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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4749 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 5 November 2024**

**at 2.30pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

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

The Chair of Council (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)  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.

## APOLOGY:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

Councillor DIXON.

**179/2024-25**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmation of minutes please.

**180/2024-25**

The Minutes of the 4748 (Post Recess) meeting of Council held on 29 October 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 now like to call on Mr Thomas Spencer, who is going to address the Chamber on support for a podcast to help autistic communities in Brisbane. When you are ready, Mr Spencer, you have 5 minutes and when you’re ready you may start.

**Mr Thomas Spencer – Support for a podcast to help autistic communities in Brisbane**

Mr Thomas Spencer: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, LORD MAYOR and Councillors, thank you for inviting me to this wonderful Chamber. I have a little story I want to share with the whole lot of you. It’s a project I want to do in Brisbane to help people with autism. As you can tell, I have autism myself and I want to help those that have trouble looking for work, especially myself being a living experience. The reason I’m here in Chamber today is to share my view on all of your communities, to help every autistic person in Brisbane.

I want to do this paying podcast, so I want to start off little and work my way up to the Federal Government, so all 3 levels of government. The reason I want to do this is I want to help people in all of your communities, because as a living experience with autism myself it’s hard for me to look for work, very, very hard. Today, with the 5 minutes I’ve got to spend with all of you, I wanted to talk about this project I want to do for all of your communities. Not just Chermside, where I live, but each and every one of your communities, because it’s very important to me to help each and every one of the Brisbanites that have autism.

That is why I’m here today, to talk to all of you about helping your autistic community, for it is very important to me to get the word out in this beautiful city of ours, especially for the people who like myself have trouble looking for work. I’m here today in front of these lovely human beings that I call Councillors and LORD MAYOR, to get that awareness out. But like I said, I want to start off little and work my way up to the Federal Government, for this job I want to do is a paying podcast for people in your communities that have autism like myself. That’s why I’m here today, to share my story with the whole lot of you, to share how important it is for me as an individual in Chermside that has autism and is having troubles looking for work. Today I wanted to share my story with all of you and to tell you my life experience of trying to look for work.

I’m here today to tell you all that I would like each and every one of you Councillors to talk to my lovely Councillor Danita PARRY and her crew. I want feedback from today’s visit from all of you, including you, LORD MAYOR, because this is important to me as a resident of this beautiful city of ours, that all of you work alongside me for more parts of this beautiful city of ours to help me achieve this goal of helping your autistic communities in Brisbane. Today, as I talk to you about what I want to do, it’s very important that I tell you how I feel, because as you all know in your communities you would have your autistic members in your community, so it’s important for me to share why I want to do this podcast with all of you today.

Anyhow, I am really grateful that all of you are here to listen to my story and I really appreciate all of you to get on board to help me achieve my goal to help each and every one of your autistic communities in your wards. Especially you, LORD MAYOR, I definitely want you to help me achieve that goal and I know you definitely want to help me in this goal, I know you do. The whole lot of you, the whole lot of you, I know you all want to achieve this goal for me. I want to wrap it up and just say I want to thank all of you for letting me come into Chamber. I also want to thank, Madam Chair, for letting me have this opportunity to talk to all of you. Thank you so much.

Chair: Thanks, Thomas.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: One moment, Councillor JOHNSTON, point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman. In recognition of the unique challenges that Thomas faces in speaking before us today, which I know is a big challenge—

**181/2024-25**

Mr Thomas Spencer was granted an extension of time on the motion of Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY.

Chair: Okay, when you’re ready, Thomas.

Mr Thomas Spencer: Councillors, LORD MAYOR, the reason I want to do this podcast is—and I thank Councillor JOHNSTON for that and I thank you for giving me an extra 5 minutes, I appreciate that. The reason I want to do this paying podcast is it’s very hard for people like myself and you guys would be aware with some of your residents in Brisbane how hard it is to get employment for people that are on the spectrum. Like I said to you in the 5 minutes before, I’m a living experience of that. My goal is to help each and every one of your autistic communities that live the same way as me get a paid job, because it’s important for all of us to get a paid job, all of us. For a good example, let me use me as a good example.

When I got my diagnosis of autism, I was 29 years old and it took me a while to accept it, but that’s not what I’m here for, I’m here to tell you why, about the podcast, but that’s okay. People like me, it’s hard and sometimes I get really teary eyes talking about it because it really hurts me as a citizen of this city, really hurts me. But the reason for this paying podcast is that I want each and every one of you guys as people who have autism to have a better life like the rest of you in the Chamber here today. That’s why I want to do this podcast, because—and I say it from living experience myself—it is so hard to get a job. I mean it is so hard to the point that constant meltdowns in my life at home and I usually don’t tell anyone about my meltdowns, but it’s a good example of why I want to do this podcast, to help each and every one of you constituencies in this Chamber’s autistic community to prove to the world that we are exactly like the rest of you.

I have this attitude since my diagnosis back when I was 29. I’m 37, turning 38 in February. This is why and I’m here today to address this, because it’s important to me and I want each and every one of you, including the LORD MAYOR, to achieve my goal because it’s important to me to prove to the world that autistic people are just like the rest of you. I will never change that attitude or thinking because that’s who I am, a special person that wants to help each and every one of the autistic communities here in Brisbane. But yet I’m here telling you my story and I feel good about it because at least you guys are agreeing with me. I see some of you nodding, which is making me happy, it’s telling me that each and every one of you do care for people like me, including you, LORD MAYOR, I see the smile on your face too.

That’s why I want to do that podcast, I want to prove to the world, but not just the world, my own country, that I am just like—me and the rest of the autistic people in Brisbane are exactly the same as you guys. I might sound mean and I might sound mean saying it, but that’s how I see it. That’s why I want to do this podcast with the help of the Local, the State and the Federal Government. I want the whole 3 of you to join in with me to help your communities and that’s why I am here today to talk about my paying podcast from all 3 levels of government. Yet here I am almost crying because I’m excited. I want to thank all of you, the whole lot of you for letting me come in today and letting me have my say. That’s why I want to do this paying podcast with all 3 levels of government by my side. Everyone, thank you so much.

Chair: Thank you, Tom.

I’m now going to call upon Councillor HOWARD to respond.

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

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair, and Mr Spencer. Can I call you Thomas, because everybody is and I’d love to call you Thomas? Is that all right?

Mr Thomas Spencer: You can call me Thomas, whatever you want.

Councillor HOWARD: Well thank you. Can I say that you have made your community very proud today by coming in and addressing us. I think everybody in this Chamber has loved listening to you and I don’t know, I think you are the very first—I’ve been here about 12 years, I think you’re the very first person I’ve heard speak for 10 minutes, not 5.

Mr Thomas Spencer: I’m one of the rare ones in life.

Councillor HOWARD: You’re a rare—you are rare, you are rare, but it was amazing and can I just say to you, I just love listening to your story. It is fantastic for all of us in this Chamber to hear the lived experiences, which is why having public speakers come and talk to us is so important and what you’ve done for us today and what you’ve done for your community is really, really special, so thank you. I know Councillor PARRY had a little word to me beforehand, she speaks very highly of you and your tireless advocacy on behalf of people with autism. She tells me what a great advocate you are, so again—and we’ve experienced that today, all of us.

Mr Thomas Spencer: You’ve heard the living experience from the horse’s mouth.

Councillor HOWARD: Well there were a few horses running around a track in Melbourne that’s before we arrived, so there we go. Thomas, she also tells me that you stand up on local issues in your area and that you’re always trying to improve your local community and we thank you for that. I could hear today how proud you are of Brisbane and we, all of us here, are immensely proud. The LORD MAYOR is always proud of all of the things that happen in Brisbane and I could see him nodding his head as you were speaking as well as you could. I think that’s just absolutely amazing, so raising awareness for the Brisbane community about challenges that people with autism face and how we can help alleviate some of that day-to-day pressure. We’re very happy to support you with that.

Brisbane City Council (BCC) is committed to improving accessibility for all of our residents, regardless of their age, ability or background, we’re very proud of that. I really want to once again thank you, thank you very much for coming in and talking to us today. We really look forward to working with you and I know that there’s going to be some wonderful changes within Brisbane because of your talk here today. Thank you.

Mr Thomas Spencer: Thank you very much, Councillor HOWARD. I really appreciate that.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD. Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Thank you, Mr Spencer, for coming in today.

Mr Thomas Spencer: Thank you, Madam Chair, I appreciate today, so thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

## QUESTION TIME:

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

Councillor ADERMANN.

**Question 1**

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of the City Standards Committee.

Councillor HUTTON, last week we saw the Greens-Labor coalition of chaos in action, defending violent and antisocial behaviour in our parks. Can you please update the Chamber on the steps that we are taking to keep the community safe and why this is necessary?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councillor ADERMANN, for the question. Chair, on this side of the Chamber we’ve been warning residents about the risk posed by the coalition of chaos. Over the past year we’ve seen them align on a number of issues and just last week they came together again on a matter impacting the safety of our most vulnerable residents. It’s no surprise to this Chamber that the Greens often encourage and overlook antisocial behaviour, yet last week we saw Councillor COLLIER and the Labor Party join forces with them to call for the restoration of the powered infrastructure that was—let me be very clear—never publicly available. To obtain this power people had been breaking in and vandalising our barbecues and switchboards, overloading the powerboards and hotwiring with items like fridges, microwaves and electric scooters, which has resulted in electrical fires.

This is not only an issue for those in the park, but for the entire community. To make matters worse, Councillor COLLIER last week went on to say that the Labor Party do not agree with the decision to keep our community and officers safe. This is extraordinary from those opposite. The troubling rise in violence and aggressive behaviour in our parks, especially places like Musgrave Park, has turned them into no-go zones in our city. This is a serious concern for everyone, including our officers, who have reduced their visits to some of these spaces for their very own safety. I’ve heard numerous stories about our officers being confronted by aggressive and abusive individuals when entering Musgrave Park to undertake essential work, including just emptying the bin.

Residents and charities have also raised their concerns that the situation is getting worse. Along with the violent and antisocial behaviour, Council has been forced to spend more than $25,000 recently, repairing damaged barbecues and lighting, at the expense to the ratepayer. Chair, today I have been informed that there has been substantial damage done to the toilet block at Musgrave Park overnight, with drug paraphernalia at the site and substantial blockages in the toilets. On Friday the Queensland Fire Department asked Council to return the power to the barbecues in Musgrave because of the dangerous unauthorised fires. This work was undertaken straightaway, which meant the barbecues can be used, however, the locked power outlets remain switched off.

Labor is supposed to be the champions of the workers, yet I wonder if they’ve actually spoken to our officers and the unions about their safety concerns. I also wonder if they’ve consulted with the new Labor State Member for South Brisbane. I would hope that her position will be to stand with the community, stand with our officers and stand with the police to keep our parks safe. I’ve been disappointed to see the soft approach from the coalition of chaos on the antisocial behaviour, but I’m not surprised. This situation has been created by the previous Labor State Government’s soft on crime approach and a decade of underinvestment in housing.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, Councillor HUTTON.

You know to refrain from calling out while someone—the Councillor hasn’t finished. I’m stopping to make sure that you are quiet while you listen to another Councillor on their feet. As I’ve always said, if you have something to say you can say it in General Business.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. They do not like hearing the truth. Meanwhile, the Greens’ policies to defund the police, decriminalise hard drugs and even condone shoplifting while also blocking new housing projects only deepens the current issues we face. Chair, it’s cruel that they are opposing housing, it’s cruel that they want people to live in tents and it’s cruel that the only solution they have is USB chargers in parks.

In contrast, Madam Chair, our Council remains deeply committed to a compassionate approach for those genuinely experiencing homelessness. Our officers continue to work with people in need, connecting them with housing services provided by the State Government, helping to ensure they can get the access to support they require. Chair, if they had been elected in March, the coalition of chaos would have turned parts of our city into no-go zones due to crime. This side of the Chamber will always stand up for our residents and ensuring they are safe. Thank you.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

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

LORD MAYOR, a simple internet search shows that many businesses, including Telstra, EnergyAustralia and Foxtel, provide pensioner or concession card exemptions for paper bill fees. This is also the case for utility companies, like Urban Utilities and Unitywater. Other Councils in South East Queensland also do not charge pensioners a paper bill fee. LORD MAYOR, doesn’t this mean that your paper bill fee is in fact nothing more than a pensioner tax?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, Madam Chair, a simple internet search would show that Telstra, nor any other organisation mentioned there, provides a massive pensioner discount of up to 40% or $1,248, which we do. So Labor once again conveniently ignores the facts and will try and focus on $1.98, which is actually less than the cost of sending out the letter, when a generous 40% rebate is provided, the most generous in Australia, $1,248 for a full pensioner and they’re focused on $1.98. It goes to show, it goes to show why they are in opposition, because they can’t see the wood for the trees. They focus on petty politics rather than the real issues and they try and scare pensioners and then they also try and suggest that pensioners are incapable of signing up for eRates, which is offensive, it’s quite offensive.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor COLLIER and Councillor CASSIDY, I’ll caution you about calling out. I’ve already asked you not to do that while Councillors are on their feet.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Now interestingly enough, when the paper bill fee comes in, it is entirely avoidable. It is entirely—no one has to pay it, not a single person has to pay that fee and it’s why tens of thousands of extra people have signed over to eRates already.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, LORD MAYOR.

I caution you again, both Councillor CASSIDY and Councillor COLLIER.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: It’s why tens of thousands of people have signed over to eRates already, because it’s a simple thing to do to avoid the need to pay for a paper bill. Now the reality is on 1 July, when the new financial year started, we didn’t just keep the highest pensioner rates rebate in Australia, we actually increased it and we increased it by $23. The new fee for paper bills comes in on 1 January and so already, already the ratepayers of Brisbane have benefited from an increase in their rebate of $23 over and above what was already given last year, which was already the highest rebate provided.

Now we know Councillor CASSIDY would probably prefer to be a Moreton Bay councillor than a Brisbane Councillor, because he keeps looking to the north. He asked why I’m obsessed, it’s because he’s obsessed. This is the guy who moves motions in this Chamber congratulating Moreton Bay Council time and time again. He’s got an obsession with Moreton Bay and so I’d simply say how does he sleep at night when he knows that Moreton Bay only gives $250 to their pensioners, when we give $1,248? Almost $1,000 more and he’s trying to make a thing out of $1.98. Wow, if that’s any sign of the wrong priorities and an out of touch, tired Opposition, I don’t know what is.

Chair: Further speakers—further questions?

Councillor DIXON.

**Question 3**

Councillor DIXON: My question is to the Chair of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR, the incoming Crisafulli Government will soon commence an independent review into games venues. Meanwhile, the Green-Labor coalition of chaos has put politics ahead of legacy. Can you please update the Chamber on this Council’s position and any alternatives you may be aware of?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, DEPUTY MAYOR, before I call you. I’ll wait until the Chamber is quiet and I warn all Councillors to not call out while other Councillors are speaking.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Councillor DIXON, for the question, because it was a question that Councillor CASSIDY has already asked me today, so I thought it would be a great opportunity to actually set the record straight.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: That’s your third caution, Councillor COLLIER. The next will be a formal.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Our position on this side of the Chamber is absolutely clear and it has been clear from the beginning.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: We back the Games as a once in a lifetime opportunity—

Chair: One moment please, DEPUTY MAYOR, sorry.

Councillor COLLIER, as you have failed to comply with the request to take remedial action 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. We back the Games as a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver generational infrastructure, to deliver better transport to keep Brisbane moving and to deliver a legacy that benefits all residents for generations to come. That’s what hosting the Games is all about. That’s why the South East Queensland Council of Mayors banded together back in 2015 to pursue this green and gold opportunity and that’s the promise we made to the community. Brisbane had the longest lead time for an Olympic and Paralympic Games in history, but the former State Government burnt 1,200 days playing petty politics, making Olympic sport out of being petty.

The venues costs were plucked out of thin air and independent advice was ignored and all the decisions were being made behind closed doors. What did we see 10 days ago? Queensland voted for a fresh start. Within 100 days we’ll see a comprehensive plan from the Crisafulli Government and doing this so will restore faith and trust in the process. Brisbane residents finally have a State Government that will work with us, not against us, and we look forward to working with Premier Crisafulli to keep Brisbane moving. But those opposite still don’t have a position. They didn’t have a position 7 months ago, they didn’t have a position in November last year, when the Labor’s Lord Mayoral candidate was asked, the headline for Tracey Price was Labor’s Brisbane Lord Mayoral candidate still deciding on a position.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Well we’re still waiting.

Chair: One moment please, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor—

*Councillors* interjecting*.*

**Order – Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON**

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| The Chair then advised Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON that as she failed to have suitable meeting conduct by calling out and yelling out a question over the top of everybody and over the top of the speaker, in accordance with section 21(8) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, an order reprimanding her for her conduct was being issued. |

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: I also—

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s outrageous.

Chair: —caution you, Councillor STRUNK, for calling out.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You’re not following your own process here.

Chair: Councillor, I’m speaking.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You’ve cautioned Councillor COLLIER 3 times. I don’t even get a caution?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor, do not call out over the top of me. You know very well why you have been given that reprimand.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor STRUNK was calling out, Councillor COLLIER was calling out, Councillor MASSEY was calling out and no one gets—so point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. During that interjection, Councillor STRUNK was calling out, Councillor MASSEY was calling out, Councillor GRIFFITHS was calling out. Why am I the only Councillor that has been warned—not warned, no warning.

Chair: Councillor, there is no—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ve had unsuitable meeting conduct noted in the minutes.

Chair: —there is no—nothing in the Meetings Local Law as to me warning you or cautioning you. I do it as a courtesy to make you realise, but—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You haven’t even given me a warning.

Chair: —I am not going to uphold—

Councillor JOHNSTON: But why aren’t you taking action against the other Councillors, is my question?

Chair: —I am not going to uphold your point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Because you’re biased.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, you are cautioned.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: It is up to the Chair to decide the severity of the reprimand and conduct. We’ll continue with the meeting. Councillors, again I remind you all to not call out and show respect. If you have—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. I do not uphold your point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: You will remain quiet while Councillors are speaking.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’m not quite sure if—I don’t think I’ve spoken for 2 minutes, 16, is that correct? Yes? Okay, thank you. Well through Labor’s entire campaign we saw no vision, we saw no fresh ideas, where clear views on the important issues were missing, stumbling and bumbling their way through questions. We all know that the Olympics is a State thing, I haven’t decided where I stand, I haven’t formed a view on what’s best, is the Hansard from a question for Councillor—not Councillor, wanting to be Councillor Tracey Price. But it’s not good enough and I call on Councillor CASSIDY to settle this, through you, Madam Chair, once and for all, what is their position.

Councillor CASSIDY, through you, Madam Chair, you can’t sit on the fence any longer, it’s just not fair to the residents of Brisbane. At least we know where the Greens’ anarchist, self-declared anarchist, Jonno Sri stood. Not only did he support QSAC (Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre), he actually claimed that it was his idea. This is official Greens policy and now we see Councillor CHONG WAH, who’s conjuring up some kind of conspiracy theory that we’re not being transparent and honest. Well the only conspiracy theory that has any truth to it is Greens and Labor will have to form a coalition if they want to keep any kind of relevance in Brisbane. Confirmed by Councillor CASSIDY’s hero and mentor, Lord Mayor Jim Soorley. Backed up by the former Councillor David Hinchliffe, who graced us with his presence last week in this Chamber as well.

So tell us, through you, Madam Chair, tell us, Councillor CASSIDY, will your Greens-Labor coalition of chaos be supporting the $1.6 billion-plus blackhole revamp into QSAC? Do you support knocking down koala habitat for a 4-week event? Do you think that $1.6 billion on temporary infrastructure represents good value for money? Because we have been nothing but upfront about our priorities for residents in Brisbane. It’s time for Councillor CASSIDY to come clean, for Councillor CHONG WAH to come clean, to tell Brisbane what the Greens and Labor coalition plans are, because I can tell you right now—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —QSAC is not the answer.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: To answer the DEPUTY MAYOR’s question, 3 questions, no, no, no.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR—

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I move a motion to—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m sorry.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor ADAMS—do you want to do it? Yes, thank you.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Councillor ADAMS is just displaying, what is it, unsuitable meeting conduct by shouting out across the Chamber while another Councillor was talking. You’ll have to warn or caution—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —or reprimand Councillor ADAMS, I’m sure, Chair.

Chair: No, I don’t uphold that point of order.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

**Procedural motion – Suspension of standing rules**

**182/2024-25**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY, that the Standing Rules be suspended to call on the LNP Councillors to immediately advise the Brisbane public what their preferred stadium is for the Olympics in 2032.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair, and with the 45 seconds left I’m happy to answer the questions, because it’s the same answer as the LORD MAYOR gave last week, the answer I gave this morning, the answer he gave to the media today. QSAC is a terrible idea. The Crisafulli Government agrees and the public agree and the independent experts agree. We want to keep Brisbane moving and in the absence of any clear position over there that has been stated in public, they obviously want QSAC. But we need to hit the reset button, we want to see all options back on the table to ensure this once in a lifetime opportunity to host the Games is truly a legacy.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 4**

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

As you know, one of the best times of the year for tree planting is in spring, yet Council has a backlog of almost 10,000 trees waiting to be planted, including almost 3,000 community requests, mainly for street trees. According to Council officers, there has been a directive not to plant trees until autumn, that is March, April, May next year. Who has given this directive and why has—why is there such a backlog of tree planting requests, when you have allegedly provided funding in the budget in June for important tree planting work?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well I don’t accept the premise of the question and as we’ve seen time and time again, Councillor JOHNSTON asks questions that are not based on fact, so I will have a look at this matter. Time and time again we’ve seen that, she’s made claims in this Chamber that have been later shown to be absolutely inaccurate and so I’ve learnt to verify everything she says and I will be doing that. Thank you.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor GIVNEY.

**Question 5**

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Chair. my question is for the Chair of Community and the Arts Committee, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD, the Schrinner Council is investing in creating thriving communities across our city. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest project helping our lifestyle in the Bayside be even better?

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well thank you, Madam Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor GIVNEY for the question. I know that Councillor GIVNEY has been eagerly awaiting the completion of this project. Council is excited about the upcoming reopening of Wynnum Municipal Hall on Monday 18 November. First constructed over 111 years ago, the Wynnum Municipal Hall has withstood a lot of wild weather during its time, including floods in recent years and it was time for a facelift, Madam Chair. Now the Schrinner Council is committed to the preservation of places in our suburbs, which is why we chose to deliver this important refurbishment.

The Wynnum Municipal Hall closed in late October 2023 and has since undergone a full roof replacement, water damage repairs in the main hall, a full replacement of entrance stairs and an electrical upgrade throughout the building. Originally opened back in 1913, this iconic Wynnum venue has been host to countless free and low cost community events. From dance performances to meetings of the local organisations, this community asset has always been valued by its surrounding residents. Now prior to its temporary closure, Wynnum Municipal Hall was one of the most popular community halls to hire. In the same suburb, Wynnum Community Centre is currently our most popular hall to hire, which demonstrates just how valued these community halls are to residents, particularly those in Councillor GIVNEY’s ward.

I’m sure her residents will be thrilled at the reopening of the Wynnum Municipal Hall and it will be eager to use the revamped facility. Through you, Madam Chair, I’m sure Councillor GIVNEY is also very excited that the Wynnum Hall is reopening and that she can’t wait to help spread the word. Wynnum Municipal Hall is just one of the fantastic local community halls and facilities that Brisbane City Council has available to hire. No matter where in Brisbane you choose to live, there’s bound to be a Council owned and managed community hall nearby for you to hire. We know that residents love to hire them, Madam Chair. In the 2023-24 financial year alone, our community halls were frequented by more than 430,000 visitors. For this financial year, we’ve already had over 117,000 visitors and we’re on trend to exceed the previous year.

Hiring a hall has also never been easier, Madam Chair. Our Council website provides users with an easy way to find a hall that suits their particular needs and to check the availability online. From weddings to musicians to cultural events, our community halls can cater for it. Pleasingly, customer satisfaction from users of our community halls is also consistently high. Both the previous and current financial years have a satisfaction rate of 94%, which just shows what great community assets our halls are. One of the things that makes our halls so great is not just how accessible they are in terms of locality, but also in their cost to residents and community organisations.

For a small fee, far below commercial rates, individuals, private groups and community organisations are able to book and hire a hall that suits their needs and the number of their attendees. Commercial events, businesses or government bodies are also able to hire our Council-owned and managed community facilities for a cost more suitable to these entities. This equitable fee structure is just another example of the Schrinner Council’s sensible fiscal approach. We will always prioritise keeping costs down for Brisbane residents, whilst ensuring that we can afford to provide premium services and high quality community facilities.

We know that the refurbishment of the Wynnum Municipal Hall is a fantastic example of this and we’re so excited that this fantastic community hall will be reopened to the public soon. I would like to place on the record my sincere thanks to the team that made this happen. It’s been a long journey for the Wynnum Municipal Hall and I know that Councillor GIVNEY’s been very patient and through you, Madam Chair, I know that her residents are very much looking forward to returning to this much loved Council facility. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 6**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR and LORD MAYOR, I bring you back to the real issues for residents in my ward.

Despite repeated requests to Council, grass in the Doolandella Recreation Reserve on Peacock Street in Durack is over 2 metres high and littered with illegal dumping. This is a lack—there is a definite lack of basic park maintenance and simply not good enough for the suburbs I represent. LORD MAYOR, my question to you is why does your LNP Administration continuously ignore the needs of residents in the outer suburbs?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well I think ditto to the former response to Councillor JOHNSTON, because there’s another one who is very—has a very long rap sheet of making stuff up and that’s Councillor GRIFFITHS. But look, I’m not specifically aware of this one, but from the sounds of it, it sounds like a nature reserve, not a park. Councillor GRIFFITHS has been around long enough, in fact longer than anyone else, to know there’s a difference between a park and a nature reserve. He knows very well what that difference is. A nature reserve is largely bushland and if there’s long grass in bushland, surprise, surprise, because that’s bush—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, just to clarify, it’s actually a park, it’s zoned a park, I’ve checked that.

Chair: Thank you and I remind you also, Councillor GRIFFITHS, to not call out. You’ve asked your question, if you’ve got further things to say, wait until General Business please. Let the LORD MAYOR be heard in silence.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Look I’ll confirm once again to verify the veracity of the claims that have been made. But in the meantime, I have a question for Councillor GRIFFITHS. Does he support the destruction of koala bushland in his area for QSAC? Because that’s Labor’s policy, as far as we can understand. They’re quite happy to support—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —QSAC and the destruction of bushland—

Chair: One moment please.

