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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4734 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 14 May 2024**

**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 Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge) – 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)  Alex GIVNEY (Wynnum Manly)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor) (Deputy Chair  of Council)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Danita PARRY (Marchant)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera)  Penny WOLFF (Walter Taylor) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Lucy COLLIER (Morningside) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)  Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)  Emily KIM (Calamvale)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillors (and Wards)**  Seal CHONG WAH (Paddington)  Trina MASSEY (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, 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?

**498/2023-24**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Julia DIXON and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Greg ADERMANN, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX.

## MOTION OF APPRECIATION:

Chair: Councillors, I draw your attention to the motion of appreciation at item 2 on the agenda.

LORD MAYOR, would you please move the motion?

**499/2023-24**

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), the following motion of appreciation—

*That this Council recognises the 15th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Brisbane and the City of Abu Dhabi.*

*Brisbane City Council reinforces our commitment to these sister city relationships as our city continues to evolve, building stronger relationships through economic, civic and cultural exchanges — all while developing new and improved links through tourism, trade and business.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. It’s an honour to speak today on behalf of the City of Brisbane to commemorate the 15-year anniversary of the very important Sister City relationship we have with Abu Dhabi. From the outset, I do want to pass on our respects to both Abu Dhabi and the wider UAE (United Arab Emirates) community on the passing of His Highness Sheikh Tahnoon bin Mohammed Al Nahyan. I understand that the UAE has recently finished a seven-day period of official mourning for the Sheik, who was Abu Dhabi’s ruler in the Al Ain Region.

Brisbane’s Sister City relationship with Abu Dhabi began formally on 2 February 2009, making it one of the younger and newest relationships but also an important new relationship. Now, Brisbane as a city only has nine Sister City relationships. There are other cities that have many, many more relationships, but we believe that it’s important to keep it to a number where we can truly value the relationship and the nine Sister Cities allows us to do that.

The Sister City agreement was signed during a Brisbane business mission to Abu Dhabi, recognising the mutual benefit of a strategic alliance between both cities. A few years later and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the agreement, a second business mission was organised, which led over 30 people, representing 28 companies, in an effort to create new business opportunities, as well as sharing local knowledge about each other’s economies in an effort to build mutual wealth.

Like Brisbane, the geographic size of Abu Dhabi caters for a similar population, being between 1.3 million and 1.5 million people. Here in Brisbane, there are over 1,000 residents who were born in the UAE. In recent times, one of these residents, Khubaub Kazi, recently interned as part of our International Internships Program in 2020. This is a program which matches domestic students from multicultural backgrounds to work in a local Brisbane business over a four-week period. It opens workplace doors for internships and retains their talent in Brisbane, supporting our local workforce with a more diverse and multicultural workforce.

In December last year, the Australian Government and the UAE announced the beginning of a negotiation for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This is a bilateral free trade agreement that will lay the groundwork for closer economic ties. This agreement, alongside our Sister City relationship, will make sure that both Brisbane and Australia and Abu Dhabi and the UAE continues to make the most of the joint opportunities ahead of us so that we can continue to build those stronger relationships through economic, civic and cultural exchanges, just like today’s motion affirms.

We also have some guests who are in the Public Gallery and also watching online as part of this motion. I want to make special mention of them in particular: Miss Adhra Al Mansoori, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the UAE in Canberra; Mr Ross Humphreys, the Chair of the Sister Cities Steering Committee; Raewyn Bailey, our Sister City Representative for Hyderabad; Anthony Ryan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA); Dr John Cowie, General Manager for Investment Attraction, Brisbane Economic Development Agency. Anthony Lin, the Sister City Representative for Kaohsiung, is also tuning in as well.

I want to pay my thanks also to a number of other people who are committed to the ongoing success of our Sister City relationship, firstly, His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa, the Chairman of the Department of Municipalities and Transport; His Excellency Fadi El Borno, Executive Director, Strategic Affairs, Department of Municipalities and Transport; Mohamed Al Mufti, the Section Head, Strategic Stakeholders, Department of Municipalities and Transport; Mr Cassian Drew, the Sister Cities Steering Committee Representative for Abu Dhabi; all who are on the Sister Cities Steering Committee; the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DFAT; the UAE Embassy in Canberra for their support, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, such as the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and all those who are committed to the further strengthening of the relationship.

I must end on an apology. During my time as LORD MAYOR—I became LORD MAYOR just before the pandemic started and the normal schedule of visits to Sister Cities was interrupted during that period. Unfortunately, that has meant that personally I’ve been unable to visit many of our Sister Cities during this time, but obviously the pandemic provided unique challenges for all of us. Obviously, we’re committed to strengthening our Sister Cities relationships, including Abu Dhabi and also making sure that there can be visits and exchanges facilitated when possible. So, thank you, Madam Chairman and thank you to all of those involved in the Sister City relationship.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Is there any further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on this motion of appreciation for Brisbane’s Sister City arrangement with Abu Dhabi, celebrating 15 years now. We support this motion of appreciation to recognise and celebrate the 15 years of our Sister City partnership with Abu Dhabi. Our international relations work as a Council should help Brisbane grow and develop, both culturally and economically, between the Sister Cities and our other Sister City arrangements. It’s essential that Brisbane is positioned strongly on the global stage. We recognise that partnerships such as our Sister City arrangements do achieve that and should achieve that for businesses, for residents and for workers on both sides of that arrangement.

This agreement was signed, as we heard, in 2009, when then Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, took a 10-day trip to the UAE. That was renewed in 2014 when Graham Quirk took his overseas trip there. I was wondering who’d be next, but I think, from what the LORD MAYOR is saying, we can expect some more overseas travel shortly to renew this Sister City arrangement. It can be difficult to measure the value of these arrangements. We heard some of the outcomes in the LORD MAYOR’s contribution just now through the international student partnerships that we have here in Council. The LORD MAYOR spoke of one of those experiences of a student that has been able to contribute to that Sister City arrangement.

But we want to make sure that both sides of the equation, when it comes to these Sister Cities—because they are special arrangements, there only being nine in existence—that we do get bang for buck for both cities. That certainly should be the case when it comes to the employment benefits that are touted on both sides, not just for businesses that operate here in Brisbane and in Abu Dhabi, but also those workers on either side as well. We want to make sure they see the benefits of these arrangements.

So, we certainly support these arrangements and support the anniversary here today and would actually appreciate—I’m sure all Councillors would—some more regular updates, I guess, about how those arrangements are paying off for our city, because we think we should leverage them as much as possible to continue to see Brisbane grow on the global stage.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair and I rise too for the motion of appreciation on the anniversary of our relationship with Abu Dhabi and Brisbane. It’s very exciting to recognise this as one of our, as the LORD MAYOR said, youngest relationships, but it really is a strategic agreement around making sure we promote and advance the economic development and the social infrastructure of both the cities of Brisbane and Abu Dhabi. It was always intended to be of mutual benefit for financial, material, human resources capabilities within the conformity obviously of prevailing laws of both cities, which can be slightly different, but using our best endeavours to mutually develop and assist each other with best practice experience, knowledge transfer and facilitation and a range of municipal services that cities actually provide.

It has enabled many opportunities, I’m glad to share with the Chamber, with Abu Dhabi. We’ve had a strong emphasis on learning and best practice exchanges between the cities, especially around the topics of sustainability, city planning and transport. Brisbane City Council and Abu Dhabi Department of Municipal Affairs are currently working together on a virtual best practice exchange to be held this year, focused on shared learnings around city planning and transportation. There are businesses from Brisbane, exploring opportunities and doing businesses in and around Abu Dhabi, as well as multinationals with offices in both cities.

Brisbane-based business Circa, which many of us know and have been to their performances, is due to have their international premiere of its new show *Duck Pond* at New York University in Abu Dhabi. Alongside the performances, there will also be best-practice exchange as members of Circa visit local universities for workshops and skill sharings. Circa has performed in more than 45 countries to nearly two million people, with about two-thirds of their business coming from overseas markets. Brisbane is the home, of course, of the Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) and the Mayors’ Forum, the region’s longest-running premier summit that brings together one of the largest number of city leaders with the best and brightest in business.

I’m so glad to say that we have had many visits from those in Abu Dhabi. In 2015, His Excellency Khalifa Al Mazrouei was here, the former Undersecretary of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Mr Mohamed Ghareeb Al Hosani, the Director of Strategic Planning for Abu Dhabi Municipality, that both came here. It was the first time that Abu Dhabi had come to the APCS and I think it opened their eyes on the opportunity because we have now continually welcomed inbound delegations to Brisbane as well. Last year, we hosted two delegations with representatives from Al Ain Municipality, which is a part of the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, visiting in September, as well as Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy, who is the UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Special Envoy to Australia; and His Excellency Abdulla Al Subousi, then Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Australia and their delegation visited Brisbane.

So, they got a briefing from BEDA about our fantastic growth and investment opportunities across the whole business ecosystem, including a tour of the Business Hub. The LORD MAYOR thanked many of those that we have strong ties with that we’ve worked with, as well as those that are support here in Brisbane, but I’d like to make special mention of those who have joined us actually in the Chamber today, including Miss Adhra Almansoori, the Second Secretary Ambassador of the UAE in Canberra, who’s with us here in the Chamber today. So, all of those organisations that are strong supporters of our Sister City relationship, past, present and future, thank you for making sure that we get the most out of this allegiant tie. Whether it be cultural, business, tourism, investment or sporting linkages, there is no doubt Brisbane and Abu Dhabi have close ties and we look forward to enhancing this in the years ahead.

Chair: Any further speakers?

LORD MAYOR right of reply?

I will now put the motion of appreciation.

The Chair submitted the motion of appreciation to the Chamber, which resulted in it being declared **carried** unanimously.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmations of minutes, please.

**500/2023-24**

The Minutes of the 4,733 meeting of Council held on 7 May 2024, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Greg ADERMANN, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or a Civic Cabinet Chair of any of the Standing Committees?

Councillor PARRY.

**Question 1**

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Chair, the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS, the Schrinner Council’s delivery of Bradbury Park has been a hit with families across the whole city. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest news regarding Bradbury Park, including its new accolade?

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, I thank Councillor PARRY for the question because I know Councillor PARRY is a huge fan of Bradbury Park, not just as the local Councillor, but the mother of two energetic young lads who love to get out and explore and play in the wonderful parks we have across Brisbane. Last week, I alluded to the great news that Bradbury Park had taken home the John Dalton Award for Building of the Year for the Greater Brisbane Regional Architecture Awards. That is a fantastic accolade for the work that was done around Bradbury Park and the new playscape.

What is particularly special about this is that it’s the first time in the history of the award that a playscape has been announced as the winner. This honour ordinarily would be bestowed upon a large public building. Past winners have included Brewtide Brewery at Albion, the Ecosciences Precinct at Dutton Park or the Liveris Building at UQ (University of Queensland). For those that don’t know what the Liveris Building is, that’s the big purple cube that they have there on site. So, it’s quite historic that the Bradbury Park playscape has been selected for this very prestigious title. Madam Chair, not only was the Bradbury Park playscape awarded Building of the Year, I’m delighted to share with the Chamber that Bradbury Park also took home not one, but four major awards and that included the People’s Choice Award, the Commendation for Public Architecture and the Commendation for Urban Design. So, it really goes to show just how unique and revolutionary this fantastic playscape is.

The judging panel described the design as setting a new benchmark for both Government and private industry in the provision of innovative play for older children, which translates really into something that we have, which is both unique and extraordinary and it’s because its mission was to achieve what might seem to be the impossible and that was to get 10 to 15-year-olds away from their screens and re‑engage them in creative and more adventurous activity outside. From the outset, it was planned that the new playground would be more than just a slide and a set of swings and what we got was something quite spectacular and quite outside the box. In fact, it’s absolutely one of a kind.

The concept brief for the new playground was based on the idea of a biological city, to reflect the natural environment that’s around it. That concept was integrated into the design, with the playscape structured around towers and hollows and connecting bridges. If you’ve had the opportunity to go out there, Madam Chair, it’s really worth the experience. It’s quite an amazing structure. So, what it’s been able to achieve is not only endless possibilities for young people and kids to play and interact, but it also encourages creativity and a sense of discovery. It features a number of innovative designs, including coloured glass panels, which were inspired by the rainbow lorikeets that you can find in the park. These are strategically placed across the structure to allow a multi-coloured light to change the mood, depending on the time of day. It really is quite spectacular.

The structure also achieves 80% shade cover for most of the warmer months of the year because it’s been modelled and positioned around the existing trees. The charred exterior, the woodwork that’s used on the external cladding, really mimics trees. So, it really has a real affinity with the local surroundings and the ironbark trees that are there in the park. Madam Chair, whilst I’m no architect, I think it’s fair to say that a magnificent playscape design, which is what we have, has been achieved and the kids just love exploring it. Now we have four awards to prove it.

The transformation of Bradbury Park was a three-year-long project, so we had to take it in stages. The first was completed in 2020, with the delivery of the Magic Forest, which was an extraordinary, award-winning area in its own right. Stage 2 was completed last year and delivered the new playscape as well as an upgraded car park, pathways and landscaping that was fitting of such a destination park. So, it’s an iconic place. We’ve got people from all across the city and across the country coming to have a look. It’s no wonder that they are. It’s an amazing piece of infrastructure and the kids just love it. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor CHONG WAH.

**Question 2**

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

Michael Berkman, State MP (Member of Parliament) for Maiwar and myself wrote to you on 23 April, asking why the Brisbane City Council approved a development application (DA) for a light show at the Botanical Gardens from a company that, to our knowledge, had never run a light show and has no public presence. You have not responded to our letter, so ask you again, LORD MAYOR, here in these Chambers. Perhaps you’ll answer. A development application approved by the Brisbane City Council branded their proposed light show in the Botanical Gardens as Lumina and I read directly from the development application. Lumina Light Dreaming Light Show Tourist Attraction—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CHONG WAH. You’ve asked the question and it’s not up for debate.

Councillor MASSEY: She hasn’t asked the—point of order, Chair.

Chair: Can you ask the question, is what I said. Can you ask the question?

Councillor CHONG WAH: LORD MAYOR, Moment Factory—sorry—LORD MAYOR, Moment Factory, the owner of Lumina, have stated they never agreed to participate in a Botanical Gardens project and they have requested the name Lumina not to be used in the application. However, this copyright name Lumina appears on the development application, which is approved and publicly available on the Development.i system. LORD MAYOR, why has the Council stated their intention publicly on their website to use this highly misleading development application that uses the copyright name Lumina rather than reject this deceptive DA?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I think the proposed light show in the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens will be an absolutely fantastic thing, an absolutely fantastic thing. It’s been through a rigorous assessment process. It has obviously been something that has been put to the test in botanic gardens all around Australia and in fact all around the world. In fact, we saw something similar in the City Botanic Gardens when we had *Lightscape* set up during the Brisbane Festival last year and it was extraordinarily popular.

I guess the question that has to be asked is, are our botanic gardens for people to enjoy or are they to be locked up? Are our botanic gardens tourist attractions or aren’t they tourist attractions? Because I believe it’s actually one of Brisbane’s best tourist attractions and it’s about celebrating the wonderful environment that has been created in the botanic gardens that people really appreciate. It’s also about making sure that it’s done in a way that is sensitive to the natural environment but also in a way that will boost visitation and opportunities for people to come and see and do things. Look, I understand that the Greens are opposed to this. That is not—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Relevance. The question was the use of the name for the DA.

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

Please continue, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, we know that the fundamental reason behind this question is because the Greens are opposed to this proposal. Look, they’re entitled to be opposed to this proposal, but I’m yet to see anything that the Greens are actually for. They are only ever against things. They are only ever about opposing things. Last year, I had the opportunity to visit Melbourne at the time when their Botanic Gardens was hosting a similar light show. The similar thing has been done in Perth and in many other cities and it’s been remarkably successful and popular wherever it has gone. So—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Just a question on relevance. It wasn’t about whether the light show should go ahead or not. It was literally about whether the DA should be used, with the fact that the name is copyrighted and not being—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: If you have a look at the Brisbane City Council website right now, today, it refers to the Botanic Gardens Night Walk. Council has granted approval for the delivery of a Botanic Gardens Night Walk at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha. So whatever names are being bandied around, the fact is we support this and we want to see it go ahead. It’s really quite simple. I’m not sure where the Greens Councillor is going with this, other than to fan the flames of conspiracy theories out in the community, but the reality is our position on this is really clear. We support it.

People are entitled to either agree or disagree, but I think it will be an extraordinary thing for our city. It will be something that adds further to the wonderful attraction of our Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. This is a much-loved asset by the city, a much‑loved public facility. Just in the same way that when people go somewhere, they want things to do and things to see, this is about activation of a wonderful facility for the community and I think it will be fantastic, which is why we support it.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor WOLFF.

**Question 3**

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

Councillor ALLAN, the Greens‑Labor coalition of chaos has opposed over 30,000 homes since 2016. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest plan by the Schrinner Council to create more housing in Brisbane?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you to Councillor WOLFF for the question. Yesterday we commenced a five-week consultation period for the draft Nathan, Salisbury, Moorooka neighbourhood plan. This follows the statutory requirements to undertake State interest reviews. After almost a year, the State Government endorsed the draft plan for public consultation, with only minor alterations. We know that precinct and neighbourhood planning helps to keep what we love about our areas, while identifying opportunities for residential growth and jobs. It allows residents to live, work, play and age in the places they want to call home.

The Nathan, Salisbury, Moorooka area presents many opportunities. With outstanding employment, education and sporting facilities, as well as proximity to the CBD, the draft plan aims to grow jobs, housing choice and liveability in the area by leveraging significant infrastructure investments, including existing transport infrastructure. Concentrated within five precincts, the draft plan focuses on growing housing supply, industry and employment, while maintaining the area’s unique suburban identity and environment. The draft plan includes nine overarching outcomes, outlining Council’s intention for the area.

Some of these include creating more housing choices and that’s to support people in different stages of their life and also providing different types of topology to attract new industries. Obviously, we know the industrial landscape is changing and new industries are emerging and we want to support those. We want to leverage the transport upgrades that are taking place there. There are new station upgrades at Moorooka and Salisbury and certainly we want to leverage those investments. We want to keep the rich character of the area. We also want to protect and enhance natural areas that are captured under this plan, including Toohey forest and the creek corridors.

We also want to encourage walking within those suburbs as well. The draft plan provides for a wide range of housing types to support changes to housing needs in different life stages, by encouraging a mix of housing densities and types close to Salisbury and Moorooka train stations and community amenities. Additionally, the draft plan recognises the future development across the plan area must be of a height, scale and form consistent with the amenity and character of each precinct, sub‑precinct or site. Through the range of housing types and densities, an increase in population of approximately 5,000 will be supported, leading to a projected population of 25,000 within the plan area.

As such, the draft plan supports an additional 2,500 residential dwellings and the creation of about 12,500 jobs. Whilst more housing is being identified, both the total land area identified for industrial uses and centre uses will increase. The draft plan also proposes to protect over 80 additional sites with significant landscape trees. Madam Chair, there is a real opportunity to see the renewal of underutilised industrial areas to facilitate employment growth and create vibrant mixed-use precincts within the plan area. As current uses cease over time, the draft plan supports the long-term vision for the Moorooka Magic Mile, to transition from car sales yards to a thriving mixed-use precinct with clean industries, education, healthcare and residential uses which can coexist together.

Madam Chair, for the benefit of those new to the Chamber, this is our third stage of community consultation for this neighbourhood plan and another opportunity for the community to inform Council on their vision for their neighbourhood. Council has previously consulted community for initial ideas and key issues in 2019. This helped develop the draft strategy, which set the planning direction for the area, which Council also consulted on in 2021. During this process, Council received meaningful feedback on a range of matters including housing, character, heritage, built form, traffic, public transport, et cetera. In preparation for the draft plan, a summary of the key themes and how the draft plan responds to this feedback is provided on Council’s website.

This forms part of the materials prepared for this latest round of consultation. Following consultation, a review of submissions will be undertaken and then a final version of the plan will be prepared for State Government and Minister consideration to adopt. Madam Chair, given the housing challenges we are facing, when this draft plan comes back through this Chamber, I hope Councillor GRIFFITHS and Labor see its value and support its adoption.

Chair: Are there further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 4**

Councillor JOHNSTON Yes. Thank you. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, Cactoblastis Corner park, a severely storm-damaged park in March 2022, which is a riverfront park in Sherwood, has been closed for more than two years, with no remediation action undertaken by Council. The park is currently overgrown and unkempt and is adversely impacting on adjoining residents’ homes. Major General Jake Ellwood retired. The CEO of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) confirmed that in April 2023, more than a year ago, disaster funding for Council to undertake remediation work for the park had been approved, more than a year ago. Still no work has been done to remediate and reopen Cactoblastis Corner. When will it be done?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well look, I’m happy to ensure that you get an update, Councillor JOHNSTON, through you, Madam Chair, on the status of this project. What we’re talking about, Councillor JOHNSTON refers to it as a park. What it is, is a massive landslip into the Brisbane River, which occurred as part of the 2022 flood. The cost estimates to address this are extraordinary, to the extent we’re talking north of 20 million. The responsibility for this, we believe, should be borne by Queensland Reconstruction Authority, who do fund flood reconstruction works and—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I’m talking about a Council park. My question was, when will the work be done? The funding is approved by the QRA. When will the Council do the work?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That is my question.

LORD MAYOR: The QRA funding, Madam Chair, won’t even touch the sides of the work that needs to be done. So, we are not going to commit to a project that is not fully funded by the QRA. Who wants to give up some great projects in their area to deal with the landslip that should be funded by the QRA? Yes. No, I don’t hear any takers here, because in a time when money is tight, we are not going to wear the extra cost of a landslip remediation that should rightly be funded by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please don’t call out while—Councillor JOHNSTON, another Councillor is on their feet speaking, so you should remain quiet. The LORD MAYOR is actually answering your questions.

LORD MAYOR: I’d be interested to hear from Councillor JOHNSTON whether she thinks this is the most important expenditure of 20 million-plus in her area or whether there are other priorities, because it’s an interesting question to ask. If someone else who is responsible for disaster response will fund the cost of it, then fair enough, but if ratepayers are expected to fund the cost of this, then that is a different question altogether. So, Councillor WINES will provide some further detail in his report, but that is my understanding of the status of the matter at present.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further questions?

Councillor WOLFF.

**Question 5**

Councillor WOLFF: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS, there has been a concerning rise in the incidence of vandalism on playgrounds across the city. Can you please update the Chamber on some of the impacts on the community from the soft-on-crime approach from the State Government, including the cost to ratepayers?

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, I thank Councillor WOLFF for the question. I know that Councillor WOLFF has a keen interest in this topic and is acutely aware of the cost of the lawless and antisocial behaviour that’s being seen around our city, impacting on residents of Brisbane and including in your own ward of Walter Taylor, because for the second time this year, Madam Chair, we’ve seen vandals attempt to set fire to the Witton Barracks playground. This was after it had to be totally rebuilt, following an arson attack last year. Madam Chair, it was shocking to see that just a week before this incident at Witton Barracks, another beloved local park, a playground, had been torched by vandals.

I know that Councillor WINES and his community were devastated to see that the Fenwick Park playground in Mitchelton was burnt to the ground. It was a much-loved local playground that we had just invested a significant amount of money in improving. I know that Councillor WINES had been approached by at least one local Councillor, one local resident, should I say, in particular, one that drove past the burnt‑down playground and told him how devastated that his kids were that their playground had been destroyed. I’m sure that those children were not the only ones that were feeling that way, because it was a senseless and selfish act. It’s actually fortunate that nobody was hurt.

Unfortunately, we’re seeing more and more of this behaviour under this State Labor Government, because of their inability to get youth crime under control. We know from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that the number of young criminals in Queensland has increased by six per cent and that’s just in the past year. According to the Queensland Government’s own Statistician’s Office, youth criminals aged between 10 and 17 committed three times as many property crimes as any other age group. So, it’s a problem, but we do have a State Government who can’t or won’t do what it takes to tackle youth crime.

Here in Council, we have a Labor Opposition who teamed up with the radical and destructive Greens, who want to defund the police, who are actively encouraging breaking and entering, who mock victims of crime and refuse to acknowledge that there’s even a problem. The evidence is plain for all of us to see out in our communities and including in our local parks. As I said earlier, less than a year ago, we saw another playground burnt to the ground at Witton Barracks Park. We’ve also had to close and fully replace the playground at Lower Moora Park in Councillor CASSIDY’s ward due to extensive vandalism.

Fortunately, it was restored in time for Christmas last year so that the children could still access the playground during the school holidays. All of this was in the last 12 months, Madam Chair and it’s costing the ratepayers of Brisbane. Replacing the newly renovated playground at Fenwick Park is expected to cost in the vicinity of half a million dollars. Replacing Witton Barracks playground, the cost is around $250,000. Lower Moora Park playground was another $100,000. On top of that, in the last 12 months, the City Standards branch has responded to 96 vandalism-related jobs in our parks, at an estimated cost of about $200,000.

So just in the last year, we are now at around $1 million in damages from vandalism and criminal behaviour. Madam Chair, that’s $1 million of ratepayers’ money that now cannot be spent on other projects to deliver community benefit. We know that getting youth crime under control is the sole responsibility of the State Labor Government, but they are failing to do that, Madam Chair. So, we are doing what we can, as a local government. We’ve committed $2.2 million to the Safer Suburbs Lighting program, which will improve community safety in public spaces across the city from Boondall all the way to Forest Lake.

In this financial year alone, we’ve invested more than $1.5 million and grow the CCTV network. In the last 12 months, these cameras played quite a vital role in capturing and prosecuting more than 1,500 offences, including vandalism, theft and assault. They’ve also prevented an untold number of crimes, by sending a message to would-be criminals that we are watching and they will be caught. Madam Chair, only the State Government has—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: —the power to act on these offenders and we need them to step up—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor DAVIS: —and do the work they need to do.

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

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 6**

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

Since the LORD MAYOR announced his savage budget cuts on 17 October last year, 642 staff have ended their employment with Council, whether they chose to do so or not. However, only 462 have been replaced, meaning 180 fewer staff. So, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, doesn’t this mean that when Council staff tell us they are not being backfilled when on leave and are doing more work to cover this shortfall, they are telling the truth and you are not?

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Well, thanks, Madam Chair and thanks to the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Another week and we see the team from Labor here on behalf of their union mates, not coming into this place and standing up for the residents of Brisbane. No, no, no. You’d think that they would. You’d think that they would listen to residents who live in their area and come in and fight for them, but, no, not our Labor party in Council. They come here and fight for their union mates. Madam Chair, we have been very clear with the people of Brisbane that sensible savings need to be made with our Council budget because with rising costs, governments have a choice between reducing their spending or increasing their prices. Residents expect a lean and an agile Council. They expect one that gets on with delivering—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —core local government services.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance. Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s prepared notes are not answering this question. The question was very specifically, aren’t Council officers and Council staff telling us the truth when they say their positions are not being backfilled because there’s 180 fewer staff and Councillor CUNNINGHAM is not telling the truth?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY. Councillor CUNNINGHAM still has several minutes to answer the question.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Well, Madam Chair, I’ll say it again. Councillor CASSIDY is wrong and the premise of his question is simply not true. Today is Federal budget day. So, if the Opposition—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you have asked your questions. You’re not to call out across the room, especially while Councillor CUNNINGHAM is answering your question.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Madam Chair, as I was saying, today is Federal budget day. Today our Labor colleagues in the Commonwealth, I’m told, have reduced expenditure by $1 billion when it comes to some of their staff. Now, for the Labor Opposition Leader to come in here, once again, shows how out of touch they truly must be with their community. Costs are rising in our community and we must do absolutely everything we can to keep the pressure off rates and rents that residents pay in this city. Local government has a role to play with that.

*Councillor interjecting.*

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

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: We have been very clear, Madam Chair, time and time again that—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I’ve asked you already not to call out.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Madam Chair, if the Leader of the Opposition would like to do something practical to assist the residents of Brisbane, what he could do is talk to his mates in Canberra and get our Council their fair share of revenue from the Federal budget. We’ve heard the State Government calling on the Federal Government today, just this morning, asking for that greater share of revenue. When you look at all the figures, the local government sector, particularly here in Queensland, is the level of government which needs the most support. So, bear with me here—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance for a very specific question. Can Councillor CUNNINGHAM now confirm she wasn’t telling the truth last week when she said—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor, the point of—

Councillor CASSIDY: —when she said that Councillors—

Chair: No, Councillor, thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: —Council staff weren’t—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, it isn’t for you now to debate. You’ve asked your question. As I said earlier, just to remind you also that no Councillor who is speaking shall be interrupted except as provided for by the standing rules. So, I ask you now to let Councillor CUNNINGHAM finish answering your question. This is not a debate.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order. Councillor CUNNINGHAM is not answering the question. The State budget, the Federal budget, unions weren’t mentioned. Their key talking points—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: —Councillor CUNNINGHAM has. My question was about Council staff not being backfilled, a very specific question.

Chair: As I said to you, she still has a few minutes to answer the question.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. Here are the facts and I’ll speak very slowly for the Leader of the Opposition. If an employee’s leave request is supported, their leader will consider whether or not the employee’s work needs to be undertaken during that period of leave. Where an employee is required to temporarily perform the requirements of another role that is at a higher level and performs all or a substantial part of that higher role, they’re paid at that higher rate. If employees have workload concerns, they should raise this with their manager. What we are asking all permanent employees of Brisbane City Council—

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD: Madam Chair, thank you.

Chair: Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 7**

Councillor ATWOOD: My question is to the Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD, the Schrinner Council’s new Everton Park Library is a drawcard for visitors, not just from the McDowall Ward but right across the city. Can you please update the Chamber on the success of the library since its opening?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, I thank Councillor ATWOOD for the question. I know that both Councillor DAVIS and also Councillor WINES are very happy with the opening of the lovely Everton Park Library. We’re committed to delivering a better Brisbane and, as part of that, we’re always working hard, creating more to see and do so that residents and visitors can enjoy the very best that Brisbane has to offer. So, through you, Madam Chair, Councillor ATWOOD’s question is especially timely, as I’ve just received the latest statistics of the new Everton Park Library, showing activity up until 30 April.

Let me tell you, it certainly is clear that residents are very much enjoying the new Everton Park Library. In its first 52 days since opening, almost 27,000 residents have already visited the new Everton Park Library. We have loaned out more than 31,000 items, which is more than one-third of the total annual number of loans for the old Everton Park Library. We have signed up more than 1,400 new library members. So just to give you an idea of how popular the new library has been, the old library had about 35,000 resident visits per year. In just 52 days, 26,880 residents have visited the new Everton Park Library.

Now, that’s more than 75% of the number of visitors the old library had over the period of a whole year, all in just 52 days. So, it’s clear for everyone to see that the new Everton Park Library has been an incredibly successful initiative for the local community. It’s just one of the many ways the Schrinner Council is making sure that the Brisbane of tomorrow is even better than the Brisbane of today. We’ve also made it easier and cheaper than ever before to enjoy the best of Australia’s largest public library service. We also know that not everyone has time to make it down to the library during the day, so we’re making sure no one misses out, with Council’s 24/7 library lockers.

Our network of libraries are incredible community assets, adored by residents across Brisbane. The ability to borrow books and a great range of other resources for free has become an increasingly valuable service, with living costs on the rise. So just like the lockers you’ve seen from Australia Post and Amazon, our new library lockers will provide 24/7 access for busy residents to pick up books when it’s the most convenient time for them. It’s as simple as placing your favourite item on hold and then collecting it from the library locker. You don’t have to stop at one, Madam Chair.

Even better, you can place up to 20 holds at a time, including books, DVDs, audio books, magazines and even CDs. Some people still use CDs, Madam Chair. Another way the Schrinner Council is working to deliver a better Brisbane—a stark contrast to Labor, Madam Chair, who spent their time demolishing libraries—the Schrinner Council has and always will continue to invest in the future of our libraries, because we know how important they are for our communities, for the development of our little ones and for the lifelong learning and enjoyment that reading brings to people of all ages.

I say again, Chair, this is just one way that we’re delivering bigger and better libraries for all. When I say we’re serious about delivering a better Brisbane, I mean it and we’re doing it in a sustainable way too. The Zillmere Library is now the beneficiary of solar panels installed as part of its latest upgrade and even that was done in a sustainable way, Chair, with half of the solar panels being recycled from the old Everton Park Library. The new Everton Park Library got a solar boost too, with solar panels helping to power the new library, which also benefits from an environmentally-friendly design that minimises solar penetration into the building during summer, while maximising solar penetration in winter.

Roof water is also collected by tanks and used to support the beautiful new landscape around the library. I know our Everton Park Library team are thrilled to be back to their new and improved home base. It’s been incredibly rewarding to see so many residents benefit from the new facility and the hard work of our dedicated librarians who support our community. With more than 4.4 million visits and 6.4 million physical loans last year, it’s clear that our libraries are loved by residents of all ages. Again, our dedicated librarians play such an important role in delivering Australia’s largest public library service. I want to thank them once again for their tireless dedication to Brisbane. All of this wouldn’t be possible without the strong economic management of the Schrinner Council and our continued dedication to building a better Brisbane, whether that be creating more to see and do for families that they can enjoy the best that Brisbane has to offer without breaking the bank.

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

Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: Yes. Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 8**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, as you know, a young man was tragically killed in Mortimer Road District Sports Park in Acacia Ridge on the weekend. This park is a very well-used park and is home to Souths Sports Club, the Spanish Club, Souths Soccer Club, a bowls club and a netball club. Local residents don’t feel safe using this park at night and have been told by police not to go into the park. We know that across Brisbane, Council has adopted a policy not to install lighting in parks because—and I’ve got it in this document here—there is no clear scientific evidence that lighting deters crime. Can you confirm that this is the reason why there is not adequate lighting at Mortimer Road District Park? If not, will you commit to funding lighting at this park in your upcoming budget?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, instances of stabbings and murders and horrific crimes are, sadly, way too common these days in Queensland. On the weekend, we heard of another tragedy, a crime which should not have been committed in a state where crime is out of control. Now, when it comes to lighting, obviously we always work with the Queensland Police in any investigation on whether there can be improvements made. As a general principle, we focus our lighting efforts on areas that people are moving through because they have to move through there. So, if there’s a walkway, which gets someone from a bus stop through a connection to their park—sorry—to their home, if there’s a situation where people are moving through, then they are, effectively, they have little choice but to go through that area.

That’s always got to be the first priority when it comes to enhancing public lighting. We have an ongoing program to do that and we also plan to further invest in that area. Where it’s a destination where people have the choice whether to be there or not, we don’t necessarily believe that lighting up a park at night, where the police have already said they don’t encourage people to go there, is actually a wise thing to do. Obviously, these matters have to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. As I said, we will continue to work with the police, as we always do when it comes to investigations, but let’s not forget here that the cause of this crime is not lighting.

The cause of this crime is because youth crime is out of control in this State. Lighting might be one part of a multi-pronged response, as with security cameras, as are other measures that we can have some influence in. Fundamentally, this situation has been created by a State Government that is soft on crime, where there are little or no consequences for serious crimes. That is where we must start if we are serious about responding to crime in our community. Lights can help. Unless there is evidence based in an investigation that says a light would have stopped a murder happening, then I think it’s drawing a very long bow when you are needing to focus on the real response that needs to happen, which is to get tougher on crime and to have real consequences for criminals that kill and murder and maim other people.

So, we’ll continue, as I said, to make improvements wherever we can. Ultimately, the main agency, the main level of Government that is going to make a difference here when it comes to youth crime and the crime wave that we have at the moment is the State Government. The State Government needs to get serious and tough on crime. We know that the reason why we are in this situation is a long, long time of Labor governments where they have consistently wound back the laws and the consequences for people that commit serious crimes. Now they are surprised at the situation that has evolved. It is a tragic situation.

It is one that we shouldn’t accept or tolerate, but it is one that’s going to require a big stepping up of effort at the State level in particular. It’s one that we will also continue to step up our efforts on in areas that will make a difference. We need to know they will make a difference, obviously, before putting investment in them and we take advice on that, but certainly, I would simply say that what happened on the weekend was a tragedy. It was horrific. It should never have happened, but I haven’t seen any evidence at this point in time that that area should have been lit. In fact, I would tend to go with the police recommendation, which is based on their advice on staying away from that area at particular times, rather than lighting it and encouraging more people in a place where the police have recommended that people shouldn’t go.

Labor announced a $2 million safety lighting investment during the election. I note that the Mortimer Road Park was not included in their commitment. So, it is quite cynical in hindsight to be someone that calls for investment in an area when it wasn’t suggested in their own election commitment. That is quite—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

LORD MAYOR: —cynical.

Chair: That now ends Question Time.

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

## 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 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last night, all our assets were lit up in blue to support the eve of Apraxia Speech Awareness Day. Childhood apraxia of speech is a type of speech disorder, which includes abnormal speech, reflexes and tone. This is part of an international awareness campaign that we’re happy to support. Tonight, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place will also be lit up in blue to support Light the Way. The Light the Way campaign raises awareness for tuberous sclerosis complex, a rare genetic disease that causes non-cancerous tumours to grow in the brain and other parts of the body.

Tomorrow night, all of our assets will be lit up in maroon for the first game of the Women’s State of Origin and also the NRL Magic Round. Game 1 of the Women’s Origin is this Thursday night, which is followed by NRL Magic Round at Suncorp Stadium from Friday through to Sunday. On Thursday night, the Victoria Bridge, City Hall and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in blue, white and red to celebrate 100 days to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Also on Thursday night, the Tropical Dome and the Story Bridge will be lit up in green and blue to support the eve of Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day. Now, this is a disease that causes tumours to form on nerve tissue, developing anywhere in the body’s nervous system.

On Friday night, we will once again light up our assets in the rainbow colours to commemorate IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia) Day. This includes City Hall, where the Light Up the Night Gala ball will be held. We will continue to support this day because we oppose discrimination in all of its forms. On Saturday, all of our assets will be lit up in blue for Panyiri Festival. Panyiri is Queensland’s biggest celebration of Greek culture and food and is now incredibly in its 48th year of celebrations. On Sunday night, all our assets will be lit up in purple to support World IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Diseases) Day. There are over 100,000 Australians living with Crohn’s disease and this Light Up supports their awareness campaign.

Today Councillors would’ve noticed that the Labor State Government has backed up our calls for a sensible approach to migration, particularly international migration. Now, this is something that I recently raised concerns about. This is something that in its unchecked form at the moment is adding pressure to our already oversubscribed housing market. It is adding pressure that is driving up rents. So, if the Labor State Government and the LNP City Council are in lockstep, then you can be sure that this is an issue that is cross-partisan and is something that needs to be addressed.

So, I do certainly hope that the Federal Government will respond in two ways: first of all, by ensuring that our migration program as a nation is manageable and it is planned in a way that we don’t bring people to a country that cannot house them. That’s a pretty fundamental part of the fairness of the Australian fair go and opportunity that we offer as a nation. It is not right to bring people to our nation if there are no homes for them to live in. Certainly, that’s the situation that we are seeing right now because with the current shortage of housing, every additional person added into the market drives up rents further.

So, you can see here the Federal Government’s approach is actively contributing to rents being higher for people that are already doing it tough. So, this is something that needs to be addressed. One thing is to get the migration program to be operated in a manner that is sustainable, that housing can be provided. My dad came here as a migrant and it was a different time, obviously. That was 1960, so a very different time. Along with the people that he came with, he arrived with, from many different parts of the world, the government ensured that, at least in that early initial phase, those migrants were housed and that there were jobs provided.

This was part of the deal during that time when people came to Australia. There was an acknowledgement that housing was a need and work was a need and both of those things were part of the program that was considered by the Federal Government. At this point in time, it seems like there is no consideration of housing and that the doors are wide open. While people are really struggling to pay their rents and while mortgage payments for homeowners have been increasing and are at high levels, Federal Government policy is now actively adding further pressure to an already oversubscribed system.

It’s always been said to me that if you discover that you’re in a hole, the first thing you should do is you should stop digging. That is the simple advice we would give to the Federal Government. There is a housing hole right now. Stop digging. Don’t make it worse. Let’s work together to improve the situation rather than continuing to dig that hole deeper, as they appear to be doing. The second thing I would ask for—it was echoed by Councillor CUNNINGHAM—a fairer share of Federal funding for local government to deliver some of these improvements that we can make when it comes to things like housing supply and infrastructure to facilitate this growth.

We are supportive of growth, but we receive three per cent of taxation revenue at the local government level, with the State Government receiving 16% and the Federal Government receiving 81%. So, there’s a clear imbalance of where the tax revenue goes. Yet we can deliver solutions. We can help improve this situation with some more funding from the Federal level. Now, Councillor LANDERS, you know—because you always enjoy those citizenship ceremonies—that migration has been a critical part to the success of our nation and immigration is a good thing for our country. It has been a good thing.

I wouldn’t be standing here if it wasn’t for our immigration program, but it is only fair that we can provide homes for people to live in. Those homes don’t need to be government homes. They can be market rental homes, but, at the moment, there’s none of those available. So, let’s take a breath. Let’s catch up with the demand. Let’s get some appropriate targeted Federal funding so that local governments can help with solutions to these problems. Let’s move forward productively. So, I commend the Premier, Steven Miles, for his position today. He is correct. I think it’s a good thing that we have alignment between different levels of government on these critical issues because we know just recently the State Government released the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan with updated housing targets and those targets would be a struggle to meet under sort of normal circumstances.

But under circumstances of record migration, they will be even harder to meet. The Premier knows that and that’s why his comments today are very sensible and we support them. On the weekend, we had one of the important fundraising events for the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust, which was formerly the Big City Barbecue and now is called BrisSizzle and Sounds at Victoria Park / Barrambin. This event raises much needed funding not only for the Trust itself but for charities like Foodbank and Drug ARM as well, two incredible charities that are doing great work in the community at the front line.

So, thanks to everyone who attended. Thanks to those who bought some raffle tickets and supported the fundraising efforts. That event will see much-needed funds injected into Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust, Drug ARM and Foodbank at a time when it is desperately needed. So, thank you also to the Councillors who came along and supported that event and all residents who came along as well, members of the community and sponsors.

The item in front of us today seems a bit dull, Councillor WINES, but I’d like to enlighten you on what it’s about. It’s the Obtrusive Lighting from Public Safety Lighting Plicy. This is AP280. The purpose of this policy is twofold. It’s designed so that Council can maintain compliance with national public lighting standards and also details Council’s approach to handling complaints about light pollution or light spill. There are multiple examples of public lighting across the city.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**501/2023-24**

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: There are multiple examples of public lighting across the city where Council has an important role in maintaining compliance with national lighting standards. This includes lighting on roadsides, median strips and pedestrian crossings and intersections across the city. There are very clear standards which must be met, should be met and are important for safety. The policy also sets out the standards Council needs to abide by to prevent the spill of these lights in a way that causes light pollution. Now, obviously, we’ve just had a question about lighting. For many people, lighting is an important safety issue. For others, lighting can be a significant nuisance as well and impact on sleep and other impacts that come with it.

So, this policy effectively deals with or sets out how Council deals with complaints about light spill and light pollution. At all times, the complaint will be assessed against the Australian Standards to determine if any sort of appropriate treatments are required, without reducing the purpose of the light in the first place, which is either for safety or for a public purpose. Some mitigation measures can be applying adhesive shields at the back of the light fitting, switching the light bulb to LED, changing the length of the light pole, changing the upcast angle of the streetlights and various other technical measures which help focus the light where it should be and minimise the spill of the light to other areas.

The good news is that with LED lighting technology, which is increasingly in use, there’s many more ways that we can manage light spill. So, there’s ways that the light can be directed with LED lighting in a way that it couldn’t be directed with more generic standard kind of lights in the past. So, this policy simply lays out those procedures on how we deal with issues about light nuisance and light spill. I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on all these items before us today for E&C, item A, the approval of AP280, Obtrusive Lighting for Public Safety Lighting Policy. It is important that as a Council we determine and vote on and implement policies, local laws and policies and procedures and things like that. So, this is important and I think it’s important we talk about—the LORD MAYOR and the LNP Administration sort of say there’s lots of other important things for Council to work on as well, but we don’t see them bringing them to the Council Chamber, unfortunately.

This is the second week we’ve gone by now where this LNP Administration’s hard work in E&C is paying off with one item a week that they’re bringing for discussion, debate and voting here in the Council Chamber. So, bravo to the LNP on all your hard work over the last few weeks. We’ll continue to raise important issues, of course, whether that be through Question Time, through motions, through amendments, lots of different ways. So, I look forward to continuing to doing that. For this simple item before us today, a simple yet important item, we’ll be supporting this.

Residents shouldn’t be kept up at night because streetlights, particularly—and there will be some instances where they’re lighting intersections and pedestrian crossings and zebra crossings, but predominantly they’ll be streetlights beaming into bedrooms and other habitable areas of the house. The response to these complaints needs to be managed while keeping road users safe, as the predominant purpose of having street lighting and safety lighting in the streets, but also balancing that with the amenity of people’s homes and bedrooms. It does strike me—and I’m sure I’ll be corrected if I’m wrong—as a bit strange that we didn’t have a policy in place for managing these complaints and managing the actions that Council officers could take to remediate these issues.

I assume—and I’ve been through this quite a few times as a local Councillor in reporting to our lighting teams and lighting engineers within Council different lights that are causing spill into homes over the years. So, I assumed that the process in which they went through—and some of them were good outcomes for the residents, some not and some are ongoing. I certainly hope we can use this new policy to pursue them further—has been, I assume, that they just follow the Australian Standard and say in their response, the Australian Standard says X, therefore Council is not going to pursue this any further or here’s an option.

But it does seem to have been inconsistent to me over the last few years where we’ve had light shades put on some lights where one officer will agree to that and then a different officer is involved years later maybe, a totally different person in the job saying, no, this conforms to Australian Standards. We’re not going to put a shade on that, even though they’re exactly the same situation. So having a policy in place is important and we support having that, to make sure that while the purpose of the light and where it is lighting is to Australian Standards and the important language that the policy talks about, which should reflect the Australian Standard around limiting spill, light spill into areas that this light was not designed to light up. For instance, bedrooms and lounge rooms and people’s habitable areas certainly should be covered.

I know these policies should be refreshed and updated as they go on as well, so this is obviously the first step in making sure that we have a policy in place to deal with these issues. I think that is an important point and it’s important for once this policy is put in place, that the divisional managers and the people who have carriage of this policy through Council make it very clear about beyond what the Australian Standard says about lighting a particular area for safety, the spill into houses should be addressed and there should be more focus on making sure that people can live a normal light-free life in the middle of the night.

I’ve had the situation where a gentleman in Brighton—and it’s been ongoing with Council—and every step of the way, had Council out there, visiting and checking light meters. Although in this case, refusing to go into the house, where they have in the past, to do those light readings. Just simply say, at the moment, that that light bulb and that light is meeting Australian Standards because it’s lighting that street and that footpath. Where I hope what is reflected in this policy, in my reading of it, is that there is now more latitude for Council to say, well, we need to maintain the light on the road and the footpath from this light, but we can also make sure it doesn’t go into your bedroom.

This is a family that doesn’t afford—can’t afford air conditioning so they’ve just gone through this summer of having to have block out curtains covering up their open windows as there only form of fresh air coming in, so for them it is a real lifestyle issue. Not a nice to have but affecting their lifestyle. So, I was a bit excited to see this come through. Hopefully, we can get some action. Not just on that case, but on cases right around Brisbane, now. We do support this, but we’ll monitor it—and I’m sure all Councillors will—its application and make sure that the intent of this policy in allowing Council officers to do as much as they possibly can in shielding light from people’s habitable areas is actually carried out and clear instruction is given to everybody in Council.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I rise to speak on item A, the only item on the agenda today. I did read this with some interest but there are a number of concerns that I observed in the policy, itself. Firstly, with respect to the policy and procedure, AP281, the procedure covers the following issues. Council officers, in conducting investigation, can obtain information from SAP, which is Council’s computer system, Records Manager, Council’s computer system, Council and Energex records, including work plans, database and asset history—so that’s computer information, City Plan, technical information online, the Australian Standards, technical information online, technical databases, technical information online, spatial data, technical information online and lighting programs, which presumably are Council documents and/or assets and/or technical information online.

The one thing the policy does not say that it will do is undertake a site visit. Now, I’ve been doing this for 16 years. I know that Council increasingly refuses to go out and physically look at glare. Because we’ve had presentations in the City Standards Committee and Council say that they can model it on a computer and they don’t actually need to go and have a look. Here we are today formalising the fact that Council do not want to go and do a site visit. The procedure and the policy no longer will even reference that someone might physically go and look at a lighting problem as part of their deliberations. Not that that’s the only thing that they should be doing—a site visit. It’s good that there’s all this extra technical data, but all of us here know when we meet with residents, looking at the problem is usually the first starting point to help you understand the extent of the problem.

