want to take us down and they’ve already taken us down at the State level and it has made the situation so much worse.

But let’s have a look at infrastructure charges incentives. Where they’ve been provided, they’ve been really successful in bringing on extra supply. There was an incentive to provide more student accommodation that was provided by Council in the past and what happened? More student accommodation was built. There was an incentive to build new hotels because Brisbane had a shortage of hotels and what happened? More hotels were built. There was an incentive that supports aged care and what happened? More aged care was built, because there was a shortage and there was a need for it. So this kind of approach works, it is proven to work, it has worked in Brisbane and it will continue to work going forward.

The reality is if you want more housing on—housing supply to be brought on, there are two things that have to happen. One, you have to stop opposing housing being built everywhere and, two, you need to try and bring down the cost of building housing. Those two things we are working on absolutely day and night to make sure that people in Brisbane can have a roof over their head. Whether they want to buy a property or whether they want to rent a property, we’re in their corner, we’re fighting for them. We’re working hard day and night to bring on more housing supply, whereas we see snake oil salesmen and women saying we’re going to cap rents, that’ll fix it.

Well has that worked? No and in fact the evidence at the moment is that the investors, because there’s such uncertainty about the changes in the rules, are getting out of the market, they’re getting out altogether. So, there’s actually less rental accommodation available in Brisbane now than there was before the pandemic because investors are getting out of the market. That’s what happens when you tax people, when you target people who are helping to solve the problem. So it’s a very slippery slope that Labor is on, I would urge them to support this policy. Whether they do or they don’t, it’ll get through, but history will judge them harshly if they do not support bringing down the cost of housing.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Item B is the surrender of the grant of lease at 174 Gardner Road, Rochedale. There’s a current operation in place by LMS Energy. This is a great outcome because it sees landfill gas collected, it sees generators converting that landfill gas into renewable energy which is fed into the grid to power thousands of homes in the local area. This contract that exists at the moment was entered into in 2017 with LMS Energy. A new lease was approved at that time for a term of 20 years, which commenced on 1 July 2017 with a further 10-year option. Council does receive a royalty payment as a result of the sale of this energy into the grid, the green energy.

In 2021, two new enginators, which are effectively diesel engine generators that use the power—use the gas to generate green energy, were proposed by the operator. The two new enginators were installed outside of the current leased area and this arrangement here, what we’re doing through the Chamber modifies the lease area to give them the capacity to operate in that expanded facility which generates more green power, generates more into the grid and obviously provides an ongoing return for Brisbane City Council. So I commend these two items to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Earlier today the LORD MAYOR dishonestly stated that I had encouraged myself and others to ignore the CCC report, Belcarra. In fact, I moved a motion in this place calling on Council to urgently develop an approval process for the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund similar to the Footpaths and Parks Trust Fund, that’s the SEF for those who are new. So the LORD MAYOR has deliberately stated that I wanted to circumvent the CCC, when I was moving a motion to establish a transparent approval process in the same way that the current SEF fund works.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on both of these LNP stuff-ups that are before us today on the E&C report. That is a very important point that Councillor JOHNSTON makes there, because if we were to follow the LORD MAYOR down his little rabbit hole, the Suburban Enhancement Fund should be to the value of $36,000 as well. Because what the LORD MAYOR was suggesting is that a system where Councillors recommend a project and someone else signs off on it would somehow skirt the rules. Well newsflash, that’s exactly how the Suburban Enhancement Fund works. If the LORD MAYOR wanted to fund the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: It wouldn’t be—I’ll take that interjection from the LORD MAYOR. It wouldn’t be discretionary funding—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —with the LMCF, if a similar system was set up, as Councillor JOHNSTON suggested and that funding was kept at $75,000.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: But the LORD MAYOR has just belled the cat once again and he’s confirmed that it was his decision, his decision to continue it as discretionary funding, thereby cutting that fund by more than 50%. That’s what we have come to expect from this LNP Administration, broken promises and cuts.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: The LORD MAYOR talked a lot about promises and broken promises in his contribution in the 15 minutes he spoke about not just Labor in this Chamber—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —but Labor governments, existing Labor governments, former Labor governments, all he talked about were his opponents, not about his vision for the city, because that’s paper thin.

The LORD MAYOR talked a lot about broken promises, he didn’t mention the broken promise of Paris-style Metro, did he? He didn’t talk about the broken promise of the five green bridges or the broken promise of greening King George Square in the last election, that didn’t happen. All those broken promises of this chaotic LNP Administration, people leaving left, right and centre over there.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: It’s a real game of cards, was going to be—yes, I think so now.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor—just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor JOHNSTON, I will issue an order if you don’t stop yelling across the Chamber. I know you’re giving words of encouragement to Councillor CASSIDY but it’s inappropriate.

Councillor CASSIDY, you’ve got the call.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. As the LORD MAYOR has proved, he can give it but he can’t take it. When we talk about broken promises and when we talk about the $400 million in cuts that this LNP Administration are inflicting on the people of Brisbane, they can run but they can’t hide and we will expose every single one of them. But they’re going to make it difficult, because as we know the way in which this budget is now written is that the LORD MAYOR might come in here and say that he’ll produce a list of cuts, but he won’t. He’ll put a headline figure in a budget review for the eight program areas which will show a reduction in the overall funding for those program areas, but they will never tell the people of Brisbane where they are cutting projects. Rates, fees and charges are up $113 million this year, $113 million more coming from ratepayers and people who have to pay fees and charges to Council this year, but they’re cutting $400 million in projects and Council services.

It’s clearly all about, it’s clearly all about trying to cling on to power here, because the LORD MAYOR is trying to create this narrative that he’s sort of fighting against himself. He’s fighting against three-month ago Adrian. His argument—he must stand in the mirror in the morning and shout and scream and point fingers at himself in the mirror, because that’s the Adrian—that’s the Adrian that promised those projects in the suburbs of Brisbane and the Adrian on this side of the mirror is the one that’s cutting them. That’s the argument that he is having each and every day with himself. We didn’t cut $400 million from the budget; he cut $400 million from the budget. All the while he’s jacking up rates, fees and charges being levied against the people of Brisbane.

Now the LORD MAYOR said that developers don’t land bank, the LORD MAYOR said that developers don’t sit on land to try and get better development outcomes for themselves. I bet as he was saying that in the back of his mind, he was wishing that he had told the DEPUTY MAYOR to say that as well.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Just one moment, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Relevance to the actual two reports. The LORD MAYOR has the ability to go round the world, but Councillor CASSIDY does not.

Chair: Agreed, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY can—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: That’s enough, Councillors.

Councillor CASSIDY, can I draw you back to the items within the report please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks. Talking on the Housing Supply Incentive Policy, which is around build-to-rent, which is apparently what the Kurilpa TLPI is all about. The LORD MAYOR said that developers don’t land bank, that’s what he said, although that’s what the DEPUTY MAYOR said was occurring in the Kurilpa area. The DEPUTY MAYOR said when they introduced the TLPI and then subsequently these incentives that we are voting on today, was to encourage landowners to on-sell those properties or to develop those properties because they get a higher yield and a higher profit.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: So this was months ago, the DEPUTY MAYOR said this in introducing the TLPI. The DEPUTY MAYOR said in the Committee and in the Council Chamber here at the time that this would incentivise those landowners to sell that land or develop that land, because they’re not doing it now. They own that land, it’s zoned for Higher density residential, but they’re not building on it because they were seeking a higher profit margin. They said that to this LNP Administration, the Property Council said that to this LNP Administration and what did this LNP Administration do?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: They said how high did you want us to jump again? I’m not making this up, these are the words of the DEPUTY MAYOR of Brisbane. That’s exactly what Brisbane’s LNP DEPUTY MAYOR said this policy was all about in Kurilpa.

The LORD MAYOR talked about priorities, he talked about his priorities in supporting the development of five-star hotels in the CBD over affordable housing. For a long time, this LNP Administration could have incentivised the development of more affordable housing through support for community housing providers, but they chose not to, they chose to incentivise the development of student accommodation and five-star hotels and aged care. Sure, there’s an argument around that, but they—at the same time, they chose to do those things they specifically chose not to support community housing providers delivering affordable housing in the suburbs of Brisbane. That was a political choice of theirs and we understand where the LORD MAYOR comes from in arriving at that destination in describing social housing as slums, of course.

So the LNP have spent months now, the last 12 months I think, as we’ve been raising this issue of supporting community housing providers through infrastructure charge discounts, the LNP have continued to say that they are doing everything they possibly could. We heard that from the LORD MAYOR directly, we heard that from Councillor ALLAN, get up and continue to say week after week, month after month, that this LNP Administration couldn’t possibly do any more. Except for when the development industry asks them to do something more and they have. It appears to me that they’ve tacked on—the LNP Administration have tacked on the support for community housing providers at the last minute and the LORD MAYOR has confirmed that today. Because the crux of this policy is to support largescale build-to-rent developments and other so-called affordable housing developments.

If we’re to take the DEPUTY MAYOR’s description of that, that would be just 10% below market rates. In the policy, it says affordable housing providers only in those four restricted zones—in the High density zone, City centre around centre zoning, where very few community housing providers are delivering affordable housing developments at the moment. So they are ready to go in lots of other places, but this LNP Administration didn’t support that and we figure out why. So when it comes to the TLPI, when it comes to two-thirds of this policy before us today, the LNP regularly talked to the development industry, to the Property Council and others, but they clearly didn’t talk to the community housing sector about this. Because we’ve heard from the LORD MAYOR today—this is the first time that he’s said that those incentives would be rolled out more broadly in the budget and in the budget review, because they weren’t captured in this policy before us today.

So the LORD MAYOR has clearly been caught very, very short in his support for community housing and affordable housing. By restricting the policy, what he did by design by restricting the policy to the High density residential zone, Mixed used zones in the inner city around Principal centre or Major centre zones, was to give the leg up, continue to give the leg up to private developers. An immense leg up over them instead of community housing providers. As I said, most of those community housing providers aren’t developing in those zones at all. The LORD MAYOR could have followed a blueprint instead of just arriving at these things late and tacking things on in such a chaotic way, there was a blueprint for him to have followed.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

**234/2023-24**

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: So when you look at a policy around incentivising the development of affordable housing in partnership with community housing providers, we can look to our neighbouring Council the Moreton Bay region. At the time—and this is a fair while ago now, probably a year ago that Mayor Flannery started working with community housing providers—he didn’t throw his hands up in the air like this LNP Administration and say there’s nothing more to be done, go away. He said let’s sit down, let’s work through that process. He’s offered up Council land on peppercorn leases, funding and infrastructure charge discounts over huge swathes of that Council’s zoning areas, because he knows that every lever needs to be pulled. He knows that every lever needs to be pulled, he doesn’t have to stumble on these things by accident like this LNP Mayor, or to be dragged kicking and screaming to them.

But we know through their actions the LNP aren’t really that interested in solving the housing crisis that Brisbane is now facing. A housing crisis that is real and visceral for people out in the community. I know Councillor JOHNSTON’s spoken about people that she has seen and spoken to through their lived experiences of sleeping rough. I haven’t heard one single LNP Councillor talk about that today—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —not one. They haven’t talked about the work that our Public Space Liaison Officers are doing, about the minimal services that Council offers. They’ve got up and they’ve ragged on the Federal Government, they’ve ragged on the State Government, on everyone else.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, but only the same three, that’s right. They don’t trust all of them to speak. But they haven’t talked about the lived experience of people in their communities that are facing housing stress. Sure, there are people who would be long-term rough sleepers and the PSLO team and Council would know them very well. They’re also people who have lived experiences of raising their children in a car, in a sedan. There were three families recently at Brighton State School, one single school in my community, three families that were living and raising their children in a car. They had money and they had jobs, they couldn’t find a home to live in.

*Councillors interjecting.*

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

Councillor CASSIDY: The YMCA after school hours care team there would provide some extra food for those kids because those parents were finding it incredibly difficult to make school lunches on the boot lid of a car.

So when we continue to raise the housing crisis and solutions that we should be arriving at and working with community housing providers, and saying to developers, who are deliberately land banking for higher profits, get out of the way and let someone else build there. We are serious about finding the solution because we actually talk to those people. Labor actually believes housing is a fundamental human right. That has not come through in anything the LNP has said at all. I don’t know what their views about housing are.

I have listened all day and I have listened for the last 12 months to everything LNP Councillors have said and this LNP LORD MAYOR has said and I don’t know what they truly believe about housing. Yes, I really don’t know where they are actually at. The LORD MAYOR is—clearly in spending 15 out of 20 minutes talking about Labor’s policies and other Labor governance, is clearly worried. You can see the look of terror in this LNP Administration as they’re lurching from chaos to chaos here in Brisbane.

But the LORD MAYOR has drawn the battlelines. He is clearly, in everything he has done—whether it was through that motion earlier today, or in everything he’s said today. He has clearly put the LNP on the side of developers and Labor on the side of the people. I’m okay in being there.I am more than okay in being there. In working with—and then I bet they are more than okay being where they are too—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —this LNP Administration. Because in getting around and meeting our community housing providers and peak organisations, Tracey Price and I have got a real sense of what is needed to deliver that fundamental human right. People are really worried in Brisbane about what the future looks like. About how liveable our city is. What quality of life will you have when you can’t find an affordable home? The LNP is all about is maximising developers’ profits through their actions. That’s basically where we’re at now.

So in supporting community housing providers, it isn’t in this policy, of course, because the LORD MAYOR forgot about it and he admitted that today. He just said he forgot to include it in this policy, it’s going to be amended in the budget review, which is going to cut $400 million from suburban projects, but he’s going to extend those incentives. We support them and we support the development of affordable rentals in Brisbane and housing for all. That should be where you start in approaching a policy like this.

That’s the bare minimum. Rather than just thinking what is the political angle and what is the political attack? Which is all this chaotic LNP Administration does. After 20 years, well a lot longer ago than 20—at the 20-year mark now. Years ago the chaos started to set in, in this LNP Administration but they’re just lurching from chaos to chaos now. When the LORD MAYOR just abandons the field, he’s not showing any leadership.He doesn’t come in here and debate critical issues for the future of Brisbane. He just comes in here with the pre-prepared political statements and tries to pick a fight with anyone anywhere, other than just doing his job.So it’s a real shame when Brisbane used to lead the pack.

When we had a Labor Administration that set up the Brisbane Housing Company and supported them when we had a Labor Administration here who got on the ground and worked with people who were under extreme housing stress or were sleeping rough. To fast forward 20 years to know that his LNP Administration prioritises the profits of private developers and five-star hotels over community housing providers. Have more media advisers in the LORD MAYOR’s office than homelessness officers. It is absolutely incredible to see where the priorities of Council has shifted after 20 long years of this chaotic LNP Administration.

The other stuff up here, not as monumental as causing the housing crisis, of course. But another LNP chaotic—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —another chaotic LNP stuff up is Clause B, the surrender and grant of lease at 174 Gardner Road, Rochedale. The LORD MAYOR failed to mention that they sort of didn’t realise that these—what do you call them? He called them diesel generators. They’re certainly not, they’re gas generators. Well, I certainly hope they are. I hope they’re not burning diesel out at a closed landfill site. That sort of defeats the purpose of clean energy out there. Maybe he was mistaken about that.

But this lease was entered into in 2021 and the LNP Administration, of course happy to receive the additional revenue from the increased royalty payments to them. Two years later, two years later they finally realise how badly they stuffed up the lease boundaries. They’re now seeking a Ministerial exemption to enter into a new lease, without going to tender, of course. An absolute mess and absolute chaos.

We know that the LORD MAYOR doesn’t want to come clean to the people of Brisbane on where his $12.8 million—to date, of cuts has fallen. Where the $400 million of cuts are coming from. Who knew this was a problem? If the LORD MAYOR hadn’t figured out for two years that LMS were operating outside their lease area, no one seemed to pick that up whatsoever, but the cheques kept rolling in.

I’m starting to think maybe the $400 million in cuts was incompetence, was total incompetence on this chaotic LNP Administration. Although when you look at something else, you’re also then just—you go back to the position of they’re just being totally deceitful. So it’s hard to pick one, whether the LORD MAYOR—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —both options are bad, none are better than the other. Whether it is LNP incompetence or LNP deception, but one or the two is occurring at the moment in this chaotic LNP Administration. We’ll support this item, of course, because this mess needs to be cleaned up. We can’t be continuing to operate illegally out there in having these generators operating outside of a lease site. So we’re happy to support this item as well, but this is just one more example, I think, of why this LNP Administration, has been in power for 20 years, is lurching from crisis to chaos. Why they need to be dumped in March next year.

Councillor WHITMEE: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WHITMEE.

Councillor WHITMEE: Yes, earlier today you made a ruling on my point of order regarding misrepresentation. Saying that I couldn’t make a claim of misrepresentation because I hadn’t entered the debate yet. I’m asking you to give that same ruling to the DEPUTY MAYOR.

Chair: Sorry, I’m a bit confused.

Councillor WHITMEE: The DEPUTY MAYOR has risen on a point of order for misrepresentation on a debate she has not entered yet.

Chair: Oh right, I’m with you.

Councillor WHITMEE: You’ve told me today that my point of order was not valid because I had not entered the debate for the same misrepresentation point of order.

Chair: Yes, thank you, Councillor WHITMEE. Can you just give me one moment?

Yes, unfortunately DEPUTY MAYOR—yes, thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Yes, thank you, Chair. I mean thank you, Chair. Today I rise to speak on the Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy. Less than one week after announcing a huge gap of $400 million in the 2023 budget, the LNP Administration continues to pursue tax breaks for big developers and this is what this is all about.

These tax breaks mean that communities across the city just keep losing. We know that our growing city needs more investment in infrastructure. I’m talking about green bridges, safe and separated bikeways, pedestrian upgrades, parks, park embellishment, library upgrades, new libraries and investment in upgrading community facilities and delivering more community facilities.

Through the announcement of the 10% cut last week and now with this cut—tax break for infrastructure charges for big developers, we know that crucial infrastructure will be cancelled and delayed for the future. For the Gabba Ward, what this means already is that the St Lucia and West End bridge is a broken promise.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Our sensible savings are not in this report, housing action supply.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Oh, sorry, or the Rochedale.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Your call.

Chair: Can I draw you back to the report.

Councillor WHITMEE: All right. The Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy, let me repeat again, is tax breaks for big developers. If the LNP had listened to the calls of the Green Party for years for developers to pay their fair share, we wouldn’t be in the situation where critical and transformative infrastructure and service for the cities remain undelivered—or will continue to be delayed. A couple of things from The Gabba, for example are any upgrades to the Kurilpa library, which is currently not disable accessible and also has no access to any toilets.

Yes. I mean how many others, right? I mean these are not being delivered. Remembering, remembering that in the past, Brisbane City Council planners required many developers to deliver the Riverwalk, right? A crucial infrastructure for Brisbane. It’s shocking to imagine how much critical infrastructure will not be delivered now and in the future because of the infrastructure cuts and the tax breaks for developers that the LNP are pushing again. It’s been 20 years of the LNP, it’s been the same story. Developers win out, community become last again. If this was just about community housing providers, this would be a very, very, very different debate.

Even though those providers of development on State Government grants to build predominantly this—but the reality is this motion isn’t about that. This motion is about tax breaks for developers. It’s about privatised housing supply as its own. Which is the theme for today. I’m pretty sure no one’s surprised that I’m saying this but I have to say it out loud. Privatised housing supply will not solve this housing crisis.

I think every single person in here knows, in this Chamber, that there’s not a single person today that’s sleeping rough in Musgrave Park or anywhere in the city, that will ever be able to afford to live or rent in any of these developments. Not a single one, right? Which already shows exactly what the priority is for the LNP Administration. Giving developers more money. They’re already making millions and millions in dollars, let me be clear, I’m saying developers. Which is different from construction companies, but handing them fist over hand millions and millions more by giving them subsidies and tax breaks.

Look, there are many things that we can do to fix the housing crisis at the moment, but this isn’t one of them. This is about tax breaks, again, for developers. With your indulgence, Chair, which we’ll see if I get stopped. The LORD MAYOR earlier mentioned the infrastructure in Kurilpa. Just earlier today in South Brisbane and about how that infrastructure is incredibly good.

Didn’t say great, said it was good. The thing about Kurilpa and South Brisbane that seems to not be acknowledged, is the residents are saying how about the future? Future planning. If there’s going to be 10,000 new homes and the average home in Queensland has 2.5 people, that means 25,000 more people in Kurilpa. Why will you not plan for the infrastructure of 25,000 more people? That’s what people are saying, that’s what people are asking for and I think that’s a fair ask.

