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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4746 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 3 September 2024**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## FIRST DAY – TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

## PRESENT:

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

The Chair of Council (Chair), 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)  Julia DIXON (Hamilton)  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 opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

Chair: I declare the meeting open.

## APOLOGIES:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmation of minutes, please.

**105/2024-25**

The Minutes of the 4745 meeting of Council held on 27 August 2024, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair: I would like to call now on Ms Mary Doolan who will address the Chamber on the role of community groups in public discourse about active transport. You can either stand or sit, whatever you’re comfortable. Thanks Ms Doolan.

Please proceed, you have five minutes.

**Ms Mary Doolan – The role of community groups in public discourse about active transport**

Ms Mary Doolan: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, LORD MAYOR, and Councillors. Thank you for allowing me to address the Chamber this afternoon. I am a volunteer co-convenor with two cycling advocacy groups, being the Brisbane CBD and Brisbane South Bicycle User Groups. Our main aim is to lobby for improved and safe cycling infrastructure for all types of people riding bikes and for those who would ride bikes if there was more safe infrastructure in place.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Ms Mary Doolan: We do this in an unpaid, purely voluntary capacity with—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Ms Mary Doolan: We do this in an unpaid, purely voluntary capacity, whilst often holding down full-time jobs or other commitments. We do this because we know that more people riding bikes as a form of transport or recreation has huge economic, environmental, social connectivity and physical and mental health benefits, whilst also reducing congestion in our streets.

On 21 May this year, during Volunteer Week, the LORD MAYOR made statements about the role of bicycle user groups in response to repeated questions raised by Councillor MASSEY regarding the lack of safe, protected bike lanes on Nudgee Road, where in 2023, a man was killed while riding his bike to work.

In response to Councillor MASSEY’s questions, the LORD MAYOR made several comments that were untrue, inappropriate and disparaging towards bicycle user groups. Namely, that our groups were, and I quote ‘political activists in support of the Greens’, ‘Green mouthpieces’ and ‘infiltrated by Green activists’.

He went on to say that he did not take bicycle user groups seriously, as we had lost all credibility and he would therefore not deal with us. However, nothing was said in relation to what Council was doing to address the unsafe conditions on Nudgee Road.

These statements made by the LORD MAYOR about bicycle user groups deeply offended me and truly disappointed me and my fellow volunteers. These statements showed a complete lack of respect for our legitimate roles as people advocating on behalf of the bike riding community to make Brisbane a more accessible and liveable city.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Ms Mary Doolan: I have certainly never heard these types of comments levelled against bush care groups, for example, for whom I also volunteer. The bicycle user groups that I am involved with are ordinary members of the Brisbane community who are passionate about bike riding being as convenient and safe as possible for all types of riders.

We are not aligned with any political party and we will support any policies and procedures—or projects, rather—that provide bike riders with what they need. Which is position where cycling is, and is seen to be, a valid, convenient and safe form of transport. We have no interest in which party proposes a project or policy, only the content of that policy or the outcome of the project. On that basis, we have supported and promoted many projects delivered or proposed by the incumbent Council.

Where Council has delivered the outcomes that our members seek, we have been vocal in our support via social media. For example, the Breakfast Creek green bridge, the protected bike lanes in the CBD, The Gabba bikeway, the Kangaroo Point green bridge, to name just a few. Where other parties have proposed good active transport ideas, we have also supported those.

However, where we see poor decisions, lack of consultation, unsafe or no outcomes being delivered in the cycling space, for example Nudgee Road, we will act without fear or favour in calling these out and asking for better outcomes. This will occur no matter which party is responsible and is what our members expect of us.

We want to work with Council and Councillors to ensure connected and safe cycling infrastructure is delivered in Brisbane. Prior to this year’s Council election we reached out to candidates on all side of politics. We offered to ride with them through their ward to point out where safety or connectivity issues existed. Issues that we knew prevented many people, particularly women and children, from riding.

We also sought out each party’s policy in relation to cycling so we could pass this on to our members. Bicycle user groups will continue to offer our assistance and feedback to Council to ensure the best outcome for Brisbane residents. We will always do this in a respectful but robust manner and would appreciate the same courtesy be returned to us as volunteers working for, and within, the Brisbane community.

Thank you again for raising—sorry—thank you again for the opportunity to raise this issue with the Chamber. I warmly invite the LORD MAYOR and every Councillor to take the opportunity to ride with us or to meet with us at any time—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Ms Mary Doolan: —to discuss the needs of people who wish to have a safe and convenient way to ride their bike in Brisbane.

Chair: Thank you Ms Doolan.

Ms Mary Doolan: Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. If you’d like to take a seat.

Councillor MURPHY, care to respond?

**Response by Councillor Ryan Murphy, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee**

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thank you for coming to speak with us today, Ms Doolan. The Schrinner Council’s goal is to provide a world-class transport network that is connected and reliable. Most importantly, we want to build a network that supports choice. A network that has better roads and reduces congestion. A network that delivers world-class public transport and a network that helps people leave their car at home to walk, ride or scoot instead.

On this side of the Chamber, we are committed to keeping Brisbane moving, no matter what mode you choose. In the past four years the Schrinner Council has invested over $390 million into active transport in Brisbane, more than the Queensland Government has invested in the entire State. When you compare our investment to that of our Opposition, we’ve invested 25 times more than when Labor last held power in this city.

We are tackling, as you mentioned, large trunk infrastructure like the Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek bridges, the CityLink Cycleway. We’ve just finished the Hawera Court bridge, the Kooringal Drive bridge. We’re improving bike lanes on Junction Road and Rainbow Street in Sandgate.

There’s no doubt that there’s more to be done and there’s plenty more in the pipeline. We’re very close to landing an agreement with the State Government on extending the Shafston Avenue bikeway to the Kangaroo Point Bridge.

So, we are incredibly supportive of improving our active transport network and we’ve been chipping away at new infrastructure each and every year. I know you represent a bicycle user group, Mary, but we know that now active transport isn’t actually just about cycling. It’s also about e-mobility as well, scooters and devices.

While we completely accept and expect BUG groups to be pro-bicycle, it has been, I think, unfortunate to see BUG groups increasingly becoming anti-car as well. We do support the shift to public and active modes, but we believe that should be achieved through lifting up active transport infrastructure, not denigrating motorists or people who choose to use their cars, or who have no choice but to use their car.

We want more people on buses, we want people to travel actively. But the reality is still most of Brisbane travels by car.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Brisbane’s climate is hot, humid and sunny. Last week, the last week of winter, we had consistent temperatures above 30 degrees celsius. Still see many BUG groups make spurious comparisons between Brisbane and Amsterdam, or Brisbane and Utrecht. As if through infrastructure alone, through more bikeways, we could arrive at a flat, temperate European city almost overnight, if only there was the political will for change.

We are striving towards a more extensive, high-quality network. As I’ve said, there are still residents who will choose not to ride, no matter what infrastructure we build. I will say, on this side of the Chamber, we have been disappointed by the politically partisan approach taken by many BUG group members in recent years. It’s not enough to say you’re nonpartisan, you actually have to do it.

We’ve been accused of being corrupt or shady when bikeways aren’t supported by the residents of the communities that Councillors represent. We’ve been accused of having blood on our hands every time a cyclist is tragically killed on our roads, often mere hours after a fatality has occurred and before police have commenced their investigations.

Of course all of us in this place take part in robust debate—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: But some cycling groups, we believe—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: One moment, Councillor MURPHY.

Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON, there is no interjecting public—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I just don’t think it’s appropriate—

Chair: There is no interjection, as you know, in the new rules, to be able to do that. So I ask you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s not appropriate for the public and active transport chairman—

Chair: No, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —to make these allegations against a member of the public.

Chair: You do not get to respond.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s not appropriate and you should intervene.

Chair: You do not get to speak at this time.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You should be intervening.

Chair: Please sit down. You know very well.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well he point of ordered. You should intervene here. His comments towards a member of the public—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —are inappropriate.

Chair: I am cautioning you.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: So, we have seen, Madam Chair, in our view BUG group members engage in partisan political behaviour. Name calling, abuse, intimidation, online and on social media. This is not only Councillors but also Council officers doing their jobs on these projects that have been the victim of these.

So, we do think that some BUG groups have lost significant credibility in recent years because of the tone and the tenor of the advocacy, not the advocacy itself. I think that is a shame, Ms Doolan, because so many of your members do, indeed, make incredibly valuable contributions to our projects and have for many years.

I know that you met with Councillor ADAMS previously and she certainly conveyed to me that you provided some excellent ideas and great suggestions on future cycling infrastructure in her local area that she thought had merit. However, the interaction that you had with Councillor ADAMS is not the interaction that all Councillors have experienced with BUG group members.

So, you’ve come here to give some feedback to us and we will absolutely take that on board. But I hope that you’ll be able to convey our feedback to some of your members in your organisation—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —so that they may do the same. We think it’s important to foster a constructive and respectful debate when it comes to cycling infrastructure.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: We are all about improving active transport in our city.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: We can do that better together if we’re constructive.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Ms Doolan for coming in today.

Councillor JOHNSTON and Councillor MASSEY, you are cautioned.

## QUESTION TIME:

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

Councillor HUANG.

**Question 1**

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

LORD MAYOR, last week you released Brisbane’s Games Transport Legacy Plan. Can you please update the Chamber on our plan to keep Brisbane moving up to and beyond 2032?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

I’ll remind all Councillors that you are not to be speaking while other Councillors are on their feet speaking, and calling out across the Chamber is not appropriate conduct.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you and thank you for the question, Councillor HUANG. I know that you have long been excited about the opportunities for better transport, better connectivity in your area. Obviously being the host of the Brisbane Metro depot and soon to be receiving Brisbane Metro services from Eight Mile Plains through to the University of Queensland on 21 October, you are excited.

But there is more and more reason for more people across the city to be excited, because we know there is a great opportunity over the next eight years and beyond to deliver a better connectivity legacy for our city, better transport. To move from public transport to mass transport. To lift the game with active transport infrastructure.

Our plan that we released as an Administration last week includes 18 practical and achievable initiatives and projects that will do exactly that. Game-changing initiatives that will leave a lasting legacy that will benefit the community. A city that is easier to get around. A city where more people have access to more services more often. A city where it is easier to walk, cycle and scoot. And a city where we see connectivity being a key legacy of the 2032 Games.

Now it’s important to remind everyone that that was the reason why we went after the Games in the first place. This push was led by local government, not just Brisbane, but the Councils of South East Queensland, to get a transport legacy in place.

Now there are rail projects that are going both north and south that will be, hopefully, delivered before the Games, both up to the Sunshine Coast and improvements to the Gold Coast line. We’d like to see more rail improvements delivered, but if we’re realistic, we know we’re running out of time to be able to deliver such large rail projects. They generally take—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —a lot longer than eight years to be delivered. But having said that, now that we are just a matter of weeks away from Brisbane Metro services operating and there’s been a lot of work put in to getting that model so that it is scalable. This is something that can certainly be rolled out to more parts of Brisbane over time. Together with the other 18 initiatives in this plan, we are looking forward to seeing some real tangible benefits delivered for the people of Brisbane. Not just in the two weeks of the Games or the two weeks of the Paralympics, but between now and then, and also beyond the Games as well.

So that is our aim, that is what we’re working on in partnership with the State Government. We have a great deal of alignment with the Government when it comes to getting some of these projects up and running. We’re looking forward to getting that alignment also with the Federal Government as well, who we’ve been having productive discussions within recent times.

To be clear, the Brisbane Metro Gabba station. Which was part of the South East Queensland City Deal and funded by all three levels of government, is not the right priority right now. That’s not to say that it will never happen, but right now, the $450 million underground station looks more like a $600 million to $800 million underground station. It is our very strong view that, given that The Gabba is not going to be demolished and rebuilt, in the way that was talked about by the previous Premier, that kind of investment from all three levels of government could be better placed by expanding the Metro network to more locations.

Now is this the sum total of all of our transport and infrastructure ambitions for the city? Certainly not. This is very much related to Games infrastructure, Games venues, and how we can get people moving around the city effectively, or more effectively. This is certainly not the sum total of our transport and infrastructure ambitions and plans. But it is something that is clearly looking to deliver a Games legacy that we can deliver through all three levels of government through that City Deal vehicle and something that I’m very excited about.

It’s not just Councillors on this side of the Chamber that are excited, the community is excited too. We see that the people of Brisbane have responded warmly to this plan and this vision. They want to see more done when it comes to all three levels of government working together to deliver better transport and better connectivity, and that’s exactly what we want to see too.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 2**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, well that’s changed what I’m asking. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, this organisation here, Brisbane City Council, is represented by the Councillors and yourself. Can you please advise when you brought the Brisbane City Council race to gold games transport legacy to Council for endorsement? Can you please advise when it became Council policy? Can you please advise when it was discussed with Councillors, in public and endorsed as Council policy as Brisbane City Council?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, I think there’s a requirement to ask just one question. There were multiple questions there, Madam Chair. I don’t know if you want to consider that.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY, we don’t need you to call out across the Chamber.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: Councillor JOHNSTON just asked a question—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —Councillor JOHNSTON just asked a question. If the Chair didn’t think that question was appropriate, the Chair would have said so, I presume. But you called the LORD MAYOR to answer that. He’s just dismissed your ruling in calling him to answer a question. So I’m just seeking your ruling on—

Chair: Yes I don’t uphold—

Councillor CASSIDY: —whether the LORD—

Chair: —your point of order but LORD MAYOR—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: —you only have five minutes to answer. So I will let you answer the question as you can in five minutes.

LORD MAYOR: Well, given that there are least three questions there, Madam Chair, I’ll answer the first one. There should have only been one question asked.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So this vision came through to Civic Cabinet last week and this is the vision of the Administration.

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON you asked a question and the LORD MAYOR is answering it. I suggest that you stop calling out and actually listen to the answer.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: If you don’t like the answer, that does not give you the ability to call out.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. This is the vision of the Administration, and Councillor JOHNSTON well knows that enshrined into the way this place works there’s an  
Administration or a government and there’s an Opposition. Unfortunately, Councillor JOHNSTON sits on the wrong side of that line. So as much as she would love to be involved in government decisions, she is not. She is not. She is not involved in the Administration’s decisions.

So this is the Administration’s pitch to other levels of government for a transport legacy. Councillor JOHNSTON, as much as she would love to be sitting in the Cabinet room, around the Cabinet table. She had that choice. She had that chance.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: She had that opportunity.

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: If you could resume your seat, LORD MAYOR for a moment.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I caution you a third time, Councillor JOHNSTON and Councillor GRIFFITHS for calling out as well. You will remain quiet while another Councillor is on their feet speaking.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you and so this is the Administration’s advocacy and vision to ensure that other levels of government are clear about where we see the transport legacy heading and the support we need from them. As I said, Councillor JOHNSTON had the opportunity to sit in the Administration but she actually resigned from the Administration.

She had the opportunity even once to sit in the Chair of Council I remember as well.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Once. Who knows? Maybe Campbell Newman or Graham Quirk would have appointed her to Cabinet, I don’t know, it’s anyone’s guess. But the reality is Councillor JOHNSTON’s made it very clear, she doesn’t want to be part of this team.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I don’t know why she’s asking this question.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor DIXON.

**Question 3**

Councillor DIXON: My question is to the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY, we’ve just heard from the LORD MAYOR about the exciting news keeping the northern suburbs moving. Can you please tell us more about our plan for the northern Metro?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and through you, thanks to Councillor DIXON for the question. In 2032, visitors from across the world will be drawn to Brisbane as we host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As we just heard from the LORD MAYOR, the Games presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to accelerate investment in Brisbane’s transport network.

We are, let’s not forget, the smallest city to ever host a summer Games. So it’s critical that we have a mature, mass-transit system to successfully host them. During both Sydney 2000 and the London 2012 Games, overall patronage on public transport increased by almost one million trips per day. But our current public transport system can only service about 50% of the projected trips to and from Games’ venues. We aren’t Games ready and there’s only eight years to go.

As the LORD MAYOR said, over 1,000 days have been wasted in preparation for the Games on discussions about stadiums, the Premier on the red carpet, organisational charts being developed. But we are still yet to see a single document from the State Government that outlines their plan to deliver transport to and from Games venues. Three years of nothing.

That’s why we developed the race to gold. It’s our plan to make sure we seize this once in a lifetime opportunity and accelerate investment in mass transit for Brisbane. The plan that we put forward is sensible, it’s affordable and most importantly, it’s achievable in the time that we’ve got left. We no longer have time to plan and deliver heavy or light rail projects in time for the Games. We must focus on high impact but lower cost projects. That’s exactly what this plan delivers.

So at the heart of this plan, Madam Chair, is our proposal to massively expand the Brisbane Metro. It’s a bus rapid transit solution that will see us make the move from public transport to mass transit. It will deliver a step change in quality, a step change in frequency. As part of our Games transport plan last week, we revealed a package of new Metro lines which would see a total of 22 new stations built across the city.

One of our first priorities, I know you’ll be pleased to hear, Madam Chair, is taking Brisbane Metro to the north. Of course the Schrinner Council has already announced a plan to deliver a new Metro depot in the northern suburbs. But now we’ve expanded on that vision, outlining a proposal for more stations and stops across the northern suburbs. A northern Metro line would massively increase the capacity on our bus network between the CBD and Lutwyche, Kedron, Chermside, Aspley and Carseldine.

This proposal would link with the State Government’s delivery of the Northern Transitway and complement future plans for the Gympie Road bypass tunnel, a project proposed by this Council.

There’s now less than 50 days until Brisbane residents will be able to jump on board the first Brisbane Metro services, Chair. We know that Brisbane residents will love it and we know that it’s the future of mass transit in this city.

But we’re not the only ones who know it, Madam Chair, because our Brisbane Metro expansion plan has some serious support behind it. Last week we were joined by the Premier, Minister Mellish, because our Brisbane Metro expansion plan is being backed by them, as well as the South East Queensland Mayors, to jointly announce these plans.

Partnership between all levels of government is essential to prepare us for Brisbane 2032. That’s why we’re very proud that all levels of government, regardless of political party, can see that bus rapid transit networks serviced by Brisbane Metro, is the future for Brisbane. Brisbane Metro is now a project with true bipartisan support, Madam Chair. The only astonishing thing is that the Labor Opposition are still yet to get on board. The Premier’s on board—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —the Transport Minister’s on board, Treasurer Jim Chalmers even has been out at our Metro depot and he was singing Brisbane Metro’s praises, Madam Chair. He even christened the ping pong table. I actually lost ping pong to the Treasurer, which is terrible, Madam Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: One by one, we see even Councillor CASSIDY’s Labor colleagues are starting to fall in love with Brisbane Metro. We know that Councillor COLLIER and Councillor KIM will be out at the Brisbane Metro depot tomorrow. We hope that they’ll come back and convince Councillor CASSIDY to get on board with Brisbane Metro thought, and to understand just how transformational this project will be for our city. Because soon, Councillor CASSIDY will be the only politician in the country that’s yet to get on board with Brisbane Metro.

We know that as Host City of the Games, we are going to have a golden opportunity to build a transport network with long term benefits for our city, Madam Chair. We are in a race to gold now and it’s ours to win.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 4**

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

You recently returned from what you called a very insightful trip to Paris for the Olympics. Given you told the media this trip was partly personal and partly official, can you tell us what the trip cost exactly and how much was covered by you personally and how much by Council?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. The personal part of the trip was the time I took before Paris to visit my children, that I hadn’t seen for over 12 months. The part of Paris which was work was paid for, for the accommodation I had there and the Eurostar to travel from London to Paris. No flights to or from London, purely the Eurostar and the accommodation.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 5**

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor ATWOOD: My question is to the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY, we’ve just heard from the LORD MAYOR about the exciting news keeping the eastern suburbs moving. Can you please tell us more about the plans for the eastern Metro?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, I can, thanks Councillor ATWOOD. Thank you for the question. I know the eastern suburbs are very close to your heart, they’re close to my heart too, Madam Chair. That’s why I’m so excited that our race to gold transport plan also outlines a massive uplift for public transport in our eastern suburbs.

For years, decades even, we have heard promises from the State Government about the eastern busway. The planned busway was due to stretch 17.7 kilometres from our existing busway at Buranda through Carindale and Chandler, all the way out to the Redlands and Capalaba.

It was due to be completed by now. But we’re here now in 2024 and the State Government has made little to no progress on this infrastructure. Over the last 15 years we have been fighting an uphill battle for better public transport along this corridor. But with the 2032 Games on the horizon it’s more important than ever that we get this project back on track.

We heard from the LORD MAYOR earlier that we’ve already lost one in four days since we were named the host of the 2032 Games. On this side of the Chamber we don’t want to see another day wasted. So, as part of our massive expansion plan for Brisbane Metro, we’ve identified the Old Cleveland Road corridor out to Capalaba as one of our future Metro lines.

Connectivity around the areas of Chandler and Capalaba will be crucial to the Games. Brisbane is home to 18 Olympic venues and 11 Paralympic venues, and many of them are located in the eastern suburbs. We have a world-class velodrome at Chandler which will host the cycling and BMX events. The Brisbane Aquatic Centre will be home to the artistic swimming, the diving and the water polo.

The Belmont Shooting Complex will host all of the Olympic and Paralympic shooting events, the only venue in the southern hemisphere capable of hosting all those events in one place, Chair. Plans for the new Chandler Indoor Sports Centre will see the eastern suburbs become the home of gymnastics events.

Councillor WINES, I’m not sure where they’re going to put the breakdancing for 2032 if it’s still here—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —but I know you’ll be very keen to see it, maybe it can come to your ward. Further east in Birkdale we’ll be able to watch the Olympic canoe and slalom events at the new Redland Whitewater Centre. So an eastern Metro will enable those Olympic venues to be served by high quality public transport, but it will also enable tens of thousands of residents living along Old Cleveland Road and the surrounds to gain access to fast, reliable and affordable public transport.

Currently we know two thirds of all public transport trips in Brisbane are taken by bus, it shows the importance of ensuring our bus network can cope with the additional demand created by the Games and beyond. Buses are actually already enormously popular along Old Cleveland Road corridor. Over 40% of peak trips along Old Cleveland Road are made by people in a bus.

But imagine if that trip was faster, more frequent, more reliable and more comfortable. That’s what we can deliver with Brisbane Metro coming to the east. We know that with eight years to go we have already run out of time to deliver heavy or light rail along this corridor. As I’ve said before, Metro is the only mass transit solution that can be planned, designed and delivered in time for 2032.

That’s why Metro BRT is the solution for the east, Madam Chair. As I mentioned earlier, the next step is a rapid business case program. For the Eastern Metro line the business case will help determine the best infrastructure solution for Old Cleveland Road. Of course, Chair, the Race to Gold doesn’t deliver every infrastructure priority that we would like delivered. As the LORD MAYOR said, it’s focused it’s a targeted list of projects that we see as critical to a successful Games in 2032.

So while it does detail our plans for dedicated bus rapid transit lines ahead of the Games, there is a lot more for areas where it’s not practical. We know there are parts of our city where new Metro lines may not be the first solution, perhaps because of the existing presence of heavy rail or the highly constrained road network in that area, of course I’m talking about our western and north-western suburbs, Chair.

The good news is, one of the things that we negotiated into our bus contract earlier this year with the State was a rolling network review process. That means there will be a significant opportunity to redraw and revisit the bus network in these areas over the next 12 to 18 months under the new contract.

Projects like the Moggill Road corridor upgrade are key enablers of future public transport improvements in the western and north-western suburbs. We certainly see great opportunities for improved bus services to the west in the future,

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: There are snake oil salesmen out there though, Madam Chair, who will tell people in the west that they will get everything they want if they vote Greens. They’ll tell them they’ll get a new bridge, they’ll tell them they’ll get a rail line, they’ll tell them they’ll get Coke in the bubblers and free tuck shop.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: No homework and you know they’ll tell them all sorts of—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY—

Councillor MURPHY: —things, Madam Chair.

Chair: —your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: But the only side that’s ever delivered for the west is this one.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 6**

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

Councillor ADAMS, the detail you provided on your trip to Paris—to the Paris Olympics so far has been very scant, including how much it cost. We know part of that trip was a holiday and we just heard about a train trip. But can you provide a list of who you met with, what was discussed and what official events you attended, to justify the extremely high cost of your travel?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. Look, I am quite aware that the amount that was spent on my travel is public, it was in E&C (Establishment and Coordination Committee) papers. It’s very easy to ask for that amount. My experience with Councillor CASSIDY, through you, Madam Chair, is whatever I say, he will make up an amount anyway—

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —that suits his agenda and his Twitter account. So I am not going to answer that absolutely false claim of wanting to know. To say that my report has been scant, I have done three weeks in a row in General Business. So that is 15 minutes I have spoken about what programs I have been to and who I met and what I saw and what I have learnt.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: But I am happy to do a Committee presentation just for Councillor CASSIDY.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor PARRY.

**Question 7**

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

Councillor CUNNINGHAM, earlier today in Committee I asked a question about the cheques following an article in today’s Australian newspaper. I am shocked at the answer you’ve just provide me. For the benefit of the Chamber, can you tell us what Councillor MASSEY thinks is a good use of ratepayer funds?

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair. I can confirm that Councillor PARRY did seek further information about reimbursements to Councillor MASSEY for a newsletter which appeared in the accounts. Now there’s nothing wrong with a ward newsletter. On the face of it, that sounds pretty fair enough.

But as we know from the news this morning, when it comes to Councillor MASSEY’s latest newsletter, this was in fact a different story. I personally, was shocked when I saw a copy of what has landed in Gabba Ward letterboxes. You see, this newsletter wasn’t to keep residents up to date with some of the fantastic things happening locally like work on the Brisbane Metro or the Kangaroo Point Bridge.

At the centre of the newsletter we see a two-page diatribe about the Israel Hamas conflict. It peddles claims that are extreme and misleading and they fuel division and antisemitism.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Among other things, Councillor MASSEY’s newsletter says ‘Israel is a European Colonial State built on stolen Indigenous land, much like Australia—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Israel imposes an extensive system of oppression on the Palestinian people. This system amounts to the international crime of apartheid’. Councillor MASSEY’s newsletter describes the current conflict—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —as genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Chair: One moment please, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY you will not call out while somebody else is speaking and I do caution you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY, I caution you about calling out and showing inappropriate behaviour.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. It also features a timeline, and I use that word loosely. It curiously begins in 1516 where Jews, Christians and Muslims apparently lived in peace and harmony under the Ottoman Empire.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: It then takes us to the present day. Madam Chair, it’s akin to publishing a timeline of Australian history starting in 1788. The timeline makes no mention of the horrific 7 October terrorist attacks.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: More than 1,200 innocent people were killed and hundreds of hostages taken. Many are still held captive by the violent terrorist organisation Hamas. There is also the omission of the Holocaust itself.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Madam Chair, I am personally accustomed to the extreme rhetoric and the very questionable tactics used by representatives of the Greens political party. But I could only imagine how unsafe this kind of language makes the Jewish community in The Gabba Ward feel—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —especially those who receive this to their home. It is apparent, through information in the accounts for payment, that Councillor MASSEY has billed ratepayers an extraordinary amount for this newsletter which fuels division and antisemitism. We have printing costs of nearly $10,000 alone. We have graphic design costs of around 1,700.