LORD MAYOR: —in his area.

Chair: One moment, LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

One moment, LORD MAYOR, please.

What’s your point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, I was clearly in the paper opposing it. Thank you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Sorry, LORD—

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor Krista ADAMS was audibly shouting across the Chamber—

Chair: Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —for an extended period of time. Why has she not been named, warned, or her unsuitable meeting conduct noted in the—

Chair: I do not uphold your point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You didn’t even let me finish. So Krista can shout but no one else can, is that right? Thank you for clarifying.

Chair: Please refer to Councillors by their proper names and I do not uphold your point of order. I’ve just asked all Councillors on both sides of the room to please remain quiet.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. But back to the premise of the question, we will obviously verify what’s happening there. But I can tell you when it comes to our grass cutting services, they are doing a great job right across the city, making sure that our city and suburbs are well maintained, with parks that are well maintained. That’s why all of us as Councillors get great feedback about the parks and the quality of our parks and the maintenance of our parks. Councillor GRIFFITHS obviously is being—he’s gone full, you know, bush, to find a section that is apparently not being maintained. Good on him, it’s good to get out and about in his ward.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: But the reality is our budget for grass cutting continues to be supported. We continue to spend 68% of our budget in the suburbs. Sorry, 86%, thank you for that correct, 86%. I’ve obviously got my numbers around the wrong way.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor Krista ADAMS is now shouting abusive comments across this Chamber, saying you’re now dyslexic today.

Chair: Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: These are inappropriate comments—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and Madam Chairman, you must take action about her repeated interjections.

Chair: I do not uphold your point of order and I am the one running the Chamber, not you.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I think—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, sorry.

LORD MAYOR: I didn’t take offence to Councillor ADAMS’ claims, it’s all right. So 86% of the budget—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —has been invested in the suburbs.

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: I’d just like a ruling if dyslexic today is an appropriate comment—

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, I do not—

Councillor MASSEY: —for the community of Brisbane that have dyslexia.

Chair: As I just said, I am running the Chamber and I do not uphold—

Councillor MASSEY: I’m just asking for a ruling on the comment.

Chair: —I do not uphold your point of order. You should all be listening to what the LORD MAYOR has to say and not calling out. He is the one on his feet and actually speaking to the Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, there is one person who is speaking and it’s the LORD MAYOR and I ask you to be quiet while he is doing so.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: But, Madam Chair, we’ve seen for months and months and months Labor Councillors crying wolf when it comes to what’s being done in the suburbs. They’ve made all kinds of diabolical claims about maintenance in the suburbs, which have all been proven to be inaccurate and which the residents of Brisbane saw through when they voted just a few months ago in the election. Their campaign was all about, all about the $400 million in savings we made. They made their position and their claims very clear.

The people of Brisbane definitely heard those claims because it was—they spent, I think, $2 million on advertising. So they heard them, but then they rejected them, because they knew that it just wasn’t true. They could see it, in their own area they could see that this Council invests in the suburbs, that our Administration invests in the suburbs. They could see it and they can still see it today and they’ll continue to see it in the future.

So, Councillor GRIFFITHS, good on you for going bush, good on you for finding some illegal dumping, I hope you reported it because we’re keen to deal with illegal dumping, just as we’re keen to make sure that our parks aren’t becoming no-go zones with dangerous behaviour, antisocial behaviour, with stabbings, with fires. Labor Councillors don’t care about those things, they don’t care at all, they want to turn a blind eye. They’re quite happy to allow those things to continue on in parks, but making claims about a bushland reserve, once again it’s a sign that they’ve got their priorities wrong.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

**Question 7**

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

Councillor ALLAN, while the Greens had a busy Council recess opposing more homes for Brisbane residents, the Schrinner Council is working to approve quality housing across Brisbane. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest housing approval data across Brisbane?

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to Councillor WOLFF for the question. Madam Chair, it is no secret to the Chamber that Brisbane has experienced significant growth over recent years, which has created significant challenges with respect to housing. There are a range of industry and construction constraints impacting the supply of housing, including low productivity, high labour costs, inflation, material costs and labour shortages. Yet time and again we see the Greens oppose housing initiatives and projects at every level they have—every opportunity they have and across all 3 levels of government. Whether this be through opposing key developments in the right locations and zoning, such as South Brisbane and Milton, or whether it be policy fantasies that will drive investors from the market and reduce rental supply, the Greens have it all wrong on housing.

The Greens would have the public think that it is only the super wealthy that invest in property, however, this is demonstrably incorrect. Recent data compiled by the ATO (Australian Tax Office) reveals a typical investor is far from the stereotype of the greedy landlord. Schoolteacher investors outnumbered IT workers, truck drivers edged out solicitors and police also made the top 20, showing that everyday hardworking Australians provide homes for the nation’s renters. The recent State election shows that Greens policy is not resonating with residents. So while the Greens are opposing housing initiatives, this side of the Chamber will continue to support the delivery of housing for all residents, whether this be through providing more latent supply via our development approval process, through city planning settings that promote and stimulate housing, assisting community housing providers or supporting homelessness services.

For many years, Council has provided a significant pipeline of latent housing supply available to those who wish to provide housing and we currently have 9 years of supply available. Madam Chair, October was a big month for the development approval team, 342 development applications (DAs) have been completed. This included 51 development applications approved for a material change of use, for a residential use, this has yielded a net increase, just in October, of 3,335 dwellings last month alone. Let me repeat that, 3,335 dwellings approved in October. In the context of these particular approvals, there were a number of build-to-rent components, including 905 residential units in Newstead, at Longland Street, Newstead. A further 735 in Ross Street, Newstead and importantly, a Brisbane Housing Company development in Coopers Plains that will see 54 residential units operate under a build-to-rent model.

Not only is Council approving significant numbers of development approvals, but we’re also doing it in rapid quick time. The BEDA (Brisbane Economic Development Agency) *State of the City* report indicated that Brisbane approves DAs 38% faster than Sydney or Melbourne, so Brisbane City Council is demonstrably doing all it can to support housing in the city. However, development approvals and providing latent supply is only one piece of the puzzle. Between 2019 and 2023, Council approved more than 57,000 homes, however, just half of those homes have been built. These stark figures show how tough it is to build in the current environment and demonstrate why all levels of government must act. To help get things moving, we are incentivising the construction of new homes by reducing infrastructure charges for eligible projects.

We are creating thousands of additional homes through suburban renewal in underutilised areas close to transport and employment hubs and the Stones Corner renewal precinct is a good case in point. We have 100% permanent and ongoing reduction in infrastructure charges for registered community housing providers and importantly, we’ve recently provided assistance to 2 projects in Chermside and one in Stones Corner. The net contribution, or financial support that Council is providing to these 3 projects alone is north of $2 million. We are also looking to reduce car parking requirements in key locations around the city, which will have a direct impact on the cost of building new homes. The Schrinner Council has a strong record when it comes to ensuring Brisbane has adequate and diverse housing supply, while ensuring growth occurs in a sustainable way and our city’s unique character is preserved. Thank you.

Chair: That now ends Question Time.

We now move to the Establishment and Coordination Committee (E&C) report.

LORD MAYOR—just one moment.

LORD MAYOR, the Establishment and Coordination Committee report, Monday 28 October 2024.

## 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 28 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair.

**Seriatim for debate and voting - Clause A**

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| At that point, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that Clause A, COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND RECESS PERIODS FOR 2025, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

**Seriatim for debate and voting - Clause D**

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| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause D, TAILORED AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – AMENDMENT 1B, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

**Seriatim for debate and voting - Clause E**

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| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause E, AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – AMENDMENT 1B, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Before I move on, I’ve become aware of a technical error which meant that not all Councillors have been able to get access to Clause E of the E&C report. Effectively, there’s a large number of documents that have to be uploaded for Councillors’ viewing and, unfortunately, not all Councillors were able to view all of the documents. In fairness—

**Procedural motion – Clauses D and E of the Establishment and Coordination Committee report be withdrawn**

**183/2024-25**

It was moved by the LORD MAYOR, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR that Clause D, TAILORED AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – AMENDMENT 1B; and Clause E, AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – AMENDMENT 1B, of the Establishment and Coordination Committee report be withdrawn and then re-presented again at the next Council meeting on Tuesday 12 November due to a technical error.

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR—so, LORD MAYOR, speaking—just a reminder that we will now speak to item A separately—

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you.

Chair: —and then vote and then move to B and C.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, well before I move on and before we go on to the items and also the usual updates that I provide, it seems that Opposition Councillors want to talk about the Olympics and Olympic stadiums. I’m more than happy to repeat exactly what I said last week and exactly what I said this morning, which is all options need to be on the table. Councillor JOHNSTON thinks it’s funny. She was here last week when I said exactly that. Maybe she was doing something else, maybe she wasn’t listening, but that’s exactly what I said last week. All options, read my lips, all options need to be on the table.

That includes everything except for QSAC basically. That includes—is there a better way to do The Gabba? Because the previous proposal was costly and disruptive. There’s got to be a better way, is there a better way? It’s sure—it’s certain in my mind that the previous government did not look at that appropriately, they completely botched it. Maybe now that the process can be given to the experts for further analysis, there could be a better way. Victoria Park needs to be on the table, it needs to be on the table and Hamilton Northshore needs to be on the table. While you’re looking, have a look at Albion again as well, because that was the original proposal. That was the original proposal before the State Government politicking stepped in the way and threw it all off.

I also wanted to point out that there’s been some interesting narrative around Olympic venues that has happened. Now in the beginning, 84% of venues either existed or could be done through temporary facilities, so 84% of the venues required were either already there or could be provided through temporary facilities. Now an example of the temporary facilities, we saw this in Paris with the BMX freestyle. You don’t need to build anything permanent for that, you can build a temporary venue, great outcome and then it can be packed down and reused somewhere else after the Games.

But that leaves 16% of venues that actually needed to be built and what was included in that 16%? No? A main stadium, a main stadium was always part of the agenda to be built, always, right from the beginning. So there’s a bit of rewriting of history that’s going on here, where some people are sort of saying oh no, we never had to build a stadium. Rubbish. It was always part of the arrangement. Now, as I said, it’s been completely botched by the former Labor Government and I welcome the new government, David Crisafulli Government’s efforts to get it back on track. But we need to make sure that this is done with independence and rigour and we need to make sure that all options are on the table.

Now I understand that there are views around the State when it comes to the cost of major venues like stadiums. People will ask well okay, if it costs this amount, what else could that money be used for? I understand that’s a debate that is had and I know that there are also people around the State who get very resentful of any dollars that’s invested in Brisbane, even though it is the State capital and we are a capital for all of Brisbane. Even though they’re quite happy to come and attend games here in The Gabba or Suncorp Stadium from all around Queensland, but we understand the political reality of that debate. But one thing is clear, there was always going to be a need for a major investment in stadium infrastructure, always.

So whether you call that a new stadium, whether you call it a replacement stadium, whether you call it stadium investment, it doesn’t really matter, there always was to be investment or major stadium investment, right from day 1. Nothing’s changed, the only thing that’s changed is the way that the government politicised it and botched it. So we’re determined to get it back on track and the way we get it back on track is by having the options on the table thoroughly assessed by the experts, by this independent delivery authority and then we can get the best legacy outcome. What does the best legacy outcome look like? We need an oval stadium and we need a rectangular stadium in Brisbane.

We’ve got one now of each. Now Suncorp Stadium is a great stadium, it’s not at the end of its life. The Gabba, there are reports floating around that say that it will reach the end of its life by 2030. So I guess the question is do we just get rid of an oval stadium and not have another one? Or is investment required in an oval stadium? I think everyone would agree that yes, investment is required. So let’s find out the best way to do that, let’s find out the best location to do that, let’s get the experts’ advice and look at the costs and benefits and then let’s get on with it, because in the end that legacy stadium is required. Not for the Olympics, it’s not required for the Olympics; it’s required for our ongoing needs, for AFL, cricket and concerts and other major events.

For people in regional Queensland who might be thinking why should a stadium be built in Brisbane, I would simply say this, would you prefer to fly from Rockhampton to Melbourne and have your money go to Victoria, or for your money to stay in Queensland? Because the reality is we are the State’s capital and I prefer and I’m sure they’d prefer to be coming to their State capital and spending their money in their State capital to keep the benefits locally in Queensland. Because that’s the reality, whether it’s a Taylor Swift concert, whether it’s a Lions match, whether it’s the cricket, the Heat—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —State of Origin. No, there’s no State of Origin in an oval stadium, but I’ll take—I reject that interjection. Whether it’s other major sporting events, we’d prefer people’s dollars from Queensland to stay in Queensland, and we’d prefer people not to have to travel interstate to see all these great events. If we don’t have a legacy oval stadium, that’s what people will be faced with. They’ll be faced with that decision of going interstate to see the cricket, to see the AFL, to see concerts, to see major events. Let’s get the best legacy outcome here, but also when you’re looking at a stadium, let’s have a look at how people get to and from the stadium, because that question was never answered when it comes to QSAC. We were told the State Government will talk to us about transport options. How many options have been submitted to us?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Crickets. The former Minister cancelled the meetings to talk about options for transport to QSAC and so it’s quite clear there are no options for transport to QSAC that work or are credible. Another reason why QSAC is not a good option. But when it comes to other venues, whether it’s The Gabba, whether it is Victoria Park, whether it is Albion or Hamilton Northshore, transport needs to be taken very seriously in the analysis. Because you may invest a certain amount in a stadium, but if you then have to invest hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars more into transport infrastructure to make that stadium work, that has to be considered as well. One great thing about Victoria Park is that it will have 3 metro stations nearby and a train station from Cross River Rail, already in place, already in place. The station is being finished off, the metro will be running there within months. Why are you looking at me that way, Councillor MURPHY? Why are you looking at me that way? The metro will be running there very soon and those 2 options provide great transport access.

The Gabba, obviously, will have Cross River Rail, but you remember we had a discussion in this place not too long ago—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**184/2024-25**

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: Remember, we had a discussion in this place not too long ago about the ballooning cost of the underground metro station at The Gabba. So the original 450 million budget under the City Deal was heading to 600 million-plus. So take The Gabba rebuild figure of 2.7—that’s the published figure, I think it would be higher than that.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well, yes, more than that, more than that. So take the 2.7 published figure and add at least $600 million on to that to build The Gabba metro station. So where are we at now, Councillor MURPHY?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: More than 3 billion, yes, we’re getting up to 4 billion. So that’s what we know, that’s what we know right now. So to make The Gabba work, potentially you’re looking at the 2.7 plus another 600 million to build the metro station.

It has to be considered, maybe there is another way. Maybe some experts will say well you don’t need a metro station there, rail and the Kangaroo Point Bridge can take the load. This needs to be looked at. But, you know, as I’ve said before, the previous proposal for The Gabba was costly and disruptive, but is there a better way? At least we need to ask the question so that we all know, 100% yes or no, is it an option? That analysis, obviously, hasn’t been done properly, it needs to be done, it should be done.

So, what’s my position on Olympic stadium? We want the best legacy outcome for Brisbane, that’s my position. Where will that be? Well, I have an idea on where it might land.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It won’t be at QSAC, which Labor supports. It won’t be at QSAC. By the way, you know, Councillor CASSIDY tub-thumping about oh, come clean on what you stand for. I’ve never once heard him say where he thinks the Olympic stadium should be, never once, never once, maybe it’s Sandgate, I don’t know. Boondall Entertainment Centre, maybe.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

LORD MAYOR: Is that why my vote went up in the election in Sandgate.

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

Councillor CASSIDY. Councillor CASSIDY, the same.

Do not call out across the Chamber, Councillors. If you wish to speak, wait until your turn after the LORD MAYOR has finished.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Where were we? So we haven’t heard Labor express a single opinion on where the Olympic main venue should go, or the main stadium. They haven’t said a single thing. But I think it’s easier for them just to oppose. Just like the Greens. Look, I think we can be really sure about the Greens’ position. They don’t support The Gabba, they don’t support Victoria Park and they don’t support the Olympics, full stop. So it’s really clear.

Like you know it’s very clear what they believe when it comes to the Olympics. They don’t want the Olympics at all. That’s fine, they can have that opinion and parties on the fringe tend to have that opinion. The far right, the far left, they’re the ones that are against the Olympics. Reasonable people see the benefits for this, for our State and for our city and also for legacy infrastructure.

So I state again, I want the best legacy outcome and to get that, all options need to be considered. All options need to be on the table. The only exception to that rule is QSAC, which anyone can see just won’t work. So all the other options need to be considered.

Now, last night, our assets were lit up in orange for the 10th Colour the World Orange Day, which supports those living with Complex regional pain syndrome and other chronic pain conditions and they’re supporting research and education and awareness campaigns.

On Thursday, our assets will be lit up in blue for the opening of Bluey’s World. Who’s got their tickets?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Steve, you do. We’re all fans of *Bluey* and we’re all fans of CityDogs as well. So Bluey’s World is opening up within days and to celebrate that, we’ve obviously launched 2 CityDogs on the Brisbane River. One that’s a blue one, obviously, for *Bluey*, and an orange one for Bingo, not for Chilli; Bingo. Chilli’s doing our voiceover on the metro. Actually, we need to get a voiceover in the CityDogs. Can we arrange that, Councillor MURPHY?

So they were well-received on the weekend and it’s a great reminder of what *Bluey* is doing for Brisbane on the world scale. Like it’s the best export that we’ve had since Powderfinger and I know that’s arguable, but the way that this show is being gobbled up around the world and loved by so many tens of millions of people and they see those iconic Brisbane scenes, they see the tin and timber houses, they see Mt Coot-tha, they see the CityCats and the buses, they see South Bank, they see our wonderful parks, they see how well maintained those parks are as well.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I think we’re going to do a special episode in Doolandella to make sure that we can show that great part of Brisbane to the world.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Here’s an opportunity to table pictures of Doolandella, the zoning and the condition of the park out there for the LORD MAYOR. Maybe the LORD MAYOR would like to look at those pictures, thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: At least Councillor GRIFFITHS is in good spirits. So it’s a wonderful thing for our city and something we should rightly celebrate and promote. Because it’s all about raising that recognition of Brisbane. You know the thing about *Bluey* as well is it celebrates a lifestyle of Brisbane. It’s a lifestyle that is foreign to many people around the world. They’re like is there really a place like that? There is and Brisbane is it.

On Friday, our assets will be lit up to support the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust Christmas Appeal. The Lady Mayoress and the Trust do amazing work to support local charities on the front line. It is the city’s charity that supports other charities. Whether it’s organisations supporting people with disability, pathways out of homelessness, challenges with drug and alcohol addiction, trauma, abuse, neglect, domestic violence. The LORD MAYOR’s Charitable Trust Christmas Appeal raises important money at a time of year that’s absolutely critical.

I want to thank Nina for the incredible work that she’s been doing and the directors and trustees, including Councillor Adam ALLAN who was one of the directors. All of the ambassadors. We’ve just had our recent grant round for the ratepayer-funded grant round where people give their $15 early payment discount to the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust.

Thank you to the Councillors that do that, for those that don’t, I won’t mention any names, but we appreciate your support. That goes a long way. That latest round meant that 16 different charities benefited in just one grant round. So it was a wonderful thing. On Saturday, our assets will be lit up in rainbow colours to celebrate the Melt Open River Pride Parade.

On Sunday, our assets will be lit up in red to commemorate the eve of Remembrance Day. When we pay our respects to the men and women who sacrificed so much in service of our country and also around the world for the end of the First World War.

Speaking of cycling, we’ve had some great investments happening in cycling infrastructure in recent times. First of all, the second of our Victoria Park projects. Not a stadium, but in fact, an urban pump track has been completed with the opening of the pump track last week. It’s a 260-metre track featuring bumps and jumps and twists and turns. It’s great for cyclists or BMX riders, it’s great for scooter riding, it’s even great for rollerblading if anyone still does that. It’s a really great facility.

There’ll be a family fun day on 10 November to officially open the new pump track. Where the Olympic BMX gold medallist, Saya Sakakibara, will perform a live demonstration and live music will be there as well. Family-friendly activities, food trucks and lots for residents to enjoy.

Also today, I was out with Councillor ATWOOD and, also, the new Minister for Sports and the Olympics, Tim Mander, at the Brisbane International Cycle Park at Murarrie. This is a great facility, it’s been funded jointly by all 3 levels of government and we’ll be having the opening day on 26 November from 3pm onwards. Councillor ATWOOD has, as she always does, put on a good party.

Last week when I came in, I tabled some documents with our controlled entities that had their financial statements tabled. I have another document to table this week which is the financial statements for the Brisbane Sustainability Agency for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

I want to thank the board of Brisbane Sustainability Agency, the directors and also the CEO and staff members of that agency. Who are a small, but mighty team that do amazing things, including delivering the Archerfield Wetlands District Park and all of the Oxley Creek projects that are underway, open recently, great outcome. They’ve done a fantastic job and, obviously, they deliver some really important projects for us.

Item A is the Council and Standing Committee meeting dates and recess calendar for 2025. So, as we do each year, this sets the Council meeting dates and Standing Committee for the next calendar year.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**185/2024-25**

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: So the calendar is set out in Attachment B. The most notable difference between this year and next year’s calendar being the meetings from 4 February to 25 March, with the recess then commencing from 26 March up to 12 May, which we did not have this year due to the caretaker period. Obviously, there was a difference this year because of the election and the caretaker period.

As you can see from the attachment of the calendar, we have a Winter Recess from 28 June to 5 August. A Spring Recess from 17 September until 4 November and a Summer Recess will commence on 10 December, with Council and Standing Committee meetings resuming on 3 February 2026.

The calendar is ultimately the same as the current year, however, there is no caretaker period. Meetings, as I mentioned in those different sessions, we do have a particularly long session in there. That will be fun to see. I think we’ll need to make sure the air condition is very cool by the end of that session. But yes, I propose this calendar to the Chamber and appreciate your debate on it.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on this item and I’m glad the LORD MAYOR was able to clear up his position. It’s as clear as mud now when it comes to—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —the Olympics. Might change tomorrow, yes. Interesting for the LORD MAYOR, he obviously—he has a lot of strongly held opinions about Victoria Park and Hamilton Northshore and Albion. They’re all opinions that are being totally and utterly ignored by the Premier and Deputy Premier, clearly.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, no, no, certainly not. Obviously thinks that—yes, his opinions don’t count for much when it comes to Olympics’ infrastructure. This one item before us today is an important one to obviously set the meeting dates and times for our Council meetings and Committee meetings, where we can discuss things like the Olympics and like Olympic infrastructure.

I did actually also like the one where the LORD MAYOR said he was talking about Boondall or Sandgate for an Olympic stadium. Yes, the last time he was seen down those parts he was parading a known criminal around as his representative, old Brock Alexander. I wonder how he’s going. I wonder if anyone in the LNP still keeps in touch with him? They were very keen on him as their candidate, that youth criminal, handpicked, youth criminal candidate.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I ask you to—

Councillor CASSIDY: Our LORD MAYOR’s there on the pier—

Chair: —come back to the report.

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh sure, sure, thanks very much, yes, yes. They don’t like being reminded of that one, do they?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: When it comes to this item before us today, it is an important one, as I said, because meetings in here are an important function of what Council is. It is, in fact, what makes up, under the Act—under the City of Brisbane Act and the Regulation, what Council is. It’s all of us coming together and having discussions and strategic—making strategic decisions and those long-term visions. Things like the LGIP (Local Government Infrastructure Plan) and the LTIP (Long term infrastructure plan). Oh wait, obviously not debate, not today, because the LNP stuffed that up, again.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Remember all those letters, yes. Was that shouting I heard? No?

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor CASSIDY: I’m just going to note that one down too. So that was 3.57. Yes.

Chair: Again, remind all Councillors to remain quiet—

Councillor CASSIDY: Shouting.

Chair: —while other Councillors are on their feet.

Councillor CASSIDY.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Just got a nice diary here of all them. All Councillors, yes, yes. Even though it was—

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor CASSIDY: —the DEPUTY MAYOR shouting out.

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor CASSIDY: It’s all Councillors, of course yes, yes.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY. I caution you, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor—

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, I thought interjections in support were welcomed. We just heard all the guffawing from the LNP—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: —on that side.

Chair: It’s not for debate, proceed.

Councillor CASSIDY: Of course, of course. So these Council meetings and Committee meetings are supposed to be where Councillors come together and can thrash out the big issues there. What we’ve seen over the last 12 months, particularly, last few months, with the introduction of the new Meetings Local Law governing Council Meetings and Committee meetings. But over probably a couple of year period, the continued guillotining of debate, muzzling of debate, talking down of certain Councillors by LNP Councillors.

Meetings—ableist slurs we’ve heard today from the DEPUTY MAYOR. Meetings are supposed to be respectful, they should be robust and there should be robust political debate in this place. What we’ve seen in Council meetings just recently, you’ll all recall, the previous Chair of Council told Councillors to shut up. That wasn’t very respectful, certainly wasn’t very respectful when the DEPUTY MAYOR used an ableist slur today.

Or when the DEPUTY MAYOR called me, quote, a groin rub. Not very respectful when LNP Councillors called other Councillors by derogatory terms, swearing, derogatory terms. I won’t repeat those, of course. The extremely, extremely biased chairing of these meetings where we have today, had lots of Councillors on this side of the Chamber cautioned, warned and then officially, officially reprimanded on this side of the Chamber.

Yet, when Councillor WINES was shouting out at 2.56pm, or when Councillor MURPHY and Councillor ADAMS were shouting out at 2.58pm, or when Councillor ADAMS—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I draw you back to the report. It is about the schedule, it’s not about how meetings are run. Please come back to item A.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh about Council meetings. Yes, yes. So—and pursuant with section 4(1)/56B of the Meetings Local Law, we’re setting these meetings. What these meetings are for, is for debating important citywide issues. Having robust political debate, as I said and apparently, apparently, Chair, you don’t like Councillors shouting out from one side of the Chamber to the other. Granted, granted there were interjections from this side, I accept that. There were plenty of interjections from that side, but your bias is showing through more and more each and every week.