So with this cut we will see that the people of Kurilpa that might have developers that are going to reach unlimited heights with these developer cuts. What infrastructure is going to be delivered there to supply for 25,000 more people? You know, this is a clear stance by the LNP of where they stand. They stand for big developers, they stand for their corporate backers. I will be voting no to this motion.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy. Mr Chair, we’ve already heard from a number of speakers today about the housing challenges we are facing across the city. We’re all aware of them. Housing affordability, supply and choice has been heavily impacted by a complex set of economic conditions. Rising building costs, global supply issues and labour shortages have slowed construction. Due to these factors, project feasibilities are not economical and projects are not commencing.

The numbers don’t lie when it comes to setting the scene. Brisbane is projected to grow from a population of 1.26 million people in 2021, to a city of 1.72 million by 2046. To accommodate this growth, the city will need an extra 209,700 new homes by 2046. This equates to approximately 8,500 new homes each year. We have also see a change in the household composition. With single persons and couples with no children making up more than half of all households, but unfortunately, less than one third of housing is one or two-bedroom homes.

Whilst Council has nearly a decade of housing supply approved, we need to look at ways to make it easier to construct these approved dwellings to deliver quality affordable and well-located housing. As such, this incentive looks to reduce the infrastructure charges for the delivery of studio, one and two-bedroom apartments across both build-to-rent and build-to-sell developments. We have identified over 3,000 one and two-bedroom dwellings across the city with existing approvals since January 2022.

That is why this initiative is concentrated in smaller, targeted areas. To address and provide additional supply for these smaller households. These targeted areas include those that are already planned for higher density living, such as High density residential, Principal and Major centres and Mixed use inner city zones.

Developers with a current eligible development approval from 1 January 2022, can apply for a 75% infrastructure charges reduction. Additionally, up until 30 June 2025, new development approvals will qualify and have up until 1 April 2026 to apply for a 50% infrastructure charges reduction. For a development to be eligible, construction must be completed within four years from when the application is approved.

But the biggest winner from today’s incentive is the community housing providers, who will receive a 100% permanent and ongoing reduction to make it even easier for them to deliver vital social housing. The Brisbane Housing Company have indicated that under this incentive they will be able to save up to $1 million for every 100 homes they deliver. The LORD MAYOR was at a site today, so this sort of notion that we’re not engaging with them is incorrect.

So the saving that, for example, Brisbane Housing Corporation will receive, will allow them to obviously provide equity and fund additional supply. These incentives apply not only for build-to-sell but also build-to-rent projects. I would note the Labor Lord Mayoral candidate stated over the weekend that if elected she would investigate build-to-rent incentives. Well, surprise, surprise, we’re already doing it. So in the context of the build-to-rent projects, there are two options available to them. They can take advantage of the build-to-rent inventive we announced a little while ago that allows them a deferred payment scheme or, alternatively, they can take up this new scheme.

So the reduced infrastructure charges will ultimately reduce the costs associated with the construction of new housing. It will provide additional housing growth across the city and most of it will be around areas that have high-frequency public transport, jobs and facilities.

Now, to the points that Councillor CASSIDY made, I would like to correct them. So first of all, I’ve touched upon it already, this incentive scheme applied to build‑to-rent and build-to-sell. This sort of notion that we’re not engaging with the community housing provider sector is incorrect. In fact, the BHC, Brisbane Housing Corporation, was present when the LORD MAYOR announced this particular incentive over at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre recently.

Councillor CASSIDY also suggested that these particular community housing provider projects didn’t take place in high-density areas. Well, we’ve got three in the system at the moment and both of those are in high-density residential areas, surprise, surprise.

Now, the reason that we are looking to embed the community housing provider infrastructure discounts, permanent 100% discounts, in the infrastructure charging resolution is that this policy is time limited. By embedding them in the infrastructure charges resolution in the budget in June they become permanent. There is a section within the budget, that’s the infrastructure section of the budget, that specifically refers to eligible organisations. So that’s the thinking behind that.

Now we’ve heard plenty of comments from Councillor CASSIDY today about what we’re doing or what we’re not doing. We had this very, very fluffy statement on the weekend that didn’t really provide a lot of detail. A few motherhood statements, we’re going to look at this, we’re going to review that. We might do that, but at no time, at no time has Councillor CASSIDY covered the issue of cost.

The real problem we have in this city at the moment is it is way too expensive to build things. That’s all about labour costs, labour shortages, supply chain issues. You name it, there’s a hole bag of things that are impacting the industry and he’s happy to point the finger at us. We know what the problems are but he has no solutions himself.

I would love to see Councillor CASSIDY get up here in the Chamber and spell out all the ways that he’s going to manage the costs of building in this city. Because the reality is, as a Council, we’re pulling the levers we can pull, but the Federal and State Government are missing in action.

In fact—and I’ll get on to this a bit later on. I love the quote that Councillor CASSIDY gave, “causing the housing crisis”, that is a delusional statement which gets to the heart of the point I just made. We’ve got nine years of supply here available in Brisbane, if only the environment was satisfactory to allow the building industry to build. Unless we can answer those questions and alleviate the cost of construction, we are going to continue to struggle in this city. We, as a Council, are doing everything we can to drive down costs.

Now, to Councillor COLLIER’s points, which were somewhat confused and uninformed. Look, we would love to be able to continue to build everything that we have set out to build. We are, as the construction industry is facing, in a situation where we’re experiencing increasing costs, but we have a high priority on housing. If that means that a road doesn’t get resurfaced or something else doesn’t get done, notwithstanding we wanted to do it, housing is a key focus. So they can set their priorities where they like, but for us housing is definitely something that we are focused on.

Councillor COLLIER also raised the issue of infrastructure charges and why more isn’t collected. The infrastructure charging regime is set by the State, they cap infrastructure charges. We would love to be able to charge a bit more in the right locations and we have an ongoing dialogue with the State—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor ALLAN: —on this very issue.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I’m not sure, I think Councillor ALLAN might be confused because I didn’t say any of that, I claim to be misrepresented.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor ALLAN: My mistake, Chair. That is right, sorry. It wasn’t Councillor COLLIER at all. So you know we’ve heard a lot about who’s going to be building in this city. The reality is we cannot possibly achieve the supply targets we need without the private sector being involved. You know the LORD MAYOR touched upon the percentage of housing that’s provided by the private sector. You can’t ignore that, it’s a reality, they are going to be instrumental in providing supply.

I’d just like to finish very, very quickly on the fact that it is the State Government and the Federal Government who have departed the field in the provision of social housing. They departed it years ago to leave it to the CHPs and I can prove it. The Feds have the Housing Australia Future Fund, the State has the Housing Investment Fund.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, your time—

Councillor ALLAN: They know they have to provide—

Chair: —has expired.

Councillor ALLAN: —social housing.

Chair: Thank you, your time has expired.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item B of the E&C report on surrender and grant of lease of land at 174 Gardner Road, Rochedale. The LORD MAYOR has previously spoke on this topic, but I’d just like to give a bit more details on the history and also the progress. The Brisbane Landfill site at 174 Gardner Road, Rochedale, has an onsite renewable energy gas generation facility, operating under lease by LMS Energy Pty Ltd.

More than 100 landfill gas extraction wells are located throughout the landfill and are mutually designed for installation of additional gas wells to cater for increased gas production and subsequent power generation over time. In 2017, Council entered into a land gas management contract and new 20-year lease with LMS Energy. Council receives payment through the associated landfill gas management contract. In 2021, two new enginators were added at the facility, increasing the number of enginators from five to seven and a month-to-month licence to occupy. Following the DA, the addition of the two new enginators has resulted in increased energy generation and payments to Council under the landfill gas management contract.

As the lease cannot be amended to increase the lease area, it is proposed that the existing lease dealing with LMS Energy be surrendered and a new lease be granted over the whole area occupied by LMS Energy. The existing landfill gas management contract will remain in force. As it is proposed that the existing lease be surrendered, Council is unable to apply the exception in the City of Brisbane Regulation to renew the lease to the existing tenant without going to tender. A new lease will therefore be subject to Council obtaining an exemption from the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government.

Upon Council approval of—to grant the lease, the Minister’s exemption will be sought. The payments to Council arising from the additional two enginators will continue to be managed under the landfill gas management contract. The grant of lease seeks to establish a relationship with LMS Energy for the management of the new infrastructure on site which will lead to an even better outcome for the Council.

The Opposition Leader keep calling it a stuff up, but if a stuff up means more green energy and more revenue for the city Council, I think that’s a good outcome. Of course he says he’s going to vote for the stuff up. So, well—I look—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HUANG: —yes, I look into the dictionary and thesaurus, I can’t see how stuff up links to such a good outcome, but anyway, you are welcome to vote—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor HUANG: —for the stuff up which is going to bring better outcome for Brisbane City Council.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair. Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: I claim misrepresentation.

Chair: Noted, thank you.

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Yes, well I would just like to close say if there is a good outcome for Brisbane it is a good outcome for Brisbane City Council and welcome for the Opposition to vote the stuff up.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your misrepresentation please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, thanks, Chair. I certainly said that this LNP Administration of chaos had stuffed up in not extending the lease to these two new enginators. but I said I would support the item today, which was addressing these chaotic LNP Administration’s stuff up.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Are there any further speakers? I see none rising.

LORD MAYOR, right of reply? No.

We will now put the motion.

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, 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: 21 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK and Sara WHITMEE.

NOES: 1 - Councillor Trina MASSEY.

ABSTENTIONS: 1 - Councillor 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 APPROVAL OF AP290 BRISBANE HOUSING SUPPLY INCENTIVE POLICY

**152/268/370/8**

**235/2023-24**

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

2. A recent trend analysis has shown that residential building completions in Brisbane are decreasing despite an increase to building approvals since the coronavirus pandemic. For Council to support increased housing supply in the short term, additional incentives are needed.

3. The financial impact to housing developers to recover upfront construction costs for new residential housing in the current market can be significant and act as a deterrent to delivering long-term housing options direct to market.

4. *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy* has identified the need for Council to prioritise housing in strategically identified locations, including more housing opportunities for small households. AP290 Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy (the Policy) (refer Attachment B, submitted on file) has been prepared to incentivise the delivery of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments, within well‑serviced growth areas. This includes the development of multiple dwellings in High density residential, Mixed use (Inner city), Principal centre, and Major centre zones. The Policy will be available for both build-to-rent and build-to-sell developments constructed within four years of development approval.

5. The Policy includes infrastructure charges reductions of:

- 100% for eligible developments approved on or after 1 January 2022 and delivered by a community housing provider

- 75% for eligible developments approved between 1 January 2022 and 31 August 2023 and delivered by an eligible entity that is not a community housing provider

- 50% for eligible developments approved between 1 September 2023 and 30 June 2025 and delivered by an eligible entity that is not a community housing provider.

6. If the development is eligible, the Policy will reduce the relevant infrastructure charges. This will be administered through an Infrastructure Agreement under the *Planning Act 2016.*

7. It is proposed that Council delegates its powers under section 242 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to consider and decide a request for the reduction of infrastructure charges in accordance with the Policy to the Chief Executive Officer and the Establishment and Coordination Committee on the general conditions set out in Attachment C (submitted on file)*.*

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AP290 BRISBANE HOUSING SUPPLY INCENTIVE POLICY AND DELEGATE POWERS UNDER THE *CITY OF BRISBANE ACT 2010***

As Council:

1. considers there is a need for the reduction of infrastructure charges for the delivery of multiple dwelling developments that meet specific criteria
2. may, pursuant to section 238 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010,* resolve to delegate a power to the Chief Executive Officer and the Establishment and Coordination Committee,

then Council:

1. approves AP290 Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)
2. delegates its power under section 242 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* specified in Column 1 of Table 1 to the delegate specified in Column 2 of Table 1 on the general conditions of delegation, as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 1** | | |
| **Section** | **Column 1 – Power** | **Column 2 – Delegate** |
| 242 | To consider and decide a request in accordance with AP290 Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy | Establishment and Coordination Committee Chief Executive Officer |

**ADOPTED**

#### B SURRENDER AND GRANT OF LEASE OF LAND AT 174 GARDNER ROAD, ROCHEDALE

**112/445/444/1415**

**236/2023-24**

10. The Divisional Manager, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the information below.

11. The Brisbane Landfill situated at 174 Gardner Road, Rochedale, and described as Lot 2 Plan RP844932, has an onsite renewable energy (gas) generation facility operated under the lease with Council by LMS Energy Pty Ltd ACN 059 428 474 (LMS Energy).

12. The facility includes a landfill gas network and enginators which convert the gas to renewable energy and is then injected into the Energex electricity grid. More than 100 landfill gas extraction wells are located throughout the landfill and are modularly designed for installation of additional gas wells to cater for increased gas production and subsequent power generation over time.

13. On 13 June 2017, Council determined it was in the public interest to enter into a Landfill Gas Management contract and new lease with LMS Energy as the current incumbent of the facility over part of the land. A new lease was approved for a term of 20-years which commenced on 1 July 2017 and includes a further 10-year option. Though there is a nominal one dollar rent consideration in the lease, Council receives royalty payments through the associated Landfill Gas Management contract.

14. In 2021, two new enginators were added at the facility with development approvals, increasing the number of enginators from five to seven. The two new enginators were installed outside of the current lease area, and consequently, LMS Energy have requested a lease from Council over this additional land as shown in Attachment D (submitted on file). LMS Energy is currently occupying this area under a Licence to Occupy on a month-to-month basis. The addition of the two new enginators has resulted in increased energy generation and royalty payments to Council under the Landfill Gas Management contract.

15. As a lease cannot be amended to increase the lease area, it is proposed that the existing lease dealing Number 718611574 with LMS Energy be surrendered, and a new lease be granted over the whole area occupied by LMS Energy. The existing Landfill Gas Management contract will remain in force.

16. As it is proposed that the existing lease be surrendered, Council is unable to apply the exception in section 226(1)(c)(iii) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) to renew the lease to the existing tenant without going to tender. A new lease will therefore be subject to Council obtaining an exemption from the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Minister) pursuant to section 226(1)(f) of the Regulation from complying with the lease tender requirements under section 217 of the Regulation. The lease will be on the same terms and conditions as the existing lease as summarised on the lease terms sheet in Attachment B (submitted on file), except to increase the lease boundaries as shown in Attachment C (submitted on file), and otherwise on terms satisfactory to the Manager Property Portfolio, Asset Management, Brisbane Infrastructure and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance.

17. Upon Council approval to grant the lease, the Minister’s exemption under section 226(1)(f) of the Regulation will be sought.

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

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

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

As:

(i) Council is the owner of the land (freehold), which is used for landfill and renewable energy (gas) generation

(ii) Council proposes to approve the surrender of lease dealing Number 718611574 and grant and enter into a new lease with the existing tenant LMS Energy Pty Ltd (CAN 059 428 474) (LMS Energy) over an increased area of the land for the continued operation of a gas utilisation facility and ancillary facilities in accordance with the Landfill Gas Contract

then Council:

1. resolves to enter a new lease with LMS Energy over existing land at 174 Gardner Road, Rochedale being part of Lot 2 on RP844932, in accordance with the lease terms, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file), and otherwise on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Manager, Property Portfolio, Asset Management, Brisbane Infrastructure, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance, subject to the surrender of Lease dealing Number 718611574
2. grants the lease subject to Council obtaining an exemption from the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning pursuant to section 226(1)(f) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) from complying with the lease tender requirements under section 217 of the Regulation.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: LORD MAYOR, the Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 23 October, please.

### 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 23 October 2023, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Obviously, as we’ve heard in recent times, the Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward, the former Councillor now for Walter Taylor Ward, has stepped down. He decided not to contest the next election. I reckon he would have won easily had he contested.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Absolutely, easily. He would have smashed it out of the park, I have no doubt about that.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: But having said that, health must come first and I respect that and I appreciate that and certainly wish James Mackay all the best for the future.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: But as we’ve continued to have in our team an ongoing process of renewal and regeneration, so much so that when you hear the ridiculous Labor lines about the LNP being here for 20 years, it’s funny because there’s not a single Councillor here that’s been here for 20 years.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Actually, yes, there is, Steve GRIFFITHS has been here for 20 years.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We’ve had this wonderful, ongoing process of renewal which sees people beating down our doors to join the team. That has kept us fresh, it’s kept us relevant, it’s kept up focused, it’s kept us absolutely passionate about serving our community. This brings me to my point which is a submission today to appoint Penny Wolff as the new Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Now as the City of Brisbane Act allows, and for the benefit of giving the ratepayers of Brisbane the opportunity to try before you buy, which is a positive thing. It allows people to effectively have a go at a new Councillor. See what they think about that new Councillor and then make a decision at the upcoming election in mid-March. I think it is a good thing because you know there’s buyer’s remorse for a number of politicians, mainly on the Labor side.

But when it comes to our team, every time people have been given an opportunity to try before you buy, the voters of that ward have liked the opportunity, appreciated the opportunity and they’ve stuck with the LNP team that represents their community with a passion. Penny Wolff will do that, I have no doubt. Penny Wolff who is a genuine, true-blue Liberal and also a true-blue Brisbane resident. Passionate about our city, passionate about small business. Not only herself, but as a family as well. I acknowledge Penny’s husband as well who is here. They are in a fantastic business partnership operating small businesses across the city.

Also Penny—a lot of people don’t realise, Penny was previously a teacher, taught at Indooroopilly State School, and is absolutely passionate about local government, passionate her community, wants to do more. Also has a real genuine, caring heart for the community as well and has served for a significant period of time as an ambassador on the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust, raising money actively for the most vulnerable people in our community. Really going above and beyond to not only support the Lady Mayoress in raising those funds, but supporting so many charities as well at the same time. She does that and her husband does that as well personally. They do that as business people, they do that because they care.

I know that Penny will do a fantastic job as the Councillor for Walter Taylor. I look forward to working with her in this role. I have already been out in the community with her and I know she will put everything, everything into this. Blood, sweat and tears to the best possible job for the residents of Walter Taylor Ward and the residents of Brisbane.

Welcome to the team, Penny. Welcome as a Councillor in the Brisbane City Council shortly. This is a job which is quite unique and there is not much that can prepare you for being a Councillor. It is something that I know, whatever skills you might think are required, number one is a passion for the community and a determination to work hard and roll up your sleeves for the community. Caring for the residents of the community. Penny does all of those things.

So welcome, Penny, look forward to having you as a member of our team. I also look forward to Penny becoming the 12th female member of our team out of 20. Which means that two thirds of our team are women and that is something that has not been achieved anywhere in Australia in any serious government at any level of government.

So that’s something we should be very proud of. It is a process that has happened organically by getting the best people for the job at each time. We will work together with Penny to build a better Brisbane and a better Walter Taylor Ward. Thank you, Mr Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on this item before us today appointing Penny Wolff as Councillor of Walter Taylor Ward. I’ll try and be a little bit more gracious than the LORD MAYOR was then.

Even when it is about—literally about them, he can’t but talk about us and Labor. Strange item, I would think, to be choosing to do that. But it is a privilege to represent your community, the community that you live in and you are connected to and care about. I know for me, I am the fifth generation of my family in my community. So being selected, appointed, just as Penny is now and then being elected, was—is—remains the greatest privilege of my life. To represent the community I grew up in and continue to call home.

So I would just say each and every one of us, all 26 of us as Councillors that represent a ward in here, do approach this job and—I hope we all do, I’ll give everyone the benefit of the doubt in that—approach this job and fight for the things that our communities need and deserve. The onus certainly should be on that. It’s not a small feat as the LORD MAYOR has said, it’s an interesting and diverse job, one that you’ll love and enjoy if you like to learn new things and meet new people. Because you get to do that, even after the eight years I’ve been in here, on just about a daily basis.

So to Penny, on behalf of my Labor colleagues here, genuinely welcome you as the new Councillor for the Walter Taylor Ward here in this place. Unlike Councillor MURPHY in welcoming Councillor MASSEY, I won’t say that I hope you’re here for only a short period of time. The electors get to determine that on the second Saturday in March next year. So I certainly wish you all the very best in your whirlwind introduction as a Councillor from, I assume, tonight and in the Chamber next week.