All Councillors will know that a ward-wide Australia Post unaddressed mail delivery will cost in the order of around $5,000 these days. So that’s well over $16,000 so far. But, Madam Chair, as Councillor PARRY will know from the line item she queried, there’s more. The resident interviewed as part of the newsletter about Palestine was paid $200 and on top of it, the academic who Councillor MASSEY selected to write these two pages, was paid $2,800.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: On the basis of the information I have seen, this was for 28 hours of work at $100 an hour, all to produce 750 words of content.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: That’s 27 words an hour at a rate of $2 per word. Councillor MASSEY is furnished with a ratepayer funded office and staff. Staff who are employed by Council to advise her on things like this. But instead she outsourced it and all up, ratepayers paid a bill which appears to be close to $20,000.

This is an incredibly concerning use of ratepayer funds and I think it is timely to remind the Chamber of the ward budget guidelines. Which state, and I quote ‘only expenses incurred by the Councillor regarding matters of the Brisbane Local Government Area will be considered for payment’. And most importantly, ‘it is the responsibility of each Councillor to understand this guideline and ensure any expenditure is consistent with the guideline’.

If this is how the Greens choose to spend their ward budget. What would they do under a coalition of chaos with Labor and a $4 billion Council budget?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor MASSEY.

**Question 8**

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. My question is for the LORD MAYOR.

Brisbane City Council currently regulates temporary accommodation, including provisions for short term rentals, through the City Plan short-term accommodation code. The Unit Owners Association of Queensland, which is a civic social group dedicated to furthering the interests of Queensland unit owners, and has for years been advocating for Brisbane City Council to deliver compliance for suspected illegal Airbnbs.

With the LNP Administration’s announcement of the requirement of permits back in June for turning homes into short-term accommodation and silence since. LORD MAYOR, can you state if Council will ever implement regulations related to short-term accommodation code, or the short-term accommodation permits in the future?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you for the question, Councillor MASSEY. This is a matter which has been subject to considerable investigation and assessment, and I want to commend Councillor CUNNINGHAM for leading the group that reviewed this particular matter of temporary accommodation and short-stay accommodation.

So, our approach was to make sure we had a thorough assessment of the situation so that responses could be based on the facts, on a rational, I guess, response to what is, often, a very emotive issue. So what Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s investigation determined is that this type of short-stay accommodation represents less than one per cent, is that correct? One per cent of all accommodation in Brisbane, less than one per cent.

Now the Greens would like to say that this is stopping thousands of people getting into homes. They would like to ban this kind of accommodation, I know. But it is less than one per cent of all accommodation. So yet another example of the Greens offering simplistic solutions to complex problems.

We’re going to offer a realistic and practical solution to what is a complex problem. So, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, in her review, has made a number of recommendations that we are pursuing. One of those recommendations is that we will develop and introduce a new local law in relation to short-stay accommodation so that it is managed appropriately. That local law will not allow short-stay accommodation to be offered in certain parts of Brisbane where it is not appropriate, such as in low density areas.

It will allow for the regulation and enforcement of this kind of accommodation in cases where it is causing an impact to the local community. That is something that is very difficult at the moment, based on the current laws, and based on the division of those responsibilities between different levels of government and different, I guess, legislative frameworks.

So, the report recommends a way forward, we’re progressing with those recommendations. We do intend on bringing through a local law to help regulate this kind of accommodation and we’ll certainly be going forward as we’ve announced in the budget this year in June. So that work is happening. I want to thank Councillor CUNNINGHAM for the way in which she’s led this process and continuing to work with officers to take this forward.

But we do need to find the right balance here when it comes to managing impacts of this kind of accommodation, making sure it’s not permitted in areas that it’s not appropriate for. But also, where there’s impacts on local communities and compliance issues, that we have the power to actually respond in an effective manner, because at the moment, our hands are effectively tied behind our backs in many respects.

To progress these kind of matters often involves a very lengthy court process. It involves multiple compliance notices which take a long time to go through the legal process. Then, at the end of that process, involves a very costly court battle.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So it’s not working for anyone at the moment. We’ve proposed a way forward so that it does work for both Brisbane City Council and the people of Brisbane and we’re progressing forward with that plan, because we need to make sure that we have the ability to conduct the enforcement that’s required and expected of us. Because at the moment we don’t really have the type of ability to respond in a clear, quick and decisive manner that people would expect.

As I said, the process is very long and drawn out and often involves a court action, which costs everyone a fortune and doesn’t necessarily result in the outcome that we’re all hoping for in the end either. So we want to change that, we’re working on changing it and I thank Councillor MASSEY for the question.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor TOOMEY.

**Question 9**

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of Infrastructure, Councillor WINES and it is one question.

Councillor WINES—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor TOOMEY: —one of the key commitments of our Games transport legacy plans is smart suburban corridors. Can you please tell the Chamber about what this will mean for Brisbane commuters?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair, and thank you to Councillor TOOMEY for the question. As all Councillors should know, we are committed to a safe and efficient transport system, a safe and efficient road network. Part of that efficiency is having modern transport infrastructure.

One way that we’ve committed to do that is through smart suburban corridors. Now, I’m pleased to provide an update on one of our key commitments through the Games transport legacy pan, the smart suburban corridor. As Australia’s fastest growing capital city, managing congestion is crucial. Now we are looking to introduce an AI (artificial intelligence) transport management system.

Now much of our traffic signalling technology used in our city and many cities in the world and Australia, in particular, dates back to the late 1980s and 1990s and is based largely on road embedded sensors. To address these challenges, we are preparing for a global market sounding and are already being approached by a number of international companies.

Now while we discuss what it was that we have currently, the Brisbane City Council currently uses the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System, known as SCATS, which is a widely respected platform used by many cities around the world. Basically it uses a range of what you’d classically see, your traffic signal box, the embedded device, which is a kind of a magnetised pad that recognises the motor vehicle is above it. signalling how the intersection works. It then uses a series of cameras to feedback, if required, to the BMTMC (Brisbane Metropolitan Transport Management Centre). So that requires in‑place technology but also a human element as well.

We are looking to modernise all of that. The way we’re going to do it is through—well this calendar year we’ll be launching an expression of interest process to identify the best traffic management technology. We are looking to revolutionise how our intersections work.

How are we doing this? Through, as I say, we’re market sounding and an expression of interest. As I’ve already mentioned, companies from around the world are coming to here because of our clear interest in a modern system of moving people around. Now recall this work is part of our four-point plan to reduce congestion and we’ve made a commitment $15 million over three years to fund a trial and implementation of this technology.

Now, as Councillors should recall, the plan to reduce congestion is upgrading high‑priority roads, better and more frequent public transport, including the expansion of Metro. Making is easier for people to leave the car at home by continuing to provide active transport opportunities. Also, and this is the main one, getting the most out of our existing infrastructure, with cost-effective upgrades and advanced and modern technology systems.

As we promised during the election and have recommitted in the Race to gold document, we will be trialling this system on one to two key corridors over a 12‑month period. The trial is essential for testing the system’s operational improvements before a full rollout across the network if the trials are successful.

This new system will not only optimise transport corridors between the suburbs and the CBD but will also allow opportunities for prioritisation of public transport, if we wish. Ensuring a faster and more reliable travel time for public transport.

Similar systems around the world have seen success in western cities where they have seen double-digit improvements in their traffic flows after a 12-month period of testing. We anticipate similar, if not better results here in Brisbane. Once fully implemented, the system can enable automated traffic signal sequencing based on real-time data, enhancing traffic flow and public transport reliability.

As I say, it’s all about providing a modern, efficient transport system and the commitment to getting the most out of our assets. So in the document it speaks to the opportunity to improve traffic flow and travel time reliability right across the city and in particularly all modes. Now the network has more than 1,000 signalised intersections but we’ll be focusing on a key few to trial, to ensure that the system that we select through our selection process, through the EOI (expression of interest), the market sounding, is the most effective one.

Now we are already, as I say, a point of interest for many companies across the world. We will also be, as I say, scouring the world for the best technology for us that we’ve seen work in other places. But make no mistake. Because of our work we will be an international leader in this space.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WINES your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 10**

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

Councillor ADAMS, you just said you spent $16,000 of ratepayers’ money on a trip to Paris for the Olympics. That’s the E&C figure you directed me to. There was a higher figure of $26,000 but the advice we received is it was $16,000. Clearly the personal part of that trip accounted for some of that. However, you couldn’t even name one meeting or event you attended when I asked you just 15 minutes ago. Isn’t this more proof that this trip wasn’t good value for money for the ratepayers of Brisbane?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as I said, it is public information about what the cost is. I did not claim that was the amount, I’m being verballed yet again. I did not say that any part of that was personal. Let me clarify. My children have been overseas for 12 months. I have been desperately missing them, as my colleagues know, for 12 months.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I spent a month—this is the answer to the question—I’ll take the interjection from the Councillor from Tennyson. How is this, Council? Councillor CASSIDY accused me of using ratepayers’ money for a personal trip. It is not, Council, and that is what I’m explaining. I spent a month with my family. That was my—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, as you have failed to comply with the request to take remedial action in calling out across the Chamber, for your unsuitable meeting conduct, I hereby warn you in accordance with section 21(6) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, that failing to comply with the request may result in an order being issued.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I took a month’s personal leave to spend time with my family, fully paid for by myself. On the basis of this trip being organised quite a while ago, the LORD MAYOR asked me soon after the election if I would take the opportunity to go to Paris because I was already on that side of the world. The saving to the ratepayers was that it was only a Eurostar train trip to Paris for the 10 days that I was there, back to London, and then I flew home again, from my personal trip on my account. Now, I am happy to stand here for this five minutes, and list off again the events that I went to that were held, the workshop programs that were held by the City of Paris, because Councillor CASSIDY obviously has not listened to my General Business for the last three weeks.

As I said, I am also happy to give a written report, and I’ll do it in a Committee presentation so Councillor CASSIDY can actually see exactly who, when, and where I met—which I am happy to give my diary notes. It was a very, very busy 10 days. We learnt a lot in those 10 days. But I can tell you something. I didn’t need two private jets for just me to fly, or two trains to follow us over to Paris. The hypocrisy of the ALP on this knows no bounds. Keep trying, Councillor CASSIDY. You’re not going to catch me out. You are pathetic.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: That now ends Question Time.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

**Procedural motion – Suspension of standing rules**

**106/2024-25**

The DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF, that the Standing Rules be suspended.

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

Chair: Councillor ADAMS, please—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: I’m just seeking your advice, Chair. Is it appropriate for one Councillor to call another Councillor pathetic?

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor CASSIDY: You did give us—

Chair: —CASSIDY—

Councillor CASSIDY: Sorry—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor CASSIDY: You gave us a ruling a few weeks, months ago about language used in this place, and describing certain Councillors with certain things.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, there’s a lot of words that get used, and if I pulled them all up, there would be a lot. No, I don’t uphold your point of order—simple—do not uphold your point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR, will you please move the motion?

**107/2024-25**

The DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF—

*That Council calls on Councillor Massey to repay ratepayers for the production and distribution costs of her Spring 2024 Newsletter which contains material that is divisive and hurtful to many in the Brisbane community.*

*Further, Council urges Councillor Massey to reflect upon the advice of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation that implores politicians to avoid inflammatory words and actions in relation to the Middle East conflict.*

Chair: Councillor ADAMS, you have five minutes.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have just heard from the Finance Chair, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, that Councillor MASSEY, the Leader of the Greens, has billed ratepayers almost $20,000 for a newsletter that is divisive, antisemitic, and dangerously irresponsible. This material has been distributed to residents within the Brisbane City Council area of The Gabba Ward with the Brisbane City Council logo, has been paid for by public funds, and I agree with Councillor CUNNINGHAM that this is not an appropriate use of ward funds. The ward budget is provided so that Councillors can talk about local issues that are in the public interests for the local community within the Brisbane Local Government Area.

These might be Councillor MASSEY’s personal views, and she is entitled to them. But if this is the kind of material she wants to put out in the community, she should foot the bill; not the Brisbane ratepayers. Firstly, I am calling on Councillor MASSEY to repay these funds back immediately. As the elected Councillor, it is her responsibility to make sure that the content she distributes is compliant with the guidelines, and is a defendable use of ratepayer money. This just does not pass the pub test. It should also be remembered, Madam Chair, that as Councillors in this place, we have to abide by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland.

As you know, Madam Chair, the Code of Conduct requires us to show respect to all persons, treat fellow Councillors, local government employees, and members of the public with courtesy, honesty, and fairness. When making public comment, clearly state whether they are speaking on behalf of the local government or expressing their personal views. If you are a resident in The Gabba Ward, particularly if you’re a Jewish resident, how would you feel about receiving something like this from your Council? I was with a local Jewish resident this morning, and I can say he definitely does not feel safe in his local community.

I know Councillor MASSEY will get up, and try and defend this, and say it’s not antisemitic, but I’d like to remind her of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism. This is the authoritative definition adopted by nations around the world, including Australia. I would expect that Councillor MASSEY is familiar with it because I would hope that she did her own research before publishing this material. Some contemporary examples include: denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour; drawing comparisons of contemporary Israel policy to that of Nazis; and, the worst of all, denying the fact, scope, mechanisms or intentionally of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of Nazi Germany.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: I take the interjection from Council MASSEY that it will never be denied, but it was blatantly left out of the very important timeline that she had to include in her document.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY.

DEPUTY MAYOR Worst of all, she continues to ignore the Holocaust itself. There is no excuse for this, when we’ve just heard in the last few weeks from ASIO (Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) that any inflammatory and divisive rhetoric around the Middle East is fuelling politically motivated violence here in Australia. ASIO, the experts, are telling us not to do this, but it’s exactly what the Greens are continuing to do. In cities like Sydney and Melbourne, we’ve seen things like pro-Palestinian activists setting fire to the offices of Labor politicians, MPs (Members of Parliament), and staff being harassed, and businesses with tenuous ties to Israel being blockaded. This fortunately is not something we have seen yet in Brisbane.

The last thing we want to see in Council is this encouraged in any way, shape, or behaviour in our peaceful and multicultural community. It is important that we get on the record, Madam Chair, that these are not the views of Brisbane City Council. We do not endorse this, and we are committed to making sure Brisbane is a safe and welcoming city for people of all backgrounds. It’s also important that we make it clear that this is not an acceptable use of ratepayers’ funds, and we think Councillor MASSEY should repay this money so that it can be spent on its proper purpose: to inform and improve, not divide, our local communities.

Chair: Further speakers?

Can you just wait one moment, Councillor? I’m just checking about something.

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I will begin by saying I’ve been aware that through you, Chair, Councillor ADAMS, DEPUTY MAYOR ADAMS, has been shopping around this story. Before I go on about the processes we actually went through, I will share a couple of things that are in here that haven’t been spoken out loud or ignored by the LNP Administration. The first thing, of course, is Khalil’s story. Before they became refugees, Khalil’s family were orange farmers. He remembers them, and how the branches of the orange trees would bow down to the earth under the weight of their abundant fruit. Khalil’s story goes on. He is a refugee from the 1948 Nakba. The picture here is of Khalil and his two sisters in a West Bank refugee camp. I can go on.

There are quotes here, also, one from Dr Elizabeth Strakosch, the head of the Jewish Council of Australia. We hear in the mainstream media that all Jewish people support Israel, but Jewish and anti-Zionism is as old as Zionism itself. I, like many Jewish people, know that the genocidal violence and occupation will never make Jews safe. I could go on about various quotes. Earlier, when Councillor CUNNINGHAM was speaking, she stopped. She quoted this through you, Chair. “Israel imposes an extensive system of oppression on the Palestinian people. This system”—what Councillor CUNNINGHAM stopped before continuing was—and it’s important to put this on the public record—“this system amounts to the international crime of apartheid, as confirmed by the International Court of Justice.”

Now, one last quote that I will use for this, there’s plenty here to look at, where I call people to get involved in peaceful activism through justice for Palestine. That quote is, “if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” Today’s hit job from this Council, and through the media, is led with lots of mistruths. The first thing that I would like to correct is the fact that we went through Council Community Support Services to get this approved. In fact, we delayed it for many days to get approval. We know that Council—these services have rejected payments before, to make sure that our newsletters aren’t printed, and nothing happened from that.

There is a whole process here that could be advised by the CEO. That process, that just process is being bypassed by this Council. There is also a process, of course, for complaints to the Office of the Independent Assessor re: any sort of managing of whether I have contradicted the Councillor Rules of Conduct. That is, again, being bypassed by this Council. What we see here is a censorship of people, of myself, elected by the ward that I represent, who have—many people have spoken to me about the grief and the grief that I face, thinking about the over 40,000 dead Palestinians, thinking about the 90,000 or so injured Palestinians.

This Council would rather be outraged, and create a hit job for this, than actually condemn the genocide that is happening in Gaza, and the deaths. That is what this Council would rather do. Nonetheless, I was elected by Gabba Ward residents to stand up for them, many of them that live in these residence that are affected by this day-by-day. As I said, this is the Council bypassing any actual proper legal means that they could have to do this. Again, it’s disappointing to see you’d rather do this than stand up against genocide.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**108/2024-25**

It was moved by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor Seal CHONG WAH, that Councillor Trina MASSEY be granted an extension of time. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **lost** on the voices.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on this urgency motion. It is disappointing that Councillor MASSEY has chosen to publish this newsletter, which unfortunately carries great consequences. The selective wording used to describe the conflict in Gaza is troubling, as it fuels hatred, and contributes to the rising tide of antisemitism in Brisbane. In my ward, I’ve witnessed the painful impact of such rhetoric on our community. This behaviour is unacceptable, it is un-Australian, and it is inexcusable. Earlier this year at the University of Queensland, we saw incidents where many students felt unsafe, isolated, and unwelcome on St Lucia campus.

The encampment set up in Great Court spread harmful and divisive messages. It was a clear example of how this kind of rhetoric can manifest into real-world hostility. This deeply saddens me, as I’m committed to fostering joy, kindness, and a strong sense of community. What’s even more troubling is that Councillor MASSEY has used Brisbane City Council ratepayer resources to produce and distribute this material. It is a totally inappropriate use of public funds. Madam Chair, Brisbane is a wonderfully diverse and inclusive city, yet it’s evident that the Greens are intent on sowing division.

I became a Councillor to bring about positive change, to make a difference to people’s lives, and to promote unity, not division. Here in our roles as local Councillor, it’s about representing our communities by serving as a voice for their concerns, aspirations, and their needs. As a Councillor, we are entrusted with the responsibilities to advocate for local issues, ensuring that the community interests are prioritised. While I strongly support the exchange of diverse ideas, the material shared in this newsletter promotes a one-sided extremist narrative that spreads false information.

Councillor MASSEY would benefit from revisiting history to understand the deep Jewish connection to Israel, which stretches back 3,000 years, long before the Roman Empire expelled the Jews from Jerusalem in the first century, and established Syria Palaestina, and centuries before the emergence of Islam. The Greens are urging our community to take sides, and attend rallies where misinformation is rampant, and hatred is sadly celebrated. We must refocus on addressing the needs of our community at a grassroots level, by providing support to all who call Brisbane home. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. Can I ask—and there is certainly precedent for this, and I believe the DEPUTY MAYOR entered this into the debate today. There are two issues here on the table in this motion. One that’s calling on Councillor MASSEY to repay ratepayer funds, and the second calling on Councillor MASSEY to reflect upon advice.

**S****eriatim – Paragraph 1**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that paragraph 1, *That Council calls on Councillor Massey to repay ratepayers for the production and distribution costs of her Spring 2024 Newsletter which contains material that is divisive and hurtful to many in the Brisbane community*, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim – Paragraph 2**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that paragraph 2, *Further, Council urges Councillor Massey to reflect upon the advice of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation that implores politicians to avoid inflammatory words and actions in relation to the Middle East conflict*, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Just in that context, they are two very different things. While I’m sitting, here having read the article in *The Australian* this morning, first hearing about this—certainly didn’t see the newsletter before. I haven’t seen the newsletter. I’ve heard bits, excerpts read from it today. It’s been brought up today, so it’s really only come to our attention today, this issue. There’s obviously a partisan debate that’s gone on during this motion between the LNP and the Greens Councillor for The Gabba Ward. There’s obviously a way in which these things can and should be dealt with, if the DEPUTY MAYOR believes, and she went into some detail saying—describing aspects of the Councillor’s Code of Conduct, and the way in which Councillors should conduct themselves.

There’s a thing called the OIA, of which the DEPUTY MAYOR often speaks about, and its independence, and I’m sure refers plenty of things there herself. This is the sort of thing that should be referred to the Code of Conduct if the DEPUTY MAYOR believes that—sorry—this should be referred to the OIA if the DEPUTY MAYOR believes that a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct or, in fact, any of Council’s policies or procedures have been breached. We’re going to be debating an item soon in E&C around the establishment of an Ethics Committee, of which these exact things will be referred to for investigation and for consideration.

I think, importantly here, there is a process which should be followed. Perhaps the DEPUTY MAYOR has referred Councillor MASSEY to the OIA. I don’t know. The DEPUTY MAYOR talked about Councillors having high standards of behaviour, particularly following principles within the Councillor Code of Conduct, particularly around treating people courteously, treating other Councillors courteously, and members of the public. We all just heard the DEPUTY MAYOR say that. We all just heard the DEPUTY MAYOR call somebody pathetic just before that, and previously call someone a groin rub. So—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —I take that—

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: So I take the DEPUTY MAYOR’s sort of personal outrage—I certainly would accept others—the DEPUTY MAYOR’s personal outrage there with a grain of salt. I think there’s a proper process of which this should go through an investigation, which should be undertaken. I’ve heard from Councillor CUNNINGHAM today in Question Time that apparently processes in terms of approvals and payments weren’t followed. I think that’s what I heard Councillor CUNNINGHAM say. I’ve heard Councillor MASSEY say that they were, and it was approved by Councillor Support. I don’t think you can make a judgment here today, right now, on the first point of which will require Councillor MASSEY to repay that money.

Perhaps an investigation would suggest that, and the formed—re-formed Ethics Committee would impose that sanction on Councillor MASSEY. Then if the members of that Committee determine that to be the case, then we would certainly accept that. But there has been no natural justice, which is a key part. It is actually now written into the Act that natural justice must be followed in these situations. Councillor MASSEY must be given an opportunity to prove otherwise, if she has a position on that. She clearly does, so I don’t think this is appropriate.

On the second point, though, I do agree. I do agree that Council and Councillor MASSEY should reflect upon that advice that was given. I was at a Labor Party function, along with a couple other of my Caucus colleagues recently, where there were violent—there was a violent demonstration out the front of, a demonstration of which Councillor MASSEY spoke at, a demonstration—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor MASSEY—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, misrepresentation.

Chair: No, Councillor, you are—

Councillor CASSIDY: Okay, my mistake.

Chair: I note your point, but do not call out while Councillor CASSIDY is on his feet.

Councillor CASSIDY: My mistake, but other elected Greens members—I’m sorry—but other elected Greens members were there. This is an event at which people—

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor CASSIDY: —were assaulted and abused when they were going through. So I do think—

Chair: Point of order—

Councillor CASSIDY: —that Councillors need to reflect on that.

Chair: —Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Just claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor, sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR, your point of misrepresentation?

DEPUTY MAYOR: Again, Councillor CASSIDY repeated something I did not call him.

Chair: Councillor—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you will refer to Councillors by their correct name.

Councillor MASSEY, your point of misrepresentation?

Councillor MASSEY: Don’t we do this at the end? Yes. I was not at that rally. I had COVID.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your point of misrepresentation?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Yes, Madam Chair, I did not say that Councillor Support approved the content.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. I rise to speak on the debate. I am not going to get into any of the issues about the current conflict that is going on in the Middle East. It is a terrible human tragedy, and that’s all I will say about this. However, I am concerned about what’s happened here today. Council policy requires us to submit our newsletters to Councillor Support in advance for approval.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it does.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: If Councillor CUNNINGHAM—

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, please don’t call out while another Councillor is on their feet.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It does. In fact, yesterday I was asked to do so for a standard flyer that we put out for the Sherwood Festival. Number one, the flyer must be approved by Councillor Support. Last year, when I wanted to have some Yes signage prepared, Council refused to allow it, even though it was Council policy—it is Council policy to support Yes—that was refused in advance because our artwork has to be viewed by Councillor Support. Now, Councillor CUNNINGHAM is in charge of this process, and I am advised by Councillor MASSEY that the flyer was provided to Councillor Support, and the flyer was approved.

As we are now aware, because Councillor CUNNINGHAM and Councillor WOLFF have described in their speeches, the amount was paid for the flyer. Not only did Council approve the flyer in advance, Council has paid the invoice for the flyer. Now, I don’t know, but I’m suspecting Councillor MASSEY has not been asked to reimburse the amount by Council through Councillor Support. The first question I have is, Councillor CUNNINGHAM is the Chair responsible for this particular part of Council, and why is she going through this process now and in this way with the DEPUTY MAYOR when a flyer has been approved, as it seems, as I’ve been advised by Brisbane City Council through the ordinary process? That’s my question. I don’t know what’s happened, who’s done what, but that’s the advice I’ve had from Councillor MASSEY. In 16 years in this place, I’m regularly asked to provide my artwork in advance for Council.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Absolutely, every single one of us is, unless maybe the LNP Councillors don’t get asked to provide their artwork in advance. Maybe that’s why Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s smiling away now. They just get the big tick on whatever they want to do. The first question we’ve got here is, Council has approved the flyer, so why is it now, after it’s been approved and paid for, is Councillor CUNNINGHAM, who could have stopped it if she legitimately held these concerns, the Council policy that we are required to adhere to says the Chair or the CEO can ask Councillors for further information—which I understand they did—it was provided, and it was approved?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM is admitting here that she’s let this flyer through—this is the only thing I can think—she’s let the flyer through so that she can publicly come and do this motion in the Chamber here today, because I want to know. That’s the one question I’ve got here. Why did Council approve this flyer if, as Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the DEPUTY MAYOR are saying, it is so offensive? Now, I have seen the flyer. It has an A3 fold of local news, and an insert with information inside that is reasonably pro-Palestinian, to put it mildly. However, I’ve spoken to Councillor MASSEY about my views, and she’s aware of those.

I am concerned that the proper process has not been followed. Well, it appears that the proper process has been followed, and now, for political purposes, the DEPUTY MAYOR and the finance Chairperson are trying to claim that something improper has been done, when it’s all been approved by Councillor in advance. That’s my fundamental concern here. We are required to submit this artwork to Council for approval. My second concern regarding this is the DEPUTY MAYOR’s comments today that you can’t put anything that’s not related to Brisbane City Council in your flyers. I look forward to that being the next issue we raise regularly.

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: I just rise, on the second point, I believe this should be amended to add Councillor ATWOOD. Two weeks ago, Councillor ATWOOD made awful comments about refugees in this place that were inappropriate, and I think that, really, her comments should be added—her name should be added to the second point because her comments were not appropriate. They were inflammatory and divisive, and—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —as well.

Chair: Further speakers.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: A point of misrepresentation, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Councillor JOHNSTON said I said that you couldn’t put anything in your newsletter that wasn’t in Brisbane. I said it must relate to local issues in the Brisbane Local Government Area.