It’s really quite disturbing. It’s really quite disturbing when we are in here to discuss the important issues. We have the LORD MAYOR and his Civic Cabinet royally stuff up and meaning items can’t be brought to Council for debate that are extremely important, about long-term infrastructure delivery in our city. We have LNP Councillors turning their nose up at the Meetings Local Law governing our Council meetings and Committee meetings. You, especially, Chair, doing that meeting after meeting.

Now, Committee meetings, Committee meetings should be longer, they should be on a different day to Council meetings. As we discussed when the Meetings Local Law was changed recently, if we want to talk about really family-friendly hours in this place and an ability for Councillors to raise more issues at a Committee level and at a Council level. We should be having a discussion and a debate about shifting Committee meetings to another day. Maybe Monday mornings and then having Council meetings start on Tuesday mornings.

Some sensible suggestions, I think there, but of course, what this—over here used to be known as an Administration, has now become a regime. They do not like discussion. They do not like dissent, they do not like democracy in the place. They don’t like Councillors raising issues of importance to communities. They have all the tell-tale signs of a regime.

I know they don’t like to hear that because they often say—and I heard the LORD MAYOR say this recently that they were democratically elected. Well a lot of dictatorships start out that way. A lot of dictatorships start out that way. So there are some really concerning things. We think that we should have plenty of Council meetings and plenty of Committee meetings. In fact, more and longer would be better, but, as a start, we’ll support his item today.

Chair: Further speakers on item A?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on item A. I would like to put on the record my increasing concern, which I do every time this calendar comes up, about the incredible shrinking Brisbane City Council meeting schedule.

Now, when I started, we had about 32 weeks a year sittings, plus budget. Plus we would have week-long sittings for big issues such as, yes, Clem7 or the City Plan. There have been others. The big issues usually got their own dedicated meeting and time. Now we are here, our primary responsibility is not, as the LNP think, to attend P&C meetings in the evening. Our primary responsibility is to make decisions on behalf of the City of Brisbane.

Now, in addition to shortening the number of Council meetings, this LNP Administration has also delegated away huge swathes of power to unelected Council officers or to themselves, to make decisions behind closed doors in E&C. This is an assault on democracy. This is the kind of behaviour that regimes engage in and Councillor CASSIDY is correct about this. I mean even Putin declares he’s been democratically elected. But we know that regimes demonstrate control in the hands of one or a few select people and exclude others from decision-making.

Now, that started with delegations. That’s been happening for a very long time in my time here at Council. It’s increased with the changes to the Meetings Local Law that the LNP rammed through just a few months ago by reducing the amount of time for debate for each Councillor. Certainly, restricting the ability of Councillors to debate freely and engage in a robust political contest of ideas.

I agree with Councillor CASSIDY, the LNP Administration hate it, they hate it. You can tell they don’t want to be here. I mean the LORD MAYOR’s barely here at the best of times. I mean he doesn’t usually—even usually get through his whole E&C report, as of today. You know so they’re switched off, they’ve delegated their powers away and we’re going to see, on the other agenda items here today, the result that that’s having on the City of Brisbane.

The first thing it does is reduce scrutiny over the expenditure of a 3.8 billion Council budget. The second thing it does is reduce scrutiny and transparency over decision‑making. The third thing it does is reduce transparency, reduce accountability and enshrine stuff ups by this LNP Administration. We know that because almost every single project, every single week, this year and next year on this new calendar, will be about fixing the LNP’s mistakes.

There’s 2 in E&C today. Firstly, the City Plan amendments, which people have been waiting on for 2 years. That was a big stuff up to start with and now they can’t even get Councillors the correct documents. They refused a briefing. I knew something was wrong, I knew something was wrong. The CEO refused a briefing, Councillor Adam told me, and I quote, you have all the documents. Well no, we did not.

This LNP Administration just want to ram things through this because they have a majority. Well, guess what? That doesn’t lead to good decision-making. Generally, good decision-making happens when there is a lot of input from different parties who can contribute to a good outcome. That’s what this LNP Administration have failed to acknowledge, right from the beginning.

Now, I finally want to note that I too, with Councillor CASSIDY, agree that the idea that there are somehow—we have to have Committee meetings on the same day as Council meetings is just wrong. Maybe Monday morning’s not right because remember they have their 30-minute E&C meetings on a Monday morning, but that allows for another 23 hours and 30 minutes in the day for Committee meetings on the Monday.

Even if we take out 12 hours so we can all sleep and travel and family time, that still allows 11 hours and 30 minutes on a Monday when we could have 30-minute Committee meetings.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I’ll rise to just make some brief comments on this. You know core to our roles is this meeting. It is one of the few opportunities where there’s actually some sort of transparency. When I say transparency, I mean that sparingly. I mean it sparingly because, of course, so much of what is decided before we get here is actually in secret.

But here there is the opportunity, and it’s a core part of our democracy, to debate and to share ideas on the various topics that we need to do as Councillors in this place. That is a part of what we should be doing. Shortening the meetings, shortening the number of times we meet, this is all a negative reflection on the key points of our democracy, which is the opportunity to debate and share ideas.

We see that not only is it happening within the framework of how we meet here. Noting that all of E&C is kept in secret and that we only receive these papers, what? Thursday night?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Or after. This week it was later. This week it was later—or after.

Noting that—that framework already of how we receive information that we are supposed to in our roles and not only representing of our communities, but also representing the city—are supposed to do. The framework itself, the delegation of the framework of the power that the LNP Council has been delegating over the past years.

But, also, noting that that right to robust debate has been reduced. To put on top of that these meetings are—and I need to get this on the record—undeniably biasedly chaired. They are biasedly chaired, it is obvious for anyone that watches. I do wish that more residents of Brisbane watched the behaviour of the LNP Council in this Chamber, because these meetings are biased.

What we see is the continuation of behaviour, not only in here with the use of ableist language, with the use of insults like calling another Councillor a groin rub.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: That—I mean that is unacceptable behaviour. I’ve only been here a short time and even I can say that had that happened in in any other corporate workplace, there’d be a lot of pink slips.

That, I guess, is a really important point to talk about here when we talk about these meetings. This is all swept under the carpet, this is all swept past, there is no accountability. The Liberal Administration with their mega majority do what they want. The only opportunities for these debates continue to be biasedly run and the frameworks of them where transparency is able to be delivered are eroded.

I think it’s also interesting that we just swept past today one of a huge *faux pas*. The LGIP, the amendment of, and the LTIP, which we have been waiting for over a year. Supposed to be debated today with the papers not properly delivered to us in this Chamber. That is a huge mistake, this is a huge error.

While I can see no one’s listening to me because it’s like what would be the point? But it’s important to get these things on because the way that we function as a city and the way we debate and be able to put on the record ideas, counter arguments is really important. There is no good idea that just comes with no criticism. There is no good idea that can come without multiple people coming together to come to solutions.

We see more and more and more now that that is not the way that this Liberal Council wants to work. That is not the way the LORD MAYOR of the city, the cruel LORD MAYOR of the city, wants to work. That is not the way that this Council is currently working.

I would—I mean I wish more residents watched, because the way that the language used in here and the way that Opposition Councillors are being treated. You know, frankly, I think it’s against the Code.

Chair: Further speakers?

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman.

**S****eriatim - Clauses B and C**

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| At that point, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON rose and requested that Clause B, STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL CYCLE PARK – MURARRIE; and Clause C, SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL OF 2 BALLANTINE STREET, CHERMSIDE TO BRISBANE HOUSING COMPANY, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor JOHNSTON: Could I please table the email from Council indicating that they’ve been given a directive not to plant trees?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: This email, funny about that.

LORD MAYOR: Well, it’s interesting. We just heard Councillor MASSEY carry on about name calling and how she didn’t like name calling and then she called me a name.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Straight away. But this is the Councillor who sent out a ratepayer-funded newsletter, a hateful, hateful, divisive newsletter, antisemitic newsletter. Antisemitic and hateful newsletter.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, point of order.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Calling something—there is no protection here—to call that newsletter antisemitic.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: It’s not.

Chair: Councillor. I don’t uphold your point—

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair, if—

Chair: One moment, please LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, did you have a point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman. It is under the Code of Conduct, it is disrespectful for the LORD MAYOR to claim Councillor MASSEY’s—and this is Councillor MASSEY’s personal newsletter—is antisemitic. That is calling Councillor MASSEY antisemitic. Madam Chairman, that is unsuitable meeting conduct and I would ask you to deal with that behaviour in the Chamber now.

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

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, I think it’s very clear that so many people in the community are seeing the hatred and division being sewed by the Greens and that’s why the Greens tanked massively last weekend.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: That’s why people deserted them in droves. It’s why they lost their heartland seat of South Brisbane, because they are hateful, divisive, bigoted and antisemitic in their nature. Now, if you want any other evidence of how antisemitic and hateful they are.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, the LORD MAYOR is now calling members of the public, who may be part of a political party, hateful, antisemitic and other very offensive terms. It’s really not appropriate when it’s done to a Councillor, but to be done to members of the public is absolutely unsuitable meeting conduct and I would ask you to take action against the LORD MAYOR for making those comments about members of the public.

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

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: If you want to know what’s wrong with politics today, it’s the Greens. They are responsible for the Americanisation of Australian politics, for the division of our community. For the rise—fanning the rise of antisemitism, hatred of the Jewish people. If you need any further evidence then you just have to look at this vile newsletter that was put out at ratepayer-funded expense by Councillor MASSEY.

She’s worried about a few names being called in Council.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: Yet she is fanning the flames of hatred—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —in her community.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Will the LORD MAYOR take a question, since he’s so willing to call me, Greens’ voters and members of the public antisemitic?

Chair: LORD MAYOR?

No, Councillor MASSEY, he won’t.

Councillor MASSEY: No.

LORD MAYOR: We had Question Time already.

Councillor MASSEY: Which bit of the—

Chair: One moment, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor MASSEY, that doesn’t give you the right to call out.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, so Councillor MASSEY has asked which bit of the newsletter is antisemitic? So let’s start with the timeline where there’s a supposed timeline of events in the Middle East. It talks about various things starting back in 1516. Then it goes through to 1920, 1948, where it says the Nakba and the establishment of Israel on the land of Palestine. What Nakba was, was the day that Israel was established by a UN (United Nations) resolution. It’s also the day that all of the surrounding nations attacked Israel and tried to wipe it off the face of the earth.

That is where the River to the Sea chant comes from and that is what I’ve heard Councillor MASSEY chanting in King George Square, very loudly. That is antisemitic, that is racist.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: But let me ask. Is there something in this newsletter about the very worst catastrophe for the Jewish people in this history? Is there something about the Holocaust in this timeline? No, not even mentioned. Okay, is there something about 7 October? Where more than 1,000 innocent Jewish people were slaughtered, going to music concerts. Young people just enjoying themselves in a free, democratic country. They were slaughtered and the Greens ignored that. It didn’t even happen, that is antisemitic, that is racist, that is divisive. So it is really quite disgraceful—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, again, the LORD MAYOR is calling Greens, so people who vote Green or members of the public who support the Greens. He’s now calling them racist. Racist. Now, Madam Chairman, that is disrespectful and unsuitable meeting behaviour and the LORD MAYOR should change his language, because there is a—it’s not appropriate to lump everybody in the same basket, which he is doing. It is inappropriate and you should address it.

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

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Let me quote from the Weekend Australian—it’s from someone who was really active in the Greens Party. She also happened to be Jewish and it was very clear that she no longer felt welcome in the party that she had supported and volunteered for and voted for, for many years. What did she call the Greens? Rabid and divisive. She actually said that she went to Trina MASSEY and she was ignored. She said she went to Jonathan Sriranganathan and she was ignored. She said she went to Max Chandler‑Mather and she was ignored.

She claimed herself to be a progressive voter and at the weekend of the State election she voted LNP for the very first time. Yet the Greens still believe that somehow this is not a problem and somehow, they’re not doing anything wrong. It seems to me that they want to support the rights of everyone else except for Jewish people.

It is unbelievable, it is unbelievable. That level of discrimination is unbelievable and they’re obviously blind to their own discrimination, they can’t see it, but everyone else can see it.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

We will now move 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 Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: We’ll now move to item B and C together, but we’ll take them separately for voting.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, thank you. Item B is the amendment to the SCP (significant contracting plan) for the Brisbane International Cycle Park. I mention this park today and we were out there today looking at the nearly finished product, which is a great project. As I said, this is a project that was jointly funded between 3 levels of government. It’s also a project that’s been under construction at a time of massive cost escalations in building materials and labour.

So the cost of construction materials has risen by an average of 12% in the last 12 months while this project’s been under construction. It started early last year. Some expenses have risen even further. Concrete has increased by 30%; structural steel, 43% and bitumen, 29%. There’s a lot of bitumen, there’s a lot of steel, there’s a lot of concrete being used in this project.

Having said that despite these massive cost pressures, which—national and international factors—this project has come within 2% of its approved budget. So it is less than 2% over budget and because it is slightly over budget, we’re bringing through this amendment. But the reality is, in a period of significant cost escalations, for a project of this scale, this importance, to be within 2% of its original planned budget under these circumstances, I think that’s credit to Councillor DAVIS, it’s credit to the project team, it’s credit to the contractor as well, who’s delivered as great outcome under significant pressure.

So today we’re proposing an amendment to the SCP to allow the project budget to be raised slightly by less than 2% to cover this cost increase. Obviously, the final works continue. We’ll see the opening on 22 November from 3pm onwards and we invite everyone to come and be involved with this project and celebrate.

While this is a training facility for all types of people, including elite athletes, elite cyclists, it is open to the general public as well. So anyone can come down. If it’s not being used for a major event, anyone can come down with their bike or their scooter and use this track. So it is public access facility, but also a training facility for future Olympians and Paralympians.

It’s also being managed by the Balmoral Cycle Club who have been on the site in its previous iteration for many, many years and do a fantastic job. They’ve got a great skills development program—or development program, for upcoming cyclists, the Olympians and Paralympians of the future.

But also there’s a partnership in place with TRACTION and some of you would be aware of TRACTION, a great charity that works with young people and gives them a range of skills, including assembling bikes. They do a fantastic job. So they’re partnering with TRACTION as well. So yes, I’m posing this amendment to the SCP.

Item C is a good news story. This is the transfer of 2 Ballantine Street, Chermside, to the Brisbane Housing Company (BHC). Brisbane Housing Company is a company that’s jointly owned by Brisbane City Council and the State Government. It provides social and affordable housing.

They have already provided more than 2,000 homes to people across the city. They’ve even done projects in other parts of Queensland as well. They’re always looking for more opportunities to provide more homes and so when we identified this site as being surplus to our needs, we looked at what might be potential uses for it.

We approached BHC and asked them whether they would have a use for this and they were very excited about the opportunity to take this house and use it for their purposes. The transfer across to BHC, obviously, is forgoing a potential revenue source for Council at a time when obviously our budget is under pressure. But we believe this particular site will be really appropriate and suitable for BHC purposes and we look forward to transferring this across with the support of Councillors, obviously. So that BHC can use it for their purposes and to provide housing for people in need. So I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak on both of these items. The amendment to the significant contracting plan and the disposal of surplus land. Now Clause B, this amendment to the contracting plan. If you listened to the LORD MAYOR at his press conference earlier today and his comments he’s just made here now. He would have you believe that the blowout on this project was very small.

He would have you believe that it was in the maybe hundreds of thousands instead of millions. But it’s not and there’s an important fact I think that we need to talk about here to bring some real transparency on to this blowout on this project.

You know, as I said last week and the week before and last month, every single time a project is entered into under this LNP regime, we can guarantee there’s going to be a delay and you can guarantee there’s going to be a cost blowout. There’s a common thread that runs through all of these projects that are subject to cost blowouts and delays. That is the LNP’s obsession with contracting out.

Now I’m not suggesting that you know City Projects Office has the staff to be able to construct this entire cycling project, the entire International Cycleway. But when Council doesn’t have the capability and the capacity internally to properly scope these projects before they are—before tenders are entered into, we have these blowouts and these delays.

We saw it in Kingsford Smith Drive, $100 million blowout and year delay. We saw it on metro works where you know Adelaide Street was caving in every night because early works weren’t done and Council didn’t know before they issued those contracts what was under here. We’ve seen it with Moggill Road, those massive delays, the project has doubled in price over its short timeframe because Council doesn’t have the capability to properly plan these projects. We are seeing that again with this project before us today.

Now, I understand why the LORD MAYOR wants to try and make an entirely good news story because there’s not much else going on in terms of good news for him at the moment. He’s being slapped down every time he pops his head up, by the new LNP Government when it comes to Olympic stadiums.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Absolutely bottom of the food chain when it comes to that. So it’s sort of Olympic‑related one so he tried to make this a good news story today. But how on earth could they not know this was a dump site? I thought everybody knew that. Everybody knew that it was a former dump site. So all of a sudden, the papers before us today say, unfortunately, the contractors had a blowout and had an issue because they were unaware and Council never told them that it was a former dump site.

There were unanticipated issues with a closed landfill site. Well duh, there are a lot of issues with those, we’ve discussed them yes, many, many, many times in my time in this place. But the lack of that early planning and that work within Council has a direct flow on effect. So if we had that capability to do the early works on these projects, we wouldn’t see that.

So the LORD MAYOR has stated today in here that it was a 2% increase cost escalation. Now, just on that, the documents we have before us today, I won’t hold them up too clearly for the cameras but they’re commercial in confidence. So we’ve been told that we’re not allowed to release the figure, so I won’t talk about at the figure that’s in that document.

But what I will talk about is what the LORD MAYOR has publicly stated today. A 2% increase on $35 million he stated for this project. Now, if you look at what’s in the papers, doesn’t reference a figure of $35 million. So if you do the sum, you do the sum on the 2% of $35 million, it comes up with a figure that’s pretty close to what’s in his commercial in confidence figures. I’m sure people can do math, it’s pretty simple to find what 2% of $35 million is.

But the project cost figures weren’t $35 million. So I have a question for the LORD MAYOR, I’m sure he can answer in summing up. What was the contingency on this project and how much of the contingency was used before we get to the point where the significant contracting plan had to be increased? I suspect it’s 100%, which was the issue that we had at Kingsford Smith Drive as well.

You’ll recall, the Lord Mayor wouldn’t reveal—the Lord Mayor at the time and Councillor SCHRINNER wouldn’t reveal what the contingency was and said that really wasn’t a blowout. Except it is, except it is. We know on a lot of projects that we see that come through whether they’re SEF (Suburban Enhancement Fund) projects or massive projects like this one, or even bigger like Moggill Road. Sometimes those contingencies are up to 30% of the total allocated figure of what is publicly released.

So the figures that the LORD MAYOR has released today show a blowout in the millions and millions and millions and millions and millions of dollars on this project. It’s not just a couple of hundred grand, LORD MAYOR. Why don’t you come clean here in the Chamber and why don’t you come clean with the people of Brisbane about the true nature of this blowout?

On Clause C—I’m sure he will, he’ll come clean. He would, he would. He just talked about his commitment to transparency before.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I’m sure he will. He wouldn’t not, surely, come clean on that. He wouldn’t, he wouldn’t, have misspoken when he said he was dedicated to those things, openness and transparency. So I’m sure he will tidy up his comments. He likes to do that. He came in to tidy up the stadium comments after last week, just before. So I’m sure he’ll clear that up for us today.

But just a final thought on all of that. They often howl us down when we say things like people are paying more and getting less out in the suburbs of Brisbane. Well, I mean case in point. Case in point, the LORD MAYOR has admitted that this is a massive blowout. He used it in the context of making $400 million worth of cuts to suburban projects and services out in the suburbs of Brisbane.

We’re seeing those projects cut now. We’re seeing services, whether they are delivered through our libraries or out in the community, being cut left, right and centre now. Tree planting, as we find out today being cut as well.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Grass cutting out in the suburbs being cut. We’re seeing less spent on mosquito spraying, things like that. Yes, of course, the 20% cut to concrete for drainage and footpaths and kerbing and channelling.

You wonder why—why are all these cuts happening? Because the Administration says no, all these projects are on track. There’s no blowouts on these projects, are there? But oh, when you just start to scratch away—and I do thank the LORD MAYOR for releasing those figures today, the media. Because when you start to scratch away and do a little bit of simple math, you start to build a very clear picture of the nature of the blowout on this project and the nature of the blowouts on all of those other pet projects of the LORD MAYOR, which lead to these massive cuts out in the suburbs of Brisbane.

So now on to the disposal of this property at Chermside. We support this and it makes sense to us to give this land to the Brisbane Housing Company during a housing crisis. We know BHC and other community housing providers are crying out for opportunities like this. This is what we have been calling for, for years, years in fact now. You know, I know it’s baby steps for the LNP to be able to do this but we do support this as it comes up. We should be seeing a lot more of these come through.

Particularly like last session when we had, I think it was 9 properties come through for sale. Some not appropriate for housing but some definitely were. I found it quite strange at the time when, you know, I spoke to community housing providers and Q Shelter and they were unaware of the disposal of this land. But Councillor CUNNINGHAM said that BHC were consulted and didn’t want any of those properties.

Then this item comes through today and says that BHC does want this property, so obviously they were consulted. So I understand now the process of which the LNP go through in the disposal of land. They only speak to BHC. Now I 100% support the work of BHC, 100% support the transfer of this land to BHC. But in the instances where BHC turn it down, there should be engagement with other community housing providers to see if it fits their needs, rather than just selling it for profit on the open market, because that money isn’t then returned to support for more homelessness services and housing supply in Brisbane.

One of the biggest barriers—probably the biggest barrier at the moment, to community housing providers delivering more stock to the market, is access to land. These opportunities shouldn’t just come in the form of one property every couple of years. Should be a lot more work done on this.

So we certainly encourage LNP Councillors to engage more broadly with the community housing sector with, you know, Q Shelter as the peak body, all of those other providers as well, about the support beyond just infrastructure charge discounts that Council can offer them. We understand and we accept that it is not the be all and end all to ending the housing crisis to provide community housing providers with a couple of blocks of land. We get that.

But when there are a couple of blocks of land available for community housing providers and they’re not talked to, they’re not offered that, that is disappointing and a huge missed-opportunity when it comes to providing an outcome for the housing crisis. So we support his item today and want to see plenty more of that and we’ll continue to support it.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **186/2024-25**  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 4.41pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillors, we now resume debating items B and C.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on items B and C. I’ll start with item C. Look, I don’t say this very often, but this is a good initiative. It is something that I’ve been suggesting, including as recently as last week, that we need to be working more cooperatively with the Brisbane Housing Corporation to provide surplus land for affordable and social housing, and this is what Council should be doing, not the LORD MAYOR’s ridiculous posturing about some dongas out at Pinkenba. This is how our Council can realistically, helpfully, and practically contribute to social and affordable housing solutions in partnership with the Brisbane Housing Corporation, so hope this is a successful project.

I do want to speak, a little bit further detail just about item B, the Murarrie Brisbane International Cycle Park. Yet again—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yet again, there is another stuff-up from this Administration regarding a major project in Brisbane. It is every week, we are seeing these blowouts, these cost blowouts. The figures don’t add up, based on what the LORD MAYOR’s said. I think there is a real problem with his transparency around this project to start with, but what actually is the problem? As we’ve heard today, the LORD MAYOR has said they have overspent. So, he hasn’t come to Council as he should of, to seek permission to expand the project’s budget. He’s now come to Council to retrospectively pay off the cost blowouts made by his own Administration. What is the problem? The scoping of the project.

Very clearly, what it says in this paperwork is, Council misunderstood and underestimated the contaminated land issue. Who did the geological testing? I bet you any money there is, it was Council. I don’t know why this Council and its city projects—every project they touch goes bad. It’s pretty clear. Now, we’ve got something that should have been pretty simple, should have been pretty simple as putting down some bitumen and some concrete for bikes to ride in circles, but no. That’s not possible. As a result of the incompetence of this LNP Administration and Councillor WINES and the LORD MAYOR and the other E&C members who have been involved in this project, we are seeing more cost blowouts on major projects in Brisbane.

Now, that’s not good enough. We know that there’s been a directive not to plant trees in the city. Is it because there has been a 2% cost blowout on $35 million? Yes, you would think that’s the case.

Chair: One moment, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor WINES and DEPUTY MAYOR, can you please take it outside of here?

Thank you. Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You would think—thank you. You would think that that’s the case, that the LORD MAYOR now has to find funding for new project stuff-ups and we can’t get a tree planted in Brisbane until autumn. It’s just appalling. What’s wrong with this Administration that they cannot build a project to budget and time? Because it’s not like this was 5 years ago. This project is a year-and-a-half, or a bit over a year-and-a-half ago. It started November 2022. We knew costs were high. It was a known issue, so how is it the contracts that Council have entered into have not taken into account any changes in the contract? There was a contingency. Clearly, that’s been spent, too.

This is just another legacy project of this LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER, which is that there are cost blowouts that mean the residents of Brisbane can’t get their parks mowed, can’t get the dumping cleaned up, can’t get a tree planted, can’t get potholes fixed. A footpath fix now, permanent solutions is asphalt fillers. That is a permanent solution. That used to be a temporary solution at Brisbane City Council. When the LORD MAYOR, his E&C, and senior Council officers fail to properly scope projects, fail to do the homework needed to support them, and fail to engage the right contract for the job, this is what happens. It costs ratepayers in the suburbs. It’s not good enough, and the LORD MAYOR’s legacy to this city is cost blowouts and stuff‑up on every project he touches.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item C of the E&C report which relates to the surplus property disposal of 2 Ballantine Street, Chermside, to the Brisbane Housing Company. Madam Chair, Brisbane Housing Company is a leading and trusted provider of affordable housing, with a demonstrated ability to deliver an innovative provision of social and affordable housing. Brisbane Housing Company is a reputable organisation with a personalised approach to customer service. During this year’s Council election, the Schrinner Council was proud to commit additional funding to support the Brisbane Housing Company.

Since our successful re-election, the LORD MAYOR and I, helped by our fantastic Council officers, have been working with Brisbane Housing Company to identify how best we can support the important work their organisation does. Now, given the needs of people accessing social and affordable housing, this property was quickly identified as an option and the team at BHC were thrilled at the idea.

On this partnership, the CEO of Brisbane Housing Company, Rebecca Oelkers, said the following. In the midst of the most dire housing crisis, the leadership shown by BCC in gifting the Ballantine Street land to BHC is outstanding. This property will catalyse the development of affordable rental homes for Brisbane families who are priced out and struggling in this market, providing them with a foundation from which they can build their lives. BCC is leading the way and putting their money where their mouth is, a true testament to Council’s genuine commitment to keywork families doing it tough. BHC sincerely thanks BCC for their support and partnership.