Chair: Thank you Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak briefly on the appointment of the new Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward. I do want to note a few things on the record. Firstly, the decision by the former Councillor to leave, I think is a good one from my point of view. As most Councillors would know, he’s been incredibly—I don’t even know how to say it, but—no—well, I’d say misogynistic, but that might get me into trouble here—but over his short term in this place, he engaged in behaviour that would not be tolerated in any workplace in Australia. That included, for months, turning his back to me when I spoke. That included, just a few weeks ago, blowing a raspberry and sticking his tongue out at me. I mean this is the behaviour that the Councillor for Walter Taylor—former Councillor for Walter Taylor—went on with.

So in my view, it is a good that he is no longer here and that behaviour will stop, because I’m fairly certain the new Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward won’t be engaging in those kind of practices and more. That’s just the bits—the photos, taking photos of me in the carpark downstairs—that was creepy, seriously creepy.

So I hope that there is a fresh start with the Walter Taylor Ward. Walter Taylor Ward borders my ward to the north. I have an excellent working relationship with the Councillor to the south and east of my ward, that’s Moorooka Ward. Where I have some boundary with Councillor HUTTON we do cooperate on a few things, for example, sharing a SAM (speed awareness monitor) sign on a very busy road in Oxley.

So I hope that there can be a more constructive working relationship with the Walter Taylor Councillor to the north. That would be good. I hope that she finds her feet and perhaps becomes more local than her paperwork appears to show. Because there’s one thing I know, having been a—very, very long time ago, a productive member of this part of the Liberal Party, they are fiercely loyal to locals. I hope that there is a focus on making sure that that happens because currently there does not appear to be a lot of local in the story with the new Councillor.

I just also want to put on the record that I think some urgent changes to the social media need to happen. I don’t know what’s going on there, but if Councillor Mackay has resigned as the media sort of indicated and the LORD MAYOR indicated on the weekend, his name should not be still being used as Councillor James Mackay, that should stop. You can’t represent yourself as a Councillor when you’re no longer a Councillor. So I encourage the new Councillor for Walter Taylor to make sure that changes and her name goes on to all of the Council social media and so forth because that does need to be corrected.

I—how do I put it? I hope, as I’ve said to a few of the other Councillors who’ve come into this place, that you don’t just sit on the bench here and fill a seat and vote the way you are told. Today’s the best example of anything for anybody who’s been watching this meeting today. Most of the LNP Councillors here don’t speak, they don’t contribute, they don’t get involved. This Council is the worse for the fact that backbench LNP members do not question anything that happens in this place.

There is a reason I’m sitting right over here in the corner and that is because I did question things that happened. What is going on inside this LNP Council at the moment is not right. Cuts to essential services in our local communities are not right. I remember when this happened in my first term and there were only two Councillors in our Party Room who spoke up about it and it was me and Peter Matic. That is when the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund, as it’s now known, went from $120,000 down to $55,000.

You know that had a diabolical impact on my ability and other Councillors’ ability to support good community works. We can’t even have a debate about that today because the LNP, as one block, will simply vote against everything. It is not good for public policy, it is not good for the running of the city when Councillors sit back inside their own parties and say nothing about things that are obviously wrong.

The worst thing that has happened to this Council is that party politics have taken it over and no other ideas can be addressed or discussed. You put forward an alternative to see community funds to get out to the community and the LORD MAYOR stands up and says you’re trying to circumvent the CCC. I mean they’re just not open to other ideas.

So I genuinely hope that the new Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward will be open to new ideas. That she will be willing to ask questions and make sure good decision-making is made. Not just endorse what she’s told to endorse and vote the way she is told to vote because every LNP Councillor here today voted against preserving funds for local community groups.

That’s what they did. They voted against—well they voted against even having a debate about preserving funds for community groups. So I hope that the new LNP Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward will exercise some independence, some good judgement and make a positive contribution. Not only to her party, but to other parts of Brisbane. Other parts of Brisbane that are right next door to you, right next door.

It was a fight to get the ridiculously ugly bridge to Fig Tree Pocket that was only ever going to be a connection on the north side of the river. There was no connection to the south side of the river—Chelmer, that I represent.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, sorry.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: Can I draw you back to what this is?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: This is actually appointment of a new Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: Not how a bridge came about to be—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: —or not about to be.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: Please?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, yes and I’m just saying that I hope she considers that there are other parts of Brisbane that are right on her doorstep that deserve funding. When you build a bridge that only benefits one side of the river and not the other side then that is a problem. I hope the new Councillor will recognise that she is part of a community that is connected to other parts of Brisbane. I hope that she will be an advocate, not only for her own ward, but for other parts of Brisbane that deserve that support as well.

So I welcome her to the Chamber, I congratulate her on her appointment. I know she’s had some good advice from others previously. So hopefully she will take that advice on board. Obviously, with just a few months to go, there’s a steep learning curve ahead, but I also welcome the new Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward, Penny Wolff and wish her good luck.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on this motion and to welcome Penny to our team. I’d like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his gracious words and I wish I could say the same for the previous speaker. I think it’s important to put on the record that Councillor JOHNSTON’s behaviour towards Councillor Mackay has been poor and ongoing since before he became a Councillor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: Let me be clear, before Councillor Mackay was even—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor HOWARD: —sworn in.

Chair: Just one moment please, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is outrageous—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and untrue and it is just ridiculous that Councillor—it’s just ridiculous.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: They’re all things that he did—

Chair: —DEPUTY MAYOR, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —in this Chamber in public, in front of everybody.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I didn’t know Councillor Mackay.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: —I don’t uphold your—

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is outrageous.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. I do not uphold your point of order, resume your seat. You spoke uninterrupted.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before Councillor Mackay was even sworn in as a Councillor, Councillor JOHNSTON called him a henchman and used the Council record to name Councillor Mackay’s wife and her place of work. Then she made a complaint about Councillor Mackay—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor HOWARD: —which was investigated.

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor, this is outrageous.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Katherine Feeney was a—is a journalist. I know, who we’ve worked with in this Chamber—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and in no way have I—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —cast any aspersions—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON you know full well—

Councillor JOHNSTON: In no way have I cast—

Chair: —under Meetings Local Law—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —aspersions on this—

Chair: —while I am speaking you do not speak.

Councillor JOHNSTON: But this is outrageous. The implication that I’ve said something appalling about Katherine Feeney is outrageous.She is a public figure at the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) and somebody I know personally from working with her. It is outrageous—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —that I have somehow done something wrong to her.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: This is a *(Comments removed at the request of the CEO, in accordance with the AP068 Production of Council Minutes Policy approved by Council on 6 December 2022)* by Councillor HOWARD.

Chair: Just one moment please, Councillor HOWARD.

That was just a step too far. Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m going to give you the option of withdrawing that previous statement. I’m assuming that you shaking your head is in declining.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor HOWARD is saying things that are fundamentally untrue.

Chair: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. You’re not going to twist the truth. What you are going to do—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m not twisting the truth.

Chair: What you are going to do is you are going to withdraw that statement.

Councillor JOHNSTON: What statement?

Chair: The one where you just called a Councillor a *(Comments removed at the request of the CEO, in accordance with the AP068 Production of Council Minutes Policy approved by Council on 6 December 2022)*.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I didn’t call her a *(Comments removed at the request of the CEO, in accordance with the AP068 Production of Council Minutes Policy approved by Council on 6 December 2022)*.

Chair: You did. Yes, I’m giving you the opportunity to withdraw that.

Councillor JOHNSTON: All right on the basis that when Councillor ADAMS—

Chair: No, no, this is not a speech. This is—no—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay, okay, okay.

Chair: Can you please withdraw the statement?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sure, in the same way Councillor ADAMS did last week. I withdraw, in the same way Councillor ADAMS did.

Chair: Well, Councillor ADAMS actually said, I withdraw the statement. Can you do the same?

Councillor JOHNSTON: I just said I’d do the same as her.

Chair: No. You saying you’ll do the same and not doing the same is not the same.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Look, I’m not going to sit here and be told I’ve abused somebody when I have not. It’s not okay for Councillor HOWARD to stand up and say I have done something to Katherine Feeney because I have not.

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

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

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. Mr Chair, just to clarify what I said, I did not say that the Councillor for Tennyson had said anything about Councillor Mackay’s wife. I said that she had used the Council record to name Councillor Mackay’s wife and her place of work. I also said that she had called him a henchman, which the minutes will show. She also made a complaint about Councillor Mackay, which was investigated and found to be baseless and dismissed. So, this is the type of person—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor Mackay admitted to taking the photo of me in the garage—it’s just that the OIA (Office of the Independent Assessor) would not take it further.

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

Councillor Howard.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. So, Mr Chair, what I would like to place on the record is my personal thanks. I think I can speak on behalf of most of the Chamber to say that anybody who serves as a Councillor—as Councillor CASSIDY mentioned—we all do this for the right reasons, just as Councillor Mackay did, and he does not deserve to have his name banished, particularly when he’s no longer in the Chamber to defend himself, which is why I’m standing here today to do so.

Councillor Mackay gave of himself, to the Walter Taylor Ward, 150%. Nobody can ever say that he did not work his—work as hard as he possibly could for that area. I want to put on the public record our thanks for his service to the city and to the people of Walter Taylor Ward. He brought energy and enthusiasm to the role, and I know that his constituents valued that greatly. I wish him the very best in his recovery and for the next chapter of his life. One of the reasons that he left was some of the abuse that he suffered as a result of some of the things we’ve just heard in the Chamber this evening.

Now, I’d like to finish on a positive note, because I’m quite a positive person. I just thought that it was worthy of me setting the record straight and also, to truly welcome Penny to what I think is going to be an amazing journey for her. The people of Walter Taylor are absolutely—they’re going to be thrilled to have Penny as their local representative. I know, as the LORD MAYOR said, Penny will give her everything to represent the people in that area. She is a true citizen of Brisbane. She is somebody that really and truly wants to be a Councillor for this fair city. I know that she will do everything she can. So, on that note, I’d just like to say, welcome, Penny, and look forward to working with you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I speak to the appointment of Penny Wolff as the Councillor for Walter Taylor. As an appointed Councillor myself, I recognise the privilege of being an appointed Councillor and I do welcome you, and not only welcome you, but also acknowledge the huge learning curve that does happen as an appointed Councillor. I think everyone in this Chamber works their hardest and their best to deliver for their local communities because local communities are what matter, the residents in our wards and also the influence that we can have for policy citywide.

I recognise that the election will be coming soon and I wish you the best of luck. It is a target seat, undeniably, and we’ll be fighting hard for it, but I do welcome you and recognise that you will try to deliver for this community. That community of locals are fiercely loyal, and anything less than local representation, as I’ve experienced myself—and even thought of that and not being a voice for that really grassroots local representation can be sniffed out real quick. So, welcome and best of luck. I look forward to hearing your contributions in this Chamber. Good luck in the future.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers? I see none rising.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you to all Councillors who contributed towards that discussion. I have to say, it’s obviously been a long time since Councillor JOHNSTON has been part of our team and our Party Room. She obviously doesn’t remember how vigorous our Party Room is and our discussions are. One thing we are, though—we are united. We make decisions together. We often disagree on things, but we go through a process that is inclusive and, once we make a decision, we stick together and we work together and that’s how we’re continuing to progress to build a better Brisbane.

So, I know that Penny will fit into the team that we have very well, but most importantly, she loves her city, she loves her community, she’s passionate, she loves the local government and is passionate about local government, and I do warmly welcome her to the team.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

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.

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 APPOINTMENT OF PENNY WOLFF AS COUNCILLOR FOR WALTER TAYLOR WARD AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES

**137/225/37/17**

**237/2023-24**

1. The Divisional Manager, City Administration and Governance, provided the information below.

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

3. Former Councillor James Mackay tendered his resignation as the Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward to the Chief Executive Officer with effect from 12pm, Friday 20 October 2023.

4. As:

1. this resignation takes effect during the final part of Council’s term (more than 36 months after the last quadrennial elections were held); and
2. former Councillor James Mackay was elected as a nominee of the Liberal National Party, then section 166(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* requires Council to seek the nomination of a qualified nominee from the Liberal National Party, and upon receipt of that nomination, formally appoint that nominee by way of Council Resolution.

5. Under section 166(4) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to the registered officer of the Liberal National Party on 20 October 2023 requesting advice of the name and address of a qualified nominee to fill the vacant Councillor position for Walter Taylor Ward.

6. By letter dated 20 October 2023 (refer Attachment B, submitted on file), the Liberal National Party advised of the nomination of Penny Wolff to fill that vacancy.

7. Penny Wolff has provided the Chief Executive Officer with a completed Statutory Declaration (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) confirming they are qualified for appointment to the position of Councillor in accordance with sections 152 to 156 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*.

8. Anticipating the appointment of Penny Wolff as Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward, it is proposed they be appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee and a member the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT** **RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PENNY WOLFF TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION OF COUNCILLOR FOR WALTER TAYLOR WARD AND TO ALTER THE MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES**

As:

1. former Councillor James Mackay, Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward, resigned as a Councillor by signed notice of resignation given to the Chief Executive Officer with effect from 12pm, Friday 20 October 2023
2. this resignation takes effect during the final part of Council’s term (more than 36 months after the last quadrennial elections were held)
3. former Councillor James Mackay was elected as Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward as a nominee of the Liberal National Party
4. section 163(4) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* requires that vacancy be filled within two months of that vacancy occurring
5. section 166(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* requires that vacancy to be filled by a nominee of the Liberal National Party
6. upon receipt of that nomination, Council is to formally appoint that nominee by way of Council Resolution
7. under section 166(4) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to the registered officer of the Liberal National Party on 20 October 2023 requesting advice of the name and address of a qualified nominee to fill the vacant Councillor position for Walter Taylor Ward
8. by letter dated 20 October 2023, the Liberal National Party advised of the nomination of Penny Wolff to fill that vacancy as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)
9. Penny Wolff has provided the Chief Executive Officer with a completed Statutory Declaration confirming they are qualified for appointment to the position of Councillor in accordance with sections 152 to 156 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*,

then:

(i) Council resolves to appoint Penny Wolff of [Privacy-in-Confidence], as Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward with immediate effect, and approves, effective from the day after the approval of this resolution, that Penny Wolff be appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee and a member the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillors, we move on to the next item on the agenda, Economic Development.

Please, DEPUTY MAYOR.

### 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 17 October 2023, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. As I didn’t have the Committee report last week, I forgot to be able to announce and say, happy birthday to the Brisbane Business Hub (BBH), which celebrated its third year in supporting Brisbane enterprise. It’s very excited over those—exciting over those three years we’ve seen more than 23,000 business leaders and entrepreneurs visit, representing an estimated 12,950 businesses who have taken advantage of the complimentary workshops and events, coworking spaces and mentoring programs.

BBH has facilitated 370 workshops and events, 445 one-on-one mentoring sessions and more than 12,100 coworking space drop-ins since its opening, and of course, online the community has grown to more than 60,000. So, the team over there have just done an absolutely wonderful job. After the LORD MAYOR announced the conversion of what was a drop-in coworking space for start-ups into the Business Hub, they really have turned it around, and have made it an absolute must for all businesses who are starting, running or growing in our city to make sure that they can network.

On that note, coming up in the next week, tomorrow there’s the $180 Billion 2032 Opportunity: Winning Government Business with Gov Ready. That is about businesses who want to get ready for tender process. That’s at 9.30, at 12.30, it’s How To Write a Great Grant Submission for the Women in Business Edition. On Thursday at 9.30, How To Hire The Right Staff and How To Keep Them. So, all great workshops coming up, and we’re still getting some fantastic feedback from our customers as well.

Last week’s report—oh, just before, I wasn’t allowed to mention—I didn’t get the misrepresentation, and—yes, I don’t know if they’ve missed it, but—and Councillor CASSIDY is in my Committee—that Kurilpa strategy is in my portfolio, so—well, he said he doesn’t know who it is and where it is and what it is, but if it’s presented in my Committee and I speak about it, that makes it my portfolio, but only eight years. We’ll see how we go.

But it’s very, very clear that I was misrepresented when he said I stood up here and said, we have put Kurilpa precinct forward so that residential land owners can get a better uplift. That was absolutely not what I said, I said, what we needed was to see the industrial land owners move out of those precincts—the very large land owners that we have. They’re not land banking. They are doing their operations on that site. But it is time for them to move their industry out of the inner five Ks of the city heart of an Olympic City.

This is an opportunity for them to take the advantage to move to further afield where it still works for their business case, but also works for the moving out of those areas where we then have the potential for 10,000 new dwellings—10,000 new dwellings in the Kurilpa precinct, where there is—I will up the LORD MAYOR if he only said, good, which I don’t think he said—there is great infrastructure already. It is an anti-sprawl policy, and the only thing that isn’t anti‑sprawl is density coming to a suburb near you. That is not what the residents of Brisbane want to see, contrary to what we hear from Labor and the Greens’ coalition of chaos.

The Committee last week, was around the economic development update, as we do for every one of our first reports. The foot traffic in the Queen Street Mall is going strong. I’m imagining coming up over the next couple of months with Black Friday, Christmas in the city and then into the new year, that’s only going to get stronger. Our vacancies in our houses are dropping just a little bit, but still not low enough to make any real dint in the crisis that we have in housing supply. Unemployment is also dropping a little bit. It was a very interesting update and I’ll leave the rest to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

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 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 – BRISBANE ECONOMIC UPDATE

**238/2023-24**

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

2. The Committee was shown a graph demonstrating the unemployment rate for Brisbane and Queensland. Unemployment in the Brisbane Local Government Area (LGA) has been decreasing since March 2021, dropping to a low of 3.2% in May 2023 and to 3.4% in August 2023. The unemployment rate in Brisbane has consistently stayed lower than the rest of Queensland.

3. Brisbane’s LGA youth unemployment rate among persons aged 15 to 24 continues to follow the same trend as the overall unemployment rate. Whilst still at record low levels, in recent months, there has been an increase in the youth unemployment rate to 7.6% for August 2023.

4. The number of jobseekers in Brisbane in August 2023 was 29,150, which is less than the level observed in March 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of jobs advertised in Brisbane by occupation type all follow the same trajectory, demonstrating they are largely impacted by the same market forces. The number of advertisements in Brisbane increased in the last quarter to approximately 33,500.

5. The Committee was shown a graph on median house prices in Brisbane comparative to other capital cities across Australia. Over the last year, Brisbane has seen prices fall slightly and remain lower than median prices in Sydney and Melbourne at $770,000 as of the June 2023 quarter. Median unit prices in the Greater Brisbane Region (GBR) show a similar trend and remains lower than median prices in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide at $500,000 as of the June 2023 quarter.

6. The Committee was shown a graph on residential vacancy rates in Brisbane. Since the start of 2017 the number of vacant dwellings in Brisbane has been trending downwards. Vacancy rates reached 0.6% as of June 2022 but have risen to one per cent as of September 2023.

7. The most recent figures for the period ending June 2023 show a small decrease in domestic visitation, which follows a similar trend reported in the same period for 2022. Brisbane continues to be an attractive travel destination to New South Wales and Victoria, with a total of 91% of all domestic visitors coming from the southern states. Domestic visitors have spent $6.9 billion in total in the last 12 months.

8. Comparatively, the number of international visitors increased to approximately 900,000 visitors in the last quarter. Whilst international visitor activity in the GBR continues to recover to pre‑COVID levels, growth continues to be positive in both visitation and spend, with expenditure in the region at 21 times higher than during COVID.

9. Brisbane’s Consumer Price Index has followed the overall Australian trend, peaking at 7.9% towards the end of 2022 and returning to 6.3% in the third quarter of 2023. This is in line with RBA’s interest rate rises and reflects the economic disruptions caused by COVID on global and local markets, which have begun to ease as markets adapt.

10. Foot traffic in Queen Street Mall (QSM) is at a comparable level to the same period last year, sitting at 80% of pre-COVID levels. While activity declined over the 2022-23 new year period as many businesses shut down for the holidays and workers and residents took leave, foot traffic to QSM has shown steady signs of growth since February.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillors MUPRHY, Transport Committee, please.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven HUANG, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 17 October 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, you’ve got the floor.

Councillor MURPHY: Just briefly, Chair, last week, the Transport Committee received an update on the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, as we’ve been able to reach several major construction milestones in the past few months. As Councillors will know, and I’ve mentioned it many times in this Chamber, the bridge is a very complex structure, and the various elements are now coming together to reveal the final form. All of the bridge piers have now been concreted, which is a significant milestone for the project. We now have 31 permanent piles in the river, which contain approximately 3,000 cubic metres of concrete.