You cannot—no Council officer can—no Council officer can fully understand how the light impacts on someone’s home until they’re in the room where the light is a problem. They just can’t do it. They’re guessing otherwise. So, to see a policy that does not include site visits is a retrograde step for the people of Brisbane. It is bad procedure. Site visits should be included. Now, maybe the Council officers will do site visits for the LNP because maybe the Chair or the LORD MAYOR will tell them to do it. For the rest of us, we won’t get site visits because the policy says, no site visits. How on earth does this Council think it’s going to deliver good services for Brisbane without physically going to look at the problem? Oh, the computer tells me it’s A. Well, that doesn’t give you any concept of how much impact there is on somebody’s life, their livelihood and their home.

That’s the first immediate problem. The second one is even worse. This is a lot worse. The same policy and procedure states that critical criteria for spill light treatment from public safety lighting, so number one, any provision for a spill light treatment does not compromise public safety. Fine. We all want everybody to be safe at pedestrian crossings, intersections, bends, traffic, et cetera. We all want people to be safe, but it goes on to say, we’ll only apply—Council will only apply a spill light treatment to a bedroom window—to a bedroom window. So, that means that where people have glare issues in a living room, in a study or in other habitable rooms of their homes, Council policy will no longer be allowed—Council policy will no longer be allowed to go out and put a light treatment on a light to help the glare. Now, we all know—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, reducing services. We all know that those light treatments range from shields, there’s stickers you can put on, there’s actual sort of awnings you put on, they can redirect the light down. There are a whole range of things that they can do but this policy says, Council will do none of that unless a bedroom window is impacted—unless a bedroom window is impacted. Now, that’s not acceptable to me. There is a huge problem with what Council is doing here. This policy will reduce our useful services to the people of Brisbane. This policy will mean that residents who have lighting glare in their homes will have less access to Council services and investigations and resolution to those problems.

So, in my view, this policy—which I was not consulted about—I was not consulted about—somebody up there has made this policy up. Good on the officers for trying. It’s come all the way up to E&C and the LORD MAYOR’s just gone, tick. I bet you he hasn’t even read it. I cannot believe the LORD MAYOR would be sitting here, going, oh God, I think officers should actually be going out to have a look. Maybe they don’t need to do it all the time, but they should certainly—in the procedure, it should be an option. And number two, I’m sure the LORD MAYOR’s suddenly going, ooh, I don’t know about lighting glare in someone’s study. There’s a whole heap of issues around this policy.

**Motion for amendment to Clause A:**

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| **502/2023-24**  It was moved by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY, that Clause A, APPROVAL OF AP280 OBTRUSIVE LIGHTING FROM PUBLIC SAFETY LIGHTING POLICY, of the report be amended as follows:  *Attachment B:*  *Under “Procedure 2. The Council Officer”, at dot point 3 deletes the words “a window” and replaces them with “any habitable room”* |

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Look, I will be brief. I have very serious concerns that this policy does not achieve the outcomes that we want to see for our residents. I know there are quite a few new Councillors here at the moment. Not just new, but last year came onboard as well. Lighting complaints can be extremely distressing for residents. We all want a balance between safe public lighting, which is important and we want to make sure that there is residential amenity maintained for residents. The problem with the LNP’s approach is the ultimatum that comes every time. It’s one or the other. There is a way to achieve a sensible solution that can ensure both outcomes are possible, but when you limit a policy and procedure to restrict the ability of Council officers to go on site visits or to make sure that there aren’t any lighting—adverse lighting impacts on any habitable room, you’re going to have a serious problem for residents.

It is just not right, so not only do I think site visits should be included in this—and I think the LNP should be fixing that straight away—(2), this is just an absolute bare minimum. It’s a threshold issue. Council is going to refuse to go to a lighting issue and investigate it if it’s not a bedroom. Now, that’s going to impact on hundreds of residents around the city. I urge all Councillors to support the amendment.

Chair: Are there any further speakers to the amendment?

As there are no further speakers, we will now put that to the vote.

**Amendment put:**

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to Clause A of the report to the Chamber resulting in it being 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: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Apologies just taking a moment to come back from the division. We are speaking in regard to the item before us today, item A, the Obtrusive Lighting Policy, AP280. It’s a policy update. Just to address some of the comments made earlier, there has always been a lighting policy. The first one was initiated in this city in 1978. We are now updating it to be in line with the Australian Standard or the Australian and New Zealand Standard, which requires certain things to be spoken to within the policy. As you can tell from some of the statements made earlier, obtrusive lighting is a very difficult issue that occurs through our communities. I think it’s something that people want to have a solution to and it can be a very difficult thing to respond to from time to time.

It’s not a super common complaint through the ward offices but it is one that can be very concerning to the individuals involved. So, we are having an updated policy that responds to those concerns that brings us in line with the national standards. The policy is designed to maintain compliance to those national standards and details Council’s positions regarding those obtrusive lighting through the management of spill light, in particular. If you take a moment to read Attachment B, you’ll see discussions of the differences between glare light and spill light. Of course, spill is light that unintentionally falls outside of its intended area. Particularly, as has been discussed, our focus is on ensuring that our residents get a quality night’s sleep and ensure that deep into the evening, there is peace in the place that they are sleeping.

So, Council has outlined clear guidelines in treatment for the spill light concerns and policy aims to mitigate any negative effects from safety lighting. We want it to be as unobtrusive as possible. We want to reduce discomfort, while improving community safety. We see inside the policy, it speaks to a number of items directly that are identified as public safety lighting, whether they be at pedestrian crossings, intersections, including roundabouts, on the opposite side of the road from the property, at road bends of less than 100 metres radius and adjacent to local area traffic management schemes. That is where the bedroom rule applies but we of course allow more general interpretation. Some of the speakers earlier spoke to this report as though this was a limiting document, not an empowering document. I think that in some ways, the interpretation made and the way that it was read to Councillors by some of those earlier speakers—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, if what Councillor WINES—this is a procedural issue about the accuracy of the report. The report says that the—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, sorry. A point of order is not for you to get up and debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: No. It is not.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No. I’m not debating. I’m asking you a question about the accuracy of the report.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, it’s not Question Time.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m asking you a procedural question about the report. You are responsible for making sure the reports before us are accurate and reliable so I’m asking you a procedural question.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, it is not a point of order. I do not uphold your point of order.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. As I was saying—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Could you advise how you can make a ruling on my point of order not being a point of order without me actually asking it?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please do not continue to disrupt the flow of the Chamber by asking repetitive points of order. I already have stated that it was not a point of order.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor JOHNSTON: All right, so point of order. Madam Chair, as you’ve not responded to either of the two points of order that I’ve raised, I move dissent in your ruling.

Chair: No seconder.

*The dissent motion lapsed for want of a seconder.*

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Madam Chair, just to clarify what I was saying—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor WINES: Just because Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor WINES: —loves to attribute comments to me that I didn’t make—

Chair: Sorry. I’m sorry, Councillor WINES.

Councillor JOHNSTON, point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I claim to have been misrepresented.

Chair: I note your misrepresentation.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. As I was saying, the earlier speakers who have now identified themselves as misrepresenting the nature of the policy when reading it to the Councillors indicated that this was a limiting factor, not an empowering factor, when what these items that have been identified—they are to assist officers in identifying the nature and style of the light, not the investigation of the obtrusive light, itself. This is how Council officers can identify the nature of the light, what it’s standard should be, what it’s recorded as being, not necessarily the nature of the complaint, which we know is taken, typically in my experience, at the very least, from the windowsill of the affected room.

So, I just think it’s a little bit—so there were statements made earlier that were designed to make this policy sound less than it is to diminish it and to diminish its intent. I don’t accept it and I hope all Councillors consider the fact that we are trying—we are setting up a system here to properly and modernly respond to obtrusive lighting issues.

Now, when this first policy came in in 1978, public lighting was very different. We have a lot of techniques now where we can control lighting and they are spoken to in this report. Some of the simplest and most straightforward ones are changing from globe lights to LED lights, which is also better for our power bills and for the environment, the simple act of heightening the pole itself, which enables us to reduce the angle of the light and make it more direct down, rather than an angle which would allow an ambient light into nearby property and residences. There are ways that we can deal with this in a whole range of ways.

Now, I wanted to speak to the list on the final page of Attachment B of the policy. It speaks to the tools, which of course replace the existing light fitting with LED, change the upcast angle, which is what I described, change the length of the outreach arm, which of course moves—which allows the light to be moved away or closer to—whichever allows the complaint to be addressed while maintaining public safe light and using a luminaire to lower light output. Of course, now the Australian and New Zealand Standard does not allow for metal guards to be external to the light. The guards must be internal to the casing. That is spoken to in this as well.

If anyone was curious about those elements of the policy, many of us have historically said, we’ll just put a guard on it. The standard does not allow us to put a metal guard external to the plastic guard for the globe. The guard must be within the plastic guard on the globe. I might say that again, so people understand what I’m saying. Historically, we’ve put metal guards outside the plastic shield for the globe in the light fitting. That is no longer permitted within the national standard. We now put the guard within the plastic fitting that goes around the globe. Hopefully, people understand what I’m saying. It might be easier if I had a demonstration, but we’ll all see that one in the future.

Look, I always think these sorts of policies are really important. One of the things that they allow us to do is to address the sincere concerns of residents that will occur in our ward offices in the ordinary course of business. Some things we deal with in this place are much sort of grander or more expensive, but this is the—these are the items that respond to people’s concerns, allow us to keep our communities properly safe through proper lighting.

I must address another matter here that says that where there’s spill lighting from items not listed in this list, then it also allows for other room. That was one of the misunderstandings of one of the speakers earlier—is this list that’s provided to us is the list of items that will be responded to for a bedroom but if it’s lights beyond this list, it can be any room in the dwelling. Once again, it makes the distinction between high-value safety lighting and other forms of lighting which we use in our community. Those other forms of lighting—because they are not directly safety lighting, can be used for other parts—guards and things can be used for other parts of the dwelling. What we’re saying is there’s a higher standard for public safety lighting as there is for other community lighting—is the meaning of that section.

Hopefully, people understand that distinction. With those words on this matter, it is an important matter. While it is something that we deal with on the day-to-day, that is what it gives us its special place in our considerations. I trust that Councillors will see the need for an improved and a modernised policy for obtrusive lighting and I look forward to their support.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your claim for misrepresentation?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Councillor WINES has misrepresented me when he stated repeatedly though his speech that this policy allows for other options for investigation, however the procedure outline specifically says—and I quote—will only apply to a spill light treatment to a bedroom window. It is mandatory.

Councillor WINES: Point of order. I appreciate that—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES?

Councillor WINES: —Councillor JOHNSTON felt that she—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor WINES: —misuse of misrepresentation. Councillor JOHNSTON used that misrepresentation to form an argument against—

Chair: No. Councillor WINES—

Councillor WINES: —I make my point of order to make an argument against the—

Chair: Sorry, Councillor WINES. That’s not a point of order.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak about lighting and public safety, which is included in point 2 of this document. I just want to say that there are a couple of issues I’d like to address here. The first—I raised an issue a couple of weeks ago in relation to a poor or dimly lit bus stop outside one of our major hospitals, which was the PA (Princess Alexandra) Hospital on Ipswich Road, which many residents—many of my residents, staff, patients use. Residents have told me, in this situation, they don’t feel safe waiting at this bus stop. They’ve raised with me asking Council to deliver the Australian Standards there.

Now, I’ve written to Council on numerous occasions and raised this in the Chamber two weeks ago and as of yet, there’s been no change in relation to this lighting or no upgrade of this light, which I find really disappointing that Council is not meeting the Australian Standards, even with a bus stop outside a major hospital. The officers that I deal with or speak with have said that they would support the action, but they can’t get BCC transport to do anything. So, I’d call on Councillor MURPHY to take this up because I believe it’s common sense that we provide good services in relation to lighting at public bus stops.

The second point I’d like to talk to—and I note the LORD MAYOR spoke about this when he introduced this item—was the issue I raised earlier today. That was the death of that young man—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Ms Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor GRIFFITHS is not relevant to the report. This is about obtrusive lighting, not improving lighting. No relevance.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Yes. If you could please stick to this report, Councillor.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Sorry. Yes. I understand that, but it has been covered in the debate and it was covered in the debate by the LORD MAYOR, earlier. Also, I note that Councillor WINES talked about keeping community sites safe by public lighting, so I think it is part in relevant to this debate.

Chair: It’s broad, though. Please return to the report. You know that the LORD MAYOR can go round the world.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. I’m talking about pathway lighting. I’m ensuring safe movement and usage for pathway users, riders, drivers and it talks—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. It talks about—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Public safety lighting schemes. I’ll take that interruption.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: So, just picking up—

Chair: Back to the report, please, Councillor.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am speaking on the report. Picking up on the point of public safety lighting in parks and in public places, the point that I raised earlier—and I believe is extremely relevant to the residents of Brisbane—I know the residents of Brisbane are watching this debate, now—that they want to see lighting in parks like Mortimer Road Park.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I ask your ruling on the intent of the report representing anything to do with lighting in public parks. This is the AP280 Obtrusive Lighting from Public Safety Lighting Policy. I ask for your ruling.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR. It is Establishment and Coordination Committee, not Environment and Parks Committee and we are talking about that specific—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am talking about public safety. I’m talking about lighting.

Chair: Yes. Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: It starts—can I just read the policy out—the key principle in development of this policy was to ensure the treatment to address obtrusive lighting and to not compromise safety and effectiveness of lighting.

Chair: It is about the changes to the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, you’re not on your feet. You are not up and speaking so please do not call out.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, I’ll ask the last time for you to please speak to the report.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am speaking to the report and I’m happy—

Chair: If you want to bring up—I would advise if you want to bring up—Councillor GRIFFITHS, I would advise if you want to bring up those other issues, if not directly, with the Chair that—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m really concerned. Someone was murdered in one of our parks.

Chair: Yes.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m really concerned, Madam Speaker. The LNP don’t want to talk about it. I am really concerned about this.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, that is not the case.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I would say to residents, be very concerned with this Administration shutting down—shutting down talking about safety and murders in parks but they want to play games with the State Government.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, that is not what this report is about.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Madam Chair, no. I won’t stop.

Chair: You’re not—no. Don’t speak over me. Excuse me.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The LORD MAYOR—no. The LORD MAYOR said—

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The LORD MAYOR entered this debate. The LORD MAYOR raised this issue.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am following up on this issue. This is about public safety in a park and lighting.

Chair: Councillor, I consider you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct in accordance with section 21(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001* and I hereby request you to stop when I have asked you to stop and to please—thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON—and to refrain from exhibiting that conduct.

Can you please return to the report and to the intent of the report?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The intent of the report is to ensure public safety with lighting. That’s the intent of the report. It says here, item A. It’s in the title, it’s in the title. You can’t stop debate on that. I find it disappointing that the Administration would try and stop debate on that. We have an issue where a young man was murdered in a park. Now, the LORD MAYOR said that we provide safe movement through parks. My point is that we don’t have the pathways into this park lit up or through this park, but in this Chamber, we’ve endorsed services like Souths Acacia Sports Club, Brisbane Racing Club to run a lease in the park that people use and do travel from outside the park, into the park. They’re travelling through the park, which was exactly the point the LORD MAYOR said was the reason for safety.

Secondly, we use—I use and creative communities use this park—use this very park where this murder occurred for community movies. We use it. We endorse it. We support it. Just as we support the Spanish Club running multiple community events—multicultural events in the park.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: This is—

Chair: We are—no. Stop, please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: This is about public safety and lighting.

Chair: Councillor. Thank you. It is talking about the lighting that does exist and changes to how that lighting is put in—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: —not the occasions where that is going to be put. You know that that is the case and I’ve asked you several times to please remain to this report. I do encourage you in further Committees where it’s relevant and also in general business, to speak then.

Point of order, Councillor COLLIER?

Councillor COLLIER: Chair, just seeking your ruling. This is the second time in two weeks that you’ve ruled a Councillor reading verbatim from a report before us for debate that it is not relevant.

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

Councillor COLLIER: It is. Are you saying that that is your ruling?

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I am making a ruling that that is not a point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: Just seeking your ruling, Chair.

Chair: You just got it. Councillor GRIFFITHS—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: —can you please return to the intent of the report?

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, point of order?

Councillor MASSEY: I just have a question—a point of order question. Is it relevant to be reading from the report? I asked this about two weeks ago. Is that not—

Chair: That’s not a point of order.

Councillor MASSEY: —being a part of the debate is to actual read directly from the report.

Chair: It’s not a point of order. Thank you, Councillor MASSEY. I do recommend that you all do get your folder that I’m sure you have and have another read of it and refresh yourself. I know that we had a little break from Chambers, but I do recommend you have another read.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, you have positive obligations under both COBA (City of Brisbane Act) and the Meetings Local Law to act fairly and with integrity.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: When we raise a point of order about your strict and ridiculous interpretation of what is relevant, which is a point of order under the rules and you refuse to address it, you leave us with no choice. When we raise a point of order about whether or not your unreasonably restricting what is relevant for debate such as reading words from a report, that is a point of order under the Meetings Local Law and I’m wondering why you will not address it, because your behaviour is subject to this law along with everybody else’s.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. I am upholding that and I do say to you that of course people can read from a report. That is not what I was talking about. I am specifically saying that the comments were irrelevant to this report and encouraging Councillors to raise it at the right time and also directly with Chairs.

Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Well, I am very concerned about the way this has been handled today. I’m very concerned about this E&C report that we actually won’t discuss a murder in a park and lighting of that park under this item. It concerns me greatly that that’s been done because it has been covered by other people in this report.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I would encourage the LORD MAYOR to fund this lighting. Thank you.

Chair: Your time has expired.

Further speakers?

LORD MAYOR, right of reply?

We’ll now put the report to the vote.

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.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Division.

Chair: Division? No. There’s no seconder.

*The division lapsed for want of a seconder.*

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, Sarah Hutton, Ryan Murphy and Andrew Wines.

#### A APPROVAL OF AP280 OBTRUSIVE LIGHTING FROM PUBLIC SAFETY LIGHTING POLICY

**109/268/608/97-002**

**503/2023-24**

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

2. Public safety lighting, including streetlights and pathway lighting, is installed to assure safe movement and usage for pathway users, riders and drivers on roads, pathways and public spaces. To enable this, public safety lighting is positioned at specific locations to provide adequate lighting of road and pathway features as per the Australian Standards.

3. In recent years, many changes have occurred in public safety lighting including updates to:

- Australian Standard *AS/NZS 4282:2019 - Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting* (AS/NZS 4282)

- public safety lighting technologies

*- Brisbane City Plan 2014*

- luminaire options

- treatment options

- inspection methods

- customer expectations.

4. The proposed AP280 Obtrusive Lighting from Public Safety Lighting Policy(the policy) (refer Attachment A, submitted on file) and supporting procedure *AP281 Obtrusive Lighting from Public Safety Lighting Investigation Procedure* (the procedure) (refer Attachment B, submitted on file)wasapproved by the Executive Management Team on 24 May 2023 and supports Council’s use of AS/NZS 4282*.* AS/NZS 4282 can be used as a guideline for determining spill light levels and assist in reducing their effects on windows and bedrooms in dwellings.

5*.* AS/NZS 4282also leaves the decision on adopting these spill light levels to road controlling authorities, provided achieving these levels does not impact on the safe operation of roads and public spaces in compliance with *AS/NZS 1158.2:2020 - Lighting for road and public spaces*.

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

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES AP280 OBTRUSIVE LIGHTING FROM PUBLIC SAFETY LIGHTING POLICY, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, submitted on file.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: I now call upon the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NIGHTTIME ECONOMY AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy 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 7 May 2024, be adopted.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. As usual, before we get to the Committee report from last week, what is happening in Brisbane. I would just like to bring to the attention of the Chamber what is upcoming in the next week at the Brisbane Business Hub. We have the following events that are coming through—Protecting Boundaries Whilst Upholding Relationships, which is on tomorrow from 12pm to 2.30pm. Then on Thursday, we have the Creating Mentally Healthy Workplaces on Thursday 6 May from 9.30am till 11.30am. I remind people that the Hub is currently still behind Zara in the Queen Street Mall, but we’ll soon be moving to new digs in the new year, so we look forward to that move and new opportunities. Please share with your community these Business Hub opportunities.

*At that time, 2.54pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Steven HUANG, assumed the Chair.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: We also are getting some fantastic feedback from recent event attendees. ‘Terrific presenter with breadth and depth of experience which added so much value’. That was the How to Market Your Business Masterclass, by Staunch Digital. Thank you very much. We also had, ‘I’ve already recommended the Brisbane Business Hub to a client. This is a hidden gem for business in Brisbane. Thanks for an amazing event and networking opportunity. I had forgotten the power of networking was friendly and fun meeting likeminded women in business, which was the Women in Business Big Day Out’. It’s fantastic to see people are enjoying all of the different networking opportunities, as well as the mentors as well.

We have one business, JDLA Pty Ltd, who is in engineering infrastructure consulting and project management services to government infrastructure organisations and private organisations, who has got a new mentee and they said, ‘it has been absolutely fantastic and valuable to have independent and experienced mentoring and advice. Great initiative, overall’. So, thank you to their mentor, who I won’t name and shame, but we have so many of them that do a wonderful job there, free of charge, to support businesses and how they grow, how they can get from a small family enterprise like this one, into taking on risk and managing much larger corporate organisations as well. So, please, share that with your communities and particularly your small business community so they know that there is support there in person, online, 365 days of the year.

As I mentioned last week, Mr Deputy Chair, May Mayhem is in full swing. There is a jampacked line up of events right across the city. From sport, to art, to economy, collectively, these major events are expected to drive more than 80 million into our local economy. We are a city that thrives on community and culture and we are Australia’s lifestyle capital but we’re really looking forward to welcoming fans from near and far across Australia and even overseas to enjoy the best we have to offer in the coming month as well.

Why is that so important? Because it means they’ll be staying in our hotels. They better get in quick because I’m pretty sure those hotel rooms are in quick demand over the next couple of weeks. They’re going to be dining in our local restaurants, cafés, bars, shopping in our shops, enjoying our local tourism experiences. It’s about creating more to see and do in Brisbane, supporting our businesses, but also encouraging future investments and attracting more visitors, which strengthens our local economy. Which is why it was very exciting to see the presentation by our CEO of BEDA on the State of the City report which really does show we are a city alive with opportunity for our residents, for our businesses, for our investors.

We have all of it and we feel it and we see it happening in the city now as well. This is Brisbane’s first time that we have a new investment prospectus that really sets out the compelling data driven cases for why Brisbane is a global growth city. It’s seizing the opportunity and turning Brisbane’s momentum into real economic impact for local businesses and residents. It shows how our skilled workforce, innovation hubs, manufacturing growth, our soaring popularity as a must-do destination will unlock Brisbane’s $275 billion future. Our homegrown and emerging talent is one of the biggest drivers of our growth and we have the fastest growing working age population among Australia’s major centres, growing 7.7% compared to the average of four per cent across other major cities as well.

The young talent pool is driving innovation and productivity, particularly across sectors like health, construction and transport, as well as emerging industries in robotics, quantum computing and artificial intelligence. One thing we know from this report is that our lifestyle is one of the strongest factors for talent in choosing a city, an essential pillar of recruitment and retention strategies. People from all corners of the world are choosing to live and work in Brisbane and the race for talent remains fierce. Further to that, we are at the heart of South East Queensland as a regional powerhouse that will be home to six million people and worth $400 billion by 2046, which is more than New Zealand’s current economy.

Our city and our region is being increasingly recognised as both a must-do destination and just a great place to live. This demand for our lifestyle is reflected by the forecasted growth of our experience economy, which is detailed in this report to be increased by 41% to 2041. What does this mean? Well, there’s more not just for our residents to see and do but there’s more for our visitors to come and see and do and more jobs and more opportunities for businesses. We have had a record breaking visitor spend of $10.1 billion in the region in 2031. Howard Smith Wharves, Fortitude Music Hall—two recent gamechangers in the city—key investments that have improved our lifestyle offering.

I can tell you—I was at Howard Smith Wharves on Saturday afternoon. I don’t think there was a mother that was not celebrating with their family on Saturday afternoon, on Saturday or maybe it was half the mothers and then you went and saw the rest of the family on Sunday. It was absolutely pumping. We have an incredible opportunity to amplify the Fortitude Valley with the world renowned music districts, which are getting up there with the likes of Memphis, Austin and Nashville. The first step is making sure the State Government regulations are up there with the modern cities of the world, supporting our nightlife, not putting a handbrake on it as well.

But the energy is being felt right across the city in increasing demand for hotels, restaurants and tourism operators who benefit from the influx of experience seekers are loving it. Further evidence of our growing demand for our experiences economy is that in 2023, Brisbane’s culinary boom from James Street to Fish Lane to Howard Smith Wharves in Brisbane City saw Queensland record Australia’s highest growth of cafés and restaurants. We are cultivating an economy that will grow significantly over the next two decades.

On top of that, we have an infrastructure project pipeline of more than $25 billion. With this economic growth comes opportunity for our city’s amenities and transport to develop, making Brisbane one of the most connected cities in the world—a place where residents and visitors, including one of the fastest growing and most highly skilled workforces in Australia, can travel with ease between businesses, research institutes, universities, hospitals, lifestyle precincts and events. Brisbane is confidently making the investments needed to keep pace with our expanding economy and lifestyle.

Brisbane Metro, as the LORD MAYOR mentioned last week, will enhance our connectivity, while our new bridges will facilitate travel between our world-class lifestyle entertainment and knowledge precincts. But it’s important to note, Mr Deputy Chair, that Brisbane’s success has not happened by accident and this report demonstrates Brisbane is just getting started. I am confident our emergence as a must-do destination and a great place to live will continue to boost business, create jobs and make Brisbane even better. I ask you all to go out, sell the message of the State of the City and make sure we do our bit to drive this economy into the next 20 years. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor ADERMANN: Point of order, Acting Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **504/2023-24**  At that time, 3.01pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Greg ADERMANN, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, 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 3:05pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on the report and the State of the City report, to be specific. As the DEPUTY MAYOR said, it did announce Brisbane’s growth trajectory as a truly global city over the next 10 to 20 years. Our growth in health, professional services, property, tourism, advanced manufacturing and emerging industries, including robotics and quantum physics will define Brisbane as the jewel in the crown of the Asia-Pacific over the next 20 years. With this growth comes investment back into Brisbane and an opportunity for our city amenities and transport to develop. Having a connected city not only makes for a better place for residents to live, but also for tourists to visit. We have fantastic lifestyle precincts and hubs that will support this, importantly, also provide jobs.

Brisbane has the fastest growing working age population among Australia’s major centres, which is 7.7% against the national average of 4%. The report shows that our workforce is not only growing but also highly skilled. Deputy Chair, with a daughter who is a scientist, this makes me very excited. She is passionate about genetics and traditionally, our science and particularly research graduates like my daughter, have had to move either interstate or overseas to find projects to work on. But we are now the go-to destination for clinical trials and we are home to the largest health ecosystem in the Southern Hemisphere with 160 clinical trial sites and 40 contract research organisations. Exports of medical and pharmaceuticals has grown seven times faster than the rest of Australia.

More students are choosing to live, work and study in Brisbane where we now have the highest rated university UQ in the country. Deputy Chair, Brisbane is alive with opportunity and the State of the City report provides a great prospectus to champion our great city.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise briefly to speak in support of the inaugural State of the City report. The DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor LANDERS have comprehensively summarised the highlights of this report, so I won’t go back over them. But I will say that this report tells a fantastic story and makes for very pleasant reading about the potential for Brisbane now and into the future. Anthony Ryan, the CEO of BEDA, put it succinctly at the release of this report when he said—and I quote, ’with strong economic and population growth, world-class education and talent and connectivity with the Asia-Pacific region, Brisbane is a city alive with opportunity’ This report highlights a city ready to advance its position on the global stage.

Brisbane is activating economic opportunities for business and talent, achieving global distinction in emerging industries and captivating investors from across the country and the world. Our city is being increasingly recognised as both a must­‑do destination and a great place to live, with record visitor spending and the fastest growing working age population of Australia’s major centres. We are one of the top places in the world to visit. That’s not me saying it. That’s according to *TIME Magazine* and *The New York Times*. We are Australia’s top sporting city. Deputy Chair, having worked 17 years as part of the management team at Suncorp Stadium before coming here, I can say that it is non-negotiable for major sporting codes and international teams to insist on playing their blockbuster events in Brisbane. This is where the fans are and are most passionate and where they get the best return from hosting events here.

The DEPUTY MAYOR mentioned earlier that Magic Round returns to Brisbane this weekend and as a rugby league and Broncos tragic, I can’t wait. Other cities have now seen the success of this event and would give their eye teeth for the chance to host it. They will have a fight on their hands because the NRL knows where it works best and that’s right here in Brisbane. Deputy Chair, Magic Round was born in Brisbane and this is its home and we must do everything we can to ensure it stays that way. Credit where credit is due. If the weekend media reports are correct, that the State Government will be renewing that contract with the NRL for Magic Round in Brisbane for another two years.

The State of the City report refers to the importance of encouraging of entrepreneurs in this city. There are no better examples than Brisbane’s undisputed king of entertainment, Harvey Lister and Suncorp Stadium General Manager, Alan Graham, for conceiving the idea of Magic Round. Suncorp Stadium being the first venue to host the NRL Double Headers was one challenge but convincing the NRL clubs to come to Brisbane for one weekend was another. First, they all had to come up with a way to incentivise half of the clubs to give up their home games and then develop a model to make it financially viable for all stakeholders. But Harvey and Alan did that and this example of innovation where you can take a big idea and see it through to become a reality to the benefit of the city is what this report is all about.

It’s not only happening in the entertainment industry. There are plenty of other examples in tourism, hospitality and health, which are helping put Brisbane on the world map. Deputy Chair, Brisbane is also home to Australia’s number one university, hotel and restaurant. I can say, after having visited Agnes over the weekend, I can see how it has earned that ranking. Brisbane’s success hasn’t happened by accident. This report demonstrates Brisbane is just getting started. Deputy Chair, we’re fortunate to have a body such as the Brisbane Economic and Development—it’s not association, DEPUTY MAYOR, is it? It’s Agency—supported by the Schrinner Council to develop a strategy to champion our city’s extensive and diverse business and encourage them to reach for the stars. BEDA is here to assist local operators to access its vast business network to public and private businesses and to State and Federal agencies.

In summary, Deputy Chair, this report is something that should grace the desk of every business leader in this city. There’s no need for guess work and assumptions going forward. We now have a blueprint to guide our future success so let’s use it to ensure Brisbane continues its upward trajectory as a key player on the world stage. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on the report on the State of the City report before us today. What I heard from the DEPUTY MAYOR before the afternoon tea break and then from Councillor LANDERS and now Councillor ADERMANN is high praise for work that other levels of government are doing to attract new industries here. Quantum computing, obviously we see the State Government and Federal Government doing a lot of heavy lifting on that. A whole lot of things that are with the health and health sciences—that the State Government are making a massive investment in in delivering those services and the heavy lifting that businesses are doing as well.

The report does paint a very—what was the words that we used—a growth narrative—a growth narrative that the report was seeking to pursue as a narrative for our city in attracting investment. We recognise that’s what this report does—paints a very positive picture about investing in Brisbane, so congratulations to Deloitte, I believe, who did the report. I think it was fully funded by Optus—I believe. I don’t know that BEDA put any money into this. I could be wrong. I could be corrected about that. So, great partnerships, obviously—and in BEDA’s role in—what did they say—they were synthesising data that they were receiving from other external partners as well through the Better Brisbane Alliance, an impressive group of external people external to BEDA and definitely external to Council.

So, an impressive piece of work that’s been done by Deloitte and paid for by Optus and showcasing a lot of the things that other levels of government and private business are doing. But I think it would have been great to see included in the State of the City report, actions and some positive signposts to both investors and people seeking to come to Brisbane and bringing their skills to Brisbane. Because we know we discussed there as well, one of the biggest constraints facing Brisbane in the future of Brisbane is around the construction sector. I know we heard, earlier today, some discussion from the LORD MAYOR around capping migration. I know that what the Premier said was that we need to see more skills and targeted migration to help address these issues—I certainly didn’t hear the LORD MAYOR talk about that—in increasing our workforce who are able to overcome these challenges in partnership with businesses and the community here in Brisbane.

So, it would have been good to have more input from Council. I don’t get a sense that the DEPUTY MAYOR and LNP Administration had much input into this report. It feels and reads a lot like that BEDA were able to gather external people together and get that data from them and feed that to Deloitte. Of course, Optus partnered with them in paying for this report. So, a lot more work does need to be done in terms of addressing those critical issues that are holding Brisbane residents back from getting affordable rentals, from getting affordable homes, from being able to get around their suburbs, especially in the face of 20% cuts to footpath funding and making sure that where they live is safe in the face of 20% cuts to drainage funding.

So, a lot of work does need to be done. This document paints a very positive picture, which is good and important in attracting that investment, but what the people of Brisbane want to see is a positive program from this Council around investing in our suburbs as well, which is severely lacking.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. I know I have 10 minutes and I could probably fill that with the astounding lack of knowledge by the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to what BEDA does and what Council does. But I think the whole point has been missed by Councillor CASSIDY in trying to attempt cheap political points on the back of the success that Brisbane is having in the fact that this is not an action plan. It is a prospectus. It’s not an action plan. It’s a prospectus. I’d like to take this opportunity to apologise to Dr John Cowie and his team that pulled this document together with the help of Deloitte Access Economics with the Council team in our City Analytics office, with the work of Deloitte, as I said, with the support of Cisco and Optus, who are so enthusiastic about the future of Brisbane that they are willing to put their hands in their pockets and make sure that we have the prospectus that we need to invest because they see the opportunities in the future as well.

Excuse me, Mr Deputy Chair. Let me just get a glass of water. What Councillor CASSIDY stood and talked about was not actually the State of the City report. It was about the budget development that is coming and how we are going to be delivering for this city, value of money, making sure that the residents are being heard. But I can assure you there’s no support for Councillor CASSIDY’s idea that supporting the economy of Brisbane doesn’t support our residents. It’s an absolutely false economy that Councillor CASSIDY presents each time he stands up here and bags what the Brisbane Economic Development Agency does. Because I’m not sure if I’ve said it one time—I’ve said it I think 1,000 times—if business in Brisbane does well, Brisbane does well and if Brisbane does well, the residents do well.

I hear Councillor COLLIER shouting out across the Chamber because she doesn’t like hearing it. They don’t like hearing it. Because as I said before, this doesn’t happen by accident. It doesn’t happen by accident. It happens with strong administration in Council.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I take the giggling interjection from Councillor COLLIER who again, doesn’t like hearing it. I think they were clearly told just two months ago who Council wants to—who the city wants to run this Administration and we are heard and we are not taking it for granted. We won’t take it for granted. We will deliver a budget that delivers for the people and we will deliver a prospectus with whoever wants to partner with us to make sure that we shout. As soon I start speaking, they start gabbing again, Mr Deputy Chair. If I did it, they’d be screaming.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Order.

DEPUTY MAYOR, you have the floor.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I shouldn’t be distracted because we know the more they snipe and the more they gripe, it’s because they don’t like hearing what is being said. Brisbane is doing extremely well. This book shows you just how well and we’re going to be able to use it for the next 12 to 18 months for people who want to come invest here. If they invest, work, play and eventually live here, that is a good thing for Brisbane and a good thing for the people of Brisbane and our economy. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Yes. Now, I put the report to the vote.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 22 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, Penny WOLFF and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Greg Adermann, Jared Cassidy, Julia Dixon and Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – STATE OF THE CITY

**505/2023-24**

1. The Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA), attended the meeting to provide an overview of the State of the City report (the report). He provided the information below.

2. The inaugural report, launched in May 2024, is an initiative of the Better Brisbane Alliance, BEDA and Brisbane City Council, designed to drive future investment in Brisbane. The report provides statistics and direction to assist growing local businesses.

3. Brisbane’s economy is expected to experience a 68% growth by 2041 to $275 billion. Brisbane has close relations with the Southeast Asia Pacific trade market, a region that conducts 47% of global trade, with a $90 trillion economy and 60% of the world’s population. Brisbane has the most efficient freight system in Australia which provides market advantage within the region. Export growth is expected to expand to 41% by 2041, with increases in global connectivity driving Brisbane’s export potential.

4. Brisbane is the 12th largest economy in the world and the sixth largest consumer market. Brisbane region’s gross regional product is expected to grow to $400 billion by 2046. Australia’s fastest growing working age population can also be found in Brisbane, with a 32% increase in university graduates over the last five years. These metrics, along with Brisbane being named as a global top 40 innovation city, demonstrate that there is growing professional and highly skilled workforce in Brisbane, which assists in driving investment and development opportunities for the city.

5. The top six sectors experiencing growth across Brisbane are as follows.

- The largest health ecosystem in the Southern Hemisphere with an anticipated growth of 36% by 2031.

- Transport and Logistics is driven by a growing consumer market and warehouse growth has surged 125% over five years, with demand expected to remain high.

- Advanced Manufacturing, with an anticipated growth of 29% by 2031 and $9 billion in manufacturing exports.

- Knowledge is anticipated to experience growth of 50% by 2031 which is the highest professional services growth in Australia.

- Building has an anticipated growth of 41% by 2031 with a $25 billion infrastructure pipeline and 38% faster application processing when compared with other cities in Australia.

- Experience will see a 41% growth by 2031. Pre-COVID Brisbane had 13 consecutive quarters of visitor expenditure growth and in 2023 recorded a record-breaking high of $10.1 billion in visitor expenditure.

6. Brisbane is now regarded globally as a think tank and is leading the industry in quantum computing, robotics, creative industries and artificial intelligence. These expanding industry sectors and research areas create significant opportunities for investment in Brisbane for local and international businesses. BEDA is Australia’s largest local economic development agency supporting local businesses and investors to start, run and grow.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor MUPRHY, Transport Committee report.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MUPRHY.

Councillor MUPRHY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. Last week, the Committee was given a presentation on the Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge, which was completed earlier this year. This is the first of the bridges as part of our $550 million new bridges for Brisbane program, a program which will take cars off the road and provide more choices for Brisbane residents when it comes to travel. I’m pleased to say, Madam Chair, that this bridge was delivered on time and under budget.

*At that time, 3.39pm, the Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, resumed the Chair.*

Councillor MURPHY: It measures 80 metres long. It’s six metres wide. It provides that enhanced walking, cycling and scooting link along the river from the inner city to the northern suburbs. It connects business and employment opportunities on both sides of the river and it provides a much more safe—

Chair: One moment, please, Councillor MURPHY.

Sorry. Councillors, if you are going to have conversations, please take them out. Several conversations going on and you need to take that outside, please.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Just saying, Madam Chair, it provides a safe and more direct trip from residents on the northside of our city into the CBD. It provides an extension to the ever popular Lores Bonney Riverwalk, 170 metres now, stretching from Cameron Rocks Reserve to the first bridge pier in Breakfast Creek. This outcome builds on Hamilton and Albion’s original design to link in with the existing riverwalk network. Thanks to the Schrinner Council, this project now delivers 700 metres of new active transport infrastructure, including a two-way bike path along Breakfast Creek Road and Newstead Avenue, extending through to the Newstead Terrace and Halford Street. Of course, we can’t forget, Madam Chair, the beautiful new landscaping, footpaths and furniture within Newstead Park.

All of this was made possible by the 600 workers that were involved in the construction of this project, which provided plenty of opportunity for the local construction industry. More than 90%, in fact, Madam Chair, of the supplies and materials used to construct the bridge were sourced from local Brisbane and South East Queensland businesses. A particular highlight was the fabrication and installation of the bridge arch, which was undertaken by a local South East Queensland contractor, Sun Engineering, at the Port of Brisbane last October. After the bridge’s assembly, the 300-tonne arch was lifted onto a barge and transported 14 kilometres down the Brisbane River to Breakfast Creek, where a team of operators performed a delicate dance with platform vehicles rotating and lifting the arch into place.

Once in place and self-supporting, the 200-cubic-metre bridge deck was poured and finishing touches were applied to the bridge, ready for its opening day. What a resounding success it was, Madam Chair. More than 3,000 people able to enjoy live entertainment, learn more about cycling and scooting, grab some food and they even saw a live show from Brisbane’s own *Bluey*. I’m pleased to say residents are now voting with their feet when it comes to their satisfaction of the bridge. Over 2,600 pedestrians and cyclists and e-mobility users use this bridge every single day. This was double the original business case forecast of 1,300 trips per day. We expect these numbers to continue growing, with the Lores Bonney Riverwalk also seeing significant uptake of 45% on cyclist journeys and 20% on pedestrian and e-mobility journeys.

I’d like to sincerely thank our contractor here, Georgiou Brady. This was a joint venture between Georgiou and Brady. They have delivered a fantastic bridge for our city and of course, a fantastic contractual outcome for Council bringing in this project on time and under budget. More than 70,000 hours that this contractor put into the project. I think the quality of those hours certainly shows in the final product. It’s already providing that safe and active connection for residents who are flocking to this growing part of Brisbane. It will be essential to linking the athletes village into the CBD—the athletes village in Hamilton into the CBD once that is built.

Later this year, we’ll open the Kangaroo Point bridge, which is our biggest investment in active transport. This will link the Botanic Gardens and the CBD to Kangaroo Point. It’s all happening, Madam Chair and the Schrinner Council continues to be focused on enhancing the liveability of our city and delivering active transport links to help more residents choose to be able to travel sustainably. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you very much, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MUPRHY.

Further speakers?

Councillor PARRY.

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the presentation on the Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge. It’s the most recent bridge for Brisbane that has been delivered by the Schrinner Council. It capitalises on our city’s most iconic natural asset, the Brisbane River. It creates a vital cross-river connection for residents and visitors alike and not only provides an important missing link to the Lores Bonney Riverwalk, as the Chair just mentioned, but also seamlessly connects the suburbs of Hamilton and Newstead. Active travellers can now enjoy 700 metres of walking and riding paths, including a new two way on road cycle path from Newstead Park to Newstead Terrace. This means that instead of a narrow footpath, commuters can instead use a purpose built path to run, walk, scoot, wheel or cycle.

Indeed, my colleague and Hamilton Ward Councillor, Councillor DIXON, who is unfortunately not here today, would love to speak about it. She raves about this active transport connection and uses it quite frequently with her young family, especially with her young son, James, in a pram. Not a week goes by where a Hamilton resident doesn’t tell Councillor DIXON about how much they love the Yowoggera Bridge and what a great connection it is within our inner northern suburbs. But the Breakfast Creek Bridge does more than promote active travel throughout the city. It connects business and employment opportunities on both sides of the river, especially as the area continues to experience a high level of growth in both the Newstead and Hamilton Northshore precincts. It gives workers more choice and thus more opportunities.

I’d like to touch on the traditional name of Yowoggera, which means corrobboree or corrobboree place. For thousands of years, Breakfast Creek has represented a culturally significant gathering place for First Nations peoples. This naming pays respect to the role that is has played alongside the Brisbane River in our city’s history. Since its official opening in February, Yowoggera Bridge has exceeded anticipated patronage from active transport users and it is only expected to grow. It has not only brought about improved connection and active transport activity, but has also delivered economic benefits, creating hundreds of local jobs for the duration of construction.

In the leadup to the Breakfast Creek Bridge opening, I am told there were many eager spectators watching the progress of the bridge, especially when the arch was making its way down the Brisbane River to be placed on the structure. I think the Chair just put it perfectly when he described that event. There has been quite a lot of care and attention taken with the design of this project. In fact, the span of the bridge was designed and painted to replicate fig leaves and has provided an incredible centrepiece for this structure. Another interesting fact about this project is that 95% of the workforce that helped construction was based in Brisbane and South East Queensland.

Again, as the Chair mentioned, it provided a welcome boost to the local economy. Some 90% of the project supplies were also sourced from local businesses, including cranes and barges. In fact, the now famous barge, Leanora, known for her appearances on other iconic projects such as the Go Between Bridge and Indooroopilly Riverwalk, provided her services to this project. Whether you are a family out and about on the weekend or a commuter into the city, the Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge provides endless possibilities. I look forward to seeing the finalisation of the next bridge for Brisbane from Kangaroo Point to the CBD very soon as the Schrinner Council continues to deliver the infrastructure needed to keep Brisbane moving. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak briefly on this report. I have to firstly begin by saying it is great to see one of the initial five green bridges completed.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Oh. Look, hey. I’ll take that interjection. Yes. Look, it’s small but it is great to see it completed because I know residents, not only of that ward but also of my ward, have spoken to me about how great it is to have it. These are pedestrians, runners, bike users. They’ve talked to me about how much safer they feel using that bridge rather than being right next to a really busy and hostile environment that was there previously. The bridge shows the importance of creating safe and accessible active transport routes and the benefit that the community, not only locally, but also citywide gains from these investments. The work does continue. It’s particularly important to connect the riverwalk, which is a broken connection as a sidenote.

I do believe there is a new petition up just recently, which the title is, ‘Teneriffe development must deliver a world-class riverwalk bikeway to ensure there is a connection between Newstead Park and the riverwalk just across from the Teneriffe ferry terminal’. For those watching, if you value this, you’re engaged with this, please go online and check out that petition. Of course, the other missing connection, as great as this one is, is of course the missing CityLink Stage 3. Let me be clear. CityLink Stage 3 is a really important project, not just for people going south and north, but also north to south and beyond. I will state that currently, CityLink Stage 3 is missing from the website. But I know that I and many other stakeholders are waiting in anticipation for the continuation of that incredible project.

Again, it is great to see that this bridge is done. People are talking about how great it is to feel safe and protected and that’s what we need to continue to deliver—more protected bike routes, more safe pedestrian walkways and more safety for people that could choose to ride or other activities. I also recognise scooter usages in this. So, well done that. I will also just state very quickly $92,000 was possibly a little bit too much for the opening ceremony celebration. It might have been a bit too much. I think it’s good that the residents of Brisbane know this now because it’s important for them to know the cost of these things, but apart from that, congratulations on finishing one of the five bridges promised five years ago.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Very briefly just on the Breakfast Creek green bridge, I, too, heard with some shock that the event that was held on 10 February cost $92,000. What is even more shocking is what is in paragraph four of the Transport Committee report before us today, that approximately 3,000 people enjoyed the entertainment. Approximately, so we don’t know for sure how many did. I’m sure that’s over—I saw some of the pictures on the news, too, so that seems like an overstatement to me, too. However, the issue of concern to me is in the middle of an election campaign, $92,000 was allocated for an event that benefited two marginal Councillors—for sure—for sure and—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s all right. It’s okay. Councillor WINES can interrupt and interject. But that’s fine. That’s fine. So—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

Continue, please, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You just can’t do it, can you? You just can’t say their names when they do the wrong thing. That was Councillor WINES interjecting.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That was Councillor WINES interjecting, if anybody’s wondering.

Chair: I’ve pulled you all up every time that you’re all commenting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, you don’t.

Chair: He wasn’t shouting across the Chamber to you. Continue speaking.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, unfortunately, you apply different standard to me than you do to other people.

Chair: No. That’s not true. Continue speaking.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It is true. Without question, that’s true. Without question.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I know. I know. Yes, so $92,000 was spent on this party in the middle of the election campaign to prop up a few LNP Councillors. Now, to be fair, that’s a lot less than the $6 million they spent trying to save Krista last time—Councillor ADAMS last time and I hear an obscene amount of money for the Nudgee Rec Reserve as well. But what I will say is I think there would be a lot of residents in my part of the world that would be shocked at the amount of money that’s been spent here—$92,000. We get more people to Junction Fest in Annerley and Council puts in $2,500. $2,500.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: We get—I don’t know—7,000 or 8,000 people to the Sherwood Festival. They get $25,000. That’s still not—that’s—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, one third, maybe. No, not even one third. It wouldn’t even be one third. We get thousands to events in my local area and we never see money like this so I find it astonishing that in the middle of an election campaign, $92,000 would be spent in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis that this LNP says, oh, we’re the best financial managers out there and the reason people voted for us is because of our excellent financial management and all of these things. Nobody in their right minds thinks $92,000 for a party where there’s some sausages and a *Bluey* performance is a good use of money.

We’ve got grass that’s not being mowed, we’ve got potholes that are not being filled, we’ve got trees that aren’t being trimmed, we’ve got parks that were damaged two and a bit years ago that aren’t open. You name it. There is an issue with how this Administration is spending public funding. That public funding, when somebody thinks it’s appropriate to allocate $92,000 for a sausage sizzle for a bridge opening, that is astonishing. It is unreasonable. It is irresponsible. It is not good financial management. It is just—you know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Councillor. Yes. I appreciate that. Thank you. Yes. It’s good electioneering, was the interjection. I thank Councillor STRUNK for that observation. That is the only thing that it is good for—electioneering and that’s why it was done. Because $92,000 of ratepayers funding going into an event like this in the middle of an election campaign is inappropriate. It is not good financial management. It is irresponsible and it is a huge waste of money when you compare it to all of the other service issues that this city is experiencing. To make a choice like this to spend this much money is just wrong. It is just wrong. I don’t know why somebody thinks this is appropriate to do this. It just shows bad judgement all round.