Although housing availability is a State Government responsibility, the Schrinner Council is always looking for more ways to make Brisbane safe and accessible for all residents. We want to support our most vulnerable residents, and we believe the best way to do that is by helping them to get a roof over their heads.

We’re experiencing a nationwide housing shortage, and creating more social and affordable housing has never been more important. The Schrinner Council is proud of partnerships such as this and our Pathways out of Homelessness Grant Program, which the LORD MAYOR introduced in 2019. Our Council has consistently punched above its weight and stepped up when the previous Labor State Government failed to do. Helping to facilitate more social and affordable housing in Brisbane is no exception, and we are proud to bring this item before the Chamber today, and I recommend it to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I rise to speak on item B, the SCP amendment for the Brisbane International Cycle Park. Madam Chair, I had the great opportunity to visit the site with Councillor ATWOOD just a couple of weeks ago, and it’s looking fantastic out there. I know that there’s a great deal of excitement and anticipation in the cycling community about the facility, and that it will be open later this month for them to access and enjoy.

Madam Chair, as the LORD MAYOR outlined, this project has been subject to a number of increases in construction materials, but we’ve been very clear from the outset that this project was being constructed on a former landfill site and that we’d need to undertake remediation work to make it safe. During the planning and design phase, a range of geotechnical investigations were undertaken to inform the project scope, but of course, there’s always a risk that further issues will be identified during construction, including identifying a nest of beautiful Rainbow bee-eaters, which held things up for a bit, and of course, further contamination that was identified for remediation.

As this Chamber is well aware, we don’t muck around with contamination. It is important that we make sure that any necessary remediation is undertaken. This contract variation was required to ensure those emergent issues could be addressed. It’s disappointing that Councillor CASSIDY would come in here, knowing he cannot speak to a commercial-in-confidence figure, so instead chooses to intimate it is many orders of magnitude greater than it is. Either it’s a deliberate attempt to muddy the waters, or this man still does not know how to read a budget, and he does not know how this Council works. There was a significant volume of design planning and project management work that was undertaken and has been done in-house by Council officers, and that’s why the figures that he is quoting are quite different.

Madam Chair, on the other hand, I’m very excited to report that the Brisbane International Cycle Park is now around 95% complete with the finishing touches now just being put on, prior to the official opening on 22 November. What’s happened is that we’ve transformed a 34-hectare sport and recreation destination that will host a number of things. There’s a 1,484-metre road cycling course, an 1,170-metre international level criterium track, and a 500-metre inline skating track. Chair, I’m told that this is the first of its kind in Queensland and possibly even Australia. I’ve always said that the Games is about building the roads, infrastructure, and community venues needed to cater for our growing population and enhance our incredible lifestyle, and this is a legacy project that will create more for residents to see and do, while providing training ground for our next generation of athletes, and this is happening in the suburbs.

Not only is this a world class cycling park, but it’s also a leisure destination that everybody can enjoy. It’s an absolutely wonderful outcome for residents of Brisbane. As I said, I know Councillor ATWOOD is very much looking forward to hosting her local community in celebrating the opening of this fantastic facility on Friday 22 November. I don’t want residents to miss out. I really want them to come along on that evening, to mark it in their calendars and enjoy what will be a fantastic evening for all, and for the cycling community to be able to access. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Listen, I just want to speak briefly on item C, the gifting of the land from Brisbane City Council to—it just went straight out of my—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Brisbane Housing Company, sorry. Thank you. Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS. Listen, I remember when Brisbane Housing Company started, actually. I was working for a State Member at the time and a number of properties were established or built by Brisbane Housing Company in the Inala suburb. So, I just thought it was a—this company, actually, really not just supplied the bricks and mortar for people that were looking for some social housing, because either they didn’t qualify for public housing or there just wasn’t enough public housing available, so Brisbane Housing Company was able to fill that gap. They also work with their tenants to sustain the tenancy, as well.

This is the model that I know the Soorley administration, along with the State Government, helped to establish and it’s worked very well. They have grown their base or the amount of properties they have by reinvesting and building more and more, but sadly, in my time as Councillor, Councillor HOWARD, in my time as Councillor, I can’t remember any financial support as far as money coming from a budget to Brisbane Housing Company to support the good work they do. Now, this land here, of course, is a great thing for them and I’m sure they’re very, very happy to receive it. There may have been another parcel of land at some stage during my time as Councillor, I can’t remember, but certainly, I can’t remember any money coming from a budget to go to Brisbane Housing Company since 2016 when I was elected.

I think it’s really sad that, really, Brisbane City Council has just left Brisbane Housing Company to fend for themselves to a certain extent. They’ve done very well, don’t get me wrong. Their asset base is quite large now and it’s growing, but they could—can you imagine where they would be at if we actually had financially supported them, say over the last 8 years that I’ve been Councillor and before, what position they would be in now with affordable housing for rent? I just think it’s really sad that that we haven’t done anything more than this over the last 8 years I’ve been Councillor, and we should have done more. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers? No further speakers.

We will 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.

Chair: We will now move to item C.

Councillor MASSEY: Seconded.

**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.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND RECESS PERIODS FOR 2025

**137/220/14/9**

**187/2024-25**

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

2. Pursuant with sections 4(1) and 56B(1) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, Council may set the dates for its ordinary Council and Standing Committee meetings. The meeting dates and recess periods are determined as soon as practicable in order to allow for forward planning by both Councillors and Council officers.

3. The proposed Council and Standing Committee Meeting and Recess Calendar for 2025 is set out in Attachment B (submitted on file). The recess periods are in excess of 20 days to allow the Establishment and Coordination Committee and relevant Standing Committees to carry out their delegated powers and functions during Council recesses.

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

5. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE THE COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND RECESS PERIODS FOR 2025, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO SET THE COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND RECESS PERIODS FOR 2025**

As:

(i) in accordance with sections 4(1) and 56B(1) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, Council may set the dates for its ordinary Council meetings and its Standing Committee meetings

then Council resolves that:

(i) its ordinary meeting dates and the meeting dates of the Standing Committees for 2025 are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COUNCIL** | **STANDING COMMITTEES** |
| 4 February to 25 March | 4 February to 18 March |
| 13 May to 17 June | 13 May to 10 June |
| Budget Period: 18 to 27 June | – |
| 5 August to 16 September | 5 August to 9 September |
| 4 November to 9 December | 4 November to 2 December |
| Resume on 3 February 2026 | Resume on 3 February 2026 |

(ii) Council meets at 1pm on Tuesdays in the Council Chamber, Level 1, City Hall, Ann Street, Brisbane, unless otherwise advised

(iii) the Standing Committees meet at various times on Level 2, City Hall, Ann Street, Brisbane, on Tuesday mornings, unless otherwise advised

(iv) Council meets at 2.30pm on Tuesday 4 November 2025 in the Council Chamber, Level 1, City Hall, Ann Street, Brisbane

(v) recess periods for 2025 are as follows:

(i) Autumn Recess: from 26 March, with Council and Standing Committee meetings resuming on 13 May

(ii) Winter Recess: from 28 June, with Council and Standing Committee meetings resuming on 5 August

(iii) Spring Recess: from 17 September, with Council and Standing Committee meetings resuming on 4 November

(iv) Summer Recess: from 10 December, with Council and Standing Committee meetings resuming on 3 February 2026.

**ADOPTED**

#### B STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL CYCLE PARK – MURARRIE

**165/210/179/4456**

**188/2024-25**

6. Council approved a Significant Contracting Plan (SCP) for the Brisbane International Cycle Park – Murarrie on 23 June 2022 and amended the SCP by Council resolution on 29 November 2022. During the delivery phase of the project, latent conditions were encountered relating to contaminated land. A further amendment to the SCP (refer Attachment B) is required to accommodate the additional costs anticipated in order to resolve all current and future claims.

7. The A/Chief Executive Officer and the Stores Board considered the submission to amend the Significant Contract Plan, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file), on 18 October 2024.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL CYCLE PARK – MURARRIE**

As:

(i) Council approved a Significant Contracting Plan (SCP) on 23 June 2022 for Brisbane International Cycle Park – Murarrie and amended the SCP by Council resolution on 29 November 2022

(ii) latent conditions relating to contaminated land were encountered during the delivery phase of the project, additional costs have been incurred

(iii) an amendment to the SCP is required to accommodate the additional costs anticipated as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)

(iv) section 211(5) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* provides that Council may, by resolution, amend a SCP at any time before the end of the financial year to which the plan relates,

then:

(i) Council resolves to amend the SCP for Brisbane International Cycle Park – Murarrie, as set out in Attachment B.

**ADOPTED**

#### C SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL OF 2 BALLANTINE STREET, CHERMSIDE TO BRISBANE HOUSING COMPANY

**112/265/439/276**

**189/2024-25**

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

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

12. Council is the owner of a residential property at 2 Ballantine Street, Chermside (Lot 467 on RP72308) (refer locality map at Attachment B, submitted on file). The site has an area of 637 square metres and is zoned as Low‑medium density residential under *Brisbane City Plan 2014.*

13. Council acquired the property in 2013 for future road widening purposes, forming part of the Hamilton Road and Ballantine Street intersection upgrade project. However, it has been confirmed this property is no longer required for the upgrade project.

14. In consultation with relevant areas of Council, Asset Optimisation, Property Services, Organisational Services, has deemed the property to be surplus to Council’s requirements.

15. Brisbane Housing Company (BHC) expressed interest in acquiring this property and it was agreed that Council would transfer ownership at nil cost.

16. Section 226(1) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the regulation) provides a number of exceptions that Council may apply to the disposal of an interest in land other than by way of tender or auction. In accordance with the exception under section 226(1)(b)(ii) of the regulation, the valuable non-current asset may be disposed of to a community organisation. The subject land will be gifted to BHC as a community organisation.

17. This property has a current book value of [Commercial-in-Confidence], which will be removed from the asset portfolio 2024-25 financial year. This will reflect a loss on disposal. The cost of transferring ownership of this property (sales commission, marketing, and advertising) will be nil due to the direct dealings with BHC.

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

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

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

As:

(i) Council is the owner of a surplus property, located at 2 Ballantine Street, Chermside (Lot 467 on RP72308)

(ii) Council proposes to transfer ownership to Brisbane Housing Company (BHC) at nil cost

(iii) section 226(2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* requires that Council decide by resolution that an exception set out in section 226(1) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* may apply before disposing of a valuable non-current asset other than by way of tender or auction

(v) therefore, exception 226(1)(b)(ii) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* is applicable due to BHC being a community organisation

then Council:

(i) resolves that the exception under section 226(1)(b)(ii) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* applies to the disposal of the site

(ii) determines that the transfer of the property should be on such terms and conditions satisfactory to the Project Director, Asset Optimisation, Property Services, Organisational Services, and Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance

(iii) resolves that the property be transferred to BHC at nil cost.

**ADOPTED**

#### D TAILORED AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – AMENDMENT 1B

**152/160/1218/535-001**

**WITHDRAWN**

#### E AMENDMENT TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – AMENDMENT 1B

**152/160/1218/534-001**

**WITHDRAWN**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor ADAMS, Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee.

### 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 29 October 2024, be adopted.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’m so glad I can be back to my Committee reports because I’m sure you’re all missing desperately what’s happening in the Brisbane Hub. It has been very busy as spring has sprung and people are coming out and enjoying the opportunity, obviously, to meet in the hub, do their networking or to hot desk, catch up and, of course, very popular workshops continuing, as well.

For the schedule of free events that are available in the next week, there is a very big one on 7 November. Time flies. What’s that? Friday morning, 9.30 ‘til 11.30am which is converting—oh, sorry, Thursday morning, Convert Visitors to Buyers, 5 Crucial Website Components to Increase Sales. This is being held by our business expert, Upward Consulting. It’s about simplifying the process of creating a high converting website by focusing on 5 essential elements every website needs to increase sales. So, it’s really about practical strategies and actionable sites to transform your website into a powerful sales tool.

So please, again, share with your business community. It is going out into our newsletter and networks, but I’m sure there are plenty out there that still are not aware that these are available in the Business Hub. Remembering that the Business Hub has moved down to our new digs now at Level 4, 260 Queen Street, so overlooking Post Office Square.

We also got some great feedback recently from a mentor session. Boundless Collective is a bespoke outsourcing company focused on alleviating the current struggle Australian businesses face with staff cost shortages and turnover. I think that’s the probably the number one that you are all hearing, if you’re out there speaking to your businesses. Staff shortages are a major issue. As we heard in the Committee last week, our unemployment rate is down low, and so they needed some support. Their business supports others for a tailored approach to find offshore staff across any industry and any job role.

So, they were really seeking some information how they could reach a wider market, understand scalability, industry context and general networking, and they got a mentor that helped them in a one-on-one session, a couple of sessions, that they said gave them lots of valuable information from a highly experienced mentor, which was absolutely invaluable. So, that is the feedback we’re getting back from those.

Please let your communities, your business communities know, even your young people in schools that are keen to get into entrepreneurship or start up their own business, there are mentors there, hundreds of them willing to give their time free of charge to help businesses, small, medium, probably not large in this case, but small and medium to scale up or financial literacy, or whatever it is that they need to make sure that they can become more of a success.

Last week’s Committee report, Madam Chair, was around our economic update as we do at the start at every session. It was fantastic to see that our numbers are climbing and climbing, 1.4 million domestic passengers to June 24. Our overnight visitors continue to rise towards pre-pandemic levels. Very interesting to see that the countries they’re coming from are changing a little bit. We’re still very much off the back of the lag of the Chinese opening up to Australia again, but New Zealand, United Kingdom are absolutely hitting it out of the park. Germany’s dropped off the popular list, so we still haven’t found out why on that, but we’re investigating that one, as well.

Domestic visitors are also spending more, 7.5 billion, and 3.2 billion by international visitors over the last quarter, as well, so that all bodes very, very well for our economy. Our inflation rate is the lowest at 0.1% of any of the capital cities and our unemployment rate is 3.9, which is also one of the lowest across the capital cities in Australia. Very interesting, one of the stats we looked at was the rate of commercial property and vacancies in the city, and it is at its lowest level since January 2013, and the same in our fringe dwellings, as well, around Kangaroo Point, South Brisbane, and Milton. Our vacancies are very, very low, so not only are people coming back to the office, but people are wanting to set up office here in Brisbane, and that is always a fantastic thing to see our economy is driving.

I look forward to everything else we’re going to be able to leverage across the Olympics and all in the coming years. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly on the only item on the DEPUTY MAYOR’s portfolio. I can see she’s been very busy. I would like to just acknowledge that, based on the figures provided in the report, it’s clear that overnight visitors to Brisbane are rising. Fifty-six per cent of all domestic visitors are coming from within Queensland, followed by New South Wales, Victoria, and international visitation numbers are up to 1.2 million and it’s continuing to rise post the pandemic. So, I understand the DEPUTY MAYOR must struggle very hard with her portfolio when the LORD MAYOR comes into this Chamber and then talks down Brisbane’s economic future.

Earlier today, the LORD MAYOR has said, if we don’t have a legacy stadium, people will go interstate. Now, the figures that the LORD MAYOR has put forward in her report today demonstrate that what the LORD MAYOR is saying is simply false. People are coming to Brisbane in even greater numbers than before, based on Council’s own statistics, but the LORD MAYOR’s view is that the only way people are going to come to Brisbane is if there is a big, shiny, new stadium, and it seems that his preferred location is Victoria Park. Now, he’s been all over the shop on this, but it’s very clear publicly he’s backing Victoria Park.

I just want to know why the LORD MAYOR is ignoring the statistics that Councillor ADAMS is bringing forward to the E&C Committee that clearly show visitations to Brisbane are growing. There’s no big, shiny, new stadium in Brisbane. The Gabba is still there and it’s doing its Gabba thing, Suncorp is there and it’s doing its Suncorp thing, but the LORD MAYOR’s comments today indicate that there is a pretty major rift between the DEPUTY MAYOR and the LORD MAYOR about Brisbane’s economic future. If the LORD MAYOR is backing economic growth solely on the basis of having, and I quote, a legacy stadium, otherwise people will go interstate, and is not listening to the advice of the Council officers about Brisbane’s growth, economic forecasts, and the very clear statistics in paragraph 3 that clearly, “Brisbane continues to rise towards pre-pandemic levels and is more than 7 point million visitors as of June 2024.”

Now, you can’t have it both ways. Are the stats wrong now? Now, look, sometimes Council does get stuff wrong, but more likely in this case, these statistics that the DEPUTY MAYOR has brought in here are based on figures collected by Council. It’s more likely that the LORD MAYOR’s pronunciation that, if we don’t have a legacy stadium, people will go interstate, is a political ploy to try and get a big, shiny, new stadium in Victoria Park. Now, that also brings the LORD MAYOR into conflict with the Premier, David Crisafulli, who said there will be no big, shiny, new stadium.

So, the DEPUTY MAYOR doesn’t appear—well, the DEPUTY MAYOR’s all over the shop. She hasn’t told us her position on whether there should be a big, shiny, new stadium somewhere. We know she desperately tried to uncouple herself from The Gabba, as did Councillor CUNNINGHAM, but the big issue here is, why is the LORD MAYOR saying that visitor growth to Brisbane is contingent upon a big new stadium, but the DEPUTY MAYOR is saying, no, it’s not? We’re growing strongly. We’ve clearly got other good conferences, attractions, tourist attractions and so forth. We’re the gateway to all of Queensland.

So, I just note that now the LORD MAYOR seems to be out on his own, the brand‑new State Liberal—LNP, sorry, there’s no such thing as liberals—the brand new LNP State Government says no new stadium. The LORD MAYOR says there must be a legacy stadium, otherwise people will go interstate. That’s not backed up by the DEPUTY MAYOR’s own figures, which show that tourism in Queensland is growing. So, I think the LORD MAYOR is probably out on his own a little bit here, and seems to be out of step with the advice from his own DEPUTY MAYOR and the Council officers. I mean, if this trajectory continues, visitor growth will continue in Brisbane. It doesn’t look like a big, shiny, new stadium in one of the most important parks in Brisbane is necessary.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Are there further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. It’s a very lovely rant from the Councillor from Tennyson, which had nothing to do with my report, but she did actually read out the line correctly, but the analysis and the premise of her analysis is absolutely false and totally misunderstands the entire point, but I’m not surprised she doesn’t listen to me, never has listened to me. I’ll say it again. The focus of the economic drive and development, particularly through BEDA, but also our Economic Development team, is to leverage the Olympics to get above and beyond what we’ve ever had in pre-pandemic levels.

I’ve spoken here copious times about the Visitor Economy strategy. It was released in the end of 2019. It was a fantastic document. Unfortunately, visitor economy didn’t exist in 2020, but the very important line there, which Councillor JOHNSTON read out for the room, was “Brisbane continues to rise towards pre-pandemic levels.” That was the whole point, and that is why there are only 8 of them over there because the vision is nil. Am I happy with pre-pandemic levels of our visitors? Absolutely not. Pre-pandemic levels were not satisfactory then. We were working on how we would drive that visitation.

Getting back to pre-pandemic is the benchmark at the moment, but that is not where we want to finish, and is not the vision that the LORD MAYOR nor myself or anyone in our team has, which is why we’re in government and why the people of Brisbane back us on our vision, because the green and gold runway we have to 2032 can be so much more than the pre-pandemic levels, and will be because, luckily, they won’t be in our way and we can get on with delivering for the people of Brisbane.

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 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 and Julia Dixon.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE ECONOMIC UPDATE

**190/2024-25**

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

2. In June 2024, Brisbane Airport welcomed 1.4 million domestic passengers, surpassing the pre‑coronavirus levels for the same period for the first time since the pandemic. The number of international visitors is at a 4-year high, with numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels of approximately 500,000 travellers as of June 2024.

3. The number of annual domestic overnight visitors to Brisbane continues to rise towards pre‑pandemic levels and is more than 7.5 million as of June 2024. Fifty-six per cent of all domestic annual visitors are coming internally from Queensland, followed by 24% from New South Wales and 12.8% from Victoria. International visitation numbers are just short of the pre-pandemic level of 1.5 million, coming in at 1.2 million, with the top 5 countries visiting Brisbane as follows:

- New Zealand with approximately 241,000 visitors

- the United Kingdom with approximately 136,300 visitors

- the United States of America with approximately 113,500 visitors

- China with approximately 94,600 visitors

- Korea with approximately 61,900 visitors.

4. Approximately $7.5 billion was spent by domestic visitors during 2023-24, and $3.2 billion was spent by international visitors to Brisbane for the same period. As of 2024, the monthly hotel occupancy rate was 82.3% which continues to rise higher than the pre-pandemic benchmark.

5. The Committee was shown a graph detailing domestic migration for each capital city. The graph detailed that Greater Brisbane has experienced the highest domestic migration across all capital cities, with Greater Brisbane and Greater Perth experiencing net positive growth. This can be associated with Brisbane’s growing economy as well as our appealing employment opportunities, lifestyle and weather and diverse community.

6. In the June quarter of 2024, Brisbane recorded the lowest headline inflation at 0.1%, with an annual increase of 3.4%. This is the lowest inflation rate recorded in Brisbane over the 4 quarters analysed, making it the capital city with the lowest inflation. The Committee was shown a graph detailing inflation across Greater Brisbane in the major consumption groups of health, transport, housing and food and non‑alcoholic beverage.

7. As of August 2024, Brisbane’s unemployment rate is 3.9%. The total number of jobseekers is 29,745, with Brisbane’s youth unemployment rate at 8.7%. The number of job advertisements in Brisbane in August is less than the same period last year, at approximately 30,000 advertisements, with professional, clerical and administrative, and technical and trade advertisements making up the majority of all vacancies.

8. As of July 2024, the vacancy rate for commercial office space within the CBD is at its lowest level since January 2013, with a rate of 9.5%. Similarly, the Brisbane fringe office vacancy rate is at its lowest level since July 2013, with a vacancy rate of 12%. The Committee was shown a breakdown of office vacancy rates between the CBD, Inner South, Milton, Spring Hill and Toowong, with vacancy rates dropping across all regions.

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 WINES, Infrastructure Committee. Sorry—

Councillor WINES: Thank you. I move that the Infrastructure Committee meeting dated Tuesday—

Chair: Oh yes, apologies.

Councillor WINES: Typically, Transport is next—

Chair: Yes, Apologies, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: —but I was called.

Chair: That’s why I got you on the hop.

Councillor WINES: When I am called, I answer, Madam Chair, but it is—

Chair: Thank you. You can stand down.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I’ll actually call on Councillor MURPHY for the Transport Committee, please.

### 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 29 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week, our presentation in the Transport Committee was about the launch of Brisbane Metro on Route 169. As part of the LORD MAYOR’s plan to keep Brisbane moving, we launched metro services early on the busy 169 route between Eight Mile Plains and UQ (University of Queensland) on 21 October. Route 169 is one of Brisbane’s most popular bus routes. It connects with the UQ campus, which is the second biggest patronage generator in the city besides the CBD. By running our metro buses on this route, we’ve been able to massively boost capacity on this service.

I was onboard that very first metro, Madam Chair, at 6.30am from Eight Mile Plains, and it was absolutely packed with transport enthusiasts. I’m not sure, I think Thomas might have even been there, actually, Madam Chair. I’m not sure about that, but it was a packed service, so very hard to tell. In total, we had almost 4,700 people use Metro on its first day of the 169, a 30% increase year-on-year for patronage on that service. Across the first week of metro service, patronage was up by about 16% on the previous week.

As I mentioned, the whole idea behind entering metros into service on the 169 was done to get services happening early for us to better understand the Metro bus product, to understand the impact to our operational services out at the depot, and to iron out any issues, errors, gremlins, and to finesse the customer experience ahead of the launch date for full services on M1 and M2. In the meantime, the last few weeks of running Metro on the 169 has given us very valuable data to help refine our operations and improve our customer experience. So, all of those learnings are going into the run up to services on M1 and M2.

We’re taking every single opportunity we can to improve Brisbane Metro, Chair. We, of course, are collecting feedback provided by passengers that are travelling on the 169. There are QR codes throughout the vehicle, both on stickers on the backs of seats near windows, as well as on the onboard information displays, and Brisbane residents are loving it, Madam Chair. Customer feedback has been very positive overall, a very high customer satisfaction score, and we are taking away some very important learnings from Metro being on the 169, Chair. We are going to expand the information displayed on the information screens. We’re working on making the onboard stop announcements louder. We are learning a lot about how passengers embark and disembark on the Metro, and we’re looking to see how we can optimise these as part of our operations.

I can also advise the Chamber, Madam Chair, that we have sought yesterday, just yesterday, a meeting with the new Transport Minister, Minister Brent Mickelberg. He has today agreed to meet with us tomorrow at 11.30am, which I believe sets a record for the quickest meeting that we’ve ever been able to get out of a Transport Minister in the history of Brisbane City Council, LNP or Labor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: So, a pretty good outcome. A great start for—I’m, I’m hearing lots of feedback from our Labor colleagues on the other side of the Chamber.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Well, we know what happened to your local Member, Councillor GRIFFITHS, Minister Bailey—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: He did. Oh, he did so well. He did so well. I’ll take that interjection from Councillor GRIFFITHS. Minister Bailey did so well—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: He did so well in the portfolio, he got dumped by his own government, didn’t he? Dumped by his own government.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Look at them sing his praises, Madam Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: Truly extraordinary.

Chair: Okay, Councillors, come back. Are you finished, Councillor?

Oh sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON, I didn’t hear you. Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I note, Madam Chairman, that Councillors both behind me and on the other side were loudly shouting out, yet you did not name them.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You did not admonish them. You did not caution them. You did not note their behaviour as inappropriate conduct.