In early September, the main viewing platform in the middle of the bridge was concreted. This platform will offer plenty of space for cyclists and pedestrians to move around and it will also provide one of the most unique views of the Brisbane River and the CBD. Having walked across that myself, Chair, I can tell you the view is absolutely spectacular and it’s sure to become a great place to hang out once the bridge opens next year.

On the Kangaroo Point side of the bridge, we’ve installed the final section over C.T. White Park. This is one of the widest sections of the bridge at 11 metres and at 23 metres long, that will also incorporate space for yet another viewing platform to look over the river to the city from the Kangaroo Point side.

Now, the bridge is split into eight sections or spans, and we’ve now installed five of those spans, including the longest steel section of the bridge—what’s called, Span 5. But none of the progress so far compares to what’s coming in November, which will arguably be the biggest bridge milestone to date. In November, we will top out our bridge with the masthead. That will make its way upstream from the Port of Brisbane. It will fit, at low tide, underneath the bottom of the Story Bridge by just three metres, and it will then be installed in place at Kangaroo Point.

The masthead will hold the cables in place to support the bridge deck and require specialist equipment to install due to its height. We’ll put a mast access machine onto the top of the mast in December to help with installation of the individual suspension cables. This is a one of a kind gadget, Chair, that will lower contractors down the side of the masthead as they install the cable-stays.

At its very top, workers will be working 95 metres off the ground, making this bridge the tallest bridge in Brisbane, even taller from the top of the Story Bridge or the Gateway Bridge. To put this into perspective, the lower mast legs and the cruciform, as it currently stands, makes up less than half of the total height of the mast. So, Chair, I can confidently say that the sheer scale of final mast will truly be amazing and an amazing feat of engineering done here in the City of Brisbane.

So, there’s still 50 metres to go. The upper section will be erected in four 25-metre segments with the world’s largest lifting capacity tower crane, which has been named, as we all know, Picky Upy. After its welded into place, the 146-tonne masthead will be loaded onto a barge, begin its journey down the river to the bridge. I was able to climb inside the first sections of the upper mast and the masthead onsite at the Port of Brisbane a few weeks ago, and again, another very impressive piece of infrastructure.

One of the legs will contain what we call, the stairway to heaven, for maintenance, and people will—maintenance workers will be able to climb all the way to the top of the mast using that staircase. It will also house a number of the electrical cabling components and switchboards for the lighting—the LED lighting for the bridge. It will allow us to light up the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge in the same way that we light up all other city assets when we are celebrating milestones or events for the city.

So, very much looking forward, Chair, to the next few months of this project as the various pieces of the jigsaw start to come together. It’s all very much happening, Chair, and the Schrinner Council continues to be focused on enhancing the liveability of our city, managing some of the cost pressures that we have on these major projects in a respectful and sustainable way, and delivering the biggest active transport spend in this city’s history. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thanks, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MUPRHY.

Are there any other 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 Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – KANGAROO POINT GREEN BRIDGE PROGRESS UPDATE

**239/2023-24**

1. The Project Director Green Bridges, Major Projects, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge project (the project). He provided the information below.

2. An aerial view and construction progress map displaying the eight bridge spans, 31 permanent piles and bridge piers was shown to the Committee.

3. Council has installed a floating protection system on the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge, comprised of a string of floating buoys and cables connected to 20-tonne concrete anchor blocks on the riverbed. The floating buoys are made from hard foam covered in a plastic shell and include navigational lighting to ensure visibility at night. The system is designed to absorb energy from any vessel that comes into contact with the infrastructure. Drone footage of the floating protection system and viewing platforms that will form part of the bridge was shown to the Committee.

4. A key structural component of the project will be the mast. Due to be completed by early December 2023, the mast will hold the cables in place to support the bridge deck and will reach 83 metres in height, making it the tallest bridge in Brisbane at 95 metres above the Brisbane River. It will be more than 20 metres taller than both the Story Bridge and Eleanor Schonell Bridge. Mast legs will be delivered by barge and erected in eight 25-metre-tall segments using a 20-storey tower crane with the largest lifting capacity in the world. The lower section of the mast, including the bottom legs and the cruciform, have already been installed. The upper legs and the masthead are expected to be installed in late October and November 2023 respectively. Drone footage of the lower legs and cruciform installation was shown to the Committee.

5. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Project Director Green Bridges for his informative presentation.

6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Infrastructure, Councillor WINES.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 17 October 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. Look, the presentation we saw last week falls into the category of topics that when you receive the agenda, you would imagine it to be dull, but once the presentation is presented to you, is actually quite compelling and goes across a whole range of details about how this Council manages its assets and how we manage ourselves against other local governments.

The Queensland Audit Office asks—or we deal with the Queensland Audit Office where local governments, including ourselves and 56 others, submit a report about how we believe we assess our asset management framework. The Audit Office takes a view that we are much harsher on ourselves than they would be of us, and so there are a number of graphs that you can read within the presentation.

Can I remind, if any Councillors are going to make comments about the graph, the first graph is the summary of the 57 Councils and the second graph is us. Please, if people wish to make a criticism, please remember that the first graph is not Brisbane City Council, but a summary of—or a collective, I should say, of all local governments who responded.

The framework is, I think, a really—a fascinating one. Please, I encourage all Councillors to take time to reflect upon how our systems operate and to make sure that this Council continues to have a framework that is very good, and that we do actually follow it and maintain our assets to a higher standard that you would expect other local governments within Queensland to do.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

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 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 Steve Griffiths, Sarah Hutton, Claire Jenkinson and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – QUEENSLAND AUDIT OFFICE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSET MANAGEMENT REVIEW

**240/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Asset Management, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Queensland Audit Office’s (QAO) Local Government Asset Management Review (the review). He provided the information below.

2. The QAO has undertaken a review into the sustainability of local government practice within the State, comparing asset management maturity against international best practice. The review was undertaken following a maturity questionnaire, provided to councils in June 2022. The questionnaire included questions across all areas of asset management practice. Following the review, QAO provided a report of its findings in *Improving Asset Management in Local Government* *– Report 2: 2023-24* (the report).

3. Queensland’s 77 local government authorities own and operate over $114 billion worth of assets, including Council’s assets valued at approximately $35.9 billion. Defined in the report are five levels of maturity based on the requirements of the international standard:

- advanced – processes are optimised with no improvement required

- intermediate – sound processes with room for improvements

- core – meets the minimum legislative requirements

- basic – partially meets legislative requirements

- aware – does not meet legislative requirements.

4. The QAO’s review identified that, of the 52 Councils that responded, the average level of maturity was below core. Council performed a self-assessment where results were recorded and compared to the State average, scoring above core in eight of the 10 categories and above the Queensland average across all categories. The Committee was shown graphs depicting statistical information.

5. The QAO made recommendations for all councils to assess the following:

- governance structures and culture to ensure a whole-of-council approach to asset management

- asset management plans are current and cover all major classes, including consistent data

- data, if stored in separate asset management information systems, is recorded so that it is and can be reconciled to a financial asset register

- workforce plans and/or strategies identify the necessary asset management capabilities and any training required

- provide assessments and associated action plans addressing the above recommendations.

6. Council uses a hierarchical policy framework which utilises documents that meet legislative requirements including a long-term asset management plan, financial forecast and infrastructure plan. Council implements governance by using asset steering committees and sub-committees, which review asset management plans annually. Council stores master data in SAP and provides ongoing training and development opportunities for staff.

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 ALLAN, City Planning and Suburban Renewal, please.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 17 October 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. Item A was a Committee presentation on 186 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley. This is conveniently located in the heart of Fortitude Valley and the approved build-to-rent development will provide housing security at a more affordable price point for tenants in that particular area and, importantly, it is designed in a way or positioned in a way to provide longer tenancies for residents and also improved amenity.

So, in the context of outcomes for our design guide, Buildings that Breathe, the building has access to outdoor spaces, has illumination with natural lighting, has natural air and ventilation, it has shade and protection, it has living greenery, is reduced energy and waste output from the building, it’s utilising outdoor spaces and it’s orientated in a way to pick up to breezes.

186 Wickham Street is a two tower development with two street frontages, three basement levels and is set over 3,000 square metres with a pedestrian link and retail spaces. The development is set back from Wickham Street, and it maintains the existing streetscape and frontage continuity with retail spaces orientated to the street and the arcade.

The public transport networks are easily accessed. There’s the Fortitude Valley train station just down the road and also high-frequency bus services nearby. The development will provide 628 units, comprising of 168 one-bedroom units, 179 two-bedroom units, 27 three-bedroom units and 254 studio units. I think that’s particularly relevant when you consider that we are experiencing smaller household sizes in this city where one and two-bedroom apartments are most closely aligned to those smaller households.

The residents in this building can enjoy 946 square metres of communal open space, which includes a pet run, outdoor cooking and dining area, fire pits and lounge, outdoor pool and water streams and a work-from-home zone. There are private balconies and winter gardens provided in each unit, and this will obviously improve the amenity of those particular apartments.

The local area is set to benefit from streetscape upgrades to Wickham Street, Ranwell Lane and Mead Lane. Additionally, over 960 square metres of soft landscaping, including feature trees, greenery integrated into the podium and elevated rooftop gardens will be provided. There’s 125 carparks that are available to residents, in addition to 628 dedicated bike spaces. Visitors have access to 94 carparks and 157 bike spaces. 186 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley, was approved as it supports the Schrinner Council’s objective in providing more dwelling options in the city in appropriately located zones. Mr Chair, I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Are there any further speakers? There being none—

Councillor HUTTON: Point of order, Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **241/2023-24**  At that time, 6pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sarah HUTTON, seconded by Councillor Clare JENKINSON, that the meeting adjourn for a period of one hour, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors locked.  Council stood adjourned at 6.03pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: My apologies, Councillors we’re up to the vote on City Planning, 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.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Lisa Atwood (Deputy Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 186 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley (A006265400)

**242/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Planning Services, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on 186 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley (the site). She provided the information below.

2. The development application for the site was code assessable and included Material Change of Use for Multiple Dwelling, Shop/Food and a drink outlet. The proposed development is two towers of 30 and 32-storeys which includes units in the following sizes:

- 168 one-bedroom

- 179 two-bedroom

- 27 three-bedroom

- 254 studio/micro.

3. An aerial view and context map were shown to the Committee, displaying the proximity of the site to surrounding locations, including Fortitude Valley train station, Brunswick Street and China Town malls and Centenary Park Place. The site is located in the Principal centre (City centre) zone as part of *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

4. The site had a development approval in 2014, however, a new application was made with the following changes:

- updated façade

- new pedestrian arcade

- now a purpose-built build-to-rent development

- an additional 304 units.

5. The site continues the frontage and tenancy widths of the existing streetscape and the towers are setback to maintain human scale on Wickham Street. The retail spaces will be orientated to the street and arcade. Improvements will be made to Wickham Street, Ranwell and Mead Lanes to a locality street standard and will include awnings along Ranwell Lane and Wickham Street frontages. The tower is a layered façade design with outdoor spaces and practicable elements. The building cap to the rooftop will enhance Brisbane’s skyline.

6. The proposed development reflects 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 following 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.

7. The ground level provides a pedestrian arcade between Wickham Street and Ranwell Lane that is lined with landscaping, furniture and retail tenancies. Private balconies or wintergardens (an enclosed balcony with windows that can be opened for ventilation) are provided for each unit up to 53.7 m2 in size. The communal open space of 946 m2 across both towers includes:

- a pet run

- outdoor cooking and dining

- fire pits and lounge

- a reef edge pool and water streams

- onsen, sauna and day beds

- a lounge area

- work from home zones.

8.The site will have961 m2 of soft landscaping provided throughout the development including:

- feature trees and cascading planting to edges

- greenery integrated into the podium

- elevated gardens on the roof deck

- ground plane landscaping and public space.

9. Parking is provided over four levels including three basement-levels and a lower ground level with access via Ranwell Lane and Wickham Street. The building provides the following parking provisions:

- 125 resident spaces

- 94 visitor spaces

- 628 resident bicycle spaces

- 157 visitor bicycle spaces.

10. The proposed development provides the following community benefits.

- The site has been vacant for more than 30 years and the proposal fills a void to complete the streetscape and will act as a bookend.

- The site is well placed with immediate access to key city destinations, community resources and transport networks.

- The proposal will deliver more diverse infill dwelling supply which responds to the recent land supply and growth challenges experienced in Brisbane and wider South East Queensland.

- The proposed build-to-rent development provides housing security and affordable price points for tenants seeking longer tenancy arrangements and provides improved housing diversity for Fortitude Valley with a balanced mix of unit typologies.

- Improvement to pedestrian connectivity for all abilities and amenity through streetscape design and wayfinding signage.

11. The development was approved for the following reasons.

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

- Design excellence and subtropical building design as well as protecting and enhancing Fortitude Valley’s special heritage through sensitive integration with existing heritage sites, reflecting and complementing the area’s character.

- Provides a significant pedestrian link through the site, encouraging the Fortitude Valley culture of laneway and small-space activity.

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

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor DAVIS, Environment and Parks, please.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Julia DIXON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 17 October 2023 adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation was on our new Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative. Earlier this month, I joined the LORD MAYOR at Archerfield Wetlands to announce this landmark partnership between Brisbane City Council and Greening Australia, which will be Brisbane’s next biggest environmental restoration project. As part of the collaboration, Council and Brisbane Sustainability Agency will work with Greening Australia to revegetate and restore riparian habitat across the city, delivering a legacy of one million native plants. Through its Nature in Cities program, Greening Australia works to connect private sector philanthropy with projects to restore and improve urban habitat.

They have strong partnerships with businesses, foundations and private individuals across Australia, whose funding support is crucial to achieving landscape restoration at scale. The Nature in Cities program has well-established credentials in other parts of the country, with projects already being rolled out in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia and now they’ve come to work with Brisbane to deliver the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative, which I am proud to say, Mr Chair, will be the first project rolled out in Queensland as part of the program and it will be the biggest in Australia.

I know Greening Australia were very excited about the potential of working with us to deliver something of this scale and by the work we’re already doing at Oxley Creek. Work is already underway to establish 20,000 native plants at Archerfield Wetlands, with planting days sponsored by Greening Australia supporters and they’re making great progress. This work at Oxley Creek is just the beginning of the project, which will become integral to Brisbane’s delivery of a clean and green Olympic legacy. We now have 980 new plantings to go and I’m excited to what this partnership will deliver over the coming years up to the Olympics and beyond. Mr Chair, we also had a number of submissions to consider and with that I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

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

We will now put the Environment, Parks and Sustainability 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, Steve Griffiths and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Sandy Landers.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BIODIVERSE BRISBANE INITIATIVE

**243/2023-24**

1. The Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane Sustainability Agency, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative. She provided the information below.

2. The Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative (the initiative) is a collaboration between Council, Brisbane Sustainability Agency and Greening Australia. The goal of the initiative is to plant one million native plants across Brisbane by 2032 which shall be largely funded by Greening Australia’s corporate sponsors and contributors. The initiative was launched on 1 October 2023 and has already committed to planting 20,000 plants within the Archerfield Wetlands.

3. The strategic focus of the initiative is to:

- support the restoration of native habitat by planting a variety of ground covers, shrubs and trees

- undertake ecological restoration works primarily on Council-owned land

- create and enhance natural habitat along creek corridors.

4. The initiative’s activities align with *Brisbane Vision 2031* to achieve a target of 40% natural habitat cover on mainland Brisbane by 2031. It also aligns with *Brisbane’s Total Water Cycle Management Plan* by increasing riparian vegetation within priority waterway corridors. The initiative supports the commitments contained within *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* by:

- increasing habitat areas and ecological corridors

- increasing and restoring the resilience of Brisbane’s ecosystems

- protecting wildlife by maintaining the diversity of native plants.

5. The benefits of revegetation include:

- slowing stormwater and reducing erosion and sediment in water

- reducing human-fauna conflict points

- protecting creek banks from erosion

- reducing heat and heat island effects

- increasing areas for foraging, nesting and mating for fauna

- absorption of nutrients and pollutants

- improving connection between people and nature

- replacing exotic weeds with native plant species.

6. Greening Australia’s contribution aligns with its Nature in Cities Initiative, which aims to enhance nature and its benefits within Australian cities. Targets for the Nature in Cities initiative are:

- reinstating and restoring 3,650 hectares of urban wildlife habitat and urban wetland across Australia (584 hectares within Queensland)

- planting 25 million native plants across Australia (more than one million within Queensland).

The Brisbane Local Government Area provides Greening Australia with the opportunity to restore up to 500 hectares of land and plant up to one million native plants.

7. The initiative uses a citywide approach to accelerate waterway restoration, prioritising locations that will:

- improve creek bank stabilisation to reduce sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous entering waterways

- increase shade cover and reduce urban heat and heat islands

- increase fauna habitat and connectivity

- improve community connections to nature.

Planning undertaken by the initiative is informed by an assessment of:

- site conditions and characteristics

- alignment to site vision, condition and biodiversity values.

8. Stewardship planting days were held on 4 and 5 October 2023. These events provided an opportunity for corporate sponsors to engage their staff with the projects they support. Attendees included corporate supporters Bupa, Nature’s Own, IGA (Independent Grocers of Australia), Boeing and Amazon.

9. The initiative collaborated with the Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) for planting work within the Archerfield Wetlands. This collaboration included:

- over 3,000 plants established along Blunder Creek

- 600 plants provided to the OCCA for their community planting day held on 8 October 2023.

10. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Chief Executive Officer for her informative presentation.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MARX, City Standards Committee, please.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Kim MARX, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 17 October 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. Before I get to the Committee presentation, I just wanted to answer one of the questions that I took on notice this morning from Committee’s meeting, which was about, how many FTEs (full-time employees) in the Animal Attack Team. As I mentioned this morning, we don’t have specific Council officers for specific jobs, they’re multitalented or multitasked across the portfolios within that compliance area, so as far as FTEs go, we have 47.62, of which 45.62 are permanent, two are temporary.

Moving on to the report, we had a very timely presentation on the mosquito management that we have within our Brisbane City Council area. We were fortunate enough to get Martin to come across and do a presentation, as always Martin is very, very knowledgeable in this space. I think I’m comfortable in saying that the Committee enjoyed the presentation, and they got a lot of information out of it. The other thing we had was a petition regarding stormwater drainage and I’m happy to leave any debate to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

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

We will now put the City Standards Committee 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 – MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT

**244/2023-24**

1. The Medical Entomologist, Public Space Operations, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on Council’s mosquito management program (the program). He provided the information below.

2. El Niño was officially declared by the Bureau of Meteorology on 19 September 2023 and is predicted to continue until the end of February 2024 with hot and dry weather conditions. Changes in climatic conditions strongly influence mosquito breeding activity. Following El Niño and the return of wet weather conditions, saltmarsh mosquito breeding activity should return to normal or above average, whereas freshwater mosquito breeding activity is expected to be low.

3. The program’s aerial treatment area spans approximately 1,800 hectares and takes between one to two days to deliver the treatment, weather permitting. The first spring aerial treatment was delivered on 3 October 2023 following late September king tides which targeted large saltmarsh mosquito breeding habitats. The saltmarsh mosquito larvae are sprayed with environmentally safe, mosquito-specific products.

4. The program’s ground spray program treatment targets the freshwater mosquito breeding habitats using a fleet of vehicles which consists of 14 four-wheel drive utility vehicles, two electric buggies, four six‑wheel all-terrain vehicles and two eight-wheel all-terrain vehicles. There are approximately 2,400 freshwater mosquito breeding sites across Brisbane.

5. Council uses an information system called FloodWise to capture rainfall data. This data triggers the need for site treatments once 25 millimetres of rainfall has been recorded in mosquito breeding habitat areas.

6. The Committee was shown images of the:

- mapped mosquito breeding habitats

- aerial and ground spraying programs

- specialised fleet vehicles.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – Requesting Council upgrade the stormwater drainage system at Poplar Place Park, Taigum

**137/220/594/219**

**245/2023-24**

9. A petition requesting Council upgrade the stormwater drainage system at Poplar Place Park, Taigum, was received during the Autumn Recess 2023.

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

11. The petition contains 31 signatures. Of the petitioners, 25 live on Poplar Place and six live on roads adjoining Poplar Place.

12. On 25 August 2022, Council inspected and cleared the stormwater drainage system in Poplar Place Park. Council reinspected the stormwater drainage system on 17 May 2023 upon receiving the petition and found it to be clear. It was noted during this inspection that the open drainage system through a property on Muller Road required maintenance as it restricted water flow into the stormwater drainage system.