Chair: Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR, right of reply.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’m happy to put Councillor JOHNSTON’s mind at ease. I know she said many times her understanding from Councillor MASSEY, and I make it very clear that there was no approval of this newsletter. There is no approval of the content of newsletters by Council officers. There is approval—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Again, do not call out across the Chamber. It doesn’t matter if you do not like what you are hearing, you cannot yell out across the Chamber.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. The content of newsletters under the City of Brisbane Act out of a ward budget are the total and full determination of the local Councillor. If there is an approval from a Council officer that Councillor MASSEY claims she has received, table it. Table it. Send me the emails because they do not—if it was censored—now, here’s an interesting thing. “I’ve been censored,” I hear from Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Misrepresentation.

Chair: I note your misrepresentation, Councillor MASSEY.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: If she was censored, the letter wouldn’t have gone out. Council does not approve nor censor the content. It is at the Councillor’s discretion of what goes in newsletters. If it comes in as a newsletter to Councillor officers, they will reimburse because it is a newsletter, which is the Councillor’s right to put out. But Councillors need to consider—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —what they put out.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do believe, though, in all of this argument, in everything that—Councillor MASSEY got up, and doubled down on her beliefs. I said it before, Council MASSEY’s beliefs are totally her entitlement. I don’t agree with them.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Misrepresentation about beliefs.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m not—

Chair: I note your point of misrepresentation.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’m sorry. Councillor MASSEY got quite upset. She was talking about how she felt about the Palestinians. So I thought they were her beliefs, and she’s entitled to those beliefs. We are a democracy. What she’s not entitled to do is use ratepayers’ money to fund those beliefs, and fan the flames of antisemitic hatred in this city. I find it—the absolute—the hypocrisy of the Greens, as Councillor CASSIDY said, I support. I believe I have heard Councillor MASSEY chanting, river to the sea, in a protest that was out here in the city in the King George Square. No COVID that day. But from the Greens policy, “left unchecked, hate speech can lead to hate crimes. Politicians and prominent public figures in Australia often engage in racist hate speech that has gone from dog whistling to fanning the flames of racial conflict.” Guilty.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Guilty.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Would the DEPUTY MAYOR take a question—

Chair: No.

Councillor MASSEY: —about what the definition of hate speech is?

Chair: No, Councillor MASSEY.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’ve already given the definition of antisemitism, and that document that came out of her newsletter is exactly that. I do have to add into this, though, that hate speech is only hate speech if it comes from far-right extremism. Of course, far left extremism doesn’t count, as we know from those in the Green Party. What we have seen over the last week, the intimidation of the Jewish community in The Gabba and across Brisbane. The divisive hatred that has come through that newsletter is appalling. It is appalling. If any of you had the opportunity to speak to Yanir like I did today, and how he feels now in his local community, a community that is supported by their local Councillor to have antisemitic stickers and graffiti right across the suburbs, it is heartbreaking.

I’m not saying that Councillor MASSEY can’t have those views, but it’s not a local issue. It’s not something that is about the local Brisbane City Council and the issues. It does not fit underneath the Code of Conduct. It does not fit under the guidelines for a newsletter, and it absolutely does not pass the pub test. We have taken the steps to ask advice from the CEO, and we have advised local constituents that have spoken to us about the Office of the Independent Assessor, and we will take steps necessary as well. But, in the first instance, repay the money, Councillor MASSEY, and think hard about it before you do this again.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, your point for misrepresentation.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you. There were two points, the first one being approval. Every newsletter that I’ve delivered as Councillor has gone to Councillor Support, who, at times, have advised me to remove certain aspects of it, which I have, on the principle that it would not be paid if I didn’t remove it. That is the practice that we’ve continued, so that is a misrepresentation by the LORD MAYOR that I haven’t proceeded with that practice, especially for this newsletter. The second misrepresentation was about beliefs. Now, this uses the words of Dr Jamal Nabaski, Dr Amy McQuire, and Dr Elizabeth Strakosch of the Jewish Council of Australia. This is not about beliefs; this is researched documentation.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The DEPUTY MAYOR has claimed that Council does not approve newsletters. I refer to an email on 2 September, yesterday, at 1.30pm from Councillor Support. “Can you please send me proof of what is going to be included in the mail out?” That is from a Council—that’s from Councillor Support for a mail out for the Sherwood Community Festival. We cannot get ours—now, maybe this is not how it works with the LNP, which is now—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I don’t see how you—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: —were misrepresented. You were not mentioned or misrepresented.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Yes. Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR: What Councillor JOHNSTON just read out was not an approval.

Chair: No. Thank you. It wasn’t a misrepresentation of you, Councillor JOHNSTON, either.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

**Declaration of Prescribed or Declarable Conflict of Interest – Councillor Trina MASSEY**

Chair: I have got advice that as, Councillor MASSEY, you have financial interest in the outcome, you have a conflict of interest and, as such, are unable to vote on this matter.

We’ll now move to the vote, and we are taking them—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, that’s okay. It’s just—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Okay.

*Councillor Trina MASSEY* *retired from the meeting room and associated public places for the duration of the vote on the motion.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Yes, thanks, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m just a little bit confused about that ruling. If there is a conflict of interest with respect to her participation in this, should she have not left the room prior to this matter being discussed?

Chair: As it’s financial, the conflict is in actually passing a vote as to what that outcome will be. Now we’re going to move to the vote but seriatim.

So the first part or first paragraph of the vote.

**Paragraph 1 put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of paragraph 1 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: 18 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 1 - Councillor Seal CHONG WAH.

ABSTENTIONS: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: We’ll now move the second part of the motion.

**Paragraph 2 put**

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

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Julia DIXON 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, Julia DIXON, 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 and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 1 Councillor Seal CHONG WAH.

Chair: Establishment and Coordination Committee, LORD MAYOR.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The LORD MAYOR, Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 26 August 2024, be adopted.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry, Madam Chair, just checking that someone will advise Councillor MASSEY she can return.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, can you put your microphone on, please?

LORD MAYOR: Sure. Last night, the Victoria Bridge, Tropical Dome, and Reddacliff Place was lit up in pink to celebrate the Brisbane Festival, which has obviously gone off with a bang. The Story Bridge and City Hall were also lit up in blue to support Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and the Long Run campaign. Tomorrow night, the Story Bridge will be lit up in red and white to raise awareness for polycystic kidney disease. On Thursday, the Story Bridge will be lit up in purple to support Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month. Story Bridge will be lit up in purple again on Friday, this time in support of Bravehearts Day.

On Saturday, the City Hall and Story Bridge will be lit up in blue, green, and yellow to celebrate Brazil’s independence from the Kingdom of Portugal on 7 September 1822. Also today, as you came into the building, depending on which way you came in, you may have noticed some Australian flags flying. We have today the 123rd birthday of the Australian national flag. As we always do, we held a ceremony in King George Square to celebrate the birthday of our chief national symbol. I want to thank the Australian National Flag Association for their support and their advocacy. It was also good that there was announcement made today each day—sorry—each flag day, the president of the National Flag Association presents an award or announces an award for someone who in the last 12 months has done a great job in promoting the flag.

Today he announced that the award this year for Queensland goes to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick, which was great to hear because, as we know, Milton is a good friend of Brisbane, and he’s done a great job in promoting the Australian national flag. In fact, he’s introduced a new program that will circulate the country to engage with young people about the importance of the national flag. It’s great that people on both sides of the fence support the flag. We know that not everyone supports the flag, and there are some people that have every other flag on their corflute except the Australian national flag. They’ve disappeared. It is great that there’s bipartisan support for the flag. Congratulations to Speaker Milton Dick for that award that was announced today.

This week also marks the start of the Legacy Week Appeal. Legacy Week Appeal has been running since the 1940s, and it’s a time for all Australians to show their support for the widows and children of those who had loved ones that served our country, and where lives were lost. We can see ADF (Australian Defence Force) members out in the street, selling Legacy badges. I see some Councillors are wearing them, Councillor GIVNEY in particular, and others. It’s important that we continue to support the great work that Legacy does. We support Legacy in a number of ways, in particular, through the annual payment of over $100,000, which was a requirement of the approval of the Legacy Way tunnel that we insisted that, each year, a portion of the toll revenue would go to Legacy.

That was obviously done coinciding with the naming of the Legacy Way tunnel after Legacy. So this year, $115,000 went to Legacy from that project, and it’s something we should all be very proud of. We’ve also supported the establishment of their new headquarters in Greenslopes opposite the Greenslopes hospital. That’s something Councillor CUNNINGHAM has particularly championed, and something that she came up against many barriers for. So we had to get the support of the Federal Government. That wasn’t easy, but we managed to get there. Now it’s a project that’s underway, and we’re looking forward to seeing that completed, but one that Council has supported. We had to acquire the land from the Federal Government. We then had to transfer a portion of the land to Legacy. So we’ve helped make this project happen and we’re very supportive of the work Legacy does.

Yesterday was a sad day as we learnt of the passing of Jan Powers, who is also known as the queen of food or the queen of markets. Jan passed away peacefully in her sleep over the weekend at the age of 85, which I think is very young. Jan was a household name in Brisbane and is, of course, better known for the Jan Powers Farmers Market she founded, which now runs weekly at Powerhouse, at Manly, and at Mitchelton. She was also a well-known TV personality and ABC Radio presenter. In 1977, she was appointed as the first Cultural Ambassador for the City of Brisbane, and was affectionately known as Mrs Brisbane. A lover of the arts, she became the Deputy Chairwoman of the Queensland Performing Arts Trust, and was a member of Council’s Arts and Festivals Board. I’d like to extend my heartfelt condolences and the condolences of all Councillors, no doubt, to Jan’s family on behalf of the City of Brisbane. We thank her for what she has done for the City of Brisbane.

This Thursday, there’ll be a number of people taking part in the Live Like Her Challenge, including myself and Nina. That’s being held at the Brisbane Airport. This is a sleep-in-the-car fundraising exercise, which we did last year, and we’ll be doing again this year, to raise money for the Forgotten Women Project and Mangrove Housing. We know that women over the age of 55 are the fastest‑growing homeless demographic, and Mangrove Housing provides support and housing for that demographic, and so looking forward to participating in that challenge. Whether you can do it yourself or not, you can certainly take the opportunity to support those who are. There are many, many people taking part in that challenge. It’s always a real eye-opening night to hear about the challenges in the community but also to hear the good stories about how lives are being changed by organisations like The Forgotten Women and Mangrove Housing.

Item A on the agenda is the procurement policy and plan, and this is for the year 2024-25. This document comes through every year, and, by the nature of this document, it must come through after the budget. This is required under the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012*, and it allows Council to update and adopt a procurement policy and plan, which sets out how Council conducts strategic procurement and contracting. My Administration has a laser focus on improving opportunities for local suppliers in South East Queensland, as I’ve discussed earlier. Well over $1 billion has been invested with local firms last financial year.

Local business is the backbone of our economy, and we support them through the awarding of contracts, and other ways. That helps create jobs, and put food on the table of many local families. We have a target of spending at least 80% with local businesses. In the financial year just finished, we reached 87%, and so a fantastic outcome. Since we first introduced the Local Buy policy in 2019, we’ve invested over $7 billion in local businesses through this policy. This year, there are a few key changes to note. Most importantly, we’ve streamlined the policy, reducing it from 37 pages to 15 pages.

We’ve also introduced a new section titled Leaders in procurement practice. This principle encourages a culture of continuous improvement in our processes, capability, and performance. There’s also been an update to the Value for money section that highlights that procurement decisions are based on achieving the ultimate value for money. We’re also continuing to increase our investment across a number of areas, including supporting social enterprise as well, which we’ve seen some great outcomes from. We don’t just work with local businesses; we also work with social enterprise as well. This year, we target $11 million with social enterprises.

When we first started going out for procurement, there was a relatively small number of organisations that put up their hand. But it’s growing every year, and there’s an amazing array of businesses that now want to work with Council. We’re seeing incredible stories come out of this social procurement exercise that we’ve been doing. In the last year, we’ve continued to work with organisations like the Nundah Cooperative, which I had the pleasure of catching up with recently, and which I know Councillor ALLAN is proud to have in his local area. They do a range of jobs for Council, including being contracted to mow certain local parks in Nundah. They also do other work as well, including for Virgin Australia and Mirvac. So they’re not just working for the Council, they’re branching out and working with other businesses and enterprises. It’s a great story, and I commend this particular procurement policy to the Chamber.

Item B is the report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 13 August. As has been set out in the meeting minutes, the Committee is responsible for reviewing and advising on Council’s internal and external financial reporting, including accounting policies, the scope of work for the—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**109/2024-25**

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. The scope of work for the performance and actions of Council’s external and internal auditors and the identification, effectiveness and maintenance of controls and systems to safeguard operational risks, including financial and physical resources. Our Audit Committee’s job is to provide independent oversight of our internal controls and processes and they do that well. The Committee was briefed by the CEO, the CFO, Chief Legal Counsel, Chief Internal Auditor and Chief Information Officer on a range of matters. As always, the Queensland Audit Office was also represented at the meeting and provided an update. Topics discussed, as set out in the minutes, included cyber and technology risks and potential uplifts and an update from Assurance Services regarding the completion of the approved 2023-24 Annual Internal Audit Plan, as well as progress towards the update of the plan for this financial year.

Item C is the submission proposing to reestablish the Committee of Council called the Councillor Ethics Committee. As we know, previous amendments to legislation changed Council’s framework with dealing for complaints of Councillor conduct or over Councillor conduct. As a result, Councillor Conduct Review Panel ceased in 2020 and complaints regarding the conduct of a Councillor were transferred to the Office of the Independent Assessor. It is proposed that the Committee will meet on an as-need basis to consider the findings of an investigation, where there has been a referral of suspected conduct breach, desired not to start or in fact to discontinue an investigation.

These powers are found within sections 150AE(a) to (e) and 150AG of the *Local Government Act 2009*. The submission also proposes to appoint members of the Committee. We are proposing this Committee be a bipartisan Committee, with an Administration Chair and an Opposition Deputy Chair, with Councillor ALLAN being the Chair, and Councillor COLLIER being the Deputy Chair. Also for members of the Committee to be Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Councillor Sandy LANDERS, Councillor Emily KIM, and Councillor Charles STRUNK. The Administration members propose that the Councillors who were already on the Committee of the previous version of this Committee, Councillors COLLIER, KIM, and STRUNK were put forward in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor CASSIDY.

We’ve also got a Clause in here regarding Councillor’s eligibility for membership of the Committee and that Clause caveats that if a Councillor has any findings of corrupt conduct made against them, or multiple findings of either misconduct or conduct breaches made against them, either by the OIA or Council in the last five years, they would not be eligible for appointment to the Committee. Which I think is a very reasonable expectation to have, given this is the Ethics Committee after all, and so I commend these three reports to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

**Seriatim - Clause A**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause A, SP103 PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PLAN 2024‑25, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim - Clause B**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause B, REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 AUGUST 2024, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

**Seriatim - Clause C**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause C, COUNCILLOR ETHICS COMMITTEE, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: I’ll start with Clause A, the Procurement Policy and Plan for 2024-25. I note this document has been reduced from 37 pages last year to 15 pages just in the last 12 months. A lot has been cut from Council’s approach to procurement. We can only assume from that and in reading through there glean that this has certainly created more grey areas, which I’ll come to when it comes to the local buy shortly. For this LNP regime to make decisions, no questions asked.

The plan outlined in the papers discusses procurement strategies that have certain elements. Value for money, environmental consideration, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business participation, social principles and some other things which is great, things we support. These plans are there to set out the priorities of Council and tell people what they will do in terms of procurement. We do need to have this policy, we understand we do need external contracts. But, as I’ve outlined over many years now, I am increasingly concerned about the amount of work that this LNP regime contract out, particularly ongoing maintenance work that we know is coming, that we know is budgeted for each and every year.

Chair: One moment, please, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillors, Councillor MARX, thank you. Can you please take any conversations outside?

Sorry, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. Why can’t Council jobs be protected by finding people to work in-house for Council? This plan says, this is the interesting bit, this plan says the Council must use Council staff instead of procuring external providers, labour hire or contractors, when and where they can. But this LNP Mayor totally ignores that. He ignored it in previous procurement plans he’s brought in here and we assure he’s going to continue to ignore it. The LNP just can’t seem to bring themselves to follow their own procurement plan. We know that’s not just a sort of slip up here and there of this LNP Mayor.

We know he doesn’t value permanent Council staff. He’s actually said it in the Council Chamber. He has said that he doesn’t put a high-value on that kind of arrangement, having people employed permanently within Council. He would contract out 100% of Council’s workforce if he could. We know that staff cuts over the last few years within Council have meant we have skill shortages, forcing more outsourcing to occur. Contracts that come through this Chamber time and time again prove that. This LNP regime has brutally hollowed out Council’s internal capability to deliver services and projects in the suburbs of Brisbane.

It’s interesting that value for money is one of the priorities that’s contained in here when this Council is happy to blow the budget on big pet projects like Metro and green bridges and international travel, as we’ve been talking about today. Looking at the focus on local procurement here, we know in the past, under procurement policies that have apparently prioritised local buy, we’ve seen bus-building jobs shipped over to China and Europe. Playground equipment increasingly made overseas, not by local businesses. Ferry terminals shipped in from overseas. We know local manufacturing doesn’t really mean that much to the LORD MAYOR and this LNP Council. Local jobs don’t mean much either.

So it’s not good enough to say that a global company has a head office in Brisbane and, therefore, they are local, pulling the wool over ratepayers’ eyes. We’ve seen changes to the definition of the 30% local buy weighting as well, that was previously contained in procurement policies. That now only applies to projects over $500,000, replacing a very broad term that used to apply to all items with now a term, preference for local suppliers. There’s a watering down of the local buy component within this procurement plan before us today.

It says here that sustainability is important. This is a Council that took a policy to the last election, an LNP regime that took a policy to the last election to expand food waste recycling and then cancelled it the day they got back into office. We know that they don’t support sustainability on a citywide scale, so it’s interesting to include that. But, given they ignore most of what’s in the procurement policy, it’s not that surprising anyway. The plan states the Council’s trying to save $30 million on procurement-related activities over the next year. So I wonder where we’re going to see those cuts.

Of course, the first thing they will cut is labour hire, so they cut permanent jobs year after year and replace those certainly full-time jobs with part-time jobs and part-time jobs with casual jobs and then increasingly using labour hire and contract workers. We see the first and easiest thing that this LNP regime see to cut when they announced those cuts. Like in October last year, is to cut labour hire workers, is to cut workers working on contracts, delivering things like footpath repair works and curbing and channelling and road resurfacing jobs as well. We know more of those cuts are going to come because it’s baked into this procurement policy.

The document also lists some major contracts the Council are entering into for the next financial year. Again, this is another example of ongoing cuts that we’re seeing out in the suburbs of Brisbane. Arborer services had $1.6 million allocated last year. This year, only $900,000 allocated in the plan before us today. $90,000 has been cut from the Moreton Island Waste and Resource Recovery item, which is something in my ward. You wonder whether these contracts are just being made smaller or less spent on them or being cut entirely so the LNP can plug the massive hole in Council’s books, which are funding the—or the blowouts are funding big inner city projects. I guess this is really—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, massive roundabout replacements are not really benefiting people out my way. But this is the procurement policy I suppose you have when you are in the LNP. Clause B, the report of the Audit Committee. It’s my view and I’ve been misrepresented a lot about my views on the functions of the Audit Committee. It’s our view that the Audit Committee and certainly the report before us today proves that they’re asking a lot of the right questions. They’re asking some great questions of this Council. We can see questions they are asking and they’ve covered issues surrounding the hiring of a CEO, a new CEO, employee bargaining, financial matters and cybersecurity.

That’s where the detail ends for us as Councillors. We see the questions being asked that information is provided to the Audit Committee, but then nothing is given back to us as Councillors. We can do requests for info, file requests on these reports, as we’ve done in the past. However, that’s obviously far too late in the process of approving a report from an Audit Committee at a Council meeting today that we’re being asked to endorse. The LNP is the only political party, clearly, that are privy to the details of the Audit Committee because they can request an E&C, the information that was provided to the Audit Committee by the CEO, by the CFO, by the CIO that are providing this information, but we cannot, as other Councillors that are not members of the LNP.

What happens in those meeting stays within those four walls. We don’t get that information. We’re concerned about how these reports, Audit Committee reports are presented to us as Councillors. What we’ve seen previously are very high-level minutes lacking in detail and no recommendations. We see some further information in more recent Audit Committee reports, certainly about the questions they have been asking of Council but not of the information that is flowing back. We know there’s been fraud issues, project delay issues, budget cuts. How do we know that this regime is acting on the advice of the Audit Committee?

We’re never given those details about the things that they are seeking to change, to fix the issues of which they have created, ultimately. The purpose of the Committee is to ensure that Council is operating in a regulated, a well-regulated way, and it must provide adequate and transparent advice to all Councillors. It’s not just some Councillors, the City of Brisbane Act and the Regulation doesn’t, and the Code of Conduct doesn’t talk about some Councillors getting information, and other Councillors not. It is in Brisbane’s best interest to know exactly what’s being discussed at this Committee, particularly under this current regime.

Councillors should be interested, should be very interested in the update that the Acting CEO gave at the Audit Committee but doesn’t give Councillors, who are ultimately responsible for good governance of this organisation. Any information, particularly the recruitment process for a new CEO, Council’s capital construction projects, the SEQ City Deal. Very important at the moment because we’ve heard the LORD MAYOR unilaterally change the terms of the SEQ City Deal without approval of Council. Council’s EBA (Enterprise Bargaining Agreement) negotiations, Council’s 2024-2525 budget progress, services for Brisbane deliverables and a Deloitte cybersecurity maturity assessment. The Audit Committee discussed opportunities for enhancement when it came to delegations and the statutory processes. These are really important things that we should have a lot more information and a lot more sight over how these things are being dealt with and improved.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

**110/2024-25**

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you. There might’ve only been two in favour, but there were none against. The Audit Committee was given details of budget funding requests as well from the Chief Information Officer. The Audit Committee received information from the CIO about a budget request that they had done to the LORD MAYOR in terms of program deliverables. I’m sure that wasn’t met with as much hostility as we are met in budget information sessions about getting that information out of that budget request, important internal work that Council is undertaking on behalf of us collectively as a Council.

I certainly support the Audit Committee’s right to question Council’s recent revaluations of property, plant and equipment as well and Council’s assumptions on financial sustainability ratio amendments. Ones that we saw that came through last week of which no adequate response was provided by the LNP in terms of how you can find an extra $7 billion worth of value on the balance sheet as well as changing the sustainability ratios to make sure that the budget still looks okay, in theory. I get that’s all really dry stuff that goes on in the Audit Committee, but it is critically important to Brisbane’s future.

Those questions of which they’re raising are changes of which the Council needs to make and are in the interests of every ratepayer and renter in Brisbane. So I think Councillors deserve access to this information and these reports are not adequate. The final item, the Councillor Ethics Committee, we will, as the LORD MAYOR has indicated, or that consultation the LORD MAYOR talked about occurred in June. I hadn’t heard—I actually, in fact, didn’t hear back from the LORD MAYOR until we saw these items come before us today. So there was some form of consultation, granted, and the Opposition did nominate Councillors for the reestablishment of the Ethics Committee in Council.

We certainly had reservations and Labor Councillors ultimately resigned from the previous Ethics Committee due to external interference in the decision making of that Committee. On balance, we think reconvening the Committee instead of bringing those matters it would consider to the full Council a better way of handling those issues. Now, I think we just experienced, in the motion which the DEPUTY MAYOR moved earlier, what would occur in the absence of an Ethics Committee. Perhaps the LNP were trying to prove a point in doing that, I’m not sure. But in the absence of having an Ethics Committee and a process of investigation and recommendation at that level, what we just experienced then would be the normal call for business, a call for how those things would be undertaken.

There’s certainly a danger that those things could be described as a kangaroo court, I think, 20 or 25 minutes’ worth of debate and a decision. I think, on balance, reconvening the Committee is a better way of dealing with these things. Council will be required to investigate matters under section 150AG of the Local Government Act. With the establishment of this Committee, the decision to start, not to start, or discontinue an investigation will be delegated. Council is given the authority under the Act to do this. The authority is going to be delegated to this Committee. The Act also says Council must have an investigation policy, which it does.

However, this policy is now out of date. It doesn’t account for the Ethics Committee undertaking to investigate. It still references the tribunal process, which is no longer in place. That’s been scrapped under the amendments to the Act. I’ve been advised, I made some inquiries and have been advised the new policy is or will be developed along with a process of investigation that will be brought to Council before any matters can be considered by the Committee. I assume that’s the case, anyway. I understand the intent is not for the Committee itself to undertake the investigations, as we just saw the Council did about an hour ago.

The role of Committee won’t be to physically, formally themselves undertake the investigations rather, an independent investigation model will be used. I do think given the LORD MAYOR wanted nominations from me back in June, as I mentioned, the development of that policy may have been closer to complete. But there’s obviously been some crossed wires in that process. The investigation policy and process of investigation is critical because once the investigation has been complete of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct, the Committee must determine based on that finding whether a breach has occurred.

That investigation may say it’s clear-cut. They may say it’s not clear-cut. It is up to the Committee to determine whether a breach has occurred. This is what the Ethics Committee must do in that instance. 150AG of the Act states that (1) after conducting the investigation, the local government must decide (a) whether or not the Councillor has engaged in a conduct breach and (b) if the local government decides the Councillor has engaged in a conduct breach, what action the local government will undertake to discipline the Councillor under section 150AH. So (2) in deciding what action to take, the local government may consider any previous conduct, any allegation made in the investigation, whether that was admitted, challenged, whether the local government is reasonably satisfied it is true.

These are all things for the Committee now to determine. Depending on what the policy says—this is the critical bit—we can establish this Committee, but we don’t know what the policy around investigations is yet. The Committee could decide to accept the results of the investigation or not. While the Ethics Committee will be unlikely to investigate potential breaches itself, it will have the power to impose sanctions on Councillors found to have breached the Code of Conduct. As this is the case, it is critical to ensure that Councillors on this Committee take this role very seriously and make determinations based on the principles of local government and what is in the best interests of the community, rather than on the instruction of others external to the Committee.

This is important because if a breach is found to have occurred, one of the following penalties must be applied: (a) an order that no action be taken against the Councillor or (b) make one or more of the following—it could be all of these—an order that the Councillor make a public apology in the way decided by the local government for the conduct—read Ethics Committee (ii) an order reprimanding the Councillor for the conduct, (iii) an order that the Councillor attend training or counselling to address the Councillor’s conduct, including at the Councillor’s expense, (iv) an order that the Councillor be excluded from a stated local government meeting, (v) an order that the Councillor is removed or must resign from a position representing the local government, other than the office of Councillor, example, a State board or committee, local government committee, LGAQ (Local Government Association of Queensland) perhaps, maybe a Chair, maybe a Committee within Council, (vi) an order that if the Councillor engages in the same type of conduct again, it will be treated as misconduct, (vii) an order that the Councillor reimburse the local government for all or some of the costs arising from the Councillor’s conduct breach, which could be minimal, it could be extensive.

We don’t know because the model and the policy has not been brought to us yet. Labor Councillors previously, as I said, determine natural justice was not followed in previous iterations of the Ethics Committee, and interference had occurred, so made that decision to leave that Committee. That option, of course, remains in place if the policy that is still under development is not adequate, or if the process does not live up to the expectations of natural justice, as I mentioned earlier, which are now explicitly contained within the Act. That’s not just some concept about natural justice.