It is indefensible. Certainly, it is something that I’ll be making clear to my residents when this Council says no to fixing a sports field or not doing the mowing or not trimming the trees. The $125 million for the Olympic junkets and now the $92,000 for the barbeque. I can tell you they are not good uses of funding. I don’t support what they’ve done here with respect to this. It is wrong.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to enter the debate and to support this wonderful Committee presentation, primarily because it’s connecting my fantastic ward with the fantastic Hamilton Ward. I was there on the opening day and Shannon Ruska did the most amazing job of a Welcome to Country but also telling the story of this area, which I hadn’t known about before. I know through you, Madam Chair, that Councillor MURPHY had made sure that there is a plaque there that tells people who are using this on a regular basis all of the amazing history of this particular area. Now, Madam Chair, quite some time ago, I was a trustee of the Newstead House and I know that Newstead House people have been absolutely waiting for this to happen. It is something and the former Senator, Claire Moore, who was the Chair of that Committee was there on the day—I spoke to Claire and she was very excited about the fact that this was going to be a great advantage to Newstead House.

Now, Newstead House, which of course is in Newstead Park and is a much-loved area—it’s a historical park. It’s something that we have all worked together—so the State Government with Newstead House and the enormous amount of money that’s been poured into that to bring it back to where it needs to be so that people can once again visit. But how fantastic is it that they can ride their bike or walk across this fantastic bridge. It was great on the day to see so many people participating as we cut the ribbon and everyone walked across the bridge. I think I even saw the Anglican Archbishop in his shorts, which is not something that you see every day. But he lives on the other side and again, said that it was—everybody was so looking forward to this bridge being opened.

Of course, Madam Chair, through you, the report shows us that over the March period we had 600 cycle journeys per day and over 2,000 pedestrian and e‑mobility journeys per day. Now, that’s just amazing, I think, for an area that is such a wonderful space. It certainly has increased the accessibility to Newstead and Belmont Hills, which of course, Belmont Hills is part of my ward and it’s enhancing access to Newstead Park and Newstead House, something that I know was very much looked forward to by the people who are involved in that fantastic offering. It’s also an amazing piece of architecture as you drive along Kingsford Smith Drive to see something that is so beautiful.

It was also, I think—I understand that Councillor DIXON was always talking about, this is happening now, this is happening now. Her residents were talking to her on a daily basis to say, when is it going to be open, when is it going to be open? My residents were talking to me on a daily basis to say, when will it be open? So, there was a great deal of excitement on the morning. Of course, everybody loves *Bluey* so I don’t know why anyone in this Chamber would be upset that *Bluey* was appearing because I think that’s the most fantastic thing—appeared at Victoria Park just on the weekend. Thousands of children love *Bluey* and so I think that it was a great way to celebrate something that is going to be of huge benefit to the city. Not just to my residents and not just to Councillor DIXON’s residents, but right across the city.

People will be picnicking in Newstead Park. They’ll be wandering across the bridge. They’ll be going off over the Lores Bonney Walk and again, so much history right across that particular area and now all connected and joined up and something that is just going to be so superb for this fantastic city, so I thoroughly recommend this to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY, right of reply?

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I thank Councillors PARRY and HOWARD for their contribution to the debate. I think they really get it. This is a great asset. This is not our asset. This is not a Brisbane City Council thing that only Brisbane City Council can use. This is an asset for the city and people were and have for a long time, been genuinely looking forward to this bridge opening. We wanted to give that community something to celebrate and they did celebrate, Madam Chair. They turned out in their droves to support the opening of this bridge. I thank, also, Councillor MASSEY for her comments about the program. Indeed, we knew we were on to a good thing with this bridges program when we started to see it appear in Councillor Sri and Michael Berkman’s materials that went out to the community telling everyone that it was actually their program and Council had just copied their homework.

Look, I will say—and I did hear Labor scoffing at the size of this bridge, the length of this bridge over there. Oh, it’s not a very big bridge. Oh, you’ve only done one out of five. Well, I’ll just say this, Madam Chair. I will just say this, Madam Chair. Labor have never, at an election, committed to building any of these bridges so they measure our progress against what we’ve said, ourselves. They’ve never said, oh, we’d build 10 bridges and we’d build them this high and they’d be this long and they’d go here or there or anywhere. They’ve never committed to green bridges. They’ve never said that they would do any. So, they’re only holding us to our own record. They’re comparing our record to our record. If they came up with an alternative proposal—they had the guts to do that, then maybe we would be able to have an interesting conversation when it comes to these bridges, but they have never committed to doing a single one.

Councillor JOHNSTON, Madam Chair. Where do you start with her contribution? First of all, she got it wrong. Hamilton Ward is not a marginal ward at all. If we were doing this to support a marginal ward, then it would be the worst act of political malfeasance in the history of political malfeasance because I believe she has the safest ward in the city, pretty much, so that would have been very silly an investment on our side of things.

In fact, actually if Councillor JOHNSTON had done the digging, she would have found out that this opening was planned prior to caretaker period even commencing on 27 January. You know why it was delayed? Not due to me. Not due to the LORD MAYOR. Not due to the CEO. It rained. It rained and so we put it off. What were we to do, Madam Chair? Hold the bridge closed for several months until we had cleared caretaker and been sworn in twice? No, Madam Chair. No. We wanted to get it open so people could use it—so people could use it.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Councillors.

Councillor MURPHY: Look, I get it.

Chair: There is another Councillor on their feet speaking so you will remain quiet.

Sorry, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: The other point to make, Madam Chair, is how disrespectful it would have been to engage seriously and for a long period of time with Traditional Custodians on the name of this bridge, Yowoggera and then not have them there for the opening. We’ll just tell them, oh yes, we opened that a couple of weeks ago. Go down. Check it out. We did a smoking ceremony. We did the Welcome to Country. We appropriately acknowledged their contribution to the name of that bridge and we also acknowledged the historic Newstead House of which the restoration has effectively completed at the same time as the bridge opening, so it was a great celebration of all things Newstead Park and of those fantastic communities down there. As I said, people came out in force for it.

So, I get that some of the Councillors on the other side are very *Chicken Little*. They don’t think it was a good investment of money to spend some money to have an opening event for this bridge, but I will say it’s a very special day in the life of the city to open a bridge as substantial as the Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge and we don’t regret it one bit.

Chair: Thank you.

We’ll now put the report to the vote.

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 Danita Parry (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Greg Adermann, Lucy Collier, Julia Dixon and Emily Kim.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BREAKFAST CREEK / YOWOGGERA BRIDGE

**506/2023-24**

1. The Project Director, Major Projects, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the completed Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge (the bridge). He provided the information below.

2. An aerial view and context map were shown to the Committee, displaying key features of the bridge, which provides a diagonal connection from the north-west corner of Newstead Park, Newstead over Breakfast Creek, connecting to Kingsford Smith Drive and Cameron Rocks Reserve, Hamilton. Spanning approximately 80 metres, the bridge provides the following key benefits and transport connections:

- an improved walking and riding link in the northern active transport corridor network

- the connection and extension of the Lores Bonney Riverwalk from Cameron Rocks Reserve to the northern bridge approach

- a dedicated two-way on-road bike path along Breakfast Creek Road and Newstead Avenue, through to Newstead Terrace at Halford Street

- increased accessibility to growth areas at Northshore Hamilton, Albion, Newstead and Bowen Hills

- enhanced access to Newstead Park and Newstead House.

3. The Committee was shown images of the bridge, which was completed in February 2024, with various aspects of the project highlighted including the architectural and public safety lighting. Balustrading lighting was used instead of light posts to minimise the visual impact to Newstead Park, with the controllable LED lights able to be programmed with colours and sequencing. Park furniture and security features were also emphasised such as the installation of four CCTV cameras, help points, drinking fountains, rubbish bins, seating and interpretative signage.

4. The bridge opening day was held on 10 February 2024 and attended by approximately 3,000 people who enjoyed entertainment, food stalls and a *Bluey* live interaction. Since opening, daily patronage in March averaged more than 600 cycle and 2,000 pedestrian and e‑mobility journeys per day, which is an increase to patronage on the previously available active transport network.

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

6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. Look, let me begin with a general comment about the portfolio and say, within the coming days, there will be a major event at the Indooroopilly roundabout removal project. We’ll be shifting vehicles onto our new over-road bridge, which will be a key milestone—the first time that’ll be used. That is hopefully, weather permitting, this week. We’re very much looking forward to that. The southern approach will be allowed to use the bridge and then turn right at the new set of lights we’ve built for them up on what we call, internally, the service road, but the road that a lot of people in Councillor ADERMANN’s ward have been using to travel over the top—no—that people from Councillor ADERMANN’s ward—they travel through, largely directs from the west.

But this is a major, major milestone in a project within Councillor WOLFF’s ward. I know that it will materially—I actually—it’s my view that the T-intersection that we built as a temporary work was a big improvement on the roundabout, let alone the total project when it comes to its natural completion. Staying in Walter Taylor Ward, the report from last week reflects our work at the Fig Tree Pocket and Kenmore Road intersection, which was a—which is a project which was funded in cooperation with the Federal Government. They provided an $11 million grant to us for a $12 million project to upgrade this particular intersection and it is pretty impressive. The intersection itself handles about 21,000 vehicles per day and that through the period 2018 through 2022, there were three motor vehicle collisions that required hospitalisation.

So, this is a major intersection. It feeds—It’s difficult to describe if you’re not familiar with it but it is the easiest way for people who are non-local. It’s effectively the way to Lone Pine, but also provides a lot of access to highways and the Western Freeway and a lot of key arterial roads in the southern Kenmore and Fig Tree Pocket area. The project was primarily a safety upgrade, but we took the opportunity to do some significant works for efficiency and also improving access to public transport.

As I stated earlier, the crash history—it was one of the two major feeder roads for the whole suburb Fig Tree Pocket. There was no crossing facilities for pedestrians near this location. It’s one of the better aspects of this program that we’re—or this project, I should say—that allowed us to build those. Some Councillors in the Committee noted the marked improvement in both the road itself, but also the pedestrian access around it to move around the intersection as well. A lot of the work to ensure this project was able to go ahead actually depended on a series of retaining wall work, so it’s significant earthwork. If you were to take the time to go and visit the site, you’d see probably a 10 to 12 metre—excuse me—a 10 to12‑metre-high retaining wall holding in the south-eastern bank, which required a great deal of work just to get that in place.

The key benefits of the project were an improved intersection, safety for all road users through the installation of traffic lights and signalised pedestrian crossings and improved travel time reliability and overall operation, including right-turn movements into Errogie or Errogie, depending on your preference place, without disrupting through traffic, improved pedestrian connectivity to public transport and residential areas. Also, I’d like to thank all the team in CPO (City Projects Office) who were able to deliver that project. Now, before I move on to petitions, there was some discussion in Question Time where the LORD MAYOR indicated that I would provide further information on Cactoblastis Corner.

Cactoblastis Corner suffered a severe landslip in the 2022 flood event. An application was made to the QRA—the Queensland Recovery Authority to seek funds to assist us to do that. The original submission was for $11 million however with further investigations and protected cost escalations, we revised the request up to $17 million. The design of scope has not been finalised for the approach to rectification. The Cactoblastis Corner was the worst—I think some geography of the site should be reflected upon. This is a landslip into the river. The location is near and includes parts of Sherwood Arboretum. It also includes land owned by QUU (Queensland Urban Utilities). It also includes privately held land and if there’s any conjecture about who owns the river—just in case anyone ever wonders—the State Government owns the river, all right?

So, there’s a number of landholders and the landslip is into the river. Just to reflect upon that, much of our landslip work that you would have seen tends to be Council land, into Council land or Council land or private into Council or Council into private. That is largely where you see our work. Where it’s Council into State Government, a lot of that work is the responsibility of the State Government. We submitted that Disaster Recovery request to the QRA. This site represents a real and genuine challenge from an engineering perspective, considering that the waterline moves. The Brisbane River is—and I’ll be corrected if I say this wrong—but it’s a brackish estuarine tidal waterway so it goes up—it increases its height with the tides. It does not merely flow in one direction.

The intersection of the—and so as—so I’ll just—so in case Councillors don’t know this, the State Government owns to the top of the high water mark—is their property line. I think it’s important just to reflect on that. So, they own the river to the peak of the high water mark. Now, this is a significant landslip which has, as I say, the officers have considered a range of solutions. Let’s stay on the funding just for a moment. When people make statements such as, the QRA has given money, the QRA has not given money, the QRA has approved a potential payment up to $17 million which our estimations say is not enough to cover the potential works for this site—the works themselves—the work on a site like this, which is a water-based landslip, is not consistent for, say, something like in Councillor DAVIS’ ward in McDowall—the Shand Street intersection, which is clearly a land‑based slip where you have options such as pinning, retaining walls.

That would be your two natural ones. You could also use gabion baskets or rock walls. There’s a view that retaining walls, gabion baskets, rock walls would not necessarily survive a significant flood event because there is a likelihood they may well be undermined if we were to do it that way. So, the price on this is very high. The technical difficulty is very high and the jurisdiction still remains within the State.

So I hope that that provides enough information to respond to that matter from earlier. There are four petitions with us today: one in Councillor DIXON’s ward for Harbour Road, Hamilton, where we—where they requested some speeds, some pedestrian safety, but the speed limit being 60 kilometres an hour, it was not available to be provided to her. However, there is a speed limit review to see if we can’t get it down to 50, so we could be able to put in some speed—excuse me—some pedestrian protections in that area. There is a request in Chandler Ward for some yellow lines at Aveo at Carindale, which we did. There was a request—a universal request for the reduction of speed limits on all roads without a footpath to 40, which because of the universality of that and because a motorist would have to decide or determine while they were driving whether a road had a footpath or not and whether it was therefore 40 or 50, it was an impractical proposal.

Also, there was a request from the residents of the western suburbs to seek improved access or improved ability to leave their communities in the event—I should say leave their communities or be provided with food and water in the event of natural disasters. They asked for a particular bridge to be upgraded. We’re not going to be upgrading that bridge, but Council will be coming into ownership of a new flood-resilient bridge within the next six months at Mt Crosby, rather than Kholo. While it’s not the site that is requested in this, it is still, I hope, a significant improvement for community members in that area. They also—we have significant—the western suburbs were a focus and have seen a considerate—a considerable uplift in the number of automated flood warning signs in the western suburbs.

So they’ve asked for a particular bridge. We’re going to have a different one for them; higher, flood resilient. Will also protect their water and sewer supply. So, hopefully, that information provided to you today allows for proper consideration of the many elements of today’s report.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Today I rise to speak of item A of the wonderful upgrade to the Fig Tree Pocket Road and Kenmore Road intersection. Before the great work of the Schrinner Council, this was a tremendously dangerous intersection, with little line of sight from either end. A memorable moment for me as Councillor and in my first week in office I was able to turn on this new set of traffic lights with thanks to Councillor WINES for allowing me the honours. This upgrade has brought vast improvement for the people of Walter Taylor Ward. Traffic numbers through the intersection in Fig Tree Pocket are high and, as this is a growing area, the issues in this area would have only worsen. Sadly, previous accidents onsite have resulted in hospitalisation, meaning that this was a prioritised location due to safety.

The $12 million project also includes early warning lights on Kenmore Road and Fig Tree Pocket Road to provide motorists with sufficient notice to brake when approaching the intersection. The project also benefits local residents with the installation of new signalised pedestrian crossing facilities and constructing bike on‑off ramps at the crossing, which did not exist before. This has improved safety and connectivity for people walking and riding in the area and allows cyclists to connect with new pathways or simply utilise the crossing facility. This project has also allowed for key lane reconfiguration to the intersection. As a result, has significantly reduced congestion.

While out door-knocking Fig Tree Pocket earlier this year and also after hosting two mobile pop-ups directly at this intersection, I can report that many local residents have shared that the safety has significantly improved at this intersection. One resident located directly at the intersection shared with me that their family had a chair specifically for the use when accidents occurred at this intersection. Thankfully, since this wonderful upgrade, the said chair is no longer required. Additional positive feedback from the community I have received includes the new traffic lights and crossing facilities has not only improved safety, but also improved access and connectivity to public transport and our residential areas.

Another resident shared, it is wonderful that the intersection has also realigned to include Errogie Place. This allows residents to enter and exit the residential estate more safely, with full access in and out of Errogie Place, rather than the previous left-in and left-out arrangements. Lastly, this new pedestrian crossing facilities and new footpaths has enhanced pedestrian use and connectivity to the bus stop and to our local area. Madam Chair, I am delighted to report that the Fig Tree Pocket Road and Kenmore Road intersection upgrade has improved the overall efficiency of the intersection and enhanced safety for all. I am grateful to the Schrinner Council for this excellent upgrade to this intersection. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor STRUNK.

**S****eriatim - Clause E**

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| Councillor Charles STRUNK requested that Clause E, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IDENTIFY AND FUND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AND FLOOD RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS FOR BRISBANE’s WESTERN SUBURBS, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor STRUNK: I rise to speak on the petition by a number of residents in the Pullenvale Ward. Well, almost 300 people, actually, signed the petition. It’s a petition calling for a—to identify and design a integrated transport flood-resilient solutions for the Brisbane western suburbs, specifically in the Pullenvale Ward, as it turns out. I think it’s a timely petition. It’s been about two years, been over two years, since the 2022 floods and I’m sure it’s—I’m sure the residents of the Pullenvale Ward, especially where the flooding occurred, are still very—it’s still probably very raw to them, because they haven’t really seen anything transpire that would actually improve the flood resilience of this area. So they’re asking, I think, a very sensible question that this City Council for those residents out at Pullenvale that they should receive some design or some solutions that will help to mitigate the flooding in that—in those areas that flooded.

Now, we know that in 2022 Mt Crosby, Karana Downs, Moggill, Bellbowrie, Kholo, Pullenvale and Anstead were isolated after the Brisbane River hit a—major flooding levels, right, after a torrential rain event. I think we called it a rain bomb. That was a new term that was used then. The—and, of course, there were some extraordinary individuals that took the bull by the horns, if I can use those terms and one local resident actually employed one of his—his own helicopter to relieve and fly in some emergency medical supplies, as well as other much-needed stuff for—to help residents out in those isolated areas. Of course, he initiated it himself, which is fantastic to have a resident that’s able to do that. Then, of course, the SES (State Emergency Service) came in after that, as well, because they had their hands pretty full right across Brisbane, not just there. They also initiated those care flights as well.

So I think the 225 residents—sorry—I said about 300, but it’s 225—209 of those were actually living in the ward of Pullenvale. All right? Now, if we look at the response that was—that came forward from the petition from—to send out to the petitioners, right, there is a number of—there was a number of things that that response dealt with. But what they really didn’t deal with was the drainage issue. They dealt with roads. They talked about the hierarchy of roads in the area to—in and out, which is a TMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads) responsibility. But they didn’t really talk about what drainage could be—drainage solutions that could have been potentially planned for and then funded to help mitigate those flooding areas, of course.

One of the—probably one of the more problematic areas, of course, is that—is in Kholo Road, which is a bridge. Right? A one-lane bridge, which has existed for many, many years. I think even back into the—well, probably 40 or 50 years ago that I used to traverse that on the way to Ipswich back in the good old bad old days and I knew where the flood causeways were. Now, as I say, the response only identified what they were going to do in regards to initiating and installing a new flood warning sign, an additional flood warning sign that’s—that is solar-power driven, which is good, but I think most of the residents in that area, the long-term residents at least, know where it floods and when it floods and how much rain has to come down before it starts. So, yes, the sign’s great, right, but no other initiatives, no other things that Brisbane City Council is going to do.

The most—they say most of the roads, well, they’re TMR problems. They’re not our problems. But Kholo Road is a Brisbane City Council problem. Drainage is a Brisbane City Council issue. Right? So, I think especially the people at Kholo, 396 people actually live at Kholo itself and, of course, that’s—from what I understand during this petition, that’s sort of ground zero in regards to a real major issue, especially that one-lane bridge, which floods not just at 100-year floods, but at other times through the years as well. So I just think Councillor ADERMANN should probably sit down with the lead petitioner on this and just work out what’s the best way forward to alleviate some of those.

We won’t be able to alleviate all of the issues, but some of those issues through drainage and other—and especially the bridge. We had all that talk about how much bridges are. We’ve just spent hundreds of million dollars on a bridge and what about the people of Kholo? Why don’t they deserve to have that bridge of theirs redesigned and reconstructed, so that it’s at least above the flooding high mark? Now, that may cost tens of millions of dollars, but I think they have the right to see their houses and their properties being able to—being able to actually get in and out of, right? If a bridge—a reconstructed bridge like the Kholo Bridge or the Bell Bridge, I think it’s called, I think they have every right and every—and this Council has every opportunity to fund that.

I just impress upon the Councillor for that area to work with this Administration and try to alleviate some of those problems that have been identified in the petition. We, on this side, won’t be supporting—we won’t be supporting the response, because we don’t think—we think it’s inadequate and this Administration should do more. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor WINES, right of reply.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. I just wanted to respond to a couple of the statements made by Councillor STRUNK and to take an opportunity to thank Councillor WOLFF. Now, Councillor WOLFF, of course, was very enthusiastically there turning the lights on, on their first day of operation. I think it was lunchtime on Friday, if memory serves. It’s great to see Councillor WOLFF be able to take such ownership of what is a great project for her community and anecdotes that she spoke to are one of the great pieces of feedback that we—that we always have confidence that when these projects are complete people will appreciate what we were trying to do and see the benefits of those.

I think that some of the anecdotes provided by Councillor WOLFF speak to that and they really did—I’ll make sure that the team hear those and also that the one that stayed with me was that residents had a special chair for seating people who had an accident, but no more. That’s really what it’s all about in the end, is making sure that people are safer when they move around and that’s a very—very good news that they don’t have to have that anymore. Now, we—there’s a couple of comments that Councillor STRUNK made. One was that a western suburbs individual had a helicopter that came in.

Well, that helicopter was piloted by and owned by an individual named James Robinson, who’s a well-known western suburbs figure and he’s a—I suppose we’ll call him a friend and associate of Councillor ADERMANN, who arranged for that sort of mercy drop, that food package drop from Robbo. As I say, Robbo’s a well-known person in our community and he was there and we all know that we appreciate him and his work and him being there for his community. Him, as I say, well known in that part of the world. Now, Councillor STRUNK laboured on the point, that this asked for a bridge in a particular place and we’re building a bridge somewhere else. Now, we are taking ownership of a new bridge at Mt Crosby that will be higher, stronger, wider than the existing bridge.

It will satisfy much of the concerns. Now, there are two elements to Councillor STRUNK’s notes that I think he misunderstands parts of the western suburbs in that area. One is that the people in that community value their rural and semirural lifestyle. They think it’s really important. It’s one of the reasons they choose to live in that community, one of the reasons that the zoning is such in that community to have it—that part of the city in the way that it is. So—but to do that, you don’t overengineer it.

That being—and the other fact is that a lot of residents in that area, while many of us in our communities have a—I would call it a central facing, as in most of us go back and forward to the city—in the western part of Pullenvale Ward, I suspect a lot of people interact a lot with the Ipswich community, would that be fair to say and that they—that individuals in that part of the world would say—send their children to schools in Ipswich, rather than in Brisbane City. That was, I think, one of the central complaints—I shouldn’t do that—one of the central concerns of the residents in the outer western suburbs was how do they get their kids to school when the roads are cut?

Well, soon, we’ll be in control of a new bridge that will allow access for residents in that area west to access foods and fresh water, if required, in the western—in the Ipswich area, but also get their kids to school, which I actually think was one of the unspoken, but understood concerns from that community. When I say unspoken, I mean, of course, in this note, not in—they were, of course, very clear in their verbalisation of that. So hopefully we will—thanks, Madam Chair. I just understood that if anyone speaks, the obligation is the speaker stops and is silent for a small amount of time.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: I understood that’s the new accepted way of doing things here. So there is a new bridge in the outer western suburbs that will do everything that is requested of this petitioner, but not at the location they asked. I trust that when that is open and operational, they will see the significant benefit to their community and I look forward to them using it.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

We’ll now put item A, B, C and D to the vote.

**Clauses A to D put**

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

Chair: Now, I’ll put item E to the vote.

**Clause E put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair) and Councillors Steven Huang, Nicole Johnston, Kim Marx and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – FIG TREE POCKET AND KENMORE ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE

**507/2023-24**

1. The Program Director Civil and Transport, Project Management, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Fig Tree Pocket and Kenmore Road Intersection Upgrade. He provided the information below.

2. The Fig Tree Pocket and Kenmore Road Intersection (the intersection) provides access to the Centenary Motorway, Moggill Road and Lone Pine Reserve, Fig Tree Pocket. The intersection is used by approximately 21,000 vehicles per day. Between 2018 and 2022 there were three crashes which required hospitalisation.

3. The intersection upgrade was completed in December 2023 and was jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government’s Roads to Recovery Program. Benefits of the upgrade include:

- improved intersection safety for all road users with the installation of traffic lights and signalised pedestrian crossing facilities

- improved travel time reliability and overall operation of the intersection, including right-turn movements

- improved pedestrian connectivity to public transport and residential areas.

4. The Committee was shown images of the intersection prior to and following the upgrade. A timelapse video was also shown, which was filmed over the six-month construction period from June to December 2023.

5. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Program Director Civil and Transport for his informative presentation.

6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL UPGRADE THE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON HARBOUR ROAD, HAMILTON

**137/220/594/251**

**508/2023-24**

7. A petition requesting Council upgrade the existing crossing on Harbour Road, Hamilton, to a zebra crossing with signage, was received during the Spring Recess 2023.

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

9. The petition contains nine signatures. Of the petitioners, two live on Harbour Road and seven live in other suburbs in the City of Brisbane.

10. Harbour Road has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and is classified as a suburban road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy. Suburban roads connect to arterial routes in and around suburbs forming an important link in the public transport and inter‑suburban freight network. Suburban roads are typically designed to carry traffic movements, rather than provide property access and high volumes of traffic are expected. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

11. The petitioners’ request for Council to upgrade the existing crossing on Harbour Road to a zebra crossing with signage is noted. The existing crossing is defined by footpaths and kerb ramps at the location. To highlight the crossing location on Harbour Road to approaching motorists, Council has installed high‑visibility pedestrian crossing warning signs.

12. Zebra crossings in Brisbane are installed in line with the requirements outlined in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and Australian Standard 1742.10‑2009 (AS). There are specific guidelines within the MUTCD and AS where the installation of a new zebra crossing is deemed appropriate, with consideration given to approach speeds, consistency of pedestrian demand, available sight distance and local environmental factors. These guidelines are used to ensure the crossing operates in a safe manner and ensures the safety of pedestrians using these crossing facilities.

13. It is a requirement under the MUTCD and AS that the road approaching a zebra crossing must have a maximum speed limit of 50 km/h or lower. As the speed limit on Harbour Road is 60 km/h, a zebra crossing is not supported.

14. Notwithstanding this, Council is currently undertaking a formal speed limit review (SLR) for Harbour Road to determine the suitability of the current 60 km/h speed limit. All speed limits across Queensland are determined in accordance with guidelines set out in the MUTCD and the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes* *– Guide to Speed Management* (QRSTUV), ensuring that speed limits are set in a consistent and credible manner across Queensland.

15. The completed SLR report will be submitted to the Speed Management Committee (SMC) for endorsement. The SMC consists of members from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service and Council. If the SLR report recommends a change to the speed limit for Harbour Road and the report is endorsed by the SMC, Council will implement the new speed limit accordingly.

16. While no changes are currently proposed to upgrade the existing crossing, should the speed limit on Harbour Road be reduced to 50 km/h or lower, Council will investigate the location for a zebra crossing with signage to be installed.

Consultation

17. Councillor Julia Dixon, Councillor for Hamilton Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

20. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/251

Thank you for your petition requesting Council upgrade the existing crossing on Harbour Road, Hamilton.

Your request for Council to upgrade the existing crossing on Harbour Road to a zebra crossing with signage is noted. The existing crossing is defined by footpaths and kerb ramps at the location. To highlight the crossing location on Harbour Road to approaching motorists, Council has installed high‑visibility pedestrian crossing warning signs.

Zebra crossings in Brisbane are installed in line with the requirements outlined in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and Australian Standard 1742.10‑2009 (AS). There are specific guidelines within the MUTCD and AS where the installation of a new zebra crossing is deemed appropriate, with consideration given to approach speeds, consistency of pedestrian demand, available sight distance and local environmental factors. These guidelines are used to ensure the crossing operates in a safe manner and ensures the safety of pedestrians using these crossing facilities.

It is a requirement under the MUTCD and AS that the road approaching a zebra crossing must have a maximum speed limit of 50 km/h or lower. As the speed limit on Harbour Road is 60 km/h, a zebra crossing is not supported.

Notwithstanding this, Council is currently undertaking a formal speed limit review (SLR) for Harbour Road to determine the suitability of the current 60 km/h speed limit. All speed limits across Queensland are determined in accordance with guidelines set out in the MUTCD and the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes* *– Guide to Speed Management* (QRSTUV), ensuring that speed limits are set in a consistent and credible manner across Queensland.

The completed SLR report will be submitted to the Speed Management Committee (SMC) for endorsement. The SMC consists of members from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service and Council. If the SLR report recommends a change to the speed limit for Harbour Road and the report is endorsed by the SMC, Council will implement the new speed limit accordingly.

While no changes are currently proposed to upgrade the existing crossing, should the speed limit on Harbour Road be reduced to 50 km/h or lower, Council will investigate the location for a crossing with signage to be installed.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Ben Clayton, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 1318.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL RESTRICT PARKING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DRIVEWAY AT AVEO PARKSIDE ON BANCHORY COURT, CARINDALE

**137/220/594/267**

**509/2023-24**

21. A petition requesting Council restrict parking on both sides of the driveway at Aveo Parkside on Banchory Court, Carindale, was received during the Summer Recess 2023-24.

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

23. The petition contains 52 signatures. All the petitioners live at Aveo Parkside, Carindale.

24. Banchory Court has a speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as a neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

25. The petitioners’ request for Council to restrict parking on both sides of the driveway at Aveo Parkside, is noted. In early 2024, Council installed a number of yellow lines and moved the existing nine metre‑long passenger and commercial loading zone further west, as requested. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the sign and line marking plan.

Consultation

26. Councillor Ryan Murphy, Councillor for Chandler Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

27. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

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

29. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/267

Thank you for your petition requesting Council restrict parking on both sides of the driveway at Aveo Parkside on Banchory Court, Carindale.

Your request has been noted by Council. In early 2024, Council installed a number of yellow lines and moved the nine metre-long passenger and commercial loading zone further west, as requested.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Brian Nichol, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3403 7674.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON ALL BRISBANE STREETS WITHOUT A FOOTPATH

**137/220/594/286**

**510/2023-24**

30. A petition requesting Council reduce the speed limit on all Brisbane streets without a footpath, was received during the Summer Recess 2023-24.

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

32. The petition contains 116 signatures. Of the petitioners, 110 live in various wards in the City of Brisbane and six live outside the City of Brisbane.

33. The petitioners’ request for a speed limit reduction to 40km/h or lower on all roads in Brisbane that do not have a footpath is noted. All speed limits across Queensland are determined in accordance with guidelines set out in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes*, ensuring that speed limits are set in a consistent and credible manner across Queensland.

34. The speed limit in built-up areas (local streets) in Queensland is 50km/h unless otherwise signed. This speed limit is considered appropriate for most local streets in built-up areas throughout Queensland.

35. Roads identified as potentially suitable for reviewed speed limits are subject to a formalised speed limit review (SLR) process, which takes into account the road’s function, recorded traffic speeds and volumes and environmental characteristics, including presence of a footpath and crash data. The recommendation from the review is then presented to the Speed Management Committee (SMC) for endorsement. The SMC has representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Council.

36. Council considers requests for SLRs from the public and prioritises roads with high potential crash risks, significant crash history and speed-related road use concerns. Council will continue to monitor the suitability of speed limits throughout Brisbane.

Consultation

37. As this is a citywide matter, Councillor Andrew Wines, Civic Cabinet Chair for the Infrastructure Committee, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

40. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/286

Thank you for your petition requesting Council reduce the speed limit on all Brisbane streets without a footpath.

Your request for a speed limit reduction to 40km/h or lower on all roads in Brisbane that do not have a footpath is noted. All speed limits across Queensland are determined in accordance with guidelines set out in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes*, ensuring that speed limits are set in a consistent and credible manner across Queensland.

The speed limit in built-up areas (local streets) in Queensland is 50km/h unless otherwise signed. This speed limit is considered appropriate for most local streets in built-up areas throughout Queensland.

Roads identified as potentially suitable for reviewed speed limits are subject to a formalised speed limit review (SLR) process, which takes into account the road’s function, recorded traffic speeds and volumes and environmental characteristics, including presence of a footpath and crash data. The recommendation from the review is then presented to the Speed Management Committee (SMC) for endorsement. The SMC has representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Council.

Council considers requests for SLRs from the public and prioritises roads with high potential crash risks, significant crash history and speed-related road use concerns. Council will continue to monitor the suitability of speed limits throughout Brisbane.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Kevin Chen, Transport Network Engineer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 2019.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### E PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IDENTIFY AND FUND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AND FLOOD RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS FOR BRISBANE’s WESTERN SUBURBS

**137/220/594/184**

**511/2023-24**

41. A petition requesting Council identify and fund integrated transport and flood resilience solutions for Brisbane’s western suburbs, was received during the Summer Recess 2022-23.

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

43. The petition contains 225 signatures. Of the petitioners, 209 live in Walter Taylor or Pullenvale Ward, eight live in other wards in the City of Brisbane and eight live outside the City of Brisbane.

44. The petitioners’ request for improved road connectivity to Brisbane’s western suburbs, is noted.

45. The Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) own and manage the major connecting roads to Brisbane’s western suburbs. TMR are responsible for the planning and operation of Mt Crosby Road, including Colleges Crossing, Chuwar; and Moggill Road, west of the Centenary Motorway, including the Kenmore roundabout, Kenmore, to the Moggill Ferry service, Moggill. TMR also manages the Moggill Ferry service through a contract with a private operator. While Council has no jurisdiction with respect to the above transport infrastructure networks, Council will continue to advocate for improvements on behalf of the residents of Brisbane.

46. The Kholo Road bridge, Kholo, also known as ‘Bell’s Crossing’, is a Council-owned bridge and Kholo Road is classified as a Neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy. As such, the single-lane bridge was built with the primary purpose to service a relatively small local community. It was not intended to provide the same flood immunity as other major road bridges, such as the Centenary Motorway bridge at Jindalee, during severe weather events. Currently, there are no plans to make changes to the river crossing at Kholo at this time.

47. During the February 2022 rainfall and flood event, Council’s Local Disaster Coordination Centre organised emergency supplies to be delivered to isolated western suburb communities. The supplies, including requested emergency medication, were delivered by helicopter. Emergency supply deliveries will continue to be actioned in future events when possible to do so and resources are available.

48. Flood resilience is important to Council which prioritises flood resilience upgrades and improvement projects across the city as part of its annual budget. Council is continually looking for improvements, ensuring roads are as accessible as possible, while still being cost-effective.

49. Council has installed Automated Flooded Road Warning Systems (AFRWS) to enhance road safety and reduce the risk of motorists driving into floodwaters during periods of heavy rainfall. This initiative is part of Council’s commitment to making Brisbane’s roads safer. Systems have been installed in flood‑prone locations to provide immediate warning to motorists of flooded road conditions using highly visible LED road signs.

50. The LED road signs are automatically activated when floodwater levels exceed a threshold determined to be generally unsuitable for safe passage. Signs are located on approaches to flood-prone locations and display a ‘ROAD CLOSED AHEAD / FLOODING AHEAD’ message that is highly visible to motorists night or day. Some locations may also include a ‘ROAD CLOSED – NO ENTRY’ message. All locations have cameras in place to allow remote monitoring.

51. AFRWS are solar powered and locally sourced, which allows these systems to be implemented in semi‑rural locations where mains power may not be available and provide an improved level of reliability during severe weather events where interruptions to mains power may occur. The locations where AFRWS are currently installed can be viewed by searching ‘AFRWS’ on Council’s website at [www.brisbane](http://www.brisbane).qld.gov.au.

Consultation

52. Councillor Greg Adermann, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

53. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

54. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Nicole Johnston and Charles Strunk dissenting.

55. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/184

Thank you for your petition requesting Council identify and fund integrated transport and flood resilience solutions for Brisbane’s western suburbs.

Your request for improved road connectivity to Brisbane’s western suburbs, is noted. The Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) own and manage the major connecting roads to Brisbane’s western suburbs. TMR are responsible for the planning and operation of Mt Crosby Road, including Colleges Crossing, Chuwar; and Moggill Road, west of the Centenary Motorway, including the Kenmore roundabout, Kenmore, to the Moggill Ferry service, Moggill. TMR also manages the Moggill Ferry service through a contract with a private operator. While Council has no jurisdiction with respect to the above transport infrastructure networks, Council will continue to advocate for improvements on behalf of the residents of Brisbane.

The Kholo Road bridge, Kholo, also known as ‘Bell’s Crossing’, is a Council-owned bridge and Kholo Road is classified as a Neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy. As such, the single-lane bridge was built with the primary purpose to service a relatively small local community. It was not intended to provide the same flood immunity as other major road bridges, such as the Centenary Motorway bridge at Jindalee, during severe weather events. Currently, there are no plans to make changes to the river crossing at Kholo at this time.

During the February 2022 rainfall and flood event, Council’s Local Disaster Coordination Centre organised emergency supplies to be delivered to isolated western suburb communities. The supplies, including requested emergency medication, were delivered by helicopter. Emergency supply deliveries will continue to be actioned in future events when possible to do so and resources are available.

Flood resilience is important to Council which prioritises flood resilience upgrades and improvement projects across the city as part of its annual budget. Council is continually looking for improvements, ensuring roads are as accessible as possible, while still being cost-effective.

Council has installed Automated Flooded Road Warning Systems (AFRWS) to enhance road safety and reduce the risk of motorists driving into floodwaters during periods of heavy rainfall. This initiative is part of Council’s commitment to making Brisbane’s roads safer. Systems have been installed in flood‑prone locations to provide immediate warning to motorists of flooded road conditions using highly visible LED road signs.

The LED road signs are automatically activated when floodwater levels exceed a threshold determined to be generally unsuitable for safe passage. Signs are located on approaches to flood-prone locations and display a ‘ROAD CLOSED AHEAD / FLOODING AHEAD’ message that is highly visible to motorists night or day. Some locations may also include a ‘ROAD CLOSED – NO ENTRY’ message. All locations have cameras in place to allow remote monitoring.

AFRWS are solar powered and locally sourced, which allows these systems to be implemented in semi‑rural locations where mains power may not be available and provide an improved level of reliability during severe weather events where interruptions to mains power may occur. The locations where AFRWS are currently installed can be viewed by searching ‘AFRWS’ on Council’s website at [www.brisbane](http://www.brisbane).qld.gov.au.

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

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

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

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before I get to the Committee report, I would like to provide the Chamber with an update of the 2023 Artforce Brisbane Awards that were held last Wednesday. I’d also like to acknowledge that several of our Council colleagues were there. Councillor MASSEY was there, Councillor STRUNK and Councillor HUANG. So they certainly got an opportunity to witness the great work that’s done through this program and also to witness the joy, I guess, of those artists who were receiving awards. One of the things that I found pretty interesting and certainly I think a lot of other people didn’t appreciate it was that the Artforce program is in its 25th year.

Beginning in 1999, Artforce Brisbane is a community art project that enables local residents to paint their original artworks on traffic signal boxes across Brisbane. It is open to everyone and we’ve seen a diverse range of artists, including families, schools and community groups, as well as many talented individuals participate over the years, usually presenting works that reflect the community they live in and the surrounding area. The program is an example of how art exists all across Brisbane and local artists do a wonderful job in transforming our city, turning the dull into the dynamic and brightening residents’ days. In 2023, we saw 76 artworks painted, including 65 traffic signal boxes, two MUX boxes and nine Energex pad‑mounted transformers.

We also had First Nations works by Jabiru Community College in Zillmere, Mary MacKillop College in Nundah, which is in my ward and by Eckersley’s Art & Craft, who supported emerging artists Chelsea Carkeet’s work in Lutwyche. All Hallows’ Schools also provided an artwork by First Nations artist, Chern’ee Sutton, which was produced as a vinyl wrap around two traffic signal boxes that are located too close to the kerb to be safe to paint. These are the first of many digital wraps planned for adorning boxes that are unsafe to paint. Last year, we also saw Brisbane Grammar, Brisbane Girls Grammar and Brisbane State High School participate.

The program also sees the inclusion of community groups and in 2023 we had participation from some very special community groups, namely, the Lovewell Foundation supporting women through challenging life experiences, the Australian Red Cross Migrant Support program, supporting asylum seeker families and the Wesley Mission’s Art from the Margins program, supporting artists with disabilities. As usual, we have some wonderful artworks by children and young people and we treasure their voices in our communities. The Artforce program is a great way of nurturing our local talent and providing meaningful and valuable public art experience.

The 2023 artworks feature all creatures weird and wonderful from imaginary underwater monsters to exotic sloths, from our beloved Rainbow lorikeets and valuable police dogs to our not so beloved swarms of mozzies and blood-sucking leeches. On the night, we also heard an inspiring story from Lisa-Marie Vecchio. Lisa was a previous winner of the Lord Mayor’s Award. Since the award and based off the success of her original Artforce box, she has created murals and pursued design and branding opportunities. Lisa has also had one of her Artforce box designs feature as a backdrop for a *Vogue* photoshoot. Madam Chair, I would like to congratulate the following award winners. So the Lord Mayor’s Award was Ally Douglas, for her work *Arcade*.

The People’s Choice Award, Gabrielle Oliffe, for her work *Roll With It*. Best Organisation was the Wesley Mission’s Art from the Margins for *Leeches Day Out*. Best Primary School Kindy and Creche was the Brisbane Grammar School for *Under the Sea*. Best High School was Mary MacKillop College for *Connections Underground*. The Best 18 and Under from Brielle Dunkinson for her work *Paww-lice Dog*. Best 12 and Under, Stella Minotto for her work *Don’t Hurry, Be Happy*. The Best Energex Box was Bronte Mark for her work, *Toot Toot Beep Beep Hoot Hoot Tweet Tweet*. Best Overall Traffic Signal Box was Tara Hooppell for her work, *Our Ekka*. I’d also like to thank all the participants for volunteering their valuable time, creative effort and labour.

Just like myself, I know the local residents and communities also appreciate the works completed. Finally, I’d like to acknowledge the Artforce team, specifically Beth and Susan, who have coordinated the 2023 Artforce program. Now, turning to the Committee report, item A was a presentation on a development at 44 Roma Street, Brisbane City. The proposed development sits on an underutilised 402‑square‑metre site and will provide much-needed short-term accommodation in Brisbane City. The well-considered design includes safe vehicle access and manoeuvring via a one-way porte-cochère. At 12 storeys high, 44 Roma Street will offer 61 bedroom units in a convenient location with access to shops, public transport and community facilities.

The modern design building will host a rooftop garden complete with a swimming pool, lounge area and daybeds, a spa, a barbecue and dining area. Celebrating Brisbane’s subtropical lifestyle, 44 Roma Street includes vertical greenery on each level, with a mixture of shrubs, ground covers and overhanging vines. Additionally, the rooftop will include canopy trees and planters, which will be accessible for maintenance. The rooftop includes soft landscaping of 53 square metres or 16% of the total rooftop area. Recycling is encouraged at 44 Roma Street through the installation of rainwater harvesting systems and a refuse chute with a diverter. The first floor bar and restaurant encourage economic activity and the overall building design contributes to the vibrancy of Brisbane City.

The site is very well located, just a stone’s throw from King George Square. It is close to train stations, bus interchanges and active transport. 44 Roma Street is in close proximity to all the city has to offer, including Suncorp Stadium, South Bank, Roma Street Parklands, Howard Smith Wharves and the Queen Street Mall, just to name a few. From a tourism and economic development perspective, Brisbane needs more short-term accommodation and hotels. Hotels are experiencing high occupancy rates, which will increase over time, given the interest in Brisbane. The development at 44 Roma Street was approved, as it aligns with the Schrinner Council’s commitment to provide additional short-term accommodation supply to boost tourism and economic development in Brisbane. Madam Chair, I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Any further speakers?

If there are no further speakers, we’ll put the motion to the vote.

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

Thereupon, Councillors Greg ADERMANN and Alex GIVNEY immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 24 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, Penny WOLFF and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Penny Wolff (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Seal Chong Wah, Steven Huang and Sandy Landers.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 44 ROMA STREET, BRISBANE CITY (A006291401)

**512/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the development application for 44 Roma Street, Brisbane City (the site). She provided the information below.

2. The site has a total area of 402 m² with a street frontage of only 12 m. The development application was code assessable which included material change of use for Short term accommodation, food and drink outlet with bar and hotel. The application was submitted to Council on 9 June 2023 and decided on 7 March 2024. The proposed development is a 12‑storey building with 60 one-bedroom units, a rooftop garden and one basement level for services and storage.

3. The site is located in a Principal centre (City centre) zone as part of *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. Located next to the Turbot Street overpass, the site shares a boundary with Heritage Lanes, 62 Ann Street, Brisbane and is near the Mercure and Pullman Hotels, Brisbane Magistrates Court and King George Square bus station.

4. The design comprises integrated landscaping, vertical and horizontal articulation and a distinctive crowning element. While the site area and street frontage are small and narrow, the design still achieves:

- convenient and safe vehicle access and manoeuvring via a one way porte-cochere

- onsite servicing

- prioritised pedestrian access

- landscaping on the ground-level

- casual surveillance along Roma and Turbot Streets

- setbacks that minimise impacts on amenity and privacy

- balance between service cabinets and active spaces.

5. Each level will include six units ranging in size between 32.2 m² and 41.5 m². Key views from the north‑east to the north-west and natural daylight is maximised by fronting all units to the street boundaries.

6. The rooftop garden has a total area of 334.3 m² and will include a swimming pool, spa, day beds and barbeque, dining and lounge areas. The site provides a total landscaping of 192.2 m² which incorporates vertical greenery on each level with a mix of shrubs, groundcovers and overhanging vines and rooftop canopy trees.

7. The building will have access via two driveway crossovers and a porte-cochere that will accommodate up to three cars and onsite servicing. Car and bicycle parking is not required for this land use and the building will be serviced by private contractor via an 8.8 m medium rigid vehicle.

8. The proposed development demonstrates the key strategies to maintain sustainability. The following sustainable elements have been included in the design:

- rainwater harvesting

- integrated landscaping to provide shading and cooling

encouraging sustainable transport modes

- diverter in refuse shoot to promote recycling.

9. The area surrounding the site is undergoing significant transformation with a number of projects in planning, under construction or completed. These projects include:

- Turbot Street pickleball courts

- Heritage Lanes, 62 Ann Street

- the proposed Brisbane Live area

- the proposed Roma Street Station upgrade.

The proposed development will support Brisbane’s tourism industry by providing additional accommodation in the most popular destination of Brisbane CBD.

10. The proposed development provides the following community benefits.

- Additional short-term accommodation supply to boost tourism and economic development in Brisbane.

- Revitalisation of an underutilised site in the city and will contribute to the vibrancy of the city and encourage economic activity.

- A new public bar and restaurant.

- Streetscape upgrades to Roma and Turbot Streets.

- A well-designed building that contributes to Brisbane’s skyline.

11. The proposed development was approved for the following reasons.

- Efficient use of a small site, designed to its surrounding context.

- Accommodates high-density development to make the most of public transport infrastructure and good access to shops, public space and community facilities.

- Maintains the close-knit street grid at the heart of the city centre with street buildings that occupy most of the site framing and activating the public realm at street level with layered, permeable and subtropical façades.

- Provides a modern building that contributes to the city’s distinctive skyline and provides elevated outdoor areas.

- Provides wide, sheltered footpaths that provide for the comfortable movement of pedestrians.

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

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor DAVIS, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation continued our introduction of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability portfolio with an overview of the Major Projects and Asset Coordination section of NEWS (Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability). As you know, Madam Chair, we are working hard to improve Brisbane’s lifestyle by creating more to see and do and the Major Projects area have a big role to play in that. The Major Projects team are the delivery arm of our program and they help keep Brisbane the most sustainable city in Australia and their remit ranges from oversight to our significant asset portfolio and major capital projects to coordinating service delivery through our three environment centres.