13. Where maintenance is required on a stormwater drainage system within private property, it falls under the jurisdiction of the property owner to maintain. A request was raised with Council’s Compliance and Regulatory Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, to investigate and advise the property owner of the property on Muller Road that maintenance was required on the open drainage system on their property due to the build-up of vegetation and debris restricting the flow of water.

14. In February 2022, Brisbane experienced large amounts of rainfall resulting in flooding through many suburbs of Brisbane. The record-breaking rainfall, especially across the city’s northern suburbs, was catastrophic, with some suburbs being inundated with more than Brisbane’s average annual rainfall in three days.

15. Additionally, bayside suburbs including Taigum experienced significant creek flooding. This was particularly true for Cabbage Tree Creek as its tributaries saw peak flood levels remain for extended periods, almost entirely inhibiting the ability of road and street drainage systems to carry local rainfall away.

16. During inspection of the stormwater infrastructure and open drainage system servicing the residents of Poplar Place, Council could not identify any reasonable opportunities for drainage capacity upgrades or modifications to the existing network that could mitigate or prevent the extent and duration of flood inundation experienced in February 2022. The low‑lying topography of the area and the proximity to the tidally-influenced reaches of Cabbage Tree Creek limit what is achievable from an engineering and environmental perspective.

17. Council will continue to monitor and maintain the stormwater drainage system in the Taigum area as part of Council’s scheduled maintenance program.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

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

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

21. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/219

Thank you for your petition requesting Council upgrade the stormwater drainage system at Poplar Place Park, Taigum, due to blockages causing access issues to Cabbage Tree Creek.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

In February 2022, Brisbane experienced large amounts of rainfall resulting in flooding through many suburbs of Brisbane. The record-breaking rainfall, especially across the city’s northern suburbs, was catastrophic, with some suburbs being inundated with more than Brisbane’s average annual rainfall in three days.

Additionally, bayside suburbs including Taigum experienced significant creek flooding. This was particularly true for Cabbage Tree Creek as its tributaries saw peak flood levels remain for extended periods, almost entirely inhibiting the ability of road and street drainage systems to carry local rainfall away.

On 17 May 2023, during a site inspection of the stormwater drainage infrastructure and open drainage system servicing the residents of Poplar Place, Council could not identify any reasonable opportunities for drainage capacity upgrades or modifications to the existing network that could mitigate or prevent the extent and duration of flood inundation experienced in February 2022. The low‑lying topography of the area and the proximity to the tidally‑influenced reaches of Cabbage Tree Creek limit what is achievable from an engineering and environmental perspective.

It was noted during this site inspection that the open drainage system through a property on Muller Road required maintenance as it restricted water flow into the stormwater drainage system. When maintenance is required to a stormwater drainage system within private property, it falls under the jurisdiction of the property owner to maintain. A request was raised with Council’s Compliance and Regulatory Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, to investigate and advise the property owner of the Muller Road property that maintenance was required to the open drainage system on their property due to the build‑up of vegetation and debris restricting the flow of water.

Council will continue to monitor and maintain the stormwater drainage system in the Taigum area as part of Council’s scheduled maintenance program.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Mohamad Hassan, A/Senior Outcome Coordinator Waterways and Drainage, Civil and Structures, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 1234.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

### 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 17 October 2023, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. Just before moving to the report, I am not going to give you a blow-by-blow account of everything that’s happened in the break because there is just too much to cover, but as the DEPUTY MAYOR knows, we’ve had the Brisbane Festival, we’ve had Pride Month, we’ve had Seniors Month, we’ve got Night Feast that’s still on until Sunday. If you’re really game, you can go up to Vertigo restaurant and, of course, we had the Queensland Irish Association celebrating 125 years in Brisbane, so lots and lots happening. But I do want to mention something that occurred on the weekend, which was the Lord Mayor’s Seniors Gala.

I want to say a huge thank you to Chris Fennessy, who has been running these now for quite a number of years and I think they just keep getting better and better, but it’s also a big thank you to all of the staff who helped bring of these together. It’s not just about the gala on Sunday, it’s about all of the fun that our seniors have in preparation for that. This year was the 10th year at the program and it truly didn’t disappoint. From Elvis to Rod Stewart, the Hollies to Tina Turner, the two‑hour performance had something for everyone and had the audience clapping along all afternoon. But the highlight of the day was the performance by Jack Files, who was coincidentally celebrating his 80th birthday. After he sang the age-old classic ‘Maggie’ with nothing more than his guitar, he was treated to the entire audience singing happy birthday to him. He took the time to write to us and I need to read this out because it’s a beautiful, beautiful letter.

He said, “you probably have gathered by now that I’m seldom stuck for words, but the whole experience of yesterday and the totally unexpected extras re: my birthday, just blew me away. Memories of the year 2023 and my 80th birthday are now etched forever in my memory, and I have you to thank for that. I certainly hope our paths cross again in the future and if I can ever do anything to help you in some small way, please don’t hesitate to give me a call. Just don’t leave it too long, after all, I turned 80.” I thought that was really, really, really lovely. Again, a big thank you to all involved, a big thank you to our Council officers who put so much work and effort into it.

Moving to the report, we had another fantastic presentation about the Lord Mayor’s Writers in Residence and I have to say, this year, our Writers in Residence are just amazing. There’s still time for people to pop along, this Friday we’ve got—who have we got? We’ve got Mr Reilly coming along to talk to us.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: Matthew Reilly. Thank you, Matthew Reilly. I went along to Judy Nunn, who some of you might remember from *Home and Away*, and she’s written 18 books (including her latest) since she was in *Home and Away*, but I have to say, she was very entertaining. We were waiting for her to talk about her latest book, which is called *Black Sheep*, but she was very busy telling us a whole lot of stories about her life and it was really wonderful. She said to everyone, she really hated it when we had COVID because she really likes an audience, so it was a great opportunity to hear from Judy and we’re all looking forward to Matthew Reilly on Friday night. It was a great presentation, I urge you to have a look at it, it will be on our website, that you can have a look at our Committee’s presentations. But I know that our Committee truly appreciated the opportunity to hear about all of the fantastic things that were happening at the library, and I’ve leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

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

We will now put the report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, James Mackay, Steven Toomey and Sara Whitmee.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – LORD MAYOR’S WRITERS IN RESIDENCE

**246/2023-24**

1. The City Librarian, Library Strategy and Programs, Library Services, Lifestyle and Community Services and the Reading Coordinator, Library Strategy and Programs, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Lord Mayor’s Writers in Residence program (the program). They provided the information below.

2. The program is one of Council’s longstanding library programs. The program hosts author events that:

- promote a love of reading and writing amongst attendees

- encourage borrowing from Council’s libraries

- support emerging writers

- contribute to Council’s vision for an inclusive and creative city.

3. By connecting readers with authors, the program contributes to the city’s culture of reading, builds community and supports the creative economy. The program alumni includes writers Michelle Payne, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Trent Dalton, Julie Goodwin and Matthew Reilly.

4. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on author touring schedules and their ability to connect with audiences. During the pandemic, the program adapted to ensure that Brisbane residents were still able to engage with authors through live-streamed events hosted on the Brisbane Libraries Facebook page.

5. In 2019, the program hosted writer and activist Carly Findlay OAM, in conversation with Elisha Wright, to speak about her memoir, *Say Hello.* Council partnered with local bookstore, Avid Reader, to have copies of *Say Hello* available for purchase. With almost 200 attendees, the success of the event demonstrates the importance of the author-audience connection.

6. Throughout October and November 2023, the program will host:

- Matthew Reilly, author of *Mr Einstein’s Secretary* on 27 October 2023

- Madonna King and Jon Rouse, authors of *Saving Our Kids* on 30 October 2023

- Julia Baird, author of *Bright Shining: How Grace Changes Everything* on 10 November 2023

- Richard Osman, author of *The Last Devil to Die* on 15 November 2023.

7. Australian rural romance and crime genres have experienced a surge in popularity in recent years. To meet the demand for these genres, the program is hosting:

- Fiona McArthur, author of *As the River Rises* on 7 October 2023

- Chris Hammer, author of *The Seven* on 26 October 2023

- Fleur McDonald, author of *Voices in the Dark* on 8 November 2023.

8. Celebrity author presentations include:

- *Home and Away* actress Judy Nunn, author of *Black Sheep*, on 11 October 2023

- singer Deborah Conway, author of *Book of Life* on 20 October 2023

- actor Bryan Brown, author of *The Drowning* on 9 November 2023

- comedian Wendy Harmer, author of *Lies My Mirror Told Me* on 20 November 2023.

9. Historical novelists presenting as part of the program include:

- Fiona McIntosh, author of *The Sugar Place* on 19 October 2023

- Heather Morris, author of *Sisters under the Rising Sun* on 1 November 2023

- Tania Blanchard, author of *A Woman of Courage* on 2 November 2023.

10. First-time participants in the program include:

- Charlotte Wood, author of *Stone Yard Devotional*, 18 October 2023

- Benjamin Stevenson, author of *Everyone on this Train is a Suspect*, 31 October 2023

- Ashley Kalagian Blunt, author of *Dark Mode*, 25 November 2023.

11. The program also supports emerging writers through workshops and events such as Indie Author Day. This event offers authors the opportunity to network with other independently published authors and industry professionals. The next Indie Authors event will be held at Wynnum Library on 25 November 2023 and will feature a panel of authors to share their experiences in self-publishing.

12. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the City Librarian and the Reading Coordinator for their informative presentation.

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Finance and City Governance, Councillor HUANG.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Steven HUANG, Deputy Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 17 October 2023, be adopted.

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

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. The presentation last week was on the net borrowings report, which included an economic update from the Corporate Treasurer. The presenter noted that the global growth outlook remains fragile, with key risks including persistent elevated inflation, and escalation in geopolitical tensions in Europe and the potential impact on energy and commodity markets, a more pronounced economic slowdown in China. The presenter said that this report was prepared before the most recent conflict in the Middle East, so there is significant uncertainty. We also had the bank and investment report for August and September presented to the Committee. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUANG.

Are there any further speakers? I see nobody 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 Trina Massey, Angela Owen and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Lisa Atwood.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND REPORT – NET BORROWINGS – CASH INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING – SEPTEMBER 2023

**247/2023-24**

1. The Corporate Treasurer, Financial Analysis and Treasury Management, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to present a report to the Committee on Council’s net borrowings for the September 2023 quarter. The report details the corporate cash holdings invested and the status of Council’s funding activities.

2. The report provided a market and economic review, and a summary of the following issues in

relation to Council’s investments, including:

- cash position

- review of cash activity

- earnings on investments

- funding capability

- borrowings

- facility performance

- leases.

3. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Corporate Treasurer for her informative presentation.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B COMMITTEE REPORT – BANK AND INVESTMENT REPORT – AUGUST 2023

**134/695/317/1336**

**248/2023-24**

5. The A/Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, provided an overview of Council’s cash and cash investment positions as at 1 September 2023.

6. Page 2 of the report (submitted on file) outlines Council’s cash and investments with financial counter parties as recorded in Council’s financial systems.

7. The increase of cash and investments of $70 million in August was largely offset by Council’s utilisation of the working capital facility with a balance of $100 million drawn at month end. The working capital facility is being utilised to minimise interest costs. The movement net of working capital was a decrease of $30 million which apart from Council’s usual business cycle activities during the period was largely due to:

- Receipts:

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority grant.

- Payments:

- CAPEX (capital expenditure) outflows.

8. Explanation of the significant items include:

- Cash at Bank in Australian Dollars (AUD):

- transactional banking account with Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) – this is Council’s operational bank account for receipts and payments for day‑to‑day transactions in AUD

- the variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per bank statements relates to timing differences in recognition.

- Swiss Francs (CHF) bank account – AUD equivalent:

- AUD equivalent of CHF held in a CBA account which is solely used for Brisbane Metro project hedge settlements and invoice payments in CHF.

- Cash investments:

- Council is holding a total of $325 million cash investments with $95 million placed in longer-term investments (with maturities up until 31 October 2023) and $230 million held in at call accounts

- the variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per the investment statements relates to the accrued interests and fees which have not yet been processed to the bank statement.

- Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) Investment:

- the QIC investment account is set up to provide asset backing for Council’s self‑managed insurance fund.

9. The variance for the period is due to accruals of interest and fees not yet recorded in the bank statements and timing of transactions processed. These are normal variances due to timing of transactions and information received.

10. Page 3 of the report (submitted on file) includes a reconciliation of the CBA bank account between Council’s financial records and the CBA statement. The majority of unreconciled bank transactions at the end of the period have since been reconciled.

11. In addition, the Swiss bank account movements during the period are disclosed.

12. Page 5 of the report (submitted on file) includes amounts held by Council in trust as well as petty cash balances. The trust amounts are largely associated with monies held for infrastructure development commitments.

13. Trust balances are lower, due to receipts being less than payments during the month. These are normal fluctuations of the funds from month to month.

14. The variance between the trust ledger and the investment balance is due to timing of transfers processed to ensure the required funds are held outside of Council’s transactional bank account. These are normal variances and fluctuate from month to month.

15. All relevant general ledger accounts were reconciled and analysed.

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT**, as submitted on file, **BE NOTED.**

**ADOPTED**

#### C COMMITTEE REPORT – BANK AND INVESTMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

**134/695/317/1421**

**249/2023-24**

17. The A/Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, provided an overview of Council’s cash and cash investment positions as at 29 September 2023.

18. Page 2 of the report (submitted on file) outlines Council’s cash and investments with financial counter parties as recorded in Council’s financial systems.

19. The decrease of cash and investments of $69 million in September was also accompanied by an increase in Council’s utilisation of the working capital facility with a balance of $150 million drawn at month end, an increase of $50 million over the month. The working capital facility is being utilised to minimise interest costs. The movement net of working capital was a decrease of $119 million which apart from Council’s usual business cycle activities during the period was largely due to:

- Payments:

- CAPEX (capital expenditure) outflows

- Quarterly Queensland Treasury Corporation Debt Service and Lease Payments.

- Partially offset by Receipts:

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority grant

- Queensland Urban Utilities dividend.

20. Explanation of the significant items include:

- Cash at Bank in Australian Dollars (AUD):

- transactional banking account with Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) – this is Council’s operational bank account for receipts and payments for day‑to‑day transactions in AUD

- the variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per bank statements relates to timing differences in recognition.

- Swiss Francs (CHF) bank account – AUD equivalent:

- AUD equivalent of CHF held in a CBA account which is solely used for Brisbane Metro project hedge settlements and invoice payments in CHF.

- Cash investments:

- Council is holding a total of $271 million cash investments with $50 million placed in longer-term investments (with maturities up until 31 October 2023) and $221 million held in call accounts

- The variance between the balance as per the general ledger and the balance as per the investment statements relates to the accrued interests and fees which have not yet been processed to the bank statement.

- Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) Investment:

- The QIC investment account is set up to provide asset backing for Council’s self‑managed insurance fund.

21. The variance for the period is due to accruals of interest and fees not yet recorded in the bank statements and timing of transactions processed. These are normal variances due to timing of transactions and information received.

22. Page 3 of the report (submitted on file) includes a reconciliation of the CBA bank account between Council’s financial records and the CBA statement. The majority of unreconciled bank transactions at the end of the period have since been reconciled.

23. In addition, the Swiss bank account movements during the period are disclosed.

24. Page 5 of the report (submitted on file) includes amounts held by Council in trust as well as petty cash balances. The trust amounts are largely associated with monies held for infrastructure development commitments.

25. Trust balances are higher, due to receipts being more than payments during the month. These are normal fluctuations of the funds from month to month.

26. The variance between the trust ledger and the investment balance is due to timing of transfers processed to ensure the required funds are held outside of Council’s transactional bank account. These are normal variances and fluctuate from month to month.

27. All relevant general ledger accounts were reconciled and analysed.

28. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT**, as submitted on file, **BE NOTED.**

**ADOPTED**

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION – QUEENSLAND TENNIS CENTRE PARKING AREA

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

**250/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Steven TOOMEY, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS—

*That Brisbane City Council:*

1. *installs overhead flashing signage, like those around The Gabba and Suncorp Stadium, on all arterial and district level roads entering the Queensland Tennis Centre Parking Area; and*
2. *undertakes all necessary steps to rename the Queensland Tennis Parking Area Local Law and replace the yellow street signage, with a new name and signage, such as the Queensland Tennis Centre Regulated Parking Permit Area, so that the signage is not misleading and does not give the false impression that parking is allowed.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr Chairman. I’ve moved this motion today because the LNP Administration, over many years, have failed to recognise the problem that they created when this parking regulated area was established. It’s been many years since I have tried to have this fixed, and all requests so far have fallen on deaf ears. For some background for new Councillors, because there are quite a few, there are 23 regulated parking permit areas in the Brisbane City Council area, and they range across a number of areas, inner city wards, including many LNP Councillors sitting on the other side of the Chamber.

To give you some examples of what those signs say and what those by-laws say, there are 15 regulated parking areas and Auchenflower is one example. Their signs are ‘regulated parking permit areas’, ‘regulated parking permit area’. There are six that say, ‘traffic area’ and they include around Brisbane central area, Lang Park area and others. There is one which is the Dutton Park area, which also includes part of Annerley and Fairfield, that’s called the parking control area. There is one, there is one which is called the Queensland Tennis Centre parking area.

Now a few years ago, Brisbane City Council put up the yellow signs, so these yellow signs on each street went up in The Gabba Ward and because there was very limited signage in my ward, I pushed hard for Tennyson Ward areas in the regulated parking zone to get the individual street yellow signs. They got them, which was a miracle. Unfortunately, those signs say, Queensland Tennis Centre parking area. Even though they’re yellow, which you think you would get some pause from, people driving out to the suburbs around the Tennis Centre see parking area and they think, I can park here. The residents of multiple suburbs, including Tennyson, Yeerongpilly and Yeronga, who all fall within this regulated parking area scheme, essentially pay a fee for a service that Council does not provide.

Now, for those who go, well stop whinging Nicole, why haven’t you done something about this? The first time this problem became apparent was in 2017 and I wrote to the then Chair of Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Cooper. This is Councillor Cooper’s very brief response, “as the terminology is compliant with the local law, including the MUTCD (*Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*), no changes are proposed.” She just said, tough, we’re not changing anything. That was fine, that’s probably why my vote is so good in Tennyson, I sent Councillor Cooper’s letter out and I still send it out to everybody, saying that Council refuses to even consider this.

Since then, it’s got worse though. Over the last few years there have been, every year, problems with the flip signs that are on some of the main roads. Last year, or this year for the tennis, the Council accidentally forgot to flip them over. Even though there was a major event on at the stadium and even though residents paid $16, I think it is now for a parking permit, Council didn’t activate the parking control signs. So, I also raised this issue, and I raised this issue with the LORD MAYOR in this Chamber and I also raised it with the head of infrastructure for Council—the head of, sorry, Transport and Planning Operations for Council.

This is what I got back in response, “as discussed, it’s unlikely that a capital investment over $1 million”—no one has ever explained to where that comes from, “for gantries and flip signs for the Tennis Centre, in a similar way to Suncorp, would be prioritised internally for capital fundings, as there is only two events per year at the Tennis Centre and approximately 50 at Suncorp.” Fair enough, there’s more than two at Tennyson, but that’s fine. I also acknowledge that the last Tennis Centre event was impacted by the parking signs being flipped back a day earlier than approved, so the day it wasn’t operating. This will be monitored closely in future events.

However, this is not the first time that this problem has happened. Two years ago, or three years ago, a bunch of fines, same thing happened, no one turned the signs over the and the fines were invalid, they could not be enforced because residents weren’t notified. Again, I say this is a real problem because Council says to the residents in this area, you’ve got to pay $16, after that whole debate and there’s not that many Councillors who are still here but I’m one of them. No, no, this is just an administrative fee, it won’t go up, we’re going to keep it low, $10 a car. It’s gone up, it’s gone up and up and up. One of those taxes that the LNP don’t think actually go up, but that’s what they vote for.

The residents are paying to park in their street and they’re paying to make sure that the parking scheme is enforced, and it is not happening. I asked the LORD MAYOR a question about it here, back in June. The response I got was that it is possible to have them, it is possible to have them, and I was told, if you haven’t—this is June this year, if you haven’t already, I would encourage you to include your request for automated overhead flashing signs in your annual budget submission. My request to the Chair of Infrastructure were ignored, my request to the LORD MAYOR was ignored, it was referred to the Chair of Infrastructure, who says, put it in your budget submission, but Council won’t list these in its capital works program.