The Act explicitly contains the reference to natural justice must be followed in these investigations, and any disciplinary action. So, in summing up, today we will support this item, and work cooperatively to ensure it’s more functional than previously experienced, and we don’t experience a kangaroo court-like operation with an LNP majority in this Council Chamber. But that is, again, all dependent, and our ongoing support for the Ethics Committee is all dependent on the policy around investigations, and the process of which will be undertaken, which I assume I can only assume, will come to full Council next week or next session. But no matters will be able to be referred to the Ethics Committee, is my understanding, until that policy and procedure is in place.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **111/2024-25**  It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, 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 3.18pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Further speakers? No further speakers?

Oh, Councillor ADAMS—ALLAN. Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item C, the Councillor Ethics Committee. Madam Chair, this Committee is a legislative requirement under both the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act. As the papers state, this Committee will meet on an as-needs basis and it is certainly my hope that these meetings will be few and far between.

Madam Chair, some in this Chamber may not be familiar with the process to investigate Councillor conduct and complaints. However, there is an extensive process to be undertaken before the Councillor Ethics Committee will consider the outcomes from an investigation. As the LORD MAYOR outlined, there have been some recent changes to the State’s legislation and policy. This includes that Council is no longer able to refer conduct breaches to the external and independent Councillor Conduct Tribunal for investigation.

Madam Chair, this is a significant change and, unfortunately, the State has provided only limited guidance on who and how investigations will now be undertaken. As those in the Chamber can appreciate, investigations into potential conduct breaches by local Councillors are not a common activity and does require a specialised approach. As such, responding to this change is something we are closely reviewing and researching to ensure any investigation is appropriate with transparent outcomes. I can confirm for Councillor CASSIDY that a future E&C submission will be brought to the Chamber once the changes and the investigative process has been agreed. At the moment, we are looking at what mechanisms might exist to undertake the investigation, given that we can no longer refer the matter to the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.

So, the intention is to develop an investigative process. The expectation, but still to be confirmed, is that it will be an external investigative process. The Councillor Conduct Committee has had a little bit of a chequered history in recent times, specifically with regard to membership, but I am however pleased to see that we will now have bipartisan support for the Committee with the inclusion of Opposition Councillors. I believe the composition of the Committee is comprised of a good mix of people, personalities and experience, and the people involved have the experience not only within Council but externally, and can add a real breadth of experience to any deliberations that are required. I believe that all members of the Committee will be able to deliberate and make determinations in a measured, balanced and impartial manner.

So, Madam Chair, I am hopeful that the Committee does in fact—when we do convene, can look at the results of any investigations, look to the potential responses that are available to the Committee. They’re the options that Councillor CASSIDY touched upon earlier, so I am looking forward to this Committee meeting when the need arises and that the determinations of the Committee at that point are considered to be fair and reasonable. I commend the item to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on items A, B and C, and I’ll just make some brief remarks regarding all three items.

Firstly, I don’t support any of the items that have been brought forward here today. Firstly, with respect to the procurement policy and plan, this Council’s singular legacy for our city is its failure to properly manage contracts and, in particular, major project contracts. There is an epic failure of governance, accountability and leadership by this LNP Administration when it comes to contract management. Now, that is also a reflection upon Council’s capacity to undertake some projects. It is just not acceptable when major projects double in cost, and that is because they are poorly scoped to start with.

We heard another great example today, the Beams Road project, where Councillor WINES has indicated there are four sections to the Beams Road project. 1A has currently been undertaken at a cost of $93 million, and when asked what was the total estimated cost of all four stages, Councillor WINES didn’t know, couldn’t say, babbled a little bit, refused to say. So, it’s another indication of this Council’s failure to be transparent and accountable about how it delivers projects for the city.

Now, the plan, of course, has to outline a number of major projects when they come forward, and it is astonishing how little information is provided in the report before us today. Council is suggesting that there are 14 construction projects that will happen this year. Of them, only three are major projects. The other are for classes of projects, like turf, trees, road profiling. The three major projects that are listed are Victoria Park, the Beams Road upgrade, and the Lindum open level rail crossing. That’s it.

Now, this also makes excuses that, of course, it’s not an exhaustive list and that might change in the future. We know that because Council has now set the budget up—the LNP has now set the Council budget up as an LNP slush fund. Even when it comes to Council planning and policies, we’ve heard today with respect to the transport plan for our city, apparently, for the next eight years, it hasn’t even come to Council. It’s an LNP concept plan. It’s certainly been shopped to the media and to other levels of government as an approved Council plan, and it’s not.

So, there is a massive disconnect between what Council says it does and what it actually does, so I do not support the way this Council either manages its policies, manages its plans, and certainly, I do not support the way that they botch major projects.

Second one, Audit Committee report, yes, this just goes on and on. There are clearly serious problems with the way in which this Council is managing its finances and we would not know what they are because of the way in which the minutes are presenting to us. We know the LNP like to change the minutes at their discretion, as Councillor HUTTON has done and Councillor WINES has done, so that matters that are discussed in Committees are not reflected in the minutes afterwards. We don’t know that we’re getting—well, we’re certainly not getting any detailed information about what’s in the Audit Committee report and it’s very hard to tell what’s going on, but I agree with Councillor CASSIDY that this Council is aware of major problems with the management of its finances, and yet we’re not seeing any significant outcomes or decisions come through the Audit Committee.

Finally, the Councillor Ethics Committee. I don’t support this process. I appreciate there’s a statutory process we have to follow, but there are a number of things that the LNP is doing, the first of which is excluding both the Greens and myself as the Independent Councillor from even discussion in people to sit on the Ethics Committee. That makes it, of course, a partisan political Committee. It’s only got Labor and the LNP. There is no clarity around how investigations are to happen. There is no clarity around the referrals process. There is no clarity around how Councillors can participate in the process. It is a political witch-hunt.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A and B. Item A is the annual update of our procurement policy and plan which sets out how Council conducts strategic procurement and contracting, as is required under the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012*. The policy and plan provides detailed information about Council’s procurement activities, ensuring Council and ratepayers receive quality services and infrastructure with value for money always at the forefront. A key pillar of the Schrinner Council’s plan to support and grow business and industry in our beautiful city is our buy local procurement policy. This policy backs Brisbane’s businesses, ensuring local suppliers are given the best opportunity to deliver Council services and projects.

We have set a strong and accountable target for 80% of Council’s total procurement budget to be spent with Brisbane and South East Queensland located suppliers. Prior to the implementation of the buy local policy in 2017-18, our local spend percentage was at 67%, but since mid-2019, just over $7 billion has gone directly into supporting local jobs and local businesses, including small and family-run businesses.

Madam Chair, as the LORD MAYOR set out earlier, we continue to not only meet this target, but we are exceeding it. Last year, our local procurement spend was over 87%, which is a record spend of $1.67 billion. Council’s strategic procurement team is focused on continual improvement, and accordingly, there are amendments to this year’s plan. The key changes are directed at streamlining the policy, and as a result, we streamlined it in its length from 37 pages down to 15. Duplication and procedural elements will now be addressed in other procurement corporate rules, such as SP200 sourcing and disposals procedures and SP400 contract management and procedure. This approach makes this important document easier to read and engage with, not only for our staff in Council, but most importantly, with local industry.

In addition to the streamlining of the policy, we’ve added a new principle. That is the leaders in procurement practice principle. This has been included to support and encourage a culture of continuous improvement in our processes, our capability and, of course, our performance. We must always consider what is the most efficient way to achieve the desired result, and our policy now reflects this. We want to keep costs down to keep the budget balanced and support project delivery right across our city. The policy strives to lower the cost to procure without compromising value, by enhancing systems and process and by adopting a digital first mindset.

I’ve spoken many times in this Chamber about Council’s achievements in supporting social enterprises through our procurement program. Madam Chair, those on the other side of the Chamber may call this outsourcing, but we see huge benefits in doing this as it supports important social causes and also provides employment opportunities for disadvantaged or vulnerable members of our community. Last year, we had a record number of different social enterprises work with Council, with an investment of close to $12 million. We maintain an $11 million target this year.

Before I move on, if I could please highlight also for the Chamber, Madam Chair, Clause A.1.8 of the policy which provides for the use of Council businesses and staff. It states that, and I quote, Council’s preference is to use its own capable, competent and committed employees in providing services, and that Council will continue to use its own employees where competitive levels of quality, service, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and value for money can be demonstrated.

Madam Chair, the vast majority of our workforce are permanent employees, but just like all organisations, we engage with other suppliers and contractors where internal resourcing is not available or suitable to meet operational requirements or for project work which might not—

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Further speakers? No further speakers.

We’ll now put them to the vote.

**Clause A put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 1 - Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON.

ABSTENTIONS: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

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

**Clause B put**

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

Thereupon, Councillors Jared CASSIDY and Charles STRUNK 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, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, 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: 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 Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 21 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, 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 and Charles STRUNK.

NOES: 3 Councillors Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Adrian Schrinner) (Chair); Deputy Mayor (Councillor Krista Adams) (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Adam Allan, Lisa Atwood, Fiona Cunningham, Tracy Davis, Sarah Hutton, Ryan Murphy and Andrew Wines.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard.

#### A SP103 PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PLAN 2024-25

**165/590/785/48**

**112/2024-25**

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

2. Section 190 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) requires that Council makes and adopts a Procurement Policy for each financial year.

3. Section 210 of the Regulation requires that Council makes and adopts a Contracting Plan for each financial year. The Contracting Plan must not be adopted before the adoption of Council’s budget for the same financial year.

4. Section 212 of the Regulation requires that Council makes and adopts a Contract Manual that sets out the procedures for how Council is to carry out all contracts.

5. Council officers have prepared SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2024-25 (PPAP) (refer Attachment B, submitted on file) to address the above requirements. The PPAP sets out Council’s strategic approach to its contracting activities in:

- Appendix B: Market assessments, significant and other contracts.

6. The key changes from *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2023-24* (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) are as follows.

- To streamline the policy, it has been reduced from 37 pages to 15 pages. Duplication and procedural elements will be addressed in other procurement corporate rules such as *SP200 Sourcing and Disposals Procedures* and *SP400 Contract Management Procedure*.

- The Procurement Policy (previously section A) and Contract Manual (previously section B) have been consolidated into a single section.

- The value for money section has been updated to highlight that procurement decisions are based on achieving ‘value for money’ (A.1.2).

- The insertion of a new ‘leaders in procurement practice’ principle to strive for a culture of continuous improvement in our processes, capability, and performance (A.1.1).

- Specialist advisors and expert witnesses for matters related to the Planning and Environment Court (Queensland), or the Development Tribunals (Queensland) have been added to exemption 12 professional services unsuitable for tendering (Appendix A, exemption 12).

- General exemptions are now included in Appendix A.

- Market assessments, significant and other contracts are now included in Appendix B.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **TO ADOPT SP103 PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PLAN 2024-25**.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SP103 PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PLAN 2024-25**

As:

(i) Council has adopted the Strategic Contracting Procedures under Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation)

(ii) Council is required by section 190 of the Regulation to adopt a Procurement Policy

(iii) Council is required by section 210 of the Regulation to adopt a Contracting Plan

(iv) Council is required by section 212 of the Regulation to adopt a Contract Manual

(v) SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2024-25, complying with the requirements of the Regulation, has been prepared and is set out in Attachment B (submitted on file),

then Council:

(i) resolves to adopt SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2024-25, as set out in Attachment B

(ii) resolves that SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2024-25 will apply from 3 September 2024.

**ADOPTED**

#### B REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 AUGUST 2024

**109/695/586/6-003**

**113/2024-25**

9. The A/Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

10. Section 201 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* requires that as soon as practicable after a meeting of the Audit Committee, Council must be given a written report about the matters reviewed at the meeting and the Audit Committee’s recommendations about the matters.

11. The Chief Executive Officer is to present the report mentioned in section 201(1)(c) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* at the next meeting of Council.

12. The A/Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 AUGUST 2024, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A** (submitted on file)**.**

**ADOPTED**

#### C COUNCILLOR ETHICS COMMITTEE

**109/268/189/347**

**114/2024-25**

14. The A/Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

15. Previous amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) and *City of Brisbane Act 2010* changed Council's framework for dealing with complaints regarding Councillor conduct. Council’s Councillor Conduct Review Panel ceased and complaints regarding the conduct of a Councillor were transferred to the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA).

16. It is proposed that a standing committee of Council, called the Councillor Ethics Committee (the Committee), be established to meet on an as-needed basis to consider the findings of an investigation in relation to instances of a suspected conduct breach, or to decide not to start or discontinue an investigation (refer Attachment B, submitted on file). Approval is sought to delegate to the Committee under section 238(2)(c) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* certain Council powers under sections 150AEA and 150AG of the Act to:

- decide not to start or to discontinue an investigation referred to Council by the OIA in accordance with section 150AEA

- decide whether a Councillor has engaged in a conduct breach under section 150AG(1)(a)

- make a decision about what action to take to discipline a Councillor under section 150AG(1)(b).

17. It is also proposed the administration Councillors that were on the committee immediately preceding the quadrennial election be reappointed to the committee along with Councillors put forward by the Leader of the Opposition.

18. The A/Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE COUNCILLOR ETHICS COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE POWERS UNDER THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009* TO THE COUNCILLOR ETHICS COMMITTEE**

As:

(i) the Minister for Local Government must make a code of conduct that sets out the standards of behaviour for Councillors in performing their obligations under the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) and the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*

(ii) Council may, by resolution, establish a standing committee as a committee of Council pursuant to section 56A(1) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*

(iii) Council must, pursuant to section 150AG of the Act, after an investigation into a Councillor’s conduct, decide whether or not the Councillor has engaged in a conduct breach and if the Councillor has engaged in a conduct breach, what action Council will take under section 150AH of the Act to discipline the Councillor

(iv) Council may, pursuant to section 150AEA of the Act, decide not to start or to discontinue an investigation referred to Council by the OIA

(v) Council may, in accordance with section 238 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* delegate its powers to a standing committee of Council

then Council:

(i) resolves to establish the Councillor Ethics Committee as a standing committee of Council with the responsibilities and membership as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)

(ii) resolves to delegate, pursuant to section 238(2)(c) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010,* to the Councillor Ethics Committee, certain powers of Council under the Act as specified in Column 1 of Table 1 to the delegate specified in Column 2 of Table 1 on the special conditions set out in Table 2 and the general conditions of delegation set out in Table 3.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 1** | | |
| **Section**  ***Local Government Act 2009*** | **Column 1 – Power** | **Column 2 – Delegate** |
| 150AEA | To decide to discontinue or not to start an investigation referred to Council by the Office of the Independent Assessor | Councillor Ethics Committee |
| 150AG(1)(a) | To decide whether or not a Councillor has engaged in a conduct breach under section 150AG of the *Local Government Act 2009* | Councillor Ethics Committee |
| 150AG(1)(b) | To decide what action Council will take under section 150AH of the *Local Government Act 2009* to discipline a Councillor | Councillor Ethics Committee |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 2** |
| **Special Condition for section 150AEA** |
| In considering to discontinue or not to start an investigation about a Councillor’s conduct, the Councillor Ethics Committee:   * must discontinue or not start an investigation about a Councillor’s conduct if the office of the Councillor is vacated during the investigation; or * may discontinue or not start an investigation if the complainant withdraws the complaint or consents to the investigation being discontinued or not being started, or the complainant does not comply with a request by Council for further information or there is insufficient information to investigate the conduct. |
| **Special Condition for section 150AG** |
| In considering the findings that have been put forward in an investigation report, the Councillor Ethics Committee may:  - adopt the findings and penalty in relation to the Councillor conduct;  - adopt, with amendments, the findings and penalty in relation to the Councillor conduct; or  - adopt a separate finding and penalty in relation to the Councillor conduct. |

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| **Table 3** |
| **GENERAL CONDITIONS OF DELEGATION**  (1) Each of the functions and powers delegated includes–  (a) doing any act and making any decision;  (b) giving or causing to be given any notice, notification, statement of reasons;  (c) issuing or causing to be issued, and endorsing, any certificate, permit or the instrument of authorisation, and any copy thereof,  if doing so is incidental to or entailed by the exercise of the functions and powers.  (2) A reference to a law includes a reference to–  (a) the law as originally made, and as amended from time to time since it was originally made;  (b) if the law has been repealed and remade (with or without modification) since the reference was made—the law as remade, and as amended from time to time since it was remade;  (c) if a provision of the law has been omitted and remade (with or without modification and whether in the law or another law) since the reference was made—the provision as remade;  (d) the law as renumbered or amended from time to time.  (3) In this Instrument of Delegation–  “delegate”, in relation to a position, means the person holding or acting in that position from time to time;  “law” includes a provision of a law;  “position” means the position as it appears or as subsequently renamed. |

**ADOPTED**

Chair: 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, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair, and before I go to the report from last week, I would just advertise what’s on in the Business Hub. We were down there this morning for the Committee presentation, which I’ll talk about next week, but I think everybody was suitably impressed about our beautiful facility we have down there. Some of the feedback we’ve been getting from a recent event, presenting at the Business Hub has been a gamechanger for my business. The connections have been incredible and, as a result, my business has grown exponentially. That was Megan from Lume Marketing. So, it’s absolutely wonderful to see people taking the opportunity. As we heard from Rhys today, there have been 300 new contacts since we’ve moved down there, over 1,300 new individual businesses over the few years that we’ve been with the Business Hub that have established since COVID, so it’s fantastic.

In the next week, on 10 September at 9:30am in the morning, it’s the Women in Business Leaders Lounge, Gaining Unshakeable Confidence. So, join the CEO of award-winning KEASÉ International and Leaders Lounge Sarah Yip for an interactive workshop that will help you refresh, revisit and redefine your values, purpose, and set some inspired goals and actions for greater confidence and clarity. That’ll be great for the women that are alumni, those that are in the program this year, and obviously any aspiring women and grants participants in coming years, as well.

Last week’s Committee presentation was the pop-up consulates, presented by IRMA, our International Relations and Multicultural Affairs. These have been extremely popular. Usually, people need to travel down south to get their visas to go overseas if there’s no embassy here in Brisbane, and what we’ve found is that some of the honorary consuls up here and some of the consulate corps have been working hard to take a couple of days here in City Hall so that people from around Queensland or even northern New South Wales can travel up here to get their actual visas, and it’s been fantastic. Malta was first off the ranks. They do a wonderful job. We work very closely with them.

Netherlands took the opportunity, and we got the king of the consuls. We got the Americans here, as well, which is absolutely fantastic. We’ve got quite a few coming up and far more countries interested in this. The time saving, the money saving for families not to have to travel to Canberra or Sydney to get their visas is absolutely amazing. As I said, the consulate corps are loving it. The DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) are loving it, as well, and well done to the team for coming up with the concept. I look forward to it expanding to many more countries in the near future. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak on the presentation for the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy, and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, importantly, that title, Paralympic Games. I was a bit disappointed in the Committee presentation we received last week, particularly when Councillor HOWARD was already jet-setting off to the Paralympic Games to represent this city. This Committee is about the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the presentation—not just the presentation, but the entire Committee meeting went for seven minutes last week. It started at 10.02am. It’s supposed to start at 10am and go ‘til 10.30am. The Committee meeting started at 10.02am.

The attendance, apologies, minutes, presentation, questions and General Business all wrapped up in seven minutes, at a time, disappointingly, when we could have had a presentation about preparations for the Paralympic Games, this nation’s preparations for our campaign in Paris, perhaps, proudly, but no, we had a presentation about something that Council doesn’t deliver, pop-up consulates. We give space in the Committee rooms upstairs, a great thing, but to have—I guess the content of that could have been emailed to all Councillors. We could have had a presentation and a discussion about something important like the Paralympic Games, which were starting on 28 August and are currently on at the moment, but instead we got this presentation.

So, just very disappointed again that the Paralympics are missing out. The team’s doing very well, very well. It’s great watching at the moment, but very disappointed that the Paralympics are missing out under this Chair’s leadership of this Committee.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. Lovely to hear a speech about what was not in the Committee last week from the Councillor who won’t even mention usually that we have anything to do with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I’m looking forward to, when our officers do get back from the Paralympics, that we can talk about all our learnings and I can go through everything that I did in specific detail again, even though I’ve done that in General Business for the last three weeks, as well. The reasons it doesn’t go for particularly long on some of the presentations is Councillor CASSIDY doesn’t speak, he doesn’t ask questions, and he definitely hasn’t asked for any Committee presentations that he would like to see.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: We will now put that to the vote.

Councillor CASSIDY, are you all right?

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Did he just make a cat or a dog noise at me?

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: No, I think it went roo, roo, roo. I’m indicating what—

Chair: Thank you. Either way, it was inappropriate, Councillor CASSIDY.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: The DEPUTY MAYOR just got up and did a point of order and I’m responding to the point of order, and you know that your response was inappropriate.

All Councillors, unless you’re standing on your feet and at the microphone and it’s your turn, should not be calling out.

We’ll now put that 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.

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 – POP-UP CONSULATES

**115/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, International Relations and Multicultural Affairs, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of pop-up consulates. She provided the information below.

2. Pop-up consulates are an initiative of the Lord Mayor where Council offers a temporary space in City Hall for foreign consulates and embassies to provide consular and passport services to residents in Brisbane and South East Queensland. The pop-up consulate service is designed for foreign consulates and embassies that do not have a permanent office in Brisbane. City Hall is an ideal location as it is well serviced by public transport options.

3. The pop-up service started in July 2023 with a successful trial by the Malta High Commission, at the request of Ms Sandra Micallef, the Honorary Consul for Malta in Brisbane. After the Maltese pop-up consulate trial, the Lord Mayor announced at the Consular Corps Civic Reception that Council will provide the pop-up service at City Hall.

4. Nine pop-up consulates have now taken place with five different consulates using the service:

- Malta

- Netherlands

- United States of America

- Indonesia

- Slovenia.

5. The Committee was shown an overview of which Consulates used the service and the visitation for each Consulate. A total of 668 people have been assisted through 608 appointments held at City Hall.

6. The pop-up consulate service receives regular feedback with recurring themes of significant money and time savings for Brisbane and South East Queensland residents by negating the need to travel to the consulate office in either Sydney or Canberra. Feedback from families included how helpful it is not having to take children out of school in order to access these services.

7. The Committee was provided with an overview of two pop-up consulate service outcomes.

- On 18 April 2024, the Indonesian Consulate-General used their visit to also schedule business meetings and a trade and investment briefing at the Brisbane Business Hub with more than 30 attendees.

- On 7 and 8 May 2024, the Consulate-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands used their visit to coincide with a circular economy and waste trade mission that was planned in Brisbane.

8. Future pop-up consulates will include:

- 4 to 6 September 2024: Consulate General of the Argentine Republic. This will be Argentina’s first time using Council’s pop-up consulate service.

- 20 to 22 November 2024: Consulate-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This will be their fifth time using Council’s pop-up consulate services.

- 4 to 6 December 2024: Consulate-General of the United States of America. This will be their second time using Council’s pop-up consulate services.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Danita PARRY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Last week, the Transport Committee had a presentation from TPO (Transport Planning and Operations) on our bus stop upgrade program. Council owns and maintains almost 6,000 bus stops across Brisbane, which is a testament to the size and scale of our bus network. Of course, it means that there’s a large amount of work involved in maintaining and upgrading bus stops, including our work to improve accessibility to them. In the last decade, this Council has spent $100 million on accessibility and amenity upgrades to bus stop infrastructure, and that means 82% of our network is now DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant and 90% of passengers are using Council’s bus stop network from DDA compliant stops.

So, a wonderful achievement, and I want to just pay tribute to former Lord Mayor Graham Quirk. Access and inclusion through all parts of Council was a real hallmark of his time in City Hall, and this program and its achievements are very much tied up with his time here in City Hall.

Before I get to some other things, Madam Chair, I wanted to just update the Chamber on the situation with Beam Mobility. As Councillors may remember, we recently started next generation agreements for shared e-scooters and e-bikes on 22 July 2024, with Beam Mobility and Lime networks. Prior to the current contract, Beam and Neuron provided scooters in Brisbane and paid Council per device. To help manage the number of devices across our city, we have an e‑scooter cap which defines the maximum number of scooters each provider can deploy at one time. We monitor device cap compliance via a third-party provider, and we audit the number of devices.

On 2 August, Council received allegations in relation to Beam and their operational approach to deploying devices against the device cap and the reporting of trips to that provider. The allegations suggest that Beam was manipulating data shared with Councils to hide the total number of devices available for hire. Council took those allegations incredibly seriously, and as soon as we received this information, we commenced an internal investigation.

Late last week, we received the findings of that investigation, and they were incredibly disappointing to say the least, Chair. Our investigation concluded that Beam systemically exceeded its device cap in Brisbane. On average, Beam deployed 500 extra devices across the city each and every day between July 2023 and July 2024. This means they exceeded their allowable device cap by more than 27%. As I mentioned, the previous contract saw Beam pay Council on a per-device basis. Beam exceeding its e-scooter cap by this many devices is estimated to have resulted in approximately $330,000 in lost revenue to Council.

As a result, Council has terminated its contract with Beam, effective from 30 August 2024, and the devices will now be progressively removed from Brisbane. We will also be seeking to replace Beam with a new e-mobility operator as soon as practical. In the meantime, Lime will distribute additional devices to help fill any shortfall in Brisbane’s shared e-mobility network and as promised, Council will also be seeking to refer the findings of its investigation to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

I want to reiterate that the issues experienced here by Council are not unique to Brisbane. These allegations have been made about Beam’s operations in a number of cities across Australia and New Zealand, and a number of other cities have already taken steps to terminate their contracts with Beam, as well. While these matters are disappointing, we remain confident in the role that e-mobility has to play in the transport future of our city. I want to reassure the public that these allegations, of course, don’t pose any safety risks to the devices under our shared scooter scheme. These are obviously commercial and ethical matters.

Madam Chair, in addition to that, we have a petition here in this report. So, the Committee also last week considered a petition on active transport over Cardross Street Bridge in Yeronga. Council does have a long-term plan to improve this connection over this railway line. However, any project here would require consultation with Queensland Rail (QR) because of the limitations of the dimensions of the railway bridge. As such, Council wrote to Queensland Rail on 24 July to advise of petitioners’ concerns and has requested any future plans to renew and upgrade the bridge to inform Council’s future planning.

Chair, I also just briefly wanted to acknowledge our Bridges for Brisbane team and their work on the Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge last week. The project was announced as the Queensland winner at the Australian Institute of Project Management Awards, which is a fantastic gong for our green bridges team to have achieved. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Seriatim - Clause B**

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| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause B, PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL SAFE CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE CARDROSS STREET BRIDGE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF CARDROSS STREET AND FAIRFIELD ROAD, YERONGA, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Just with respect, very briefly, on item A first, the bus stop upgrade program, this is a great example of where Council has missed the mark when it comes to improving access to public transport for people with disabilities or people with mobility issues. Council is treating the bus stop upgrade program as—they’re treating the bus stops themselves as islands. So, all Council will do is pop down the concrete, pop down a new J pole, maybe change the seating configuration and pop in the tactiles. There is no consideration given to how people will get to that bus stop. This Council is not investing any funds in upgrading pedestrian access for wheelchairs or people with mobility issues to bus stops.

In addition to that, of course, Brisbane City Council has still not completed its program, and as far as I know, they’re way behind schedule on what it should do. It’s my understanding that there are just some bus stops that this Council will not do at all because it is too expensive or too hard. That is an indictment upon Councillor Ryan MURPHY’s leadership of this portfolio for such a long period of time. We know that under his leadership of this portfolio, he stopped funding footpaths. Now, the only funding available if you want a footpath is via the Suburban Enhancement Funds (SEFs).