This also includes engagement with a huge and diverse range of stakeholders and I’m sure there’ll be many Councillors here who have had an interaction with Wade Fitzgerald and his team about a project happening in their ward. We heard about some of the fantastic projects that the team in NEWS have responsibility for, the Major Projects team, like the Nudgee Recreation Reserve, which we had—Wade returned to the Committee today to do a deep dive on, so I won’t say too much about that now, except that it was a fantastic project that has delivered a world‑class sporting facility in our suburbs.

I know that Councillor ALLAN is particularly grateful to Wade and the team for all of their hard work to get this one over the line, particularly with the delivery of those particular facilities for the local community to enjoy, just as you had promised, Councillor ALLAN. Of course, on the southside, we have the Brisbane International Cycle Park (BICP) at Murarrie Recreation Reserve, which Councillor ATWOOD tells me is referred to as the Muzz by those in the know and we know that’s well underway at the moment. It’s a project which is delivering a world‑class cycling facility and that’s not just a figure of speech. The concept was also worked through with AusCycling, which is the national peak body for all things on two wheels and consulted with the Union Cycliste Internationale, which is the world governing body for sport cycling.

So while everything is being built to an international standard, it is being delivered by a Brisbane-based builder using local contractors and suppliers with over 1,800 people working on the project, including 35 apprentices. As you know, Madam Chair, both the Nudgee Rec Reserve and the BICP at the Muzz are former landfills. While a lot of our parks and reserves are former landfill sites, even Victoria Park, Murarrie and Nudgee Rec Reserve are great examples of adaptive reuse.

Historically, when a landfill reached capacity, it would be capped, turfed and used probably as a simple playing field with a low level of embellishment. But the team in Major Projects have led the way in embracing new technology to allow us to do even more with these assets and really unlock their potential. But we don’t just deliver world-class sports parks. The team is also responsible for supporting less formalised sporting across our open space network and I know that they are very excited to be rolling out brand new pickleball courts at Greenways Esplanade Park, Finsbury Park, Sheriff Park and John Magee Park, to support Brisbane’s growing pickleball community.

This isn’t the only citywide park enhancements being rolled out. They’re also busy with the Sun Safe Suburban Playgrounds Program, which is now in its second year. Queensland holds the unenviable mantle as the skin cancer capital of the world, but here in Brisbane we are doing our bit to make sure families can ensure our parks whilst staying safe from the sun in those really hot parts of the day. The program has seen more than 50 playgrounds installed in the first year alone across almost every ward in the city. Each site is quite different and we need to ensure that any infrastructure installed is strong and safe, as well as meeting the appropriate Australian Standards.

As well as delivery of our ongoing projects, it would also be remiss of me not to mention a couple of feathers under this team’s cap, like the award-winning Hanlon Park project. This was a bold and innovative project that involved the removal of a 100-year-old concrete drain and the realignment of this stretch of Norman Creek and transforming it into a vibrant and flood-resilient urban waterway. I know that Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s community really appreciates and enjoys this space and will continue to do so into the future. It’s such a great project with such fantastic outcomes that it didn’t take long after the project was completed in 2022 for the awards to start flowing in. The first was winning the Stormwater Queensland award for excellence in integrated stormwater management, which I know the team is very, very proud of. We then won the Australian Institute of Landscape Architect’s Queensland Award in land management and open space.

In late 2023, the project was recognised again with not one, not two, but three national awards. Firstly, the Parks and Open Space Awards of Excellence, which is the first and highest award by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects to a work judged to be the most significant advancement of landscape architecture in each category. The second was the National Landscape Architecture Award, which was awarded to a work of excellence demonstrating consummate skill contributing to the advancement of landscape architecture. Last, but not least, was the Climate Positive Design Award, which is awarded to projects that show significant effort in climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. So that’s a lot of awards for just one project, Madam Chair. I know the team, as I said, is very, very proud.

Of course, that’s not the only award worth mentioning. I mentioned earlier today that Bradbury Park, the playscape, was also delivered by this team and there have been a string of awards associated with this, including Brisbane’s Building of the Year. So, again, congratulations to the team for that outstanding achievement. They have a very important role to play in the delivery of infrastructure in the community. The work that they do is very well-received by residents. The work that they do is highly recognised, not only domestically, but internationally. We know that people come when they visit from overseas and want to go to Hanlon Park and see the work that’s happened there.

We know that they’re dropping into places like Victoria Park, as well and I was very happy to host a delegation from Western Australia at Bradbury Park and they just could not believe how fantastic this playscape was and that Brisbane City Council were leading the way in innovative design for playscapes out in our parks. So, again, thanks to the officers for their very informative presentation. Thank you for the Councillors in the Committee for asking some really great questions. But, Madam Chair, we also had a couple of petitions. There were two of them, so I’d like to leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the report, as well as speak on one of the petitions.

**Seriatim - Clause C**

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| --- |
| Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS requested that Clause C, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL PURCHASE LAND ADJOINING MT GRAVATT OUTLOOK RESERVE AT 139 KLUMPP ROAD AND 2 O’GRADY STREET, UPPER MT GRAVATT, TO EXPAND KOALA HABITAT, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor GRIFFITHS: First, there’s a saying amongst staff and I think it’s very apt, no news is good news. Their experience of the NEWS area in Council and certainly my experience of the NEWS area in Council is not as glowing as yours, Councillor DAVIS. Because I find that they’re very biased in their delivery and in the provision of their services and provision of their planning in delivery and planning across the city. If you’re in an Opposition ward, I find you get very different treatment from our NEWS team than you do from other areas of Council. It is so blatantly obvious.

I have to say that I don’t see them as a great sparkling light that’s leading us towards sustainability.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I see a lot of people who are delivering for the LNP and who are quite okay with doing that. So I know we have presentation after presentation and some good things happen, but so much more could happen. Where are we on the innovation scale? I’d say we’re pretty low. I think this Council’s not leading, as much as we keep patting ourselves on the back for how much we’re doing, we’re not leading. In fact, recently, I had a discussion about how we maintain our waterways in my area. I’ve got eight waterways, eight different creeks, eight different waterways in the area. I said, show me—well, I actually had a meeting NEWS and was it PSO (Public Space Operations) or PPI (Program Planning and Integration)? They all sort of merge. I was trying to get the NEWS people to talk to the delivery people. It was like the people on Mars shall meet the people on Venus at one point.

They just wouldn’t talk and they’re at different points and different understandings of what they should be delivering. I thought, this is Council. This is Council under an LNP Administration. It’s dysfunctional. It’s not delivering and it’s not delivering for the environment. This is—I asked the staff. I said, you can give me a list of roadwork that should be done in my ward or across the city. Give me a list of park work that you’re doing for the next three or four years in my ward. They couldn’t. It doesn’t exist. When I asked that question of NEWS, they go, oh, oh, oh. They couldn’t answer either. We’re doing Oxley Creek in your ward. So to all the people who think NEWS is fantastic, I don’t. I think you have a long way to go and I think you’re really underperforming.

I think that’s the view of this team. There’s a lot of underperformance with the work being done by NEWS. Yes, it’s the first item here. Certainly, I’ll be having more and more to say and I know we’re here about the great work that’s been done in the LNP parks. I’d like to see some great work done in my parks. Crazy, I know. Actually, I know there was an election and I know you won. You keep telling us and, yes, we won too. Under the City of Brisbane Act, you’ve actually got to deliver for everyone in the city, not just for LNP areas.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That’s the City of Brisbane Act. That’s the law, but that is not what is happening. Anyway, I’ll keep putting forward ideas about what should be happening, but I think a perfect point to which I’m speaking is the petition response here. Councillor JOHNSTON, it’s actually—this is in an LNP member’s—LNP Councillor’s area. I note that they didn’t actually direct the phone number in the letter that’s going to residents, they didn’t direct it to the LNP Councillor to speak to those people. They direct it to a Council officer. Isn’t that incredible? Yes. So happens sometimes to you, Councillor JOHNSTON, for some reason and it shouldn’t be.

So let’s have a look at petition C, requesting Council purchase land adjoining Mt Gravatt Reserve Outlook, 139 Klumpp Road and 2 O’Grady Street, Upper Mt Gravatt to expand koala habitat. Isn’t this amazing? It didn’t come back before the election. The things that are coming back after the election, so they’ve been cancelled, they’re not happening. We’re going to Paris. All these things suddenly happen after the election. All the officers fall into place after the election. So interesting to watch. So this is telling 2,000 people who think that we should be using the money we take from them for purchase of bushland, they think it should be spent on buying bushland. Crazy thought. Absolutely crazy thought.

We only spend—well, I think it’s down to 18% of the money we collect, we take from residents, to buy bushland, we only spend 18% of that in buying bushland. This is another site that has 80% vegetation cover and, I suspect, could have another 30% vegetation cover, that NEWS is saying we shouldn’t be buying. This is the great NEWS branch. The great people of conservation across the city not delivering for our city, not delivering for our residents, but delivering for the LNP. Well, I think this is wrong. We won’t be supporting this recommendation, because this bushland, we are under our target. We are under our target for buying bushland. We should be over and exceeding our target, but we’re not. We’re not and we’re allowing so much clearing.

This was a perfect site to buy, particularly when the NEWS branch is in discussions with Griffith Uni about taking their land over at the Griffith Uni side, the eastern side of the South East Freeway. So I just—you know, I think this is counterintuitive to what the LNP says it’s doing with regards to bushland. It’s counterintuitive to our goals as a city and it’s really—it’s taking the residents of Brisbane for fools for thinking that their bushland preservation money should actually be used for buying bushland. Yes. I think it’s a really pathetic response. It doesn’t fool me. It doesn’t fool residents. It’s about delivering less for residents and about delivering, actually genuinely delivering, less for our wildlife. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, I rise to speak on item C of the Committee report on the petition. I think what Councillor GRIFFITHS has just said, of course, that’s typical Labor’s delivery of projects. They’ll spend the money that shouldn’t be spent.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, we all sat here—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, we all sat here in complete silence and listened to you. Every word.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Madam Chair. For the subject property on the corner of Klumpp and O’Grady Street, Upper Mt Gravatt is a property well known by the local community as a chicken farm. It is a property that reflects the rich local history and the collective memory for many of the people who grew up in the area. This property is also quite large in size, approximately 12 hectares. As stated in the report, this block of land supports important habitats adjoining Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve and most of the bushland area is currently included in the Environmental management zone of the Brisbane Planning Scheme within *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. This comprises of 70% of the total site area.

The area of important habitat on the subject land are also included in the City Plan Biodiversity area overlay mapping. The Biodiversity areas overlay requires that new development is designed and constructed to protect habitat and wildlife corridors. In other words, should the current owner wish to make changes to the use of the existing property, he will provide the Council the opportunity to retain the environmentally significant area through the development process. So that means this will result in a win-win situation where the owner can proceed with the objective, the Council can retain the environmentally important area without costing ratepayers.

The wildlife will continue to live and roam around this area, so if we can do that without costing the ratepayers and—why would we spend all the money now, which is going to benefit the—whoever who wants to develop the area? So that is typical Labor’s way of managing finance. So I would like to thank the Committee for supporting this petition and I commend the report to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUANG.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on petition C specifically. I will speak quite briefly to this position. Firstly, though, I will note the amazing amount of petitioners and signatures in this petition, 2,202. So congratulations to those residents. Congratulations on those residents to create an active campaign to buy back this land. What that number says to me is that there are residents that want this done.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: They want it done today, not maybe tomorrow. The second thing that I’ll note on this petition is through, Madam Chair, just speaking to what Councillor HUANG said, which is the fact that it is under an Environmental management zone. It is under Biodiversity also. So what that actually tells us is that it is perfect for buyback. Like, those things are actually some of the most convincing reasons why we should buy it back. The fact that it is already acknowledged as important for environmental management, the fact that it’s already acknowledged that it is an important part of biodiversity for that area are—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I’ll get there. I’ll take that interjection, Councillor GRIFFITHS and it has koalas in it. I mean, those are the actual reasons why we should buy it back. We are talking about using the bush buyback levy, which is a levy that exists for residents and it is there in their rates to buy back bushland like this. This what it’s supposed to be used for. So when we talk about opportunities for this Council, for this LNP Administration to show leadership—because, I mean, I don’t think there’s a single person in this Chamber that won’t put their hand up if you say, who loves koalas? I think we all love koalas, right? We all love koalas. I love koalas. In fact, I’m going to—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I love *Bluey*, too. We all love koalas. In fact, just this weekend I was going through the city and there was some visitors, tourists from New Zealand, that I overheard being like, how do we get to Lone Pine? When will go to see koalas? They asked a bunch of people that had no idea. I was like, stop. I’ll tell you where there’s koalas. I’ll help you with your bus. Koalas are an attraction for this city and we keep hearing over and over and over again how important these attractions are and how special koalas are, because let’s be real. Chlamydia has had a terrible effect on koalas. So here we are, this parcel of land. There’s biodiversity. There’s environmental management over it. It’s the perfect piece of land. If we love koalas, let’s do it for them. Let’s buy it back for koalas.

This response to 2,202 petitioners is—which is a lot of people—is just not good enough, because they want this bought back. We do, too. The Greens want this bought back, because we believe in biodiversity and habitat. We believe that the bushland levy should—which this is perfect for—should be used to buying back this land, even—and I acknowledge through you, Chair, the Councillor DAVIS mentioned that the owner did not want to separate the parcels. I completely understand that, but even then, with over 70% coverage, we should be buying this. We should be revegetating. We should be supporting biodiversity and we should be supporting our beloved koalas.

Chair: Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. That is why I thank goodness each day that the financial responsibility of Team Schrinner comes to the fore when it comes to how we manage our money in this place.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I have to agree wholeheartedly with Councillor MASSEY on one thing.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR.

I was very lenient while you were chatting to each other, Councillor GRIFFITHS, which you did during Councillor MASSEY’s speech amongst yourselves while she was trying to speak. It is disrespectful, so I ask you to remain quiet while each Councillor, all of us, have an opportunity to speak.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do agree, as I was saying before I was rudely interrupted, that bushland acquisition money’s absolutely there for endangered bushland. But those who come in from other areas and don’t understand how things work will know that this is not endangered bushland. The Williams chicken farm has been on this site for decades. The Williams family are extremely well known in the community and this petition was set up very, very early when there was discussions of sales on the farms after the passing and the settling of the estate of Mr Williams, who passed about 12 to 18 months ago.

The thing you need to know, this is the reason it has got Environmental management protection and Biodiversity overlay, is that I ensured as the local Councillor that it was put on these lots when we did the Mt Gravatt Corridor neighbourhood plan over 12 years ago. It’s been made very clear to these owners for 12 years that they will never be developing on these blocks and they will be handed back to Council if they are doing any development on what is now the actual chicken farm site, which is one out of the three blocks. All of these petitioners have been told exactly that very quickly after they contacted Councillor HUANG and myself via email, personally, that that is absolutely the situation. The petition response reflects that we’ll consider in the future, but we will not need to consider it in the future.

The owners, the daughter of, have contacted Council and made it very clear that they would like to rehabilitate and use the actual chicken farm lot for housing. Looking forward to see whether in a housing crisis those on the opposite side won’t support housing right beside the freeway. But two-thirds of this site, two out of the three lots, because of this Administration’s protection in the neighbourhood plan, will come back to Council. So I make no apologies for this side of the Chamber, when we won’t spend $18 million on buying something that we’re going to get for free.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: It comes back through the requirement of the EMT (Executive Management Team) management, through the neighbourhood corridor plan and we’ll get some housing on a site that is actually the deforested chicken farm that will take a bit of time, because it needs to be rehabilitated, but the owners are working through that.

The hypocrisy of Councillor GRIFFITHS from the ALP, who just knocked down a hectare of koala bushland at QEII (Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital), cleared the koalas to build a parking lot. I think we can sing a tune to that. We are not the ones on the side of the Chamber that are knocking down koala bushland, Councillor GRIFFITHS. The ALP are knocking down bushland. We have had this saved for over a decade and we don’t need to spend $18 million because we’re going to get it through the development application. I support this petition to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on item C. It is astonishing, the extraordinary difference between responses from this Administration to buyback of bushland. There’s a number of things that this throws up to me. I don’t know how much it all is and I don’t think it’s in the report, so I don’t know where these numbers are coming from. I don’t know if they’re commercial-in-confidence or whether they’re not, public figures or whatever they might be, I have no idea where those numbers came from, whether they’re accurate or whether they were confidential, so that’s the first issue.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I won’t repeat the number that Councillor ADAMS mentioned several times. The big issue though is we’ve got 2,000 people who’ve signed a petition and the request is that we use our buyback funds to purchase some of this land. Now I’m not 100% sure of what deals were done as part of the neighbourhood planning process and if there’s some return of land that happens under that process when a development application is lodged, then that is a tenuous and I mean—no, well it’s a tenuous process. So let me start with the idea that somehow City Plan will protect this land from development. The first thing I will say is when developers want to develop, they override City Plan and they put in—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I mean it’s not unheard of, we see it every week in this place and we know that developers do not like trees on their blocks because it minimises their footprint, so they do like to knock them down. Now the big issue we’ve got is when a developer puts in a development application—and I know this sounds like super‑simple stuff, but when they put in a DA, they usually don’t follow the rules. They usually ask for more than they are technically allowed to have under the planning scheme. This is not uncommon, it happens all the time, all over Brisbane, it’s not specific to anywhere.

The first thing I would say is the idea that somehow something in City Plan will ensure that land will actually be kept for some environmental purpose at some future point that may never happen, I mean that’s magic pudding stuff from the DEPUTY MAYOR. I will also say that when she says that the land is located in protected areas under City Plan, so the Environmental management area and also noted under the Biodiversity overlay, so presumably it’s of high—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. I can point to multiple sites in my ward alone where Council has knocked down trees in the most highly protected zones in Brisbane to allow housing and there are multiple blocks in Corinda and Oxley that immediately come to mind. In Oxley Terrace, in Cliveden Avenue and in the one on the other side of the road that I can’t remember the name of, where again we tried to protect that land. So these are areas mapped within high ecological areas of protection and recognised as being significant and yet this Council’s planning scheme has allowed parts of those sites to be developed for houses, knocking down trees where it’s koala habitat, it’s close to the Brisbane River area.

So the idea somehow that simply having these overlays on the property will protect the land from development is farcical, it’s farcical. The development team at Brisbane City Council override the planning scheme every single day in their decision-making and they do it even where there are environmentally significant overlays that are supposed to protect the site. So I have zero confidence that this will protect the site and I’m pretty certain that the 2,000-odd people that signed this certainly will, certainly will, certainly will have problems with taking such a tenuous guarantee. Now I’m not entirely sure what this means.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Of course they allow for offsets, of course. Yes, thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS. They don’t always come to fruition either, so in any conditions they go well yes, you can knock all of this land down, but as long as you build—you know, you plant trees out at Pullenvale somewhere you’ll be fine. That’s usually—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Or on the roof, yes. Well no, to be honest it’s usually out at Pullenvale. That seems to be where all the offsets are being done. So Council’s—thank you for clarifying—allow that’s a—that is true. Now we also know that Councillor ADAMS herself has had a patchy track record on these matters, right? So here is the DEPUTY MAYOR standing up saying no, no, no, the land that is considered to be environmentally significant, that is protected for this purpose, we can’t buy that back. But gee whiz we’ve got to buy back the three house blocks in Mt Gravatt East where there are no koalas and no trees and we’re going to spend $6 million doing that, but no, no, no, we can’t possibly buy back land near forest, significant environmental overlays and protections, because oh my gosh, it’ll cost a bit of money. That’s why people are paying to get this land protected.

Now of course the owners don’t want to split the block up because they want to maximise their sale to a developer and a big one at that, who will go here’s my DA, here’s my DA. They’ll knock down every tree they can that is not within the designated area, then they’ll put a DA in to knock down every tree they can. Yes, I don’t know when this will actually happen, if it’s in 10 or 20 years, let me get the crystal ball out here and say (1) Council will approve this, there’ll be hundreds of townhouses on it and (3) they’ll be offset somewhere absolutely nowhere near this and this important environmental area will be lost.

Now Councillor GRIFFITHS—sorry, Councillor ADAMS also has a difficult position with respect to townhouses. In some parts of Mt Gravatt, Upper Mt Gravatt, she doesn’t want any townhouses. In other parts of Mt Gravatt, knocking down trees for townhouses is perfectly acceptable. So again there is this level of well, the planning scheme will protect everyone. No, it won’t. It is overridden by the decisions of Council planners every day and there is evidence to support that in my own ward, as well as elsewhere in the city.

(2) The local Councillor seems to be cherry-picking what’s good for her community. So knocking down trees for townhouses in some parts of her area is perfectly okay, but in other parts of the area of course not. Knocking down houses, houses under the buyback scheme, where it wasn’t environmentally significant land, no independent research was done, it wasn’t mapped under any overlay scheme, none of these criteria were there. Yet that was a priority and that was allowed. To be fair, we all voted for it because it was presented as if it was environmentally significant land, yet here we—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —from NEWS, yes. Here we are with this block, which is environmentally significant, it is at risk from future development. There are no guarantees that the city planning scheme will protect it and what kind of wishy-washy response do we get from the DEPUTY MAYOR about this land in her own area? It’s all right, we’ll get some houses on it at some point, but it’ll be protected. She must be living, I think, under a rock to think that the Council planners are going to not allow major development on this site. We have seen it, I’ve seen it, Councillor GRIFFITHS has seen it. We’re watching our bushland go in Corinda and Oxley in environmentally significant areas under the high Biodiversity overlay, we’re watching it go for houses, which is normal out our way.

So again, I don’t want to see residents out my way getting done over if houses aren’t supposed to be being built on this land, which they’re not supposed to be, great, but that is not what this Council is doing. So I just put on the record that this idea that somehow the planning scheme will protect this land is a joke. It is not what this Council does and this land remains at risk because the LNP Councillors are refusing to apply bushland buyback funds that are allocated for this purpose to buy the land. That is the only reason this land remains at risk, because the LNP are opposing the purchase of significant environmentally protected bushland and putting it at risk.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor DAVIS, right of reply.

Councillor DAVIS: Well thank you, Madam Chair and thank you to Councillor HUANG and Councillor ADAMS for your contribution to this debate. The others that made a contribution to the debate seems more about having a crack at particular Councillors in this Chamber rather than the matter at hand, particularly with regards to the—with the petition. You know, Madam Chair, it’s really easy to throw around generalisations and if Councillor GRIFFITHS had asked for a long list of potential park upgrades, I feel very sure that the Council officers would have assisted him, but certainly would have directed him to look at the LGIP (Local government infrastructure plan), which is where he would find that information.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, Councillor DAVIS, until—

Councillor DAVIS: But what I’m really disappointed—

Chair: —Councillors are quiet please.

Councillor DAVIS: —what I’m really disappointed about, Madam Chair, is the disgraceful way in which Councillor GRIFFITHS described very hardworking and passionate NEWS officers that work in the portfolio area for which I am responsible. This is a man that sits on the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, allows officers to present to Committee, rarely says anything in Committee and when he does generally, he’s very pleasant to these officers. So to come in here and speak so coldly and so disgracefully about our Council officers says more about Councillor GRIFFITHS than the work that our Council officers do.

Councillor GRIFFITHS talked about or bemoaned the fact that he believed that largescale projects only happened in Administration wards. I wonder whether Councillor GRIFFITHS recalls a little project that’s happening in Archerfield, called the Archerfield Wetlands project. It’s being delivered by the Brisbane Sustainability Agency at the cost of $20 million. $20 million, Madam Chair. Nothing in his ward. $20 million. Councillor GRIFFITHS has been down to Archerfield Wetlands. The feedback that I hear through Brisbane Sustainability Agency is he thinks it’s a fantastic project and he can’t wait for it to be open for his community to be able to access.

But you wouldn’t know that today by the contribution that we heard, that drivel that we heard from Councillor GRIFFITHS. More than that, I had a little look on Councillor GRIFFITHS’ Facebook page. NEWS doesn’t deliver anything in his ward. The Doolandella Recreation Reserve. Great news for Doolandella. As part of the Doolandella Sports Field Park project, Council have constructed a link path, slab, picnic shelter and furniture. Madam Chair, that was a capital listed project in the 2022-23 budget. This man, Councillor GRIFFITHS, comes into this Chamber and does nothing but criticise the great work that is happening across our city and including in his own ward.

Madam Chair, the Bushland Acquisition Program is part of our ongoing commitment to keep Brisbane the most biodiverse capital city in Australia and I’ve said a number of times in the Chamber that since 1990, about 4,400 hectares of significant habitat has been protected and restored through the program, including important parts of the Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve. The DEPUTY MAYOR spoke about the three parcels of land, two of which are heavily vegetated and are protected under current planning regime.

Frankly, Madam Chair, had the owner of the three properties felt that the two vegetated lots were going to be up to be able to be developed, I’m sure he would have split the three and put them on the market. But he knows or they know that those two of the three blocks are protected and we know that they will come back to Council and that the only one of those three properties that is going to be able to be developed is the old chicken farm that the DEPUTY MAYOR spoke of.

Madam Chair, I’m really very proud of the work that the team at NEWS do. I’m particularly proud of the work that the team do in the bushland acquisition space. What I would just like to share is the process in which figures that the DEPUTY MAYOR mentioned today, with regards to the value of the three properties at $18 million. CPO has a land acquisition team and they’re our experts in this space and it was that team that investigated and put a valuation of around $18 million on those properties.

As has been mentioned, that’s a very significant sum, particularly when we know that two-thirds of it is going to come back at no cost to the ratepayers of Brisbane. Had we purchased it, it would be far and away the most expensive parcel of land ever purchased through the Bushland Acquisition Program. I feel that the ratepayers of Brisbane would see it as very prudent for us to have the land come back to us at no cost, rather than expending $18 million which could go to purchasing other properties that are desirable through the Bushland Acquisition Program. So there are mechanisms to protect environmentally sensitive land. We have no idea at this stage whether the property will be sold and there’s no current development application on it at all.

Madam Chair, I think that some of the commentary today, some of the contributions, as I said, were more about having a crack at particular members on this side of the Chamber, rather than looking at the benefits of having land come back at no cost to Council. I appreciate, Councillor HUANG, that you understand the benefit in that and once again, can I say thank you to the team in NEWS from this side of the Chamber for the work that they do for the City of Brisbane. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

We’ll now put item A and B to the vote.

**Clauses A and B put**

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

Thereupon, Councillors Greg ADERMANN and Alex GIVNEY immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 25 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, Penny WOLFF and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: We’ll now put item C to the vote.

**Clause C put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 8 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Kim Marx (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Alex Givney, Steve Griffiths and Trina Massey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steven Toomey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SUSTAINABILITY – MAJOR PROJECTS AND ASSET COORDINATION

**513/2023-24**

1. The Manager, Major Projects and Asset Coordination, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability (NEWS), City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Major Projects and Asset Coordination (MPAC) team. He provided the information below.

2. MPAC provides leadership on project delivery for Program 3 – Clean, Green and Sustainable City. The team consists of the Major Projects, Asset Planning and Delivery (APD) and Community Engagement teams.

3. Major Projects ensure program and policy strategy outcomes are achieved through project management, community engagement, governance and appropriate procurement for parks, natural areas and waterways upgrades and restoration projects. The team engage with the community and stakeholders to deliver new and iconic sports, metropolitan and district parks and playgrounds and other projects including:

- enhancing park infrastructure with new trends such as parkour and pickleball

- carrying out the sun-safe playgrounds program

- upgrading the Shorncliffe Escarpment

- implementing waterway and catchment improvements such as the *Norman Creek 2012‑2031 Master Plan,* the Kedron Brook catchment planning and prioritisation project and Hanlon Park / Bur’uda

- upgrading the Sherwood Arboretum in the lead up to its centenary in 2025.

4. The APD team work with delivery partners to develop and oversee the delivery of works at parks, conservation reserves and memorial and heritage places. The team also manage the assets within these locations, oversee waterway rehabilitation, undertake drainage and flood mitigation programs and remediate closed landfills to create new greenspace.

5. The Community Engagement team coordinate communication and stakeholder engagement for NEWS programs and projects. The team:

- operate Council’s three environment centres

- deliver the Lord Mayor’s Young Environmental Leadership Network

- coordinate customer correspondence responses

- work with Brisbane Sustainability Agency to deliver sustainability-based community events such as Council’s annual Green Heart Fair.

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

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A BMX TRACK AT FAULKNER PARK, GRACEVILLE

**137/220/594/246**

**514/2023-24**

8. A petition requesting Council construct a BMX track at Faulkner Park, Graceville, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 5 September 2023, by Councillor Charles Strunk on behalf of Councillor Nicole Johnston and received.

9. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

10. The petition contains 64 signatures.

11. Council is aware of the growing demand for off-road cycling facilities, including pump tracks and dirt jumps for BMX riders and other cyclists. Council developed the *Brisbane Off-Road Cycling Strategy* (the strategy), which identifies potential future locations for off-road cycling facilities across Brisbane. The strategy proposes a range of complementary projects to support sustainable and safe off-road cycling, including opportunities to co-locate with other facilities. The strategy has identified Chelmer Recreation Reserve, Chelmer, as a location for a future skills track, dirt jumps or pump track.

12. Council takes a carefully planned approach to acquiring and developing new parks and improving existing parks through *Brisbane City Plan 2014* and the Local government infrastructure plan. This ensures Council responds to patterns of growth and provides a broad range of recreation opportunities for all Brisbane residents.

13. It is Council’s aim to provide BMX and similar facilities in district recreation parks within approximately three to five kilometres of most residences. There are more than 20 parks across Brisbane offering BMX facilities, including tracks located at Chelmer Recreation Reserve; Monier Road Park, Darra; and Goodwin Park, Yeronga. BMX facilities cater for different skill levels and generally consist of dirt tracks, with some offering built-up dirt hills and various types of jumps. Some Brisbane skate parks also accommodate BMX riding and Council hosts BMX, skateboard, scooter and longboard coaching clinics to teach a variety of skills, including skate park etiquette.

14. The development of BMX and similar recreational facilities in Graceville has not been identified in the strategy.

Consultation

15. Councillor Nicole Johnston, Councillor for Tennyson Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

18. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/246

Thank you for your petition requesting Council construct a BMX track at Faulkner Park, Graceville.

Council is aware of the growing demand for off-road cycling facilities, including pump tracks and dirt jumps for BMX riders and other cyclists. Council developed the *Brisbane Off-Road Cycling Strategy* (the strategy), which identifies potential future locations for off-road cycling facilities across Brisbane. The strategy proposes a range of complementary projects to support sustainable and safe off-road cycling, including opportunities to co-locate with other facilities. The strategy has identified Chelmer Recreation Reserve, Chelmer, as a location for a future skills track, dirt jumps or pump track.

Council is committed to creating more to see and do in a city that is clean and green and provides passive and active recreation opportunities for children, adults and families. Council takes a carefully planned approach to acquiring and developing new parks and improving existing parks through *Brisbane City Plan 2014* and the Local government infrastructure plan. This ensures Council responds to patterns of growth and provides a broad range of recreation opportunities for all Brisbane residents.

It is Council’s aim to provide BMX and similar facilities in district recreation parks within approximately three to five kilometres of most residences. There are more than 20 parks across Brisbane offering BMX facilities, including tracks located at Chelmer Recreation Reserve; Monier Road Park, Darra; and Goodwin Park, Yeronga. BMX facilities cater for different skill levels and generally consist of dirt tracks, with some offering built-up dirt hills and various types of jumps. Some Brisbane skate parks also accommodate BMX riding and Council hosts BMX, skateboard, scooter and longboard coaching clinics to teach a variety of skills, including skate park etiquette.

The development of BMX and similar recreational facilities in Graceville has not been identified in the strategy.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Nicola Barlow, Parks Policy and Planning Service Delivery Manager, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, on (07) 3178 7699.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL PURCHASE LAND ADJOINING MT GRAVATT OUTLOOK RESERVE AT 139 KLUMPP ROAD AND 2 O’GRADY STREET, UPPER MT GRAVATT, TO EXPAND KOALA HABITAT

**137/220/594/296**

**515/2023-24**

19. A petition requesting Council purchase land adjoining Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve at 139 Klumpp Road and 2 O’Grady Street, Upper Mt Gravatt (the subject land), to expand koala habitat, was received during the Summer Recess 2023-24.

20. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

21. The petition contains 2,202 signatures.

22. The subject land, being listed for sale as a single lot, adjoins Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve and the petition calls for Council to purchase the subject land to expand koala habitat. Council’s Bushland Acquisition Program (the program) is part of Council’s ongoing commitment to keep Brisbane the greenest and most biodiverse capital city in Australia. Since 1990, more than 4,400 hectares of significant habitat have been protected and restored through this program, including important parts of Mt Coot-tha Reserve, Whites Hill Reserve and Toohey Forest Park. In addition to the program, Council seeks to acquire or protect land through the development assessment process.

23. The subject land supports important habitat adjoining Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve. Most of the bushland area on the subject land is currently included in the Environmental management zone of the Brisbane planning scheme within *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). This comprises more than 70% of the total site area.

24. The areas of important habitat on the subject land are also included in the City Plan Biodiversity areas overlay mapping. The Biodiversity areas overlay requires that new development is designed and constructed to protect habitat and wildlife corridors.

25. Council will monitor this property and any proposed change in the use of this land and will consider further options to secure the environmental values of this land if required.

Consultation

26. Councillor Steven Huang, Councillor for MacGregor Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

28. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Steve Griffiths and Trina Massey abstaining.

29. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/296

Thank you for your petition requesting Council purchase land adjoining Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve to expand koala habitat. The land for sale includes 139 Klumpp Road and 2 O’Grady Street, Upper Mt Gravatt (the subject land), being sold collectively as a single lot.

Council’s Bushland Acquisition Program (the program) is part of Council’s ongoing commitment to keep Brisbane the greenest and most biodiverse capital city in Australia. Since 1990, more than 4,400 hectares of significant habitat have been protected and restored through this program, including important parts of Mt Coot-tha Reserve, Whites Hill Reserve and Toohey Forest Park. In addition to the program, Council seeks to acquire or protect land through the development assessment process.

It is acknowledged that the subject land supports important habitat adjoining Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve. Most of the bushland area on the subject land is currently included in the Environmental management zone of the Brisbane planning scheme within *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). This comprises more than 70% of the total site area.

The areas of important habitat on the subject land are also included in the City Plan Biodiversity areas overlay mapping. The Biodiversity areas overlay requires that new development is designed and constructed to protect habitat and wildlife corridors.

Council is not currently planning to acquire the subject land, however, Council will monitor this property and any proposed change in the use of this land and will consider further options to secure the environmental values of this land if required.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Susan Dymock, Senior Program Officer Bushland Acquisition, Biodiversity and Conservation Planning, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, by phoning (07) 3403 9149.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HUTTON, City Standards Committee.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Sarah HUTTON, 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 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before I get to the Committee report, I just wanted to quickly talk about an event that I attended last week to launch Cleanaway’s new recycling education series and recycling behaviours report. Now, Chair, we have a very strong partnership with Cleanaway and we’re very proud to support this new initiative to help people recycle more. Now it is an animation series that will be shared on social media platforms, so I do hope that some of you may have them popping up in your feed. It’s a really good opportunity to raise awareness and provide education to residents on recycling, as we head towards zero waste in our city. Now it’s easy to recycle when you know how and our free bin and recycling app and website helps break down those barriers and gives some recycling tips and tricks for those who may be a little confused. We’re also wheeling out more services and bigger and better rebates to help residents save money and reduce waste.

I would also like to do a quick shoutout to Councillor KIM for her Facebook post, acknowledging the wonderful work of our asphalt team in her ward. As you can see here, my only hot tip is that you may like to take a photo that you’re not parked on a yellow line. But it’s good, it’s all good, don’t worry, but I know that the asphalt and aggregate—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: That’s okay, it doesn’t matter, it’s all good. I’m just wanting to say it’s really great, it’s wonderful that you are supporting our officers, because our officers are doing a fantastic job. But in the post she reads, for those who—sorry, it reads—sorry, I should read it from here, potholes repaired quickly. Less than a week ago I posted about me and my team reporting this pothole in my neighbourhood and it has been repaired before schedule, so well done, fantastic to see. Unfortunately, some of the commentary from the Opposition has been rather distressing and can I say, Madam Chair, I sit here in this Chamber to support a future and a better Brisbane and it’s disappointing that officers get played as a political football. I really implore the Opposition to rise above. So—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: I think it’s really—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, sorry, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillors, again.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, if you wish to talk to this report, you can once Councillor HUTTON has finished, but not now while she’s speaking.

Councillor HUTTON: It’s really disappointing, Madam Chair, that we do see the Opposition here really play political football with our officers and it’s really disappointing. Councillor COLLIER laughs, she laughs, she doesn’t hear from the officers, who are very distressed—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, Councillor COLLIER, 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 inappropriate comments.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Another Councillor is on their feet speaking. Can you please give them the courtesy of listening, as we will to you when you hop up.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order then.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Just so I’m clear on what is unsuitable meeting conduct and what is not unsuitable meeting conduct, shouting out across the Chamber as Councillor MURPHY did, grow up, is not unsuitable meeting conduct, but Councillor COLLIER shouting out across the Chamber what a joke is unsuitable meeting conduct.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So can you just clarify whether that’s the case?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, thank you.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Again, Madam Chair, point of order.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I have made a point of order.

Chair: Okay and I will give you a ruling and I will call Councillors up, all of them, if I hear inappropriate comments that is not becoming of this Chamber and I will call out people if they are being too loud. Now there’s a lot of conversation going on and there’s often little quips and comments which I let go by. But if you are being inappropriate and I hear it, I will call it out. That is my ruling.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Again my question and my procedural issue about what is unsuitable meeting conduct is whether or not shouting grow up is unsuitable or whether or not shouting you’re a joke is unsuitable.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON—

I can help you out there.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, please.

Chair: I did not hear Councillor MURPHY say that and I hear a lot of people, sounds, noises, et cetera, but I didn’t hear that comment, okay? That is why I did not call that out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor, I’m not debating it with you. I have made my ruling, that’s it.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair and I do want to speak very briefly about the Committee report, which focused on our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events that happen at our memorials. Now they’re two of the most important days for our PSO officers and they dedicate months and months of work to making sure those memorials and spaces look spectacular for those commemorations. We have 60 memorials that are across the city and I do want to put on record my appreciation to the PSO officers for the work that they do. They plan this months in advance to ensure that the plantings are correct and you might have seen from some of the photos in the presentations, they really look spectacular.

Now not only that, they actually do a lot of repairs throughout those parklands, ensuring that the parks look great, ensuring that the seats are stained, the flagpoles are ready to rumble. So I really want to say a huge thank you to our officers, who go above and beyond in this space to ensure that we can really acknowledge our RSL (Returned and Services League of Australia) community. Many of them actually work very closely with our RSL communities to make sure that, you know, it is appropriate and it is all set out the way that they want it to be. I do want to say again thank you so much to our PSO officers, we truly appreciate the hard work and effort you do to make sure that these memorials look 10 out of 10. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I rise also to speak on item A of the report and as many Councillors would know, Brisbane is a garrison town. We’ve had a long relationship with our defence community, but Anzac Day is one day when we truly show our appreciation not only for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in their duty to their country, but also those who are still serving with us today. I really want to highlight many—much of the work that has been done by PSO. I know many Councillors here would receive many positive comments, not only from community members but also defence personnel, about the presentation of our memorial spaces around Anzac Day. It is possibly the one day I get so many positive comments about how our parks are presented. It’s no wonder because some of our memorial spaces actually have thousands of people visit—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor TOOMEY: —those spaces and in some cases—I’ll take that interjection from Councillor HUTTON—in some cases 10,000 or tens of thousands of people visiting those spaces. But specifically I do want to compliment PSO officers for the work they’ve done, but also, I want to thank Council for supporting PSO officers in their duties. I came across some officers preparing Stewart Place, which is in Ashgrove. Not only did they have a new set of tools, but they also had a diverse range of products, they had petrol and battery-operated tools to do the work, to get the memorial space ready for the service. It was outstanding the amount of work and even chatting with the PSO officers, many of the new tools that Council’s supplying officers to do their work enables them to work a lot better.

It’s not as heavy, they can get a little bit more done in a day because they’re not actually having to lift or move petrol-operated lawnmowers. They’re battery operated, they’re much lighter, they’re a lot easier to move around. But they’re some of the things that as Councillors and the public we see is the beds, the flower beds that are installed, but it’s also the little things that we don’t see. As Councillors we would all notice those things because we’re visiting those parks all the time. We would see that the concrete would be cleaned, that the decking would be scrubbed, that all the seating had been repaired. Any casual passerby those parks would not notice those things. So I do want to extend my appreciation to Council officers that do that work.

However, Councillor HUTTON, I would like to give a massive shoutout to trade services for the work that they did on a 25-pound howitzer at Stewart Place. The howitzer’s been there for a very, very long time. It was repainted, rust removed, all the timberwork was redone. It was perfectly restored, immaculately, all ready for Anzac Day. I do want to thank them for a lot of the work that they did. They did have to hoard off the area to get the work done, it was a complicated restoration, but the outcome was absolutely outstanding. As one tradie to a whole bunch of other tradies, most tradies do appreciate good work and I can honestly say hand on heart those tradies did an absolutely fantastic job at restoring that gun, so I do thank them very, very much.

Madam Chair, we do have a lot of dignitaries that do come to our parks on our Memorial Day and some of them we would know their common names to us, some of them not so common. But the one thing is that they are there representing the defence community on that day and with that, our recognition of the contribution that our defence force makes. So I just want to give a shoutout to some of the defence personnel, high ranking defence personnel, who have come to the Ashgrove Memorial Park to not only address the public but also to pay their respects as well.

Colonel the Honourable John Greenwood, Councillor WINES, you would probably remember Colonel Greenwood, he’s spoken at Ashgrove Memorial. Major General Jake Ellwood DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) AM (Member of the Order of Australia) has also spoken at Ashgrove Memorial. One that we would all know, Corporal Daniel Keighran VC (Victoria Cross), has attended Ashgrove Memorial and commented on the work that PSO have done. One person who I work very, very closely, because he’s the founder of Cor Infinitus, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Humphreys DSC, a very distinguished gentleman who has delivered a number of speeches at our memorial parks and commended on how much they’ve done.

Finally, probably the most significant person to my area who’s attended those services year on year was Julian Tenison-Woods, locally known as Jack, was the last serving World War II veteran to attend Ashgrove memorial service and Jack sadly passed away last year, three days after Anzac Day. Jack’s character was such that he told his family just wheel me down the aisle on the trolley, that’s what he wanted, he just wanted to be there for his mates, to remember his mates. It’s very fitting that we do present those spaces to those men who not only served, but are serving and have served and I really want to extend my gratitude to not only the tradies but the PSO gentlemen, officers, for doing such a great job. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, Madam Chair, I’m going to speak briefly on this presentation, but I just want to apologise for my phone that interrupted the Chamber for about 30 seconds while I was out of the Chamber. I thought I had it on silent but obviously it wasn’t on silent. Anyway, I just want to give a big shoutout to the people that—or to the officers who look after two memorials in my ward, the one at Forest Lake Amphitheatre and also the one at ISA Park at Inala. Both were well presented and that’s not an easy thing sometimes, you know, with the environmental conditions that we sometimes deal with. But I can assure you the two organisations, the Forest Lake RSL Sub-Branch that looks after the amphitheatre at Forest Lake and who did also a dawn service this year as well and a dusk service over North Queensland.

But also the Lions Club of Inala who undertake the service on behalf of the Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women Association and I believe this is the only park in Australia with that—acknowledging that particular association, that they’ve undertaken this work for many, many years as well. But I think especially the ISA Park one, I’ve said it before over a few years, that there’s a small team that look after that ISA Park one and they just fell in love with it. I sat down with one of the officers a couple of years ago and he just explained why they just make a special—they just take special care of that particular one as well. It’s one of the smallest probably in Brisbane as far as size, but it really is something special, right on Inala Avenue, especially during Anzac Day. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor STRUNK.

Any other speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. Just wanted to make some brief remarks in support of this Committee report today for City Standards. As people would know, the Morningside Ward is home to a number of significant sites and the one at Bulimba Memorial Park in particular is a site that is of particular importance to the local community. It’s with the deepest gratitude, on behalf of myself but the broader community, that I thank the officers who take such care and attention. They are working for quite a number of days beforehand to make sure—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor COLLIER: —to make sure that the memorial and the surrounding park is in the most amazing state and it is recognised. I know quite a number of people actually came up to me on the day or days after Anzac Day and commented specifically on the work that the Council officers had done, in particular around Bulimba Memorial Park. If you weren’t aware, Bulimba Memorial Park of course does have a number of significant sites, including naming of trees, for family members and families of people who unfortunately didn’t come home or paid the ultimate sacrifice. There is a large military connected community in the Morningside Ward, whether that’s those hardworking members of the Bulimba and Districts RSL who do an incredible job putting on the service in Bulimba every year.

I think sometimes, you know—we’ve talked maybe 2,000, 3,000, 4,000 people, but it’s an extremely well-attended event and brings the community together, not only because we have former and current serving servicepeople participate, but also leaders from our local schools. We have spoken in this place often about continuing to share those stories for the next generation so that we will never forget the pain, sacrifice that our service men and women have experienced and continue to experience. I just really from the bottom of my heart want to thank the Council officers who make that possible, whether it’s at Bulimba Memorial Park, whether it’s at the Norman Park National Servicemen’s Memorial or whether it’s in of course Suvla Bay Park in Balmoral, which is actually just an amazing feat.

It’s not got a memorial but it is home to the best annual Anzac Day neighbourhood family get-together and is a place of—it’s my favourite way to end Anzac Day every year. We’ve got Anzac Day biscuit day competition and games for the kids and we of course pause to remember and share stories about our connections. It is such a privilege to go to that every year, but also just to see how beautifully the space is maintained by officers in the lead up. So on behalf of all Councillors on this side of the Chamber, we want to thank the officers who have played such an integral role in what is a really important occasion for all of our communities.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER.

Any further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. I just had to rise and make a contribution to this presentation as well. I thought there have been so many wonderful statements made but I thought that they can’t go unaddressed, the efforts of my own community, the Enoggera community, which has two significant Anzac Day ceremonies held in Council parks. The Gaythorne RSL holds an event commemorating Anzac Day in Side Loder Park. It would hold some thousands of people every year and this year was no different.

The reason I wanted to get to the microphone today was because one of the secretaries—I should say Greg, the secretary of the RSL—grabbed me as I was leaving on the morning and he said I’ve got to stop you, I’ve got to thank you and the Council officers that were here at 3am this morning doing a final clean-up and preparation. I thought that that recognition had to be passed on from Greg to the officers and also from me to the officers as well. But Greg himself is a stalwart of that organisation, dare I say a veteran of that organisation.

But the Enoggera community has many, many people closely associated with the defence community, whether that be serving or veterans themselves or the family of current or former service men and women. It’s a community that deeply recognises and respects the efforts of that community, of the defence community and this year was one of the best examples where Council was able to come through and support the RSL for one of their biggest and best Anzac Days yet. So thank you to the officers for their efforts and thank you to Gaythorne for putting on one wonderful service and ceremony this year.

Can I also say the Council also has regular ongoing work at Windsor Memorial Park, which some Councillors may recognise as the park you drive—it’s the park with the sandstone monument that you drive around when you go through Windsor. You might drive past it many times in your life and not consider what it is, but that monument is a World War I monument. There’s a nearby World War II monument and this Council routinely maintains and improves the gardens there. There is an extensive rosemary garden that is quite remarkable that’s maintained by our officers. There are other memorial gardens that are maintained and upgraded regularly in that place and I think it’s also timely to recognise the officers for their ongoing efforts to make that also an exceptional memorial place in this city.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Any further speakers?

Councillor HUTTON, right of reply.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to say thank you to all the Councillors from across the Chamber who have acknowledged the great work of our PSO officers. It’s wonderful that everyone can actually thank the officers who do such an exceptional job. Just like Councillor WINES, John, who is in my PSO team, was down at the memorial at 2am, making sure the paths were clean, making sure it was ready to roll. We do owe our Council officers a lot and I’m grateful that the Opposition have today gotten up and acknowledged them for their good work. So thank you so much, we appreciate what you’re doing, 10 out of 10, we’ll keep up the good work. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON.

We’ll now put the report to the vote.

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 Sarah Hutton (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Greg Adermann (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Nicole Johnston and Emily Kim.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steven Toomey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ANZAC AND REMEMBRANCE DAY MEMORIAL PREPARATIONS

**516/2023-24**

1. The General Manager, Public Space Operations, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on Anzac and Remembrance Day memorial preparations. He provided the information below.