Meanwhile, the Brisbane International is back on in December and January and residents again are going to be parked out in their local street, have to pay a fee for the privilege of actually just living in that street and not get the benefit of having parking regulations properly managed and enforced by Council. Now a huge part of this problem are the tiny, tiny little signs that exist, saying, parking area. They’re normally down and they say, no event today and then they’re flipped over they say, event. They’re very hard to see if you don’t know what you’re looking at, you can be past it very quickly. They’re grey with a little bit of black writing, there’s no illuminated tape, there’s no hazard tape, there’s no markings on the poles and Council doesn’t turn them over.

The big problem here is, people don’t know that they are coming into a regulated parking area. That is a problem with the name of the sign which indicates to people that you can park in that area and, two, the inadequate signage that exists for this area. The motion before us today is pretty simple, it calls on Council to implement a change to the local law. I understand that will take some time, but as Councillor Cooper pointed out, the local by-law is the name that goes on the sign, so the by‑law has to change, and the by-law should be changed so it is like one of the other 22 signs that indicate there is some restrictions and not the one sign that doesn’t. That’s a no-brainer right, there’s been a mistake, it just needs to be fixed and this Council won’t even consider it.

We need to do two things, one, install overhead flashing signage on all arterial and district level roads entering the Queensland Tennis Centre area. Now that would be maybe half a dozen signs, Fairfield Road, King Arthur Terrace. King Arthur Terrace, no, its district, King Arthur Terrace. Actually, it might even be less than that, it might only be those two. There would be one each way on Fairfield Road and one on King Arthur Terrace, so three, so not going to cost $1 million. Any idea or any suggestion that it’s going to cost that amount of money would be a complete fabrication because there are a lot of local streets, and I certainly don’t expect every local street to have an overhead flashing sign. But on arterial roads, that when you enter this area and on the district roads, you should have some overhead flashing signs so that residents know they’re entering into a regulated parking area.

Not only that, we need to make a simple change to the name of the by-law and then have the yellow signs on each street replaced. If this had been done when I first asked or at any time over the last six years, we would not have this annual problem of people turning up and hundreds of Council officers time, the officers will go out and enforce, but then it turns out that the fines are unenforceable, have been issued wrongly because the permit scheme was not actually put into place. It’s not good enough that these known problems are not being addressed. Every year there’s a problem, every year there is a different problem.

This year it’s going to be worse because the Yeerongpilly train station is closed for Cross River Rail upgrades, so there is no direct public transport access to the Tennis Centre and people are going to drive. I do not want to see residents having to pay for a permit and getting no service from Council. So, the signage needs to be upgraded—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and I urge all Councillors to support the motion.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes. Thank you, Chair, I rise to speak on this motion. I’m aware that this issue was raised by Councillor JOHNSTON earlier this year and that Councillor WINES has in fact already addressed this issue in his memo to you dated 6 June. I can advise that the response provided remains unchanged, but for the benefit of the Chamber, I’ll provide it to Councillor JOHNSTON again, through you, Chair. In 2019 and 2020, Council installed 15 electronic signs on existing gantries, with power already connected around Suncorp Stadium, this came in at a cost of $1.44 million. There are 52 entry points to Suncorp Stadium with flip signs used across the majority of these locations. Suncorp Stadium hosts more than 40 sporting events per year, as well as a large number of concerts.

The Queensland Tennis Centre holds two major events a year that trigger parking restrictions. The Brisbane International held over two weeks and the Torian Pro that took place over the weekend of 26 through 28 May this year. While there are significantly less entry points at the Tennis Centre, there are some locations where gantries could be installed, while the remaining entries would have flip signs, similar to Suncorp Stadium. Consideration of funding to undertake a project for electronic signage is subject to a future assessment of its priority, relative to other citywide projects. If you haven’t already, Councillor JOHNSTON, again through you, Chair, I would encourage you to heed Councillor WINES advice and include your request for automated overhead flashing signs to be installed at the Queensland Tennis Centre in your annual budget submission. Thank you.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Thank you, Mr Chair.

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

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you. That was an interesting response. I’m rising in support of this motion which I’ve seconded. I believe that the request that the Councillor, Councillor JOHNSTON has put through is logical, it’s reasonable and would meet both the residents needs who live in the area and I’m one of those residents who live in that area, as well as meet the—ensure that we are doing consistent signage across the whole city. I know that residents that come from outside the area will often complain to me in the adjoining ward about being fined for parking there during one of these events. I know my neighbours will complain to me about being fined for parking in their own street during one of these events.

Often their logic is and it’s quite a simple logic, their logic is, we’re the residents, we live here, the Tennis Centre is putting on the event, shouldn’t Tennis Centre be covering some of these costs, like putting up this signage that we’re talking about. I think what Councillor JOHNSTON is saying is logical, I think it’s reasonable and I would certainly ask the Administration to make consistent signage across the city. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

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

Councillor JOHNSTON, right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Earlier today on the appointment of the new Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward, I made some remarks along the lines of, the new Councillors shouldn’t be seat fillers, they just shouldn’t sit there and do what they’re told. Councillor ADERMANN has just given us the best example of that. I mean he lives nowhere near this, he knows nothing about this—

Councillor ADERMANN: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —yet he’s—

Chair: Just one moment, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Point of order Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: I have 17 years working at Suncorp Stadium, I happen to know a little bit about this subject.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, thank you—just—

Hey, Councillor MASSEY, I’m chairing this meeting, thank you.

Councillor ADERMANN, I don’t uphold your point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Because all the backbench LNP Councillors are doing, is reading out preprepared statements that have been written by somebody else for them, about an issue they know nothing about. If Councillor ADERMANN had even listened to me and what I’d said in my speech supporting the motion, he would have heard me say, I think we need three signs. Two on Fairfield Road and one on King Arthur Terrace. Now, $144—sorry, $1.4 million divided by 52, is $27,600. Three overhead flashing signs, based on the costings provided by the LNP, would be $83,000.

Now, maybe it’s gone up a bit more because things are costing a bit more since June, based on what the LORD MAYOR said, we’d be surprised. But if Councillor ADERMANN had even listened to what I’d said, we need three, $83,000. Not $1.4 million, not $1.44 million. I don’t want them on every street, I accept that we don’t need them on every street, but we need them in the key entry points in my ward, but he’s stuck to his prepared statement. This is what I mean backbench LNP Councillors actively contributing to this place, because reading your set statement and being wrong, really doesn’t reflect well.

I also note that the issue of the incorrect name was not even addressed, so the LNP just want to ignore the fact that this is one of 23 regulated parking areas where the name of the regulated parking area is wrong, it’s just flat out wrong. Presumably they’re going to vote this motion down and these residents are going to have to live with the parking chaos that will ensue again through December and January. I will be writing to them all personally and letting them know the outcome of this debate here today.

These are issues that they raise with me on a regular basis. They are already angry about having to pay a fee, but what makes them furious is that this Council will not ensure that people don’t park in their area and there are simple steps that the Council could take to do that. Changing the name of the by-law is easy, we have a little vote on it here, it goes through a process with the State Government, it comes back here, tick. There will be a bit of cost associated with changing the yellow signs, but I’d be happy with a sticker going over the top of them. Let’s figure out a way to do it cheaply because I’m all about saving money. But for a backbench LNP Councillor, who knows nothing about the impact this has on residents in my area—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Let’s debate the motion, not the people that are speaking.

Chair: Yes, that’s a fair call.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Says the DEPUTY MAYOR.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’ve got the call, can I draw you back to your motion please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m definitely talking about the motion and if the DEPUTY MAYOR wanted to contribute in some positive way to this, she could have stood up and participated, but she didn’t. Presumably in their tactics meeting they sat down, and they go, whose turn is it to hop up and read out the set speech and no doubt the DEPUTY MAYOR was part of that discussion and sent poor Greg ADERMANN out there on the frontline to take all the bullets. He’s smiling, I’m on the money. Yet here she is going, oh, don’t pick on poor Greg, when she set it up. Honestly—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —people in Tennyson Ward deserve the same—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, you are very, very quickly running out of time and not really addressing your motion.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m definitely addressing the motion.

Chair: I would hope so.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I definitely am. People in Tennyson Ward deserve the same respect and services that other parts of the city get. I’ll be checking out the Holland Park regulated parking area and I wonder if there are any flashing lights over there on their signage, if there are I’ll be asking some questions about that, but interestingly, Councillor ADERMANN couldn’t even address that issue in his speech before us today. Council knows this is a problem, it’s a known problem. We need practical solutions to make sure these problems are addressed, and we need to find about $90,000 or $100,000 to put some overhead flashing lights in on Fairfield Road and King Arthur Terrace, so that these residents can have some security that this Council is taking their money, and they are getting a service.

Not forgotten, not forgotten to have signs turned over, not ignored, not the wrong signage up, but making sure that the services that they are paying for are being properly delivered. The fact that the LNP Council today refuses to support this motion and won’t even genuinely debate the issue, the Transport Chair is not here, the Infrastructure Chairman couldn’t be bothered to turn up, the CARS (Compliance and Regulatory Services) Chairman sitting there doing nothing. No Chair who is responsible for this is even prepared to be part of the debate. To everybody in the regulated parking area in Tennyson, in Yeerongpilly and Yeronga, the LNP have abandoned you, they are not interested in even making a basic change to make your life a little bit easier.

They’re fully prepared to take your money, but they are not prepared to deliver the services. That is wrong. I am disappointed that the issues that have been genuinely raised here tonight, as they have for many years, have not been addressed, but that is your LNP LORD MAYOR and the LNP minions that support him, who will not engage in constructive debate to ensure that changes are made where mistakes that are known, can be actively addressed. It’s incredibly disappointing that these residents are going to have to deal with parking chaos yet again. I fully expect that there will be another stuff up by Council and these residents will have to cop illegal parking, parking on their footpaths, parking across their driveways and it’ll be even worse this year because the Brisbane International is going to be bigger and there is no public transport to the train station. I urge all Councillors to support the motion.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

We will now put the motion before us.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 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: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Clare JENKINSON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Councillors are there any petitions?

Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. I have an ePetition version of the paper petition, which was tabled last week, weed management for all wetlands in Deagon, Sandgate and Brighton.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Are there any other petitions?

Ah, Councillor HOWARD, my apologies.

Councillor HOWARD: I have a petition on behalf of Councillor CUNNINGHAM for asking Council to install a pedestrian crossing on Leicester Street at Coorparoo.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thanks, Mr Chairperson. I have a petition for Council to purchase bushland adjoining Whites Hill Reserve.

Chair: Thank you.

Are there any further petitions?

Councillor WINES.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No, okay. We’re all good.

Can I have a motion please to accept the petitions?

**251/2023-24**

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

The petitions were summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/261 | Jared Cassidy | Requesting Council establish effective weed management, prioritise treatment areas and implement regeneration across all wetland areas in Deagon, Sandgate and Brighton. |
| 137/220/594/262 | Vicki Howard on behalf of Fiona Cunningham | Requesting Council narrow the road between 85 and 87 Leicester Street, Coorparoo, to allow the installation of a pedestrian crossing. |
| 137/220/594/260 | Steve Griffiths | Requesting Council purchase bushland adjoining Whites Hill Reserve to protect existing koala habitat. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of the Office of the Independent Assessor or Ethics Committee order? I see nobody rising.

Are there any items of General Business?

Councillor DIXON.

Councillor DIXON: Mr Chair, I rise tonight to talk about the breast cancer awareness events that have happened across Hamilton Ward. October is the month of breast cancer awareness and just like my dress today, my local community turned pink to shine a light on one of Australia’s most commonly diagnosed cancers. Firstly, I want to touch on the amazing efforts of the Hamilton Neighbourhood Hub, who put on their annual community pink morning on Saturday 14 October. This event has been going since 2015 when the local church, St Luke’s, started to decorate their garden pink. Now many surrounding neighbours do the same and pop up iconic pink ladies for the month of October.

It was truly a fun-filled morning, there was everything from a pink puppy parade, where people were able to dress their four-legged friends in their best pink outfits, to being able to purchase a delicious slice or two from the bake stall, or even pick up some produce or a plant, with all funds going to Breast Cancer Network Australia. However, the fun didn’t stop there, there were also performances from Hamilton State School and a pink lady treasure hunt. Lynelle, Phil and the rest of the Hamilton Neighbourhood Hub, should be very proud of their efforts, with over $3,000 being raised. Well done Hamilton Neighbourhood Hub, it was a great day and I look forward to attending again next year.

I also want to touch on St Agatha’s Clayfield, who didn’t stop at just one breast cancer awareness event this month, they had two. Hosting both a St Agatha’s biggest morning tea on Sunday 8 October, and just this Sunday past, a think pink celebration with all fundraising going the McGrath Foundation. Well done to Rosemary and Jane, for their stellar efforts putting these two events on. On Thursday, I’m looking forward to attending the Fun 500 Card Club breast cancer fundraising morning tea, with all proceeds going to the Mater Chicks in Pink. I’ll guess I’ll have to quickly wash this outfit again as the dress code is, you guessed it, pink.

But before I conclude, Mr Chair, I want to say, while all these events have been great for the community to participate in and it really does add to the generous spirit across the ward, it does serve as an important reminder for everyone out there, don’t delay in booking your mammogram and if something doesn’t feel right, get it checked out. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DIXON.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak about the bushland, the wildlife corridor at 409, 415, 427 Beckett Road at Bridgeman Downs, the saga of the development approval and the continued court action and that land still not being protected, that vital land in the Mountains to Mangrove Corridor. The vital link that if it is lost at that location on Becket Road, then that link from the mountains to the mangroves and to the bay, will be broken forever. North Brisbane Catchments has written to Councillor DAVIS, as the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee and I just want to read into record the concerns that they have hearing about the $400 million in cuts that this LNP Administration announced last week.

The letter reads, “Dear Councillor DAVIS, the recently announced Brisbane City Council budget cuts are noted. The court battle to preserve the core koala habitat and irreplaceable wildlife corridor involving 409, 415 and 427 Becket Road, Bridgeman Downs, continues. Can you confirm that the announced budget cuts will not affect Council’s efforts to have the developer’s appeal dismissed?” A very valid question and I hope one that Councillor DAVIS will answer very soon, and I will table this letter tonight for the Chamber’s benefit.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Further speakers?

Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Thank you, Chair. I wanted to rise to speak on the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) conference. I would like to thank the Council first of all for the opportunity to represent it at the annual LGAQ conference held in Gladstone last week. It was a very successful and well-attended event with this year’s theme being Stronger Council, Stronger Communities. It was wonderful to have so many councils from across Queensland to represent our broad and diverse communities and the challenges that we all face. To be in a room of passionate and dedicated representatives, who are at the coalface of their community and hear first-hand their aspirations for their communities, was truly inspiring. It was also enlightening to hear and discuss some common themes, that despite our locations we all share, whether in cities, regions or shires.

The two main concerns that councils are trying to find solutions for, are youth crime and housing. Not only is crime increasing everywhere, but housing is difficult to find, as we have discussed today, leaving people vulnerable and also holding back the progress of many communities like our own, when skilled workers cannot take up important jobs due to the inability to find housing. Another common theme is that councils are being left to try and find the solutions on their own. As the LORD MAYOR has talked about today, our Council is also doing the heavy lifting by implementing changes and incentives for affordable housing. In fact, two of Council’s motions, carried at the conference, was exactly around build‑to-rent. I’ll just read them out for you.

The first one, the LGAQ calls on the State Government, in consultation with local government, to pass legislation to include new definitions within the *Planning Regulation 2017*, for smaller scale attached residential development up to six dwellings and build-to-rent developments, which got 188 votes/supports. The other one was the LGAQ calls on the State Government in consultation with local government to pass legislation to support local government to condition covenants on property titles, to ensure that affordable or social housing outcomes in new developments, are binding on successive owners of the dwelling and another 180 people supported that.

The LGAQ will continue to listen and engage and be the voice of local government, to both State and Federal Government and ensure that all Queenslanders are heard, and our outcomes achieved. There were 152 motions put forward and all were voted on, with the majority carried, including—in general the majority carried, including 15 from Brisbane City Council. It really was a very collegiate and supportive forum and now, of course, the LGAQ will work very hard on both those polices and the others, 15 in total, that were all passed and lobby on our behalf to the State Government.

The LGAQ is also continuing to achieve outcomes in regard to the OIA and we had the opportunity to attend the State Parliamentary hearing on the Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, which was held in Gladstone during the conference. Many councils were able to provide feedback and suggestions to the committee. We also attended panel discussions including updates on dangerous dog attack law reforms, cost shifting and challenges facing South East Queensland. Councils are feeling less resourced to meet infrastructure growth, with more and more people moving into the regions and the liveability is also challenged when hospitals, schools, policing and public transport are not keeping up.

We also heard from Blackall-Tambo Mayor, Councillor Andrew Martin, and Isaac Regional Council Mayor, Councillor Anne Baker, on a cyber-attack that both their councils had experienced. They took us through step by step on how that evolved, the struggle to try and get back their data and, of course, the impact this had on their council budget and what steps they’ve taken. It just shows you in these regional councils, they are subject and open to these attacks, so it was interesting to hear both of them give an account of what happened.

We also heard from the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council on their initiative to help their community with the cost of electricity and power security. They’ve taken matters into their hands and with investment in solar panels, which in that council, of course, they have community housing. They have put solar panels on all of the roofs and reduced the bill, which residents were paying, the households, it was costing up $1,000 per bill. You can imagine in that community the challenges faced and the importance of that electricity for them. This project also was important because the community relied on a single 90-kilometre, weather‑prone power line and so loss of power or people not using power because it costs too much, obviously, affected all aspects of their life and their health, so it was great to hear how they met that challenge.

There were also great ideas and innovations showcased by the exhibitors in the Expo Hall and it literally took three days to visit them all. I know Councillor ATWOOD and I both had some great conversations and brought back ideas to pass onto Chairs, as well as speaking to many sporting codes who are there under the one roof and other community reps. These relationships, as we all know, are important to help support our community and as I said, it was just great to have them all there under that one roof. Of course, the networking and conversations that took place cannot be underestimated, with the sharing of ideas and projects taking place.

On a personal level, having lived and taught in both Aramac and Mackay, it was wonderful to catch up with Councillors from those areas. One of the Councillors, particularly from Aramac, Gary Peoples, who was actually a Councillor when I was living out there quite some time ago. It was great to catch up and get some information on what my former students were up to and, of course, some of them are working for Council, so it was really lovely on that personal side too, to catch up with all of them. I just want to finish by once again thanking Council for this great opportunity to represent them at LGAQ and commend the work that LGAQ are doing for all of us.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor LANDERS.

Further items of General Business?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on the Laura Street Festival which was held in The Gabba Ward on 15 October. If you don’t know about the Laura Street Festival, the Laura Street Festival is one of the most grassroots festivals that exists in Brisbane, put together by volunteers that live on that street, where venues are actually the houses, completely involving everyone from Laura Street, right? An incredible, incredible event that was much needed by that community. Across the street we had live music venues, meditation workshops, conversations and talks. The road closure meant that there was activity all down the street and basically this Laura Street community completely owned it, thousands of people went to it.

I really want to put a big shoutout to the organisers that volunteered all their time to deliver it after a two-year break. I’m looking forward to next year’s Laura Street Festival and I want to thank all the residents from across The Gabba Ward actually, that came to this event. Truly an amazing grassroots community festival where houses are venues, where the whole street is engaged, what a wonderful time. Shoutout to Laura Street Festival.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

Further items of General Business?

Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you. I just also wanted to echo Sandy’s comments about the LGAQ conference. We had a ball up in Gladstone and thank you for the opportunity to represent Brisbane City Council. It started off with a bang with the Gladstone Mayor sharing his vision and his passion for his region. He was an absolutely incredible host, and he made every single one of us feel very welcomed and there was 800 delegates and I swear I chatted to that man multiple times, so kudos to Matt for making us all feel so welcome. But over the three days we had the opportunity to connect with other Councillors and Mayors, from right across our State and share our experiences and our struggles, but also connect and see how we can help each other.

I was lucky enough to be asked to be a part of the panel to represent South East Queensland with a number of other Mayors and CEOs about cost shifting from the State and Federal Governments onto councils. Some of the examples that other Mayors and council officers shared was childcare. A number of them have to pay for childcare in their regions because if they don’t, they literally have no childcare. Tony shared that example from Longreach, he’s the Mayor, but there was other Isaac Regional Council and a number of other councils that also have to do that.