So, this Council has got its priorities wrong when it comes to this upgrade. To make it work properly for residents, they need to consider connections to bus stops to make it easier for people with mobility issues to get to public transport, a bit like rail stations, you know. You need the zebra crossings to get across the road.

I rise to also speak on item B, which is in Tennyson Ward. Now, I think the inappropriate comments this morning or earlier this afternoon from Councillor MURPHY about space for cycling, they were massively inappropriate. I talked to the BUGs in my area. I talked to Space for Cycling. I talked to cyclists. I talked to community groups. Certainly, there is a wide view about cycling. I have never once had someone do the sorts of things that Councillor MURPHY has said and—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —yes, suggested. I just thought some of them were absolutely appalling. I certainly respect the rights of cyclists to advocate for better facilities. This petition came about because of requests from parents from Yeronga State School. The Yeronga State School catchment is split by two arterial roads, Fairfield Road and Ipswich Road. The connectivity between the western part of Yeronga and the central part of Yeronga where the school is located are incredibly difficult. There is a bridge here that has a one-metre wide, very old footpath—we’re still waiting for that to be fixed—which is just so narrow and dangerous, and that is it.

So, residents are wanting improvements to this area, including bike boxes, including a dedicated cycling bridge or widening of this bridge. It is incredibly disappointing that Council is doing nothing. Now, Councillor MURPHY stood up and said that there is a long-term plan to do something about this intersection. Well, no, there’s not, because that’s something I’ve been campaigning for in the LGIP which Council has not brought back to this place and there is no position on the LGIP, so this is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it’s well over a year since the process started, and yes, I and my community have been lobbying hard to have this fixed because this is the only east-west flood-free access for people who live in Yeronga and Yeerongpilly. During times of flood, the queues stretch for kilometres. It is unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists in its current form.

I will just note a couple of things here. Council talks about a thermal detector. Well, the thermal detector did not work when I was told about this, so we had to go back to the CEO. Council had to go out and they had to fix the thermal detector. So, unfortunately, Council has told us that they worked, and then the cyclists went and tested it and it didn’t.

The next problem with what’s been said is that Council can’t build standalone bridges. Yes, they can, and they do all over the city, mainly in LNP wards. They’re called green bridges, and we can do one here.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: We can do one here over—

Chair: Are there any further speakers? Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A in regards to the upgrade of the bus stops. Anyone who knows and has listened to me over the years in regards to bus stops will know that I’m a strong advocate for bus stops and all that they can be. I would hope Brisbane City Council would think the same. Now, if we have a look at the report, and on item three it states pretty clearly that Council prioritises bus stops for upgrades based on the following framework.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: That’s all right. Daily patronage and level of service to the community. Vulnerable user patronage and DDA compliance, which you heard about a little bit earlier, and amenities request. I’ll just emphasise that one, amenities request. Proximity to community facilities. Now, that amenities request, we’ve had a number of bus stops across my ward that have—people have been requesting shelters, because they’re pretty much in full sun. The one I’m going to highlight is the one at Joseph Banks. It’s called the Joseph Banks bus stop and it’s the one that’s on the way to Forest Lake Shopping Centre.

Now, I highlight that one because we’ve had multiple requests over multiple years for that one to be made safe from—you know, it should have a sun safe application, which it does, or it should have because it’s really at the end of an island that comes out of a footpath that was built to the bus stop when it was made DDA compliant and there has never been a shelter erected to protect the patrons. Now, this is on a—this particular route, there are two buses that actually go down this route, the 118 and the 100. The 100 is a high frequency, so obviously, a lot of people are using it, and of course, the 118 is also an express into the city.

Now, schoolkids use this bus, obviously during before and after school, and there are quite a lot of them, actually, out there that are actually using this particular bus stop, and again, they’re in full sun. Yes, they should be wearing hats, but honestly, it’s not very comfortable, of course. Can you imagine being in full sun in the middle of a Brisbane summer? So, I would suggest that we should have another look at some of these bus stops, especially the ones that are in full sun. A lot of the ones that people request are under trees, so the sun’s not a huge issue, but the rain is, of course. We’ve just got to do something to protect our kids at all. I mean, this is our future here. These kids deserve to have a shelter that they can hide, especially from the sun, and of course the rain, as well.

So, I just wanted to keep it local, as the LORD MAYOR has said, speak local about local issues, and I have. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, I Madam Chair. Thank you.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I rise to speak on this Brisbane Inclusive Plan and just say what a farce it is, what an absolute farce it is. I notice we—oh, Councillor HOWARD’s gone again, but she’s just returned from the Paralympics, just returned from Paralympics and we have such a pathetic record of dealing with people who have disabilities or accessibility issues, and this is just another example of how this Council fails. Particularly what I find around my ward is the failing of accessible bus stops. One of those bus stops—I’ll give some examples, happy to give some examples because there is no action coming from the LNP, only fine words.

At Rocklea and I’ve raised this before, on Ipswich Road, we went through the farce of upgrading a bus stop, putting in new lighting, putting in the tactile tiles, raising it up. The only thing is, we didn’t connect it with the shopping centre. So, there is no way that a person in a wheelchair or using a walkie, wheelie can connect with the shopping centre because we have left a rocky dirt track. That’s our accessible footpath. Councillor MURPHY, you might be able to answer, how did you deliver so poorly on that? Through you, Madam Chair.

For example, another lady or another person, another resident, Margaret who’s in Moorooka, who’s in a motorised wheelchair, has been taken to hospital on a number of occasions because when she goes up a ramp, the chair goes back. She cracks her head, and she ends up in the emergency department. What’s Council’s answer to that? Oh, they’ve built it the wrong angle, so we’ve got to correct the angle and bring it down to an acceptable standard. This is what the LNP is delivering in Brisbane now. It is farcical. It’s not good enough, and we’re not delivering accessible footpaths all over Brisbane.

Another point with another footpath was trying to get some trees trimmed. I had a blind gentleman who wanted to walk up the footpath to get to the bus stop and found it really disturbing that he kept getting hit by tree branches as he used his braille stick to go up the footpath. Council’s response to that? Oh, send it to a senior manager and they’ll sort it out. This is farcical, the way we’re treating people with accessibility issues. Our own documents say up to a third of Australians with disabilities say a lack of access to transport can be a significant barrier to their inclusion. This is our own document. This is our own strategy. This isn’t—well, is it an LNP strategy? I think it’s an LNP strategy, not even a Council strategy.

It actually goes on to say, residents of all ages and abilities report that social inclusion is increased if they can get to the places and events that bring a sense of connection and belonging to their lives. Pretty amazing words. We just haven’t got the amazing actions that go with those amazing words. Last year, when we brought up a motion to say that we, as Council, should be funding accessible footpaths, so footpaths that people require to get somewhere, the LNP voted that down and they said, use your SEF money. Do it yourself. So, what they’re saying is, essentially, if you’ve got a disability, go and plead with your local Councillor and hopefully, they’ll provide you with a footpath or not. They didn’t stand up and have the guts and the gumption to say, this is what you should have. This is what a first world city provides. This is where we should be going.

No, there was none of that talk. No grand vision. It was no, we’re not doing it. Our little hillbilly, hicksville LNP Council struck again. The difficulty with our little hillbilly, hicksville Council is that residents with a disability keep missing out. There is nothing you should be proud of here, Councillor MURPHY. It’s just all a sham.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak briefly on the presentation to bus stop upgrades programs, because I think it’s really important to note again that Brisbane City Council says one thing, but it also acts on another. I think today, I’ve very much experienced the hypocrisy of this LNP Brisbane City Council. I’ll specifically talk to the point of Council prioritises bus stops for upgrades based on the following framework. Daily patronage and level of service to the community, one. Vulnerable user patronage and DDA compliance. Amenity request and proximity to community facilities.

I will highlight, there’s many, many bus stops across the ward, but I will highlight one particularly that I think actually hits all of these things, but maybe I’m wrong—I’m not, by the way. I’ll share this—that hits these things that still isn’t DDA complaint. Last year, we were able to get a great win for the number 60 bus, and as everyone here would know, the number 60 is the most popular and well‑patroned bus in Brisbane. It’s one of the Gliders, super popular. I’d call it the GOAT (greatest of all time), except it’s not because I still believe the 199 is the GOAT.

The 60, the new bus stop was at Montague Markets. Montague Markets being an important point for what we would say is community facilities, shopping centre, food access. The area near Montague Markets has had a dramatic increase of population and it continues, too. The density of the area, if anyone’s been down there, is actually really high. Of course, it’s not just the 60 that stops here, which has the highest patronage of bus users in Brisbane, but also the 199. This bus stop at the Montague Markets is not DDA compliant. There have been many requests to make it DDA compliant from various people that have accessibility issues, including Uncle Willie. There’s times that I mentioned this, multiple times when I had previously sat on the Transport Committee.

So, where is the upgrade for the Montague Markets bus stop in this year’s budget? It’s not there, obviously. It’s not there and recognising there’s a couple of upgrades to Gladstone Road’s bus stops that are needed, especially one that’s had a busted fence for over a year that’s been reported by multiple community members. I think what we see here in this document is the dream of what Brisbane City Council would be, but all of us seem to have examples, all of us. I mean this, too. I don’t think it’s just us on the Opposition that would have examples, but the silence is deafening from the Administration. I think we all have examples.

What we actually want are these bus stops, as a Council that works towards delivering DDA compliant bus stops, a Council that works and makes sure that we’ve got sun safety—I’ll talk about that more shortly—and a Council that actually says what it means when it puts it in its document. It’s important that we raise these issues, because we read one thing but we experience another, and not just we as Opposition Councillors, but we as people that use buses. You know, I dare ask the question, who caught a bus in today?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Train? Anyone else catch a bus? I caught a bus. So, I guess for us that use the public transport system and use the buses, we would like to see the actual work done on the ground, done in our community rather than just some words on paper.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the presentation around bus stop upgrades program. I think Graham Quirk would be pretty ashamed of where this Council has landed when it comes to bus stop accessibility. Councillor MURPHY described his vision for a more accessible Brisbane in the work that he started, and then when he handed that off to Adrian SCHRINNER and Ryan MURPHY, as the LORD MAYOR and Chair of the Public Transport Committee respectively, that work seems to have stopped and dried up. We’ve heard local Councillors talk about inaccessible bus stops in their community.

I’ve got a couple top of my head. One on Craig Street on the corner of Lebanon Street in Brighton. I had a gentleman talk to me just last weekend about his experience. He’s lost both of his legs. He’s now in a wheelchair. He’s able to use prosthetics sometimes, not at the moment though because he’s had more surgery to remove more of what’s left of his legs, so can’t use those prosthetics. He also can’t access that bus stop anymore because there are no ramps anywhere near it. There is no footpath leading to and from it. Another one, Brighton Terrace on the corner of Wakefield Street, beautiful new bus stop, fully upgraded, tactile pads, new shelter, great big space for people to alight from, except there are no ramps anywhere. There are fig tree roots covering the footpath around it, so people with accessibility issues can’t access a fully DDA compliant bus stop, according to Brisbane City Council.

They are just two of the 18% of Brisbane’s bus stops that are not compliant under Council’s own guidelines, under its access and inclusion plan, under the Disability and Discrimination Act. They’re also two, I’m sure, that this LNP Council has not applied for an exemption for under the DDA, under the Disability and Discrimination Act. I was alarmed to recently find out that Council isn’t proactively seeking any exemptions under that Act for stops that cannot be upgraded, let alone the ones that can be upgraded and they aren’t. They’re only doing it on an as-needs basis, I guess, when a complaint is received from a member of the public that that stop is inaccessible.

So, I find it interesting, Councillor MURPHY’s funny numbers there. He claimed for a couple of weeks there that 90% of bus stops were disability compliant, until we found out through a Question on Notice last week it was, in fact, 82%. He’s saying that 90% of passengers alight at a DDA compliant bus stop, but the simple fact is, on the LNP’s watch, we’ve only reached 82% of our bus stops being accessible when we needed to have reached 100%. So, it’s a fail. He can roll his eyes all he wants over there, Councillor MURPHY, but it is a failure.

The Disability and Discrimination Act required all of those public transport facilities to be upgraded to a standard of which they are compliant. That’s just talking about the bus stop itself, let alone the issues of access, let alone the issues of not enough footpaths leading to and from those bus stops to connect communities, whether they are people who are fully able to step off a bus and walk home or people who rely on other aids for their mobility.

So, it is—you just drive around any suburb in Brisbane, not just mine and not just Councillor STRUNK’s, Councillor KIM’s, Councillor MASSEY’s, Councillor JOHNSTON’s or Councillor GRIFFITHS’. Every single one of your suburbs would have an example where access and inclusion is poor, and it is disappointing to note that not one single LNP Councillor has got up to talk about this in this report. According to them—their silence is deafening. According to them, everything is fine and they accept everything that this regime puts before them.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY, right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks very much, Madam Chair. That was an interesting debate. A few things to cover off on. Firstly, I suppose, let’s start where Councillor CASSIDY finished. I note that he has left the Chamber now, perhaps because Councillor CASSIDY’s own statistics are pretty rubbery. His own understanding of the Disability and Discrimination Act is also pretty rubbery, and he is on rocky ground.

So, what does the Disability and Discrimination Act actually ask us to do? Well, nothing directly. However, it does have disability standards for public transport, and they are the standards that specify that we must have all parts of the public transport system accessible. Council has been working away at this for quite some time. We, in fact, as I mentioned, have 82% of the actual stops DDA compliant and 90% of stops if you count it by passenger. It’s not funny numbers. It’s just a different way of accounting. You can use one of those figures, you can use the other one. Either way, we are well and truly one of the only Councils in the country that has a figure anywhere near approaching completion of our bus stop infrastructure being disability compliant.

I note that Councillor CASSIDY was very critical of us, but he didn’t mention anything about the State Government. I wonder why that would be. Do you know—I’m going to make a prediction here, and Councillors, please hold me to this. Councillor CASSIDY, who has never said a single word about the fact that only one-third of railway stations in this state are disability compliant, will be all about railway stations after October and he’ll be holding the State Government through this Council to account about their lack of doing anything to upgrade railway stations to be disability compliant.

So, we’re at 82%, 90% of passengers. The State is at one-third of railway stations, and yet he would criticise us. So, I’m sure he’ll have a lot to say about the State Government after October, things that we’ve never heard from him before. It’ll be actually a fascinating study to watch and I think will show just what a true politician he is, a true politician, not a community person but a true politician and warrior of the Labor Party.

Now, a couple of other things. Councillor JOHNSTON mentioned that we were way behind schedule in terms of DDA compliance. Rubbish. We are well in front of any other local government in this country when it comes to DDA compliance for our public transport infrastructure. It is actually the State who are well behind, and of course we know why Councillor JOHNSTON wouldn’t mention the State, either, because her best friend Mark Bailey, former Transport Minister for eight years, is responsible for the parlous situation the State is in—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —in respect of DDA compliance.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor MURPHY: I wouldn’t want to be known as his best friend either, Madam Chair, but it is what it is. We know that we actually aren’t required necessarily, under the Act, to have every single stop upgraded, and that is because in many locations, Council would experience what the Act calls hardship, where the cost is far too high or the impacts are far too great for us to upgrade that stop. It might be that it’s in a heritage location and we would have to demolish a heritage structure in order to upgrade it. It might be that the grades are so great that the structure would be unwieldy. It may be that the cost is so high that it’s not economically feasible.

So, we take that on a case-by-case basis. We are never going to reach 100%. That’s the reality. No city will reach 100% because there are always edge cases where it doesn’t make sense. It actually makes sense to relocate the stop, rather than actually upgrade it. Councillor JOHNSTON also made the claim that she’d never once been abused by a BUG group member. Well, she’s never been responsible for anything or made a decision about any bikeway, so of course, naturally, she’s never been abused by a BUG group member. In respect of Cardross Street, she mentioned a lot about the one-metre-wide shared path there and what a disgrace it was. She didn’t mention it was on a QR rail bridge.

She also didn’t mention that she met with Mark Bailey out onsite with Queensland Rail about the rail bridge, and again didn’t mention that he’d been the local Member and the Transport Minister for eight years when nothing was done about that rail bridge. Now, here she is saying, oh well, we’ve got to get something done about this rail bridge. She also didn’t mention that she committed to Queensland Rail at that meeting that Council would provide further feedback to Queensland Rail, so the letter from the CEO of Queensland Rail, Kat Stapleton, that said that Councillor JOHNSTON was at a meeting where she has apparently moonlighted as a Council officer and said that she would get back to Queensland Rail on behalf of Council.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: So, no Council officer was even at the meeting, Chair, so quite extraordinary claims from Councillor JOHNSTON.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of misrepresentation, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: First point of order, claim to be misrepresented. Yes, thank you. With respect to the first one, look, it’s pretty hard to speak on an issue when Councillor MURPHY completely misrepresents you by making up juvenile statements like Mark Bailey is my best friend.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Madam Chair. Are we going to get another speech here or is it just going to be—

Chair: Councillor—thank you, Councillor—

Councillor MURPHY: —you know, misrepresentation? Because it sounds like—

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

Councillor JOHNSTON, your other point of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just to conclude that, Madam Chairman, that is a distinct misrepresentation of my comments on that item that we were debating, which was about the Cardross Street Bridge. Thank you.

The second point of order, I am not quite sure what Councillor MURPHY thinks he knows, but yes, I have meetings with my State Member and Council officers to discuss projects in my local area to try and progress them, like every other Councillors does in this ward.

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

**Clause A put**

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

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

**Clause B put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 15 - Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, 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 Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Danita Parry (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Lucy Collier, Julia Dixon and Emily Kim.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BUS STOP UPGRADES PROGRAM

**116/2024-25**

1. The Program Director, Program Management, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on Council’s Bus Stop Upgrades Program (BSUP). She provided the information below.

2. The BSUP aligns with Council’s *Brisbane Vision 2031* and *Transport Plan* *for Brisbane – Strategic Directions,* as well as an ongoing commitment to legislative requirements set out in the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002*. Council services approximately 190,000 trips daily and have an emphasis on delivering accessibility and amenity upgrades to bus stops to fulfil customer requests. To support Brisbane’s New Bus Network, new bus stops have been constructed and approximately 82% of existing stops have recently been upgraded, allowing more than 90% of patrons to board from stops compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA).

3. Council prioritises bus stops for upgrades based on the following framework:

- daily patronage and level of service to the community

- vulnerable user patronage and DDA compliance

- amenity requests

- proximity to community facilities.

4. Challenges for updating the network include increasing complexities in underground utilities encountered closer to the surface, steeper cross fall gradients which require complex designs and work, limited verge space which involves pedestrian deviations during construction and environmental restrictions such as shallow roots or tree removals. While the BSUP is delivered in-house by Council, external industry pressures and construction and material cost increases have impacted delivery. The Committee was shown graphs highlighting the challenges associated with the cost of key construction inputs and the historical average of cost per stop.

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

6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL SAFE CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE CARDROSS STREET BRIDGE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF CARDROSS STREET AND FAIRFIELD ROAD, YERONGA

**137/220/594/301 and 137/220/594/305**

**117/2024-25**

7. Two petitions requesting Council install safe cycling infrastructure on the Cardross Street bridge located at the intersection of Cardross Street and Fairfield Road, Yeronga, were received during the Election Recess 2024 and presented to the meeting of Council held on 23 April 2024 by Councillor Steve Griffiths on behalf of Councillor Nicole Johnston, respectively, and received.

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

9. The petitions contain a total of 160 signatures. The first petition (137/220/594/301) contains 155 signatures, of which 86 live in Tennyson Ward, 67 live in other wards across the City of Brisbane and two live outside of the City of Brisbane. The second petition (137/220/594/305) contains five signatures, of which four live in Tennyson Ward and one lives in another ward in the City of Brisbane.

10. The Cardross Street bridge is a rail overpass which is owned by Queensland Rail (QR), connecting Cardross Street to Fairfield Road. Cardross Street also connects to School Road, Yeronga, both of which are classified as district roads in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) road hierarchy, providing a connection between Ipswich and Fairfield Roads. District roads facilitate the movement of people and goods to and through suburbs, including buses and heavy vehicles. Cardross Street is recognised as a secondary cycle route on the draft Bicycle network overlay as part of Amendment 1B in City Plan. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

11. The petitioners’ request for Council to install safe cycling infrastructure on the Cardross Street bridge is noted. Council is not able to install a bicycle head start storage area (bike box) on Cardross Street as there is insufficient room to provide safe entry to the bike box when vehicles are stopped at the traffic lights. Installation of a bike box would put the onus on cyclists to filter safely to the front of the queue before left-turning vehicles get a green light, which poses a safety risk. Council has investigated modifying the line markings to provide additional space for a bike lane and bike box, however, there is insufficient room to accommodate these changes due to the road space needed for buses and trucks to turn into Cardross Street. In addition, in ground vehicle detectors would be required to be moved back, which is not possible due to the bridge structure. In-ground vehicle detectors need to be used at this site as it coordinates with other intersections along Fairfield Road and the use of thermal detectors solely would not allow for suitable coordination.

12. There is currently a thermal detector installed to detect bicycles on the Cardross Street approach to Fairfield Road, which triggers the signal phase for cyclists. A review of the detector shows it is currently operating as intended and there have been no recent faults reported to Council. To further reduce the risk of missed bicycle detections, in mid-2024 Council installed an additional detector unit at the location. Missed detections can be reported to Council’s 24-hour Contact Centre on 3403 8888 for expedited attendance by Council’s traffic signal maintenance technicians.

13. Council acknowledges active transport connectivity could be improved at the location, however as outlined above, possible improvements are limited by the existing rail bridge infrastructure. Council has a long-term plan to improve the Cardross Street connection over the railway line to Fairfield Road. It should be noted that any road widening project on Cardross Street would require significant modification or replacement of the existing QR bridge structure.

14. Consultation with QR, as the manager of the rail corridor land, would be required to ensure that any future works are consistent with new standards and/or planned upgrades to the rail corridor. As such, Council has written to QR to advise of the petitioners’ concerns and request information on any future plans to renew or upgrade the bridge, as this will inform Council’s future planning. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows a copy of the letter to QR.

15. The planning, design and construction of large traffic bridges is a very expensive undertaking and, in this case, would require substantial financial support from the Queensland Government. It is noted that if QR requires increased clearances, that this would incur significant financial costs and engineering constraints, as well as potential significant impacts to adjoining properties.

16. At this time, there is no funding and/or timeframe to widen the Cardross Street bridge for general traffic and/or active travel movements. There is a high demand for road network improvements throughout Brisbane and consideration for funding of specific proposals are subject to an assessment of their priority relative to other similar citywide projects. This ensures that Council’s resources are directed to streets and areas most in need of such traffic management works, including those that offer the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity to the wider community.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

18. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

19. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Lucy Collier and Emily Kim dissenting.

20. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition References:** 137/220/594/301 and 137/220/594/305

Thank you for your petitions requesting Council install safe cycling infrastructure on the Cardross Street bridge located at the intersection of Cardross Street and Fairfield Road, Yeronga.

Your request for Council to install safe cycling infrastructure on the Cardross Street bridge is noted. Council is not able to install a bicycle head start storage area (bike box) on Cardross Street as there is insufficient room to provide safe entry to the bike box when vehicles are stopped at the traffic lights. Installation of a bike box would put the onus on cyclists to filter safely to the front of the queue before left-turning vehicles get a green light, which poses a safety risk. Council has investigated modifying the line markings to provide additional space for a bike lane and bike box, however, there is insufficient room to accommodate these changes due to the road space needed for buses and trucks to turn into Cardross Street. In addition, in ground vehicle detectors would be required to be moved back, which is not possible due to the bridge structure. In-ground vehicle detectors need to be used at this site as it coordinates with other intersections along Fairfield Road, and the use of thermal detectors solely would not allow for suitable coordination.

There is currently a thermal detector installed to detect bicycles on the Cardross Street approach to Fairfield Road, which triggers the signal phase for cyclists. A review of the detector shows it is currently operating as intended and there have been no recent faults reported to Council. To further reduce the risk of missed bicycle detections, in mid-June, Council install an additional detector unit at the location. Missed detections can be reported to Council’s 24-hour Contact Centre on 3403 8888 for expedited attendance by Council’s traffic signal maintenance technicians.

Council acknowledges active transport connectivity could be improved at the location, however as outlined above, possible improvements are limited by the existing rail bridge infrastructure. Council has a long-term plan to improve the Cardross Street connection over the railway line to Fairfield Road. It should be noted that any road widening project on Cardross Street would require significant modification or replacement of the existing Queensland Rail (QR) bridge structure.

Consultation with QR, as the manager of the rail corridor land, would be required to ensure that any future works are consistent with new standards and/or planned upgrades to the rail corridor. As such, Council has written to QR to advise of your concerns and request information on any future plans to renew or upgrade the bridge, as this will inform Council’s future planning.

The planning, design and construction of large traffic bridges is a very expensive undertaking and, in this case, would require substantial financial support from the Queensland Government. It is noted that if QR requires increased clearances, that this would incur significant financial costs and engineering constraints, as well as potential significant impacts to adjoining properties.

At this time, there is no funding and/or timeframe to widen the Cardross Street bridge for general traffic and/or active travel movements. There is a high demand for road network improvements throughout Brisbane and consideration for funding of specific proposals are subject to an assessment of their priority relative to other similar citywide projects. This ensures that Council’s resources are directed to streets and areas most in need of such traffic management works, including those that offer the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity to the wider community.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Thomas Thai, Senior Transport Planner, Public and Active Transport Planning, Policy Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3403 3424.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: While you’re resuming your seats, I’ll just acknowledge that we have some guests in the gallery. We have the Runcorn Rockets, two teams, I believe, and they are headed to our sister city, Kaohsiung in Taiwan, to play basketball, so we wish you all the very best. Thank you for joining us today.

We’ll now move to Infrastructure.

Councillor WINES.

### 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 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. Can I thank Councillor TOOMEY for his enthusiasm, but also recognise the Runcorn Rockets? I wish them all the best on their tour.

Last week’s Committee heard the ordinary quarterly report from the major projects planning team, who are a constituent team of TPO. We heard from our new manager Bridget, who has taken over from long-serving manager, Jamie. The report gave us an update on their work ensuring that the major projects in and around our city had as limited effect on the conduct of our transport system as possible. I found it, as I always do, an interesting and informative update, and one I look forward to again in the next session.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Listen, just briefly, I asked a question during the presentation in regards to the Metro and the tunnel, and I know the Chair has said that that’s not something that he can answer or the presenters can answer. That comes under Transport, I think it was. So, I would have hoped that maybe the Infrastructure Chairman would have maybe covered off on that during his talk. Maybe he can do that in his finish, but if he can’t, maybe the Chair of Transport can get up and address that issue, as well. Is he in the Chamber? Oh, he’s about to leave the Chamber. No, he’s not. Anyway, no, he’s about to give some information to the Infrastructure Chair, which would be great. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I’d like to speak in regards to the Queen’s Wharf contained in the Infrastructure Committee. This report notes the opening of the Neville Bonner Bridge and the Queen’s Wharf. If you’re wandering over the newly opened Neville Bonner Bridge to the Queen’s Wharf, please take a moment of reflection. The Queen’s Wharf’s website claims it now controls more than 26 hectares across land and water, 26 hectares of our prime inner-city real estate and river, gifted to a consortium. Fifty percent owned by disgraced Star Entertainment that was found unsuitable to operate a casino in New South Wales just a few days ago due to a massive money laundering and fraud.