2. Anzac Day and Remembrance Day are two of the most important dates in the Public Space Operations (PSO) calendar. During these two days of remembrance, Brisbane’s parks receive a large influx of residents and visitors.

3. PSO prepares and maintains up to 60 memorial sites across Brisbane. High profile sites include:

- Newstead Park, Newstead

- Mowbray Park, East Brisbane

- Gair Park, Dutton Road

- Merthyr Park, New Farm

- New Farm Park, New Farm

- Gilchrist Avenue flagpoles, Herston

- Windmill Place flagpoles in Wickham Park, Spring Hill

- South Brisbane Memorial Park, South Brisbane.

4. Each year, maintenance is carried out to ensure monuments are presented to the highest standards. PSO works with local RSLs (Returned and Services League of Australia) to identify sites that may require additional maintenance work to keep various elements of these memorials in good condition. Planning starts several months in advance with PSO Greenspace teams ensuring bookings for seedlings and plants are planned and actioned in advance.

5. All memorials will receive general maintenance works ahead of Anzac and Remembrance Days including:

- cleaning (pressure washing)

- refresh landscaping (mulch and plant replacement)

- turf improvements

- mould and grime build-up removal

- rubbish removal

- graffiti removal.

6. Greenspace also coordinates the maintenance and repairs of the following items if required:

- rendering

- wording on plaques

- pathways

- paving

- rustproofing iron work

- seats

- flag poles

- garden edging

- painting.

7. The memorial preparations are a combined effort of various teams in PSO including:

- Arboriculture

- Greenspace

- Grass Cutting

- Signs

- Maintenance Services.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Community and the Arts Committee.

### COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair and just before moving to the report, there have been a couple of fantastic things that have happened this week that I’d like to report to the Chamber. I was privileged to meet with some students from the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College, which is in my ward. It’s one of the most amazing new colleges and it’s one of the high-rise ones. But the students have been doing a number of projects and one of them was about homelessness.

It was wonderful that I was able to tell them that right across the road from where their school is, we will be having Homeless Connect on Thursday and as a result, they will be attending the Homeless Connect and will be going on a tour. One of our wonderful staff, one of our wonderful officers is going to meet with them and I thought that that was a really great way for our young people to see first-hand the amazing work that Brisbane City Council does in terms of our Homeless Connect.

I also want to say a huge happy birthday to St Stephen’s Cathedral, who’s celebrating 150 years and they started the huge celebrations. There’s a number of events that will be happening, but they had the Queensland Symphony Orchestra with Mozart’s *Mass* and it was truly, truly beautiful and amazing and the church was packed with people. His Grace was there and sat next to me and we both thoroughly enjoyed the evening and it truly was something that we—very many people found very moving.

I was also privileged to represent the LORD MAYOR at the Commissariat, where they have a new exhibition, the Griffith and Petrie exhibition launch. Yet again, this is another amazing heritage building within our wonderful city which does fantastic work. They had assembled and restored a number of artifacts that tell the story of Griffith and Petrie, both of whom are very important to the history of Brisbane.

I had a great time with Councillor DAVIS and the LORD MAYOR and the Lady Mayoress and all of the LORD MAYOR’s children at the BrisSizzle and Sounds and it was fantastic. I imagine there could have been other people there, but when I was there that’s who I was seeing. It was just fantastic also to see the Teneriffe Lions doing the sausage sizzle and do you know what, those sausage sizzles are just so important to these events and that BrisSizzle and Sounds was a great opportunity for them yet again to show what they can do.

I then popped along to Brunswick Street Live and again, through you to Councillor ADAMS, I want to say a huge thank you to the Mall staff, because Stella does the most stellar job down in the Valley. She loves what she does, it shows and I was doing a little bit of DJing, just so you know, but it was fantastic. Then I went to the opening night of Black Box. Yet again, something that we have supported, a wonderful performance by a local, Paul Hodge, who was doing great, amazing things and it was a wonderful opening night. I’m sure that he’s going to go on to even bigger things than he has. He’s already appeared on Broadway and he was off to Los Angeles, but a really great, great night.

So, Madam Chair, moving to the Committee presentation, we had a walking tour of Brisbane City Hall. Now Brisbane City Hall was constructed between 1920 and 1930. The Committee was shown into the organ room, the housing and the wind system of the organ located in the main auditorium. We were able to climb a lot of stairs and peep over where last night I was sitting watching you, Madam Chair, with the citizenship ceremony. I looked up and I could see where all the pipes sort of finished and it was extra special, because we had managed to have that wonderful tour and be able to know that that was sort of—what was up here, because it was really great.

The Committee was shown to the dome above the main auditorium, which is the largest copper dome in Australia at 31 metres in diameter. We were told that the conductive copper strips are located on the outside to safely earth lightning strikes and I know that that’s also important. The Committee was also shown to the basement of the City Hall, but most importantly we were shown the Museum of Brisbane shop and that sort of was where the tour ended and we had to sort of declare the meeting closed. But it was a fantastic tour, wanted to thank all of the officers that were involved in making that happen and I recommend the report to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor ADERMANN.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **517/2023-24**  At that time, 5.59pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Greg ADERMANN, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of one hour, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 6.02pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

*At that time, 7.02pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Steven HUANG, assumed the Chair.*

Deputy Chair: The meeting is now resumed.

Any further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you, Chair. In regards to the tour of the upper regions of Brisbane City Council here, where we are tonight, I’d just like to thank the Chair for taking us on a tour. I hadn’t been up to those areas and when I went up, we didn’t see any phantoms or ghosties or spirits up there. But what we did see was a lot of fantastic engineering which had gone into creating the dome and of course that organ, which was quite special. I don’t know if they told us how many different pipes there are that make up that organ, but I did see one—I did see an organ taken apart out of Norwich Cathedral online and there was something like 800 pipes that made up that.

So, I don’t know if this one had as many, but it looked like it definitely had hundreds and hundreds of pipes that all had to be integrated and put together and then I believe that it took some number of months to have it all tuned. So, it was quite special to be able to go up there and have a look at that and to have a look down in the main auditorium as well of course, although I don’t favour heights, but it felt quite safe. I hope other people, not just Councillors and Council staff and all the rest of it, get the chance of maybe doing that dome tour. I don’t know if that actually happens, but I hope they do. I haven’t been up to the clock tower yet, but I’m sure I’ll get up there at one stage.

I just want to say that it was a real pleasure to be able to get up into there and just have a look at the intricate work or the engineering design of the dome, which is all copper as well, which was quite impressive. You can see why it would have cost hundreds of millions of dollars to restore this place back 10 or 15 years ago, whatever it was, because it’s really an icon of Brisbane of course. It’s really a pleasure to be able to walk into this place every week when we sit and sometimes when we don’t sit and just have a look at the fantastic architecture and the work that went into recreating what was built over 100 years ago. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor HOWARD? No.

So now we’ll put the Community and the Arts Committee report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Lisa Atwood (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Seal Chong Wah, Alex Givney, Charles Strunk and Penny Wolff.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE CITY HALL WALKING TOUR

**518/2023-24**

1. The Manager, City Hall, Planetarium and Community Halls, City and Community Halls, Community Facilities, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to facilitate a walking tour of Brisbane City Hall (City Hall). He provided the information below.

2. City Hall was constructed between 1920 and 1930. The Committee was shown to the Organ Room, housing the wind system for the organ located in the Main Auditorium. The organ pipes were originally painted grey, however, were gilded gold as part of renovations in City Hall.

3. The Committee was shown to the dome above the Main Auditorium, which is the largest copper dome in Australia at 31 metres in diameter. Conductive copper strips are located on the outside of the roof to safely earth lightning strikes.

4. The Committee was shown to the Museum of Brisbane Shop which is open to the public from 10am to 5pm each day.

5. The Committee was shown to the basement of City Hall, which houses a preserved wall of signatures from World War II. This wall is maintained *in situ* and includes names and messages from more than 150 veterans, uncovered while City Hall was undergoing renovations. The basement also houses the commercial kitchen used to cater for events held in City Hall.

6. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager for facilitating the tour.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Finance Committee, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 May 2024, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Deputy Chair. Our presentation at the Finance Committee was an overview of the Electoral Commission of Queensland’s (ECQ) delivery of the 2024 local government elections. Now before I continue, you might ask why we brought this topic to Committee for discussion and debate ultimately in this Chamber. Well, the answer is—and I sort of feel like I need to explain it, because I was initially surprised myself—it’s actually the ratepayers of Brisbane who directly fund the delivery of council elections, so it’s only the right of this Council to scrutinise that expenditure. The ECQ has advised Council that the estimated cost to Brisbane ratepayers for the 2024 local government elections in the Brisbane LGA (Local Government Area) will be $7.43 million. It’s 20% higher than the cost of the 2020 elections, which was $6.2 million ex. GST.

During the meeting, Councillor COLLIER asked what the cost of the 2016 election was, so I can advise through you, Mr Deputy Chair, the cost was just $3.4 million, so the cost has more than doubled since 2016. Madam Chair, this continued increase in cost compared with the service delivery is quite frankly bewildering. It seems the ECQ’s performance in delivering council elections is going from bad to worse. I think it was former Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk who said after the 2020 Council elections about the ECQ, you have one job. Mr Chair, we’ve seen multiple reviews completed following the council elections in the past, even one that was conducted by a former Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley. But still, we see continued issues when it comes to this.

I don’t need to tell Councillors in this Chamber about the problems that we saw on election day in particular, because we all saw them for ourselves. Huge queues remained for hours and hours. Polling booths which ran out of ballot papers. Polling booths which told voters they were unable to do an absentee vote and to get in their car and drive to another booth. A lack of appropriate staffing on booths and no crowd control at these booths to ensure that they operated smoothly and that voters knew where to go. We also saw result declarations taking too long, which ultimately impacts of course how quickly we can get back to work and how quickly a council can get back to work. Mr Deputy Chair, I was really pleased when the Premier and the Attorney-General issued a media release on 25 March to announce an expanded scope for an external review of the elections. I thought great, that’s a good thing.

But I was disappointed there was no formal call for submissions to contribute to the review. Instead, Councillors and candidates were sent a brief online survey to submit their feedback and I note that even some members of my Committee were not aware of the survey, which kind of speaks to how well the ECQ and the reviewing consultants publicised it. However, Mr Deputy Chair, our team has taken a proactive step, we’ve independently contacted the ECQ with our feedback and I’m aware that the LGAQ (Local Government Association of Queensland) is also talking to ECQ to share their feedback on the broader sector. I’d like to discuss as well, quite frankly, how ECQ manages or rather doesn’t manage, the behaviour on polling booths. The March election was an election like no other in terms of the aggressive behaviour of some of the volunteers from the Greens Party—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —or should I say paid operatives, thank you for the interjection, Councillor WINES. Both in my own experience and in the experience of candidates in other wards, we saw sustained efforts by Greens volunteers or workers to intimidate me and other candidates from both the LNP and Labor at both pre-poll and on polling day stations across Brisbane. Unfortunately, I lost count on the number of times I was verbally abused. On one occasion, I’m really sorry to report that things even got physical when a Greens volunteer shoved me and while I reported this to the ECQ, ultimately no action was taken. I was body blocked and stood over by the husband of a candidate who falsely claimed to people that he was apolitical and from an independent community group.

This behaviour was witnessed by many, including the Labor Party and I want to thank personally the volunteers from the Labor Party who checked on me after witnessing the incident. I’m not alone, Mr Deputy Chair, Councillor COLLIER raised similar concerns about Greens volunteers. On X she asked, ‘why do Queensland Greens workers take such delight in intimidating and harassing women?’. One political friend in the system told me how a Greens volunteer called her children little Nazis. A Greens candidate and her husband spoke to the wife of a Team Schrinner Councillor, calling her, among other choice phrases, a stupid woman and calling her a racist. But it gets worse, because when the elderly mother came to vote, the Greens said I hope she gets hit by a car.

The intimidation tactics that are being used by the Greens are a frightening phenomenon in Queensland politics and unfortunately it feels like the epicentre of this is the Griffith electorate. Because between myself, Councillor COLLIER and in fact the Labor candidate for The Gabba, we’ve reported very concerning tactics employed by Greens operatives organisers and paid workers. It feels like it’s coming from the Federal Member for Griffith. The Greens ensure a large number of their volunteers swamp polling stations in target areas just to swarm over voters. It creates a very intimidating polling booth environment, not only for candidates but for voters and for volunteers in our democratic process.

I’ve heard feedback, as I’m sure many of us have, that voters hate running the gauntlet at polling booths, but the environment that is created by these green volunteers goes beyond it. Voters have to brave a barrage of green shirts wanting to talk with them, stop for a chat and if they don’t want to have the chat, they’re forced into it and in many cases, people don’t want a bar of it. People who have since contacted me saying that the behaviour of the Greens volunteers makes them feel anxious, but worse than that it makes them feel unsafe in the public area. What I’m saying is I think the ECQ and quite frankly the State Government should take action to stop it from occurring, because polling booths should be an intimidation‑free zone.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you so much. Look, I’ll be brief but unfortunately there were a few problems with the local government election, many of which were in Tennyson Ward. No ballot papers, people being turned away, queues of an hour and a half, not enough staff. All of the things that Councillor CUNNINGHAM raised certainly happened over in Tennyson Ward at multiple booths. At joint booths people could not vote in Moorooka Ward because they ran out of ballot papers but they could vote for Tennyson. It was a shemozzle and it is a poor reflection upon the ECQ that they failed to recognise that local elections are very much a social and community event as well as a civic governance one.

They knew, they knew and this is the thing that I kept saying to my returning officer (RO), okay, you know every day, you knew exactly how many people had pre-polled, how many postal votes came in. They knew that on the day it was going to be bigger than what they had planned for. But in my ward the biggest booths had less people than the smaller booths. It was not well managed and it is a poor reflection upon the ECQ, so I agree with all of those things. It is disappointing that public submissions are not being sought for the inquiry that’s underway.

Now I had a slightly different experience out in Tennyson Ward and there really was only one problem that occurred during the voting process. Most of us had—because you spend a lot of time with the people, the other candidates, with the campaign workers, you know, you do get to know them a little bit. They’re all local people in your community, you know, those kind of things. I met some absolutely delightful people from all the parties, all of them and you know, on the whole we had what I would describe as a fairly good response and a good collegiate process amongst all the political players that went through pre-poll and on the day.

However, there is one absolutely notable exception and as Councillor CUNNINGHAM is blaming everybody else, I thought I would share the problem in Tennyson Ward. The problem is a young man called Charlie Swindon, who happened to be the brother of the candidate. Now the candidate, Henry Swindon, was a delightful young man, but unfortunately his brother who works for Tim Nicholls, so this is somebody who is a political staffer and works with the public, which I kind of struggle with, but Henry Swindon came out and did several hours of pre-polling on a couple of days and said some of the most foul and awful things about me to people that I could not believe.

Now on one occasion I was not there and I was told by others what he had said, including a resident, a resident told me what had been said. Now I’m not going to repeat it all here, but it was awful, unnecessary, ridiculous and it just ruined, I think, what was otherwise a fairly—you know, I enjoy elections, they’re good. We all worked, you know, we shared the food, we shared the lollies, we shared the water, people were exhausted, we shared the umbrellas if it rained.

But this young man, who works for Tim Nicholls and is an active member of the LNP, not only said disgraceful things about me, he actually dobbed a resident into Ben Riley, the State Director of the Liberal Party, because the resident had said that he was voting for me, even though he was usually a Liberal. He didn’t mean he was a member of the Liberal Party, he just meant he usually voted Liberal. So, this got passed on to Ben Riley, who then rang the resident, like rang because the resident had handed over their card—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, Ben Riley is not in the report. Please speak to the report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: We’re voting—we’re talking about voting. I’m sorry, we’re talking about voting, this all happened while we were voting. While we were voting these people would do—this was what was going on. So, this poor resident was then abused by the Director of the Liberal Party, who’s not even a member of the Liberal Party at the time. All of this happened because an LNP operative decided to say terrible things about me and then reported on residents who came to vote. Now if we want to talk about bad behaviour at elections, that’s right up there. So, this idea Councillor CUNNINGHAM has that the Greens are terrible, that Labor’s terrible, I’m sure instances happened at booths right around the ward. But the only things that happened in my ward happened because of the behaviour of this young man and it was not appropriate behaviour, not appropriate behaviour at all.

Now the best part of all of this is—and I’ll do a public shoutout—the other representatives who were present for the other political parties were absolutely you can’t do this, this is wrong, like you know, so that was good. Everybody recognised that what he was doing was not okay and called him on it and then when he did it directly to me, I called him on it. But I guess the best part of it is despite his best efforts, my vote at pre-poll was 78%, so I must thank him very much for coming over and helping his brother and helping my vote go up in Tennyson Ward. It is probably the best outcome of his actions, that I can say he helped my vote go up.

Now I would just say everybody needs to step back. Councillor CUNNINGHAM may have had terrible things happen to her, but I can tell you it was the LNP over my way who were unfortunately—not all of them, just this one person to my knowledge, that was the problem. So, I don’t think it’s necessary, it’s not necessary by anybody, but I’d just say that the adverse outcome of his behaviour from his point of view was that he helped my vote go up. So, beyond that, it is incumbent upon anybody who may be physically assaulted to report it to the police and I would just say, Mr Deputy Chair, through you, if Councillor CUNNINGHAM has not done that she should, because it is not appropriate that anybody is physically assaulted. The appropriate place for that to be referred is absolutely to the police and she should do that if she has not done so.

Beyond that, I certainly hope the State Government will ensure that there is a thorough and independent and open review. If this—I’ll get my crystal ball out—if this idea that prices have gone up is a new one to Councillor CUNNINGHAM, that’s somewhat of a surprise because she’s been saying in this Chamber every time we have any kind of budget debate that prices are going up, for concrete, for everything, wages, absolutely everything. So, I certainly hope this is not a play to bring the Brisbane City Council election back in-house, because that would be a retrograde step to put highly paid Council officers who are directed by senior members of this staff in charge of running an election.

If that’s where Councillor CUNNINGHAM is thinking of going, I can say I will strongly be opposing that. I’ll be making it very clear that it risks corruption, not just inefficiency or bureaucratic problems or mistakes, it risks corruption. So, I hope that’s not where she’s planning to go, because I don’t think that’s right. We need a robust and independent electoral commission, we need one that is capable of delivering good elections and that needs to change. I hope that Council does as much as it can to make sure the State Government puts in place the proper apparatus to conduct independent elections.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I’ll rise to speak to this very briefly. Reiterating the words that Councillor CUNNINGHAM said, there was a very poor reflection on this election, based to the understaffing, based to the lack of understanding of returning officers. I know that in The Gabba booth the returning officers themselves were constantly making decisions and looking at different State Government and Council policies to how to run the election. From my understanding, there were also difference decisions made by returning officers from across the city, across the campaign. This is an incredibly poor reflection on ECQ. Further to that, I think it’s also, you know, important to note those long lines in booths across The Gabba Ward specifically, I think they were experienced by many people across the whole elections were really noticeable.

*At that time, 7.29pm, the Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, resumed the Chair.*

Councillor MASSEY: We had a tiny booth that had two people manning it and the wait there was over an hour and a half. Of course, we also had people that came close that were told that they couldn’t actually vote, there was a lot of confusion. The other thing—and that can’t be understated, it’s important to get that all on the record, that this was a citywide issue and that this election was run very, very poorly, incredibly understaffed and with returning officers making very different decisions all right. I think it is a good thing, I know that my party has contacted ECQ with its own reflections and feedback about the election and I think that’s really important. I do still believe that there should be time for feedback and I support Councillor CUNNINGHAM in that.

I will speak briefly, since The Gabba Ward was mentioned and the Greens were mentioned, to the political play that Councillor CUNNINGHAM, through you, Madam Chair, was making. Because the reality was on my booth that there was only one party that was bullying people and it was the ALP. I say that not just because it is the truth, we had not just on pre-poll but also during the election day, we had the candidate, the candidate that was running on there—and I haven’t talked about this publicly because I think it’s important to not make political plays about this, but it’s important to put this on the record. We had the candidate and we had the volunteer—volunteers questioning volunteers from where they lived and they literally were like Hill End, West End.

We had the candidate for The Gabba Ward body blocking me constantly, which was fine and volunteers around them constantly all the time trying to speak to me. As I said on the day, with a smile on my face, I’m here to talk to volunteers and I think you should too. I understand that in elections it’s a peak, it’s a lot of energy, it’s a lot of expense, especially for candidates and even the Councillors here that campaigned. There’s a lot of effort that’s done in it and things can be heightened. But certainly, on that booth there was none of the aggression that Councillor CUNNINGHAM was talking about that actually wasn’t coming from the ALP candidate to the extent that I can state that there were only two complaints done.

These were done on Friday to the returning officers and those complaints—and the people that actually made those complaints came and spoke to me afterwards to thank me for staying out of that area. Because their complaints were on five Labor volunteers blocking the entry to the election booth, including the candidate, while I was noticeably, as I saw the line forming and people didn’t want to interact, moved away. Now I’m not saying all the volunteers were bad, to be honest, I was buying people coffees and buying them Lune. I had some great relationships, not only—and conversations not only with some ALP volunteers, but also some Liberal.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Yes and can I also give a quick shoutout to the Liberal candidate of that area, Laura Wong, who was incredibly pleasant to deal with and we had a lot of laughs together too. We did have a lot of laughs together, but it’s really important, narratives can be twisted, narratives can be changed, narratives can be used for political purposes. I think it’s really important to get on the record that that was my experience. I’ve been silent about it because I wanted to respect the election result and because I didn’t think it was worth interacting with a candidate that has lost. Honestly, I didn’t, I didn’t think it was important, that’s already hard, there’s no need to kind of rub it in or any of that kind of stuff.

So reiterating Councillor JOHNSTON’s message, if this is being used to supress or to shift what happens in electoral booths for our democracy, if this is being used to shift the election back to the hands of Brisbane City Council, I have grave concerns about our democracy. I have grave concerns about our democracy because if we are looking at making our elections better, one place that we should undeniably be looking at is political advertising. Political advertising, what is allowed for political advertising. The fact that the LNP Council is able to also send out letters to people saying we will do pre-poll for you with Brisbane City Council, call us.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: And their name. When the return address to that letter is not ECQ, it’s actually to LNP headquarters and that in itself is data harvesting. If we actually want to be serious about good elections, maybe we should be looking at those things.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Madam Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. I just rise to make some remarks in regards to the item before us. I just want to reflect—take a moment to reflect on some of the things Councillor MASSEY said, which I had not heard before, that I am surprised to hear them, but they are consistent with what Councillor CUNNINGHAM was arguing for. Councillor MASSEY’s point, that her volunteers were interfered with, that she felt that some actions taken by the Labor Party against her were intimidatory, are exactly the point that Councillor CUNNINGHAM was making. That perhaps there should be increased enforcement of the conduct of volunteers on the booths.

Now it was interesting, I noticed when Councillor CUNNINGHAM corrected herself and termed the Greens volunteers Greens campaign operatives, it’s important to remember that most of the people on my booth were bragging that they were—excuse me, most of the Greens handing out people were telling me they were paid about $28 an hour to be there and they were quite open about that. The Greens Party put out more material than I’d ever seen before, their booth workers were all apparently quite well paid and it’s pretty tough when the Liberal Party does not pay any volunteers.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: That’s a misrepresentation of the party.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: It was, I understood—I didn’t realise it was a secret. I thought it was open, I thought everybody knew that.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, Councillor WINES.

Councillor MASSEY, you will listen to Councillors quietly please, without speaking and not call out across the Chamber.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Well, if Councillor MASSEY’s suggestion that they had no money was true, then the only inference I can take is the vast amount of material put out by the Greens Party in my ward was paid for by the Federal Government. That’s the only next step, it wasn’t paid for by the Greens Party, then it had to be paid for by the Ryan and Brisbane public purse, that’s the only next step. If Councillor MASSEY is prepared to say that’s the case, then I’d be interested to hear that and I’m sure many people would be interested to hear that that was what those Federal campaigns and those Federal officers were doing with public funds.

Now I must take a moment to reflect that Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s circumstances on her booth were what I largely heard to be consistent by a lot of Greens Party operatives within the areas of Brisbane, Ryan and Griffith. Did they happen to me? No, they didn’t, but I’m a man. But did they happen to my volunteers? Yes, my female volunteers were, particularly the younger ones, were targeted and bullied off booths. No doubt that happened and I’ve had people—and that was a deliberate strategy to try and silence differing opinions and it’s really sad. It’s sad, but it could become scary if the Greens Party are allowed to continue down the path that they have chosen.

Many years ago, because I have a lot of friends in a lot of different places, I was talked into handing out how to vote cards one day in a student election. Now I apologise that I ever did that, but it was one time and it was one day.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: I promise I did not inhale. But some people do really enjoy student politics and there’s a couple of techniques and tactics that are fundamental to the way student elections are conducted. When you hear terms like body-blocking, that is something that is taught in student elections.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chair, I’m sure you know where I’m going to go with this, but are student elections relevant to the item before us today?

Chair: Well, Councillor JOHNSTON, when I was not in the chair and since I am in the chair now, I notice that the speeches before were quite—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, there has been leniency shown to everybody.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. Effectively what it is, is you find a voter and then you walk with them to the booth and you kind of effectively push away the volunteers of other organisations. That is absolutely what the Greens Party did over and over and over. Now I don’t know how to tell people this, but people don’t like student elections, people don’t like student politics, people don’t like the way they’re conducted. To bring it into—an attempt to bring it into mainstream politics is very strange. Now Councillor JOHNSTON made a point that where she found an aggressive how to vote volunteer, it improved her circumstances. I have no doubt that the ultra-aggressive activity of the Greens Party was of great benefit to me. I’m very—and I understand that most people are repelled by those tactics, but some people are deeply intimidated by them.

In this country, the right to vote is one that while too often taken for granted, should not—no individual should be concerned that they’re going to be accosted, that they’re going to be hassled, that they’re going to be followed for 10, 20, 30 metres while people—in some instances I saw 80 metres where people were followed. It was very strange conduct and outside what I think the Australian mainstream would expect. So, I think that we should take a moment to reflect on that and whether that’s something that we want to see going into the future. I certainly don’t think so. I think that the happy and polite conduct of elections is important, I think it’s fundamental to how our nation has been able to remain a cohesive and unified and prosperous country for so long.

Now with the conduct of the election, I am still struck by how much it cost. In my head I was always of the understanding that an election costs roughly $4 million. To find out that it costs almost double that is deeply concerning, particularly because when you talk to, I’m going to say, deeply-professional and committed people who run the community elections—I must say can I recognise my own returning officer. He’s done—he’s been my returning officer for five elections. A deeply-professional man who is very good at executing the election, was asked to go above and beyond personally. He became unwell and wasn’t able to cover for his hours during the election, he would inform me that—I hope I’m not getting in trouble, Graham, I hope I’m not getting in trouble, Graham, if the ECQ sees this. But that the budgets were such that he couldn’t put extra people on at booths, knowing full well that they were coming.

But here’s the thing, we were paying $7 million and this organisation, I think, has a fair question to ask what did we get for our $7 million? I think we could have afforded—and if we were prepared to go to $7 million, they could have asked us how much more we were prepared to go if we wanted say an extra worker per booth say, so that this thing operated properly. It’s not lost at me that at the Windsor State School the line was minimum 40 minutes long all day and it’s the only one where I did not come first at. I can’t help but think that spending a lot of time in a queue, getting a bit annoyed, it starts to reflect poorly on the incumbent candidate, so all of a sudden—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: —all of a sudden, you start to consider—

Chair: Councillor.

Councillor WINES: —you start to consider well perhaps getting that annoyed gets people upset and starts to affect their conduct. So, you have to ask, was this a phenomenon we saw elsewhere in the city as well? So, my point is did the operation of booths affect voter behaviour? Now difficult to prove, but important to consider. Now we look at—there was some criticism, particularly last election, by the Premier, of the ECQ and I have no personal criticism of Graham and Simone and his team at Keperra, except there was so few of them that it took them a long time to get through the ballots. Considering the cost of the operation, I think the ECQ should justify to us, the people who are paying for this service, why their units were understaffed, why the RO officers were understaffed and then why the booths were understaffed. Leading us to the next question, was most of our pre-poll locations will likely become State Government pre-poll locations.

I’ve certainly noted that my pre-poll was better located for Ferny Grove’s State electorate than it was Enoggera Ward, considering that mine wasn’t actually even in Enoggera Ward; it was in The Gap Ward. So, it leads us to the question, will the Brisbane City Council be paying the leases for the operation of the State Government’s elections, which should not be the case. Again, another example of cost shifting from the State to Council. I see Councillor PARRY, her and I normally share a booth at Wilston State School. This time all of Councillor PARRY’s votes taken at Wilston State School were taken absentee and not counted on the day. It affected the interpretation of the result. We knew what was going to be in them, but the result in Marchant took longer and people like Darren Mitchell were given false hope because of the way that they were counted and that’s not right either.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: That’s not right either. There are people that will call—there are people who claimed victory on the night who found a reversal of fortunes quite sharply when all the votes were counted in a timely—by the full time that the votes were counted and that’s not right either. People—these results should be brought in a timely manner, they should be cost effective and people should be—and finally and most importantly, people should feel comfortable and safe when interacting and approaching a polling station.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, you had a personal misrepresentation of something you said during the speech.

Councillor MASSEY: Thanks, Madam Chair. The Greens had over 2,000 volunteers citywide sign up and just want to make sure that Councillor WINES noted that the claims that volunteers were being paid $28.

Chair: Councillor, no, Councillor MASSEY, that is not a personal misrepresentation of something that you said.

Councillor MASSEY: No, the misrepresentation was—

Chair: That is what—

Councillor MASSEY: —the $28 for volunteers was a misrepresentation.

Chair: Thank you.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY: That’s the misrepresentation that I called.

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Listen, when this came up on the papers I said to my caucus that I’d like to say a few words, because some of this has to go on the record, because it was what actually happened at pre-poll—and I’m talking about just pre-poll now. We had 11 candidates, so you can imagine, we had a by-election and then of course we had the Council election. Three Council candidates and the rest were State candidates. You can imagine how that would be a pre-poll, but I’ll tell you it went pretty well as far as the interaction between candidates and most, 90% of the volunteers at least, we all had to get along because it was really hot. Can I say that again? It was really hot, I lost six kilograms, which was a good thing, it was a good thing.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: It does go back on. But I tell you what, you know and I’m not discounting what other experiences other Councillors had here in the room that they were talking about tonight. But honestly, we were all under a lot of pressure and of course the ones that were under the most pressure of course were the voters. Because you can imagine every one of us wanted to approach or one of our team members wanted to approach every one of those people that came to pre-poll. Sometimes it got a little bit testy, because we had a lot of candidates who had never worked a booth, because we had a lot of independents and we had a lot of candidates who’d never worked a booth before or worked an election before. But they learned very quickly and I just want to take my hat off to the fact that all 11 of us learned how to work together, especially after the first couple of days.

Now ECQ, the pre-poll was a disaster, the building they decided to have pre‑polling in was an absolute disaster. It was in an industrial estate and you would think an industrial estate, well that sounds all right, it’s away from the maddening crowd. But it was on a B-double route, on a bend, Linfox was right across the road and you can imagine how many trucks comes out of that thing, right? Then we also were in a precinct, an industrial precinct, that actually had a manufacturing plant in it as well that made specialised concrete. So, we had trucks coming down the road at 100 miles an hour and that—it seemed like 100 miles an hour, but they were doing the speed limit because they couldn’t really go too fast around a bend past us. Then we had trucks coming out of the industrial precinct that we were in as well. Then we had people trying to park up on the road, there were a few parking spaces inside, they had to dodge trucks, it was absolutely appalling.

I’ll tell you what, if it wasn’t for all of the 11 candidates and their workers, knowing how dangerous it was, dangerous it was, someone would have got either killed or badly hurt. But because we were all looking out for one another and those voters as well, we got through without—listen, there were some close calls, I’ll tell you there were some close calls, because people didn’t even know if the driveway they had to pull into was the driveway, because there was no signage. Then they had these big B-doubles coming just behind and just around the corner as they were trying to pull over and to have a look and then we had to direct them.

It was honestly—we saw the returning officer after the first couple of days and we said this is just absolutely appalling and someone’s going to get killed here. They did some modifications with some signage, but in the end, he decided that he was going to have to look for another pre-poll venue, because he’s already booked us for the October election as well. Now there weren’t going to be as many candidates, right, but he decided it was dangerous and maybe—because we had been here before, before Linfox had moved in and before it became a B-double route. Hopefully in October we won’t be back to this space, because it was really, really bad.

Now the reason we had the lines were so long in the booths on the day, at least in my area anyway, is because the returning officer decided that the pre-poll was going to be at the same level of voting, individual votes, as it was during COVID in the 2020. He thought that it was going to be that 15,000, which was almost 50% of the votes, it was going to be 15,000 this time as it was last time. So, he allocated the resources into pre-poll to deal with that number and it actually ended up being about 8,000, so about half, right? Then once he had consumed all that budget in there, they cut back in the polling booths because they only get a certain amount of money, right?

I have a real problem with people wanting to penny pinch, saying it shouldn’t cost more than this, it shouldn’t cost more than that. It should cost what it costs to undertake an election. The most important thing for a democracy is for people to actually vote, right? Money should never be a consideration quite frankly, as far as I’m concerned, right? But it’s got to be run right, right? If it needs to have more people, if it needs to be $16 million or $20 million, I don’t really care, right? I just want it to be run right and on time and we get the results as quickly as possible with the voting system we have in Australia, right? It’s much quicker overseas because they use a lot of electronic voting, right, so it’s much more quickly tabulated, so they get those results.

But we have a very small population, it seems to work all right here and if it has to take an extra day or two to find out who wins, who cares so long as it’s done right? It’s not a fast food operation, it should be a sit-down three-course meal or something like that so we all enjoy it. Honestly, I really take my hat off also to the voting public as well, because those long lines at the booth on the day I’ve never—in all the elections that I’ve been doing since 1998, I’ve never seen anything like it. It was brutal. At least the weather was okay in most areas, but some areas had a lot of sun, but the three booths I worked in were not too bad.

So, I take my hat off to the workers and the voters as well, because for the most cases most of them stuck around to vote. They didn’t take off and say I’ll come back later, they actually stayed in line, which was a testament to the fact that we do have a great democracy here in this country, but we should resource it so that we try to get as many people along to vote. Because I mean they’re required to vote, I know, but a lot of people sometimes get turned off of these things. Which is a shame because it’s—we have a great democracy and if you only have to look at some of the—what’s happening over in Europe, well I’d say Russia, I suppose and some of those other countries that really treat it with contempt, their so-called democracy with contempt and don’t really undertake it the way it should be.

So, I just want to say to the ECQ you’ve got to lift your game, because the last one was a shocker and I haven’t spoken to anyone that disagrees with that, right? If it takes more money from the State Government or whoever funds them, right, the State Government or Council or whatever, I don’t really care, I just want it to be done right so that we end up with a result that we can all be happy with during the day. Pre‑election, during the day as well and then the results afterwards. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to make some brief remarks on this Committee presentation about the elections and delivery of that by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. Of course, no one thinks that it’s acceptable the way that the Council elections were carried out from a logistical manner. We’ve heard a number of Councillors from all different political parties sharing their experiences and their frustrations on behalf of their communities, whether it was the locations of the pre-poll and early voting, issues with ballot paper, ballot paper distribution on the day, the lines of course as well. More people sharing their experiences and participating in a review is a good thing, because that’s the only way the ECQ are going to learn and modify the delivery of the election so that it is the most efficient for the people who are participating in modern democracy.

You know, Councillor CUNNINGHAM and I do not always agree on everything, but I must say on this issue we absolutely do, I think. I do want to acknowledge our shared experiences. During the election I was very vocal about my experience at early voting by members of the Greens Political Party and the way that they targeted and harassed not only me as a Labor female candidate, but also my volunteers, my family members, my friends and also did the same to voters and the LNP as well. Regardless, that behaviour is so completely unacceptable. The point of difference of course is that in the Griffith electorate it is systemic, it is institutionalised and it is organised. This is a pattern of behaviour from the Greens Political Party that I have personally witnessed over a number of years and it is only getting worse and that is really disappointing.

The by-product of this of course is yes, of course I can share similar experiences about how female voters were chased away from the polling booth in some sort of strange straw polling, I don’t know, after they had voted, by members of the Greens Political Party. This person did say that they also were paid to work on that campaign. When I raised this of course with the Greens Political Party candidate locally to my area, who I note now wants to represent the area at a State level of government, her remarks to me were, “well you go deal with it”.

So, it was a complete dismissal of responsibility and that was genuinely really disappointing, because I expect more. If it was a complaint raised with me about the conduct of my volunteers, I would personally take responsibility, it’s my name on the ballot paper and I would address it. But unfortunately, that is not what happened and in fact that behaviour was allowed to continue. It was an endorsement of that. I had disparaging comments made about the clothes that I was wearing. I shared a very personal and intimate story last week about my life experience, so you can imagine that having a man who is more than six-foot tall towering over me in my personal space, leaning over me, was actually quite traumatising in a way.

That’s not acceptable for participating in a modern democracy, let alone—and as candidates we put ourselves forward, we are subjected of course to a level of scrutiny. I understand that, but this is above that. This is so beyond unacceptable and I absolutely think there needs to be accountability from candidates and political parties of any incidents absolutely. But when it is demonstrated in a systemic way, I have seen this behaviour occurring over a multitude of elections locally in the community that I live in, that I work in, that I represent, the by‑product of course is that voters do not have a positive experience in a modern democracy and that volunteers are actually too afraid to volunteer on election day because of the conduct of one political party. That is not conducive to a modern democracy and I do not support that.

Just back on, I guess, the way that the election was run, I do acknowledge that the ECQ staff were so very frustrated on the day. A lot of people have shared their stories, I agree it was awful, it was a really poorly run election. The review is a good thing, maybe the Administration, given that Councillors have shared so many experiences that are worthwhile noting, maybe the Administration could send a transcript of this debate as part of their submission to the review. I think that would be more than appropriate. So yes, in summing up, I guess, the delivery of an election is a precious thing. I note that Councillor HUANG in particular was very interested to see how the Brisbane City Council might take over running the elections to get value for money. I just, on the record, just really want to make it clear that I don’t think that Brisbane would be good—

Councillor HUANG: Claim to be misrepresented.

Councillor COLLIER: You haven’t spoken.

Chair: I note your claim.

Continue, Councillor COLLIER.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: He hasn’t spoken in the debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: He’s just noting a misrepresentation which we’ll hear at the end.

Councillor JOHNSTON: But point of order, Madam Chair, you have to speak—point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Yes, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: To claim misrepresentation or make a personal explanation you have to have spoken in the debate before you can claim misrepresentation, which I don’t believe Councillor HUANG has done. So, I’m not sure how that’s a valid point of order.

Chair: Okay, so sorry, I assume that he has that—that’s why you’re saying that, that he had said something that you’re quoting.

Councillor COLLIER: Not during the debate; during the Committee meeting.

Chair: Okay, thanks, Councillor.

Councillor COLLIER: Okay, as I was saying, I was very interested to note that Councillor HUANG expressed a particular interest in understanding how Brisbane City Council might resume the running of the elections, which on the record we do not support that. It would not be appropriate for Brisbane as a modern democracy to be in the company of places like Myanmar or North Korea or Russia.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I believe I—at the Committee meeting, I actually asked—I understand at one stage the Council election was run by the Council and that’s all I said. So, look, I’m dissatisfied with what has happened during the election, but I never raised anything about Council taking back the election.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, right of reply.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair and thanks to all Councillors who stood up tonight to have what I think was a mostly grownup conversation. What I heard is that Councillor JOHNSTON said one person might have been a problem and other LNP volunteers certainly did not condone it. It is a fact, Councillor JOHNSTON, that prices have gone up—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. As I was saying, it’s a fact that prices have gone up. The price doubled and the number of ECQ workers were decimated, but I never said one word about bringing it inhouse. I would prefer, as a general rule, to not be verballed in this place, although something it’s sadly that I begin to expect. Madam Chair, the comments from Councillor MASSEY only, I respectfully submit to the Chamber, reinforce my argument. Councillor STRUNK, I agree we should properly resource it, but I don’t agree that costs from ECQ should double and the level of service should be halved. Councillor COLLIER, finally, thank you for acknowledging this as an issue. I too had comments about what I was wearing almost every single day on pre-poll.

So, in wrapping up, the ECQ’s delivery of Council elections leaves much to be desired, Madam Chair. Ratepayers do have a right to be frustrated and to demand better of this State Government agency. I believe the ECQ and the State Government need to do more, quite simply, to create a safer environment at polling booths. I once again invite my Labor colleagues to speak up and to talk to their friends in George Street to make the necessary changes. Thank you.

Chair: I’ll now move the report.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Oh sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON. Sorry, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Councillor CUNNINGHAM has misrepresented me by stating that I said it was LNP Councillors who called out the behaviour. It was my volunteers who are Independent, the Greens and Labor who called it out as inappropriate.

Chair: We’ll now move 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 Lucy Collier, Julia Dixon, Trina Massey and Danita Parry.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF QUEENSLAND’s DELIVERY OF THE 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**519/2023-24**

1. The A/Divisional Manager, City Administration and Governance, attended the meeting to provide an overview on the Electoral Commission of Queensland’s (ECQ) delivery of the 2024 Local Government Elections. She provided the information below.

2. In accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (the Act),ECQ held the local government quadrennial election on 16 March 2024 to elect mayors and councillors for each of the 77 local governments in Queensland, including Brisbane City. The Act stipulates that an election is to be held on the last Saturday in March, every fourth year after 2012.

3. ECQ handles all operational aspects of the election including:

- issuing the Notice of Election (start of Council caretaker period)

- managing electoral rolls

- engaging returning officers

- selecting voting venues

- the running of polling booths including pre-poll and polling day

- vote counting and declaration of polls.

4. The Brisbane City Hall Charitable Sausage Sizzle, an initiative of Council’s Lifestyle and Community Services, was staffed by charities including Brisbane Youth Service, The Salvation Army, Wesley Mission, Micah Projects, Valley Hearts and the Rotary Club of Brisbane. Profits generated were split among the charities and the Committee was shown examples of social media commentary expressing their appreciation for involvement.

5. In accordance with the Act, ECQ declared the conclusion of the election on 3 April 2024.

6. Local governments are invoiced by the ECQ for the full cost of running the local government elections. ECQ has advised Council that the estimated cost for the 2024 Local Government elections in the Brisbane LGA will be $7,435,700 (exclusive of GST). The cost to Council for the 2020 local government election was $6,196,417 (exclusive of GST).

7. This year the following election issues were reported:

- ballot shortages

- significant queueing times

- the length of time taken to declare results.

The Queensland Government announced that the ECQ has commissioned an expanded in-depth external review of the 2024 elections. ECQ has requested feedback from councillors, candidates and local governments about the election process. An external agency will examine these issues and provide recommendations on areas for operational improvements.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTIONS:

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

### INSTALLATION OF SHARE THE DIGNITY VENDING MACHINES

**520/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6A on the agenda and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that—

*This Council commits to installing Share the Dignity vending machines in all Council pools and libraries by the end of 2025.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. This will be a great news story for this Council. As we continue to navigate a cost-of-living crisis right across Brisbane, we hear more and more stories of families doing it tough. For many women, it means going without the basics throughout their menstrual cycles. That’s where Share the Dignity comes in, a fantastic national charity that started with very humble beginnings in Sandgate in my ward. Rochelle Courtenay, their founder, reminded me just a couple of weeks ago, in fact, that they kickstarted everything back in 2015 with a small contribution I made through our LMCF (Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation) fund for a computer and that’s how they started. They’ve come a very long way since.

Period poverty and menstrual equity is a serious issue for many in our wider community and Rochelle and her team have achieved some amazing things over the last nine years. From first supporting her with that work of a single computer, Rochelle has built the organisation into a real force for good right around Australia, but they still have a very strong eye here on Brisbane. So, I’m calling today on Council to get behind her cause in a new way, to help women across Brisbane, because no one should have to go without the basics. I know many Councillors in this place here will already be supporting the work of Share the Dignity, but this relatively small amount that we’re talking about today will spread that support to parts of the community that we never realised needed that support on a day-to-day basis.

Share the Dignity have been rolling out free vending machines to supply pads and tampons free of charge for a little while now. These machines dispense a specially designed period pack containing six tampons and two period pads, offering a choice of product, aimed at getting anyone through a full day during their cycle. The first commercial Dignity Vending Machine, as they’re known, was actually installed at Australia Zoo in February. We’re seeing them rolled out across public schools in Queensland currently. I saw one in the brand-new building at Taigum State School just recently, which was great to see.

Our Council has an opportunity tonight to make a real difference for women by empowering and supporting them to live a life of dignity and safety. I’m calling for the support of all Councillors here to install the Share the Dignity Vending Machines in every Council swimming pool and library by the end of next year, by the end of 2025, as a start. Each machine costs around $10,000 to install, so we’re talking at the moment about $220,000 across our Council pools. I note Craig and Corinne, as I mentioned last week, at the Sandgate Aquatic Centre, have already installed the first one there so we’re now down to just 21 to go. There are 33 libraries in Brisbane, so just another $330,000 to see them installed there.

This is a modest investment to see Brisbane become a much more equitable place for all. This isn’t a suggestion I’ve just come up with. This is a direct request from Share the Dignity themselves. Through their Bloody Big Survey, they identified through their last survey a real need for access to Share the Dignity Vending Machines and the products which they supply free of charge to women in community spaces and safe community spaces, so Council libraries are a great safe community space, as are our Council pools, as well. As I said that Bloody Big Survey was the genesis of much of this work and the genesis of a lot of other work that Share the Dignity are doing. That’s how they’ve identified a lot of that need.

They want to reach new heights through the current survey, so as an aside, as well, I’d just encourage everybody, women to take part online and everybody in here to share that survey out amongst their communities, because the data which they are able to collect from that enables them to advocate to us, as local government, to State Government and Federal Government and to organisations right around Australia who want to work and partner with them. So, I would encourage everybody to support this motion tonight.

Chair: Thank you.

Is there any debate?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the motion before us. We all recognise that a lack of access to period products can have a significant impact on people’s ability to participate in everyday life. I have to say, I saw it on a daily occasion as a high school teacher, particularly in physical education and it can lead to people missing out on opportunities at school, but also work and social activities and it really shouldn’t be that way. Everyone has the right to a life of dignity and that’s why the work that Share the Dignity does is so important, but there are a lot of things we need to consider before installing one of these machines.

It can cost up to $25,000 to install one Share the Dignity Vending Machine, which includes maintenance and stocking for four years. We entered into a $25,000 funding agreement with Share the Dignity to install the machine in the Red Cross Café two years ago. Since then, there has been limited use of this vending machine, with it only being used 30 times since November last year. So, whilst we absolutely support the intent of the motion, I think we can do much better and I think we need to be a little bit more subtle and recognise where these machines or this opportunity needs to be made available. So, because of this, I would like to propose the following amendment.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

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| **521/2023-24**  It was moved by the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Vicki HOWARD, that the motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *That this Council commits to continuing the installation of free period product dispensers from Share the Dignity or other suppliers, in suitable Council facilities, at the discretion of the local Councillor from their Lord Mayor’s Community Fund budget, by the end of 2025.* |

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Yes, sorry. I’ve moved the amendment because it definitely achieves the outcome of the original motion, which is to install period product dispensers, but it also allows Councillors freedom in determining where they can be installed, where are appropriate facilities for them to be installed and they may not have to cost the $25,000 across the many years they are to be installed, as well. I trust that all Councillors will welcome this amendment and support the women of Brisbane. Thank you.

Chair: Is there further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. I just have some questions of the DEPUTY MAYOR, which I will muse over now in my contribution to the amendment and hopefully, she can answer them in summing up in her amendment. I wonder whether she has discussed this with Share the Dignity, this amendment to this motion. You know, we put this on the notice paper on Friday last week, I think, so plenty of time to do that. I just wonder, because Rochelle or anyone at Share the Dignity will be able to give some great insights into why they thought it was important to have these rolled out not in a sort of ad hoc basis in the way in which the DEPUTY MAYOR is now suggesting, but for Council to take a leadership role in that and particularly Brisbane City Council because Share the Dignity was born here in Brisbane, are really passionate about Brisbane, have a national focus, obviously, but as I said, a really strong eye here on Brisbane.