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: So, why—no, you haven’t heard it yet. Why, Madam Chairman, are you engaged in biased and unsuitable meeting conduct yourself by applying the rules in one way to me and in other ways to other Councillors?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. I don’t uphold your point of order, and I was in the middle of actually speaking to the Chamber and getting them to come—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor. That word will not be used in this Chamber. We’ve already established that. You used many today, and you know that that one’s not acceptable. As I was about to say to all Councillors who are—I understand there is that good humour and light banter, but we need to come back to the report, please.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I can advise the Chamber that we will be presenting a plan for the commencement of full metro service to Minister Mickelberg tomorrow, and we’re very hopeful that we’ll be able to work with Translink hand-in-hand over the coming weeks and months to implement that plan and to get more people travelling on Brisbane Metro. I’m about to run out of time, but I will just say, 169, Madam Chair, it’s been a tremendous success, a great outcome. This LORD MAYOR, once again, keeping Brisbane moving. Thank you, Madam Chair. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. Forty-five dollars a head. Forty-five dollars a head. That is how much Councillor MURPHY and this Council spent on throwing a lovely little party, which I know they are so addicted to doing, for the celebration of their Metro. On brand for everything the Metro has done, really, this was an exorbitant amount of money. We were told today that $137,000 was spent on a party for the Metro attended by 3,000 people. That works out at $45 a head.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, I’ll take that interjection from Councillor CASSIDY. How absolutely underwhelming, and so disappointing in a time where the rhetoric of this LNP Council, time and time again, is we are scrimping and saving every single dollar, cutting basic services, cutting concrete, cutting grass-cutting services, cutting every single thing that matters—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: —but not the parties. The LNP Council are so addicted to these parties. How could they possibly justify spending $137,000 on a couple of hours for 3,000 people? That is an absolute slap in the face to the hardworking Council officers who are doing the absolute best they can with minimal resources that keep getting stripped away every single day to celebrate a bus opening. I note in—you know, there’s been much discussion about Brisbane’s New Bus Network and how the Metro integrates with that. There was even discussion this morning in Committee about certain suburbs in Brisbane. I know Councillor ADERMANN has been trying very, very hard to advocate for some extra bus services for his community and was slapped down. His community has missed out. Surely $137,000 could pay for a couple of extra bus services out to the deep western suburbs of Brisbane.

This is just another example of the LNP’s priorities that are just so, so wrong. First, we had the $90,000 kangaroo—what was it? The—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: —Breakfast Creek party for the bridge over a creek, which is really a bikeway, which is $90,000 of ratepayers’ money spent. Then, today, 137,000 spent on a community open day for 3,000 people.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, and while we are talking about the Metro, it was very interesting that despite lots of discussion in this Committee over the last 2 weeks about the Metro and how wonderful it is, there wasn’t really any mention about the metros and how they might work in the rain, and there wasn’t any mention by Councillor MURPHY about how drivers have been sending in videos how concerned they are when metro buses haven’t been working in the rain and how that might work. I wonder who paid the price for that. I just wonder.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I also rise to speak of the Metro 169. I was delighted to experience the launch of the turn-up-and-go Brisbane metro service back in mid-October, travelling from Lakes station at the University of Queensland through to Eight Mile Plains. As we travelled through the 10 stops, it was great to really experience the real-time travel information screens and to witness the flash charging that occurred in under 6 minutes when we returned to UQ Lakes station. It was great to see. As one of the first-time Brisbane residents to really experience the Metro, I also was quite blown away at just how comfortable, quiet, and the accessibility of how the vehicle was.

On the day, I had an opportunity to not only speak with many travellers, including students, but they commented on how positive the experience was and that the electric metro vehicles were really a significant infrastructure upgrade, and I tend to agree. Following the Metro’s official launch on Monday 21 October, I have received to my office overwhelming positive support and feedback, reflecting a strong community appreciation and heightened anticipation for the future network improvements that will enhance Brisbane’s connectivity with the Metro. This Brisbane Metro 169 initiative represents a forward-looking investment that strengthens both our community and our city’s lifestyle, setting up a new standard for public transport here in Brisbane.

I’d like to acknowledge the hard work of Councillor Ryan MURPHY and all the Council officers who have worked hard on this job. The launch was fantastic, and I also agree it’s great to see that we are keeping Brisbane moving.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. I rise to speak on item A. Eight years later, after it was first announced, 8 years as a light metro, a rail project by former Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, the LNP have not launched the Metro. So desperate are they to claim that the Metro has been delivered despite the cost blowouts, despite the timeframe blowouts, that they are claiming that the Metro has commenced, with some metro buses running on an existing bus route. Now, was this part of the Metro proposal? No, it was not. The Metro was sold as 2 routes. It was sold as a tunnel under South Brisbane to fix a bottleneck that’s not happening, and then it changed. It’s changed and changed and changed and changed over so many times.

Now, that’s not to say that you shouldn’t be prepared to be flexible where it’s possible within scope and budget, but the way in which this Administration has got to where it is, is by over-ordering the buses, so they’ve got spares. They’re claiming that the Metro has started, when all it is, is a few extra bendy buses running on the 169 route, which absolutely was not part of the Metro project. Now, how do I know this? Because I made submissions to Council during the Metro consultation, calling on a Metro connection between the southside and the University of Queensland. Not Councillor WOLFF, she lived over at Hamilton or wherever it was at that point. She wouldn’t have even known where the southside was at that point.

This Administration most certainly weren’t interested at that point in making sure metro services ran on the southside of Brisbane. Now, they did not connect up the tunnels, because the busway from Eight Mile Plains does not connect to the University of Queensland. Under the Metro proposal, and this is the proposal put to the public, publicised by Council, you had to go into the Mater Hill station or the Woolloongabba station, change buses, and then come back out to the University of Queensland. That is the proposal that this Council funded. That is the proposal that this Council put to the people of Brisbane. It’s only in the last couple of months they’ve realised, uh-oh, we’ve got—

Chair: Sorry, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor COLLIER and Councillor CASSIDY, can you take the conversation outside—

Councillor JOHNSTON: We’ve got—

Chair: —please, while Councillor JOHNSTON is on her feet?

Councillor JOHNSTON: I can’t hear them and they’re certainly not a problem.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I understand that you want to interrupt me, and it won’t work. I think that this LNP Administration is so desperate to claim their Metro is a success that they have dressed up the 169 bus by using the metro buses. This was never part of the Metro. Now, I am happy for southsiders going to the University of Queensland that they’re getting a better bus service. It’s called a route, that’s the word. We are not American. So, I am happy that they are getting better bus services, that’s for sure, but it was never, ever, ever part of the Metro project. It was never envisaged, and it was clearly, clearly a massive oversight that there was no southside connection to the University of Queensland.

Now, I just want to finish by saying, 8 years later, almost $2 billion down the hole, this Council, one and a half or more, and we still don’t know the final amount, one bus service has some Metro buses running on. It still hasn’t started. It’s over budget, behind schedule, as are most Council projects, and yet this LNP Administration goes and spends $137,000 on a party, plus all the advertising that they’ve been doing. You know what? I know my residents are getting nothing out of the Metro, and most people in Brisbane are about to get the biggest wake-up call ever. So, keep going with your advertising.

Residents of Brisbane are going to work out pretty quick that in the western suburbs and the south-western suburbs and the northern suburbs and the eastern suburbs and the north-western suburbs that there is absolutely nothing after spending almost $2 billion to improve bus services in Brisbane. There is nothing for most residents, including mine in Tennyson Ward.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Madam Chair, sometimes the smallest reports get the spiciest debates in this Chamber, and this is one of those cases. Just on Councillor JOHNSTON, well, if Councillor JOHNSTON is right that we’ve spent $1.5 billion in 8 years and we’ve wasted all this time, then she has nothing to worry about. Very soon, everybody will know. Brisbane Metro will start and everyone will be scratching their head and saying, oh, what was all this for? So, don’t worry, Councillor JOHNSTON. If the world will play out as you think it will play out, then you have nothing to worry about. Why tell everyone? Just wait and see.

But I suspect that you are wrong on this, like you’re wrong on nearly everything you say in this Chamber, and that Brisbane residents actually can’t wait for Brisbane Metro to start because they understand that bus rapid transit is the future of our city, a city blessed with busways but struggling with population growth, struggling with the task that is ahead of us in 2032 to deliver the amount of public transport that we need to host the Games in 2032, the world’s biggest event.

I am very confident, in fact, I’m supremely confident that the only way that we can deliver the transport that we need for the Games is through bus rapid transit, is through Brisbane Metro. It’s the only thing that we can still deliver in the time that we have left, and the hard work now is done. What is left is to commission this project, to commission this project and then to extend it. That has always been what the LORD MAYOR has been talking about since day one, the flexibility of this option that we can roll it out sooner now that we have one and 2 very shortly will be operating.

Just on Councillor COLLIER’s points, as well, Madam Chair, she criticised the opening of the Brisbane Metro depot. She said the opening of the depot was a slap in the face to the officers that have worked so hard on this project. That’s a weird thing to say.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Well, she’s interjecting, Madam Chair, but I think the Hansard will show, she said it was a slap in the face to the officers—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Claim of misrepresentation.

Chair: I note your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, I know what she said, Madam Chair. We can go back and check.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: We can go back and check the minutes—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, wait for your point of misrepresentation, please.

Councillor MURPHY: We can go back and check the minutes, but what I heard was that the cost of the event was a slap in the face to the officers. Well, do you know who were some of the most frequented people at the Metro depot opening day? Bus drivers, engineers, Council officers, Council planners, contractors who worked on the project. They, for the first time, got the opportunity to show their families what they do for work, because they can’t just walk them into any bus depot around the city and say, hey, it’s daddy‑daughter day, come and have a look at the buses. No, they can’t do that, they’re operational depots, but they were able to do that at the Brisbane Metro depot at Rochedale, and you know what? They had an amazing time. I got so much internal feedback about how great that day was for us.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: You know, I take the criticism. Councillor COLLIER said we only had 3,000 people attend. Well, you know what other event had 3,000 people attend it? The opening of the Bruce Highway extension, the Cooroy to Curra extension. Do you know what the late, great Transport Minister Bart Mellish spent on that party?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Three hundred and elven thousand dollars. Do you know, you criticise me. We spent $45 per person. What did they spend, do you think, on that? One hundred and three dollars per person, 3 times. Look, they’re laughing. They’re laughing. They’re laughing. You know, they should count the per person cost, because I know probably Councillor COLLIER gets quite a few people to her parties that she throws, her party‑political parties that she throws in her ward all the time, so she probably does count the cost per person to host the party. I do—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: To be fair, I do love those parties.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor MURPHY: I’m not saying that I don’t.

Chair: Councillors, again. Thank you.

Councillor MURPHY: I’m not invited to the next one, apparently, but what I will say, Madam Chair, is that was money well spent. Our operators had a great time, our families had a great time, and the public got to see and touch and feel Brisbane Metro ahead of the opening and the launch, and we wouldn’t change that in a heartbeat. Do you know what? Every time they talk about these opening parties, the budget for the Kangaroo Point green bridge opening, it just goes up. So, keep talking about it, Councillor COLLIER, because every time you talk about it, we’re going to spend more money, we’re going to invite more people, more people are going to enjoy the opening of these transformative projects for Brisbane.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, your misrepresentation.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes. Councillor MURPHY said that I was talking about Metro operators and drivers, et cetera, and I wasn’t. I was speaking about hardworking Council officers throughout Council as a whole organisation who have faced significant budget cuts and impacts to their teams, to their projects right across the board.

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 Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Danita Parry (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Lucy Collier, Julia Dixon and Emily Kim.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – METRO 169 LAUNCH

**191/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Major Projects, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, and the General Manager, Transport Operations, Transport for Brisbane, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Metro’s launch of route 169. They provided the information below.

2. Metro’s first service commenced on route 169 on 21 October 2024. The route is operated by 17 fast‑charging metro vehicles, between UQ Lakes and Eight Mile Plains stations. The Metro depot (the depot) at Rochedale provides operational support to the service and hosts an administration building, vehicle workshop and wash bay.

3. The Metro management system includes voice-over announcements, external and internal journey information displays and an onboard customer feedback QR code. Customers are able to provide feedback on their overall satisfaction and comfort, ease of boarding and the journey information. This data will be used to enhance the customer experience ahead of the Metro 1 and Metro 2 services commencing.

4. To support the commencement of route 169 services, Council worked closely with Translink to deliver extensive on-platform customer engagement. A comprehensive operational readiness campaign also occurred and included 12 station tests, 9 system integration tests, 31 degradation, emergency and *National Construction Code* tests, 18 full rehearsals and more than:

- 3,500 hours of operator training

- 7,600 operator hours on the network

- 130 tests of the metro fleet on the busway

- 1,000 tests at the depot

- 200 tests at end-of-trip locations

- 900 pilot vehicle tests.

Council will continue to provide operator training and support and assess network performance and key learnings.

5. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Managers for their informative update.

6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor WINES, we will now move to the Infrastructure Committee.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 29 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Committee heard a presentation on congestion busting projects within the local traffic network improvement program delivery area inside the transport planning operations branch of Council. The CBP or the congestion busting projects are about value-for-money projects that get large enhancements in traffic time, improvements of travel time, travel reliability, and also pedestrian and motorist safety for comparatively little cost. So, these will often involve alterations to line markings, alterations to traffic light signalling, alterations to and extensions of turning lanes. So, if there are existing concrete medians that can comfortably and quickly be removed and turned to turning lanes, we can take this particular delivery line and use it to make those sorts of projects occur quickly and within a very short period of time.

The Committee heard some examples of those. For example, Sussex Street in Mitchelton, which saw an extension of a turning lane. It saw alterations to the traffic light signalling and it saw removal of some parking bays that have seen significant improvement of the operation of that particular intersection. We heard a number of other examples, oftentimes in Forest Lake Ward, if my memory serves, but also another excellent example was, of course, Ashgrove Avenue at Waterworks Road in Ashgrove in The Gap Ward, which once again saw the extension of a turning lane and the removal of on-street parking to improve safety, visibility, and operation of an intersection without significant capital investment, but merely changes to lines and the operations of the road to give significant operational uplift.

It has been a successful program, and I recommend it to all Councillors. The Committee also considered 5 petitions on a range of issues in all corners of the city, and I look forward to the contributions of the Councillors who are reflected within those petitions.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Seriatim - Clauses C and F**

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| At that point, Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS rose and requested that Clause C, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT AND INSTALL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES ON EKIBIN ROAD EAST, TARRAGINDI; and Clause F, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS IN WIGAN AND WOKING STREETS, MITCHELTON, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I just rise to speak about one of these petitions in particular, which was item C, and it’s requesting Council reduce the speed limit and install pedestrian crossing facilities on Ekibin Road East at Tarragindi. This has been supported by 50 local residents. Once again, I note for the Chamber that this section of road is actually a border for my ward and Councillor Krista ADAMS’ ward. Last week, Councillor ADAMS was out of the Chamber when we debated a tree issue. Now, Councillor ADAMS is out of the Chamber in relation to this issue, which concerns me and certainly concerns her residents who want her to take a position.

In relation to this issue, residents are asking for safer crossing points along Ekibin Road East, which I support. I think there should be more safety crossing points or refuges along that road, and I believe it’s an opportune time to review the speed limit on that road, which is 60 kilometres. Taking that, and I’d need to get work with officers, but my understanding is 50 kilometres would suit that road, but for me, the most concerning part of this petition is a paragraph that says that we’re going to now go back and review the 50 kilometre speed limit that Council put on Ipswich Road.

Council, last year I remember there was a fair bit of debate and then there was investigation, and TMR (Transport and Main Roads) and Council were involved, that we found that the amount of pedestrians crossing Ipswich Road and the speed of traffic was that it made it safer for it to be a 50 kilometre zone. This petition now says we’re going to refuse dropping the 60 kilometre and we’re going to go back and look at the speed limit on Ipswich Road. My feeling is, the way it reads is not to put Ipswich Road down, it’s to put Ipswich Road back to 60 kilometres, and I certainly wouldn’t support that and I doubt Councillor JOHNSTON will—would have a very similar position.

Can I say, in relation to dropping the speed limit on Ipswich Road, it came after a comprehensive study that was done by TMR and that was done by Council officers? We’re constantly told to accept the advice of Council officers and to have a reason to vote against it. Well, it seems strange that now we are going back and checking the speed limit review we did for Ipswich Road, based on another petition that’s come up. To the LNP, I don’t support what is contained in this in this petition and the response that’s been put here. I think it’s setting residents up for another fail and I think it’s the wrong way to go. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item C, the proposal for speed limit and pedestrian crossing facilities on Ekibin Road East in Tarragindi, and one side of the road is Annerley, I think, too. This used to be my border when I represented all of Annerley, so I know this area well. There’s a very busy bus stop in this section of the road and a lot of people have to cross the road.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, a childcare centre, school, big parks, Jess Andrews park at the end of the street. So, my first observation is that we should be looking at lowering the speed limit, not only on Ekibin Road East, but also Ekibin Road coming up the hill to Ipswich Road, which is also 60, and 50 would be a more suitable speed for there because there’s only one crossing point there, which is down near the very busy roundabout outside the cafe. Firstly, I support the request for 50 kilometres per hour, and as always, I would love to see more zebra crossings or wombat crossings around Brisbane, and I’m very supportive of the residents’ desire for safer crossing points.

As Councillor GRIFFITHS mentioned, I was extremely concerned by what was in paragraph 39 of this report and I want to point out the following. Even though Council says there are only 50 signatures on this report, of which 10 live on Ekibin Road, the others, it doesn’t say where, it just says they live in the City of Brisbane—so, on the basis of 10 residents of Ekibin Road saying to Council, we want pedestrian facilities and slow the speed limit on Ekibin road, Council has instead—they said no to that. They said no to both of those things, and because 10 residents have asked for safety improvements on another street, Council has said it’s going to review the arrangements on Ipswich Road.

Thousands of people petitioned to reduce the speed on Ipswich Road. It took a decade. It took a decade. It took multiple petitions, took multiple requests to Council, multiple speed limit reviews. The speed limit has been reduced to 50 on Ipswich Road. Now, that wasn’t what I asked for. We wanted 40 through Annerley Junction, which is the very busy pedestrian area, but the 50 has been a good outcome given the huge numbers of people who have to cross Ipswich Road.

The big issue here is residents’ views are being ignored, not only in Councillor ADAMS’ ward—and Councillor ADAMS missing in action here. Why is she hiding on a local issue that impacts on her residents, that her residents want? Councillor ADAMS is in here not supporting her own residents. It impacts on Councillor GRIFFITHS’ residents, and as a direct result of the LNP interference in this issue, it’s now going to have an impact on my residents in Annerley because of Council reviewing the speed limit on Ipswich Road when there’s no reason to do so, none.

The number of deaths on Ipswich Road, the number of accidents, it’s a top 5 accident crash area in Brisbane. It is unacceptable that Council is now talking about rolling back, rolling back the speed limit change on Ipswich Road because 10 residents of Ekibin Road asked for a speed limit reduction on their street and a pedestrian crossing. So, this is clearly an LNP agenda because it’s not what the residents are asking for. It’s the LNP’s political agenda and it’s putting at risk the safety improvements that we’ve got on Ipswich Road. I agree with Councillor GRIFFITHS, it’s not like the speed is going to go down further because the fight we had to get it to 50 was extraordinary.

Who’s behind this? Who supports this? Councillor Krista ADAMS, but where is she? Does she have the courage of her convictions? Will she be held to account and vote in this place, participate in this debate, stand up for her residents? No. She says, yes Council doing nothing is the right response. Council reviewing Ipswich Road is the right response. She’s failing residents in 3 wards, her own, Moorooka, and Tennyson. This is the DEPUTY MAYOR of this city who isn’t listening to residents and can’t be bothered to turn up for the debate.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. Just in response to some of the issues raised, so there was a petition calling for speed reduction and installation of pedestrian facilities on Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi. The road currently holds a 60 kilometre an hour limit classified as suburban road from Arnwood Place to Sexton Street and district road from Sexton to Cracknell. There are 2 existing crossing facilities along Ekibin Road East, as well as a signalised crossing at Sexton and a pedestrian refuge at Cracknell. Traffic surveys conducted in February 2024 recorded traffic volumes and speeds within acceptable limits. A formal speed review is not supported as a result of that. Traffic surveys and crash data indicate reports commissioned by Council found traffic volumes and speeds consistent with the function of a road of the nature of a suburban connector.

I would also like to make mention of one of the—effectively, the principal concern of both Councillor GRIFFITHS and Councillor JOHNSTON was the speed and traffic on Ekibin Road, which our professional officers are of the view that is increasing because of the lower speeds on Ipswich Road, which is one of the matters that was raised by—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: —the residents and by the Councillors. As I was speaking, Councillor JOHNSTON interjected clearly, saying that clearly, Ekibin Road is carrying more traffic because of slower traffic on Ipswich Road, which calls into—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: We will soon learn what Councillor JOHNSTON meant by her injections, but what it means is that, because Ipswich Road is not operating to full capacity because of the direct and personal intervention by the former Minister, Mark Bailey, roads like Ekibin Road are carrying more traffic than they should. Ipswich Road should carry the bulk of the traffic in the inner south community. It is designed to do that. If it does not carry the required number of vehicles in the correct manner, roads such as Ekibin Road, I suspect roads like Annerley Road, roads like Fairfield Road will carry greater volumes because Ipswich Road is not bearing what it should do for communities such as Tennyson and such as Moorooka.

Now, I appreciate that there are concerns around pedestrian safety, but if Ipswich Road does not address itself to the network properly, we have secondary concerns which span far greater and affect more people in more communities. I think because of—I hear Councillor GRIFFITHS talk about direct personal interventions. I made no such personal intervention, but Minister Mark Bailey, when he was the Transport Minister, did make such a personal intervention to drop the speed limits, which is why we are seeing the negative effects elsewhere in that same geographic area. I think it’s important to reflect that when you change one thing in some place, traffic does not disappear, it finds a new way to go, and that is largely what is happening in that Annerley, Tarragindi, Ekibin community.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Can I just claim to be misrepresented, so I can then speak to that?

Councillor WINES: That is what is happening. That has been identified by the petitioners. I feel that Councillor JOHNSTON’s gratuitous attack on the petitioners in her speech was wildly unfair and that the public have a right to be heard and they are being heard. What I’m saying—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Councillor JOHNSTON claimed that we should dismiss the concerns of the residents on Ekibin Road for the concerns of the people on Ipswich Road. It was the claim that was made. I don’t agree with her. I think Ipswich Road should carry—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor WINES: Madam Chairman, misuse of the claim to be misrepresented tool is clearly about to happen. Councillor JOHNSTON absolutely attacked the residents of Ekibin Road. She absolutely said their concerns should be dismissed and said that the operation of Ipswich Road was more important than their concerns. That was absolutely her claim.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: So, we will wait and see if, once it was pointed out that she was attacking the residents of Ekibin Road, Councillor JOHNSTON will now, after the event, withdraw it once it’s been pointed out how harsh and unfair she was being to those petitioners. In response, too, I suspect the Labor Party will be voting no on item F. I just wanted to say very quickly, Woking Street, Mitchelton and Keperra carries traffic calming, as is the road that feeds into that, Chessom Street. Mitchelton also has 2 traffic calming devices. Woking has 3, Chessom has 2. Wigan runs perpendicular from Chessom, parallel to Woking. It carries fewer than 400 vehicles a day and average speeds do not exceed 42 kilometres per hour.

At that point, with those 2 figures and knowing that the other 2 roads are calmed, Wigan does not require calming at this stage, considering that it is not a feeder road. It carries relatively light traffic and the other roads around it have quite significant calming already. Thank you.

Chair: Councillor WINES, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your 4 points of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. In the first point, Councillor WINES said that I had said that Ekibin Road was carrying more traffic because of the changes on Ipswich Road. In fact, what I said was I supported the residents’ call for speed reductions and better pedestrian safety, and expressed my concern about the intervention of LNP Councillors regarding changing the speed limit on Ipswich Road. With respect to the second one, Councillor WINES claimed that I had engaged in an attack on the petitioners. In fact, I have supported the petitioners’ requests. I made that very clear. I simply—

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Can I just seek a ruling? When does clarification by misrepresentation become a whole speech of its own?

Chair: No, it—Councillor WINES, no.

Councillor WINES: Then, it exists in defiance of the Local Law.

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

Councillor JOHNSTON, continue.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Councillor WINES clearly misunderstood what I said by saying that I had engaged on an attack in petitioners. I supported the petitioners’ request for slower speed limit and pedestrian crossing, and I simply pointed out that there were only 10 residents who lived on this street.

The third point was that I had dismissed the concerns of the residents who had petitioned, the 10 residents who lived on Ekibin Road, and I was prioritising Ipswich Road. In fact, again, I have supported the petitioners’ request here for a speed limit reduction pedestrian crossing, and I expressed my concern about the LNP’s intervention to reduce the speed limit on Ipswich Road.

The 4th point of misrepresentation was to combine all of those issues together to verbally gaslight and misrepresent me when I have clearly been on the record supporting this petition response on behalf of the residents, and secondly, Council’s own response by the traffic engineers does not recommend a speed limit review.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thanks, Madam Chair. I just want to clarify something that Councillor WINES said. I just want to make it clear that I didn’t infer—I think he said that I inferred that he had got directly involved in this process. I didn’t, but I do want to put on record that LNP members have complained to me that they want the speed increased on Ipswich Road. So, I have been in contact with LNP members—

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —who have demanded that. Thank you.

Chair: We’ll now put items A, B, D, and E to the vote.

**Clauses A, B, D and E put**

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

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 Infrastructure Committee 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: 15 - Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, 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: We will now put item F to the vote.

**Clause F put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause F of the report of the Infrastructure Committee 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: 15 - Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

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

ABSTENTIONS: 2 - Councillors Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – LOCAL TRAFFIC NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS - CONGESTION BUSTING PROJECTS

**192/2024-25**

1. The Program Director, Program Management, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on Council’s congestion busting projects program (the program). She provided the information below.

2. Council is planning and delivering transport network improvements that improve the flow of traffic while maximising road network capacity, easing congestion and maintaining safety for all road users. The program is designed to improve the efficiency of Brisbane’s road network by reducing travel times, improving trip reliability, enhancing safety and improving the overall experience for road users. Projects delivered within the program offer value for money as they are low in cost with a high impact to get the most out of the existing road network.

3. Projects are identified and assessed based on observations of the operation of the road network, traffic data and Councillor and community feedback. Treatments typically include:

- construction and extension of turn lanes

- minor intersection upgrades

- improved management of road space

- alterations to traffic signage and line marking.

Between 2023 and 2024, Council completed 6 congestion busting projects across 7 suburbs in Brisbane. This saved commuters an estimated 74,000 hours in collective travel time each year.