To be clear, as the *Sydney Morning Herald* has reported, Star Entertainment has been enabling suspected money laundering, organised crime, large-scale fraud, and foreign interference within the Australian casinos. The casino was given two years to change its culture after the money laundering and fraud was revealed. The New South Wales Independent Casino Commission’s Bell Report, released just last Friday, concluded it had failed. As the ABC report, Star Entertainment has a culture found to be rotten to the core. Additionally, in Queensland, Star Entertainment operators of Brisbane’s casino pleaded guilty to 11 charges under the *Casino Control Act 1982* in August last year.

Star Entertainment Group has just, in the last two days, been suspended from trading on the Australian Stock Exchange after it failed to post financial results, yet the consortium that is 50% owned by Star Entertainment gets to open up a brand-new casino and hotels in Queensland on prime public land gifted to them. We are talking about Queen’s Wharf, which now is thoroughly linked to the corporate criminal behaviour, but is also a display of privilege and consumption of the very wealthy at its worst. This consortium, which includes Star Entertainment, suspected corporate criminals, were given 26 hectares, 10% of—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor CHONG WAH: —the inner city for a casino aimed—

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I know that Councillor CHONG WAH is very new in this place, but she needs to recognise that there is no privilege and she is sailing very close to the wind on not just imputing motive, but actually defamation.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR, and yes

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: I’m speaking, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Oh, sorry.

Chair: Councillor CHONG WAH, I do remind you that there is no privilege in this Chamber.

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Just clarity on—the DEPUTY MAYOR said defamation. Defamation from whom?

Chair: That’s not a point of order. I do not uphold that point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

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

Thank you. Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Ten per cent of inner city for a casino aimed at luring high rollers with insulting wealth from across the world, the kind of high rollers at the heart of the Star Casino extensive money laundering. This development will include Brisbane’s largest hotel ballroom with 1,500 seats, four luxury hotels with 1,000 hotel rooms. It will also have 2,500 gaming machines. Most of these gaming machines will, of course, be sucking people dry that are not wealthy, but actually just addicted to the dopamine generated by the machine’s lights and sounds. With this Schrinner Council, I am sure that Queen’s Wharf is another wonderful example of public or private partnership that this LORD MAYOR is spruiking for a rehabilitated Mt Coot-tha Quarry.

Coincidentally, the Mt Coot-tha Quarry is also 26 hectares, exactly the same amount as the 26 hectares of land and river that has been given to the consortium that now controls Queen’s Wharf. I know the LORD MAYOR is looking for private developers for the Mt Coot-tha Quarry site. I hear that Star Entertainment may be looking for—

Chair: Councillor, can you please stick to what is actually in the report, please?

Councillor CHONG WAH: I hear that Star Entertainment may be looking for a new casino location when they’re kicked out of New South Wales, and that they have been so warmly welcomed in Brisbane. Through the Chair, could the LORD MAYOR confirm there are no current negotiations with Star Entertainment for another casino in Mt Coot-tha?

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Oh, Madam Chair, I just have to make a very quick contribution on this one, and of course, I have to remind the Chamber that when it comes to gambling, the single biggest contributor to any political party in Queensland is professional gambler, Duncan Turpie, who donated $472,088 to the Greens, according to Electoral Commission of Queensland disclosures. The Greens, on one side of their face—

Councillor CHONG WAH: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —take enormous amounts of money from professional gamblers.

Chair: Point of order. One moment, please, Councillor.

Councillor MURPHY: On another side of their face—

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, just one moment, please.

Councillor MASSEY, point of order.

Councillor MASSEY: Just a question for clarity. We’ve often been told to speak to the report. I don’t believe—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I don’t believe it’s mentioned in the report. Queen’s Wharf.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, I do—

Councillor MASSEY: I’m just asking. I’m just asking for—

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, no.

Councillor MASSEY: I’m just asking.

Chair: I’ll give you my ruling. I do not uphold your point of order. It does raise the casino. We’re talking about the casinos, et cetera. Thank you very much. Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, again, Madam Chair, I just wanted to note that an inner city project is Star Casino. It was covered off well by Councillor CHONG WAH in her five minutes. One of the casinos that has put a lot of money into Greens’ coffers is the casino in Hobart in which Duncan Turpie made a lot of money because he was a professional gambler. He made that money in a casino. He then put that money in his bank account, then he put it in the Greens’ bank account and they accepted almost half a million dollars from him. So, one side of the face, gambling bad, and when we’re getting money from professional gambling, gambling fine, gambling good. No problem. So, I just wanted to make that point, Madam Chair, because I know it doesn’t really relate to this report, but a debate is a debate, and in this Chamber, I think it’s important that we can have that free exchange of ideas respectfully.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair, and just to tie that off, I agree with Councillor MURPHY about debate. I’ve said that before, and I think, you know, asking for a ruling, but also accepting that debate is a wonderful thing and should be important in this Chamber. It’s a shame that sometimes debate can be very one-sided with the mega majority. Nonetheless, here we are. Thanks, Chair.

I rise to speak on the Infrastructure Committee report. Obviously, there’s a lot going on and, with the limited time that we have now, five minutes, I’ll focus particularly on just a couple of things because I want to make sure that I’m able to speak on them. The Kangaroo Point Green Bridge will be essential in enabling accessibility for Kangaroo Point residents. It’s also a positive addition as an active transport route, particularly for residents from East Brisbane and beyond. The bridge will also serve as an entry point for people across Brisbane to access Kangaroo Point, which is currently the densest suburb in Brisbane and suffers from a chronic shortage of efficient, frequent public transport.

I know a lot of hope has been placed on this bridge by Brisbane City Council Administration and the ALP State Government to kind of alleviate this chronic shortage of frequent and official public transport. I know this because in my advocacy, my grassroots, local advocacy—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Yes, I’ll take that interjection, that laugh from the DEPUTY MAYOR. For buses and CityCats in Kangaroo Point to both levels of government, they have both told me in my advocacy, we are waiting to see what happens when the green bridge opens. One thing is clear, and I think anyone with common sense would know before the green bridge opens, is that it is not an all-encompassing solution. We know not everyone will have the spare 40 minutes to an hour—that’s how long it will approximately take to walk across the bridge back and forth—because life happens. There are household delays. Kids will need to be dropped off at school. We know that it will rain sometimes, and on other days, it will be stinking hot, but Council must deliver the public transport that Kangaroo Point needs to complement the green bridge.

What this can mean is people can use the green bridge in the morning to walk to the city and catch a ferry or a bus home, or vice versa. This is important. We need the public transport for the densest suburb of Kangaroo Point to be a part of what is delivered with the green bridge, and I think this is super important. To go on about something that Councillor MURPHY—through you, Chair—mentioned earlier today, the last week of winter had temperatures of over 30 degrees. That’s a fair point from Councillor MURPHY. It really did—I mean, today is the third day of spring and it was also over 30 degrees.

So, what we have here is the fact that not everyone can walk over this green bridge, but most importantly than that, that heat is a huge issue for what will be the opening of Victoria Bridge. It continues to be incredible and pretty unbelievable that Victoria Bridge will open soon for pedestrians, bike users and scooter users without any shade. With Queensland being the capital for skin cancer, where is our obligation for care and respect for residents to provide sun safety?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I’ll take that interjection for Councillor STRUNK, and same for their bus stop. Does this care for residents and is only decided by the LNP Administration when it thinks that it’s useful politically? Victoria Bridge needs shade. The Council should be implementing this work and, from what I understand, most of the work to actually reinforce the bridge to include the shade has actually been delivered. The project was announced as delayed when Council cut its budget by a tenth in November 2023, and yet here we are, a new budget and still no shade for the bridge. This is unacceptable. We have an obligation, as has been mentioned multiple times today, for our residents.

Chair: Further speakers?

No further speakers.

Councillor WINES?

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. Just in response to a couple of comments there, can I begin by apologising to Councillor STRUNK and say I sincerely can’t recall his questions, but if he provides them to me in writing, I will get him an answer.

On the other contributions, Councillor CHONG WAH has made a number of impassioned pleas in this place saying that the Green Party loves the pedestrian bridges, and when will they ever criticise them? Well, there was Councillor MASSEY, criticising them at length, saying that they were kind of hot and no one’s going to use them.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Misrepresentation.

Chair: I note your—

Councillor WINES: No matter how colourfully she says the word misrepresentation—

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: —it is true. That’s exactly what she just did. She stood in this place and said, oh, it’s a bit hot. People aren’t going to use it. They’d rather sit in an air-conditioned bus. This is what we mean. They are a party who come into this place and tell the public that all their wildest dreams will come true, and they come in—that’s what they’re saying to the public. They come in here and fight against it. That’s the truth, and there’s few better examples than Councillor MASSEY just now saying that that bridge will not be popular in Kangaroo Point, which makes no sense.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order. Misrepresentation.

Chair: I note your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: It is 100% what she said, and she is welcome to use a little addendum speeches after I’m finished to try and correct me, but she said in this place that she did not support the bridge, that Councillor MASSEY did not support the bridge, and that her residents will not use it. That is the same sort of attitude that we see when you see people like retired Councillor Sriranganathan fighting the West End bridges, fighting the landing pads where you need these bridges to be. I think Councillor CHONG WAH should really take some time and work out the people that she’s actually associated herself with because she clearly—when I hear her speeches—hear her read her speeches, she’s clearly got a very clear set in her head that Liberal bad, Green virtuous. That’s very much her and it’s very difficult for her to break out of that, but I would challenge her to consider some of the things that her colleagues have said in the past, say currently, and do today.

Now, one of the things that while listening to Councillor CHONG WAH make a miraculous leap from talking about the State Government’s resort and casino facility that somehow she’s, I think, calling for one in the Mt Coot-tha Quarry—

Chair: Councillor, I do remind you and all Councillors to please refer to Councillors with their proper title.

Councillor WINES: Excuse me. I sincerely apologise. That Councillor CHONG WAH is trying to make some bizarre association, once again another great example of how the Greens will campaign for the renovation of a quarry, but will not actually support any proposal that occurs in that place and will fight it the entire way. Also, I have to remind Councillor CHONG WAH that that casino is very much supported by the State Labor Government, and a State Labor Government who have the publicly stated 100% support of the Green MPs in the State Parliament. So, they have said, the MPs, both Berkman and MacMahon have both said that under no circumstances would they support a Crisafulli Government in a hung Parliament. So that means that, push comes to shove, at the end of the day, the Greens back that casino. One hundred percent they back Miles, they back that casino. That is the truth.

Once again, I don’t think Councillor CHONG WAH quite understands who she signed up with because that is 100% how it works, but I must say, perhaps I’m giving Councillor CHONG WAH too much of the benefit of the doubt because when I listened to her speech, I couldn’t tell if she was critical of Queen’s Wharf or jealous she wasn’t in on it, because it was very difficult to decipher where she actually was. As, quite rightly, Councillor MURPHY points out, the Green Party is very, very keen on the support of professional gamblers.

A point that was left out by Councillor MURPHY is that winnings by professional gamblers have to come from the losers. There is no—in a casino, there is no magic pot of money out the back. The money that the professional gamblers that support the Green Party—that money comes from the people who do not win at the casino, the people who have the dopamine addiction that Councillor CHONG WAH, I suppose, was critical of, but again, that dopamine addiction she was criticising funds her and the other campaigns for the Green Party, and she should not forget that.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, your two points of misrepresentation.

Councillor MASSEY: Thanks. I mean, I’ll quote this twice, so this is what I said earlier. “The Kangaroo Bridge will be essential, enabling access for Kangaroo Point residents. It’s also a positive addition as an active transport route, particularly for residents from East Brisbane and beyond.” That doesn’t sound like I was rejecting it, does it? That’s my first point of order.

Chair: You had two.

Councillor MASSEY: My second—I just wanted to do a dramatic pause. We’re all having a laugh, aren’t we? It was dramatic pause, right? My second point of order—and again, I will quote. We know that not everyone will have the spare 40 minutes because life happens, and delivering public transport will complement the green bridge and enable other access routes. That’s what I said.

Chair: 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 Infrastructure Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – INNER CITY PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**118/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Major Projects Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on construction projects within the inner city. She provided the information below.

2. The following major construction projects are currently underway in the inner city:

- Queen’s Wharf Brisbane (QWB)

- Cross River Rail (CRR)

- Brisbane Metro

- Kangaroo Point Bridge.

These projects have various interfaces with one another which requires coordination from Major Projects Planning particularly in relation to road closures and traffic management.

3. QWB will open progressively from August 2024 with the following opening on 29 August 2024:

- Neville Bonner Bridge

- William Street between Elizabeth and Alice Streets

- The Star Brisbane (hotel, casino and Sky Deck)

- Miller Park.

Riverline Park will be closed for Riverfire on 31 August 2024 and will open to the public on 3 September 2024. The Committee was provided with an overview of QWB vehicle access including car parks, The Star Brisbane *porte-cochère* and taxi pick-up and drop-off points.

4. CRR update.

- Herschel Street Pocket Park detailed design and traffic staging during construction is underway. Kerbside allocation in the Roma Street precinct has been agreed with all stakeholders and includes displacement of police parking in Makerston and Garrick Streets to provide for a kiss and ride zone.

- Work has commenced on the Albert Street green spine between Elizabeth and Charlotte Streets. It is intended that dining permits will be issued to restaurants once the green spine is complete. The asphalt roadway will be replaced with paving and landscaping.

- Moorooka station is still in design finalisation stage. Rocklea station reopened on 8 July 2024 and Dutton Park and Yeerongpilly stations will reopen in late 2024.

- Works have commenced on Salisbury station for site establishment and European Train Control System, a closure date for the station has not been established.

5. Brisbane Metro update.

- Footpath paving is currently being completed on Adelaide Street.

- Asphalting is underway on the southern side of William Street is due to be completed in late August 2024. The northern side of William Street is due to commence in September 2024.

- Tunnelling activities continue beneath Adelaide Street.

- Screen door replacement continues at King George Square which has resulted in the relocation of some bus services to temporary bus stops in William Street and George Street.

- The Victoria Bridge Cycleway will be operational for Riverfire for pedestrian use only. Asphalting of the roadway has commenced and the spiral ramp on the northern side of Victoria Bridge is expected to reopen imminently.

- Works are underway to upgrade the pedestrian gates at the entrance to the South East busway on Melbourne Street.

- Construction has commenced on a permanent bus stop shelter and drivers’ facility on Merivale Street.

- From late August 2024 for up to two weeks, Brisbane Move will undertake road resurfacing works on Melbourne Street between Manning and Merivale Streets.

- All end of trip facilities have been completed or are nearing practical completion, including works at the Metro Depot at Rochedale.

6. Kangaroo Point Bridge update.

- Construction commenced in late 2021 and is progressing with testing and commissioning works underway.

- All eight spans and cable stays of the bridge have now been installed and stressed, and concrete pours for the deck have been completed.

- The shade canopy, solar panels and elevator installation are also underway at the landing at Scott Street, Kangaroo Point. Temporary structures and the tower crane have been removed from the Brisbane River.

- The two dining options at the city landing are also progressing.

- The Main and Deakin Street connection was opened to the public in June 2024 and provides a direct and dedicated access for pedestrians, cyclists and e-mobility users between the bridge landing at Scott Street and the eastern side of the Kangaroo Point peninsula, as well as ongoing travel to and from the eastern suburbs.

- Construction of the signalised pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Edward and Alice Streets has also been completed and realigned towards the bridge. Footpath pavers have been reinstated on both sides of Edward Street and new landscaping has been installed.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**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 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Item A was a Committee presentation that provided an update on recent changes to State planning legislation that will have serious implications for Council and, potentially, our communities. Three changes were discussed, and these included the changes to the planning regulation for rooming accommodation, the Housing Availability and Affordability Act, and finally, the multiple legislative changes with regards to the discrimination of sex work businesses.

Regarding rooming accommodation, Council is prohibited from making development assessable if building work is in low density residential or low medium density residential zones, not more than five bedrooms and five occupants, not involving a basement or an underground parking area, not on the local heritage register, and providing landscaping between the building and front boundary with no relevant overlays. As a result, if the proposed dwelling meets the criteria I have outlined, it can be built in more places, especially in low density residential zones.

As local Councillors, we understand local concerns and amenity impacts that these types of developments may and will have. Unfortunately, as these changes were made by the State, there are limited mechanisms for Council to restrict this type of use. Many of the controls that Council previously enjoyed have been removed.

Also discussed during the presentation was the new Housing Availability and Affordability Act which commenced in April. Key changes included the Planning Minister’s powers to direct Council to amend our planning scheme without notice, easement and acquisition powers, and State heritage places cannot be dual listed as a local heritage place. Also included in the Act is the establishment of a State‑facilitated developments pathway. Through this application pathway, the State will assess and declare developments that are predominantly residential and include at least 15% affordable housing. However, what is concerning is there don’t appear to be any assurances that the current settings in City Plan such as zonings, heights, setbacks and landscaping will be adhered to in the approved development. Additionally, the Planning Minister will decide if public notification is required for a State-facilitated development.

Finally, there are no appeal rights for any party, whether they be the applicant, Council, third parties, and specifically the community, following the decision by the Planning Minister. Over the past week, Councillors have received notices that seven sites were being considered for this pathway in the Brisbane Local Government Area, and these included 33 Manning Street, Milton; 70-78 Kraft Road, Pallara; 40-60 Woodvale Crescent and 205A Woogaroo Street, Forest Lake; 30-44 Station Road, Indooroopilly; 612 Lutwyche Road and 53‑57 Lamington Avenue, Lutwyche; 652 New Cleveland Road, Wakerley and 170-178 Logan Road, Woolloongabba.

So, all of these particular applications are currently being considered through this new State-facilitated development pathway, and we might end up with decisions that are quite inconsistent with City Plan. I’d also note that Council has just 15 days to provide any feedback to the State. So, Madam Chair, whilst we support the State’s efforts to fast-track housing, housing in the wrong locations without appropriate community consultation may lead to adverse amenity impacts whilst creating precedence for poor planning outcomes in the future.

Finally, the legislative changes made to decriminalise sex work businesses were also discussed. These changes were effective from 2 August, and the key impacts as a result of these legislative changes include that brothels are no longer a land use term, with the new administrative term sex work business being introduced. A sex work business will be considered as either a shop or a home-based business with a maximum of two workers and two visitors at one time for a home-based business. A sex work business still needs to comply with relevant requirements relating to car parking, hours of operation and scale.

Assessment of home-based businesses is capped at code and not an assessable development. This will result in no longer having public notification needed for these types of businesses, and so they can commence pretty much anywhere in the city. Future amendments to City Plan must not specifically target sex work businesses, and this includes no zoning or locational—

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, your time has expired.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I would like to speak on the Housing Availability and Affordability, Clause A of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report. We saw with Kurilpa TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument) how easy it was for this LNP Council to circumvent the City Plan under the guise of the temporary planning instruments. We also saw how useless it was in actually generating affordable housing or urgently increasing housing supply.

Now that Queensland State Government has decided to go even further and pass this completely autocratic legislation instead of building more social and public housing, many Councils have expressed deep concerns about this legislation, including this City Council in their submission on the bill in October last year. Even this LNP Administration, who are fond of bypassing the planning system, submitted that this legislation represents a significant reduction in local communities’ participation in the planning system.

The Australian LNP and Labor governments at all levels have created the worst rental housing crisis since the Great Depression. So, what do you do when you have successfully created a national crisis? Throw away the whole planning system to allow developers to build anywhere they want, whatever they want, as long as they offer a measly 15% affordable housing, but even the definition of affordable housing in this legislation is vague, without any guarantee they will remain affordable over the long-term. This legislation allows big, wealthy developers whose only interest is to create massive profit margins to completely bypass local planning requirements. These are not the people that are going to provide the type of affordable housing people desperately need.

You know there is something wrong with the legislation when it is warmly welcomed by the Property Council. The Property Council and the State Government would have you believe that these autocratic powers are required to fast track development applications, yet we all know the number one reason for a lack of development is that developers are land banking even more than usual in this inflationary environment. This LNP Council found out with the attempted Kurilpa TLPI that bypassing the planning system doesn’t just translate into increasing the housing supply.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I believe Councillor CHONG WAH is imputing motive by saying bypassing the planning system. You can’t do that, and if she has any evidence of that, she should be taking it to the CCC (Crime and Corruption Commission).

Chair: Again, Councillor CHONG WAH, yes, there is no privilege in this Chamber.

Councillor CHONG WAH: We know that there are currently 60,000 vacant blocks of land in South East Queensland that already have development approvals but are not being built on. A vacancy tax would achieve so much more immediate housing supply than this legislation. The reality right now is that approximately 150,000 households in Queensland have unmet need for social and affordable housing. This legislation and a few greedy developers will not solve that. Over 25,000 households are waiting for truly affordable housing on the Queensland Social Housing Register. This legislation does not even attempt to solve that. There are more than 10,000 homeless people in Brisbane tonight. This legislation and greedy developers who care more about land banking profits will not solve that.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor ALLAN.

We will now put the report 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.

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 – CHANGES TO STATE PLANNING LEGISLATION

**119/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on recent changes to State planning legislation. He provided the information below.

2. The *Planning (Rooming Accommodation) Amendment Regulation 2022* (the Regulation) has amended the *Planning Regulation 2017* with the following changes:

- rooming accommodation (defined as having limited facilities available for private use) is not assessable against *Brisbane City Plan (2014)* (City Plan) if it meets certain criteria and can be built in more places with fewer mechanisms for Council to restrict

- the ability for certain overlays to regulate development for rooming accommodation and dwelling houses has been removed

The changes are valid for a period of three years from commencement of the Regulation.

3. Council is prohibited from making development assessable if building work (not including minor building work) is:

- in Low-density residential or Low-medium residential zones

- not more than five bedrooms and five occupants

- not involving a basement or an underground parking area

- not on the local heritage register

- providing landscaping between the building and front boundary with no relevant overlays.

4. The *Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Act 2024* (the Act) provisions commenced on 26 April 2024 and includes:

- public notice and submission requirements for plan-making

- temporary accepted development

- appeal periods for infrastructure charge notices and change representations

- State facilitated development (SFD)

- new powers to condition affordable housing

- easement and acquisition powers

5. Other key changes to the Act include:

- the Planning Minister’s powers to direct Council to amend City Plan without notice

- the establishment of an SFD process

- new State acquisition powers for development infrastructure

- State heritage places cannot be dual listed as a Local heritage place.

6. The Planning Minister can take urgent action and direct Council to amend City Plan (overriding local consultation and control) as well as direct local governments to amend its planning scheme to protect or give effect to, a State interest. The changes as a result of a Ministerial direction are minor amendments and the Minister may act without consultation.

7. Applicants can apply to the Queensland Government for SFD approval where:

- the proposal is predominantly residential and includes at least 15% affordable housing

- the affordable housing component is a mix of dwelling types or sizes

- the premises is in a residential zone

- the proposal is a priority for the State.

The SFD can be a new proposal, current application or one previously refused by Council or under appeal. Council may be asked for advice or to assess the application. There is no charge to the applicant for an SFD approval.

8. The State will decide if an SFD application will be publicly notified and the duration of the notification period. There are no appeal rights for any party (either the applicant, Council or third party) following the State’s decision. Council can issue infrastructure charges notices but may not be able to charge for any advice or assessment. Where the State conditions the applicant to provide non-trunk infrastructure, applicants may be able to apply for an infrastructure conversion for Council to pay. An SFD approval needs to provide an affordable housing component, however affordable housing is defined three different ways, through:

- SFDs

- Council-assessed developments

- development in Priority Development Areas (assessed by Economic Development Queensland).

9. The State may take land for development infrastructure when the Minister is satisfied that:

- the infrastructure is necessary to facilitate development

- reasonable steps have been taken to get owners’ agreement, unsuccessfully.

The State may create an easement over land if the local government agrees to the terms of the easement.

10. When a site is dual listed as a State and local heritage place, Council cannot:

- include an assessment benchmark about the effect or impact of development on the State heritage place

- consider the effect or impact of the proposed development on State heritage place as a relevant matter when assessing an impact assessable application.

11. The Queensland Law Reform Commission report published in March 2023, recommended legislative changes to the following to ensure sex work businesses are treated the same as other businesses:

*- Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*

*- Justice (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024*

*-* Consequential changes to *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017*.

These changes were effective from 2 August 2024.

12. The decriminalisation of sex work has resulted in the following key changes:

- ‘brothel’ is no longer a land-use term and has been replaced with the new administrative term ‘sex work business’

- a sex work business is either a shop or a home-based business

- the assessment of home-based businesses is capped at code

- a maximum of two workers and two visitors at one time for a home-based business (unless a local planning scheme provides for increased numbers)

- a sex work business still needs to comply with relevant requirements relating to car parking, hours of operation and scale

- future amendments to City Plan must not specifically target sex work businesses

- greater responsibility for Council regarding compliance, enforcement process, safeguards on public health and regulation of advertising devices.

13. A sex work business, when complying with relevant zone and assessment benchmarks, will not require a development application.

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

15. **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 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation was on the Old Windmill Tower located on Wickham Terrace at Spring Hill. The mill was constructed in 1828 and it’s not only Queensland’s oldest standing building, but it’s also the oldest convict-built structure in the state and is now listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. Its main purpose when first established was for grinding grain into flour which provided a reliable food supply for the city. Once milling operations had ceased in 1842, it was converted into an observatory with a time ball installed to provide a central authority for regulating clocks across the city. It wasn’t until 1922 that the mill was placed under trusteeship of the Brisbane City Council.

A fun fact during the presentation, Madam Chair, was that in 1934, the mill became the site of the first television broadcast in Queensland. It was on a screen 11 centimetres wide, about the size of a mobile phone today. The first image seen was that of Mickey Mouse, followed by a picture of then-Hollywood actress Janet Gaynor. The mill has been subject to several restorations and improvements over the years, most notably in 1950 where significant works occurred on the site, including the removal of the cottage and sheds, as well as the re-rendering of the entire structure. Further works, of course, were carried out in 2009 in the lead up to the Q150 celebrations.

We also heard, Madam Chair, about the graffiti conservation project. For over 200 years, the mill has seen many people through with many visitors often leaving handwritten inscriptions on the interior walls of the tower. These inscriptions, which are often referred to as graffiti, were done using lead pencil, ink or chalk so that people recorded their names, their initials, and sometimes a date. The earliest there dates back to 1904. With some of these inscriptions being over 100 years old, Council sought to implement the graffiti conservation project to protect it, as well as assess and document it.

The mill is considered one of Council’s most historic public assets, and currently, the mill can be viewed and explored during Brisbane Open House, which was held earlier this year in July. Council is also currently looking at ways to increase public access whilst ensuring the conservation of its historical significance.

The Committee also noted the Bushland Preservation Levy Report for the financial year ended June 2024, and I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

No further speakers.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Alex Givney, Steve Griffiths and Steven Toomey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Kim Marx (Deputy Chair) and Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – THE WINDMILL TOWER SPRING HILL

**120/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Windmill Tower (the Mill) at Spring Hill. He provided the information below.

2. Constructed in 1828, the Mill is Queensland’s oldest standing building and is one of two remaining convict-built structures in the State. The site has been identified to have local and State heritage values and is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register.