There was also another council who have to install satellites so their residents can get free to air TV and he also shared the example that NRL grand final this year, it had a bit of a glitch, went out for five minutes and his phone was going off the hook, everyone was fuming, but it got fixed very quickly. Then another example was also social housing, the community manages 80% of the housing in the town, which is all social housing and that is a huge struggle. They only have one source of power coming in and out of the town so they’re looking to get solar, as Sandy mentioned, so that they have a more reliable source, because having 180 days with no power is not good enough, that was insane. Yes, it’s really incredible to hear their stories.

I’ve shared some of our experiences what we receive down here in the South East Queensland corner, such as managing school car parks, mosquito spraying for Council and Brisbane City Council land and also just so many of our private schools going to Ministerial infrastructure designations, meaning that we miss out on the infrastructure charges but we’re still expected to pick the bill for the traffic light upgrades, the footpath upgrades and the list goes on.

Lastly, really one of my favourite speakers was Jayden, he was a young Councillor from Aurukun Shire Council and he spoke about the Voice and a way forward. He genuinely has an incredible career ahead of him. He spoke that he never was surprised that it was going to fail, he always felt like it was a top-down approach and he said, he would really love the bottom-up approach, where they were brought on the journey. He said, it was a political stunt and he’s really glad, that hopefully now someone will come out to his region and meet with him and chat with him about a way forward. He’s got a great future ahead of him, I’d encourage everyone to follow Jayden on social media, he was such a beautiful young Councillor.

Sorry, and another highlight was to connect with other young Councillors as part of the young Councillor cohort program. I’ve been a part of that for six months now and I’ve been connected with the Deputy Mayor from Isaac Regional Council, Kelly and all of the mentors and young Councillors came together for a networking event over it. It was really great to hear and to get mentorship from just so many beautiful Mayors, right across our State, helping us and yes, it was good to know that we’re not in this alone and we’re all out there trying to make our communities better. But thank you everyone for allowing Sandy and I the opportunity, we really enjoyed it and yes, thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ATWOOD.

Are there further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. I rise tonight to speak in regard to a couple of events that have happened in my ward over the last week or so and then maybe an observation or two. The first is our Lions Club at Forest Lake celebrated their 30th anniversary last Saturday at the Blue Fin Fishing Club. We had people, former members, that are still Lions, but they aren’t a member of a club because they’ve moved onto other areas, for retirement or whatever and they came back for the 30th anniversary. It was really good to catch up with those that were able to make it, I wish I’d have been—we also had about 11 of our original charter members, so there were 30 charter members back in October 1993 and 11, of course, are still in the club and there are some that are not in the club, but came along as well.

It was really good to catch up with them after a number of years, in some cases I hadn’t seen some of those for a number of years. I’ve been in the club for about 29 years, but unfortunately, I didn’t make the charter. What was amazing was, we offered the microphone for those people that wanted to get up and just talk about their experiences with the Lions and the Forest Lake Lions Club. It was really good just to hear some of those stories that we’d forgotten in some cases, because this club has been an unbelievably active club for those 30 years. If I had to take some time to run through all the projects, whether they be district, multidistrict, international, the local community ones and all the social stuff that we did as well, if I had to run through it all it would probably take me about half hour. They continue to look after the community of Forest Lake, along with the Rotary Club as well. We’re very fortunate that for the suburb or the Forest Lake suburb, to have two great service clubs looking after it.

Also, it was Seniors Month, and we had a series of seniors morning teas. The Premier and myself and, of course, Milton, was able to make two of the three. The Premier was there for the last two and it was—the theme actually was Scams and How to Prevent Yourself Being Trapped by a Scam. We had a presenter from the Department of Fair Trading, she did an excellent job and there were multiple, multiple questions. As you can imagine, we’ve all been scammed or they’ve tried to scam us, whether it’s through our phones, through the email or someone coming knocking on your door. She covered all basis and did an unbelievable job. Of course, a lot of information was—been able to give out because we have representatives from Centrelink there as well and the crime prevention people were there with information. Actually, even Queensland Health were there too, because you’d be surprised how many people try—scamming even goes to myGov as well, so it’s important that we keep abreast of all that.

The Premier was, of course, very popular, and everyone wanted to talk to her after the presentation, but they equally wanted to—well I won’t say equally because she’s the draw card really and she spent a lot of time there after the presentations as well, before she moved off to another event. The thing that they wanted to talk to me about right, which I was quite surprised actually because it was relatively new in the media and that was the cuts. Because a lot of them, of course, take the advantage of the off-peak travel, they’re all booked, of course, to go to the Christmas concerts, the cabs as well. There’s a lot of them that actually take advantage of all those programs that Brisbane City Council, the GOLD program as well, is another one which is quite extensive. They were all worried about and asking me, are they going to be affected with the $400 million cut, or they didn’t actually use the $400 million, they just said, the cuts.

I couldn’t answer their question because I don’t know, I don’t know what’s going to—but I said, well at least—I mean what the LORD MAYOR has said, he wants to cut $400 million, but it’s supposed to be about 10%, so I don’t know how that’s going to work with some of these services. I mean even the rebates, they were worried about the rates rebates, and they were worried because I mean most of them are pensioners and they’re not self-funded retirees most of them either, they’re actually pensioners. Yes, maybe they own their home, but they don’t have a lot of income coming in, so they rely upon those services and that support mechanism that the city Council gives. I said, well I’ll keep them abreast as to what happens with these cuts and we’ll communicate with them right, being that they came along to the event, of course, we had their address or email I should say, so we are able to communicate with the directly.

Also, what’s been happening over the last week is a lot of the cultural groups are worrying about, of course, the cuts to their festival money. Now, some of them are quite lucky, they’ve already had their festival, so the money wasn’t in question, but those that maybe haven’t held it yet because it’s going to be either later this year or early next year, they were asking if that’s under threat as well. Again, I couldn’t answer their question, I would just repeat what the LORD MAYOR said in regard to how much he’s looking to save out of this year’s budget, and we will expect at least a 10% cut. I’d just like to put that on the record, so the sooner we know the better and I’d love to find out before the end of November so we can actually tell them what’s up for the cuts. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Are there any further items of General Business?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Thank you, Mr Chair. I’d just like to use General Business to talk about a couple of superstars that I have, and I’d like to acknowledge. First off, I would just like to correct something the LORD MAYOR said earlier today and I think the LORD MAYOR said that I’d been in the Chamber 20 years. I’ve been in here 21, so let’s just correct that.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: When we had a little chat—

Chair: Councillor MARX.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MARX.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: When we had a little chat outside, I know the LORD MAYOR said, and you’re going round again, so that’s good.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: What I’d like to say is, the reason I’m actually standing here tonight is to—and I do want to say in those 20 years I’ve had plenty of ideas about the way we can change things, the way we can improve things and I’ve lots of new ideas. Don’t worry, if we get into power, when we get into power, I certainly will take a lot of ideas forward. However, the reason I got up tonight to talk is about some superstars and these superstars have made my job really wonderful and really interesting and they are my staff members. I need to acknowledge, I won’t use their last names, I’ll just use their first names, Lisa, Tracey, Sue and Cole. Lisa, as I’ve been here 21 years, Lisa this month received her 20-year certificate, so she’s been in my office for 20 years we’ve been working together. Tracey has been in my office, all my staff are part-time, working 19 years and Sue has been in my office now for 18 years.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That is better than a marriage for many people, that is better than a marriage.

Chair: Councillor MARX.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Cole has been in my office or left my office, but he was there for 10 years as well. I just want to say to those staff, you’ve made my job a wonderful experience. You’ve been a great group of people to work with. We’ve evolved together, we work as a team, I don’t micromanage people, I work with people and work with their ideas and all those people have brought their own skills and their own unique abilities up to our team and it’s been a really great working environment. I think one of the things we’ve all achieved is the relationship that we have and the friendship we have and certainly the fun that we have in working together. I also need to acknowledge their partners or their husbands, who also attend a number of events with me.

Most recently we’ve been doing the koala walks events which I’ve talked about before, which are hugely successful, but we also did another event called koalas and jazz, just recently and that was an amazing event with Griffith University that can only go on to bigger and better things. We had about 1,000 people at that event, from all over South East Queensland, so people are craving to learn about their wildlife. I think it’s really important a lot of us spend a lot of time talking about ourselves, but I think it’s really important to acknowledge our staff, who are our grassroots. They’re our connection with the community, certainly my connection with the community.

But not just that, they’re our connection with the interface of Council and they help those wheels work. I’d just like to say to Lisa and Tracey, I’ll look into the camera. I’d just like to say Lisa and Tracey and Sue and Cole and acknowledge Teresa is a new team member, that thank you, you’re great to work with and really love having you around. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MARX, we don’t call across the Chamber.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Are there any further items of General Business? I see no one rising.

I declare the meeting closed.

Have a very nice evening Councillors.

## 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 19 October 2023)**

1. Please list the number of jobs currently sitting with construction broken down by Ward:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bracken Ridge |  |
| Calamvale |  |
| Central |  |
| Chandler |  |
| Coorparoo |  |
| Deagon |  |
| Doboy |  |
| Enoggera |  |
| Forest Lake |  |
| Hamilton |  |
| Holland Park |  |
| Jamboree |  |
| MacGregor |  |
| Marchant |  |
| McDowall |  |
| Moorooka |  |
| Morningside |  |
| Northgate |  |
| Paddington |  |
| Pullenvale |  |
| Runcorn |  |
| Tennyson |  |
| The Gabba |  |
| The Gap |  |
| Walter Taylor |  |
| Wynnum Manly |  |

1. Please list the total number of jobs currently sitting with construction that are more than 6 months old broken down by Ward:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bracken Ridge |  |
| Calamvale |  |
| Central |  |
| Chandler |  |
| Coorparoo |  |
| Deagon |  |
| Doboy |  |
| Enoggera |  |
| Forest Lake |  |
| Hamilton |  |
| Holland Park |  |
| Jamboree |  |
| MacGregor |  |
| Marchant |  |
| McDowall |  |
| Moorooka |  |
| Morningside |  |
| Northgate |  |
| Paddington |  |
| Pullenvale |  |
| Runcorn |  |
| Tennyson |  |
| The Gabba |  |
| The Gap |  |
| Walter Taylor |  |
| Wynnum Manly |  |

1. Please list the total number of jobs currently sitting with construction that are more than 12 months old broken down by Ward:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bracken Ridge |  |
| Calamvale |  |
| Central |  |
| Chandler |  |
| Coorparoo |  |
| Deagon |  |
| Doboy |  |
| Enoggera |  |
| Forest Lake |  |
| Hamilton |  |
| Holland Park |  |
| Jamboree |  |
| MacGregor |  |
| Marchant |  |
| McDowall |  |
| Moorooka |  |
| Morningside |  |
| Northgate |  |
| Paddington |  |
| Pullenvale |  |
| Runcorn |  |
| Tennyson |  |
| The Gabba |  |
| The Gap |  |
| Walter Taylor |  |
| Wynnum Manly |  |

1. How many FTE inspectors are currently employed in construction?
2. Please list the Councillors and Ward Offices that received an invitation to the Lord Mayor’s Business Awards that took place on Friday, 20th October 2023.
3. Of the projects listed in the 2023-24 Budget, which are yet to commence? Provide a list breakdown by suburb.
4. Of the projects listed in the 2023-24 Budget, which are currently in the design phase? Provide a list breakdown by suburb.
5. Of the projects listed in the 2023-24 Budget, which are currently out to tender? Provide a list breakdown by suburb.
6. How many petitions for safety upgrades at intersections remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
7. How many petitions for safety upgrades at intersections have initial design work underway or completed over the past 10 financial years?
8. How many content creators on Instagram and TikTok does Brisbane City Council have contracts with / pay for content from?
9. What is the final / total cost to Brisbane City Council for the Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors’ Forum in an itemised list?
10. How many people attended the Brisbane Emergency Services Expo?
11. How many requests have been received by the Contact Centre regarding injuries that have occurred as a result of broken or damaged footpaths?
12. On Brisbane City Council’s website, for how long has the ‘Report a Damaged Footpath’ page been unavailable?
13. How many food businesses have waited longer than 12 months for an audit of their star rating to be completed?
14. What costs associated with holding a Civic Reception is Brisbane City Council responsible for?
15. How many staff of Brisbane City Council have a role that is based in compliance (issuing of infringement notices / fines)?
16. Who is responsible for approving overseas travel for the Lord Mayor, Councillors, and Council staff?
17. Are any staff who work in the Contact Centre employed as casuals or on contracts or from agencies?
18. Provide a breakdown (Full-time, part-time, casual, contract, etc.) of the number of staff currently employed by Brisbane City Council.
19. How many contractors/labour-hire staff are currently employed through Council contracts.
20. How many petitions for bikeway installations/upgrades remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
21. How many petitions for footpath installations/upgrades remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
22. How many petitions for traffic calming remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
23. How many petitions for road resurfacing remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
24. How many petitions for road maintenance remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
25. How many public space cleaners are currently employed by Brisbane City Council?
26. How many water trucks does Brisbane City Council operate, and how many water truck drivers are employed by Brisbane City Council?
27. How many roles in Brisbane City Council relate directly to the collection of hard rubbish in kerbside collection?
28. Please list all Council pools and if they are managed by Brisbane City Council or an external contractor.
29. How many people have been employed to operate Brisbane City Council’s new Minippi Gold Course?
30. How many painters does Brisbane City Council employ? How many of these are apprentices/trainees?
31. How many cleaners are employed by Brisbane City Council for cleaning Council buses?
32. How many Brisbane City Council employees are involved in the physical delivery of Smoother Suburban Streets program, eg. labourers, road construction team etc and not including administration or engineering, etc.
33. How many playgrounds have been installed by Brisbane City Council employees *only* since January 2019? Please list.
34. How many Brisbane City Council employees are designated to each Ward for grass cutting?
35. Please provide the breakdown of male and female FTEs working at Council’s resource recovery centres.
36. Please provide the total number of male and female FTEs driving the fleet of rubbish trucks.
37. How many roles have Brisbane City Council advertised via external Human Resources consulting services since June 2021?
38. How many roles have Brisbane City Council advertised via the Brisbane City Council website and internal hiring system since June 2021?
39. How many cleaners are employed at each of the Council administrative buildings eg. City Hall, Brisbane Square etc.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (from meeting on 17 October 2023)**

**Q1.** Please provide a list by suburb of the number of houses that have been acquired by Council or have been identified for acquisition as part of the flood buyback scheme being implemented in conjunction with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority?

***A1.*** *The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) provides an approved list of houses for Council to acquire on its behalf. Council doesn’t determine which houses are to be acquired.*

| ***Suburb*** | ***# Acquired*** |  | ***Suburb*** | ***# Acquired*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Archerfield* | *2* |  | *Kenmore* | *2* |
| *Auchenflower* | *11* |  | *Milton* | *3* |
| *Boondall* | *2* |  | *Newmarket* | *1* |
| *Carina* | *1* |  | *Oxley* | *29* |
| *Chelmer* | *1* |  | *Rocklea* | *48* |
| *Clayfield* | *4* |  | *Sherwood* | *10* |
| *Corinda* | *9* |  | *Wilston* | *6* |
| *Fairfield* | *11* |  | *Windsor* | *20* |
| *Graceville* | *12* |  | *Yeerongpilly* | *3* |
| *Herston* | *5* |  | *Yeronga* | *7* |
| *Indooroopilly* | *1* |  |  |  |

**Q2.** Please provide a list of all playgrounds by park name and suburb listed for a future shade sail as part of the Sun Safe Suburban Playground project?

***A2.*** *This question cannot be answered without a specific timeframe.*

**Q3.** Please provide a list by suburb of the number of submitters to Council’s recent (August/September 2023) Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) public consultation process? Please rank by suburb from highest to lowest number of submitters and exclude suburbs with zero submitters.

***A3.*** *Note: the below data is based on the postal addresses of submitters.*

| ***Suburb*** | ***Count*** |  | ***Suburb*** | ***Count*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *West End* | *113* |  | *Upper Kedron* | *3* |
| *Mitchelton* | *39* |  | *Acacia Ridge* | *2* |
| *Tennyson* | *28* |  | *Ashgrove* | *2* |
| *East Brisbane* | *24* |  | *Bowen Hills* | *2* |
| *Everton Park* | *22* |  | *Cannon Hill* | *2* |
| *Brisbane City* | *20* |  | *Chermside* | *2* |
| *Yeronga* | *19* |  | *Corinda* | *2* |
| *South Brisbane* | *18* |  | *Ferny Grove* | *2* |
| *Graceville* | *16* |  | *Geebung* | *2* |
| *Sherwood* | *16* |  | *Gumdale* | *2* |
| *Kangaroo Point* | *15* |  | *Holland Park West* | *2* |
| *Annerley* | *14* |  | *Jindalee* | *2* |
| *Bridgeman Downs* | *14* |  | *Kuraby* | *2* |
| *Coorparoo* | *14* |  | *Newmarket* | *2* |
| *Yeerongpilly* | *13* |  | *Norman Park* | *2* |
| *Mansfield* | *11* |  | *Nundah* | *2* |
| *Mount Gravatt East* | *9* |  | *Parkinson* | *2* |
| *New Farm* | *9* |  | *Richlands* | *2* |
| *Chelmer* | *7* |  | *Stretton* | *2* |
| *Fortitude Valley* | *7* |  | *Sunnybank* | *2* |
| *Calamvale* | *6* |  | *Taigum* | *2* |
| *Highgate Hill* | *6* |  | *The Gap* | *2* |
| *Morningside* | *6* |  | *Tingalpa* | *2* |
| *Woolloongabba* | *6* |  | *Upper Mount Gravatt* | *2* |
| *Clayfield* | *5* |  | *Alderley* | *1* |
| *Ellen Grove* | *5* |  | *Algester* | *1* |
| *Milton* | *5* |  | *Archerfield* | *1* |
| *Moorooka* | *5* |  | *Auchenflower* | *1* |
| *Newstead* | *5* |  | *Bardon* | *1* |
| *Runcorn* | *5* |  | *Belmont* | *1* |
| *Toowong* | *5* |  | *Brighton* | *1* |
| *Albion* | *4* |  | *Bulimba* | *1* |
| *Carina* | *4* |  | *Coopers Plains* | *1* |
| *Eight Mile Plains* | *4* |  | *Fig Tree Pocket* | *1* |
| *Greenslopes* | *4* |  | *Forest Lake* | *1* |
| *Hemmant* | *4* |  | *Hamilton* | *1* |
| *Mount Gravatt* | *4* |  | *Hawthorne* | *1* |
| *Oxley* | *4* |  | *Holland Park* | *1* |
| *Wynnum West* | *4* |  | *Kenmore* | *1* |
| *Ascot* | *3* |  | *McDowall* | *1* |
| *Aspley* | *3* |  | *Ransome* | *1* |
| *Carseldine* | *3* |  | *Riverhills* | *1* |
| *Chapel Hill* | *3* |  | *Robertson* | *1* |
| *Chermside West* | *3* |  | *Rocklea* | *1* |
| *Fairfield* | *3* |  | *Salisbury* | *1* |
| *Indooroopilly* | *3* |  | *Seventeen Mile Rocks* | *1* |
| *Kedron* | *3* |  | *Tarragindi* | *1* |
| *Murarrie* | *3* |  | *Teneriffe* | *1* |
| *Pallara* | *3* |  | *Wakerley* | *1* |
| *Rochedale* | *3* |  | *Wilston* | *1* |
| *Shorncliffe* | *3* |  | *Windsor* | *1* |
| *Stafford Heights* | *3* |  |  |  |

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (from meeting on 17 October 2023)**

**Q1.** Please advise the location, number and status of Speed Limit Reviews undertaken by Council including the outcomes in the following table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Location/Address | Status (eg complete, ongoing) | Outcome (eg no change, speed reduction from 60km – 50km) |
| 2023 |  |  |  |
| 2022 |  |  |  |
| 2021 |  |  |  |