4. The intersection of Osbourne Road and Sussex Street, Mitchelton, was completed in March 2024. Improvements to the intersection included:

- extending the kerb lane on Sussex Street

- restricting parking at the intersection

- improved vehicle throughput, reducing congestion on Sussex Street and improving travel time by more than 1,000 hours per year.

5. The intersection of Inala and Serviceton Avenues, Inala, was completed in September 2023. Improvements to the intersection included:

- installing an additional dedicated right-turn lane on Serviceton Avenue

- modifying traffic islands and relocating associated assets

- landscaping and minor asphalt works

- reducing congestion for southbound vehicles

- improved travel time by more than 35,500 hours per year.

6. Project consultation letters were distributed to adjacent residents and businesses for the Rochedale and Miles Platting Roads, Rochedale, intersection upgrade, including Rochedale State School and Redeemer Lutheran College. All issues raised through consultation were addressed and the project team understood all community members were comfortable and supportive of this project. Improvements to the intersection included:

- extending the left-turn lane on Rochedale Road into Miles Platting Road

- restricting parking on the western side of Rochedale Road

- installing line markings on the western side of Rochedale Road approaching the left‑turn lane

- upgrading the kerb and modifying the signals

- reducing congestion at the intersection

- improving travel time by more than 18,000 hours per year.

7. The intersection of Milton Road and Eagle Terrace, Paddington, was completed in September 2024 and included:

- extending the dual lanes of Eagle Terrace

- installing shared through and left-turn markings in the left lane of Eagle Terrace

- restricting parking on the western side of Eagle Terrace, between Milton Road and Huxham Terrace

- formalising line markings on Huxham Terrace.

8. The intersection of Waterworks Road and Ashgrove Avenue, Ashgrove, was completed in September 2024 and included:

- restricting parking on the eastern side of Ashgrove Avenue near Crawford Street

- relocating Ashgrove Avenue bus stop 26 further south

- installing new bus zone signage

- minor turfing improvements and tree trimming.

9. The Musgrave and Waterworks Roads corridor (the corridor) is a major arterial route from Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, to The Gap, carrying up to 28,000 vehicles per day. The corridor is primarily four lanes, with two lanes in each direction and some auxiliary turn lanes. A transit lane is present on the kerbside lane of Waterworks Road from approximately Settlement Road, The Gap, to Jubilee Terrace, Bardon, and Ashgrove Avenue, Ashgrove, to Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill. The corridor also includes a Bus Upgrade Zone route and secondary cycle route.

10. Following a review of the clearway on the corridor, it was found that the clearway operating hours are no longer sufficient to accommodate current traffic demand resulting in extended delays during the weekday morning and afternoon peak periods, as well as weekends. The clearway now extends from Settlement Road to Countess Street, Brisbane, in both directions and has improved efficiency of the corridor to accommodate transport growth now and into the future.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CLOSE VEHICLE ACCESS TO LYTTON ROAD FROM GEELONG STREET, EAST BRISBANE

**137/220/594/224**

**193/2024-25**

13. A petition requesting Council close vehicle access to Lytton Road from Geelong Street, East Brisbane, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 23 May 2023, by Councillor Fiona Cunningham, and received.

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

15. The petition contains 58 signatures. Of the petitioners, 57 live or have businesses with frontage on Geelong Street, and one lives outside the City of Brisbane.

16. Geelong Street has a speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as a Neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to residential properties and businesses at its northern end near Lytton Road. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

17. The petitioners’ request to close vehicle access to Lytton Road from Geelong Street is noted. When assessing the partial closure of a road as a form of traffic management, Council is required to use the guidelines outlined in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, Part 13: Local area traffic management, which adopts the Australian Standard 1742.13‑2009 (the standard). Specifically, for a partial closure, access is restricted by both kerb rearrangement and regulatory control to one direction only.

18. Council recognises Geelong Street as a location where traffic calming may be warranted to deter non‑local traffic use. It is listed for consideration as a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) project, and a partial road closure will be taken into consideration as part of this.

19. Council receives many worthy requests for infrastructure projects across Brisbane and prioritisation is required to ensure potential funding is provided to those projects with the greatest benefit to the community. The LATM project for Geelong Street will be considered for funding, prioritised against other LATM projects as part of Council’s annual budget process.

20. The petitioners’ concerns with vehicle access in Geelong Street has been noted. Generally, a parked vehicle occupies 2 metres of road width and Geelong Street is approximately 8 metres wide. Therefore, when vehicles are parked on both sides of Geelong Street, at least 3 metres of road width is left clear for through vehicles, as required under Queensland road rules.

21. Generally, it is undesirable for Council to install parking restrictions in residential streets as this is an inconvenience to residents, increases vehicle speeds and causes a displacement of parking. It is acknowledged that cars parking on either side of Geelong Street can create situations where only one vehicle can pass at a time. While this one lane operation can reduce traffic flow efficiency, this acts as natural traffic calming and helps moderate vehicle speeds as motorists are required to slow down and navigate the road safely. This can be considered desirable on local residential streets and is not expected to unreasonably impact safety.

22. The petitioners’ concerns regarding motorists ignoring the ‘No Right Turn, 7am to 9am, Monday to Friday’ regulatory signs are noted. Instances of motorists ignoring this signage is poor driver behaviour. Enforcement of such behaviour is under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as Council is unable to enforce moving traffic violations. QPS has been requested to attend this site for enforcement. The petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with poor driver behaviour with QPS via Policelink on 131 444.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

24. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

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

26. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/224

Thank you for your petition requesting Council close vehicle access to Lytton Road from Geelong Street, East Brisbane.

Your request to close vehicle access to Lytton Road from Geelong Street is noted. When assessing the partial closure of a road as a form of traffic management, Council is required to use the guidelines outlined in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, Part 13: Local area traffic management, which adopts the Australian Standard 1742.13—2009 (the standard). Specifically, for a partial closure, access is restricted by both kerb rearrangement and regulatory control to one direction only.

Council recognises Geelong Street is a location where traffic calming may be warranted to deter non‑local traffic use. It is listed for consideration as a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) project, and a partial road closure will be taken into account as part of this.

Council receives many worthy requests for infrastructure projects across Brisbane, and prioritisation is required to ensure potential funding is provided to those projects with the greatest benefit to the community. The LATM project for Geelong Street will be considered for funding, prioritised against other LATM projects as part of Council’s annual budget process.

Your concerns with vehicle access in Geelong Street has been noted. Generally, a parked vehicle occupies 2 metres of road width and Geelong Street is approximately 8 metres wide. Therefore, when vehicles are parked on both sides of Geelong Street, at least 3 metres of road width is left clear for through vehicles, as required under Queensland road rules.

Generally, it is undesirable for Council to install parking restrictions in residential streets as this is an inconvenience to residents, increases vehicle speeds and causes a displacement of parking. It is acknowledged that cars parking on either side of Geelong Street can create situations where only one vehicle can pass at a time. While this one lane operation can reduce traffic flow efficiency, this acts as natural traffic calming and helps moderate vehicle speeds as motorists are required to slow down and navigate the road safely. This can be considered desirable on local residential streets and is not expected to unreasonably impact safety.

Your concerns regarding motorists ignoring the ‘No Right Turn, 7am to 9am, Monday to Friday’ regulatory signs are noted. Instances of motorists ignoring this signage is poor driver behaviour. Enforcement of such behaviour is under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as Council is unable to enforce moving traffic violations. QPS has been requested to attend this site for enforcement. You are encouraged to raise any concerns with poor driver behaviour with QPS via Policelink on 131 444.

Please advise the other petitioners of this information.

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT AND INSTALL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES ON EKIBIN ROAD EAST, TARRAGINDI

**137/220/594/272**

**194/2024-25**

27. A petition requesting Council reduce the speed limit and install pedestrian crossing facilities on Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 28 November 2023, by Councillor Krista Adams, and received.

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

29. The petition contains 50 signatures. Of the petitioners, 10 live on Ekibin Road East and 40 live within the City of Brisbane.

30. Ekibin Road East has a 60 km/h speed limit and is classified under Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy as a suburban road between Arnwood Place, Annerley, and Sexton Street, Tarragindi, and a district road between Sexton Street and Cracknell Road, Tarragindi.

31. The petitioners note that since the speed limit reduction on Ipswich Road to 50 km/h and 40 km/h in school zones, Ekibin Road East has become the preferred shortcut route for drivers.

32. Suburban roads connect to arterial routes in and around suburbs forming an important link in the public transport and inter‑suburban freight network. Suburban roads are typically designed to carry traffic movements, rather than provide property access, and high volumes of traffic are expected. District roads facilitate the movement of people and goods to and through suburbs, including buses and heavy vehicles. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

33. The petitioners’ request for a speed limit reduction on Ekibin Road East is noted. All speed limits across Queensland are determined in accordance with guidelines set out in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes*, ensuring that speed limits throughout the State are set in a consistent and credible manner.

34. Due to the petitioners’ concerns, in February 2024, Council commissioned 2 7-day traffic surveys at 209 and 253 Ekibin Road East to identify the current traffic speeds, volumes and vehicle types using Ekibin Road East, to ensure the current posted speed is still appropriate (refer Attachment C, submitted on file).

35. At 209 Ekibin Road East, the weekday traffic volumes recorded show an average of 9,994 vehicles per day of which 8.7% where heavy vehicles, with 85% of all vehicles travelling at or below 53 km/h. At 253 Ekibin Road East, the weekday traffic volumes recorded show an average of 10,311 vehicles per day of which 6.3% where heavy vehicles, with 85% of all vehicles travelling at or below 56 km/h. These values are considered within reasonable limits and consistent for the function of the road environment.

36. To evaluate road network operations on Ekibin Road East, a Crash Details Report was commissioned by Council from the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads Crash Analytics Reporting System in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). This report detailed the crash statistical analysis over the last 5 years and showed no critical safety issues.

37. Based on the speed assessment from both 7-day traffic surveys, the traffic crash report and the intended function of the road corridor, a formal speed limit review for Ekibin Road East is not supported.

38. The petitioners’ concerns about safe pedestrian crossing points on Ekibin Road East is noted. There are currently 2 formal pedestrian crossing facilities on Ekibin Road East. A signalised pedestrian crossing at Sexton Street and a pedestrian refuge crossing at Cracknell Road, located approximately 600 m apart, are considered appropriate for pedestrian demand and connectivity.

39. It should be noted that a speed limit reduction on Ipswich Road (to 50 km/h) was implemented as an exceptional measure, which may influence motorists’ route selection preference. Given the concerns in relation to the speed limit reduction of Ipswich Road, Council are reviewing the arrangements on Ipswich Road.

40. Speeding is primarily a behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of QPS. As such, the petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

41. Councillor Krista Adams, Councillor for Holland Park Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

42. Councillor Steve Griffiths, Councillor for Moorooka Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

45. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/272

Thank you for your petition requesting Council reduce the speed limit and install pedestrian crossing facilities on Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi.

Your request for a speed limit reduction on Ekibin Road East is noted. All speed limits across Queensland are determined in accordance with guidelines set out in the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes*, ensuring that speed limits are set in a consistent and credible manner across Queensland.

Due to your concerns, in February 2024, Council commissioned 2 7-day traffic surveys at 209 and 253 Ekibin Road East to identify the current traffic speeds, volumes and vehicle types using Ekibin Road East, to ensure the current posted speed is still appropriate.

At 209 Ekibin Road East, the weekday traffic volumes recorded show an average of 9,994 vehicles per day of which 8.7% where heavy vehicles, with 85% of all vehicles travelling at or below 53 km/h. At 253 Ekibin Road East, the weekday traffic volumes recorded show an average of 10,311 vehicles per day of which 6.3% where heavy vehicles, with 85% of all vehicles travelling at or below 56 km/h. These values are considered within reasonable limits and consistent for the function of the road environment.

To evaluate road network operations on Ekibin Road East, a Crash Details Report was commissioned by Council from the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads Crash Analytics Reporting System in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). This report detailed the crash statistical analysis over the last 5 years and showed no critical safety issues.

Based on the speed assessment from both 7-day traffic surveys, the traffic crash report and the intended function of the road corridor, a formal speed limit review for Ekibin Road East is not supported.

Your concerns about safe pedestrian crossing points on Ekibin Road East are also noted. There are currently 2 formal pedestrian crossing facilities on Ekibin Road East. A signalised pedestrian crossing at Sexton Street and a pedestrian refuge crossing at Cracknell Road, located approximately 600 m apart, are considered appropriate for pedestrian demand and connectivity.

It should be noted that a speed limit reduction on Ipswich Road (to 50 km/h) was implemented as an exceptional measure, which may influence motorists’ route selection preference. Given the concerns in relation to the speed limit reduction of Ipswich Road, Council are reviewing the arrangements on Ipswich Road.

Speeding is primarily a behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of QPS. As such, the petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING ON ROADS BETWEEN MARSHALL ROAD AND TOOHEY FOREST, TARRAGINDI

**137/220/584/317**

**195/2024-25**

46. A petition requesting Council install traffic calming on roads between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest, Tarragindi, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 28 May 2024, by Councillor Krista Adams, and received.

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

48. The petition contains 125 signatures. Of the petitioners, 114 live in Holland Park Ward and 11 live in other wards in the City of Brisbane.

49. The roads located between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest are classified as neighbourhood roads in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

50. The petitioners’ request for Council to install traffic calming on roads between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest is noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non‑local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

51. Council has previously installed traffic calming on roads between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest, including Monash, Poziers and Messines Ridge Roads and Ferrand, Hexham, Monton and Barmore Streets including splitter islands, painted threshold markings, roundabouts and speed platforms. It should also be noted that there is a full-time no right turn restriction from Toohey Road into Barnehurst Street to further restrict non-local traffic through the area and only buses are allowed to exit Monash Road at Toohey Road.

52. Council acknowledges non-local traffic use continues to be an issue in the area. Prior to 2020, Council listed Barmore, Garioch and Cranham Streets as a future Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) project, to consider additional traffic calming in the area. This LATM project will also consider traffic calming for Hexham and Marieander Streets. An area-wide traffic movement review will also be conducted.

53. At this stage, this LATM project will progress subject to funding prioritisation against other citywide LATM projects as part of Council’s annual budgetary process. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget at this time.

54. While some motorists may be speeding throughout the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

55. Councillor Krista Adams, Councillor for Holland Park Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

58. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/317

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install traffic calming on roads between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest, Tarragindi.

Your request for Council to install traffic calming on roads between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest has been considered. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

Council has previously installed traffic calming on roads between Marshall Road and Toohey Forest, including Monash, Poziers and Messines Ridge Roads and Ferrand, Hexham, Monton and Barmore Streets including splitter islands, painted threshold markings, roundabouts and speed platforms. It should also be noted that there is a full-time no right turn restriction from Toohey Road into Barnehurst Street to further restrict non-local traffic through the area and only buses are allowed to exit Monash Road at Toohey Road.

Council acknowledges non-local traffic use continues to be an issue in the area. Prior to 2020, Council listed Barmore, Garioch and Cranham Streets as a future Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) project, to consider additional traffic calming in the area. This LATM project will also consider traffic calming for Hexham and Marieander Streets. An area-wide traffic movement review will also be conducted.

At this stage, this LATM project will progress subject to funding prioritisation against other citywide LATM projects as part of Council’s annual budgetary process. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget at this time.

While some motorists may be speeding throughout the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). You are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Brian Nichol, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3178 5760.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### E PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES IN WATCOMBE STREET, WAVELL HEIGHTS

**137/220/594/318**

**196/2024-25**

59. A petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Watcombe Street, Wavell Heights, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 4 June 2024, by Councillor Adam Allan, and received.

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

61. The petition contains 4 signatures. Of the petitioners, one lives on Watcombe Street and 3 live within the City of Brisbane.

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

63. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming devices to be installed in Watcombe Street is noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

64. Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Watcombe Street from a traffic survey undertaken in August 2023. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 598 vehicles per weekday with an average vehicle speed of 42.6 km/h. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the traffic survey results. As the traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of a neighbourhood road and there is very good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit, Council has no plans to install traffic calming devices in Watcombe Street at this time.

65. While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

66. Councillor Adam Allan, Councillor for Northgate Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

69. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/318

Thank you for your petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Watcombe Street, Wavell Heights.

Your request for traffic calming devices to be installed in Watcombe Street has been considered. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Watcombe Street from a traffic survey undertaken in August 2023. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 598 vehicles per weekday with an average vehicle speed of 42.6 km/h. As the traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of a Neighbourhood road and there is very good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit, Council has no plans to install traffic calming devices in Watcombe Street at this time.

While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). You are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

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

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### F PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS IN WIGAN AND WOKING STREETS, MITCHELTON

**137/220/594/327**

**197/2024-25**

70. A petition requesting Council implement traffic calming measures and pedestrian improvements in Wigan and Woking Streets, Mitchelton, was received during the Winter Recess 2024.

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

72. The petition contains 23 signatures. Of the petitioners, 5 live on Wigan Street, 3 live on Woking Street and 15 live on other streets in the City of Brisbane.

73. Wigan and Woking Streets have a speed limit of 50 km/h and are classified as neighbourhood roads in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

74. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming measures to be installed in Wigan and Woking Streets is noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

75. Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Wigan Street from a traffic survey undertaken in May 2023. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 382 vehicles per weekday with an average vehicle speed of 41.5 km/h. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the traffic survey results. The traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of a neighbourhood road and there is very good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit. Accordingly, Council has no plans to install traffic calming measures in Wigan Street at this time.

76. In the 2024-25 financial year, $15.6 million has been distributed evenly between each ward through the Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF) to deliver local priority projects, including the provision of new footpaths and local park improvement works. The petitioner’s request for a footpath along Wigan Street has been forwarded to Councillor Andrew Wines, Councillor for Enoggera Ward, for his consideration of funding through the SEF.

77. The petitioners’ request to convert the northern section of Wigan Street into a cul-de-sac has been noted. Taking into consideration the low vehicle volumes using this section of Wigan Street, the inconvenience converting Wigan Street into a cul-de-sac would cause to residents in the local area and the potential impact to emergency vehicle access, Council does not support the permanent road closure of Wigan Street, at Woking Street.

78. A review of the Queensland Government’s crash data over the last 5 years for the intersection of Wigan and Woking Streets has been undertaken. The review did not identify any crashes at the intersection during this time or inherent safety issues due to the current road configuration. As such, no changes are proposed for the intersection.

79. While it is noted that some motorists may be speeding or cutting the corner at the intersection, these matters are predominately driver behavioural issues under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding or corner cutting motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

80. Councillor Andrew Wines, Councillor for Enoggera Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

83. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/327

Thank you for your petition requesting Council implement traffic calming measures and pedestrian improvements in Wigan and Woking Streets, Mitchelton.

Your request for traffic calming measures to be installed in Wigan and Woking Streets has been considered. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, may be used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding in isolation is considered a driver behaviour issue.

Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Wigan Street from a traffic survey undertaken in May 2023. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 382 vehicles per weekday with an average vehicle speed of 41.5 km/h.

The traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of a neighbourhood road and there is very good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit. Accordingly, Council has no plans to install traffic calming measures in Wigan Street at this time.

In the 2024-25 financial year, $15.6 million has been distributed evenly between each ward through the Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF) to deliver local priority projects, including the provision of new footpaths and local park improvement works. Your request for a footpath along Wigan Street has been forwarded to Councillor Andrew Wines, Councillor for Enoggera Ward, for his consideration of funding through the SEF.

Your request to convert the northern section of Wigan Street into a cul-de-sac has been noted. Taking into consideration the low vehicle volumes using this section of Wigan Street, the inconvenience converting Wigan Street into a cul-de-sac would cause to residents in the local area and the potential impact to emergency vehicle access, Council does not support the permanent road closure of Wigan Street, at Woking Street.

A review of the Queensland Government’s crash data over the last 5 years for the intersection of Wigan and Woking Streets has been undertaken. The review did not identify any crashes at the intersection during this time or inherent safety issues due to the current road configuration. As such, no changes are proposed for the intersection.

While it is noted that some motorists may be speeding or cutting the corner at the intersection, these matters are predominately driver behavioural issues under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). You are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding or corner cutting motorists directly with QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Matthew Pye, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3178 5760.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

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

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 29 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before moving to the Committee report, I did want to take the opportunity to provide Councillor STRUNK with some further information to alleviate some of the concerns he might have about the support that Council is providing to the community housing provider sector, and in particular, to Brisbane housing corporation, and related to comments made earlier about the land disposal at Chermside.

Now, Councillor STRUNK would probably be aware that we have a 100% infrastructure charges discount in place for community housing providers, and that is a permanent discount. Now, recently, we provided discounts on 2 BHC properties, 2 in Chermside and one in Stones Corner, a total of 208 units. The infrastructure charge financial assistance from those 3 properties was just over $2 million. So, very real financial assistance to community housing providers, in this case Brisbane housing corporation.

Now, there is a 4th project that’s currently under review for 54 units in Coopers Plains, and the expected financial assistance in that case by the infrastructure charges discount is $625,000. So, very, very real and tangible financial assistance to the BHC and the wider community housing provider sector. It’s important to note that, in the context of feasibilities and making these projects stack up for BHC, these types of discounts are particularly meaningful, but they really do help them get these projects out of the ground. We’ve had extremely good feedback from BHC about the nature of this assistance. So, it is real, it’s meaningful, Councillor STRUNK, and it is certainly over and above the disposal of that property at Chermside. I’d also like to add that community housing providers get an ongoing rates discount, as well, on top of the infrastructure charge discount. So, just wanted to provide that additional information.

Moving to the Committee presentation, the presentation was on a development at 1 Bolger Street at Upper Mount Gravatt in Councillor HUANG’s ward. The approved development comprises 6 storeys and offers a good mix of unit types, including 20 one-bedroom apartments, 18 2-bedders, 14 3-bedders, and one 4-bedroom apartment. 1 Bolger Street is a convenient 5-minute walk to Garden City Shopping Centre, with the local bus service stopping several metres up the street. Further high frequency public transport is available within walking distance. Commuting by car is convenient with close access to the Pacific Motorway, Logan Road and Kessels Road. Cyclists will also benefit from the location of 1 Bolger Street, having multiple cycle routes nearby. Parking for vehicles is available with 87 resident spaces, 13 visitor spaces, and one PWD (persons with disability) space. Cyclists have access to 53 resident spaces and 6 available for visitors.

1 Bolger Street includes streetscape upgrades to all frontages and direct street access via Sarazen Street, activating the street edge. Containerised planting will be used to enhance the subtropical feel of the landscape. Additionally, the development includes external shading devices, awnings, colonnades, and shade structures to all habitable room windows and to the rooftop garden. Units will have access to private balconies, as well as a communal open space on the rooftop, including a gym and outdoor dining area. The development was approved by the Schrinner Council for its alignment with housing needs in the area, contributing to a well-planned, sustainable community. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers? No further speakers.

We’ll now put the report—

Oh, sorry, Councillor HUANG. Sorry.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak briefly on item A of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee presentation on 1 Bolger Street development in Upper Mount Gravatt. Madam Chair, at last week’s Committee presentation, we saw a development application that will provide a welcome outcome for the local area. The development approved will bring a much-needed housing supply and housing choices to those who wish to live in the best part of our city. This development is within short walking distance to the garden city shopping centre, which provides all necessities for local residents. Whether you wish to go grocery shopping, dining out for casual or special occasions, or want to watch the latest blockbuster movies, everything is all within short walking distance.

More importantly, it is the public transport interchange for the southside. Whether you want to get on a bus to any destinations across South East Queensland or want to hop on the turn up and go Brisbane Metro, it is just a few steps away. In addition, for similar distance, they can get to the office of the local Councillor for his services. The development also provides a good mix of housing choices, ranging from one to 4‑bedroom apartments, which cater for different needs. Whether it’s a growing family needing 4 bedrooms or single young professionals choosing to live near the transport node so they can catch public transport to and from work, it caters for all their needs.

Madam Chair, I’d like to congratulate the Development Assessment team for their efforts and diligence in facilitating the development application that will provide quality housing choices to the people on the southside, MacGregor Ward in particular, and I commend the item to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers? No further speakers.

Councillor ALLAN? No.

We’ll now put that 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), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Seal Chong Wah, Steven Huang and Sandy Landers.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Penny Wolff (Deputy Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 1 BOLGER STREET, UPPER MOUNT GRAVATT (A006504638)

**198/2024-25**

1. The A/General Manager, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the development application at 1 Bolger Street, Upper Mount Gravatt (the site). She provided the information below.

2. The development application for the site was impact assessable and included Material change of use for Multiple dwelling. The proposed development is a 6‑storey building with a basement car park and rooftop garden which includes 53 units in the following sizes:

- 20 one-bedroom with a floor plan of 63 m2

- 18 two-bedroom with a floor plan of 78 m2

- 14 3-bedroom with a floor plan of 111 m2

- one 4-bedroom with a floor plan of 145 m2.

3. The Committee was shown pictures of the 3 existing dwellings located at the site fronting Bolger, Pickworth and Sarazan Streets which will be demolished.

4. An aerial view and context map were shown to the Committee, displaying the proximity of the site to surrounding locations, including Westfield Mt Gravatt shopping centre, access to key transport corridors including Logan and Kessels Roads and the Pacific Motorway and within walking distance to frequent public transport services. The site is located in the Medium density residential zone as part of *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

5. The building façade provides articulation in form and materials. The design features cross ventilation to units and external shading devices, awnings, colonnades and shade structures to all habitable room windows and to the rooftop garden. Containerised landscaping will be incorporated to enhance the subtropical feel of the building.

6. Landscaping along all street frontages of shrubs, groundcovers and trees will complement and soften the building form and contributes to the subtropical microclimate of the site and streetscape. The site also provides 237 m2 of dedicated deep planting and canopy trees on the rooftop.

7. The site also provides 325 m2 of communal open space provided on the rooftop which includes a gym and outdoor dining area. Balconies and courtyards for private use range in size from 10 to 45 m2.

8. Parking is provided with access via Bolger Street with the following parking provisions:

- 87 resident spaces

- 13 visitor spaces

- one persons with disability space

- 53 resident bicycle spaces

- 6 visitor bicycle spaces.

9. Streetscape improvements include:

- upgrades to all frontages

- a land dedication to achieve a 3.75-metre-wide verge along the Bolger and Pickworth Streets frontage

- increased public casual surveillance

- street trees to be provided.