We know the other suppliers that the DEPUTY MAYOR is talking about, I don’t know how much she knows about those commercial suppliers, but they are big, multinational companies that do that supply, not local supply. So yes, it certainly wouldn’t meet the Council’s procurement policy, I don’t think. I’m not sure whether the DEPUTY MAYOR has thought about that. Those vending machines then are full for profit. That’s how they operate then, those other companies. I’m sure they’d probably function well, but Share the Dignity is a not-for-profit organisation that I think, just on the weekend, had their big fundraising high tea here in City Hall. Rochelle was there in her pad dress, as well, raising awareness for this, an amazing, amazing Brisbane success story.

Given this is a request which I’ve aired now here for weeks and weeks directly to Council, for Council to take this leadership role, for Council to install these—and it’s a bit of a copout to say that it should just be left up to local Councillors to determine where they—you know, I assume the DEPUTY MAYOR is talking about us doing a ward office application through LMCF and purchasing these and then going to librarians. Do we have to go to library services in the city or do we talk to the librarians who are in charge of the local library? Do I just go into Sandgate Library with a Share the Dignity machine or the Zillmere Library? I’m not sure. This isn’t really well thought out, this amendment.

I would have engaged with the DEPUTY MAYOR around this, around finding a suitable solution to this, but I don’t think this is really well thought out. It will be deeply disappointing to Share the Dignity, I believe, to see it change in this way. If the DEPUTY MAYOR wanted to lay this on the table for a week or two and discuss some different options or whatever, I’m happy to do that, as well, but I think given this amendment is not a very good one, we won’t be supporting this today because I just don’t think it’ll achieve what we need it to achieve, what we need the—what I’m talking about here to achieve, what Share the Dignity want us to do to achieve. It’ll just be a case of maybe there’ll be another one or two maybe, maybe none, maybe there’ll be 20, who knows, but that’s not really what they’re after.

I think, for all the reasons I outlined, this is actually quite an urgent issue which has been identified through the largest survey of women ever conducted in Australian history, which has identified these community facilities as places of great need. So yes, look, I’m sorry. We just can’t support this today. I just think it’s not very good.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. I rise to speak on the amendment before us today. I honestly cannot believe that the DEPUTY MAYOR and the LNP are taking a simple, thoughtful and compassionate motion that has been put forward by the ALP and politicising it in such a foul way, because that is what is happening with this amendment before us today. I’m not entirely happy there are ten ALP motions on the agenda this evening. However, this is a good one. This is a good one. I’m sure others will agree with me. I am, however, very thankful that this was put on the agenda because this is a good motion. It is a simple motion that says Council will install the Share the Dignity vending machines at pools and libraries.

These are excellent locations, excellent locations for them, particularly libraries, I think, because everybody from all walks of life use the libraries. They are free, safe places. If we did want to save a little bit of money, maybe not the pools because you’ve got to pay $6 to get into a pool to start with, So, I think there are some issues around that, but putting these into libraries, which would cost, I think, as Councillor CASSIDY outlined, about $330,000, do you know what would pay for that pretty much? Adding up the junkets to the Olympics by Councillor ADAMS, Councillor HOWARD and three senior Council officers and what Council paid for its party on the bridge, that would get you to 200 and something thousand dollars, nearly $220,000 right there.

So, this comes down to the LNP deciding that things like Olympic junkets are more important than supporting women who are experiencing period poverty. It comes down to the LNP Administration saying that a $92,000 sausage sizzle over at Newstead or wherever it was is more important than supporting relief from period poverty for women all over Brisbane. That is the outcome of the decision today. So, what is Councillor ADAMS doing? She’s saying in this motion, well, Councillors can fund it from their Lord Mayor’s Community Fund. Now, if you’re an LNP Councillor, you’ve probably got eight or 10 community functions funded through the Council budget, but for those of us that don’t, we have to pay for every community event out of our LMCF.

I’ve got hundreds of organisations in my ward, 16 schools, 15 kindies, three cricket clubs, three RSL, two Meals on Wheels, two Country Women’s Associations, hundreds of groups. We have $35,000 to cover the cost of movies in the park, small grants to community organisations, any events that we do for the community, as well as grants for a whole range of groups and organisations. So, Councillor ADAMS’ suggestion is we take money away from community groups and community activities in Brisbane and invest in one of these machines which will cost roughly $10,000, just for a machine. That’ll leave $25,000 for community events.

Now, I just say to all the LNP Councillors sitting on the other side of the Chamber, have you actually thought this through? Because what the DEPUTY MAYOR is suggesting is that you will have less money to do good community works instead of making sure that the LNP Councillors sitting here aren’t wasting money, wasting money on things like junkets to Paris and barbecues, $92,000 barbecue in the middle of an election campaign. This is a terrible bit of party politics by Councillor ADAMS, simply because the Labor Party put up a good motion.

I urge the DEPUTY MAYOR to withdraw this. It means that you are creating a wedge, saying that community groups that all Councillors support don’t deserve to be supported anymore and we should put the money that we put into community activities and events and groups in our wards into this. It shouldn’t be an either/or. It should be both. It shouldn’t be some sort of political wedge that Councillor ADAMS thinks gets her some advantage. I don’t know where this came from and what advice she took about why this would give some advantage. It looks mean‑spirited, it lacks compassion and it hurts community groups that are just as vulnerable as people who are experiencing period poverty.

I give money to the veterans so that they can hire chairs so that we can have an Anzac Day service. Should I stop doing that? I give money to bush care groups so that they can continue their activities. Should I stop supporting the environment? Do I think that Councillor ADAMS and her mates should be off to Paris for the Olympics? No, I don’t. No, I don’t. I think that they should say right now they’re not going to go and the $127,000 that is going into the Olympics junket should be going into these machines. It would be cost neutral and it would be a good outcome and we should pick the wards—I don’t know, how many would that get us, 12, 12-ish—that we should pick the 12 libraries in the most socioeconomically challenged areas to put them into. That’s where they should go.

So, I don’t know what this LNP is doing when it does things like this. This is a terrible amendment. This amendment means that other community groups are going to be hurt at the expense of another community group, Share the Dignity and I am certain that Share the Dignity would be horrified to hear that the DEPUTY MAYOR is saying, we will take money from one community group and we will force Councillors to give it to you. I think they would be horrified, horrified by Councillor ADAMS’ decision to do this and I think every LNP Councillor out here today should just say right now, withdraw this amendment. It is not right. It is not right.

This is a terrible, terrible decision that pits community groups against each other, not Councillors, community groups. Community groups like—oh God, I don’t—there are so many that I support. It is astonishing to me that Councillor ADAMS wants to take from the community on one hand and give that money to a group that would be horrified by this. So, I just say right now, I urge this motion to be tabled. I urge the DEPUTY MAYOR to reconsider what she is proposing to do here, which is simply a crass political wedge that will hurt more community groups than it will help and I urge the DEPUTY MAYOR to find another way to fund this. Even if we start with libraries and move on to pools, that would be a good way to do it.

So, I just urge that this motion is tabled and if someone will second it, I will move a procedural motion that it’s—well, no, we can’t, can we? Can we—yes, I suppose we could.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s an amendment, though. I don’t know if I can.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, okay. All right. I just urge that the DEPUTY MAYOR withdraws this amendment. We’ll start there. It is not the right amendment. It is not being done in the right spirit. This Council has huge volumes of money. Funding this would be maybe not running some ads on the telly. That’s what we’re talking about. Funding this would be not having some sort of party for the opening of the Moggill Road roundabout. I mean, I bet you that’s coming, too. Let’s see how much that’ll cost. So, this is about choice. This is about making sure we don’t take money from community groups that need it as much as Share the Dignity.

The decision by the DEPUTY MAYOR to do this is a terrible, terrible one. It’s the wrong way to approach this. If she cannot see past the people who have moved the motion to see how important the motion itself is and how it is a thoughtful and compassionate response to a very real problem in a cost-of-living crisis, then I think somebody else on the other side of the LNP needs to speak up. They need to speak up now and urge her to withdraw this. It is a terrible amendment and I will not be supporting it.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak against the proposed amendment put forward by the DEPUTY MAYOR. It is deeply disappointing that, given that this is being brought to Council by Labor Councillors yet again, when it is a motion that makes a lot of sense, it’s deeply compassionate and it is a cause that we should all be supportive of, so it’s deeply disappointing that the DEPUTY MAYOR has chosen to deal with this motion in this way. If the DEPUTY MAYOR was genuine about getting these products into these locations, we didn’t make this up. Share the Dignity requested this. Step one, engagement with Share the Dignity, I believe, has not happened. Step two, you really could just amend the motion and say subject to further consultation and that would be okay, but instead it’s been completely garbled and butchered and warped, all for a political point. It doesn’t actually make any sense.

I just want to talk to some of the data from the last Bloody Big Survey. I have, of course, participated in this year’s one. It took me five minutes. I was sitting on the couch. It was actually a really good use of my time to participate, but some of the information that came out of the last one told us that eight out of 10 respondents at least sometimes don’t swim because of their period and because of access to those products. We all know that participation in sport can have so many benefits, like maintaining good physical and, of course, your mental health, as well. The survey also found that girls and women were shown to drop out of regular sporting activities and team involvement at a higher rate than boys and men.

So, the Bloody Big Survey’s research demonstrates that periods can very much impact these dropout rates and it should be a consideration when developing policies and campaigns to encourage participation in sport. So, when Council is considering initiatives, I don’t know, to, say, maybe get more people to Council pools, this should be in consideration with that. We could help address the dropout rates by delivering these vending machines in every single Council pool, like I said, as requested by the organisation who is doing the work. They are there on the frontline. They are engaging with stakeholders. They are collecting all the data. I think there are over 100, maybe 100 and—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Close to—maybe 176,000, last time I checked, 176,000 people responded and provided information to this data. So, it’s actually backed up by what people want. So, DEPUTY MAYOR, we implore you on this side of the Chamber, please, even if you would one, firstly consider withdrawing your amendment. Secondly, maybe you could leave it on the table and go away and have some further considerations. I certainly have questions about how mechanically this would work, given your proposal to have it very restrictively funded through the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund. You know, there are other funding avenues available and by restricting it to this only one, it could actually impact—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, the charitable trust. There are many other avenues in which Council could provide funding to this and you wouldn’t want to be the one standing in the way of that happening, would you? So, I really do respectfully ask that you would consider firstly withdrawing the amendment, but if not, tabling it and going away and having further consultation with libraries, with Councillors, with Share the Dignity itself, that would just be the respectful thing to do.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak briefly against this amendment motion. Last week, when we were debating the domestic violence strategy, I mentioned period poverty and the importance of an action towards Domestic Violence and Family strategy to reduce period poverty. Look, there are nine motions here and I’m not sure about each one, but this one was a good motion. This one was a motion that, in its own way, circumvents what happened last week, where there wasn’t even a conversation about Domestic and Family Violence strategy. It is a motion that would help girls and women who are struggling with period poverty and it is in the right spaces, in pools and also in libraries.

You know, I really think that this idea that this Council has to choose one or the other is a really big contradiction to how councils should be functioning. A limited Lord Mayor’s Fund—I think last year, The Gabba Ward funded 18 community groups from $35,000. From that, it was 18 community groups. It was two community festivals, like the Kurilpa Derby, also the Laura Street Festivals. We helped support a local koala community group, various other community groups. We’ve also supported transgender clothes days and pit barbecues, et cetera, from this fund, even just recently, Language Day in South Brisbane and we’ll be doing more of that. You know, that fund, which is limited, is an important lifeline for our communities who are too often underfunded and with a volunteer pool that is reducing.

So, to be here debating an amendment that would make us choose from funding our communities or helping do a very tangible and reasonable action on period poverty is really concerning because it doesn’t have to be a choice. It doesn’t have to be a choice in this. We can and should be able to have both. I agree with Councillor JOHNSTON and Councillor COLLIER. If you are going to pass this motion, please put it on the table. Please reconsider. I see Opposition Councillors in the other corner laughing for whatever joke that they might have, but this is serious—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order. Point of order, Madam Chair. Nothing related to this debate.

Chair: That’s not a point of order.

Please continue, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Who knows? He mumbled into the mic, but this is a very serious thing, especially for people that are suffering from period poverty and from those girls and women that drop out of sports, like water polo and swimming, et cetera and also for our communities that need our Lord Mayor’s Fund to help them—$10,000 is a lot relative to our fund, but it’s not a lot relative to what we could actually deliver through a budget or through other means, from a $4 billion budget. It’s actually relatively not a lot and that’s something that people should remember. $4 billion is the budget and we would be giving people an opportunity to retain their dignity and participate in sports in ways and reduce the harmfulness of period poverty to them.

So, look, I’m sure the DEPUTY MAYOR will do and the LNP will do whatever they’ve decided to do, but I must be a part of the voices that says please reconsider this amendment. I think there are other ways that we can deal with this and I hope the Liberal Councillors will have that conversation, too, because this is not just about us and the Opposition. This is about people in your ward, too. It’s about residents across the city. So, please, please, please reconsider. The Greens will not be supporting this amendment because we don’t think it should be a choice of one or the other. We believe that period poverty should be dealt with and we should be able to deliver to our communities with the Lord Mayor Community Fund.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR, right of reply.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. There seems to be a lot of confusion about the intent of this amendment. I think maybe I’m confused listening to the ALP on this because I was quite sure that this was about menstrual equity, not about Share the Dignity. We’re here about menstrual equity and making sure there’s access for as many people as possible, whether that is out of a Share the Dignity local—by all means, great—vending machine product or another product that could deliver the same thing for cheaper in our local areas, in suitable Council facilities that may be or may not be pools and libraries. This amendment is to broaden the menstrual equity across the city, the access.

We hear day-in and day-out from the Councillors’ officers, they never have any choice of where things go in their ward. They never have any say. This is what this amendment is about. Each Councillor makes the decision of where would be the most suitable place for this to go. Now, no, I have not reached out to Share the Dignity. They have not reached out to me. We spoke to them in Council, I understand, a few years ago. They have obviously reached out to Councillor CASSIDY because he got a vending machine into his pool but let us remember that pools are leased facilities. We can’t come in here and do a motion that provides a sole source and enforces it to go into lease facilities. It’s actually not competent, probably, when you think about it.

So, we have broadened this amendment to make sure there is menstrual equity and I think if you actually look at what the product is from Share the Dignity—let me say it again. This is not against Share the Dignity. If Share the Dignity is the product that you want to use, by all means, use it, but there is also a $2,000 dignity dispenser which is small, compact, does not need connection to power. Now, that’s the type of thing that I’d be interested, more than a $25,000 one in every pool and library that requires power and a new lease agreement and an AFW (application for works)—$2,000 and the community benefit, reasonable, because as far as I’m concerned, if there are young women that are in poverty and don’t have access to period products, I’ll put my community funds into that.

As a local Councillor, I feel I do know some places that would be suitable, but not necessarily my pools or the one pool I have in that area, for where that pool is. It’s a learn to swim pool. It’s very different. It’s not like where you go and play on the fantastic places that you have at your swim pool. It doesn’t have that type of facility. It’s a learn to swim pool. Is that somewhere we’re going to put a $25,000 vending machine? Possibly not, but as Councillor, I think that’s something that I’d like to be able to have the say and the ability, through my community funds, to make that decision. So, the excellent locations are very, very restrictive in this motion and our amendment is here to actually change that.

So, let me be clear. This is not about not supporting Share the Dignity. It’s about including Share the Dignity and any other possibilities to increase the menstrual equity across the city at any facility that Councillors see fit. That comes back to exactly why? Because Councillor COLLIER stood up in here and said exactly why. The Bloody Big Survey told us exactly why and that is why this amendment is here, because we need to broaden it. We need to take it across the city at a reasonable price and Councillors should be able to decide what that reasonable price is and what they need for their local community. I am happy to stand up for my community through my community fund and every other Councillor should be able to do that in this place, as well. I support the amendment to the Chamber.

Chair: I’ll now put the amendment to the vote.

**Amendment put:**

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to the notified 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 DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: Is there any debate to the motion? Any speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Yes. Light’s on, standing up.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I just want to respond to the amended motion as it reads today now and this is the amendment moved by the DEPUTY MAYOR. The DEPUTY MAYOR believes that other suppliers should be considered. Well, you know, fair enough, but my understanding is these other suppliers charge for products and I am concerned that that’s not sustainable from the LMCF. Two, it is astonishing that the DEPUTY MAYOR thinks each Councillor, out of their $35,000 budget, should purchase these machines when this Council has $4 billion that it could choose to use. So, when the DEPUTY MAYOR stands up and I think quite—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: If the DEPUTY MAYOR has been misrepresented by saying she thinks we should fund this out of the LMCF, then that’s a bit strange because that’s what’s actually in the motion, which is what I’ve just said. So, I think this is a terrible decision by the LNP. I think it is incredibly disrespectful to Share the Dignity. I think it will mean community groups in our wards will have less money available to them if we support this. There are so many unanswered questions. Like, I can’t actually just decide to put something in a library. I don’t have any authority to do that. I don’t even know if the LMCF guidelines allow this.

There are so many problems with what the DEPUTY MAYOR has done here. What I don’t understand—and again, my knowledge is now some 12 years old, but generally speaking, there used to be party room meetings where these things were discussed and the problems with these kind of motions or amendments should be ironed out in the party room.

So, I just wonder, not a single LNP Councillor stood up to support this decision, not one, not a single one. Maybe they’re going to speak now and say how brilliant Councillor ADAMS is. I mean, I don’t even know if they got a vote on who would be the DEPUTY MAYOR, other than they were told they had to do it in here. They were given options and I’ll just remind them they were given options at the time, but this kind of decision hurts community groups. It doesn’t hurt us. It hurts community groups. We don’t know if we could even do this or if the guidelines allow it. The amendment today, I think, is so disrespectful to Share the Dignity that there is something wrong when the LNP does things like this.

So, I just urge the LNP Councillors on that side of the Chamber not to sit there in the party room and just go along with things, even at the risk to yourself—and I’m standing here as evidence of that—but where there is a bad decision, you should call it out. This is a bad decision. This is now a bad motion and it is completely a reflection of the DEPUTY MAYOR’s political gameplaying.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I ask you draw the speaker to the amendment, not to party room decisions or otherwise.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

We do ask you to come back to the motion, Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, I think I’m being pretty relevant to the motion. I’m not talking about student elections, so I think I’m going okay, really, with this, but what I’m saying is this is a bad motion now and other people should realise the impact of it and where they’ve had the—and I don’t even know, maybe they didn’t get the opportunity to flag it. Maybe this was just decided without any reference back to the party room meetings. I don’t know, but all the LNP Councillors are going to vote for this. They’re going to vote for giving less money to their community groups because that’s what’s going to happen.

Poor Share the Dignity. Are they watching? I mean, if they’d been watching and listening to what the DEPUTY MAYOR said, they must just be shaking their head, going, how could this happen? How could a Queensland-based organisation like this be treated so disrespectfully by these amendments that are designed to make it harder, not easier for women to access period products?

So, I’ll just say now, I won’t be supporting this. I think the DEPUTY MAYOR has done a terrible disservice to women in Brisbane. I think she’s done a terrible disservice to community groups right around Brisbane. I think she’s done a terrible disservice to Councillors by trying to wedge Councillors like this. I think that it will reflect poorly on her in the long-term and I urge her—I don’t think she will withdraw it, so I will move now that this motion lays on the table.

**Procedural motion – Motion lie on the table:**

**522/2023-24**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY, that the motion lie on the table. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion 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, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR: Madam Chair, point of order. I had a claim of misrepresentation.

Chair: Oh sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR. Your point of misrepresentation.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor JOHNSTON said that I am making Councillors, that they must buy these machines out of their LM Community Funds. That is absolutely not what this amendment is about. It’s about choice.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. Claim—

Chair: Point of—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, claim to be misrepresented. May I raise it now?

Chair: Yes, go ahead.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Thank you. Councillor ADAMS has misrepresented me by saying she’s making me do this. I’m saying Councillor ADAMS is forcing us to use the LMCF. That’s a completely different thing.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Further speakers?

Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’d also like to speak on this motion and to reiterate some of the words that the DEPUTY MAYOR has already said. The work that Share the Dignity does is so important and I know every single Councillor in the room agrees with that. It’s disgraceful that any Councillor would try to portray that we don’t appreciate and love the work that they do. We fully appreciate them. Not only do they help provide access to pads and tampons to the most vulnerable people in our community, but to all girls and women. That is why we are proud to partner with Share the Dignity to install Council’s first ever Share the Dignity Vending Machine in 2022 right here in City Hall, before Australia Zoo.

Before installing this machine, we worked closely with Share the Dignity to identify an appropriate location. There were some specific criteria. It had to provide appropriate access to members of the public and especially people that needed it most, which is people sleeping rough or experiencing period poverty. I would raise concerns about our swimming pools. I think it’s important that we do put them everywhere, but you’ve also just acknowledged that entering a swimming pool does raise a hindrance with accessing sanitary products.

The Red Cross Café was determined to be a suitable location, as it aligns with their missions and the work that they do to support our vulnerable communities. Share the Dignity has some specific guidelines on placements and access, so we had to make sure that the machine was installed in a discreet area. This was in addition to ensuring that the site met all of the physical requirements, such as access to power, making sure the dimensions of the space allowed for the machine to be restocked.

Now, the original motion asked Council to install 55 vending machines across the city at a cost of $25,000 per machine. There wasn’t even any due diligence done. They just wanted us to install them. With 33 libraries and 22 pools across the city, it would cost at least $1.3 million to deliver the current usage at the Red Cross Café and this doesn’t show a strong demand. I’m really disappointed it didn’t mention community centres because, Madam Chair, I would argue that they would be the most important, because even the Red Cross Night Café in the middle of the city, a site that directly supports our most vulnerable women, has seen very low usage. Quite simply, it doesn’t provide the benefit we’d expect to see from a $25,000 funding agreement.

As the DEPUTY MAYOR has said, the 30 users over the last six months is not a great outcome for the Brisbane ratepayer. We need to make sure that we’re investing the ratepayer dollars wisely, but this doesn’t mean we shouldn’t use their services altogether. There are other options out there that don’t cost $25,000. For example, Share the Dignity offers a dignity dispenser which is $23,000 cheaper than the vending machines that were originally proposed. So, this motion, as it stands, achieves the outcome of the original motion, which was to install period product dispensers, but it allows Councillors the freedom in determining where they can be installed in a much more cost-effective way.

So, Madam Chair, I commend this motion to the Chamber and I thank Share the Dignity again for the incredible work they do in our community. I hope all Councillors will support this motion.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on the amended motion. I presume, like the DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor ATWOOD hasn’t spoken to Share the Dignity about their Bloody Big Survey, about their push to roll these vending machines out across more community facilities. I note that Councillor ATWOOD was handed that speech by the LORD MAYOR’s office on her way in here after the dinner break and there were a lot of factual errors in the speech that Councillor ATWOOD just read out. The funding agreement which Councillor ATWOOD is talking about doesn’t necessarily apply and wouldn’t apply to the motion that I brought in here tonight, the original, unamended motion.

The clear advice I got from Share the Dignity and you would also have been able to get, Councillor ATWOOD, if you had took the time—through you, Chair—to reach out to Share the Dignity, because you obviously intended to speak on this amended motion. You knew it was going to be amended and you chose to speak on this, so you’d think you’d get all the facts right, you’d reach out to them and say, let’s just ground in truth some of what Councillor CASSIDY is suggesting here. You’d think you would do that.

It clearly hasn’t been done, because that funding agreement that Councillor ATWOOD has insisted that we would have to enter in installing these in Council pools and libraries is simply not the case anymore. It’s simply not operating like that. Even on those figures that Councillor ATWOOD said, Chair, if we just pause the *Living in Brisbane* newsletter for one year, we could pay for this. There’s a suggestion out of the $4.3 billion budget. The *Living in Brisbane* newsletter for one year would pay, on the inflated costs that Councillor ATWOOD spoke about, not the true costs, even, around this.

Councillor ATWOOD also said that Share the Dignity has very specific requirements around that, around the installation of them, as if it’s sort of an argument to suggest that they shouldn’t be put into pools and libraries, but clearly didn’t listen to the data and to Share the Dignity and to me earlier and that’s all right. Councillor ATWOOD doesn’t have to listen to me, but she should engage with the data. This is why we suggested these places because again, I say, it came from Share the Dignity. The other organisations that the DEPUTY MAYOR spoke about in this moving the amendment and amending this motion, to my knowledge, they’re all multinational, full for-profit companies that do that.

So, sure, there is an argument around value for money and dollars on a spreadsheet, but the kind of work that this would support in both delivering period products totally free of charge to vulnerable people, including people who access Council pools, yes, to teenagers, to mums taking their kids to swimming lessons—we don’t know, we don’t go and ask individual people those questions. We provide that under the original motion for them to access that, no questions asked, to ensure that there is menstrual equity in our communities.

Again, this motion now leaves us in this position where we don’t know, as Councillors, how to move forward because, according to the DEPUTY MAYOR, if a vending machine is to be installed in a pool, an application for works now needs to happen. I think she suggested that with the library, as well. Again, I say if Share the Dignity approaches Councillor LANDERS, for instance and requests one go into the Bracken Ridge Library, does Share the Dignity make that application to the Bracken Ridge Ward LMCF? Does Councillor LANDERS make that application as a ward office application? Is Councillor LANDERS supposed to go to the head librarian at Bracken Ridge or to Library Services?

These questions have not been answered and yet this motion, which will be endorsed by the LNP majority here, suggests that’s how it all happens. You know, are they going to now put in place a specific policy around the installation of these machines, whether they’re Share the Dignity machines or not? Councillor ATWOOD said community centres. Well, sometimes they are lease sites, run in a very different way to pools and libraries. You would expect those organisations could apply to the Council’s LMCF. That would be very simple. That would be a simple process, yes. We could agree to that, absolutely, but when it comes to rolling them out in libraries and pools, this complicates it unnecessarily. This was a direct request from Share the Dignity.

So, I sort of say this out loud and I’m sure Rochelle—and I’m going to say this directly to her, as well. I’m actually sorry that I brought it. I didn’t realise the LNP would do this. I didn’t think the LNP were going to be so spiteful about having brought this. It’s not a surprise. I spoke about this last week. It was a notified motion. We copped a lot of criticism over the last term for continuing to move suspension motions, so we’ve now taken the approach, we’re going to give as much notice as possible, happy for the LNP to engage with us around that process and agree to amendments, but I’d just say to Rochelle and Share the Dignity, I’m very sorry that you’ve had to be dragged through this by the LNP and we’re going to have to find a different way, a different approach, I guess, to roll these vending machines out across Brisbane.

Perhaps we do talk to the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust about that. Maybe they’ll have a different approach than this LNP Administration to partnering with Share the Dignity around this. I’m glad the LORD MAYOR is here and can contribute to this debate now, given the mess that the DEPUTY MAYOR has created in this motion here. We have now had six-and-a-half hours of debate since E&C where the LORD MAYOR has been absent from this Council meeting, so I’m glad he is back to contribute to these motions tonight and perhaps provide the leadership that has been lacking from the DEPUTY MAYOR in his absence here tonight and to hopefully make a better and more mature contribution.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, I rise to fix some of the factual errors, as well and through you, Madam Chair, I would remind the Leader of the Opposition that pools are actually leased sites. So, he’s quite right. The motion that he brought was messy. Can I apologise to Rochelle for being used as a political football? That’s what I apologise to Rochelle for. I am looking forward to seeing Rochelle at the Homeless Connect on Thursday and I would very much like to have a conversation with her because we haven’t had a conversation with Rochelle. She hasn’t reached out to us but she’s obviously reached out to the Leader of the Opposition and that’s all great and fine. So, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could have had the courtesy to have contacted me, but did he? No.

Okay, so here we are tonight with a notified motion that we all support. We all support the fact that Share the Dignity does a tremendous, tremendous job. So, many of you, many of you will remember that we had young Charlie that came and addressed the Chamber. Now, what a fantastic young man that was. As a result, I think that most of the Councillors have a Share the Dignity collection point. I know I certainly had one as a result of Charlie’s speaking to us and I know that it’s been filled over and over and over again because the residents of Central Ward are always willing to be supportive of charities such as Share the Dignity. So, this nonsense that we hear from the Opposition, that those on this side don’t care, is an absolute load of garbage.

Now, let me just add something else. The DEPUTY MAYOR stood up and moved an amendment with some solutions, some solutions about using our Lord Mayor’s Community Fund. We’ve already heard from Councillor CASSIDY that it’s not $25,000, that we can get something for $2,000, there might be something else that’s out there.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: Well, my understanding is that Share the Dignity have a number of options and that one of those options is around $2,000 and therefore, that fits very nicely into our Lord Mayor’s Community Fund. Now, AP120 tells us what we can use that Lord Mayor’s Community Fund for. Do we force people to use it? No. The Councillor for Tennyson, you would think that we were forcing her to stop giving to other charities, to other organisations. That’s not it at all. If this is something that is important for your area, here is a means that you can do it. So, I would suggest that everyone have a look at AP120 to see how the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund could be used to do this. I absolutely would be very willing to chat to Rochelle about other ways that we can help. The Divisional Manager is very happy to hear from any Councillor in this Chamber that would like to clarify some of these issues.

The other factual error that I just want to point out is that the Bloody Big Survey doesn’t close ‘til the end of May, so the Bloody Big Survey that everyone seems to want to say because it sounds pretty good is still going. It’s ongoing.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: We really—I don’t think I interrupted when other people were talking, but hey, it seems to be okay for those on the other side to do that. All I’m saying is that the Bloody Big Survey is open until the end of May. If Rochelle then wants to tee up a meeting, I’m very happy to meet with her, very happy to look at what the outcome of that data will provide and very happy to work with her into the future, but the motion that we have on the table at the moment gives us a way forward and I commend it to the Chamber.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair and just to address some of the comments made now that this motion has been completely butchered and amended to not reflect the intent of the motion originally, which is very disappointing. The amendment and the LNP’s track record on issues like reproductive leave and access and equity around period products shows that you are not genuine about addressing the issue. It was only last week in this place that LNP Councillors unanimously decided to dismiss the idea of implementing reproductive leave, so when we’re having a conversation about—

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Madam Chair. I don’t believe that that’s a true statement.

Councillor COLLIER: Is that a point of order, Chair?

Chair: No, please—and Councillor COLLIER, there is no one speaking in here. It’s people outside the Chamber.

Councillor COLLIER: No. Who? What?

Chair: When you looked at me because you thought people were speaking in the Chamber, no one is.

Councillor COLLIER: No, other people were interjecting, sorry, Chair.

Chair: No, they’re not. Thank you.

Councillor COLLIER: They were. No, they weren’t.

Chair: It was outside.

Councillor COLLIER: Irregardless, back to what I was saying, is that the LNP’s track record on supporting the issues around women’s reproductive health issues is atrocious and whether it’s that you won’t do it or you push it off or you make it someone else’s problem—like, the opportunity really was here tonight to engage in a meaningful—

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: We’re discussing a motion that—what is being talked about here has nothing to do with Share the Dignity.

Councillor COLLIER: That is a fundamental issue with the LNP—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor COLLIER: —that they don’t see how these two matters are intrinsically linked, so when we’re talking about this amended motion tonight, Councillor HOWARD, let’s be really clear. First of all, you got it wrong. There’s a Bloody Big—

Chair: No, do not direct to the Councillor, please through the Chair.

Councillor COLLIER: Sorry. Through you, Chair, Councillor HOWARD might want to make herself aware of the 2021 Bloody Big Survey, which is the one that—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: She thinks that’s funny and that is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Chair—

Chair: Councillors, we’re not going to debate across the Chamber. We have a lot of motions to get through. Can we please stick to the motion that we are discussing and listen to each other in your contributions?

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, thank you very much, Chair and when I was listening to what Councillor HOWARD was saying and contributing to this amended motion tonight, she made remarks around the fact that the Bloody Big Survey is open and yes, of course it is. However, there was one already done. My question to all Councillors in this Chamber is, have you read it? I have a copy of it if you would like it. Come and see me. You can get it off Share the Dignity’s website.

It goes to the heart of why this amendment is really disappointing because, firstly, it’s very clear that no engagement has been done with the peak organisation that is making important work and important steps to address the issues of period poverty. Instead, there have been some very strange remarks about what Councillors think about how things should or shouldn’t be done. At the end of the day, on this side of the Chamber, we have taken the advice of the peak body who want to see this implemented because they are on the frontline addressing these issues every single day. They are the ones collecting the data and they are the ones producing these reports. I strongly do urge all Councillors to read it. It is deeply, deeply interesting. It will tell you all the statistics that you may know, but you may not know.

I spoke earlier in the debate about the rate of women’s participation in sports and, in particular, in swimming. I guess when the LNP make the argument that Councillors should have the discretion to decide the locations, on this side of the Chamber, we will take the information from the organisation at the coalface of this work, not making decisions about, oh, they shouldn’t go in pools, when I very clearly stated from the 2021 Bloody Big Survey about why that was important and why that was imperative, why that location was identified by, again, the peak body who is doing the work. We should be taking this advice onboard.

So no, I don’t trust the LNP to make good decisions about the locations of where they should go because they have these little thought bubbles instead of actually listening to the people who are doing the work. If Council was genuine about addressing menstrual equity, they would have, back in 2021, when they were in administration, participated in, engaged with and read the report and seen those figures and taken proactive steps. Yes, of course, it’s good that there is a location in one place. We could do so much better than that by listening to organisations and hearing their feedback, what their suggestions are based on data, not on what Councillor ATWOOD thinks might be, maybe, the best location because she said so.

That is the point of working with an organisation that actually understands the issue far better than any politician truly ever would. That’s why we’re listening to their advice. That’s why the original motion was brought tonight. So, if you are in the Administration, I do again implore you, go out and engage. It’s very disappointing to hear comments made—through you, Chair—by Councillor HOWARD earlier in the debate saying, well, they never reached out to us.

Surely you would think that if this was an issue, like the LNP have claimed tonight, that it was really important, you would see the work that they are doing. You would see that they have installed an amazing Share the Dignity Vending Machine in a Council pool and you would think, gee, wouldn’t that be great if we increased that reach across the city? Maybe I should reach out to the organisation who is doing that important work and have a conversation.

Through you, Chair, the reason why we bring motions like this is so that we can draw attention to the horrendous track record of this Administration who love to come in here and read from preprepared speeches by officers, but actually, you had the opportunity, all Administration Councillors had the opportunity, including the LORD MAYOR, the city’s leader and the Chair responsible, to go out and then go, hey, this is actually maybe a really good idea that’s been brought by an organisation on Friday, when the motion was first put on the agenda and go away and engage with them and say, this is a way that we could move forward. Instead, we’re all left confused.

I’m sure Administration Councillors have more questions to ask. How is this going to work? How can I get one? How can I fund this if I’ve already got funds allocated? I know that when I first heard about what was happening at the Council pool in Councillor CASSIDY’s ward, I made representations to see if I could fund a similar one out of my SEF program, my Suburban Enhancement Fund. So, is that now no longer going to be possible because of the shortsighted decisions made by the DEPUTY MAYOR and endorsed by every single LNP Councillor here tonight? That would truly be a barrier to accessibility.

That’s what we’re talking about tonight. This is an ill informed and poorly thought‑out amendment and new motion now. It’s really disappointing. Again, I’m making my last-ditch effort and I’m imploring Council to put this on the table, go away, do the consultation with the organisations and, yes, putting it out there, if you want to go and consult with, apparently, the other suppliers who do this same thing, of which I’ve never heard of them, I’m very happy to say I support Brisbane and I support Brisbane‑based organisations and that would be my first preference, given their strong track record.

Just one last remark I’ll say is that LNP Councillors cannot in one breath say, we support Share the Dignity, we think they’re so great and then on the other hand absolutely criticise the recommendations that they’ve asked us to bring to Council today. That’s insulting and honestly, do Administration Councillors actually think before they speak? Do they actually read the speech before it’s handed to them?

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor COLLIER is imputing motive. We have never criticised Share the Dignity and starting to attack Councillors on their speeches is not in this amendment. Ask her to come back to the—not amendment, sorry, this motion. Ask her to come back to the motion and stop the personal attacks.

Chair: Thank you and in the spirit of each Councillor and the debate that is going, please just stick to your comments, your debate and what your points are, please, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: It’s deeply disappointing that, on the Administration side of the Chamber, Councillors have chosen to make disparaging comments about the recommendations made by the peak organisation working in this space. You cannot simply—

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order—

Councillor HOWARD: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: —Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor COLLIER: I didn’t mention anyone’s name.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, you’ve got about 10 minutes.

Councillor COLLIER: Ten minutes? Ten seconds.

Chair: Sorry.

Councillor COLLIER: I’ll leave my comments there, but yes, deeply disappointed in the behaviour of the Administration tonight and their poor track record on women’s health issues.

Chair: Your time has expired.

Councillor HOWARD, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Nobody on this side of the Chamber made disparaging remarks.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

As there are no further speakers, we’ll now put the motion to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

ABSTENTIONS: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

### RESCIND AUTHORITY FOR TRAVEL SPEND TO PARIS OLYMPICS

**523/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6B on the agenda and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that—

*This Council rescinds authority given for excessive travel spend for staff and Councillors to attend events surrounding the Paris Olympics in France.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. Some concerning data came to our attention last week regarding just how much this Council is spending, and has previously spent, on sending Councillors and staff around the world for Olympic research. In the last two years, more than $220,000 has been spent on Olympic travel and it’s disappointing but not surprising that another $123,000 is being spent this July and August by sending two LNP Councillors, Councillor ADAMS and Councillor HOWARD and three senior Council staff to Paris. The LORD MAYOR himself has repeatedly said that the Brisbane Olympics are largely being handled by the State Government. He’s reminded us of that when he called for a brand-new $3.4 billion stadium in the heritage listed Victoria Park just a few weeks ago.

We also know this is the case because those of us that were here when Council entered that Host City agreement, it was clear that Council’s responsibility was to make sure that the grass was mowed, the bins were collected, people could walk and ride around Brisbane and catch a bus to venues. It’s clear that Council is failing on a few of these already and it certainly doesn’t take an expensive trip to Paris to figure out why. Just this morning, Chair, the DEPUTY MAYOR’s committee heard from the head of the Host City office in Council that, of the 10 program areas that have lead roles in the delivery of the Games and these are the 10 program areas that sit underneath the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and delivery partners include the AOC (Australian Olympic Committee), the State Government, State Government departments and in the future, the Independent Delivery Authority, of which there is a bill before the State Parliament to establish at the moment.

Of the 10 program areas, Council has responsibility for just one out of the 10 alongside two other councils, so joint leads on that one program area between Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. It’s called City Readiness, that one. This is for managing volunteers that are not associated with the Games themselves, so volunteers that are not engaged as part of the delivery of the Olympic Games. It’s for volunteers that are ancillary to the Olympic Games but do activities alongside and outside of the Olympics themselves and for disaster management. God help us if this LNP Administration is in charge of that.

So, that means there are nine other program areas of great importance to the delivery of an Olympic Games that, led by OCOG (Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) and the State Government, predominantly and State Government departments, but we know that the State Government is sending just two more people than Council are sending. So, the State Government and OCOG—of which the LORD MAYOR is a member of OCOG, so you could assume he might go, but—so, State Government and OCOG are responsible for the program areas of Venues and Villages program, so that’s all State Government and OCOG responsibility.

The Transport program is operated by DTMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads) and we are advised that Brisbane Transport have a staff member that attends that. For the Utilities program area, that’s run by the Department of Energy and Climate, plus another steering committee. City Readiness, as I said, is the one that councils have a lead on, so running the live sites, putting TVs up. They didn’t do such a good job at the Women’s World Cup, though, did they, for that one? So, they’ve got a bit of work to do there. Security and safety, that one’s run by the QPS (Queensland Police Service), Chair. Legacy, Department of State Development and OCOG, that’s one that we presume will be taken over by the Independent Delivery Authority. Access and Inclusion is led by the Department of Child Safety and Seniors. Sustainability, the Department of State Development and OCOG. First Nations, the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Procurement and Supply, the Department of Energy and Climate.

So, you’d imagine that the State Government, who is the delivery authority clearly there, alongside OCOG, which has representatives from the State Government, the Federal Government, sports, the AOC and the LORD MAYOR and the Mayor of Ipswich now, as another member on there, have the responsibility for the delivery of the Olympic Games. Not Council. Not Council’s Host City office. Not the DEPUTY MAYOR and not Councillor HOWARD.

We all want to see a legacy from these Games for this city. We want to show off our incredible city to the rest of the world, but does Council need to spend at the moment, when we’re having all these debates around the cuts that the LNP are inflicting on community services because the LNP, week after week after week, keep saying they need to tighten their belts.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM got up earlier today and said she made no apology for reducing Council’s workforce by 180 staff because belts, in her opinion, needed to be tightened. So, this Council has 180 fewer staff today on 14 May than it did on 17 October last year because, according to the LNP, Brisbane’s belt needed to be tightened and yet we’ve got the LNP spending $123,000 sending LNP politicians and Council staff from an office in Council, a made-up office in Council that has no authority to deliver the Olympic Games on an official Olympic trip. It just doesn’t make sense.

So, the DEPUTY MAYOR is the head of this Committee which was set up by the LORD MAYOR as a sort of consolation prize. We will remember, those of us that were here, that Karen Williams had to be appointed to OCOG, couldn’t be the DEPUTY MAYOR. That didn’t work out so well, so I think the Noosa Mayor replaced Karen Williams on OCOG as the SEQ Mayors’ pick and now it’s Teresa Harding. So, the Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, in terms of its delivery of the Olympics, is largely made up. It has no authority when it comes to the Host City agreement in delivering the Olympic Games.

So, we understand, then, why some consolations on top of having a committee were in order, which includes overseas travel, of course. We’ve seen the DEPUTY MAYOR engage in overseas travel over the last couple of years and this is some more junkets coming up. In Council, the Olympic responsibility rests with the LORD MAYOR and CEO and also you could easily argue with the Infrastructure, Transport and City Standards Chairs probably, as well, in terms of the stuff we talked about, in terms of engaging around transport and open spaces, footpaths, bin collections, live sites, maybe even the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee.

All of the Chairs have some responsibility except for the ones that are being sent to Paris for the Olympic Games. So, that’s a bit strange. Can’t LNP Councillors scratch their heads when they saw this one, especially other Civic Cabinet Chairs when they approved it, going hang on a minute, they have—those LNP Chairs—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, they’re doing all the work to prepare Brisbane for the Olympics when the two chairs that have no responsibility under the Host City arrangements are being sent over there, but I understand one of those would have to be absolutely ruled out of overseas travel, Councillor WINES, because the last Olympic travel that he did in his capacity as Infrastructure Chair was during the height of the February 2022 flood disaster and when his community was going underwater, was on a plane to Dubai secretly because he was posting lots of photos of him supposedly standing on a bridge that was about to go under, but it turns out he was in seat 1A flying over to Dubai. So, they don’t have a very good track record when it comes to the good use of ratepayers’ money for Olympic travel. We have absolutely no faith in that.

So, why isn’t our city being represented by the LORD MAYOR? I’m glad the LORD MAYOR is here again. I said it’s now been seven hours since we’ve heard him speak in this Council Chamber, so I’m sure he’ll get up and explain why our LORD MAYOR is not representing us at the Olympics. The State Government, as I said, which has the ultimate responsibility, is sending only just two more people than Council is sending and no politicians. No politicians are going, but that’s not the case here in Council.

This is clearly seen by the LNP as a junket, Chair. It’s extravagant and ridiculous and it’s offensive to Brisbane residents and ratepayers and renters who are dealing with less footpath maintenance, less drainage, less kerbing and channelling, with a 20% cut to that budget. You know, we assume this is also how, in this belt‑tightening we’re hearing about from Councillor CUNNINGHAM and sacking staff and cutting back on services, how this travel is being paid for in this new environment of austerity under the LNP. The 2032 Olympic Games are important, but so are basic services—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor CASSIDY: —and that’s a better use of our money.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on this motion and I look forward to whatever stunt the LNP have got coming up on this one, whether that’s an amendment or sending out a novice LNP Councillor to read a preprepared speech or perhaps just voting against it, I don’t know. However, I am appalled that the LNP Administration is spending $123,000—I thought it was a bit more than that, but $123,000 to send Councillor ADAMS, Councillor HOWARD and three senior Council officers to Paris. Now, the Olympics are some nine years away.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Seven, thank you. Eight? Eight years away for Brisbane. It’s highly unlikely that Councillor HOWARD will be here. It’s highly unlikely that Councillor ADAMS will be here. At the attrition rate going in the Brisbane City Council office, it’s highly unlikely that those staff will all be here, as well. It is appalling that the LNP Administration is spending money that should otherwise go into services, services that should be being made available to the people of Brisbane who pay rates so that they get good services in their local community, that funding should be going into those services. Worse still, Councillor CASSIDY said there’s some other $220,000 that’s been spent on other junkets, presumably officers, not Councillors.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Have they already—oh my God, this is outrageous. That’s $340,000 and it would pay for a Share the Dignity machine in every library around Brisbane. It’s just—what is going on with the LNP Administration that they think sending two—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Athens. I forgot, she did go to Athens. Yes, thank you. She did go to Athens. What is it with the LNP that they think spending this kind of money on junkets for LNP Councillors who are on their way out the door is a good idea? Meanwhile, this Council won’t fix a flood damaged park in my ward. It’s not mowing roadside verges in my ward and we’re paying for that to be mowed. It won’t fix Venner Road. Twice now, money has been put in the budget to fix Gordon Thomson Oval and twice, it’s not been delivered. The footpath in Guard Street at Graceville won’t be delivered.

These are just some of the cuts that the LNP have made in my ward this year, so that that money can be redirected into sending five Council people off to a junket in Paris. It is an appalling use of ratepayers’ funds, appalling use of ratepayers’ funds and the good news is, I’m telling everybody about it. Those flyers have actually started to go out, because nobody in my ward who’s been complaining to me about the fact the grass is not being mowed, the trees aren’t being trimmed, the footpaths aren’t being fixed and now their oval remediations’ not going to happen, from what I’ve heard, Venner Road’s not going to be fixed.

Now they’re being told that the projects the LORD MAYOR keeps announcing in the budget, both of them—not the first time they’ve been announced this year. They were all announced last year. They weren’t delivered last year. They’re not going to be delivered this year. So, their projects are being cut, but yet their funds are being directed—redirected into junkets for LNP Councillors and senior Council officers. This is an appalling waste of taxpayers’ funds. I don’t support it. I support this motion and I just say—the LNP should have learned from the whole ‘Salary Anne’ thing.

It’s what brought down—okay, there were a few other issues—but it was one of the major reasons that Jim Soorley was able to damage Sallyanne Atkinson, because she became out of touch. This LNP Administration were last time and it’s only their fraudulent postal vote campaign and incompetence up at George Street that basically got Schrinner—the LORD MAYOR back over the line in many seats. It’s not a re-endorsement of what you’re doing and nobody thinks—nobody in this city thinks spending money on junkets for Councillors to go overseas is a good use of money. There’s plenty of other things that should be invested in, like delivering on your election promises, not sending Councillors and senior staff overseas. This is an incredible disservice to the people of Brisbane. I do not support Olympics junkets and I support this motion.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I just rise to speak on this motion about excessive travel spend by the LNP Council. It really does speak to what the priorities are of this LNP Council when making decisions to spend insane amounts of money on politicians’ luxury travel isn’t right. Every single ward, every single suburb in Brisbane at the moment is feeling the LNP Council’s cuts when it comes to basic services and we know that right across the board. Officers are under so much pressure to either delay or cut projects. So, when we’re constantly having discussions in this Chamber about sensible savings, about not replacing staff who go on leave, about broken footpaths that sit there for months and months and months and years and never get fixed, about playgrounds that never get repaired, all of these discussions and Council’s constant response is, we are under significant financial pressure.