3. The Mill is a circular structure made of rendered stone and brick and is approximately 16 metres in height with a diameter of 8.4 metres at the base, tapering to 4.5 metres at the top. The Mill is considered one of Council’s most significant public assets and Council is currently exploring options to increase public access and appreciation for the Mill, whilst ensuring the conservation of its historical significance.

4. From 1828 to 1842, the Mill served as a facility for grinding grain into flour, which provided a reliable food supply for Brisbane’s population. After its milling operations ceased in 1842, the Mill risked destruction. However, its landmark and historical qualities precluded this from happening. In 1861 it was converted into a public observatory and had a time ball installed to provide a central authority for regulating clocks across the city. The site was placed under the trusteeship of Council in 1922.

5. Throughout the years, efforts were made to preserve the Mill and improve its condition. Significant restoration work was carried out in 1950, which involved the removal of a cottage and sheds on the site, as well as the re-rendering of the entire structure. In 2009, Council completed additional restoration work on the Mill, with the intention of making the tower publicly accessible and to allow visitors to experience the view from its observation platform.

6. Council is working to maintain and preserve the Mill through a number of measures, including the development of a cyclical maintenance plan to address various risks to the Mill, including water ingress, soil movement, termites and wilful damage. The plan involves corrective, scheduled and emergency maintenance to meet Council’s heritage and trustee obligations, as well as improving the building’s longevity, appearance and function.

7. Over the past two centuries, visitors of the Mill have left handwritten inscriptions on the interior walls and staircase of the tower. With some of the markings being over a century old, the graffiti conservation project has been implemented by Council to protect, assess, manage and document the historical graffiti found throughout the structure. The project also involved archival documentation and historical significance assessments in line with the Queensland Government’s *Guideline:* *Archival Recording of Heritage Places.*

8. Council is continuing to explore ways to preserve the Mill whilst supporting visitor engagement. After consideration of practicality, maintenance, quality of experience, conservation effectiveness and heritage impact, three options have been identified for supporting the preservation of the Mill:

- acrylic shields fixed over graffiti to avoid contact and protect the graffiti from damage

- graphic floor markings to indicate a pathway and encourage visitors to keep a safe distance from the graffiti

- static interpretive signage to provide visitors with information about the significance of the graffiti and its connection to the Mill.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**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 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. Last week, we had a wonderful presentation by our waste and resource recovery team on batteries and household waste. Improper battery disposal is an issue impacting not only the Brisbane City Council, but the entire waste industry. Chair, many residents are unaware of the dangers of placing batteries in household bins which can lead to fires and explosions, also known as hot loads. With the rise in electronic devices like vapes, e-scooters and e-bikes, it’s important more than ever to ensure that batteries are disposed of safely.

Our message is very simple. Batteries do not belong in bins. Whether it’s an AA battery or a car battery, they need to be kept separate from the household waste and taken to one of our Council resource recovery centres or disposed at many of the outlets where you can put household batteries, at Woolworths or Aldi or Coles, easy places for you to dispose of these batteries. Over the past five years, we have seen 140 rubbish fires, many triggered by batteries and other flammable materials that should never have been placed in a household bin.

The Schrinner Council offers free battery recycling all year round at our resource recovery centres, and I might also note that they allow vapes now to be disposed of at our resource recovery centres. We also run household hazardous waste days throughout the year, where residents can safely dispose of batteries, chemicals and other dangerous items. The next household hazardous waste day is actually coming up on 7 September, from 7:30am ‘til 3:30pm at Chandler resource recovery centre. This is all part of our Towards Zero Waste strategy and we are looking for ways to partner with the community and to look at other ways of recycling batteries.

Now, Madam Chair, that leads me to acknowledging a young lad that has been in the Chamber here for the last couple of hours, a young man named Riley Hughes who is in Grade 10 at Marist College. Now, this young man is a bit of a waste warrior and is starting his own e-waste and battery recycling at his school. So, it’s wonderful to have you here and thank you for being part of the Chamber today. I look forward to working with other young people like this to solve the massive problem of battery waste recovery. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

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, Emily Kim and Steven Toomey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BATTERIES AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE

**121/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Waste and Resource Recovery Services, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of batteries and household waste. He provided the information below.

2. Loose and contained batteries present a significant risk if not disposed of correctly. The impact is citywide and can range from smoke or sparks to projectile objects and fires. Damage to vehicles, staff, contractors, residents and emergency services are risks to Council.

3. The Committee was shown a video of a battery igniting in the general waste pit at the resource recovery centre at Chandler.

4. Council hosts free household hazardous waste drop-off days at the four resource recovery centres at Chandler, Ferny Grove, Nudgee, and Willawong where residents can safely dispose of products that can be corrosive, flammable, explosive, toxic or poisonous.

5. Council is improving residents’ awareness of products that contain batteries and correct disposal options. Education and communication will focus on the ease of separating waste items at home and encourage residents to take items containing batteries for drop-off. Council’s information to residents is available via:

- Council’s website

- Council’s Brisbane Bin and Recycling app

- Council’s Contact Centre

- proactive media

- *Living in Brisbane* and other Council channels.

Council is also engaging with the community through:

- Towards Zero Waste Education Centre

- environment centres’ school learning program and contractors such as EcoMarines

- Waste Smart Kindy program.

6. Residents should not place batteries or hazardous materials into any household bins. Batteries, e-waste and paint can be recycled at all of Council’s resource recovery centres. Residents and visitors of Moreton Island / Mulgumpin are also able to dispose of batteries at the three transfer stations within the townships of Bulwer, Cowan Cowan and Kooringal as well as at the Tangalooma Wrecks and Comboyuro Point.

7. Investigations are currently underway for batteries to form part of Council’s Towards Zero Waste strategy’s Community Recycling Hubs initiative in an effort to reduce the number of incidents and potential harm to workers, staff and contractors that help to make our city clean.

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: The report is carried.

Councillor ATWOOD, 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 Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 27 September 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you. Before I move to the Committee report, I’d like to congratulate three incredible Brisbane City Council staff members. Duncan Lynch, James Henderson and Mia Hodges from our award-winning contact centre who were finalists at the Auscontact Queensland Awards on Friday night. We are always so proud of our incredible contact centre. Their dedication to Brisbane is an inspiration and we are so fortunate to have such a passionate team in our contact centre. James Henderson was a finalist for the Business Analyst Reporting Professional of the Year. Mia Hodges was a finalist for Customer Contact Professional of the Year, and a very special congratulations to Duncan Lynch, who was awarded Operational Support Officer of the Year for Queensland. Such a huge achievement. As the category winner, Duncan will now represent Brisbane City Council at the National Awards in November. But to the Committee report, we had a wonderful presentation from Jackie Ryan, the Artistic Director of the Brisbane Writers Festival. This year’s event was held from 30 May to 2 June and it hosted 190 artists including 76 Queensland authors.

We are so proud to support the Brisbane Writers Festival. It’s great to see it go from strength to strength every year, and 2024 was no exception. I enjoyed attending the opening ceremony this year with Jackie and despite a reduction in the duration from five to four days, the Brisbane Writers Festival achieved record ticket sales this year, with more than 30,000 people attending the 150 sessions. I’d like to thank Jackie and her team for the incredible work they do each year in organising the Brisbane Writers Festival, and I can’t wait to see what they have in store for us in 2025. Thank you.

Chair: Any further speakers?

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 Lisa Atwood (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Seal Chong Wah, Alex Givney, Charles Strunk and Penny Wolff.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL

**122/2024-25**

1. The Artistic Director, Brisbane Writers Festival (the Festival), attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Festival. She provided the information below.

2. The Festival was held from 30 May to 2 June 2024 and hosted 190 artists, including 75 Queensland‑based authors. Despite a reduction in the duration of the event from five days to four, the Festival achieved record sales, with 15,500 tickets issued, 30,500 attendees and 150 sessions.

3. The Festival’s First Nations programming featured a range of topics and artists, including Melissa Lucashenko, an Aboriginal author, who delivered a keynote speech at the official opening event.

4. The Festival catered to a wide range of literary interests and showcased authors from various genres and backgrounds, including:

- Julia Baird

- Matthew Condon

- Emily O’Grady

- Bryan Brown

- Megan Hess

- Kate Ceberano

- Suzie Miller

- Samuel Watson

- Katy Hessel.

5. The Marion Taylor Gala was a significant event during the Festival and included a keynote speech by Louise Doughty, an English novelist and screenwriter. The Festival also featured conversations with international authors, including Michael Connelly, Bonnie Garmus, Samantha Shannon and Naomi Novik. Authors from the Singaporean literary charity, Sing Lit Station, were also highlighted across the program.

6. The Festival catered to younger audiences through a series youth programs. Word Play is an education program for school students and was held at the State Library of Queensland as part of the Festival. More than 2,800 students from schools across Brisbane participated in the program, which involved interactive sessions linked to the curriculum and featured a range of authors including Morris Gleitzman, Remy Lai, Katrina Nannestad, Peter Carnavas and Tristan Bancks. The Love YA program was presented in partnership with Council libraries and Griffith University and included panel discussions about various aspects of fictional writing. The Families program was tailored towards parents and children under the age of 12 and featured Brisbane-based picture book authors Megan Daley and Trent Jamieson.

7. In addition to the main program held from 30 May to 2 June 2024, the Festival also holds a range of out‑of‑season events throughout in the year. Upcoming events will feature Australian authors Liane Moriarty and Tim Winton.

8. The Festival received a significant amount of positive feedback from attendees, with 91% expressing their likelihood to recommend the Festival to others and 80% showing interest in returning for the 2025 festival.

9. The Festival presents several future partnership opportunities, including:

- continued involvement in the cultural and festival landscape

- events and sponsorship

- association with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- advertising and program distribution

- collaborations with external venues.

10. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Deputy Chair thanked the Artistic Director for her informative update.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, Finance and City Governance Committee.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven HUANG, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 27 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. Before I get to the report, I wanted to take the opportunity to address a couple of matters to Councillors in the Chamber, but unfortunately I see there are a few missing. So, hopefully they will have a look at the minutes. So, regarding the debate earlier this afternoon on wards and newsletters, I thought it was important to just set that record straight, because the official guideline on this, Madam Chair, is very clear. Councillor MASSEY has said that Councillor Support approved the content of the newsletter in the Chamber today, and in the *Australian* today, a Green spokesman said it was authorised by Council officers.

I would welcome Councillor MASSEY tabling evidence of this during General Business for all Councillors to see, if this is actually the case. Councillor Support is called Councillor Support for a reason. They provide support, advice and guidance. What this team does before payments are processed or a purchase order is processed and issued is to ensure all documents including artwork are provided. This process is written into the guideline and it’s what any ratepayer would rightfully expect. The Councillor Support team always strives to provide help and support. During the payment or reimbursement process, they may seek to provide feedback or point things out to Councillors and our ward staff to keep us on the straight and narrow, and we certainly thank them for that.

However, as I have said, and as the guideline makes clear, responsibility lies with the Councillor to ensure that they comply and meet resident expectations. So, again, if Councillor MASSEY maintains the content that’s being discussed today was approved and authorised by Councillor Support, then can she table that evidence and advice? Because Councillor MASSEY was very confusingly suggesting that she was censored, but simultaneously she says Council approved the content of the newsletter. So, which one is it, Madam Chair?

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: That’s a misrepresentation.

Chair: I note your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: So, if Councillor MASSEY wants to publish inflammatory material, she should not be outraged when it’s called out or when she has to defend it. It is completely fair—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, another misrepresentation.

Chair: Point of order. I note your misrepresentation.

Councillor.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: It is completely fair for us to question an excessive payment to an activist for nearly $3,000 for 28 hours of work at an average of 27 words per minute, and it is incumbent on the Administration as leaders of our City to call out a Councillor and a party who seek to fan the flames of division and anti-Semitism. Now to another matter just briefly. In the E&C debate, Councillor CASSIDY again made some quite embarrassing innuendo around depreciation and our financial statements, and suggested that I hadn’t addressed it. He may not have been listening when I explicitly addressed it last week, so I’ll say it again. There are clear rules under the accounting standards as to how we handle depreciation, and we’re required to annually review the replacement value and the term of the useful life of our assets. This is a process which is overseen vigorously and vigorously reviewed by the Queensland Audit Office.

Costs are rising, and it should not be surprising to anyone that the replacement value of assets has gone up. Ultimately, changes in depreciation are recognised in the financial statements, and are just part and parcel of running a large organisation and a large Council. Councillor CASSIDY’s intimations that it’s being done with some kind of ulterior motive is just completely wrong. I found it extraordinary that in debating the final operational plan report for the past 12 months last week, all they had to talk about was non-cash accounting treatments. If depreciation was their main concern, maybe things aren’t so bad out in the suburbs, Madam Chair, contrary to what they say in this place week in and week out. Briefly on the Committee presentation, it was about Financial Assistance Grants. It was a great presentation, and I want to thank everyone, especially—

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Councillor MASSEY, your points of misrepresentation.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you. The first point of order for the misrepresentation is my statement was earlier today that the actions of the Council using this emergency motion are censorship. That’s what I said. I didn’t say that they were censoring—well, yes, the censorship of the motion. The second point of order is that I am not outraged at all. I’m not surprised that this LNP Council would do this, and conflate Zionism with anti-Semitism.

Chair: We will now put the report to the vote.

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 and Danita Parry.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

**123/2024-25**

1. The Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Financial Assistance Grant (the Grant). He provided the information below.

2. The Australian Government provides annual funding to all local governments via the Grant which is divided between two separately identified components.

- The general purpose component is allocated by the principle of horizontal fiscal equalisation to allow all councils to function to an average standard.

- The identified road component is allocated on the basis of relative need and preservation of assets.

Both components are untied and may be used for any general Council activity. However, Council is required to recognise revenue upon receipt of the Grant funding.

3. The level of grants in 1996 was equal to 1% of Commonwealth Tax Revenue (CTR), with the percentage falling to approximately 0.51% in 2024-25. Both the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) continue to advocate for increased revenue sharing with local governments.

4. The Australian Government inquiry into Local Government Sustainability (the Inquiry) was adopted in March 2024 with submissions received until 31 May 2024. The Inquiry’s focus areas include the financial sustainability and funding of local government, the changing infrastructure and service delivery obligations of local government and the role of the Australian Government in addressing these issues. Submissions to the Inquiry from Council, other local governments, LGAQ and ALGA sought an increase of the Grant back to 1% of CTR with consistent and reliable timing. Public hearings are currently underway.

5. The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) administers and distributes the Grant funding to Queensland councils on behalf of the Australian Government. The Commission maintains a complex algorithm for the allocation of funds to councils. Factors included in the allocation calculation include:

- minimum allocation to all councils

- population

- potential for councils to raise their own source revenue

- increased cost of service delivery in regional and remote areas

- length of roads managed.

6. In 2021, the Commission undertook a review of the Grant allocation methodology. Allocations resulting from the review have been implemented over a three-year transition timeframe (2022‑23 to 2024‑25). Council’s overall 2024‑25 allocation reduced by 6.8% from 2023‑24.

7. Income is recognised when cash is received regarding the timing of payments. Historically, an early payment of a portion of the allocation has been paid in June of the prior financial year, bringing revenue forward. In 2023-24, the expected June payment of $29 million was paid in July, resulting in a shortfall in revenue in 2023-24. This payment was made by the Australian Government to the Queensland Government in June, but not passed on to Council until July. No prior advice is provided by the Australian Government, resulting in published budgets incorporating an estimate of the early payment. Council has raised motions at the LGAQ Annual Conference seeking consistency in the timing of payments and continues to support the advocacy efforts of LGAQ and ALGA.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any petitions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Chair, I have a petition requesting Council implement traffic-calming measures on Roland Street and Sollis Street, Geebung.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I’m tabling a petition on behalf of Chelmer residents calling for a noise mitigation barrier at the end of Victoria Avenue, Chelmer. Thank you.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Madam Chair, I have a petition seeking to a name a footbridge in Wavell Heights.

Chair: Councillor DIXON.

**124/2024-25**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, 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** |
| 137/220/594/343 | Jared Cassidy | Requesting Council implement traffic-calming measures on Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung. |
| 137/220/594/345 | Nicole Johnston | Requesting Council install a noise mitigation barrier at the end of Victoria Avenue, Chelmer. |
| 137/220/594/344 | Adam Allan | Requesting Council name the Cressey Street pedestrian bridge in Wavell Heights. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of the Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee Order?

I will now move to General Business.

Are there any speakers?

Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the ALGWA Queensland Conference that I had the pleasure of attending last Monday and Tuesday. So, ALGWA is the Australian Local Government Women’s Association, the Queensland branch, of which I’m delighted that the LORD MAYOR has made me the representative for our team.

*At that time, 5.30pm, the Deputy Chair assumed the Chair.*

It was a great event held over the two days out there at the Brisbane Airport, so there were no travel costs involved. I just want to put that out there. We had an MC (Master of Ceremonies). Her name was Kim Skubris. She’s a very exuberant person, and a former journalist of over 25 years. I note that she was actually here in the city on Friday, yes, for the Dress for Success rally that was being held. It was interesting to note that the first meeting of the ALGWA was actually in Ferntree Gully 73 years ago.

We had a range of speakers. We had Rene from BDO Australia. That’s a company that specialises in public accounting, tax, consulting and business advisory firms. We had Sharyn Scriven from Energy Queensland. We had Ian Wright from CBP, which is Colin Biggers & Paisley’s. He was a lawyer. I can’t—it wasn’t exactly riveting, his speech and conversation. But nevertheless, he was there, and he’s a senior partner for Planning Government Infrastructure and Environment Group. My favourite speaker of the two days was Alison Smith. As you know, she is our CEO of LGAQ and I have a lot of respect for her in that position. She did mention a couple of things. One was the declining number of candidates that were putting their hands up—obviously particularly female, Alison was talking about, for mayors, Councillors and CEOs, and put the question to the room how that might be better addressed.

She had a fabulous quote, which I will have to put out here in writing so it’s in the minutes, and her quote is, Federal Government has all the money, State Government has all the power, and councils have all the problems. I thought that was just—nailed it. Absolutely nailed it. So, I’m going to do that up in a little frame and put it in my office. We also—they’re doing—LGAQ’s doing a Vote for Local campaign, and they’ve got eight key themes. So, better local infrastructure, energy and community transformation, reducing cost of living, building safe and resilient communities, protecting the environment, stronger councils, addressing the housing crisis and empowering First Nations People, and that was the order that it was listed in importance according to everyone who responded to that particular submission.

We also had a lady by the name of Fiona Cullen, who was a local government management association. I have to say, I’ve never actually heard of that organisation before, and none of the other people in the room had either. So, she had to explain herself a little bit about what she did in her role, and she was actually an original Olympian, a hurdler, and did mention that she thought—likened a Councillor to being a hurdler where you have to overcome your fears for many different things. We had Jo Stewart-Rattray, who specialises in AI cybersecurity. She’s had 25 years in that department, and she talked about her work with Council on a broad range of issues including banking, finance, utilities, manufacturing, education, retail and healthcare.

We also had Melissa Dower and Councillor Pye Augustine, both from Ipswich Council, who talked about, obviously, the issues and the dramas they went through with the dismissal of council in 2018. I also want to end by saying congratulations to Councillor Natalie Willcocks, who’s in Logan. They had their AGM (Annual General Meeting) on the Monday night. She is our new rep for zone four, which we are all in zone four, and she’s already got to work on the day of the convention and started updating the Facebook page and everything. So, I made the promise to her that I would talk about not only the meeting and the organisation here today in Chambers, as is required under Council law, but I also want to encourage all the female Councillors in this place to join the organisation. Thank you very much.

Deputy Chair: Further General Business?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. Just a couple of items, community events, and one reflection. First of all, I just want to pay a tribute to the Forest Lake Lions Club, who have entered their third year in undertaking a barbecue on a Saturday and Sunday, every week, at the Crossacres nursery. Now, it doesn’t take the full club to actually undertake this particular barbecue, but I mention it because it’s a huge commitment for a service organisation to commit to that barbecue. As I say, they’re just entering their third year, I think it is now. I’ve had the odd occasion of—and I’ll be there on Saturday, actually, to help out myself, of course, because even though I’m not a voting member of the club anymore, I’m an associate, but I still try to help out where I can, because we do have very busy jobs.

So, I haven’t been able to commit myself to all the events over the last eight years. Anyways, also, I want to give a plug to a recently—the Forest Lake Lions, they go out for a monthly birthday to celebrate those birthdays in that month, and we ended up at a place called—maybe most of you probably haven’t heard of it. It’s called Bosshoggs, and believe it or not it’s at Synergy Park at Carole Park, Bosshoggs. It’s an awesome place, I tell you what, it’s got the best spare ribs in Brisbane, especially the pork ones. I could have had two racks, but I didn’t. It’s at Synergy Park at Carole Park Industrial Estate. It’s an interesting place to have a restaurant, in an industrial estate, but they’ve been there for about 10 years now, actually, and they’ve really built up a decent clientele.

On the final point of the reflectionary guards to approval by ward support staff. It’s been a practice, I’ve found, since I’ve become Councillor, that on every occasion that we’re going to put out a newsletter or put an ad paid for by Council in the local *Lake News*, that we had to get an approval, right? Now, when I say an approval, what the process is that we send it into them and then they come back to us with feedback and say, no, we’re probably not going to—we won’t be paying that, right? Because of this issue or that issue. One that stood out to me was a petition that we ran for rates which I believe were too high. We put it into *The Lake News*. But the petition actually stated that the LORD MAYOR, right—we petitioned the LORD MAYOR, and they said, if you change that wording, right, we will approve it, right?

That’s the one that really sticks out in my mind, and we did, and the petition was very, very well received, and we got a number of thousands of signatures. But anyways, that’s been my reality of what actually happens with that. We probably do have emails over the years, because I have a Ward Advisor who keeps everything. Everything that I say and everyone else—everything that we receive, she keeps everything and has done since 2016. So, I can probably dig that out. But anyways, I just wanted to say, too, to Councillor CUNNINGHAM, in practice, that is actually what happens. It may not be written down that way, but in practice that’s actually what happens, and you’re a bit foolish if you don’t follow what they say, right? And we have always had—and we’ve always had every one of our bills paid by Council, and we—and I thank them for being able to tell me that, right? I don’t think it’s a bad thing, but that’s in practice what actually happens. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Further General Business?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Goodie. Thank you very much, Chair. I rise to speak about numerous community events in the Walter Taylor Ward in the past month of August, including the Toowong Hands and Heart Fair, the Lex Ord south dog off leash opening and the Witton Barracks Open Day. Firstly, a heartfelt congratulations to Toowong State School on a fabulous Hands and Heart Fair, which was on Saturday 17 August. Many hours go into events like this, from meetings, planning, preparing, setting up, and packing down. So, a warm thank you to the P&C (Parents and Citizens) Toowong Hands and Heart Committee. It is—just truly grateful that they can run events like this, and I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Meg Cridland, the P&C President, Becca Hancock, the P&C Manager, and all the P&C members.

Along with the LORD MAYOR’s Community Fund, we were delighted to sponsor this event, which continues to bring vibrancy and unity to our community. A special thanks to Liz Fletcher’s work. I particularly enjoyed the incredible signing choir and the talent quest, including the staff and the students, in the lip synch battle. It was awesome. Moving along, I would like to thank my team, Kylie, Melissa, Peter, Xanthe, Paige and Matt, who all helped out at our vibrant marquee on the day, particularly Kylie, who had the foresight of filling 28 sandbags that stopped many marquees flying away on a very windy day. Then, on Saturday 24 August, the Walter Taylor Ward hosted the opening of the Lex Ord South Dog Off Leash area. Thank you to all those who participated in dressing up their furry friends in the best costume for a chance to win the ‘Wolff of Walter Taylor hamper’.

Dog goodies were packed and purchased by local Petstock Indooroopilly. Thanks to Bennett Local Business Operator for all your help. It was a pawsome morning with hundreds of locals in attendance celebrating the opening of our fur-tastic dog park with doggie treat giveaways from Puptisserie, free coffee thanks to Shona at Hetty and Herm’s, and free sausages for both humans and dogs thanks to the Toowong Rotary and King’s College university students who volunteered on the barbecue, face painting and balloon twisting, and kids enjoyed all of the above. Thanks must go to Dr Ellen and Tim, also from Vets in the Village in St Lucia for being our resident vet on hand for the morning.

Finally, last Saturday was Witton Barracks Community Hub Open Day. Congratulations to White Box social enterprises, Luke and Gosia and all the team for a successful open day. Visitors enjoyed social enterprise markets, live music, food trucks, the good food—the good people at double-decker bus, kids’ activities and much more. For those who don’t know, Witton Barracks is a one-of-a-kind World War II site with significant heritage. The Witton Barracks site is listed on the Queensland State Heritage Register and played a vital role in military intelligence between 1942 and 1960. The three cell block buildings on site are of significant historical interest, and important surviving evidence of the only purpose-built World War II interrogation building for prisoners of war in Australia.

Since acquiring the site in 2016, Council has progressively remediated and upgraded the Witton Barracks and works were undertaken in stages over the past few years, with Brisbane’s history now visible for all to see, and we’re able to create spaces for the community to now use. Working with an organisation like White Box not only supports Council’s vision to return this historical site for community use, but also activates the site as a creative and social enterprise hub that fosters a positive ripple effect throughout the city promoting social enterprise and community development. It is extremely rewarding to be able to support local events like the three I’ve listed, which create positive impact on the local economy and our community. I look forward to continuing to work with schools, businesses and social enterprises in our community to unlock the potential benefits for our city. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Further General Business?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on three items. One, Urban Greening at Riverside Drive. Two, the Asia Pacific Young Audience Award at Griffith Film School. Lastly, I will speak on the Trina MASSEY Councillor for The Gabba Ward spring newsletter.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I’ll be all right. Thanks for the interjection. Firstly, I want to thank over 60 residents from West End who came to our workshop last week on urban greening. It was an incredible workshop where we talked about the importance of the heat island effect and how we can counteract that with greening our streets. Of course, historically, the Kurilpa peninsular was the heart of a dense rainforest before the colonisation of Brisbane. There are pockets of reforestation that is currently happening, not only on Riverside Drive but across The Gabba Ward, particularly in Dr Manon Griffiths Park. It was so great to see a completely, completely packed venue.

It was called The Nest, which is a new artists’ studio venue in West End. We had multiple people from the apartments down there talking about how important Riverside Drive is, how the heat is something that is such a challenge, and how they believe that urban greening can not only counter the effects of the urban heat island effect, but with the right work we can also reduce and mitigate flooding. Secondly, I was pleased to have gone to the Asia Pacific Young Audience Award at Griffiths Film School. I thank all the students that were there. This award is really important because it teaches young people of critical thinking. It makes them look at foreign language film, diverse foreign language film, and highlights different points of view.

It was incredible to see, again, not only a room of people in Griffiths Film School, but we actually had students from Ipswich and various other councils from the South East. I was so pleased to speak to them to talk about how an arts career can be very empowering, particularly in not only willing to be testing of new ideas, but also to be able to apply that critical lens when reviewing multiple different documents that might have bias. It was really great to hang out with them, and they, I know, were really stoked to be in that room, because that day, it was 34 degrees, and that was the first day of spring. So, they were really thankful to be in that cinema. Lastly, I’m just going to speak on to my newsletter. As I’ve said before earlier today, we went through the proper processes that were shared with us, and I welcome any and every investigation that comes upon this.