10. The proposed development provides the following community benefits.

- Improved housing diversity close to a major centre, public transport and good access to shops and public spaces.

- Pedestrian facilities to the site frontages.

- High-quality built form and landscaped outcome that responds to Brisbane’s subtropical climate.

- Inclusion of natural ventilation to public corridors on all residential floors is considered to reduce the operational carbon footprint of the building.

- Inclusion of apartments at ground floor with large green terraces.

- Direct street access is provided along Sarazen Street, activating the street edge.

11. The development was approved for the following reasons.

- Encourages medium density housing with a diverse residential dwelling mix.

- Reflects the transformation of the area into a higher density urban community that supports the development of transit-oriented communities.

- Amalgamates sites to facilitate increased densities and heights.

- The building has a height, bulk, scale, form and intensity that responds to site constraints and appropriately integrates with the existing and intended neighbourhood structure for the area.

- Provides high-quality on-site landscaping that contributes to the subtropical landscape character.

- Provides open space that capitalises on Brisbane’s subtropical climate, which is accessible and attractive.

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

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

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

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 29 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week’s Committee meeting presentation was on flood awareness and information. Being a river-based city built on a floodplain, we need to make sure that every measure is taken to ensure that our residents are equipped with the information and know-how to be prepared and resilient in the event of a flood. We are proud to have a longstanding history of providing the most up to date information. Following the 2011 floods, we made a commitment that all flood information would be made free and accessible. In 2014, we released the Flood Awareness Maps to provide easily accessible and understandable flood information to the community, and Brisbane remains one of the, if not the best councils in Australia when it comes to transparency and education about flood awareness.

In November 2022, we launched Flood Information Online, a site that combines the Flood Awareness Map function and the FloodWise Property Report feature to streamline Council’s flood preparation resources. The site has a mobile-friendly interface and users are able to search for a specific address, choose relevant mapping layers, download a FloodWise Property Report, and access educational materials. It was great to learn that in just 12 months from March 2023, we recorded more than 3.4 million visits to the site, more than 180,000 FloodWise Property Reports downloaded, and approximately 490,000 individual users.

It is a testament to how useful these resources are for our residents, and great to know that so many residents are taking advantage of these tools, so that they can be prepared for future flood events. I’d like to thank our very dedicated NEWS (Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability) officers for all their incredible work in this space. These are such vital resources for our community, and they have a huge impact on making our city more flood resilient. Madam Chair, we also had a petition and 3 Suburban Enhancement Fund applications presented to Committee last week that were all unanimously supported.

Madam Chair, I just wanted to respond to the question on notice from Councillor GRIFFITHS, which the LORD MAYOR took on notice earlier today. As the LORD MAYOR alluded to, the site at Doolandella does not operate as a park, as it is partly a bushland area near Blunder Creek, with the remainder near Blunder Road in the site of a future sport and recreation park. This land was identified in the LGIP and will be the subject to future delivery of embellishments for sport and recreational purposes. It’s not a park that has a playground or other similar embellishments at this time, given its future use for sport and recreation, but I would ask Councillor GRIFFITHS to ensure that he does report any instances of illegal dumping to the site to Council’s contact centre if he comes across any in the future.

During the E&C debate earlier on item B, Councillor JOHNSTON provided the Chamber with her contribution, which had a number of inaccuracies and, sadly, some slights at our hardworking Council officers. I can confirm that the geotechnical work for this project was contracted to GHD and Golder, so the technical reports were done by third parties.

Madam Chair, it was a wonderful presentation by our Council officers last week on flood preparedness, talking about the different tools that we have in order to prepare our residents and arm them with the best possible information to make sure that they are ready for any severe weather event in the future. I leave further debate to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Hello, Madam Chair. I rise to speak to the report that we have here of flood awareness information that we had presented last week. I’ve been on the Environment Committee for a long, long time and I’ve been really impressed with some of their work, but I’ve also been very disappointed with some of NEWS’ work, as well. Certainly, at the moment, I’m very disappointed with the way NEWS performs. So, this updated mapping, there was a lot of backslapping here about how great we are in terms of the flood awareness we’ve done across Brisbane, the important information we provide to residents.

We don’t write to them and tell them that they’re now in a flood zone. Many residents don’t know that their properties are in a flood zone until they get their insurance bill. When their insurance bill spikes massively because we have determined that they’re in a flood zone. Often, those residents have come to me, and I’m assuming they go to LNP Councillors, but no LNP Councillors speak up or would own that they’re actually in Administration and they’d blame that bad Council. So, that is a frequent thing for me that I represent my community on.

What we do know in this city, and if you look at the events in Spain over the last few nights, there’s been—and what we’re seeing in the Northern Hemisphere will hit us in the Southern Hemisphere come this summer, is the massive downpours of rain that are caused by the environment and the air being moist so that it can hold more water, hence the stronger storms that we are seeing. I suppose, what was included in this presentation that wasn’t mentioned by the Chairperson was the lack of transparency in regards to flood mitigation work across the city. I’ve raised this numerous times in this Chamber. I’ve raised it with NEWS.

I’ve raised it in Committee as an area that—as a Councillor here who represents one of the worst impacted parts of the city for flooding, both for residents and business, there is absolutely—and over 20 years of LNP rule, there has been no transparency in relation to how we deal with flood mitigation for our waterways and how we deal with the environmental impacts on our waterways. I find that shocking, that still after 20 years, the LNP are patting themselves on the back for putting a report up online, but they can’t provide basic maintenance for our waterways. They can’t provide basic flood mitigation for our waterways.

I get pulled up by the Chairperson over there saying, well, don’t pick on the officers. It’s not the officers’ fault, but those same officers can deliver outcomes in creeks that run through my area, but run through LNP areas, and they can do it like that. They can provide flood mitigation and they can provide engineering and they can provide environmental outcomes and a wonderful picture for residents to see, but in my area, which is much more affected by flooding, those same officers can’t do that.

So, I have real issues with the way this Administration is performing in relation to flood management and flood mitigation and looking after people directly affected by flooding. Can I say, I meet with those residents often and regularly, and I’ve never seen the LORD MAYOR there and I’ve never seen the Environment Chairperson there and I’ve never seen our executives there? They’re hiding up in the building in the CBD. They’re not facing real residents and real people and real concerns. They’re just hiding, and they continue to hide and they continue to close their ears and not listen and not deliver.

My job in here is to say what’s happening out there on the ground, because God only knows the LNP isn’t listening. They aren’t doing anything. They aren’t getting outcomes. I was fascinated to hear Councillor MURPHY earlier today say, hey, I’ve got a meeting with the State Minister to sort out transport, and he’s got it in 2 days. Can you talk to the Councillor next to you and tell her how you did that? Because we need to sort out some State issues in relation to flooding in my ward and she isn’t able to do it.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, your time has expired.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Incredible.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Just briefly on item A, I too want to put on the record my concern about Council’s inaction, particularly on the southside of Brisbane, when it comes to flooding. A Council officer once told me—and this was very off the record, so I won’t name who it is—that Council won’t invest in flood mitigation on the southside of Brisbane because it floods. They’re prepared to do it on the northside because it doesn’t flood everywhere. This is the approach the LNP take. There is a massive underinvestment in stormwater drainage, flood mitigation projects, creek restoration. I mean, the Oxley Creek project has probably spent half its budget, and has the water improved in Oxley Creek? No. Is it still contaminated? Yes. Does it still flood? Have there been mitigation projects? No.

So, this LNP is failing, failing when it comes to Brisbane City Council, and particularly on the southside of Brisbane. Now, I note that Brisbane City Council refused to have anything to do with fixing Moolabin Creek, the headwaters of which run into Oxley Creek and contribute to flooding in my area. They said it’s a State Government project, but I note on the northside at Kedron Brook and Moggill Creek, the LNP will invest hundreds of millions of dollars in restoration projects, cleanup projects, mitigation projects, animal habitation projects in their own wards, in the LNP wards, but they will not do it on the southside. They will not do it, and it is appalling to me that we see this LNP Administration continuing to ignore the concerns of residents.

Now, Jill Peters was in here just a few weeks ago from Oxley, talking about how Oxley residents want to see mitigation measures on Oxley Creek. She was ignored. She’s pretty cranky because she knows that the information you gave her is wrong. She’s been at this for quite some time. She’s read all the technical reports. So, she was quite appalled at the patronising response that she got from the relevant Chair. It is just appalling that the LNP will not invest in flood mitigation. Backflow valves are recommended, aren’t being done. They’re not on the LGIP. Drainage projects in my ward are being cut off the LGIP. Drainage projects aren’t being delivered. Creek restoration projects in my ward aren’t being delivered.

So, there is a huge problem with the LNP investing in projects for themselves and not doing it for everybody in the City of Brisbane. That is disappointing because those Councillors were elected on the same basis as me, that they had to represent the whole city fairly, and it’s clear they don’t do that.

Now, I just want to talk very briefly about the flood mapping, as well. Flood maps are good. Council’s FloodWise reports are excellent and they are an incredibly useful tool for people who need to know where it floods. I included them in my welcome to the ward letter, and have done for many years. The problem with them is they are grossly incorrect in places. Now, I have a resident from Chelmer who has contacted me. She’s never flooded. 1974, 2011 and 2022, she’s never flooded, but she’s been mapped—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, no. She’s been mapped on the flood map, albeit low, a one per cent chance in 100 years of her property flooding. As a result, her insurance has gone through the roof. Now, she’s never flooded ever, and she’s not likely to where she is. I know where she lives. It is appalling that Council isn’t prepared to take a finer brush approach to flood mapping to make sure we are not inadvertently capturing people who have never flooded. If you didn’t flood in 1974, 2011 or 2022, it’s highly unlikely that you will. This Administration, by taking a blanket approach, has caused heartache and financial distress to residents.

Out my way, residents are told it’s $25,000 or $30,000 to insure their house. A little 3-bedroom house would be 12,000. It’s just phenomenal. So, I think Council needs to take a more fine-grain approach to make sure we get this right. The flood mapping reports, as I’ve suggested in my de Jersey submission, should be compulsory as part of REIQ (Real Estate Institute of Queensland) searches so residents know when they buy their house.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers? No further speakers.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would start by saying that Councillor GRIFFITHS comes into this Chamber and has absolutely no credibility when it comes to truly supporting his local residents and providing them with up to date information on their flood risk.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order. I find this—you know, this is outrageous. I’d like to—

Chair: Point of—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: —misrepresentation. Thank you.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week, we had a debate in this Chamber. We had a debate about updating the City Plan with flood studies, so that there would be flood overlays so we could update both the Flood Information Online and Flood Awareness Map. Now, this side of the Chamber voted for those changes to be put in City Plan. Councillor GRIFFITHS and all of his team in the Labor Party abstained, abstained from it, which is tantamount to not supporting updating important information so that their residents had access to up to date and current flood risk information. Now, it wasn’t just the Australian Labor Party. Councillor JOHNSTON also abstained in that debate. So, they come in here and have a crack at our officers, have a crack at what we do, when we are doing the right thing.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chair: One moment, please—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: —Councillor DAVIS. Councillor—one moment.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I claim to be—oh, sorry.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I claim to be misrepresented.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I want to claim to be misrepresented again, too. Thank you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Please do not call out while—

Councillor DAVIS: Madam Chair—

Chair: —Councillor DAVIS is on her feet.

Councillor DAVIS: Madam Chair, it’s in the minutes for all to see. I didn’t make this up. It is there for all to see. So, to come into this Chamber and start criticising the work that our officers are doing—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor DAVIS: —criticising the work that we are doing is totally inappropriate.

Chair: Sorry, Councillor DAVIS.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented by Councillor DAVIS again.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would also say that lately, Councillor GRIFFITHS’ behaviour in our Committee meetings has been absolutely appalling, and today was another example of that.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order. I just, you know—

Councillor DAVIS: Absolutely—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I just claimed to be misrepresented, and if she wants to deal with the Committee meeting, deal with it in that Committee meeting.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I note your claim.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Councillor GRIFFITHS spoke in his contribution about a matter that he felt that Council officers were not being assistive with. This is a matter regarding Stable Swamp Creek. Now, Councillor GRIFFITHS had access to the Labor Party State Government for 10 years. Ten years. Ten years.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No—

Councillor DAVIS: So, where’s—so, Councillor GRIFFITHS—

Chair: —one moment please, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, I caution you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Do not call out. You can have your say in General Business—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No, Councillor—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: That’s fine. But calling out and verballing another Councillor while they’re on their feet is not okay.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would say that the General Manager of the NEWS branch has spoken on a number of occasions to Councillor GRIFFITHS regarding this matter. Brisbane City Council has money allocated in the budget to do some work, but it required money from the State Government on the other side of the creek in order to get the best outcome that we could. But there was no money forthcoming from the Department of Education, none, because the bureaucrats in the Department of Education saw no benefit in doing it, the same bureaucrats that are there now, 10 years later.

So, I doubt if the change will come regarding their investment in this particular project. Nine years, 10 years, Councillor GRIFFITHS could not get a meeting with his own colleagues, and yet Councillor MURPHY can get one within 2 weeks, and yet Councillor GRIFFITHS is complaining that we should be getting it even faster. The Transport Minister in the other—how long have they had their feet under the desk?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: Two days. Two days. So, we should get a meeting locked in within 2—you couldn’t do it in 10 years, Councillor GRIFFITHS. You couldn’t do it in 10 years.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor, do not—

*Councillor interjecting.*

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

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS—

*Councillor interjecting.*

**Order – Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS**

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

Chair: Glad that you are taking your position seriously.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, your points of misrepresentation.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. There are a few. One—I think the first one was that Councillor DAVIS said I haven’t represented the community and that I’m not representative of the community. I have represented the community. I just got voted in again for the 6th time, and I have consistently represented the community of Rocklea in this space. There were so many mistruths spoken then, I don’t know where to start.

Chair: You had 3 misrepresentations, that’s one.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Second one—yes, the third one. The second one was in relation to meeting with State members. I have done that, and I’ve done that on a consistent basis, and I have tried, and I’ve put in written submissions as well, Councillor DAVIS, so there’s—yes, which is more than Councillor DAVIS has done. The third thing was in relation to trying to get action. I’m actually genuinely concerned about these residents. This isn’t a political game. I’ve been to their homes. I’ve visited them. I’ve met with them. This is diabolical, the condition they’re living in, and the threat they’re under from Stable Swamp Creek. I just want to try and get it resolved. That’s what I’ve tried to do, and I’ll keep trying to do it. Thank you.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your 2 points of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Madam Chairman. On the first point, Councillor DAVIS very dishonestly claims that I had ‘had a crack at Council officers’ when I spoke. This is demonstrably false. I spoke about the need for better flood mitigation. I spoke about the need for better flood mapping at a finer grain level, and I criticised the LNP. I did not have a crack at the officers. On the second point, Councillor DAVIS again very dishonestly claims that I had been criticising Council officers. In no way did I criticise Council officers. I advocated on the issues of flood mitigation and better flood mapping, and was critical of the LNP’s focus on the northside, not the southside.

Chair: We’ll now put that report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – FLOOD AWARENESS AND INFORMATION

**199/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Water, Energy and Environmental Systems, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide information about flood awareness. She provided the information below.

2. Brisbane is a river-based city that has been built on a floodplain, with 37 major creek catchments and numerous overland flow paths. Due to its subtropical climate, Brisbane is susceptible to both flooding and drought.

3. *Brisbane’s FloodSmart Future Strategy 2012-2031* (the strategy) outlines Council’s approach to flood risk management. The strategy is based on national and international best practice and delivers various flood management tools. A key focus of the strategy is to inform residents about potential flood impacts and the actions that can be taken to minimise damage to homes and businesses. The strategy also acknowledges that an educated and engaged community is more likely to be prepared and resilient in the event of a flood.

4. Council has a long-standing history of providing flood-related information and resources to residents. Initially, this information was distributed through hardcopy forms that were completed by hand and typically incurred a small fee. The content of this hardcopy form focused on river flood information and referenced the significant river flood event in 1974, as well as other historical floods. Council later introduced automated forms with an improved layout and additional information.

5. In 2005, the Lord Mayor and Civic Cabinet established the Lord Mayor’s Taskforce on Suburban Flooding, which focused on exploring ways to reduce the impacts of creek flooding in Brisbane. The taskforce provided professional recommendations to Council on how to minimise the impact that significant rain can cause in flood-prone areas.

6. The Flood Flag Map was introduced to Council’s website in 2009. The map indicated areas within Brisbane that were at risk of flooding from river, creek, storm tide or overland flow paths. Council was one of the first local governments in Australia to provide mapping of this nature to the public at no cost.

7. In 2014, Council introduced the Flood Awareness Map, an interactive online tool that provided general information about the possibility of flooding on a property, as well as the likelihood and potential impact of a flood event. FloodWise Property Reports were also made available to download from Council’s website in 2008. These reports listed the risk and type of flooding at a specific property and indicated how high the water may reach during a flooding event.

8. In November 2022, Council launched Flood Information Online, a site that combines the Flood Awareness Map function and the FloodWise Property Report feature to streamline Council’s flood preparation resources. The site has a mobile-friendly interface, and users are able to search for a specific address, choose relevant mapping layers, download a FloodWise property report and access educational materials. From March 2023 to March 2024, Council recorded:

- 3.4 million visits to the site

- 180,000 FloodWise Property Reports downloaded

- approximately 490,000 individual users.

9. In the same 12-month period, Council’s Flood Information Officers assisted the equivalent of approximately 0.25% of the number of individuals that utilised Flood Information Online, a figure which highlights the significant use of the site.

10. Council’s Brisbane Open Data webpage offers datasets that are reusable, accessible and shareable. Datasets are available for:

- various flood studies

- telemetry sensors, and rainfall and stream height gauges

- overland flow paths, flood overlays and waterways

- wetland assets and stormwater infrastructure.

11. Council engages with the community to promote flood preparedness and awareness. The Flood Hub provides an interactive space for residents to learn about flood resilience, interact with flood-resilient building materials and talk to specialised engineers about flood‑resilient building strategies. Approximately 10,500 people have been involved with the Flood Hub since 2018.

12. Council will continue to invest in the management of flooding in Brisbane and expand upon existing awareness and education initiatives.

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

14. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL NAME OAKMONT AVENUE PARK, 10 MERION CLOSE, OXLEY, AS ‘*NYIANG-PA*’

**137/220/594/322**

**200/2024-25**

15. A petition requesting Council name Oakmont Avenue Park, 10 Merion Close, Oxley, as ‘*Nyiang-pa*’, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 11 June 2024, by Councillor Steve Griffiths, and received.

16. The General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

17. The petition contains 6 signatures, with all petitioners residing within Moorooka Ward.

18. Oakmont Avenue Park (D1801, B-RE-0629) is classified as a local general recreation park and is held in trust. The park connects Penina Place, Oakmont Avenue and Merion Close, and has two street frontages with established trees, a pedestrian pathway and a bench seat.

19. Requests for new names are reviewed against criteria set out in Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities or Tracks Procedure* (OS03). The purpose of naming parks, facilities or tracks is to improve the legibility of the public space system.

20. Council appreciates that the naming of parks, tracks and prominent facilities within public space can engender a feeling of local community ownership by:

- celebrating historic, social, and cultural connections with facilities and open spaces

- recognising natural features that contribute to the enjoyment of our spaces

- assisting visitors and emergency services to orientate themselves and locate specific facilities within larger parks.

21. The request has been investigated in accordance with OS03, which sets out criteria to ensure a fair and thorough assessment of naming requests. Investigating officers have advised that a change to the park name may be able to be considered, however, further information is required to support the request. Supporting information required includes:

- outlining the significance and connection of the proposed name to the location

- outlining the background/origin of the name

- listing any further consultation that has occurred

- providing any other evidence or documentation that supports the naming suggestion.

Consultation

22. Councillor Steve Griffiths, Councillor for Moorooka Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

23. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ request.

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

25. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference: 137/220/594/322**

Thank you for your petition requesting Council name Oakmont Avenue Park, 10 Merion Close, Oxley as ‘*Nyiang-pa*’.

Council recognises the value of naming parks and prominent facilities or tracks within public open space. Naming of such facilities can engender a feeling of local community ownership, celebrate historic, social and cultural connections with facilities and open spaces, recognise natural features that contribute to the enjoyment of our open spaces and assist visitors and emergency services to orientate themselves and locate specific facilities within larger parks.

Requests for new names are reviewed against criteria set out in Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities or Tracks Procedure.* The purpose of naming parks, facilities or tracks is to improve the legibility of the public space system and to engender community ownership.

Investigating officers have advised a change to the park name may be able to be considered, however, further information is required to support the request. Supporting information required includes:

- an outline of the significance and connection of the proposed name to the location

- an outline of the background/origin of the name

- any further consultation that has occurred in addition to the petition

- any evidence or documentation that supports the naming suggestion.

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Meaghan Rowe, Senior Program Officer, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, on 3178 5013.

**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 29 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. Before I start my report, I would just like to address one of the questions in Question Time earlier. So, in Question Time today, Councillor JOHNSTON made a series of claims regarding tree planting in our city, and has subsequently tabled an email that she alleges confirms her theory. As we know, Councillor JOHNSTON never lets the truth get in the way of a good story, and this is another example of just how far she will stretch the truth. Council regularly plants trees in batches. So, we don’t just plant one here and one there. We save up all the requests and plant them in batches. The plantings are planned methodically to ensure that new trees have the best chance of survival. This year, Council has planted over 1,100 new trees across our city, and the team are planning to plant an additional 2,100 trees in autumn, which is the perfect climatic conditions for our city.

Now, onto the Committee presentation. So, the members of our City Standards Committee last week were treated to a presentation on the Operations Coordination Team within Compliance and Regulatory Services. The team triages compliance inquiries as they come through Council via the Contact Centre. They are an essential part of prioritising the resources that are on the ground. They process on average 70,000 requests a year, which can be anything from a reported dog attack, interference with protected vegetation, or someone parked in a clearway.

This team does an incredible job of prioritising cars response on the ground to ensure that all matters are responded to. Chair, a couple of weeks ago I wanted to mention that our compliance leader, Kirsty Cronan, the Manager for Compliance and Regulatory Services, was recognised for her 30 years of service in Council. I wanted to congratulate her personally on her magnificent milestone and thank her for incredible service to our city. I leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Are there any further speakers? No further speakers.

We’ll now put that report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – OPERATIONS COORDINATION TEAM

**201/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services (CARS), Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the CARS Operations Coordination Team (the Team). She provided the information below.

2. The Team was formed in 2008 to manage Council’s high level of incoming customer complaints. The Team provides functional support to the first response and investigative teams in City Safety, CARS.

3. The Team supports more than 120 field-based officers over 4 work units.

- Schedule and Dispatch (S&D) manage high level and escalated reports and dispatching jobs for immediate in-field response on high-priority matters to the Rapid Response Group (RRG) and City Parking, City Safety.

- Liaison and Review conduct customer prescribed infringement notice reviews and correspondence for City Safety.

- Planning and Intelligence manage City Safety rostering, parking action plans, employee overtime and operational task lists.

- Compliance Coordination Unit (CCU) conducts initial triage assessment for the Built Environment, Environmental Health, Amenity Services, Animal Services and Environmental Management work units.

4. S&D triage more than 70,000 incoming matters each calendar year. Dispatch officers must learn multiple operating systems, be familiar with parking deployment plans, work closely with RRG and understand operating procedures across disciplines to ensure they can adequately support other CARS teams.

5. The most common jobs processed by the Team are dog attacks, high-priority parking complaints such as vehicles parking within bus zones, clearways, driveways, ambulance zones and school zones as well as unmanaged vehicles that are hazardous.

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

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Community and the Arts Committee.

### COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 29 October 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before I move to my Committee report, I just want to touch on something Councillor STRUNK said earlier in relation to Brisbane Housing Company. Councillor STRUNK said he couldn’t recall Council providing any funding support since he was elected in 2016. I’m happy to take this opportunity to enlighten him. Brisbane Housing Company was incorporated as an Australian public company limited by shares. The Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council are ordinary shareholders of the company, and a range of industry and commercial and not-for-profit organisations play a role as community shareholders in BHC.

Since its creation in 2019, our Pathways out of Homelessness Program has consistently provided funding to the Brisbane Housing Company. In the last 3 years alone, this has totalled $157,000, and I can report to the Chamber that there has been significant financial performance towards Brisbane Housing Company when it was set up. The program is designed to prevent people entering homelessness in the first place and to help them maintain tenancy. Brisbane Housing Company use their funding on a specialist mobile health provider to deliver bespoke place-based health services to support residents in community housing with complex needs.

Council has also provided Brisbane Housing Company with an additional $450,000 over the past 3 years to further their important work in addressing housing for diverse communities. So, Madam Chair, I hope this update provides some clarity to Councillor STRUNK. Now, moving to my report, last week we had a report on our BNELibraries App. It was an update. The app was launched on 30 March 2020. It has consistently been growing. We had a fantastic opportunity to see how it worked and I know that our Committee members were very keen to use the app and to make sure that our residents are all aware of this wonderful opportunity. I will leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thanks, Councillor ALLAN and Councillor HOWARD for that update on the support for the Brisbane Housing Company, but I was more talking about direct injection of cash during a budget round. But thank you for that feedback.

Talking about the app, I thought—well, I didn’t know the actual app, and I—probably a bit embarrassed here. I didn’t know the actual app existed because—well, for whatever reason. But it’s quite an amazing little thing. But I was interested to know, of course, what it cost to set up. Always interested in the finance of these things, and how much it is to maintain, and that came via the Chair on a follow up question from the presentation.

So, just for people that may be watching, it cost about $68,000 and some change to set up back in 2020, and the app—it’s a bit over $62,000 to maintain on a yearly basis. What I was quite interested in, also, was how the app actually operated, and what sort of take-up there was of the app, as opposed to people just using their library cards. The take-up was, I thought, pretty reasonable, about 25% at this stage, maybe a little bit more. It is growing. But I think the self‑service—when you go into—you can get a loan of a book in a library now. If you’ve got the app, of course, you can just use your app, go to their shelf and check it out yourself, which I thought was pretty cool.

Then I thought, well, what if that security guard—I don’t know if there are security guards in every library, but we certainly have one in Inala, just to make sure that you don’t walk out with something you shouldn’t be walking out with. But evidently, of course, it turns off the alarm system for anyone, maybe, exiting with a book that they haven’t checked out properly. So, I thought that was quite cool as well. Of course, the app does a number of other things as well. E-books as well, you can check out e-books as well. But basically—in some cases, I suppose, if you checked e-books out, you really wouldn’t actually have to go into the library. I suppose you could just do that by remote, which is quite cool as well.