We have to be sensible. I do not think that spending this kind of money on politicians’ luxury travel is sensible and you would think—I would think that LNP Councillors like Councillor CUNNINGHAM would say that to her colleagues and say, hey, guys, I’m under a lot of pressure in the Chamber. The media’s on to it. We’ve really got to make sure we’re on these savings and to then go, okay, no, it’s okay. We’re going to spend over $100,000 of the people of Brisbane’s money on travel for politicians that have no role to play in the delivery of the Games is completely outrageous. Let’s be clear. If the DEPUTY MAYOR had any important role to play in the delivery, it maybe might stack up, right? But remember, last year in her summing up speech, she didn’t mention the Olympics once.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: She didn’t mention the Olympics once and now she wants us—sorry, through you, Chair—the DEPUTY MAYOR wants us to cough up and pay for a trip for herself and for Councillor HOWARD. The question the LORD MAYOR has to answer is, why isn’t he going? Genuine question. Why won’t you come clean to the people of Brisbane and say—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Well, yes, we don’t know. So, maybe he could confirm tonight. But other mayors are going and we want to see some leadership. The people of Brisbane deserve that. Councillor CASSIDY made remarks earlier. I genuinely do think, if we were going to send any politician, it would make sense for the Mayor, but if it had to be a Councillor, because the Mayor’s got other, more impressing and important engagements, it actually would be probably Councillors MURPHY, WINES and HUTTON, because we had the presentation today that outlined—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: —the most important areas that Council have to deliver on and they fall under those three Councillors’ responsibility. So, I am so sorry that you got duped out of your trip. Really disappointed for you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes and look, there could be more trips on the cards, who knows? This is, of course, just really the beginning of the travel. We’ve got eight years to go. So, who knows how much this is going to end up costing the people of Brisbane on excessive travel. From a delivery perspective, the LORD MAYOR has of course often spoken about his desire for the legacy of the Olympics to be about transport and improving Brisbane’s transport and public transport options. So, that would be, you would think, the priority of the LORD MAYOR to go—if he was going to go—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Or—yes, maybe LORD MAYOR, through you, Chair, while politicians are there, you could check out the Paris Metro.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes. Brisbane used to be compared to that, but now I think it’s a little bit—watered-down version of that. So, maybe it might be good to just refresh your memory on what a real metro actually looks like. So, maybe we could do the agenda—the trip agenda. Value for money for rate payers. Instead of using this money of the people of Brisbane, I can think of 10 things off the top of my head that I would like to see the money for. Actually, I’ll make it 11. But firstly, fixing the playground at C.P. Bottomley Park that has been closed for over a year—nearly a year, sorry. Completely closed, inaccessible, not able—no forward plan to address it. Terrible. That could be a good one. That’d probably cost the same amount. Resurfacing Ritchie Road. We heard Councillor KIM talk about that last week. Buying more bush land for koalas to live on. We all love koalas in here. A new playground at Doolandella off Redhead Street. Councillor STRUNK thinks that might be really nice. Fixing up the Einbunpin Lagoon would be a good start, a good funding contribution.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, please come back to the actual motion that Councillor CASSIDY has moved.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, so if we rescind the funding—

Chair: It’s about that, not what it’s going to.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, if we rescind the funding, we could invest that money in other projects that Council could fund instead, like completing missing bikeway links on Nudgee Road, making Ekibin Road safer, fixing the Kedron Brook bikeway, sorting out the Marshall and Toohey Road intersection. More support, of course, for organisations supporting those who are homeless or insecure housing—living in—or experiencing insecure housing through Council’s grant funding or funding Share the Dignity vending machines in Council facilities. This excessive travel does not pass the pub test and that is why we have brought this motion tonight and I hope that all Councillors will support it.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on this motion. It’s a rather puzzling motion, given Councillor CASSIDY’s own comments and the record of Queensland Labor at multiple levels of government when it comes to travel, but regardless, here we are, quarter to 10, so we’ll discuss it. Council has a clear travel policy for staff and Councillors. So, for those who are playing along at home, it was most recently adopted and approved by Council in 2022 and at that time, interestingly, it was supported by Councillor CASSIDY. Councillor CASSIDY said and I quote, Madam Chair, we do accept the changes in the travel policy and modernising that and including Olympic travel as part of that. It’s a legitimate form of travel now that we’re a Host City. He went on to say—he went on to say, Madam Chair—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors—one moment, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, please.

One moment. Councillors. Everybody else was heard in silence. Please give Councillor CUNNINGHAM the same respect.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: He went on to say, Madam Chair and I quote, we believe there’s legitimate travel to be undertaken as a host city for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 and establish working relationships with past and future Olympic host cities as they come online as well in the lead-up to 2032. It sounds a lot like, from Labor tonight, anyone else could go but the DEPUTY MAYOR. So, I would ask for them to refrain from the personal attacks. With backflips like this, you’d have to think it’s actually Councillor CASSIDY who we should be sending as part of a member of the gymnastic team, perhaps, because as Australia’s largest local government and the second-largest in the southern hemisphere and as a future Olympic and Paralympic city, of course representatives and staff from Brisbane City Council need to engage with counterparts across Australia, across the region and around the world. But importantly, the LORD MAYOR has made a sensible decision to seek a reduction in travel expenses as part of our savings drive.

We say that, despite the growing international presence of Brisbane, we still spend far less on travel than during the days of the Soorley Labor administration. So, bear with me here. I went back and I had a look. In today’s dollars, travel spending peaked at $1.7 million a year in 2002-03. In our current financial year, Madam Chair, Council’s travel budget is less than a quarter of that. So, it’s galling to get some kind of lecture in here tonight from members of the Labor party. The same Labor party which recently just sent tandem private jets down the coast of Queensland for a media event. I mean, spare me, people. Our travel spend is modest and it is responsible and it is focused on delivering outcomes for Brisbane. It’s not about travel, this motion, you see, Madam Chair. It’s about them trying to get a cheap headline. So, we won’t be supporting the motion and that’s in line with Councillor CASSIDY’s previous comments. Thanks.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY, right of reply.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. What I find particularly galling is the Finance Chair who has been lecturing us since 17 October about the cuts to staff, the cuts to projects, the cuts to Council services, all in the name of belt-tightening and—what’s the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —so-called sensible savings, lecturing us once again saying that this travel’s okay because 22 years ago, somebody else did it. That’s it. That’s all I got. That’s it. That’s the whole argument. That’s the whole argument the LNP have tonight in support of this Olympic travel. That’s just quite weak. If that’s the reason—if that’s the reason you go out—if you go out and did a vox pop in the mall yourself, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, through you, Chair and asked 20 people if they thought it was acceptable to be sending politicians—Councillor ADAMS and Councillor HOWARD—on this Olympic junket while 20% of the funding for basic Council services like kerb and channel repair and footpath repair and drainage repairs, when 180 staff have been ripped out of Council’s workforce, who thought it was okay to do those things, but then spend $123,000 on travel, I reckon most people would say, no. That’s not okay. You should put that money back in the Council’s services, because we’re a service delivery level of government. I don’t find Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s argument to be very strong when it comes to this being a good use of money.

Again, when we heard just today that the reduction in Council’s workforce by 180 staff, who do very basic work, from what we can assume. These are staff that might work in Council’s libraries. These are staff that might work in compliance and regulatory services. These are staff that do footpath repairs and fill potholes. So, they’re exiting—important work—as they’re exiting Council through voluntary or forced redundancies, at the moment they’re not being replaced, because according to Councillor CUNNINGHAM, she has to go through a process of belt-tightening and of cutting expenditure and of finding savings everywhere she can, except when it comes to this Olympic travel.

We’ve now, in the last couple of years, racked up $350,000 worth of Olympic travel, so-called Olympic travel and yet the DEPUTY MAYOR couldn’t even talk at the end of the term about Council’s preparation for the Olympics. So, the comments I made in 2022 weren’t made in the context of Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s lectures. We’ve had to sit through, for the last six months, lectures by the LNP about having to find savings. We’ve suggested lots of ways to find savings on this side of the Chamber and this is another one of them tonight, so we can continue to fund service delivery, so we can continue to employ the hard-working Council staff that do such an amazing work on behalf of Council out in the community.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: That should be the top priority for Council.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: To find sensible savings like cutting Olympic travel, so we can continue to fund services. But tonight, the LNP have confirmed they want to do the opposite. They would rather sacrifice footpath repairs, they would rather sacrifice drainage repairs, to send LNP politicians over to Paris to look at the Olympic Games. Well, it’s good if you can get it, isn’t it?

Chair: We will now put the motion.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion 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, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 17 - The 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, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Councillor ADERMANN: Point of order, Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **524/2023-24**  At that time, 9.53pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Greg ADERMANN, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 9.54pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

### COUNCIL’s SUPPORT OF IDAHOBIT

**525/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6C on the agenda and called on Councillor Lucy COLLIER to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that—

*This Council commits to continue its support of IDHOBIT and congratulates Council staff for working with the people of Brisbane to eradicate transphobia and homophobia.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Well thanks very much, Chair and I hope that this will be a straightforward motion because the purpose of course of this motion is that we want to mark on the record our appreciation for the work of Council officers in making Brisbane City Council as both an employer and a city, a space that is free of trans and homophobia. And we want to affirm our continuing commitment to that cause in support of Brisbane’s members of the LGBTQIA+ community. This year we mark IDAHOBIT, International Day Against LGBTQIA+ discrimination and 17 May marks the date in 1990, which is the year that I was born, that homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organisation classification of diseases.

Over two decades later, LGBTQIA+ communities still face discrimination. The stakes have never been higher to champion inclusion and as Councillors we should thank and acknowledge the officers who have been integral to our efforts from Brisbane City Council. We are of course a modern and progressive city and the people who make up our Council staff reflect these values. So when we recognise the Council officers and their work, whether it’s the work of library staff, supporting Brisbane Pride Festival, the staff who facilitate important community partnerships, the officers who have helped provide grant support to organisations like Open Doors Youth Service, Rainbow Family and others, those officers who have worked on helping raise the rainbow flag or advocate for the rainbow crossing at The Wickham in the Valley, we want to recognise and thank you.

I also importantly really want to recognise the work of the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation, whose Light Up The Night Gala will of course take place here in City Hall on Friday night. Of course any level of discrimination faced by the LGBTQIA+ community is completely unacceptable and our collective work continues and I hope that Council will commit to that. But today, let’s just all recognise and appreciate the work of Council officers who have made important strides in this space.

Chair: Is there any—

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’d like to move an amendment.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

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| **526/2023-24**  It was moved by Councillor Penny WOLFF, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *That Council commits to continue its support of IDAHOBIT and congratulates Council staff for working with the people of Brisbane to eradicate transphobia and homophobia.* |

Chair: Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Chair. Every year Brisbane joins more than 130 nations around the world in commemorating IDAHOBIT, the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia. This amended seeks to correct the motion so that accurate reflects IDAHOBIT and congratulates our Council officers for the incredible work that they’ve done to capsulate Brisbane into being Australia’s most inclusive council.

As such, I move that this amendment be put so that we can deal with the right motion. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Procedural motion - Amendment be now put:**

**527/2023-24**

Councillor Penny WOLFF moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the amendment be now put. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: So we’ll now put the amendment forward.

**Amendment put:**

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to the notified motion to the Chamber resulting in it being declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, look I wasn’t going to speak on this because I did think again it was a very straightforward motion. Obviously, there’s a technical issue in there that the LNP has felt that they must correct. What that says to me is that even when it comes to simple motions like this, the LNP simply can’t let anybody else bring an idea to this Chamber, they have to—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Councillor. I think you’re on to what I’m on to, Councillor JOHNSTON, it’s not about all of that, about why it had to be corrected, so that we have a correct motion, which is very important. Can you please speak to the substantive motion now. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: And I most certainly am and my point is that the LNP haven’t been able to bring themselves to allow this motion to go through, they felt the need to change it when it was a technical issue that probably could have been corrected as a typo. That’s what—

Chair: Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —they do when they bring problems through in their own motion.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’re spending time talking about something that is not relevant to the substantive motion. The motion is substantive and everyone can talk to it now.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I am.

Chair: And it’s really important that we do.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I am.

Chair: So can we please spend that time—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I am.

Chair: —doing that. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: And the substantive motion has had an A added to it and I am talking about the substantive motion, which now includes an A. So I’m just, you know, making the point that the motion now has been amended by the LNP to change one letter, one letter. They can’t just let—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’re still not talking to the motion. It was done—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m definitely talking to the motion.

Chair: Excuse me. It was done in good faith very quickly and it was moved so that it could quickly be put so that everyone could debate the substantive motion because everybody wants it to be correct. If it’s only just been—people have realised that, they’ve corrected it and now we want to talk to the motion. Can you please do so?

Councillor JOHNSTON: And I am definitely talking about the motion, I-D-A-H-O-B-I-T and I’ll do 10 minutes on every motion tonight if that’s what everybody wants. I will do it. It will not be a problem, I can talk on my feet and I can make stuff up. But my point here—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Awful lot of interjecting from LNP Councillors which has gone unremarked by you, strangely.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. You are entitled to talk 10 minutes on every motion tonight and if you wish to do so, you can. But please, when you are, stick to the substantive motion.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So point of order, the Leader of the Opposition has raised a procedural issue with interjecting which you’ve just failed to rule upon. LNP Councillors, including Councillor MURPHY at the top of his voice shouted across the Chamber and you’ve taken no action against them. Why are you applying the rules in one way to me and in another way to LNP Councillors?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I can hear nobody talking in the room. Both sides of this Chamber have been vocal from one time to another during the night and every week during Council Chamber and it’s—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: —often called out to bring the Chamber back to being quiet so that you can speak and the Chamber is quiet and we’re waiting to hear from you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Again, Madam Chairman, you ignored multiple LNP Councillors shouting across the Chamber, including clearly Councillor MURPHY, a point of order was raised by Councillor CASSIDY and you just did not rule upon it. You have called myself multiple times if I’ve even made a peep, Councillor COLLIER and others, but where Councillor WINES has interjected or Councillor MURPHY, you’ve taken no action.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So why are you not ruling on Councillor CASSIDY’s point of order?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON, I’ll tell you why, because several times during this evening, during the day, other Councillors, including the DEPUTY MAYOR, have said point of order and I know that they want everything, what they have asked for others to stop interjecting, I haven’t made a ruling each time, I’ve just brought the Chamber back to order. And we are waiting to hear from you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, I urge you to seek some advice on this. The Meetings Local Law require you to make ruling.

Chair: Okay, thank you Councillor JOHNSTON, I do not need to seek advice. I will just remind all Councillors could you please not speak while other Councillors are speaking, which I have consistently done all night to all sides of the Chamber.

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s absolutely not what you have done.

Chair: And Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Not what you have done, clearly. The record will show that’s not what you have done, but that’s fine, I will continue because this is all on the public record and your actions are all on the public record, so that’s fine, I’ll continue.

Chair: As it be.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, how long have I got to go now, sorry, given all of that?

Chair: Seven minutes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh excellent.

Chair: No, eight minutes now.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Eight? It’s going up, excellent.

Chair: No sorry, let me have a look, six minutes but we can, you know, keep talking, but then the substantive motion, but if it’s important for you, please continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Seven, eight or six, just to be clear. Seven, eight or six?

Chair: You have spoken for four minutes and 14 seconds.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you very much, so just under six.

Chair: You’re welcome.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, what, God, what is essentially the issue here, in my view, is that the LNP have amended the original motion to now have a motion that includes the letter A. Now against homophobia does seem to be an important part of the motion and it is good that it has been corrected. However, when there are typos in LNP motions that come before this place, they are just corrected. There’s no motion to correct them and if this is the new standard now as Councillor WOLFF has so helpfully brought to our attention, I look forward to that being done every time now there is a typo in one of the LNP’s motions that have been brought forward today, because that will be something—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I know. Every time now I think that that’s what we should be doing because a precedent has been set today. Usually where there’s a typo, it is just corrected. But that’s changed. But I think it is a reflection of the LNP’s intention to not let something through that is not put by them. This is the issue before us today. So they could not just allow a motion to go forward which committed to recognising Council officers for their work on behalf of the people of Brisbane to eradicate transphobia and homophobia. The motion was very clear, everyone understood its purpose, but the LNP felt they had to play games and add an A at 10.27 in the evening. I just think, I just think that that seems to be petty, I think would be the word I would use and I think it—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I think Councillor JOHNSTON missed the amendment debate, we are now talking about the substantive motion, LNP’s not in it, does she support the motion or not?

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR and we’ve had this conversation, Councillor JOHNSTON, that it was quickly done so that we could get on with the substantive debate. And I think everyone is keen to do that and talk to it as well. Can you please talk to the substantive motion.

Councillor JOHNSTON: So point of order, Madam Chair. Was that a valid point of order by the DEPUTY MAYOR who said I’ve got a say whether I support the motion or not?

Chair: I didn’t say, I didn’t say it was and I said let’s continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay, well I’m now raising a point of order, checking with you about whether that was a valid point of order by the DEPUTY MAYOR and I’m seeking a ruling.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, often people make points of order and we move on. I am asking everybody to please stick to the substantive debate. We have moved on and I’m just bringing you back to the debate. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, Madam Chairman, I’ve raised a procedural point of order and I’m entitled to a ruling on my point of order—

Chair: Okay.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —as you are the Chair of Council.

Chair: Thank—I’ll make a ruling.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I don’t want to have to keep asking—

Chair: I’ll make a ruling.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —but—

Chair: Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —it is the Meetings Local Law that you make a ruling.

Chair: I will, Councillor, for your benefit then.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you.

Chair: The point of order that the DEPUTY MAYOR is correct, you are not sticking to the relevance of the debate. Can I please call you back to the relevance of the debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair. The DEPUTY MAYOR did not raise a relevance point of order. She said very specifically that I had to say whether I supported the motion or I didn’t support the motion.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am not going to—

Councillor JOHNSTON: So is there a rule—

Chair: —debate this further with you. If—

Councillor JOHNSTON: But you and the DEPUTY MAYOR seem pretty intent on doing that. So—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —is it okay for the DEPUTY MAYOR to stand up and say I’ve got to say whether I support something or not, is that a valid point of order? Because that is what the DEPUTY MAYOR did.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I have just told you I’m not debating this any further and I consider that you’re now displaying unsuitable meeting conduct in accordance with section 24(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001* and I hereby request you to seek making points of order and disrupting the meeting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Unlike the DEPUTY MAYOR who can or Councillor WINES or Councillor MURPHY. But that’s fine. I’ll go back to the debate because that’s the most instructive episode from you in the past four weeks I’ve seen. So I look forward to Council continuing its programs to support the queer community and I look forward to new initiatives coming forward to support them. I know that Council officers are very passionate about doing this where they can and I think it was an important motion to bring forward and I am disappointed that the petty party political games of the LNP have ruined what could be something that was very straightforward, would demonstrate unanimous support from all Councillors in this place, but again it’s gameplaying by the LNP that has disrupted that motion.

I also look forward very much to typos being corrected in this way going forward under this Administration because clearly, they feel it’s very, very important and if they’re doing it at 10.31 at night, they can definitely do it at other times of the day as well. If the DEPUTY MAYOR really, really wants to know, there’ll be a vote in a minute and she can find out.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on this motion, substantive motion now, because it is an important motion recognising that this date, IDAHOBIT date, is really about raising awareness for LGBT+ peoples and the right violations that have happened historically to that community, my community actually. It’s a really significant day, as Councillor COLLIER talked about, because it was the day not too long ago in 1990 where homophobia, well, homophobic, well, the declassification occurred on 17 May as a mental illness, metal disorder, homosexuality was declassified. And that’s really important because it is within most of our lifetime here in this Chamber where homosexuality was classified as a mental disorder and we now live in a time where we know that this is completely untrue.

And yet, you know, we do recognise and it’s important to put on the record that 20 years later that the work does have to continue and not only internationally, but also here in Brisbane where transphobia, biphobia and homophobia continues. We saw a recent demonstration of this just in November last year in the leadup to Bay Pride. We saw that happen very clearly and what was incredible about that in the end was that that community stood up to it and 5,000 people joined for the Park Pride Stride. That was an incredible show of solidarity to the LGBTIQ+ community. So this is why the support of allies, members of the community and organisation, not just on IDAHOBIT Day and also wear Purple Day is so important because the work that this Council does is important in this space, not just through visibility and symbolism, through the bridge lighting, the raising of the flag, City Hall on IDAHOBIT Day, noting that symbolism is really important for queer communities due to the oppression that they’ve received socially and historically.

But because of that historic oppression, it is our work that we do that where we can be leaders in diversity and the Council’s work and the library collection, commitment to equal opportunities in the workplace, support of Brisbane Pride, community events organisations and beyond is really important. I also must state that it’s really important that we constantly look at other ways to support LGBTIQ+ communities and peoples. A really great way to do that is not only just this motion, but of course wholeheartedly in this Chamber to be active, not just on IDAHOBIT Day, but every day in fighting homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, et cetera. It’s really, really important that we stay vigilant, not only in our communities, but also very publicly vigilant to fight this.

And you know, we’ll be supporting this motion because the Greens wholeheartedly do thank Council staff for all their work. It’s really important, the diverse workplace and the work that they do on the ground is really fantastic and we can keep going further. This was a very good motion that I thought was simple, put forward by the ALP and we will be supporting it and thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well thank you, Madam Chair. Every day we work to celebrate and support Brisbane’s thriving LGBTIQ+ community and of course this week we pay special attention to this. Madam Chair, there’s a lot of words about respect that are bandied around this room. How much more respectful is it that we spell the word against, that we include the A against homophobia? That’s what the amendment was put forward so that we could all talk to this very important motion. So IDAHOBIT is such an important day, not only to stop and recognise the past and the present challenges faced by the LGBTIQ+ people, but also in recognising the wonderful progress that has been made and continues to be making this lovely City of Brisbane a more inclusive place. We were the first ever local government to be officially recognised as an LGBTI inclusive workplace and Council continues to be recognised as an outstanding employer through the Australia Workplace Equity Index, earning gold status for its ongoing work as an inclusive workplace for LGBTIQA+ employees.

I am always pleased to join River City Pride at events and I want to say a huge thank you to Sarah and her team who are continuing the work of David Mahon and Luke Nixon. The work you do is making a real difference to the lives of so many people and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and commitment to making the Brisbane of tomorrow even better than the Brisbane of today. As we are all in furious agreement, I move the motion be put.

**Procedural motion – Motion be now put:**

**528/2023-24**

It was moved by Councillor Vicki HOWARD, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the motion be now put. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Councillor HOWARD: Division.

*The division lapsed for want of a seconder.*

Chair: We will now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 24 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, Penny WOLFF and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

### INSTALL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT INTERSECTION OF IPSWICH AND EKIBIN ROADS, ANNERLEY

**529/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6D on the agenda and called on Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that—

*Brisbane City Council urgently installs a zebra crossing or wombat crossing on the uncontrolled slip lane at intersection of Ipswich Rd and Ekibin Rd, Annerley, allocating funding from Infrastructure for Brisbane Programme Two, as it has at similar locations in Norman Park.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you and I must thank all the LNP Councillors for the genius move of putting me on the Infrastructure Committee because after just three short weeks of being on that committee, it has been enlightening, absolutely enlightening. And a couple of weeks ago we had a presentation about—it was a Black Spot funded program and one of the projects that was given as the example was Bennetts Road, Crown Street, Macrossan Avenue, Norman Park. And as part of that presentation, we were shown photos of wombat crossings being placed on slip lanes and it was amazing to me because myself and Councillor GRIFFITHS who also supports this motion, we’ve been told you can’t have zebra crossings on slip lanes. I’ve been told that several times about slip lanes in my ward.

So when I saw this, I thought, gee whizz, that’s a surprise and then I did speak briefly to Councillor COLLIER and she said it was a good solution for her area. And she also told me that at least one of these roads and perhaps both are 60 kilometres an hour.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. So, you know, I don’t think Councillor WINES necessarily understands when he gives us information that it does highlight the hypocrisy of the LNP in other parts of Brisbane. So this motion today is very important because the uncontrolled slip lane at the corner of Ipswich Road and Ekibin Road, Annerley, was identified by hundreds of residents in the Move Safe consultation that Council did back in 2017-2018. Now for those Councillors who weren’t here back then and there’s quite a few of them, Council did at the time, quite an innovative survey asking residents to drop pins on a geo-tagged map talking about where they wanted pedestrian improvements around Brisbane. Now I’m very proud to say my community responded overwhelmingly and Annerley was one of I think the top three areas where people wanted pedestrian improvements. And that’s something that myself and Councillor GRIFFITHS have advocated for and then more recently, Councillor Sriranganathan and Councillor MASSEY because we all share common borders around Annerley.

This one is on the border of Tennyson Ward and Moorooka Ward and people cannot safely cross Ekibin Road to get to the shops at Annerley, to get to the bus stops, because there is an uncontrolled slip lane. Now Move Safe was a really good piece of consultation and it gave us a very clear picture of where people travelled, how they travelled and where they felt safe and this is one of the locations clearly where they did not. Now to date, Councillor GRIFFITHS’s and my attempts to get action on this slip lane have met with a number of no responses for the following reasons. You can’t put it on a road that’s 60 kilometres an hour. Yes, there’s not clear sight lines. And I’m very interested in what they come up with this evening as to why it can’t be done because I’m presuming there will be a reason.

However, we now know those things are fundamentally untrue. We now know that Brisbane City Council engineers have signed off on a solution where not one but two wombat crossings have gone in at this intersection of Bennetts Road, Crown Street and Macrossan Avenue, Norman Park. We also know that these are 60 kilometre an hour roads. Now the good news is, Ipswich Road, Annerley is now 50 kilometres an hour, so it’s not a 60-kilometre-an-hour road. It is 50. Now we did want it to be 40, but 50 was the compromise that council finally agreed to after about seven years of action.

Ekibin Road remains a 60-kilometre-an-hour road, but clearly 60 kilometres an hour is not an impediment to getting a wombat crossing across a slip lane. So the excuses that I’ve had to date about the fact that wombat crossings are not suitable on slip lanes, that they can’t be on roads that are 60, are clearly untrue because there’s not one rule for Norman Park under the road rules and another rule for Annerley under the road rules. The road rules are the same. So clearly somebody within Council is making decisions to allow a solution in Norman Park that would be incredibly beneficial for Annerley residents because this is a low-cost solution. Putting in traffic lights into this location would be the best solution, I agree completely with that, but the problem is they are way more expensive and as we know, that money has to be put aside for Councillor ADAMS and Councillor HOWARD to go off on their junket to Paris. It can’t be put towards improving road infrastructure in Brisbane.

Or, you know, we’ve heard that $92,000 had to be put aside for a barbecue at Newstead for the opening of a bridge. Imagine, imagine if the pedestrians of Annerley had $60,092,000 spent on improving pedestrian facilities around Annerley. I don’t think I could come up with enough projects to do that. Or even let’s just say the $92,000 Councillor MURPHY organised for the party. Let’s say that was done. That’d pay for all of this as well. So the issue, if there is apparently no money, well we know that’s not true because clearly there are projects that are not being delivered this year, which sadly include projects like Venner Road, where they’re clearly not doing any work. So there is room in the budget to do this project. There is precedent to allow this project in at Norman Park. It is clearly a project that is supported by the community that would have real and long-term benefits for Annerley residents and it is a project that will make it safer for people to move around their suburb to get to work, to get to sport, to get to the shops, to get to church and it will make it safer for everyone.

I think that the solution in Norman Park gives us a very instructive example of what is possible when council puts politics aside and looks at investing in the infrastructure that a community needs and we know that the community does need this infrastructure. So I urge all Councillors to support this motion. I know Councillor GRIFFITHS, he had a public meeting tonight because he had three days’ notice of his neighbourhood plan going out for consultation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Three days, yes it was a lot, wasn’t it? So he had there, yes, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Yes, three days, so he had a public meeting on that tonight. But I know this is an issue that he has been pushing Council officers to address. I know that improving pedestrian safety around Moorooka Ward is critically important to him, that is why he seconded the motion and he would have been here to debate it tonight if not for the LNP’s decision to do a sneak attack without advising him on the neighbourhood plan. So I know he joins with me in calling on this Administration to deliver this important pedestrian safety upgrade. It is low cost, it’s clearly technically possible and we want to see some improvements.

Residents have been waiting for six to seven years now for this to be done and it’s not been done and this Administration simply fail to invest time after time in infrastructure in Annerley. You know, the project at Villa Street got cancelled, Councillor McLachlan stood up here a few years ago and said, I’m cancelling this project and $300,000 just got pulled out of a road project because I asked for a slip lane to be addressed. And again, they couldn’t possibly do that as part of the plan, so they just cancelled the whole project. So this Administration, when it comes to investing in pedestrian safety in Annerley, have a terrible track record and this is one small way and one important project that can be delivered to make things safer for Annerley residents and I urge all Councillors to support the motion.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the motion before us. On 10 April I received a memo from the LORD MAYOR asking me for my budget submission with a deadline of 26 April. The memo said and I quote: Submissions received after this date risk exclusion from the budget consideration process. The motion before us today is a budget bid which I can only assume the relevant Councillors included in their budget submissions will be considered along with requests from all Councillors. Given this, I move a procedural motion that this motion be laid on the table.

**Procedural motion – Notified motion lie on the table:**

**530/2023-24**

Councillor Alex GIVNEY moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the notified motion lie on the table. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

### INCREASE IN SUBURBAN HOMELESS CONNECT EVENT DELIVERY

**531/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6E on the agenda and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER—

*That this Council commits to making Homeless Connect more accessible for all, by delivering more frequent events in suburban locations from 2024 onwards.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. This Thursday, Brisbane City Council’s Homeless Connect event is on at the Brisbane Showgrounds, providing free services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We know and we often talk about this being one of the biggest issues our city is facing at the moment in terms of humans, so the human impact of the housing crisis. So tonight what we’re calling for and this has been a long time coming, particularly with feedback from service providers, housing organisations, homelessness organisations who attend Homeless Connect and do great work and work with Council and we applaud the work of Council and Council officers that roll out Homeless Connect event, but rolling these out to more locations so they are more accessible to people is important and that’s the advice that we get and the continued feedback that we get from service providers.

So what we know and we’ve talked about this again over the last few weeks, is that we will all know and see firsthand as Councillors people sleeping rough in so many parts of Brisbane, so many more parts of Brisbane than we’ve ever seen before. Not just the inner city and also not just in highly visible places either, not just in park areas, along the Sandgate foreshore at Curlew Park, at the back of the Sandgate library, in the alcove at the entrance to the Sandgate Town Hall, in the stairs that lead up to my office, in the ALDI building, not just places like that that are highly visible, but also places that are highly hidden as well, on the back seats of cars, couch surfing at friend’s or family’s houses, so people experience different—have different experiences of homelessness and sleeping rough as we know right around Brisbane.

So providing services is really critical and we know that’s not something that Council does directly, but connecting people to those services is a critical role that Council can play. We know that hosting the Homeless Connect event in one location is the easier and more convenient way of doing it, I get that and understand that’s logistically an easier way of delivering that event and providing extra bus services certainly does help people get there, but distance is still a barrier for so many. I think and I hope the Council Chamber here tonight will agree that we can do better. We know that events like Homeless Connect improve the quality of lives for so many who can access them that one time a year and as we know and we’ll hear as well from Councillor HOWARD, that the event provides free services to some of our most vulnerable residents, whether that’s advice about health and housing to food support and access to basic items on the day and also other important services that a lot of us take for granted, but things like haircuts, for instance, as well.

So we certainly thank and congratulate the staff and volunteers who are taking part in Homeless Connect this Thursday, wish them an extremely successful event and as I said, Council isn’t involved in the direct service delivery when it comes to this, we accept that. We’re not saying that we should at any point in this debate or in debates we’ve had over the last few weeks, we do believe that that’s done best by those who specialise in it. But what Council does do and can do even better, we think, is connect those services and host those organisations together. As this problem evolves, so too much Council’s response to that. That’s something that’s become evident in the housing debate, at this problem, as housing crisis has evolved and changed and the face of housing stress has changed, our response to it and our actions need to change. Well that’s also the case when it comes to a critical and important event like Homeless Connect. It isn’t set and forget, it can’t be and the face, the modern face of people who are either currently homeless or at risk of homelessness is changing fundamentally as well.

I caught up with Ozcare yesterday who provide services in terms of people who have hoarding and squalor problems, I know Council works in that space as well and also connecting people to, you know, ACAT (Aged Care Assessment Team) assessments and aged care funding and services as well as housing. And whether you talk to people like that who work directly one on one with people who are funded at a Federal Government level or community-based organisations that work to deliver food to people on a weekly basis or other support like SANDBAG (Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group), a community centre with showers and hot meals on a weekly basis, they are seeing the face of homelessness and housing stress change significantly. The people who are accessing it aren’t just necessarily people who are well known to Council and have been sleeping rough for a long time, they’re often now seeing families who are making the decision, whether they can pay rent that week or pay to put food on the table that week for their family. These events are catering more and more to people who are at risk of homelessness, not just people who are themselves homeless or sleeping rough as well.

So the problem is evolving. I think we all agree with that and I don’t hear any Councillor getting up here and arguing that we aren’t experiencing as a city and our population isn’t experiencing housing stress. But I think what has been missing from the debate is changing the approach and evolving our approach to dealing with these problems as they evolve and that’s what this motion is about. We’re not talking about this financial year, this budget year, we realise this event is falling this Thursday. But from, you know, this year onwards, we think a new approach could be taken and I’m happy to, again, negotiate and take feedback on board and be consulted as Councillors and provide local service-based organisations and all Councillors could do that, to help out with that consultation process.

But I do know in the conversations that we have had, whether they have been with peak organisations like Q Shelter, with community housing providers, with homelessness service organisations who are funded and who are also working on a charitable and volunteer basis, the feedback that they consistently give is Homeless Connect is a great event, it would be great if we could see more of that work done out in the suburbs of Brisbane. So again, we’re bringing that feedback from the industry, from those who work on the coalface to the Council for this debate tonight and I certainly hope that all Councillors engage in that. I’m sure we’ll see the LORD MAYOR back shortly. I think it’s been nine hours since we’ve had him contribute to any debate in this Council Chamber, so I look forward to seeing him back in here shortly.

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, thanks very much, Chair and I just rise to speak in support of this motion today because I too do think that Homeless Connect is a really important event and one that we can all be really proud of as a Council. I want, on behalf of this side of the Chamber, I certainly want to thank the team who are so integral in their role in putting on this event and last year I volunteered all day in the food store and I’ll be back again for another shift on Thursday. It is an amazing event and do strongly encourage all Councillors to at least attend and see in person not only the friends that we’re helping, but also the work happening right before your very eyes.

It’s always so great to see the collaborative efforts of not only Council’s Public Space Liaison Officers, but also the resident liaison officers and of course the organisations and volunteers who are there on the day and offer really hands on, really meaningful support and services. Through my volunteering experiences, I did meet of course some amazing people and connected with some local people and families at the event last year and I’ve remained in touch with them and continued to support them in any way that I can. So if anyone of course has been to this event, you would know that it is at times very confronting. Amongst many other things that I saw on the day, I think probably the thing that has stayed with me the most is multitudes of women attending with babies as young as six months old coming to access free food from the food store because they didn’t know where their next meal was coming from.

Just to further on Councillor CASSIDY’s remarks earlier, the name Homeless Connect probably isn’t actually reflective of the friends that we’re supporting at this event. It’s not those who strictly are just without a home, it is those people in Brisbane and beyond who do attend as well that are facing complex hardships in a variety of ways, not just no home. So these are some of the most vulnerable people in Brisbane and in need of such great support from us and the smallest thing can mean so much and does mean so much to the friends that we help at this event. I think you’d be very hard pressed to find a single person who would not recognise the positive impact that this event has and we all absolutely acknowledge the real support that it can provide.

So given that housing and security and the real cost-of-living pressures that people are facing, why as a Council would we not at least consider expanding that positive impact? It makes sense, it makes a lot of sense actually to listen to the feedback of key stakeholders and make this event more accessible and more frequent. So I would love to see all Councillors vote in support of this today.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, may as well give it a go. No typos, that’s good, I suspect those this motion, they’ll just vote it down, the LNP, so sorry, Councillor COLLIER, nice try. Look I do think this is a good idea. When I started in this Council, there used to be two Homeless Connect events per year and I think that was worthwhile. Whether we could have more or whether they’re the right way in which to engage people, I’m not sure when the last time was this model was reviewed. But certainly we need more services for people who are experiencing homelessness and cost-of-living issues. Increasingly we know from service providers and I know from talking with people like Micah and community centres, that place-based support is generally best, so bringing services out to where people are experiencing hardship. So whilst the inner city is a key area and it’s easy for everyone to get to, well it’s not easy, but everyone can get to the city, it is I think important that we do look at Council supporting more place-based services for homeless people and people experiencing hardship.

We do have a range of very, very good community centres around Brisbane. I have several in my ward that are fantastic, including the Yeronga Community Centre, Benarrawa and the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre. The Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre in fact also provides emergency housing. They have properties both on site and in the community to provide emergency housing for people who are experiencing homelessness. So I think Council’s been doing the same thing for a very long time, other than cutting it by 50%, which is what they did, it’s a while ago now, maybe six, seven, eight years ago, but Council does need to be looking at how it can deliver more accessible services and more frequent services for suburban areas going forward. Most certainly I think looking at venues like neighbourhood centres and community centres is a good place to start.

Brisbane City Council really does not understand the work of community and neighbourhood centres and it does a very poor job in supporting them. We know this with Council’s failure to support and invest in community centres in times of natural disaster, they provide no funding whatsoever and I don’t think they provide any funding other than through grants to most community and neighbourhood centres. So this would be one way in which we can experience—we can provide a more accessible service to residents and certainly in my view, the venues would be a neighbourhood centre or a community centre. They don’t have to be as big as the one here in the city, but I’m sure we could find a suitable way to do it.

So I really hope that someone from the LNP stands up and says perhaps when the last time was they reviewed the Homeless Connect model because the last time they did anything different, they simply cut the service by 50% and since then, I think it’s been—it’s struggled because of location moves and things like that. So this is an area where Council can do more. I know there’s another motion on the agenda tonight about the public space officers and I’ll certainly be speaking to that one. But what I would say is there is most certainly a way in which we could deliver this through an existing community network that has the skills and experience to help deliver a really good outcome because if you talk the PSLOs (Public Space Liaison Officers) and the Community Safety team, what used to be just an inner-city problem with homelessness is now all over Brisbane. It’s all over Brisbane. And as Councillor COLLIER outlined, it is now people that would not normally be experiencing homelessness.

So we really need to be thinking as a Council how to do things differently and I thank Councillor COLLIER for putting this motion on the agenda. I really hope we’re going to hear from somebody from the LNP without a preprepared speech that just bags this idea, about how they’re going to contribute to delivering more accessible and frequent services around Brisbane. Now I suspect Councillor HOWARD will probably hop up and talk about how great the services are that Council delivers now. They are limited and they have been reduced, not increased and I think that at a time of significant crisis, both with cost of living and with homelessness, we need to be looking at what more we can do. A good start would be Councillor HOWARD saying she’s not going to go to Paris and she’ll give up that funding and invest it back into—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, well that or finding a new—trialling a new model. Let’s—I can’t remember how much it was, but I think it was about $17,000, that would probably fund a pilot project in a community centre somewhere in Brisbane to run a version of Homeless Connect. So you would pick an area experiencing significant issues and you would look at investing that money into a service that would make it more accessible here. So there are ways we can do this and I hope that the LNP will look at the fact that they’re not coming up with new ideas about what to do, they’re simply cutting services, cutting services and at a time when our community needs more, not less. So I think this is a good motion, I’ll support it. I actually have some ideas that I think would be useful and it’s just a shame the LNP aren’t prepared to meaningfully engage with other Councillors outside of, well, I don’t even know that they meaningfully engage within their party, but they certainly don’t want to meaningfully engage—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, they do get preprepared speeches and told what to do, so I don’t think that’s meaningful. Like I’m pretty sure that Councillor for Wynnum Manly who is brand new doesn’t know that I’ve been advocating for this for many years and of course it’s in my budget submission, but this called for, you know, that’s fine, she’s just read out a preprepared note she’d been given. So I just think that really the LNP Councillors should be open to new ideas that can contribute to cost-of-living relief and more homeless support, more support for people suffering from domestic violence and I think we can do that in a more creative and localised way so that it can reach more people. I’ve come up with a few ideas to do that tonight.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak briefly on this because I was inspired by Councillor JOHNSTON. Look, Homeless Connect is an amazing event and Homeless Connect and the way that they’re able to provide services for people that are the most marginalised, whether they’re sleeping rough currently or are on the cusp or are in emergency housing or even—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: —mortgage stress or are in social housing or are at the cusp of homelessness or couch surfing, there’s many different challenges at the moment. Homeless Connect is an important part of that ecosystem and it is unclear and I know that it’s an important part, not part of the ecosystem not only because of the rough sleeping that we do see in The Gabba Ward and we see it at Kurilpa Point—it is obviously in Musgrave Park but as Councillor CASSIDY said, it’s also in hidden areas—because homelessness, historically, has been hidden. It’s not something you usually see. Now, we see it very visibly on our streets.

The reason why I was inspired was because, just recently, I learnt a couple of new facts about community centres—some of the things that Councillor JOHNSTON was talking about. I also just want to acknowledge very quickly that it is Neighbourhood Centre Week. You were talking about some wonderful neighbourhood centres just beforehand and of course, we’ve got the wonderful neighbourhood centre in West End Community House.

We know that it’s a difficult time and we know that Homelessness Connect is needed. We can all acknowledge this. But we don’t see this even—we see this demonstrated even more clearly when it comes to community and neighbourhood centres, who are now, from my understanding, delivering 700 tonnes—so this is each centre per week—700 tonnes of emergency food relief per centre, State-wide. There’s about, from memory, 142 centres. For those of us that are engaged in this space, we would know that that is an increase of about seven times since 2019. It’s a massive thing.

Emergency food relief is a huge, huge thing. The reason why this motion is good is it recognises that. It recognises the reality and the reality is people need to access not only emergency food relief—which I believe most Councillors in this Chamber help collect for Homelessness Connect, so we are doing that work—but it also recognises the need to access services like doctors, housing services—emergency, dentists, haircuts and all the other things that would provide people with dignity as they face really tough challenges. So, I do think that we can do more with Homelessness Connect. I think, from memory, the budget—it was about—in the budget in—the budget year that we’re in—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I’ll take that interjection. I’m torn between that number and also for the delivery of two biannually—like the other little bits and pieces. I think it was about 360. The reason that figure stays in my head is because I think it was about 360 was the budget for the economic development travel budget, too. That’s about the same amount. We have an opportunity to acknowledge that this is needed. We have an opportunity to deliver in this space collaboratively and we will be supporting this motion because we think it’s a good one. We should be doing everything we can. Again, we can do more, but tonight, we’re talking about his. That’s why we will support this motion.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Thank you, Chair. I rise briefly to speak on this motion. By way of background, Councillors held 28 Homeless Connect events, supporting more than 21,000 people at risk of experiencing homelessness. It’s actually quite good. I wasn’t aware of this because it’s before my time but apparently this was a Campbell Newman initiative some years back, so it’s great to see the Labor Party and those on the opposite supporting something that Campbell Newman thought of all those years ago, so really appreciate it. The fact or the comments that have been made that this model has not been reviewed in any way, shape or form is not only an insult to all the previous chairs in this portfolio, but obviously Councillor HOWARD who’s the current Chair of this portfolio.

These models of anything that we do in this space are regularly reviewed and Councillor HOWARD, I know, talks to the key stakeholders not only at the annual event, but also outside of that event. She’s in that space a lot. The event hasn’t been cut by 50% as has been erroneously stated. We actually did three events over two years, just previously. I know that everybody in this room agrees—and I’m not sure how many in this room—Councillors have actually been to the event. I understand Councillor COLLIER mentioned just briefly this year that she had been there. I know that Councillor LANDERS goes there every year and works in the supermarket department and that.

I went last year for the first time. I have to say, it was mind-blowingly huge. What’s provided to the guests there is unbelievable. Not only is there the free medical care, there’s the housing and employment support, legal advice, haircuts, toiletries, clothing and as I mentioned, the food, which is basically a supermarket. Anyone can come up there, grab a shopping bag—and it’s given to them—and then there are tables that they’ve set up outside of that tent where if they’re given something that they don’t actually particularly want or like or whatever, they’re quite able to put that back on the table. The volunteers will go back out there and then they can swap it and get whatever they want. So, it’s pretty much shopping in a supermarket but in a controlled manner, as you can imagine, with that many people coming through. As I said through you, Madam Chair, you have worked with that group of people so you would know exactly how it works.

The clothing is a similar scenario. It’s like shopping in a clothing store. You can go in there and tell them what size you are and they’ll find stuff for you and all that sort of stuff, haircuts—everything like that. Then of course, more importantly, all those services that I did mention. I know that through you, Madam Chair, the Leader of the Opposition said that this was the easy option by having it here at the location that it’s done—at that Brisbane Showgrounds. That is by far not the easy option. It is a massive event, a massive undertaking with hundreds of volunteers included. Many different service departments all come together on that day to deliver basically a one stop shop.

I know there’s conversations being had about doing this out into the suburbs and they’re talking about community centres and all that. I don’t know of any community centre that has the scope and capacity that the showgrounds does. They are massive marquees, massive supermarkets, massive amounts of supplies, massive amounts of volunteers and a huge amount of work that goes into this event. As we’ve talked about and was mentioned and acknowledged—that Council does put on a dedicated free bus service. The buses run all day from eight o’clock in the morning and they go from the northside, the southside, the Inala bus service is out there, Sandgate, Wynnum. So, it doesn’t matter where you are within the Brisbane LGA, you are able to get to this event and take advantage of whatever it is that you need.

If you were to take this event and put it in the suburbs as has been suggested, my question to you—through to the Chamber through you, Madam Chair, is what goes and what doesn’t go? What stays, what doesn’t stay? Do you leave the food behind and just take out the hairdressers? Do you leave the hairdressers and the doctors behind and just take out the food? It’s just not one of those things that can be cut into little wee pieces and spread across the whole city. This is a one-stop shop for everybody that needs it, regardless if they’re homeless. I don’t think you have to be homeless to come to this.

I do agree that maybe Homeless Connect is potentially not the right name because it’s acknowledged by everybody just how broad the issue is and the situation that people are now finding themselves in. Mortgage stress was one that was mentioned. Potentially not even homeless but struggling with all sorts of difficulties without being able to find whatever they need to survive. I know they even have a book library there so if people want to collect books, they could take them out there. My kindy next door to my school—to my office—sorry—they collected more than 28 shopping bags full of food. It was quite extraordinary. The Council officers had to send out a whole van just to collect all the food that they collected for this organisation. I’m sure it’ll be all out there when you go out there, through you, Madam Chair, on Thursday and see just how much is actually out there.

To say we need to split this whole event up and water it down amongst the community—it just doesn’t work. We know that this current model for delivering Homeless Connect at a single centralised location is one that works and for that reason, we will not be supporting this motion today.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I think Councillor MARX just didn’t listen to the contributions or clearly didn’t read the motion that’s before us tonight and didn’t listen to the contributions. First of all, I didn’t say it was easy to put the event on. I said, logistically, I understand centralising it is an easier option. Sure. It is. But having more frequent events in suburban locations doesn’t mean you have to cut things out of it. It means you adapt what you deliver in working with—we heard from Councillor JOHNSTON, Councillor MASSEY and Councillor COLLIER who clearly had these discussions with organisations and providers that attend Homeless Connect.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: And the people who attend Homeless Connect as well who come from all parts of Brisbane. The universal feedback is, (1) we need more—so more frequent events and place based is the feedback we get as well. Councillor JOHNSTON talked about Micah Projects, a large organisation. Smaller organisations—in my patch, the Zillmere community centre or SANDBAG, the Sandgate community centre who provide housing and homelessness services, domestic violence services that are funded and also services that are unfunded—they seem to manage with no support from Council whatsoever in that space to be able to deliver those services. Imagine what we’d be able to do in community in local areas working with those organisations to deliver more frequent, more wrap around services more often.

Everything that Councillor MARX—I think that’s the only person that contributed from the LNP on this—everything that Councillor MARX said, right up to the point where she started talking about splitting the event up, I agreed with. The kinds of services that people can access at Homeless Connect are amazing. They can be lifechanging for somebody. I know that Councillor COLLIER has told a story tonight about a local resident she connected with and the State connected with and continues to support. For that person to make not just a connection with Councillor COLLIER but to make a connection with somebody at that event was lifechanging for her. Imagine if we could do more of that.

But the LNP just continue to say, it’s all too hard. That’s their response to everything. Nothing can change. They only look in the past. They only look over their shoulder, have an eye to the rear vision mirror. They have no sort of sense of urgency at the moment about addressing these critical issues for tomorrow and the day after and the day after that, which is really disappointing that tonight the outcome of this is the LNP just continuing to say no. But we won’t be deterred. We’ll be there at Homeless Connect and we’ll be continuing to talk to these service providers and finding different ways in which we can pursue more support for the work they do and more support for the people of Brisbane.

Chair: We’ll now put the motion.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion 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, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN NATIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORT FUND

**532/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6F on the agenda and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER—

*That this Council congratulates the Albanese Federal Government on announcing their investment in a new national Active Transport Fund to deliver new cycling and walking paths and encourages Council to apply for funding.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. The Federal Budget was handed down tonight. This is something we obviously saw reported and knew was coming ahead of the Budget and this was funded in the Budget tonight. I certainly congratulate the Albanese Federal Government on their investment in the new National Active Transport Fund—something we haven’t seen from the Federal Government. We’ve certainly seen local governments invest and State Government through various means. Now, we have the Federal Government playing an active role, just like we’re seeing the Federal Government play an extremely active role in housing and more so in this Budget now, we’re seeing the Federal Government play an active role in active transport.