Not only that, I welcome, as the Deputy Mayor, through you, Deputy Chair, mentioned earlier—they are reviewing the CEO’s statement. None of these have arrived today. The CEO’s recommendation has not arrived. Any of the Office of the Independent Assessor reports have not arrived. I am actually—I stand here and I say, I went through the due process, and because I went through that due process, what actually happened today with an emergency process was to bypass that due process. It was a bypass for that, and I think that, of course, creates challenges. I don’t think the challenges are actually—let me be clear.

This is a new process that’s been seen that is now Council process, right? And I think, with the words of the Deputy Mayor, through you, Deputy Chair, and also with the words through you, Deputy Chair, of Fiona CUNNINGHAM—Councillor CUNNINGHAM, sorry—what they set is a completely different precedent for the fact that we do all, from my understanding, send in our newsletters for approval. Also, the fact that Council does not—literally says, this bit, that bit, or we won’t pay for it. Something important to note again is that these newsletters were already paid by Brisbane City Council. They did not withhold any payment. So, I refuse to be engaged in a mock trial through Chambers, and instead, I welcome any investigation or the recommendation of the CEO, and I actually am going to seek legal advice now, because I think what the Council has done in here is wrong.

Deputy Chair: Any further General Business?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I rise to speak briefly on two issues, if I have time. First, the Walter Taylor Bridge closure and secondly, newsletters generally. Firstly, with regarding the Walter Taylor Bridge closure, it’s been almost a month since I wrote to the CEO and City Projects, pretty much the day I received the briefing note about the closure of the Walter Taylor Bridge, outlining dozens of concerns, both on 9 August, in a follow-up email on 12 August, and in a follow-up email on 22 August asking for a reply to the issues that I’ve raised. It’s now 3 September, and it’s just over a week until the bridge is closed. Brisbane City Council has not responded to the very genuine issues that I have raised. I’m going to read the email I have received half an hour ago.

This is what I get in my office every single day and this is why Brisbane City Council should be ashamed of itself for the way that it has handled the Walter Taylor Bridge issue. Hi, Nicole, just a question about the bus 106 during the period of the bridge closure. I can’t seem to locate any info about this bus as to where it is starting on this side of the bridge. I have seen buses starting at Sherwood Station, but what happens to people in Chelmer and Graceville who use the bus? She’s asking for advice. Now, I don’t know. Presumably, the bus service, the 106, is going to loop through Chelmer and Graceville and drop her back at Sherwood Station, where she has to get on a train using stairs and then go to Indooroopilly. But wait, no, apparently the Deputy Mayor said something about this on radio this morning that no one’s bothered to share with me or the local community.

This Council’s failure to address this issue about public transport access, which is an issue that I raised on 9 August, almost a month ago, together with road safety issues, together with the impact of the closure and the detours, is appalling. It is a disgrace that this Council has not had the courtesy to respond to me or to the residents in my ward who have legitimate questions about how the closure is going to impact upon them. Worse than that, as one of my constituents was on the radio today saying, he just received the Living in Brisbane in his mailbox and he said there was nothing in it about the closure of the Walter Taylor Bridge.

The variable message signs are all talking about the single lane closure on the Walter Taylor Bridge. They’re not talking about the full closure of the Walter Taylor Bridge. This Council’s handling of this has just been absolutely appalling, and I personally think it is unprofessional and disgusting that the CEO of Council and City Projects have not got back to me with the very genuine issues that I have raised about the impact of this closure on the residents of Tennyson Ward, Moorooka Ward, Forest Lake Ward, Calamvale Ward, Sarah Hutton’s ward at Jamboree. Those residents are in for the shock of their life with what’s about to happen, and what’s their Councillor doing to address the issue? Nothing.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Nothing. Managing traffic safely through Oxley and Seventeen Mile Rocks Road is such a critical issue and Councillor HUTTON’s done absolutely nothing on this. I just—I’m appalled at how Council has handled this issue. Secondly, on—and I’d just say, do us the courtesy of a reply. Now, I think this might be a good one for another motion to Council, and I’m sure the LNP will be right behind it. Councillor ADAMS will be leading the charge on this one. During the election campaign, during caretaker mode, a Living in Brisbane newsletter was published with the LORD MAYOR’s giant photo on it.

That was after all Councillors had been told that we could not include any photos in our newsletters. Yet the Council allowed the LORD MAYOR to publish a photo in a Council publication in contravention of the caretaker provisions during the election. Now, I understand they cost about $120,000 per edition. So, I think I’ll be bringing a motion to get the LORD MAYOR to personally repay that, and I know that every single LNP Councillor will support that because there’s a clear breach of Council protocol there, and I’m not sure there’s been one with Councillor MASSEY. So, I know you’ll be right behind that decision.

Deputy Chair: Any further General Business?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak about two things in this very quick five minutes of General Business that we have. The first thing is in relation to policy in Council. In my time in Council, I’ve never seen things more haywire than the way things are now, and I see that right across the whole organisation. I know many staff watch this because of the comedy act that this Chamber is. It’s appalling. We are really delivering bad results for our staff, and we’re putting them in very difficult positions where we’re almost politicising our staff, and our staff weren’t employed to be political puppets of any group. They were here to provide all Councillors with good information. So, in relation to my understanding, we had to submit documents, we have to submit flyers for it to be approved by Council staff so that it was paid.

That’s my understanding. In fact, I’ve had corflutes that I haven’t been allowed to print or pay for printing because it says Councillor SChrinner on it. So, I know that there has been, at least for this side of the Chamber, an approval process that we’ve had to go through. Now, I want to talk about another theme, something positive that we’re doing in Moorooka Ward, and it’s called rewilding. We’re doing a whole lot of—I’ve been able to pull together a group who are interested in rewilding the ward, and that is looking at re-establishing fauna and flora and working between the current structures that are out there, the current Council structures, the current community structures, current educational structures, and filling the gaps with, how can we rewild the ward?

One of our first little exciting projects has been at the Tarragindi Reservoir, where there are three koalas that we know of. There are a number of echidnas. We’ve been able to work with this group. We’ve been able to bring together Toohey Forest Wildlife. We’ve been able to bring together Norman Creek Catchment. We’ve been able to bring together Council and QUU (Queensland Urban Utilities) to actually look at how we work well together on this site and how we can improve the fauna and flora on this site. Through this way of working, we’ve been able to get some good partnerships going and also get some money out of QUU so that we’re actually improving this Council land. So, I think this is a really exciting way of going.

I think it’s a really good way of energising a community and bringing younger people and older people and all these different groups together. One of the groups I am working with is Griffith University. So, Griffith University and the ecohub also last week did a presentation—I know it sounds crazy, but they just did a presentation on echidnas. It was amazing to hear all this amazing research is going on in Brisbane in our universities, in our cities, about echidnas. I was surprised to see so many people there. I work with Dr Wade Hadwen, who’s up at the university, who does wonderful work with a number of PhD students.

It was really good to see the enthusiasm of local catchment groups, local residents, around learning about our native flora and fauna and also wanting to be involved in ways of improving habitat in our area. So, I look forward to updating the Chamber more about this rewilding group. I think it’s the way of the future. I think it’s what we can use some of our suburban initiative fund—and certainly, I’m using some of the suburban initiative fund to do projects that really partner with existing groups, but bring the community in, bring young people in and educate, but also talk about the environment in a really positive way and get really positive outcomes for our city. Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: Just a point of order, Chair. Just seeking some clarification, a ruling from you. There have been several points of order raised tonight, mostly by Councillor ADAMS, the DEPUTY MAYOR, around something she’s calling impugning motive. There’s no point of order under the Meetings Local Law about that. In fact, it’s only unsuitable meeting conduct, of which those points of order have not been made under or dealt with under, and the Act also doesn’t specify anything about impugning motive. So, you don’t have to answer this right now, but just putting that on notice, if we can get some advice around what the proper use of points of order actually is, particularly under the new Meetings Local Law and referring to what is included in the *Local Government Act* *2009*.

Deputy Chair: I will reply after the break. Yes.

Further General Business?

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTIONS:

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

### PINE ROAD, ARCHERFIELD ROAD AND AZALEA STREET INTERSECTION UPGRADE, RICHLANDS

**125/2024-25**

The Deputy Chair, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on Councillor Charles STRUNK to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Charles STRUNK moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that—

*Council amends the 2024/25 Council Budget to include funding to upgrade the intersection of Pine Road, Archerfield Road, and Azalea Street Richlands with traffic signals during this current financial year.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Listen, I move this notified motion because it is a local issue and we are told by the LORD MAYOR that notified motions should be local issues.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: So, yes, I’ll take that interjection that he’s not here, hasn’t been here for a while. But yes, I would have thought that maybe he would have stuck around for this one, because he has a lot of skin in the game on this particular motion. Now, this intersection has been a black spot for many years, well over 10 years, and I’ve raised this issue before, right? But I thought, in the context of what transpired with a community newsletter and also a petition that was being undertaken by the State Member for Inala, Margie Nightingale, that I would move this motion because we need some clarity insofar as what actually is going to happen in this intersection.

Now, this intersection, as I said before, has been a black spot for more than 10 years. In 2017, Main Roads said that this was the fifth worst in Brisbane, and that was 15 years ago. Well, what’s happened since then? Well, in the last five years, there’s been a crash—the crash data for this intersection is now 38 accidents with 10 serious injuries, and that’s the reported ones. This intersection has many, many other crashes, but they’re not reported for all sorts of reasons. Some people don’t want to have the insurance company involved, they don’t want to have the police involved, they just want to take care of them themselves. So, now, what have we done? Well, over the last—well, since 2016-17, there was budget for design, scoping end design, which was $348,000. What happened after that? Nothing. Nothing.

In 2019-18, another lot of money, the $146,00 for either additional design, I assume, from the original design, but—and what happened after that? Nothing. In 2023-24 there was another $277,000 for design. What happened? Nothing. Then come around the election. In 2024-25—in March 2024 the election came around, and it was a hot-button topic in my ward, not just with me but also with the by-election, right, and of course the LORD MAYOR knew he had an issue that he was going to have to deal with, because when it comes to Inala and Durack and Richlands residents, this is a dangerous intersection and they have wanted it fixed for years. Now, if you combine all that money, we have now spent $1.7 million on design—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: And the reason I brought the motion is because I want to hear from the other side that they’re actually going to do something this financial year other than more design money. They’re actually going to fix it, and that’s what the petition that has been undertaken by the State Member, Margie Nightingale—well more than a thousand people have signed the petition and they’re demanding that we fix it now, not push it down the road like we have done three other times before. Now, anyone listening to this, whether it’s here or across the Chamber, if you had an intersection like this and you had spent all this money on design after all these years, you would be demanding it as well, in your caucus, right?

If you can’t do it here in the Chamber, I understand that. But it’s a party room thing. So, I just—we’re just calling upon the LORD MAYOR to actually commit to doing this, and not spending another $16,000 on a newsletter, and the front page is about the intersection, right, saying that they’re going to do something now. Well, I want to know what you’re doing now, and not just more design. Thank you, Chair.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **126/2024-25**  It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, 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 6.07pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

*At 7.13pm, the Deputy* *Chair advised the Chamber that a quorum was no longer present and directed that the divisional bells be rung.*

Deputy Chair: Councillors, due to the absence from the party moving the motion, there is no quorum. As per Meetings Local Law, section 32, the meeting will adjourn until the next ordinary meeting.

I declare the meeting adjourned.

**Upon resumption:**

## SECOND DAY – TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

### RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON NOTIFIED MOTION – PINE ROAD, ARCHERFIELD ROAD AND AZALEA STREET INTERSECTION UPGRADE, RICHLANDS

Chair: Councillors, we now resume the meeting of 3 September 2024 at item 8A on the agenda, which is the Notice of Motion. I will just read out the motion that was moved by Councillor STRUNK and seconded by Councillor CASSIDY.

Council amends the 2024-25 Council budget to include funding to upgrade the intersection of Pine Road, Archerfield Road, and Azalea Street, Richlands with traffic signals during the current financial year.

Is there any further debate?

Councillor DIXON.

**Procedural motion – Motion that debate on the motion be adjourned**

**127/2024-25**

It was moved by Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, that debate on the motion now before the meeting be adjourned until the beginning of the notified motions section at the next Ordinary Council meeting.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion that debate on the motion be adjourned was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 19 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, 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.

### BULIMBA MEMORIAL PARK UPGRADE

**128/2024-25**

The Chair then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on Councillor Lucy COLLIER to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that—

*Council amends the 2024/25 Council Budget to commit funding to an upgrade of the playground in Bulimba Memorial Park during this current financial year.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair, and it was only two weeks ago that I presented a petition in this place with nearly 300 signatures calling on Council to deliver an upgrade to beautiful Bulimba Memorial Park.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

**Procedural motion – Motion that debate on the motion be adjourned**

**129/2024-25**

It was moved by Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, that debate on the motion now before the meeting be adjourned until the beginning of the notified motions section at the next ordinary meeting.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion that debate on the motion be adjourned was declared **carried** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 19 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, 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.

Chair: As we have to now close this meeting—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Yes, one moment, I’m speaking, Councillor. As we now go into the next meeting, we do have to change over the IT (information technology), so we will need to have a break for 10 minutes, and I will ask Councillors to please leave the Chamber for those 10 minutes.

So, I now close the meeting. Thank you.

## 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 Jared Cassidy (received on 29 August 2024)**

1. What is BCC definition of Affordable Housing for planning and infrastructure purposes?
2. How many bus stops are currently operational in the BCC LGA?
3. How many bus stops are currently in working order, but are not in use?
4. How many bus stops have been permanently de-commissioned in 2023-2024 FY and 2024-2025 FYTD?
5. How many new bus stops have been installed in 2023-2024 FY and 2024-2025 FYTD?
6. How many in use bus stops are currently not DDA compliant? Please provide location, stop number or unique identifier for each.
7. How many bus stops which are currently in working order, but not in use, are not DDA compliant? Please provide location, stop number or unique identifier for each.
8. Please advise how many exemptions BCC has lodged regarding DDA Compliance? List each instance and location or unique identifier for each.
9. Please list all Requests for Service received by the Call Centre regarding traffic calming, including street and suburb of request, received in 2024.
10. How many of these 2024 Requests for Service regarding traffic calming have been investigated and resolved?
11. Please list all Requests for Service received by the Call Centre regarding rat running, including street and suburb of request, received in 2024.
12. How many of these 2024 Requests for Service regarding rat running have been investigated and resolved?
13. Please provide a breakdown of all vehicles in BCC fleet, including number of each by fuel types, hybrid or electric
14. What is the total number of redundancies offered within BCC, and the total $ figure for these redundancies, in 2023-2024 FY, and 2024-2025 FYTD, listed seperately.
15. Please list the month-by-month number of downloads of the Brisbane App from May 2023 to current.
16. Please list the month-by-month number of uninstalls or deletes of the Brisbane App from May 2023 to current.
17. Please list the month-by-month average time spent on the Brisbane App per use/session from May 2023 to current.
18. Please provide the number of incidents/accidents reported to Council under obligation by providers of e‑mobility devices for the FY’s 2021-2022, 2022‑2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025YTD, listed separately by FY.
19. How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding e-mobility in any context – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.
20. How many petitions for bikeway installations/upgrades remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available since June 2023?
21. How many petitions for footpath installations/upgrades remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available?
22. How many petitions for traffic calming remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available since June 2023?
23. How many petitions for road resurfacing remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available since June 2023?
24. How many petitions for road maintenance remain unfunded, uncommitted, or no allocated funding available since June 2023?
25. Please list all the outstanding e-petitions that have not been through the Committee process and provide a brief outline on each one, and the petitions closure date.
26. Please list all the outstanding paper petitions that have not been through Committee and provide a brief outline on each one, and the petitions closure date.
27. How many petitions, regardless of current status, in total were lodged to BCC in 2019?
28. How many petitions, regardless of current status, in total were lodged to BCC in 2020?
29. How many petitions, regardless of current status, in total were lodged to BCC in 2021?
30. How many petitions, regardless of current status, in total were lodged to BCC in 2022?
31. How many petitions, regardless of current status, in total were lodged to BCC in 2023?
32. How many petitions, regardless of current status, in total have been lodged to BCC in 2024 to date?
33. Since the announcement of the Housing Supply Action Plan by the Lord Mayor on 31 August how many infrastructure fee waivers have been granted since, and in which category
34. Please provide a breakdown of all advertising to promote BrisBetter as per the below table:

| **Channel** | **2023-2024** | **2024-2025 FYTD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TV Advertising |  |  |
| Online Advertising |  |  |
| Social Media: |  |  |
| * Facebook |  |  |
| * Instagram etc. |  |  |
| Influencers |  |  |
| Performance Marketing |  |  |
| Print Advertising |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |  |
| BVOD |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

1. Please provide a breakdown of how much Brisbane City Council spent on advertising as per the below table:

| **Channel** | **2023-2024** | **2024-2025 FYTD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TV Advertising |  |  |
| Online Advertising |  |  |
| Social Media: |  |  |
| * Facebook |  |  |
| * Instagram etc. |  |  |
| Influencers |  |  |
| Performance Marketing |  |  |
| Print Advertising |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |  |
| BVOD |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

1. Please provide a breakdown of how much Brisbane City Council spent on advertising the Brisbane App as per the below table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel** | **2023-2024** | **2024-2025 FYTD** |
| TV Advertising |  |  |
| Online Advertising |  |  |
| Social Media: |  |  |
| -Facebook |  |  |
| -Instagram etc. |  |  |
| Influencers |  |  |
| Performance Marketing |  |  |
| Print Advertising |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |
| Outdoor advertising |  |  |
| BVOD |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

1. Please advise the total spent in the 2024-2025 FYTD, and the 2023-2024 FY, on advertising the discounted BCC Green waste recycling service.
2. Please list the 10 routes which have had the highest number of services cancelled each month for 2024 so far, per below table. Note. Rank of 10 being highest number of cancellations of all routes.

## 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 27 August 2024)**

**Q1.** Please advise the total number of bus services each month which have been cancelled due to staff availability since January 2022 to current:

|  | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| January |  |  |  |
| February |  |  |  |
| March |  |  |  |
| April |  |  |  |
| May |  |  |  |
| June |  |  |  |
| July |  |  |  |
| August |  |  |  |
| September |  |  | - |
| October |  |  | - |
| November |  |  | - |
| December |  |  | - |

**A1.**

|  | *2022* | *2023* | *2024* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *January* | *174* | *568* | *186* |
| *February* | *115* | *1203* | *205* |
| *March* | *261* | *1374* | *298* |
| *April* | *244* | *976* | *179* |
| *May* | *387* | *1155* | *254* |
| *June* | *289* | *585* | *204* |
| *July* | *530* | *470* | *168* |
| *August* | *344* | *591* | *176* |
| *September* | *323* | *332* | *-* |
| *October* | *363* | *156* | *-* |
| *November* | *651* | *281* | *-* |
| *December* | *590* | *155* | *-* |

**Q2.** Please list the 10 dates of 2024 so far which have had the highest number of bus services cancelled – please provide date, and number of cancelled services.

**A2.**

| ***Date*** | ***Number of missed trips*** |
| --- | --- |
| *26/3/2024* | *124* |
| *11/3/2024* | *121* |
| *9/5/2024* | *121* |
| *2/1/2024* | *112* |
| *17/5/2024* | *105* |
| *5/6/2024* | *105* |
| *17/7/2024* | *102* |
| *12/1/2024* | *100* |
| *18/4/2024* | *91* |
| *16/2/2024* | *89* |

**Q3.** Please provide the following information in relation to bus driver assault and abuse reports for 2023:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ABUSE/ ASSAULT** | **APR** | **MAY** | **JUN** | **JUL** | **AUG** | **SEP** | **OCT** | **NOV** | **DEC** |
| Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (striking and pushing) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (low grade - touching) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Object thrown |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theft |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please define) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**A3.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***ABUSE/ ASSAULT*** | ***APR*** | ***MAY*** | ***JUN*** | ***JUL*** | ***AUG*** | ***SEP*** | ***OCT*** | ***NOV*** | ***DEC*** |
| *Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures)* | *56* | *51* | *55* | *63* | *61* | *65* | *44* | *47* | *55* |
| *Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus)* | *18* | *22* | *11* | *14* | *10* | *14* | *16* | *8* | *19* |
| *Spit* | *1* | *5* | *3* | *2* | *2* | *5* | *4* | *6* | *2* |
| *Physical contact (striking and pushing)* | *3* | *3* | *5* | *1* | *3* | *1* | *0* | *2* | *2* |
| *Physical contact (low grade - touching)* | *1* | *0* | *1* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Object thrown* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *2* | *1* | *5* | *1* | *0* | *2* |
| *Theft* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Other (please define)* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |

**Q4.** Please provide the following information in relation to bus driver assault and abuse reports for 2024:

| **ABUSE/ ASSAULT** | **JAN** | **FEB** | **MAR** | **APR** | **MAY** | **JUN** | **JUL** | **AUG** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (striking and pushing) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (low grade - touching) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Object thrown |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theft |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please define) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**A4.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***ABUSE/ ASSAULT*** | ***JAN*** | ***FEB*** | ***MAR*** | ***APR*** | ***MAY*** | ***JUN*** | ***JUL*** | ***AUG*** |
| *Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures)* | *48* | *37* | *57* | *38* | *37* | *45* | *40* | *N/A* |
| *Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus)* | *21* | *18* | *16* | *13* | *13* | *14* | *10* | *N/A* |
| *Spit* | *2* | *4* | *3* | *1* | *1* | *1* | *2* | *N/A* |
| *Physical contact (striking and pushing)* | *2* | *2* | *1* | *3* | *3* | *1* | *0* | *N/A* |
| *Physical contact (low grade - touching)* | *0* | *0* | *2* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *N/A* |
| *Object thrown* | *5* | *2* | *4* | *1* | *3* | *2* | *0* | *N/A* |
| *Theft* | *3* | *1* | *0* | *1* | *2* | *1* | *0* | *N/A* |
| *Other (please define)* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *N/A* |

**Q5.** Please provide the 10 routes in the Brisbane City Council bus network which have the most reported assault and abuse cases for 2023, and 2024 to date.

**A5.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Route*** | ***2023*** | ***2024*** |
| *100* | *61* | *19* |
| *199* | *37* | *10* |
| *330* | *37* | *12* |
| *180* | *36* | *13* |
| *196* | *28* | *10* |
| *222* | *27* | *-* |
| *345* | *27* | *-* |
| *140* | *26* | *15* |
| *200* | *24* | *12* |
| *60* | *23* | *10* |

**Q6.** Please provide the following information in relation to CityCat, KittyKat, and other ferry service operators assault and abuse reports for 2023:

| **ABUSE/ ASSAULT** | **APR** | **MAY** | **JUN** | **JUL** | **AUG** | **SEP** | **OCT** | **NOV** | **DEC** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (striking and pushing) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (low grade - touching) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Object thrown |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theft |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please define) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**A6.**

| ***ABUSE/ ASSAULT*** | ***APR*** | ***MAY*** | ***JUN*** | ***JUL*** | ***AUG*** | ***SEP*** | ***OCT*** | ***NOV*** | ***DEC*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures)* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *2* | *3* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *2* |
| *Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus)* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *2* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Spit* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* |
| *Physical contact (striking and pushing)* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Physical contact (low grade - touching)* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Object thrown* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Theft* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Other (please define)* | *1* | *1* | *0* | *3* | *0* | *2* | *2* | *0* | *1* |

**Q7.** Please provide the following information in relation to CityCat, KittyKat, and other ferry service operators assault and abuse reports for 2024:

| **ABUSE/ ASSAULT** | **JAN** | **FEB** | **MAR** | **APR** | **MAY** | **JUN** | **JUL** | **AUG** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (striking and pushing) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Physical contact (low grade - touching) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Object thrown |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theft |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please define) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**A7.**

| ***ABUSE/ ASSAULT*** | ***JAN*** | ***FEB*** | ***MAR*** | ***APR*** | ***MAY*** | ***JUN*** | ***JUL*** | ***AUG*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Verbal abuse - Moderate (derogatory, remarks, swearing, obscene gestures)* | *1* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *2* | *1* | *0* | *0* |
| *Verbal abuse - Extreme (shouting, screaming at driver, pinching bus)* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *2* | *0* |
| *Spit* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Physical contact (striking and pushing)* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* |
| *Physical contact (low grade - touching)* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Object thrown* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Theft* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Other (please define)* |  | | | | | | | |
| 1. *Object thrown off bridge* | *1* | *1* | *1* | *3* | *2* | *0* | *1* | *1* |
| 1. *Unruly behaviour – climbed on outside of KittyCat* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *1* | *0* | *0* | *0* |

**Q8.** Please provide a breakdown of the number of Brisbane City Council bus operators by employment status (Full Time, Part Time, Casual) currently.

**A8.**

| ***Employment type*** | ***Number*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Casuals* | *704* |
| *Trainees* | *465* |
| *Permanent full time* | *1408* |
| *Permanent part time* | *148* |
| *Temporary part time* | *6* |
| *Total* | *2731* |

**Q9.** What is the minimum number of bus drivers on call at any given time to meet changed or increased demand?

**Q10.** How many times in 2024 has there been less bus drivers available on call than the required minimum number of on call drivers?

**A9 and A10.**

*Brisbane City Council bus drivers do not work on an ‘on call’ basis.*

**Q11.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks in Inala in the past 12 months?

**Q12.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks in Forest Lake in the past 12 months?

**Q13.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks in Doolandella in the past 12 months?

**Q14.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks in Richlands in the past 12 months?

**Q15.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks in Durack in the past 12 months?

**Q16.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks in Ellen Grove in the past 12 months?

**Q17.** How many calls has council received about broken playground equipment in parks across Brisbane city suburbs in the past 12 months?

**A11 to A17.**

*As advised in response to Questions on Notice on 27 August 2024, the Contact Centre does not record contact data in relation to “broken” playground equipment specifically.*

**Q18.** How many calls has council received reporting broken, unsafe, cracked footpaths in Inala in the past 12 months?

**A18.** *19. This figure includes multiple contacts for the same job, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing job.*

**Q19.** How many calls has council received reporting broken, unsafe, cracked footpaths in Forest Lake in the past 12 months?

**A19.** *50. This figure includes multiple contacts for the same job, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing job.*

**Q20.** How many calls has council received reporting broken, unsafe, cracked footpaths in Doolandella in the past 12 months?

**A20.** *3. This figure includes multiple contacts for the same job, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing job.*

**Q21.** How many calls has council received reporting broken, unsafe, cracked footpaths in Richlands in the past 12 months?

**A21.** *5. This figure includes multiple contacts for the same job, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing job.*

**Q22.** How many calls has council received reporting broken, unsafe, cracked footpaths in Durack in the past 12 months?

**A22.** *10. This figure includes multiple contacts for the same job, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing job.*

**Q23.** How many calls has council received reporting broken, unsafe, cracked footpaths in Ellen Grove in the past 12 months?

**A23.** *3. This figure includes multiple contacts for the same job, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing job.*

**Q24.** What are the locations of bus shelters and seats that have been approved for a new bus Shelter and new bus seat within the Forest Lake Ward?

**A24.** *In the 2024-25 financial year there are currently no bus shelters or seats approved for installation within Forest Lake Ward.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 1.07pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Dorian Maruda (A/ Council and Committee Coordinator)

Madeline Platt (A/Council and Committee Officer)

Ethan Van Roo Douglas (Policy Advisor)

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