***A1.***

| ***Year*** | ***Location/Address*** | | ***Status (eg complete, ongoing)*** | ***Outcome (eg no change, speed reduction from 60km – 50km)*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *2023* | *Macrossan Avenue/Russell Avenue* | *Norman Park* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Herston Road* | *Herston* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Gailey Road* | *Taringa/St Lucia* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Lambert Road* | *Indooroopilly* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Brisbane Corso* | *Yeronga* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Gladstone Road* | *Highgate Hill* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Honour Ave* | *Graceville* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Indooroopilly Road* | *Indooroopilly* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Kenmore Rd/Fig Tree Pocket Rd* | *Kenmore* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Wilston Road* | *Wilston* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Johnston Road* | *Forest Lake* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Mt Coot-tha Rd* | *Mt Coot-tha* | *Ongoing* |  |
| *2023* | *Kent Street* | *Dutton Park* | *Complete* | *50-10* |
| *2023* | *Alden Street* | *Fortitude Valley* | *Complete* | *50-10* |
| *2023* | *Miskin Street* | *Toowong* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2023* | *Windsor Road* | *Red Hill* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2023* | *Nathan Road/Daw Road* | *Runcorn* | *Complete* | *60-40 (partial)* |
| *2023* | *Rochedale Road / Priestdale Road* | *Rochedale* | *Complete* | *40 school zone* |
| *2023* | *McLennan Street* | *Albion/Lutwyche* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2023* | *Wynnum Esplanade* | *Wynnum* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2023* | *Boundary Rd* | *Camp Hill* | *Complete* | *70-60* |
| *2023* | *Waterworks Road SZ* | *The Gap* | *Complete* | *40 school zone* |
| *2022* | *Wadeville Street* | *Heathwood* | *Complete* | *70-60* |
| *2022* | *Englefield Road* | *Oxley* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Sherwood Road* | *Sherwood* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Sherwood Road* | *Sherwood* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Leicester Street* | *Camp Hill* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Martha Street* | *Camp Hill* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Newman Avenue* | *Camp Hill* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Macrossan Avenue/Russell Avenue* | *Norman Park* | *Complete* | *No Change* |
| *2022* | *Desgrand Street* | *Archerfield* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Epala Street* | *Carina* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Chalk Street* | *Lutwyche* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Newstead Gasworks Precinct (VRUP)* | *Newstead* | *Complete* | *Various reductions within the precinct* |
| *2022* | *South Brisbane Hospitals Precinct (VRUP)* | *South Brisbane* | *Complete* | *Various reductions within the precinct* |
| *2022* | *Old Cleveland Road* | *Coorparoo* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Hawthorne Road* | *Hawthorne* | *Complete* | *40 (partial)* |
| *2022* | *Ipswich Road* | *Annerley* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Moggill Road/Morrow Street/Walker Street* | *Taringa* | *Complete* | *40 (partial)* |
| *2022* | *James Street* | *Fortitude Valley* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Jesmond Road* | *Indooroopilly/Fig Tree Pocket* | *Complete* | *50 (partial)* |
| *2022* | *Park Road* | *Milton* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Main Street* | *Kangaroo Point* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Brookfield Road School Zone* | *Brookfield* | *Complete* | *40 school zone* |
| *2022* | *Allpass Parade* | *Shorncliffe* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2022* | *Melton Road* | *Nundah, Northgate* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Curragundi Road* | *Jindalee* | *Complete* | *40 school zone* |
| *2022* | *Northgate Road* | *Northgate* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2022* | *Gladstone Road* | *Highgate Hill* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2021* | *Beaudesert Road* | *Moorooka* | *Complete* | *70-60* |
| *2021* | *Paris Street, Turin Street, Bond Street, Exeter Street, Cambridge Street, Princhester Street, Thomas Street, Corbett Street* | *West End* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2021* | *Tarlina Lane* | *Coorparoo* | *Complete* | *50-10* |
| *2021* | *Ridge Street* | *Greenslopes* | *Complete* | *No Change* |
| *2021* | *Sylvan Road* | *Toowong* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2021* | *Fleming Road* | *Chapel Hill* | *Complete* | *60-50 (partial)* |
| *2021* | *King Arthur Terrace* | *Tennyson* | *Complete* | *No Change* |
| *2021* | *King Arthur Terrace* | *Yeerongpilly* | *Complete* | *No Change* |
| *2021* | *King Arthur Terrace* | *Tennyson* | *Complete* | *No Change* |
| *2021* | *Venner Road* | *Annerley* | *Complete* | *No Change* |
| *2021* | *Main Avenue* | *Wavell Heights* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2021* | *Mount Gravatt Outlook Drive* | *Mount Gravatt* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2021* | *Mildmay Street* | *Fairfield* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2021* | *Elliott Road/Blinzinger Road* | *Banyo* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2021* | *Lytton Road* | *Murarrie* | *Complete* | *70-60* |
| *2021* | *Logan Road* | *Mount Gravatt* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2021* | *Gympie Service Road* | *Aspley* | *Complete* | *50-40* |
| *2021* | *Cansdale Street* | *Yeronga* | *Complete* | *60-50* |
| *2021* | *Hyde Road* | *Yeronga* | *Complete* | *60-50* |

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (from meeting on 17 October 2023)**

1. How many FTE are employed as pool compliance officers?

***A1.*** *2 FTE.*

1. How many people are currently working in the South Regional Business Centre based in Tennyson?

***A2.*** *This information varies on a day-to-day basis.*

1. How many FTE can the South Regional Business Centre based in Tennyson accommodate?

***A3.*** *334.*

1. Please provide a breakdown of all advertising to promote BrisBetter as per the below table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel** | **2022-2023 FY** | **2023-2024 FYTD** |
| TV Advertising |  |  |
| Online Advertising |  |  |
| Social Media: |  |  |
| -Facebook |  |  |
| -Instagram etc. |  |  |
| Influencers |  |  |
| Performance Marketing |  |  |
| Print Advertising |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |  |
| BVOD |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

***A4.***

| ***Channel*** | ***2022-2023 FY*** | ***2023-2024 FYTD*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *TV Advertising* | *Yes* | *No* |
| *Online Advertising* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *Social Media:* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *-Facebook* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *-Instagram etc.* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *Influencers* | *Yes* | *No* |
| *Performance Marketing* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *Print Advertising* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *Radio* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *Outdoor advertising* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *BVOD* | *Yes* | *Yes* |
| *Other* | *N/A* | *N/A* |

1. Please provide a detailed breakdown of how much Brisbane City Council spent on advertising in the 2023-2024 financial year to date, broken down by the various categories of advertising (eg television & BVOD, billboards, radio, social/digital, influencers, print etc).

| **Channel** | **2023-2024 FYTD** |
| --- | --- |
| TV advertising |  |
| Online advertising |  |
| Social media |  |
| Influencers |  |
| Performance marketing |  |
| Print advertising |  |
| Radio |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |
| BVOD |  |
| Other |  |

***A5.***

| ***Channel*** | ***2023-2024 FYTD*** |
| --- | --- |
| *TV advertising* | *$0* |
| *Online advertising* | *$76,547.06* |
| *Social media* | *$91,432.60* |
| *Influencers* | *$0* |
| *Performance marketing* | *$71,769.91* |
| *Print advertising* | *$31,055.97* |
| *Radio* | *$96,251* |
| *Outdoor advertising* | *$114,595.77* |
| *BVOD* | *$67,903.02* |

1. How much has been spent to date on advertising for the Brisbane App, broken down as per table below?

| **Channel** | **2023-2024 FYTD** |
| --- | --- |
| TV Advertising |  |
| Online Advertising |  |
| Payments to Social Media Influencers |  |
| Print Advertising |  |
| Radio |  |
| Outdoor Advertising |  |
| Cinema |  |
| BVOD |  |

***A6.***

| ***Channel*** | ***2023-2024 FYTD*** |
| --- | --- |
| *TV Advertising* | *$0* |
| *Online Advertising* | *$17,386.45* |
| *Payments to Social Media Influencers* | *$0* |
| *Print Advertising* | *$0* |
| *Radio* | *$0* |
| *Outdoor Advertising* | *$0* |
| *Cinema* | *$0* |
| *BVOD* | *$0* |

1. Provide the total amount of revenue from e-scooter providers for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to date.

***A7.*** *The revenue figures are commercial-in-confidence and have been provided to Councillors separately.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***2022-23*** | ***2023-24 YTD*** |
| *[Commercial-in-Confidence]* | *[Commercial-in-Confidence]* |

1. How many buses are in the BCC fleet? List the year of service commencement for each.

***A8.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *2005 – 1* | *2008 – 118* | *2011 – 132* | *2014 – 69* | *2017 – 61* | *2020 – 50* |
| *2006 – 50* | *2009 – 124* | *2012 – 100* | *2015 – 61* | *2018 – 47* | *2021 – 29* |
| *2007 – 89* | *2010 – 127* | *2013 – 83* | *2016 – 61* | *2019 – 62* | *2022 – 1* |

1. Where, and for what purposes are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags flown on Council assets or land?

***A9.*** *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are flown at designated Council locations either permanently or on dates of significance to the Indigenous community.*

1. Where, and for what purposes are the Pride and other flags of the LGBTQIA+ community flown on Council assets or land?

***A10.*** *Flags of the LGBTQIA+ community are flown at City Hall on dates of significance to the LGBTQIA+ community.*

1. Do Councillors need to submit a report or any documentation outlining the details of their overseas travel on their return, such as receipts, daily logs etc? And if not, why not?

***A11.*** *The answer to this question is contained within Council’s Travel Policy.*

1. How many contracts / discrete pieces of work does Council have with RMS Brisbane, and what is the value of each contract / piece of work?

***A12.*** *0.*

1. For each financial year the Brisbetter advertising campaign has run, what is the total cost spent on the advertising campaign specifically (itemised eg. Facebook, Bus Shelters, Billboards, Print, etc) – FY 19/20; 20/21; 21/22; 22/23; 23/24 to date?

***A13.***

|  | ***2019/2020*** | ***2020/2021*** | ***2021/2022*** | ***2022/2023*** | ***2023/2024 YTD*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***TV advertising*** | *$599,722* | *$212,912.48* | *$183,675* | *$401,259* | *$0* |
| ***Online advertising*** | *$70,958.22* | *$18,024.66* | *$0* | *$33,860.92* | *$5,087.12* |
| ***Performance marketing*** | *$11,795.60* | *$66,093.20* | *$5,143.22* | *$43,021.06* | *$33,753.61* |
| ***Outdoor advertising*** | *$311,355.88* | *$19,955* | *$49,725* | *$64,854.20* | *$84,069.27* |
| ***Social media*** | *$51,380.27* | *$150,254.01* | *$1,650* | *$50,448.13* | *$23,140.16* |
| ***Influencers*** | *$505* | *$19,627.38* | *$0* | *$14,550* | *$0* |
| ***Print advertising*** | *$89,253.46* | *$0* | *$0* | *$4,320* | *$720* |
| ***Radio*** | *$278,902.99* | *$0* | *$0* | *$204,635* | *$89,231* |
| ***BVOD*** | *$0* | *$0* | *$0* | *$141,128.74* | *$67,903.02* |
| ***Other*** | *Cinema - $230,000* |  |  |  |  |

1. What is the cost for any campaigning / lobbying Brisbane City Council or BEDA undertook to secure the Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors’ Forum in Brisbane?

***A14.*** *Brisbane City Council founded the Asia Pacific Cities Summit in 1996. Council doesn’t lobby or campaign against itself to host its own event.*

1. How many complaints have been made to the Contact Centre re:
   1. Bins not being collected due to garbage trucks not being able to access bins;
   2. Damage to parked cars caused by garbage trucks;
   3. If this data is not collected, why not? Please provide business justification as to why these complaints are not addressed and quantified.

***A15.*** *Council does not specifically record data for complaints only.*

1. What is Brisbane City Council’s financial contribution to the Brisbane Emergency Services Expo?

***A16.*** *The Brisbane City Emergency Services Expo was funded through the State Government’s Get Ready Queensland funding program and held during the state-wide Get Ready Week initiative. Some Council staffing costs were incurred which will be costed to the respective work areas.*

1. Since the announcement of the Housing Supply Action Plan by the Lord Mayor on 31 August how many infrastructure fee waivers have been granted since, and in which category?

***A17.*** *The Brisbane Housing Supply Incentive Policy is scheduled for Full Council approval on 24 October 2023. No waivers have been able to occur before this time.*

1. As at today, how many rate payers have opted to receive their rates bill electronically?

***A18.*** *194,595.*

1. What is the timeframe in which wholly-owned subsidiaries of Brisbane City Council need to have annual reports / financial statements available online (after EOFY)?

***A19.*** *The information requested is publicly available in the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012.*

1. How many responses were received (by residents and businesses separately) to the consultation on the Wynnum and Banyo Town Centre Precincts as part of the Growing Precincts Together program?

***A20.*** *Owing to the way the survey was conducted, feedback was collected by the following groups:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Banyo*** | ***Wynnum*** |
| *Businesses* | *10* | *38* |
| *Workers* | *11* | *39* |
| *Customers* | *364* | *673* |

1. How many responses were received to the consultation on the Short-Stay Accommodation Taskforce survey?

***A21.*** *599.*

1. What advertising / marketing / awareness campaigns have Brisbane City Council run to encourage people to sign up to the Severe Weather Alert System since the February 2022 Severe Weather Event?

***A22.*** *Every year, Council conducts its ‘Be Prepared Campaign’ which includes subscribing to the Brisbane Severe Weather Alert Service (BSWA). This includes radio, print media, outdoor advertising, and posters and collateral distributed across the city. This campaign has also included:*

* *Promotions at the Super Sandbags weekends throughout Oct-Nov 2022.*
* *Coordinated a competition for residents between 31 August-1 December 2022 to encourage residents to sign up to the Brisbane Severe Weather Alert Service.*
* *Promoted 3 x Queen St Mall activations events during the end of the 2022 Storm Season; specific to sign-ups.*
* *Promoted at 1 week installation at Indooroopilly shopping centre.*
* *Council's Be Prepared webpage and several editions of the Living in Brisbane publication and electronic distribution highlighting how to sign up to BSWA.*
* *Outdoor advertising and billboards in Queen St Mall and through bus stops and shopping centres promoting subscription alerts.*
* *Community engagement events and activities that are conducted by City Resilience including community festivals, safe days, and workshops.*
* *Promoted at Emergency Expos at Victoria Park in 2022 and 2023 with more than 10,000 residents attending at each event.*
* *Promoted at Council Ekka stall in 2023 which included the messaging to sign up to BSWA.*
* *Sign up for BSWA included in all CMX responses, all community messages issued in relation to ‘Be Prepared’.*

1. How many complaints have been received by the Contact Centre regarding injuries received by children at Bradbury Park since it’s opened?

***A23.*** *Council does not specifically record data for complaints only.*

1. What is the timeframe of the special feasibility study announced as part of the 2023/24 budget into a battery-powered vessel (EV Cat)?

***A24.*** *The feasibility study is being prepared by RiverCity Ferries and is due before the end of the calendar year.*

1. When will the sports court announced on 13 April as part of Mirvac’s development of the Turbot Street Underpass be completed?

***A25.*** *The Turbot Street Underpass Upgrade being delivered by Mirvac is expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year.*

1. What was the total number of Brisbane residents who had accessed the compost rebate program at 12 March 2023, and what is the total number now?

***A26.*** *The total number of residents who had accessed the compost rebate program as of 12 March 2023 was 11,581. The total number now is 14,331.*

1. Which suburbs received the Lord Mayor’s Summer Newsletter in February 2023?

***A27.*** *Brighton, Sandgate, Deagon, Shorncliffe, Boondall, Taigum, Zillmere, Lota, Manly, Manly West, Wynnum, Wynnum West, Dutton Park, Highgate Hill, Kangaroo Point, South Brisbane, West End, Woolloongabba, Durack, Forest Lake, Inala, Oxley, Richlands, Seven Hills, Norman Park, Balmoral, Bulimba, Hawthorne, Morningside.*

1. Please provide a list of all overseas trips taken by Councillors on Council business, including the dates, reason, any guests/colleagues accompanying the Councillor using BCC funding, and total amount spent by Brisbane City Council to facilitate each trip since 2016.

***A28.*** *This information is publicly available in Annual Reports on Council’s website, as well as the relevant Council Minutes.*

1. How many subscribers are there currently using the Brisbane Severe Weather alert service?

***A29.*** *189,351. This is 35% of Brisbane households. Subscription rates are higher in suburbs where the risk of flooding is greater.*

1. Please list the locations that council will install shade under the Sun-safe Suburban Playgrounds program in the 2023/24 financial year.

***A30.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Acacia Park* | *St Lucia* |
| *Alan Willing Place Park* | *The Gap* |
| *Alcheringa Place Park (2 playground areas)* | *Robertson* |
| *Amazons Place Park (Amazons Pl. Playground)* | *Sinnamon Park* |
| *Argyle Place Park* | *Forest Lake* |
| *Behan Crescent Park* | *Wakerley* |
| *Benjamina Place Park* | *The Gap* |
| *Bill Key Lock Place Park* | *Inala* |
| *Blue Range Drive Park* | *Algester* |
| *Bradshaw Park* | *Lutwyche* |
| *Breton Street Park* | *Sunnybank* |
| *Camelot Park* | *Middle Park* |
| *Col Bennet Park* | *Algester* |
| *Constellation Way Park* | *Lytton* |
| *Cresthaven Park* | *Mansfield* |
| *Cubberla Street Park (Creek reserve)* | *Fig Tree Pocket* |
| *Dash Street Park* | *Keperra* |
| *Dewberry Close Park* | *Eight Mile Plains* |
| *Didbrook Street Park* | *Robertson* |
| *Ekibin Memorial Park* | *Tarragindi* |
| *Eridanus Street Park* | *Inala* |
| *Floribunda Place Park* | *Sunnybank Hills* |
| *Frank Waters Park* | *Ashgrove* |
| *Geoff Toakley Park* | *Mt Gravatt East* |
| *Gibson Park* | *Stafford* |
| *Gilbert Park* | *Red Hill* |
| *Graceville Riverside Parklands* | *Graceville* |
| *Guyatt Park (Bryce St Playground)* | *St Lucia* |
| *Habitat Place South Park* | *Drewvale* |
| *Halford Park* | *Grange* |
| *Hancock Park – Pine Village Park* | *Forest Lake* |
| *Haughton Park* | *Oxley* |
| *Hazel Street Park* | *Heathwood* |
| *Hefferan Park* | *Annerley* |
| *Holden Park* | *Sunnybank Hills* |
| *Homestead Park* | *Forest Lake* |
| *Honeywood Street Park* | *Sunnybank Hills* |
| *Illoura Park* | *Mansfield* |
| *Jock Hing Park* | *Sunnybank* |
| *Joyce White Park* | *Morningside* |
| *Kerry Road Park* | *Archerfield* |
| *Kookaburra Circuit Park (Hendrick Park)* | *Rochedale* |
| *Lexus Street Park* | *Runcorn* |
| *Majestic Park* | *Coorparoo* |
| *McEwan Park* | *Inala* |
| *McKinnon Court Park* | *Upper Kedron* |
| *Moses Adsett Park* | *The Gap* |
| *Mossvale Drive* | *Wakerley* |
| *Nelson Place Park* | *Ferny Grove* |
| *Nudgee Waterhole Reserve* | *Nudgee* |
| *Pat Ryan Park (previously known as Kanumbra St. Park)* | *Coorparoo* |
| *Sanctuary Drive Park* | *Forest Lake* |
| *Senden Crescent Park* | *Manly West* |
| *Settlers Village Park* | *Forest Lake* |
| *Summerglen Park* | *Eight Mile Plains* |
| *Tarragindi Recreation Reserve* | *Tarragindi* |
| *Tennessee Avenue Park* | *Moorooka* |
| *Teralba Park - Ninja Course* | *Everton Park* |
| *The Lake Parklands* | *Forest Lake* |
| *Tom O’Neil Park (Finnegan Ct Playground)* | *Oxley* |
| *Toohey Forest Park* | *Nathan* |
| *Trevally Crescent Park* | *Manly West* |
| *Trevallyn Place Park* | *Upper Kedron* |
| *Upton Street Park* | *Nundah* |
| *Voyager Drive Park* | *Kuraby* |
| *Waterline Crescent Park* | *Bulimba* |
| *Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve (Riverpoint Blv. Park)* | *Riverhills* |
| *Yewleaf Place Park* | *Calamvale* |

1. Please list the locations that council will install shade under the Sun-safe Suburban Playgrounds program in the 2024/25 financial year.

***A31.*** *This question has previously been responded to and the answer remains unchanged.*

1. As per Answer to Question on Notice in Agenda of 12 September 2023, why does Brisbane City Council not record incidences of needle stick injuries occurring on its parks, playgrounds or other facilities?

***A32.*** *The Contact Centre doesn’t specifically record data for needle stick injuries only, but rather all needle‑related contacts. This can include needles found, how they can be disposed of, or injuries.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 8.10pm.**

**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)