This fund is designed to upgrade and deliver new bicycle and walking paths across the country. We’re certainly hopeful that Brisbane City Council will apply for funding. I know this is particularly important and I’m sure Council officers are vigorously writing applications because we know Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the LORD MAYOR have been lecturing us and them about belt tightening and sacking staff and finding savings.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: So called, sensible savings, so we know that they’ll be looking for funding sources from any kind—this LNP Administration—they can get at the moment, particularly after we saw a 20% cut in the concrete contract that looks after footpaths, drainage and kerbing and channelling, of course. Footpaths in Brisbane are the most important active transport assets we have. You wouldn’t think that if you listened to Councillor MUPRHY, who thinks it’s only—the two green bridges are the most—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: One and a half—the green bridge over the creek and green bridge over the river. But footpaths are the most important active transport asset we have in Brisbane. But they’re the infrastructure, for instance, that most kids will learn to ride their bike on. They help people living with mobility issues or living with disability get around. They fundamentally connect our communities. We know how important active travel is, not just because of the health and social benefits of this, but also because it helps to reduce emissions. Brisbane should be a city, we think, where infrastructure supports residents to get to school and work without having to jump in the car. I’m sure the LNP will get up—or who knows what they’ll do tonight—but they’ll get up and claim they have some record investment in active transport, as we’ve heard the dribble from Councillor MURPHY over the last few weeks.

That’s primarily because of the blowouts on green bridges—that record. They certainly will help people cross the river and cross Breakfast Creek, but beyond that, they’re not increasing the walkability or cyclability of our suburbs. They’re not making it safer to ride to and from work 20 kilometres away from the river. We know, as a fact, that Council today spends a smaller portion of the Council budget on footpaths and bikeways than it did 20 years ago. That’s a fact when you look at the pool—the size of the Council budget and what is expended on new footpaths, new bikeways, bikeway maintenance and footpath maintenance. The Brisbane Labor Team are big fans of this Federal investment that’s been recently announced and to the Federal Government for their commitment to delivering safe connected and thriving communities.

It’s our responsibility as a Council to step up and work with the Federal Government to deliver the right infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians. We’d certainly hope we have an adult debate around that. I’m sure the LNP can—they’ll get up and do the political bit. We all do that. But at the end of the day, we certainly hope that Council will take advantage of this funding that’s on the table, which isn’t just for regional communities. It specifically says cities as well. We obviously hear a lot from the LNP Administration that capital cities miss out on this funding. Well, this is a fund that is designed to support capital cities as well as regional centres. I know over the last few years how much this Administration has relied on Federal funding to deliver basic community upgrades and projects.

We know roads—we know the Black Spot funding, which we’ve been talking about earlier, other road upgrades, simple Council upgrades. I know in Bracken Ridge Ward, it took Federal intervention and Federal funding to do the job that Council should have. I know the Shorncliffe Escarpment Project, the Brighton Foreshore project is 100% funded currently by the Federal Government. So, we know Council can engage with the Federal Government and can apply for funding and so this motion’s pretty simple encouraging Council to apply for this funding when it opens to ensure that we can see if the LNP won’t fund increases in footpath construction and bikeway construction in the suburbs of Brisbane themselves, we certainly hope that they can work with the Federal Government to do just that.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on this motion. Let’s be clear. This funding is about $100 million over four years. It’s about $25 million a year. Split between 86 cities and regional centres, that could amount to only about $300,000 a year for each public transport project. This is the bare minimum. This is a lick of paint. $25 million a year for active transport compared to the $10 billion the Federal Government is going to support for roads is nothing. That’s 0.05% compared to building roads in budget. Further, this allocation falls well, well below the call from the climate Council for Federal transport funding to allocate at least 20% for active transport funding. This was the call that was made in the 2023 shifting gear report and that is the call that was investigated by the Climate Council that they called for and that they believe is needed for Australia’s Paris agreement obligations to be met.

What we have here is a fund that will barely make a dent to the actual work that we need for meaningful engagements to decrease cars on the road. This motion seems like patting the back of an ALP Government that is doing less than the bare minimum for what actually has to be delivered across Australia and for the city to reach its active transport and climate change needs. We need transformation in this city. We need the Federal Government to step up and not offer $100 million so that we can actually transform this city to be climate adaptive, so we can make safer pedestrian ways, so we can make separated bikeways. These are things that I have talked about constantly in this Chamber and the importance of those safe pathways. This one will go nowhere near that.

It is a motion that, to me, seems—yes, great. Council can apply for $300,000 a year, but to me, it is a pittance compared to the actual Federal funding and we believe the Federal funding should be much more to allocate for active transport. We think that the funding—if the Federal Government was actually true to its belief that it wanted to support this and actually make transformative change to our cities, including the regional centre, that this fund would be much, much more. This motion seems weird to me because it’s less than the bare minimum. It’s not a great fund and it’s not going to help us get where we need to get and rapidly.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes. Thanks very much, Chair. From Labor Councillors’ perspective, we will welcome any new investment.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: To make it clear, it is additional investment that is being provided by the Federal—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes. I note the LORD MAYOR’s interjected, which would be the first time that he has spoken in this Chamber in nine hours, despite the fact that we have debated several important motions.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Okay.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Sorry, Chair. Were you going to say something?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No, I didn’t hear it.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Oh. She’s not going to say anything.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Okay, so—

LORD MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order?

LORD MAYOR: If Councillor COLLIER’s finished speaking, I’d like to speak.

Chair: I don’t believe she’s finished speaking, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: No. Yes.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER?

Councillor COLLIER: I appreciate that the LORD MAYOR is frustrated because it is Labor Councillors that have brought motions on the most important issues that have kept us here in this place tonight talking about the issues that matter most to Brisbane residents. So, I can appreciate that he might be frustrated, but on this side of the Chamber, we will not apologise for bringing these issues to the attention of what is the largest local government in Australia. This is really important stuff that we’re talking about. While I’m on my feet, I just couldn’t let the comments from the Greens Political Party slide because it is rank hypocrisy of the Greens Political Party to get up here and talk about being unhappy with additional investment from the Federal Government when they are the ones standing in the way of delivering 30,000 extra social homes for this country.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, don’t call out across the Chamber, please.

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I didn’t think this—I mean, the theme of the night is I didn’t think this motion would actually be all that controversial. I thought that the LNP would just be unhappy with congratulating anything to do with Labor or any positive thought. You know, on this side of the Chamber, I will say when good ideas have merit, we have supported LNP motions and LNP ideas and LNP proposals if we think that they are on their merit and they’re based on rigorous engagement with stakeholders. But unfortunately, the Administration seems to be completely immune of supporting anything that isn’t their own idea in the first place.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair?

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR?

DEPUTY MAYOR: I believe Councillor COLLIER’s misguiding the Chamber. We voted with them on one of their motions tonight.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor COLLIER: That’s not a point of order.

Chair: It’s not a point of order.

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Just to be clear, what this motion talks about is welcoming additional investment in an area that all Councillors agree requires more investment. To bemoan a single additional cent from the Greens Political Party is quite frankly really disappointing. On an issue that is as important as providing additional active transport infrastructure for our city, it is—it’s too important to come in here and play politics and say, a single additional cent is not good enough. We’re talking about any new additional investment from the Federal Government that’s on top of other projects.

I have spoken in this place before about the positive impact that Black projects have had in my local community for pedestrian access and that has been an amazing investment, actually. It has had such a great impact on the community in Norman Park and I was 100% supportive of the project when it was happening and now that it’s been delivered, Federal Government provided the funding. Council, I know, was consulted in the design of the project and then delivered it. That is actually a really good thing. So, any additional investment is worth noting, is worth appreciating and if we are a Council, all we’re asking is that Council could consider applying for a share of that funding. It’s not too much to ask.

Chair: Further speakers?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just briefly, this is a massive own goal from Labor—a massive own goal. They want to be congratulated for the pittance that is being thrown to local government from a Federal Government that has massively increased the tax loading on our country. Today, we saw in the Federal Budget, not a cent for Brisbane—not a cent—nothing for Brisbane. In fact, this Council has been spending more in a single year than the Australian Government wants to spend over multiple years across the entire country. It’s interesting because to see the difference in approach we’ve seen from Labor where if it’s a Labor Government, we should all be grateful for an extra cent that comes our way. We should all be grateful, yet when it comes to an LNP Administration, oh, it’s never enough.

It’s never enough. Nothing we do is every enough to please them, yet the Federal Labor Government, everyone should be grateful for a few extra dollars spattered across hundreds and hundreds of councils across Australia. I never thought, I never thought I would be on the same page as Councillor MASSEY and the Greens. Maybe we should form a coalition.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I withdraw. I withdraw, but look, the difference in approach that we’ve seen, you know, if it’s anything the State Government is doing or the Federal Labor Government is doing, we should be grateful, but no, nothing that we do is ever enough. No amount of investment, even if it’s much more than they ever did when they were in administration. No amount of investment, apparently, that we do is ever enough. The reality is, there’s been no administration in the city’s history that’s invested more in active travel infrastructure than this one and its predecessors. We’re very proud of that and that investment continues.

We’ve had the Breakfast Creek Bridge open, fully funded, fully funded by the Brisbane City Council. It should have been at least in part funded by the Federal Government and State Government, but no, they didn’t believe that was suitable. We were able to get some money for the Kangaroo Point bridge, which I am grateful for, but I’m not grateful for the pittance offered in this particular announcement when we’re able to get $60 million from the Federal Government for the Kangaroo Point bridge. Do you think we’ll be able to get $60 million from this fund when it’s $100 million over four years to go across hundreds of councils?

This won’t make a dent in the big active travel plans that we have as a city and that we should have and considering some of the other budget initiatives that we’ve heard of tonight, billions of dollars will go to billionaire mining companies in subsidies, billions of dollars, yet a pittance for local councils to deliver important infrastructure and certainly nothing new that I can see to help improve our transport network, our road network. The only mention, in fact, of anything anywhere near Brisbane in the budget tonight was a rail line to the Sunshine Coast. That might happen by 2030, it might not.

The reality is this motion should, in fact, be condemning the Albanese Government for its underinvestment in active travel and encouraging them to step up to the plate with the massive increase in taxation revenue that they’re receiving and put more on the table for local governments across the nation to do more so we can have a more sustainable future for our cities, but also one that’s easier to get around, that encourages some of the active travel infrastructure that we’ve been building, like our new bridges, our new bikeways and riverwalks. These are important assets and we could use a bit more help than what’s on offer here.

Chair: Further speakers? Any further speakers? No? Whoops—

Councillor CASSIDY, right of reply.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. How do you spell hypocrisy? S-C-H-R-I-N-N-E-R. We hear year—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: We hear from the LNP week after week, month after month, year after year, that they won’t act on certain things because, according to this LORD MAYOR, it’s not the job of this Council. It’s not the job of this Council to address the housing crisis, according to the LORD MAYOR. That’s the job of the State and Federal Government, he says. You know, when it comes to a whole range of things, the LORD MAYOR continues to say that’s the State Government’s fault or the Federal Government’s fault. What we have here is a fund of which, you know, if we were to follow the LORD MAYOR’s reasoning and the LORD MAYOR’s thinking over the last couple of years before his brain fart tonight, would say this is not the Federal Government’s responsibility to fund these things, is it?

If we were to follow the LORD MAYOR’s—for years, since he’s been LORD MAYOR, his approach of saying each level of government should be doing their own thing and what we see from the Federal Government is $100 million in additional funding to an area which, generally speaking, they don’t deliver projects. So, this is additional money. Should there be more money? Sure. Wouldn’t a good first step be to access that money, to demonstrate how it is rolled out, how it benefits communities and then advocate for more? I don’t know whether the LORD MAYOR has actually advocated for more money to the Federal Government. I don’t know. He hasn’t actually said. He hasn’t actually said that, but he’s got up here—

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

Councillor CASSIDY: He’s got up here today and tonight and he has—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor. One moment, please, Councillor CASSIDY.

Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: Oh, sorry. Will Councillor CASSIDY take a question?

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY?

Councillor CASSIDY: Not from him, no.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: No, we can’t trust that bloke, remember? Yes. So, I don’t know when the LORD MAYOR says these things, but we don’t actually know—you know, he, for the first time in nine hours, just contributed to this debate and you’d think he would say when he made this contribution how he has advocated for more funding. He gets up here and beats his chest, but he hasn’t actually said how he has done that. I’ve certainly done it. I’ve joined with the President of the Australian Local Government Association, Councillor Linda Scott from the City of Sydney, in calling on the Federal Government, the Labor Federal Government, my colleagues, to fund councils to a much greater extent. I’ve done that, but the LORD MAYOR gets up here and says these things, but he actually hasn’t done the work. He never does the work.

So, they can come in here and they can say what they want to say and vote how they want to vote, but they’re not actually really advocating for more funding. They’ll apply for Federal funding when it comes and then get up here and stand up and say, well, it’s not enough, but I’m sure and certain they’ll apply for this Federal funding. It would be nice if we actually had some evidence from the LORD MAYOR of actually doing the work, of actually advocating for more funding, rather than just continued political point scoring. So, you know, let’s just have the vote.

Chair: We’ll now move to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion 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: 4 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM and Charles STRUNK.

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

ABSTENTIONS: 2 - Councillors Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

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| **533/2023-24**  At that time, 11.52pm, it was resolved on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 11.55pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

### RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL’s PUBLIC SPACE LIAISON OFFICERS

**534/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6G on the agenda and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER—

*That this Council recognises the hard work of our Public Space Liaison Officers (PSLO) and their dedication to housing, homelessness, health and other human services across Brisbane.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. Our PSLO or Public Space Liaison Officer staff are incredibly hardworking in many sensitive and complex cases. They are the connection between Council and the community and do excellent work in housing, homelessness, health and other human services across Brisbane, often being that connection that people have, particularly people who are sleeping rough, between services and Council, as I said. We know they’re dedicated, we know they work hard and I think everyone will agree with that. I think if people engage with them, they’ll know they don’t complain. They don’t come to us and complain about their work.

They love their work, but we know that they are overworked because this housing and homelessness crisis that our city faces is putting an awful lot of pressure on them in the work that they do. They are a small team and they work on a daily basis and their work is growing day by day. The services that our Public Space Officers are able to connect people with, who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, are calling out for more attention. There’s ultimately a simple way to give that and that’s for more Public Space Liaison Officers. We often hear from the LORD MAYOR and from his LNP Council that Council doesn’t deliver services directly and we accept that, as we have canvassed that a bit tonight.

One of the key roles—and we agree with the Administration on this—is that Council’s best role is providing the connection to services out in the community. We have a team that works on the ground, that works with people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, connecting them to services and building a rapport and a relationship is life-changing and, in some cases, life-saving. We do hear that the way that Council engages in this space, very regularly in here, is deploying our PSLOs. We think that that team deserves more support. This was the ask of Q Shelter in the lead up to the recent Council election.

I’m sure every Councillor was contacted by Q Shelter and was provided with what they perceived as their priorities for this sector ahead of the recent Council election. They’re Queensland’s peak organisation in regards to housing and that includes crisis housing and homelessness services as well. They have asked Council to expand the public space liaison roles across the local government sector, knowing how important that work is and how important the work that those PSLOs do. Q Shelter also want to see the development of an integrated housing and homelessness strategy to combine local government and industry.

That’s something we support, because whatever Council’s current housing and homelessness strategy is—whether it’s the Housing Supply Action Planor whatever document; sometimes the LNP say it’s all of the documents they’re housing or some of them or none—it’s not working currently. So we do support that as well in having an integrated housing and homelessness strategy for Council to work with that sector as well. We know and we recognise that Council has an important role to play when it comes to helping people doing it tough through public spaces, Council facilities and the delivery of services on the front line, like we’ve talked about tonight, community centres that are Council lease sites and supported or Council libraries. We also know how important it is to partner with those not-for-profit organisations in that sector, linked to a local response.

Organisations like Q Shelter are on the coal face. They know what needs to be done organisations like that and plenty of others out there. I think it is time that we listened to those organisations. I don’t think we can continue to accept the position that enough is being done. Again, we’ve never said that Council is the only level of government that has responsibility in this space. In fact, we do accept and recognise that Council is a level of government that has the least ability to deal with these issues when it comes to size and scale, compared to the State and Federal Government, but there are important key areas in which we can contribute to this.

On the housing side is one and support through homelessness services and support on the ground is another. We brought this motion tonight to put on record and thank our Public Space Liaison Officers, the small team that they are, for the amazing work that they do, to put on record that so they know that they are valued and appreciated in the work that they do and to also advocate here in the Council Chamber with the Administration here in attendance, for more support for this team going forward. I believe that there’s four positions currently, four people acting in those positions in our public space liaison team.

We know that on the trip to Paris, there’s three Council officers going on that trip and two LNP politicians, which is costing the ratepayers and renters of Brisbane $123,000 for that one single trip. Well, that trip would pay the wages of an additional Public Space Liaison Officer for another year. I’m sure with other savings that we can identify, collectively, we could see plenty more support for this team to continue to do even more work out in the community, supporting people who are doing it tough at the moment.

Chair: Thank you.

Are there further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on this motion and unequivocally add my support and appreciation for the work undertaken by our Public Space Liaison Officers. These officers are working in very trying circumstances and were recently subject to criticism from members of the public last year. I didn’t see the Leader of the Opposition or in fact any other Labor or Greens Councillor supporting them at that time. I also feel that the Leader of the Opposition perhaps should speak to Minister Scanlon and ask her to read the Q Shelter report that she ignored completely that they sent to her.

So it should not be surprising to anyone that I will be supporting this motion before us today, as I have on many occasions in this Chamber spoken about the Schrinner Council’s support for this amazing team, who really have such an important impact on those at risk or experiencing homelessness in Brisbane. Over the past few years, we know the demands that this team have faced in supporting those sleeping rough, particularly in dealing with the State Government’s abject failure to meet its responsibility for delivering crisis, temporary and long-term accommodation options.

While the State Government has the primary responsibility to deliver housing and homeless support in Brisbane, the Schrinner Council acknowledges that all levels of Government have a role to play in assisting those at risk or experiencing homelessness. This side of the Chamber will continue to show our support for the great work of the Public Space Liaison Officers, as we always have, as they continue to deliver the great outcomes that they provide for the city. I move that the motion be put.

**Procedural motion – Motion be now put:**

**535/2023-24**

It was moved by Councillor Vicki HOWARD, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the motion be now put. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY. Five minutes? Yes.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Just very briefly, I was sure one of these would be non‑controversial and supported as it was and I’m glad this is one of those. We’ve got a couple more to go so that we can add to that tally. I just want to reiterate our support for this team and reiterate those calls that, you know, we’ve heard it again from Councillor HOWARD in her contribution that one of the key roles that Council plays in this space—in addition to the discussion we had just earlier about the Homeless Connect event—one of the key day-to-day roles this Council can play in addressing the homelessness crisis that our city is facing is deploying our Public Space Liaison Officers.

We again call and implore the LORD MAYOR to allocate more funding for this team to expand this team. We know that they are under the pump. They are doing amazing work day in, day out, making those connections with people and making sure that at every step of the way, people who are sleeping rough or who are at risk of sleeping rough, whether it’s one night, one week or a year on the streets, have access to those services and are able to take them up when they’re in a position to do so. To only have such a small team covering, you know, four people covering nearly 200 suburbs, over 190 suburbs in Brisbane, simply isn’t enough. So we again say thank you to our Public Space Liaison Officers for the work you do. We hope to see in this upcoming budget more colleagues funded in this space, because it is absolutely required to help address this crisis we’re facing.

Chair: I will now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

### ZERO COST OPENING OF KANGAROO POINT BRIDGE

**536/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6H on the agenda and called on Councillor Lucy COLLIER to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY—

*That this Council, noting the excessive spend of over $92,000 on the opening of the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, commits to a zero-cost opening of the Kangaroo Point bridge.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. The reason why we brought this motion today to debate is we believe, on this side of the Chamber, that to spend this amount of money on a media event in the middle of an election campaign was a political decision and it was unacceptable. Let’s be clear, we know when the election period is. I note Councillor MURPHY’s remarks yesterday, earlier in the debate about, oh, the event was planned to be before caretaker. A couple of days is not okay. Just to be clear, it doesn’t make it okay. Then you just proceeded to do it anyway, so that’s kind of irrelevant.

I know that the LNP Council would have loved to cut the ribbon on the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge too during the election campaign, of course, but unfortunately that wasn’t an option, given the delays and the delays and the cost blowouts and the delays and the delays. So that’s unfortunate. In a time where the LORD MAYOR and Councillor CUNNINGHAM ad nauseam are militant in saying the line, we need to find sensible savings, you would think that this one would not just go straight through to the keeper. Officers, I am hearing every single day, are under so much extreme pressure to cut every single day.

Projects locally in suburbs across Brisbane are either delayed or cancelled entirely because supposedly this Council is suffering so much that it has so little money to put into local projects that they have to cut and delay projects. We think that this money should be invested in basic Council services, not for parties, getting the LNP on TV in the middle of an election campaign and then sending that bill straight to the residents of Brisbane. It’s excessive. Councillor MURPHY, I will note also earlier today, said that the bridge couldn’t possibly be opened unless an event was held.

According to the LNP, if a ribbon isn’t cut on a gold-plated bridge over a creek, no one can use it. That’s the LNP logic. So I’m not really quite sure, but I think what the LNP are saying is that people are not allowed to use brand new Council facilities unless the LNP throw a big party and get their nice happy snaps and get on the telly. It should just stay shut until the party proceeds. That’s what Councillor MURPHY said. This excessive cost of $92,000 was not value for money for the residents of Brisbane. About 1,000 people attended. What’s the cost per head? $92 a head. It’s a pretty expensive party, especially in the current financial climate where, like I said, every single week, this LNP Council comes here and lectures us all about how sensible savings must be achieved.

We cannot do the basics, according to the LNP. We couldn’t possibly fix a dangerous intersection or a broken footpath or anything. We can’t keep staff in their jobs and we certainly couldn’t backfill them if they go on leave because, according to the LNP, we have no money and we’ve got to make sensible savings. I will note that this motion calls on to learn from the experience of the previous event and commit to a zero-cost opening. What I will say for all of the Chamber to hear tonight is that if there is—we would support a Welcome to Country part of that event occurring. Councillor CASSIDY and I are very happy to pay for it. We’ll pay for it. We’ll organise it and we’ll pay for it, happy to, but given—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Sorry, Councillor COLLIER, go ahead.

Councillor COLLIER: So just to be very clear, Councillor CASSIDY and I are very happy to pay for that, but what we do not support is spending $92,000 of the money of the residents of Brisbane on a party so that you can get your faces on TV. What I will say, by the way, Councillor MURPHY, it was of course Labor Councillors—

Chair: Through the Chair, please.

Councillor COLLIER: —who proposed—through you, Chair. It was, of course, Labor Councillors who proposed a Green Bridge at Kangaroo Point but four years before it was but a twinkle in the LNP’s eye.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you very much, Madam Chair. Where do you start there? Let’s start right at the end.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor MURPHY: I haven’t even started to speak and she’s already abusing me, Madam Chair. It must be getting pretty late in the night. In fact, if we stay any later, we might even see the Brisbane Metro project completed, concluded and open. I’m getting a bit worried about that, Madam Chair. It might need to be organised in the opening event for that, as we speak. Look, we’re 11 motions tonight, Madam Chairman. Clearly, the Labor Party, they’re back. They’re in the policy game. They’re wanting to put some motions forward and really sort of stamp their authority on the Chamber. I will just say to those opposite, where was this energy before the election? Where was any of this when you preselected Tracey Price?

Come on. Now there’s four years of runway to the next one. So don’t bring the 11 motions now; bring them three, four months ago. That would’ve been the better choice, I would’ve thought, Madam Chair, than now. Administration Councillors won’t be supporting this motion. There’s a number of reasons for that and I’m sure you’re not surprised, Madam Chair. Let’s pick up on a couple of the very highly politically motivated points that Councillor COLLIER made. First of all, you know, that we’re spending a lot on events and promotion and whatnot. This is from a former media advisor to the State Government.

Has anyone seen a government that has spent more on media advisors and staffers and promotional ads? By the way, we know, we just heard, Madam Chair, there’s another massive post-budget ad campaign coming. They are booking ad space like it is going out of fashion in this city. Billboards, bus sides, they are going to go all out to promote themselves with Government money ahead of the next State election. Now, Councillor COLLIER made the claim, she made the claim that we decided when this event would be. I said before, we didn’t decide. The Council was actually heading into caretaker mode.

It was the CEO who made the decision as to whether we could postpone the event and hold it within period. He sought advice. He then gave us the okay. So, Councillor COLLIER, you’re not impugning me when you—through you, Madam Chair, Councillor COLLIER is not impugning me when she has a go at this event and what it costs and when it was held; she’s actually having a go at the CEO, the former CEO, Colin Jensen, who’s now a private citizen. I don’t necessarily think that’s appropriate, so I would just be very careful what she says there. Another point I will make, this is a massive own goal.

We just hosted Catherine King, the Federal Infrastructure Minister, who, just two motions ago, Labor was simping to, trying so hard to curry favour with the Federal Government, sending this motion, congratulating them for their pittance, their $100 million across 537 councils. Yet, who was the person looking most forward to a big and fantastic opening event for the Kangaroo Point bridge? Catherine King. Do you know what she said to me? She said, wow, green bridge doesn’t really quite describe the scale of this bridge and the construction and what you’re undertaking here. This is more like a bridge for Brisbane. I said, you know what, that’s fantastic.

You’re onto something, Minister. I really like that name and I do think—because she’s like, green bridge is, you know, that just seem sort of, you know, eh. Mind you, we did show her Kangaroo Point, not Breakfast Creek. She was like, this is a bridge for Brisbane. This is game-changing infrastructure. I’m not going to—you know what she said—I’m not going to open this bridge. The Prime Minister’s going to come open this bridge. So, by all means, Councillor COLLIER, we’ll pull the funding. We’ll put the urn out, put some hot water and a couple biscuits, some coffee and tea, get a smoking ceremony happening and we’ll see if the PM’s happy to come out for that.

I’m not sure he’ll be so happy with you. I’m not sure he’ll be so happy with you if that’s what we do. So, again, another own goal from Labor with 11 motions, trying to be really tricky, really nasty here. Madam Chair, this is from a Councillor who loves to party. I know, Madam Chairman, because my parents live near Keralgerie Park. I went to a party during caretaker period in Keralgerie Park and I saw Councillor COLLIER hosting an amazing little party there. It was full of Alex Cossu, the Labor candidate for Doboy, corflutes. So he was invited as well. I just wouldn’t be too cute, Councillor COLLIER, with trying to claim we politicise these events, when I saw you during the caretaker period with Labor corflutes at your event, which was paid for by the ratepayers of this city, something you’ve just tried to criticise us for.

You know for a fact that the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge opening, there was no party, political paraphernalia whatsoever. It was a very straight, very ordinary opening of a bridge. I just think there are so many holes in this motion, Madam Chair. I pointed just a few of them out. It’s very late. I’ll wrap it up there. This motion, we will not be supporting. We will be opening that bridge and we’ll damn sure be giving it the opening that it deserves. I move this motion be put.

**Procedural motion – Motion be now put:**

**537/2023-24**

It was moved by Councillor Ryan MURPHY, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the motion be now put. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. Very happy to also personally commit to buying the ribbon for the Prime Minister to cut, if you don’t think that’s value for money for ratepayers of Brisbane. It is really disappointing because it was an opportunity. I do not understand the logic of LNP Councillors, when you come in here and say, we couldn’t possibly pay for basic services, we couldn’t possibly. We have to make sensible savings. We have to tighten our belts. We have to make cuts. We have to cut concrete. We have to sack staff. We can’t backfill their rolls. We couldn’t possibly do anything more to support the work of Public Space Liaison Officers or more Homeless Connect events or anything like that, but we will be okay with spending $92,000 on a party. That is just outrageous.

We are talking about the priorities of the Council here. If you are voting against this motion tonight, what you are saying is that in the context of all of the stories and all of the discussions that we’ve had tonight is that you are okay to spend money on a $92,000 event to open a green bridge and you’re also okay with sending politicians to Paris at the cost of $120,000. You’re not okay with installing period vending machine products. You’re not okay with supporting basic—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Councillors.

Councillor COLLIER: Can’t hear.

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: You’re not okay with supporting important infrastructure upgrades for safety in the suburbs and you’re certainly not okay with more funding becoming available for active transport. That’s the story of tonight and that’s the story that you are okay with if you’re voting against this motion in the context of everything else that has of course gone on tonight. Certainly, we brought these motions along tonight to highlight to the residents of Brisbane, who ultimately pick up the bill for the Paris travel for politicians, the luxury Paris travel, for the very special $92,000 party and the LNP Council say, that’s fine.

That’s absolutely okay, but definitely also okay with sacking staff, with no basic Council services, the delays in major projects, the cost blowouts, all of that is okay according to the LNP. You can come in here and say, yes, absolutely, it’s all good to spend nearly $100,000 on a party. Councillor MURPHY, you are welcome to come to any of my amazing free community events. I do put them on for the benefit of all of the community. Everyone is more than welcome to come along. We get such positive feedback. Yes, they are pretty good, actually. What I will say is that happy to talk to you about the people who helped run the events for me because, I can tell you right now, it did not cost $92,000.

Chair: I will now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion 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: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

### INCLUSION OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN SAFER SUBURBS GRANT CRITERIA

**538/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6I on the agenda and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER—

*That this Council calls on the Lord Mayor to include small businesses in the criteria for the Safer Suburbs Grants, which were reintroduced as an election commitment after this Council defunded them in 2016.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. A lot of Councillors have spoken about community safety at this Council meeting and a lot over the last few months as well. We know that a lot of people in the community are not feeling safe walking at night. Too often we’re hearing about horrifying and tragic incidents in the news and directly from residents that we represent as well. We support the reintroduction of the Safer Suburbs Grants. We did from the outset, when the LORD MAYOR announced them during the election commitment. We said we would’ve not only matched them but expanded on them as well.

This is an opportunity to expand on them formally here in Council, in broadening that criteria to include small businesses as well as sporting clubs and community clubs as well. We know that they were offered in addition to community and sporting clubs to small businesses up until 2016, when they were phased out by this LNP Administration. So let’s think about that. We had a Suburban Safety Grant Program, which included small businesses and community and sporting clubs up to 2016. The LNP made a decision, Chair, in 2016 that they didn’t think Suburban Safety Grants for CCTV were a priority for this Council anymore.

That was a political decision that the LNP made to no longer fund crime prevention grants. So there was no explanation, apart from, in 2016, the LNP saying they just decided no longer to fund them. We’ve gone eight years between having funding available for these suburban crime prevention grants. I know I’ve had lots of inquiries about this from small businesses, who were aware that they used to be available, from community and sporting clubs as well. Again, we support the reintroduction of these grants but think they don’t go far enough. I think there’s a lot of Councillors who represent areas that have very traditional suburban shopping strips that, in a lot of cases, you know, big sections of the one along Brighton Road in Sandgate or down at the Zillmere shops, don’t have that level of surveillance.

We have heard from the LORD MAYOR and from LNP Councillors how valuable and important that surveillance can be in helping solve crime and address crime as well and increase community safety. So I think this is probably a pretty non‑controversial one. We say, at the outset, we support the Lord Mayor’s grant program that he announced, strongly and strongly encourage him to support this motion today, which will see the eligibility criteria expanded to small businesses as well to help them contribute not just to the safety of their own small businesses but also the communities around them, because I know they’re very keen to do that.

Chair: Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak against this motion today because there seems to be some confusion. I’m sure I listened yesterday to a very large debate on how we couldn’t possibly take $2,000 out of our community’s funds to support a community group. Now we have money coming out of our community grants for our community groups going to small business. Again, somebody mentioned before that maybe Councillor CASSIDY should be representing in the gymnastics for the Olympics and we have it here again. Whatever suits them on their political debate of the day, they will say. We have been doing City Safe network for around 30 years.

We’re constantly expanding and improving this service because we are a safe and friendly city and we want to keep it that way. This financial year, we’re investing more than $1.5 million to enhance and grow the CCTV network across Brisbane. Over the past years, we have rolled out 240 cameras to date, to bolster Brisbane’s network, to deter crime, to assist law enforcement. This adds to the existing 3,500 CCTV cameras in the network, which span right across the city, providing 24/7 surveillance at our libraries, ferry terminals, bus depots and of course the CBD and Fortitude Valley entertainment precincts.

This significant investment is in addition to the 36 new suburban safety cameras announced by the LORD MAYOR earlier this year, which will begin to roll out in the next financial years. They’re just not listening, Madam Chair, but listening and typos and grammar’s never really been their strong point. Every ward will receive a city safe camera that can be rotated across locations based on community feedback, in consultations with the local businesses and the QPS. These cameras have been proven to deter crime and antisocial behaviour while enhancing community safety. This is very separate to our Safer Suburbs Grants, which are available for sports and community clubs.

Again, I’ll reiterate what I heard earlier, why do you take the money away from our community clubs? That is exactly what this motion is suggesting: reduce the money to our community clubs who need this investment to make sure they can improve their security improvements for crime prevention measures, in particular, vandalism, which costs us so much money. They can include security screens, alarm systems, approved locks and patrol services. We have 568 sports and community clubs eligible for this grant and we’re proud to be able to support them in this way. This motion effectively asks us to reduce that pool of funding available to our sports and community clubs to help them tackle crime and make our suburbs safer.

I have to say, this does not mean we’re not working with our local businesses to help tackle crime. That’s what is the frustrating part. They listen when they want to, but they don’t hear the important parts, the things that we have been doing for our small businesses over many, many years. We work one-on-one with small businesses through our economic development officers with our Chambers and business associations, who tell us firsthand the challenges that they face running a business and how we can help them grow and thrive. We work to deliver more activations, marketing, promotion campaigns, shopfront improvements, business coaching, local infrastructure upgrades and improvements; the list goes on.

We will continue amongst that to work closely with them on ways to prevent crime and improve safety in the community and protect their businesses. Many businesses, Madam Chair, have already got their CCTV cameras installed. I know my businesses have been working through that process in the last few years. We continue to promote and strengthen the relationship we have between Council, businesses and the QPS. The QPS has a Community Cameras Alliance program that we launched, Brisbane City Council launched and I was there as the Economic Development Chair in 2018, with the National Retail Association and the QPS, to encourage businesses to register their CCTV systems into the QPS database.

I would encourage every business to opt into this program. Our team is committed to doing what we can at a Council level to help make Brisbane suburbs better, a whole suite of practical solutions that don’t take money away from our sporting and community clubs. We know that crime is one of the most concerning issues for residents across Brisbane and Queensland, but those on the other side are more interested in politicising it than actually addressing it—disappointing but not surprising. Labor do need to get serious on tackling crime and that’s just not those sitting here tonight but those down the other end of George Street as well.

This motion is lazy, incompetent and does not support our local communities and clubs in tackling the issues they have with crime in the suburb. We won’t be supporting this motion today because we are committed to supporting our local community and sporting clubs and our local businesses and our local residents to keep our suburbs safe. I move the motion be put.

**Procedural motion – Motion be now put:**

**539/2023-24**

It was moved by the DEPUTY MAYOR, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the motion be now put. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. The DEPUTY MAYOR just doesn’t listen. We didn’t talk about and this motion doesn’t talk about the pool of funding. Now, the LORD MAYOR can make a decision, he’s about to, in delivering his budget, to increase the funding for safety grants. So if we were to expand the eligibility criteria, of course, the LORD MAYOR would increase funding for these grants. Oh, wait, no, that’s right, the LNP only ever cut grants. That’s right, they did have this grant available up until 2016 and then they cut it and then they cut grant funding to community and sporting clubs in the last two years that those community and sporting clubs would use to do things like this, to improve their safety and surveillance, to improve facilities at the club, to paint the place and put carpet down in Council-owned buildings.

So the LNP have a strong track record when it comes to cutting grant funding, at every opportunity and in every type of grant, for every type of thing. There’s not one grant funding program that this LNP Administration hasn’t cut, whether it’s the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund, halved that a few years ago, cut Better Suburbs Grants, cut Suburban Safety Grants. True to form, this is just what the LNP does. So it is disappointing that this LNP Administration wouldn’t seek to support small businesses expanding their ability to make their businesses more safe and secure and the broader community more safe and secure.

I know lots of small businesses are doing it really, really tough at the moment. So any support the Council can give them at any level is appreciated. Some of the things that DEPUTY MAYOR talked about, we acknowledge small businesses appreciate that. They certainly would’ve appreciated a new stream of grant funding available to them to increase their safety and security with additional funding, but we just can’t seem to get that tonight from this LNP Administration. They’re a big fat yes to Paris, a big fat yes to $123,000 for Paris, a big fat yes to, well, what we assume will be probably a $200,000 party on the Kangaroo Point bridge. They’re happy to spend money there.

They’re happy to see 180 less Council staff working in the organisation over the last six months, happy to spend money over there, cut money over there, but not on programs to increase our community safety by supporting small businesses in the work they do. It’s really disappointing that the Chair of the Economic Development Committee had to be the one to get up and deliver the bad news to small businesses in Brisbane. I was listening along thinking, oh, just going to hit the suburban support in the things that the DEPUTY MAYOR rattled off and we just didn’t get there. All of those programs that the DEPUTY MAYOR talked about are all focused on the CBD and the Valley, just like all the financial support—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair—

Councillor CASSIDY: —we see for small businesses are in the—

DEPUTY MAYOR: —Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: It’s all the CCTV investment we’ve heard from the LNP is in the CBD and in the Valley, just like all of the business support we’ve seen roll out of Councils in the CBD and in the Valley. Sure, that needs to happen, but we also need to have an eye to our suburbs. According to the DEPUTY MAYOR, just almost every single small business in her area already has CCTV. Well, that’s wonderful, but I know there’s an awful lot of support—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —out in suburban Brisbane.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY: There’s an awful lot of small businesses out in Brisbane that simply can’t afford that at the moment because they have extremely high costs in running their businesses. It’s disappointing that the DEPUTY MAYOR would rather personally travel to Paris for the Olympics than invest that money in important local programs, one of which could be supporting small businesses to increase their community safety. So, again, we’re disappointed in the LNP but not surprised tonight.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, your points of misrepresentation.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Firstly, Councillor CASSIDY said the programs I listed in economic development were only in the CBD. They absolutely are not. They are right across the suburbs in our 29 chambers we support. He also claimed that I said all businesses have CCTV camera and that is not what I said.

Chair: Thank you.

I now put the motion.

The Chair submitted the motion 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: 4 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM and Charles STRUNK.

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

ABSTENTIONS: 2 - Councillors Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

### INCREASE PATHWAYS OUT OF HOMLESSES GRANT FUNDING IN 2025-28

**540/2023-24**

The Chair, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 6J on the agenda and called on Councillor Lucy COLLIER to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY—

*That this Council requests that the Lord Mayor increase the Pathways out of Homelessness Grant to $5m per year for the 2025-2028 grant program.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. From the outset, I do want to place on the record our remarks that are very complimentary of this program and the work that has been achieved through grants provided to organisations by Council. It is one of the only ways where we can provide direct support to the incredible organisations who work to enable solutions to address the growing issue of housing insecurity and homelessness. We too often hear in this place, that’s not our job. We couldn’t possibly. It’s not our responsibility. This is one of the only things, it is one of the most important things that this Council does.

From the outset, I want to be really clear that Councillors from the Labor Council team very much support this program. What we are calling for tonight is an increase so that organisations can increase their impact, their positive impact. I want to recognise the three organisations that have received funding for their work through this program: Brisbane Housing Company, who apparently have engaged a specialist mobile health provider to deliver bespoke and place-based health services to support residents in community housing with complex health needs. Another recipient, IUIH, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and through their grant funding, through this program, they are supporting vulnerable First Nations people and families by developing care plans, using an early intervention model to prepare, establish and maintain tenancies.

Another organisation that’s been a successful recipient of this grant funding is a Youth Advocacy Centre and with this funding, they’re able to provide wraparound advocacy support programs for at-risk young people, specifically aged 14 to 19, to transition to permanent and safe housing and access to stable community support. Upon reflecting, the work that’s been achieved through the impact of the Pathways Out of Homelessness Grants, we all know, of course, that there are so many contributing factors that we will need to help address housing, housing insecurity, homelessness.

This is a very real and demonstrated way in which we as a Council can provide essential funding to these organisations that really do the hands-on work. That’s why today we’re calling on the LORD MAYOR to increase the funding to this program for future grant programs. I understand, of course, that the successful organisations that I’ve discussed tonight are not the only ones who applied for this funding and there is greater need. We know that. So our reach could be so much broader to provide this essential kind of support for organisations who are dealing with the most vulnerable and critical cases when it comes to housing insecurity. We are talking about the people who need our support as a Council the most. So the motion is very clear in its intent. Like I said, we are so complimentary of this grant program and we think that we could do even more as a Council. So that’s why we’re calling on the LORD MAYOR tonight to increase that funding to the grant program.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the motion before us. On April 10, I received a memo from the LORD MAYOR, asking for my budget submission, with a deadline of 26 April. The memo said and I quote, submissions received after this date risk exclusion from the budget consideration process, end quote. The motion before us today is a budget bid, which I can only assume was included in their submissions, which will be considered along with the request from all Councillors. Given this, I move a procedural motion that this motion be laid on the table.

**Procedural motion – Notified motion lie on the table:**

**541/2023-24**

Councillor Alex GIVNEY moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the notified motion lie on the table. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: That’s it. Okay. I know. Sorry, Councillors.

Petitions. Councillors, are there any petitions?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: I submit a petition requesting Council purchase the site at 16 Duncan Street, West End for recreational green space.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Chair, requesting Council provide and promote free green bins across Brisbane.

Chair: Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Petition requesting the Council rejects the development at 7 Ryans Road, St Lucia.

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN, may I please have a motion for the receipt of the petitions?

**542/2023-24**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Greg ADERMANN, 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** |
| 137/220/594/310 | Trina Massey | Requesting Council purchase the site at 16 Duncan Street, West End, for recreational greenspace. |
| 137/220/594/311 | Sarah Hutton | Requesting Council provide and promote free green bins across Brisbane. |
| 137/220/594/309 | Penny Wolff | Requesting Council reject the development at 7 Ryans Road, St Lucia, to protect cyclists. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of an Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee order?

There being no Councillors rising to their feet, are there any matters of General Business?

Councillors, I declare that that calls the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (received on 7 May 2024)**

**Q1.** How many of the 60 war memorial sites maintained by Council have power onsite?

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (received on 9 May 2024)**

**Q1.** Please provide the total cost of the Brisbane State of the City 2024 Report?

**Q2.** Please provide a breakdown of all costs for the Brisbane State of the City 2024 Report including:

a. design and content

b. production

c. printing

d. distribution

e. other?

**Q3.** Please advise the names of the business or organisations that contributed to Brisbane State of City Report 2024?

**Q4.** Please advise how many Brisbane State of the City 2024 Reports were printed?

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (received on 9 May 2024)**

**Q1.** How many dog wandering or dog attack complaints were made to Council in Sherwood in 2024?

**Q2.** How many dog wandering or dog attack complaints were made to Council in Sherwood in 2023?

**Q3.** How many dog wandering or dog attack complaints were made to Council in Jerrold St, Mayhew St, Hood St or Coyne Sts, Sherwood in 2024?

**Q4.** How many dog wandering or dog attack complaints were made to Council in Jerrold St, Mayhew St, Hood St or Coyne Sts, Sherwood in 2023?

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (received on 9 May 2024)**

**Q1.** How many enquiries has Brisbane City Council received in regards to grass cutting, broken down by suburb and ward, during December 2023, January and February 2024?

**Q2.** How many enquiries has Brisbane City Council received in regards to grass cutting, broken down by suburb and ward, during December 2022, January and February 2023?

**Q3.** How many residents have visited each Council library in the last 12 months, please list for each specific library?

**Q4.** Please provide the number of serious incidents/accidents reported to Council under obligation by providers of e-mobility devices for the FY’s 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 YTD.

**Q5.** Please advise the total $ spent on consulting services, generally, across Council for FY’s 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 YTD.

**Q6.** Please advise the total $ spent on labour hire across Council for FY’s 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 YTD.

**Q7.** Please provide the following for each individual role in the City Communication Team, where each row represents an individual employee (anonymously).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Pay Band | FTE % (or “casual”) | BCC, Contract or Labour Hire employment | If on contract, end month & year |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |

## 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 Jared Cassidy (from meeting on 7 May 2024)**

**Q1.** List any and all individuals/firms/companies (any legal service entity) etc which Brisbane City Council Legal Services has engaged for legal services in the past 12 months? Please list all parties individually.

***A1.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Andrew Herbert*  *Ben Job KC*  *Daniel Caruana*  *Douglas Quayle*  *Georgia Kiss*  *James Lyons*  *Jane Bowness*  *Katherine Buckley*  *Luke Walker*  *Madeline Rodgers*  *Mitchel Baty*  *Nathan Baty*  *Nicholas Loos* | *Roger Traves KC*  *Roman Micairan*  *Ronald Yuen*  *Samuel Bain*  *Saul Holt KC*  *Scott McLeod KC*  *Susan Hedge*  *Timothy Stork*  *Clayton Utz*  *Colin Biggers & Paisley*  *McCullough Robertson Lawyers*  *Minter Ellison* |

**Q2.** How many consultants (providing any type of consulting service) has Brisbane City Council engaged to provide services in the last 12 months?

***A2.*** *Council officers have advised this data is not readily available and is unable to be provided as it would require multiple officers to be redirected from their day job for multiple days to provide a response.*

**Q3.** Provide a breakdown of the number of staff currently employed by Brisbane City Council.

|  | Actual Staff Number | FTE |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Full-Time Staff |  |  |
| Part-Time Staff |  |  |
| Casual Staff |  |  |
| Labour Hire Provided Staff |  |  |
| Contract Staff |  |  |

***A3.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Actual Staff Number* | *FTE* |
| *Full-Time Staff* | *6,806* |  |
| *Part-Time Staff* | *905* | *620.3* |
| *Casual Staff* | *898* | *382.3* |
| *Labour Hire Provided Staff* | *N/A* | *N/A* |
| *Contract Staff* | *464* | *421.7* |

1. *Council has contracts with labour hire firms, not individual contractors.*

*(2) Contract employees are those engaged under Common Law Contracts.*

**Q4.** Provide a breakdown of the number of staff employed by Brisbane City Council at 17 October 2023.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Actual Staff Number | FTE |
| Full-Time Staff |  |  |
| Part-Time Staff |  |  |
| Casual Staff |  |  |
| Labour Hire Provided Staff |  |  |
| Contract Staff |  |  |

***A4.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Actual Staff Number* | *FTE* |
| *Full-Time Staff* | *6,916* |  |
| *Part-Time Staff* | *929* | *629.2* |
| *Casual Staff* | *876* | *359.2* |
| *Labour Hire Provided Staff* | *N/A* | *N/A* |
| *Contract Staff* | *510* | *440.9* |

1. *Council has contracts with labour hire firms, not individual contractors.*

*(2) Contract employees are those engaged under Common Law Contracts.*

**Q5.** How many staff have voluntarily tendered resignation to Brisbane City Council since 17 October 2023? Please provide actual staff and FTE numbers.

***A5.*** *454. Data is only captured by headcount and not FTE.*

**Q6.** How many employment contracts have come to full term completion and not been renewed since 17 October 2023? Please provide actual staff and FTE numbers.

***A6.*** *Council officers have advised this data is not readily available and is unable to be provided as it would require multiple officers to be redirected from their day job for multiple days to provide a response.*

**Q7.** How many employment contracts have come to full term completion and been renewed since 17 October 2023, excluding any contracts effected by the 16 March 2024 Local Government quadrennial election? Please provide actual staff and FTE numbers.

***A7.*** *Council officers have advised this data is not readily available and is unable to be provided as it would require multiple officers to be redirected from their day job for multiple days to provide a response.*

**Q8.** How many total staff have ended employment with Brisbane City Council since 17 October 2023, including voluntary & involuntary separation, contract completion or early termination by either party, etc? Please provide actual staff and FTE numbers.

***A8.*** *642. Data is only captured by headcount and not FTE.*

**Q9.** List all locations Queensland Cricket provides grass cutting services to Brisbane City Council.

***A9.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Ashgrove Sportsground Park*  *Carmichael Park*  *Chalmer Recreation Reserve*  *Deagon Sportsground Park*  *Fehlberg Park* | *Graceville Memorial Park*  *Oxenham Park*  *Shaw Estate Park*  *Shaw Park* |

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 1.04am.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Ashleigh O’Brien (Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Madeline Platt (Council and Committee Officer)

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