Our library, I just wanted to say in general, the library, at least in my area anyways, is ever increasing in popularity, and I walk out the door from my office into a hallway and the library’s just on the right, and it’s see-through glass all along the hallway. So, you can actually see how many people are actually using the library at any given time. I’m just always amazed how the community has really warmed to this thing called a library, that we thought—I thought a few years back, probably libraries would cease to exist with everything that can be looked up on the internet. But I was proven wrong, and they’re just more and more popular every year.

I don’t have a large library. I’ve only got one that’s about 750 square metres. So, it’s not one of the largest libraries, but it’s certainly one of the most highly used, I would suggest, across Brisbane. But anyways, it was an interesting presentation and I did learn something, which is always nice to do in a presentation. Thank you very much.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank Councillor STRUNK for his contribution. I would just like to point out to Councillor STRUNK that that was significant financial investment that we have made in Brisbane Housing Company, and we will continue to do so. So, I’d just like him to read the minutes and understand that there’s a lot of support from this organisation. Thank you.

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 Community and Arts Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Penny Wolff.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BNELIBRARIES APP UPDATE

**202/2024-25**

1. The General Manager and the Customer Experience and Technology Manager, Customer Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on the BNELibraries App (the app). They provided the information below.

2. The app was launched on 30 March 2020 and provides customers with a streamlined library experience by integrating collections, services, programs and information. The app aims to meet modern expectations and maximise the convenience and benefits of mobile devices.

3. Key features and functionalities of the app include:

- a real-time search function

- a digital barcode system

- notifications about loan items

- a customisable menu and adjustable font settings

- management system for loans, renewals and holds

- a section to view loan history

- curated book collections

- access to online resources and services, including databases and mobile printing

- integration with the AskALibrarian service

- links to event information, digital publications, calendars and social media channels.

4. The app’s uptake and usage has been consistently growing since its launch. Between 30 March 2020 and 30 September 2024:

- the app was downloaded 201,282 times

- 2,044,152 holds were placed on physical collection

- 1,452,078 renewals were made

- the search function was used 6,182,672 times.

5. The most-used features of the app include:

- Self-service

- Find a library

- Digital resources

- Tips for downloading e-books and audiobooks

- Your library membership.

6. Customers can add their library barcode to the app to create a digital card, which has eliminated the need for customers to carry a physical card. The app is also integrated with Apple Wallet, with Google Wallet integration currently in progress.

7. The app allows users to link and manage multiple accounts. This feature aims to improve the app’s convenience for families and households. Additionally, the app maintains the customer’s login allowing users to stay signed in, regardless of how frequently the app is accessed.

8. The app’s Find a library feature allows users to locate their nearest library by using geolocation capabilities. It also provides comprehensive information about each library’s opening hours, services and facilities.

9. Since its launch, the app has introduced new features to improve functionality and enhance user experience, including:

- the ability for users to suspend and unsuspend holds

- increased access to digital magazines

- a display to keep track of items on hold

- the self-service feature.

10. Customer Services has collaborated with the vendor, Solus, to make various improvements to the app, including the introduction of the self-service function, which was activated on 24 September 2021. This option allows customers to check out items using their personal mobile device and a combination of near field communication and radio frequency identification technologies. As of 30 September 2024, 126,141 items have been checked out via the app. The Committee was shown a video demonstrating the app’s self-service function.

11. Throughout June and July this year, several updates were made to the app, based on customer feedback, including:

- notifications for items that are due for return, overdue or ready for collection

- push notifications for library news content

- a personalised reading list feature

- a reading tracker function that records borrowing history and offers virtual awards

- an improved look and feel

- more convenient access to the My barcode feature

- improvements to the search function

- integration with Apple Wallet.

12. In 2023, Customer Services gathered feedback from customers about the app, which indicated:

- customer awareness has increased, with 51% of library customers aware of the app, compared to 47% in 2022

- of those aware of the app, 69% are users

- customer satisfaction has increased from 84% in 2022 to 92% in 2023.

13. Several aspects of the app have received positive feedback from customers, including its:

- convenience, accessibility and usability

- account management abilities

- search functionality

- real-time information capabilities

- connection to social media channels and other online services.

14. Customer Services is continuing to work with Solus to enhance the app and improve its functionality and convenience. The app’s content is regularly updated by the Customer Experience and Technology team, in collaboration with subject matter experts. Future improvements will focus on personalisation, including push notifications for library notices, as well as improved integration of digital collections and increased access to resources from external platforms, such as Overdrive, BorrowBox and uLibrary.

15. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager and Customer Experience and Technology Manager for their informative update.

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HUANG, Finance and City Governance Committee.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Steven HUANG, Deputy Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Julia DIXON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 29 October 2024, be adopted.

***EXPIRATION OF PERIOD FOR DEBATE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS***

At that point, 6.57pm, the Chair advised that the period allowed for debate of Committee reports had expired.

Chair: Sorry, Councillor HUANG, but it is now, under the provision of Section 35(13) of the Meetings Local Law, the expiration of the period allowed for debate of Committee reports.

So, I will now put that motion to the vote.

All those in favour say aye.

*Councillors say aye.*

Chair: Those against, no.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I don’t know what you said there. You spoke so quickly. What were you saying?

Chair: The 3 hours has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, it has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: But you told us just a few weeks ago we didn’t have to do that anymore.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Is that not right? So, we do have to do it?

Chair: Sorry, no, Councillor JOHNSTON, I don’t uphold your point of order. No, that’s not right.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m just—I could not—you spoke so quickly and so—

Chair: I’ll say it slowly. As Meetings Local Law is—sorry. Under the provisions of Section 35(13) of the Meetings Local Law, on the expiration of the period allowed for debate of Committee reports, I shall now put the motions to the meeting for the adoption of any Committee report not yet voted upon without further amendment or debate.

We are currently in Finance and City Governance. So, I’m now going to put that 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, Trina Massey and Danita Parry.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND REPORT – NET BORROWINGS – CASH, INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING – SEPTEMBER 2024

**203/2024-25**

1. The Corporate Treasurer, Financial Analysis and Treasury Management, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to present a report to the Committee on Council’s net borrowings for the September 2024 quarter. The report details the corporate cash holdings invested and the status of Council’s funding activities.

2. The report provided a market and economic review, and a summary of the following issues in relation to Council’s investments, including:

- cash position

- review of cash activity

- earnings on investments

- funding capability

- borrowings

- facility performance

- leases.

3. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Corporate Treasurer for her informative presentation.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Petitions.

Councillors, are there any petitions?

Deputy mayor.

Deputy Mayor: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a petition concerning Old Cleveland and Jones Road, Carina.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: I have a petition requesting wildlife fencing along Hamilton Road.

Chair: Thank you.

Any further petitions?

Councillor DIXON, may I have a motion for receipt of the petitions?

**204/2024-25**

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** |
| 137/220/594/365 | Krista Adams | Requesting Council upgrade the intersection at Old Cleveland and Jones Roads, Carina. |
| 137/220/594/366 | Tracy Davis | Requesting Council install wildlife fencing along Hamilton Road, Chermside West. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

Councillors, we will now move to General Business.

Are there any matters of General Business?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak very briefly about a very bizarre matter that happened to me just a couple of days ago. Just one day before the State election, I received a very random letter in my inbox, which was by Pauline Hanson and One Nation, and it was actually suing me for racial vilification. I bring this as relevancy to the Council today, because they copied in Brisbane City Council, saying that they’re going to make a formal complaint if, within 14 days, I don’t submit a half page ad in *The* *Courier Mail* and also *The Australian* withdrawing my comments.

My comments that I made over the State election was with regards to our State seat of Stretton, which I’d like to congratulate our local Member, James Martin, who’s worked very hard for his re-election this period against an LNP candidate who was actually caught with secret plans going against what Crisafulli had been saying this whole time throughout the whole election. So, we were very happy to see that result. But nonetheless, the email that we’d sent out was actually about the One Nation preferencing that the LNP candidate had done in the most multicultural electorate of the state, which was completely unacceptable.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor KIM: The email that I sent out was calling out One Nation and their racist behaviour, and this is what we had referenced in this email out. But what these lawyers had actually stated in this letter was about racial vilification with reference to my racial comments. But basically what happened after that was, we managed to find a KC (King’s Counsel)—so that was a local barrister, Anthony Morris, who was—didn’t really take a case. He really—to read this letter and find, though, that it was quite an incompetent one. There were grammatical errors. There were—also, they got my name wrong. They called me ‘Emily Ward’ as well.

So, they would report me to the Human Rights Commission, as well, for this very standard email that I see a lot of politicians writing, and using, even, in their own maiden speeches as well. One thing that I really wanted to address was that I think in this day and age, it’s quite shocking that as Brisbane City Councillors, you can have another politician coming at you and attacking you, throwing money at the situation, and trying to silence you for free speech. I don’t think that’s democratic. I think that’s wrong. I think in today’s day and age, it’s completely unacceptable. I’ve been contacted from politicians from all sides, from residents from all sides of politics as well, saying this is completely unacceptable behaviour.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor KIM: I think it also showed at the last State election as well. We saw that One Nation didn’t pick up any seats at the last election. It shows that Queenslanders are getting sick of divisive politics. They’re getting sick of too far right, too far left, just people using bigoted statements constantly. I think it’s wrong. I think Pauline deserves to be called out. But there is one thing that I really wanted to let her know, which is that she’s more than welcome to pop on down to Calamvale. I’ll shout her a bubble tea. We can go around all the local schools. She can meet all the multicultural students who are proudly singing the Australian Anthem, like I did, the National Anthem growing up.

We were so proud to be Australian, as I am as well. There are so many kids born and raised here. There are so many people who should be accepted in Australia, no matter what their ethnicity or origin is. I think we’re all proud to be Australian, and I think if there’s one thing that she’s got wrong, it’s that she could be more Australian than someone else. I think that message really needs to resonate with her. If she’s still angry, in the words of her own supporters, I think she should stop being a snowflake. So, thank you, Chair, and I look forward to updating the Chair on further matters about how this case goes forwards. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Thanks very much, Madam Chair. I’d just like to extend some thanks in dedication to the Council officers and to my team in the Walter Taylor Ward Office, and generally the community at large. Last week, I was absent from Chamber, but I didn’t want to miss the opportunity to extend the great work that we achieved during the Chamber recess period. So, I just wanted to share a couple of those exciting things. I just wanted to begin with the great work of the works for the Walter Taylor Bridge that were complete.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WOLFF: I really wanted to extend a heartfelt thanks to the 50 Brisbane Council City workers who worked tirelessly day and night to ensure that the Walter Taylor Bridge not only opened on time, but actually 5 days early. So, I wanted to extend a sincere thanks to Stacy, Andrea, Louie, Charmaine, and all those who assisted with the Walter Taylor communications that went out, which I think they did a fantastic job. I had residents ringing and thanking me for the great work that was done with the repairs for the Walter Taylor Bridge, and actually said they wish it would close more often, because they thought the streets were beautiful and quiet, and they actually enjoyed how well it was managed.

So, I just wanted to reiterate how well that was done. I also wanted to extend my excitement for the Indooroopilly Library refurbishment that is happening in my ward. I think this is a fantastic opportunity for our community, and it’s not just about a renovation. It’s about a really strong collaboration between Brisbane City Council and Indooroopilly Shopping Centre to deliver an outstanding facility, and in doing so, will be reducing the cost to ratepayers, which is a great outcome. I’m confident the project will continue to be a central part for our community, as we preserve our lifestyle in the western suburbs while reducing the burden on ratepayers by keeping the library at the heart of Indooroopilly Shopping Centre to at least 2035.

So, it’s a really great outcome. Also, over the last few months, I’ve been delighted to see the progress of the Moggill Road corridor upgrade. I’m really pleased to share that over the recent break, we now have on street parking on the commercial service road. This has been reinstated, and it’s providing really valuable access, once again, to local businesses and visitors alike. Additionally, the traffic on Moggill Road has been realigned to its permanent configuration. This is really adding to the enhancements and the appeal of the upgrade in general. Landscaping has begun, and it’s beginning to look vibrant and fresh and really coming all together.

So, again, really thankful to all the Council officers who are working on the Moggill Road corridor upgrade. It won’t be long, and it will be back open. I also was delighted to host, during recess break, 2 activations in my ward, one being a business activation, which was right near the Moggill Road upgrade. This was really well supported. We got great, positive feedback from the businesses. The community really came together, and it was just nice to see that shopping local was the focus for that event. Yes, thank you to all those attended in my community.

Just last weekend, we hosted an event in Guyatt Park called Guyatt Grooves. It was fantastic to have a 40-piece band playing as part of our bands program for Brisbane City Council. It was beyond our expectation. We hosted it for Grandparents’ Day, but we didn’t just get grandparents and little ones along. We got all ages. It was fantastic and really well supported. I had residents saying that they were enjoying the music from their apartment buildings nearby that couldn’t even fit in the park, it was so popular. So, I just didn’t want the opportunity to go, to say how much I’m enjoying being a local Councillor, loving living in the ward, and enjoying everything about the western suburbs. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on greenspace, deep planting and development. It is possible we will see population increases of up to 400,000 people in the next 20 years for the Brisbane Local Government Area based on projections by the State Government. This means that long-term planning for greenspace is crucial for our future Brisbane to have any chance of being a sustainable, healthy, liveable city. One change making its way through State Government planning process is a City Plan amendment package, major L.

This package includes a proposal to change deep planting targets for multiple dwelling developments from 10% to 15%. This change was of course advocated by the Greens, and we were pleased to see this initiative. However, we are seeing so many developments being approved with zero deep planting, and in the fastest-growing part of my ward, the high density part of Milton, we are only seeing an average of 4% deep planting being approved. In this performance‑based planning system, our targets are pointless if developers can find a way to trade them off without any oversight from local Councillors.

This LNP-controlled Council likes to suggest the Greens are opposing all new developments. Of course, that is manipulation of what is really happening. We could call them alternative facts. What Greens Councillors are really doing is advocating for more sustainable, greener and better development that is actually in line with our City Plan targets, like the 10% deep planting. My question is, why are LNP Councillors not representing their communities? Why are local LNP Councillors not advocating for better development outcomes, for more greenspace, for more deep planting, for buildings that integrate more harmoniously into the existing neighbourhood? I have found that most residents, like the Greens, are not opposed to development. They just want better development outcomes than this Council is delivering.

We don’t have to accept concrete jungles to increase housing. We don’t have to reduce greenspace for population growth. This idea that allowing poorly designed, unsustainable development that reduces greenspace and plantings is the only way to resolve the housing crisis is false. It’s false told to our residents in order to give developers more profit, more power to build whatever they want, whatever they want. Of course, it’s not a surprise that the new LNP State Government has already committed to changing the law to allow developers to make political donations.

While this LNP Council gives developers discounts of up to 75% infrastructure charges, the LNP State Government will change legislation to enable developers to hand some of that back to LNP in donations. Sounds like a slick deal, legalising corruption. With good planning, with good management, this city can provide sufficient housing for everyone, while also ensuring we have enough greenspace and vegetation.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please.

Councillors, do not call out while another Councillor is on their feet.

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: I had completed my speech, thanks.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: I rise to speak on one item today and that is the LORD MAYOR’s comments earlier today. Earlier today, the LORD MAYOR made multiple statements that went beyond slander, that went beyond defamation, that went beyond the Code of Conduct. What the LORD MAYOR has done today is undeniably shown his true face here, and it is truly cruel. In response to statements made about bullying and the lack of transparency, the LORD MAYOR decided to call me, Greens MPs (Members of Parliament), Greens Members, Greens voters, and thousands and hundreds of people across Brisbane, who are in grief over the deaths of children, women, civilians in Gaza, the West Bank, and now Lebanon, racist and anti-Semitic.

These words shouldn’t be taken lightly, because these words have a purpose. They have a purpose to silence. They have a purpose to attack. What the LORD MAYOR has indicated today is that those people that care, he doesn’t care for. What it indicates is for Palestinians that have been in this country, like Khalil, who was in the story in the newsletter, Palestinians that have lost family and are also in grief, the people and the families living here from Lebanon that are also in grief, of Israel’s military aggression, do not matter to the LORD MAYOR and this LNP Council. They do not matter, and we know they don’t matter, because given an opportunity to even mention that too many lives have been lost in Gaza, in West Bank, and now in Lebanon—not only civilian lives. Journalists—

Chair: One moment please, Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor ADERMANN, do not call out.

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor MASSEY: MASSEY.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, my apologies.

Councillor MASSEY: Civilian lives, journalists, doctors, providers of food to those areas, with an opportunity to speak about that, the LORD MAYOR has never spoken about that. What we saw today was the true face of the LORD MAYOR for the city to see and stand up against, for the city to know what line has been drawn, and it is every LNP Councillor that stands behind him that shares what should be that shame and guilt. To call so openly, to defame, to slander so openly, indicating exactly what he thinks of those people that escaped as refugees, as families that have escaped as refugees, those who immigrated here. Their voices mean nothing, and that if they say a voice, if they stand up and they say, we want a ceasefire, we want the deaths to end, then the LORD MAYOR will happily call you an anti-Semite and a racist.

That’s what we saw today, and that is shameful. Absolutely shameful. What we’ve seen is a loss of life that’s uncomparable in the most recent years, and it is happening, and criticism of the Israeli state, the State of Israel, is not anti‑Semitism. Criticism of the continual deaths, criticism of the lack of ceasefire, criticism of aggression as people are in grief and mourning, not only in Brisbane, across the state and across Australia, and globally around the world, is not racist and anti-Semitic, and these tactics of using it to silence any criticism is censorship. We will see in due time as the investigation continues, but beyond that, I want to make it clear that that was not on, and I will be pursuing every effort to call the LORD MAYOR account for his disgusting behaviour here in Chambers.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTIONS:

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

### REINSTATE POWER AT MUSGRAVE PARK AND KURILPA POINT

**205/2024-25**

The Chair then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 8A on the agenda, and called on Councillor Trina MASSEY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Trina MASSEY moved, seconded by Councillor Seal CHONG WAH, that this Council—

*Immediately reinstate the Power and BBQs in Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point to enable community use for residents, front line support services, cleaners, event organisers and those experiencing homelessness.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Over 2 weeks ago, through you, Chair, the LORD MAYOR Adrian Schrinner the cruel, the first of his name, cut power and turned off barbecues at Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point. What were the results of this cruel and callous action? Firstly, this action contributed nothing to solving the worst housing crisis since the Great Depression. Today in Queensland, one in 200 people in our state are currently unhoused, a statistic that should be unacceptable to anyone in this room. Of course, it is successive Liberal National and Labor Party governments at all levels, including this one, that have failed to ensure that anyone has access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

While the responsibility of creating the current housing crisis sits squarely with the governments that are in charge, the people left unhoused bear the brunt of the pain. Those were the people that were immediately affected by this cruel LORD MAYOR’s actions, disconnected from family, community groups, frontline services like the Department of Housing. Support workers have lost contact with a number of rough sleepers. Another large group have migrated towards Riverside Drive and Orleigh Park.

Had this LORD MAYOR talked to anyone working in the housing space or living rough, they would have known that the challenges of temporary housing—how those who have had challenges with substances have stayed away to keep themselves clean, and how those who’ve experienced domestic violence find the streets safer than the volatile temporary housing available. Because of course, in temporary housing, wrap-around services are grossly underfunded. This has been underfunded by the same Labor and Liberal governments who have been in charge at every level. For long-term rough sleepers, a destructive consequence of the LORD MAYOR’s actions of not enabling people to fundamentally eat has had more dangerous consequences.

As the desperation to eat increased, so did the use of hazardous gas canisters. Between Monday and Friday last week, there were 3 fires in Musgrave Park. These, however, are just the immediate results for each area. There are continual consequences. Support services and community groups who work closely with people sleeping rough have also been unable to provide their usual services. Removing power access prevents them from doing their jobs and keeping our communities safe. As there is no power in the park that is often booked for events, the question hangs now how these events will occur without dramatically increasing the cost to events, or Council, to reconnect or disconnect.

In the upcoming months, the events affected by the power being off includes Meanjin Reggae Festival, a free community festival, Signal Flare, a barbecue Christmas for homeless people and people in need, the Pongal Festival, a Hindu harvest festival celebrated by our Tamil community. Paniyiri, NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Family Fun Day, the list goes on—and community members that hire these spaces. All, I’ve been told, currently will not have access to power. I have been told that the power will not be switched on for anyone, even if they already have a park booking. Will these events continue? Will contractors be able to access power, like cleaners and park maintenance, these things that are so needed in the park right now?

The cruelty and the callousness, through you, Chair, of the LORD MAYOR knows no bounds. It actually extends beyond these 2 parks. I’ve recently learned that the lights have been turned off at Emma Miller Place. So, services that are trying to provide food to people that have nothing can’t even do that with light. The cruelty and the lack of compassion is not only of this LORD MAYOR, though, but every LNP Councillor that stands behind to support these actions. If the LORD MAYOR wanted to tackle community safety, the LORD MAYOR should call up his mates in 1 William and tell them to not cut temporary housing budget, to commit to record spending to build social and affordable housing, and increase all funding for services, including wrap-around services, to support those that are in temporary housing and transitioning to permanent housing.

The community has been vocal and, as I found out on Friday and as I confirmed today, barbecues have been turned on in Musgrave Park, and I thank the community in their vocal support of that, because it was so dangerous, these fires. They were so dangerous. Meanwhile, I compel anyone in this Chamber to show an inch of compassion and support this motion.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, your time’s expired.

Any further speakers?

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on this motion, and as, earlier this afternoon, I spoke about the rise of anti-social and violent behaviours that have been happening at Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point Park. The Greens political party again here tonight have been spreading misinformation for weeks. There have never been publicly accessible power outlets at Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point Park. The power outlets that they are referring to are housed within public barbecues and locked switchboards. These outlets have been repeatedly vandalised and hotwired, which is not only extremely unsafe, but has also come at a cost of over $25,000 to Brisbane ratepayers to repair.

Along with the significant escalation in violence, aggressive and anti-social behaviour in these parks, there was also recently a very dangerous electrical fire within the tent encampment. This fire involved a tent that was illegally accessing one of these outlets. The fire was extremely dangerous and forced the decision for us to switch the power off. While the barbecues are operating again, other Council power sources remain off due to significant risk. While phone charging services will continue to be available within walking distance of the park 7 days a week, I’m sure that you all agree that the wilful destruction of public property is unacceptable, and the tampering with electrical services poses an unacceptable and significant public safety risk.

Our Council strongly believes the violent, aggressive, anti-social behaviour occurring in these parks is not acceptable and that we have a responsibility to keep our community safe. The Greens political party approach to homelessness is simply cruel. It’s cruel that they oppose housing, cruel that they want people to live in tents, and cruel that the only solution they have on offer is USB chargers. So, while we won’t be supporting this motion this evening, Chair, our Council remains deeply committed to a compassionate approach to those experiencing genuine homelessness. Our officers will continue to work with people in need, connecting them with housing service providers by the State Government, and helping to ensure they can access the support that they require. Thank you.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I support this motion, as it’s the least the LORD MAYOR can do to support the most vulnerable in our community. Please have a heart. We are in the worst rental housing crisis since the Great Depression. The reality of roughly 10,000 people being homeless tonight in South East Queensland is unbearable to think about. This problem should not exist, but successive Labor, LNP Governments have virtually not invested in public and social housing for decades. We are now seeing a dire situation of mass homelessness unfolding in our Brisbane community.

The 2 major parties are relying on private property investors to fix their housing crisis, which is completely absurd. They’re causing the housing crisis and they have no intention of remedying this crisis. Shameful. We see greedy property investors are artificially restricting supply, which ultimately causes hyper‑inflated prices for property. They land bank relentlessly, holding developable land off the market while they take full advantage of planning code vagueness and relaxations to speculate and maximise their profits. Meanwhile, the rent keeps rising. Nobody can find genuinely affordable housing.

Hundreds of thousands of people are stuck on the social housing list due to the immense failure of all levels of government. Housing has become a commodity instead of a basic human right. The solutions are simple. They’ve been implemented in other cities. Finland is a great example, where the current government has committed to completely eradicating homelessness by 2027, where housing comes first. To tackle the housing crisis, we need to scrap negative gearing and capital gains tax. We need a vacancy levy and legislator inclusionary zoning to put downward pressure on private rental prices, meaning cheaper rents.

This would obviously reduce homelessness and cut down the rapidly growing social housing wait list. We can freeze rents for 2 years for wages to catch up, and then cap rents. Where is the humanity in this situation? In this room, can we please have some shared empathy? Experiencing homelessness and poverty are extremely punishing and extremely harmful to one’s well-being. For these people, who are being failed by this Council, life is relentless and extremely challenging. Clearly, supporting our most vulnerable communities is an obvious answer, not punitive, cruel control by cutting off basic services that can support people that are suffering terribly.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **206/2024-25**  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 7.31pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

*At that time, 8.31pm, the Deputy Chair assumed the Chair.*

Deputy Chair: Any further speakers on the motion?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you Mr Chair, Mr Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on the notified motion relating to Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point. As Councillor HUTTON has already mentioned today, power was reinstated to the barbecues at Musgrave Park on Friday 1 November and power will be reinstated to the barbecues at Kurilpa Point tomorrow. The decision to switch off power to these barbecues and the reasons why have been discussed extensively both publicly and in this Chamber. What we’re seeing unfold at both Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point is the result of a culmination of factors, all of which are compounding and exacerbating the situation. Every decision this Administration has made in relation to these sites has been taken with the safety of Council workers, members of the public and the people sleeping rough in these parks front of mind.

Now we know that the Greens’ solution to homelessness in Brisbane is USB charging points in public parks. Thankfully the Schrinner Council is aiming a lot higher than that. Between our incredible Pathways out of Homelessness program and the phenomenal work of our PSLOs (Public Space Liaison Officers), Council is committed to supporting our most vulnerable residents and helping them get a proper roof over their head. In the past year, 60% of the cases reported to have people experiencing homelessness have been resolved in a timely manner through PSLO engagement. This means that our incredible PSLOs have been able to connect people experiencing homelessness with housing referrals and other support services.

Now you wouldn’t know this, of course, if you got your update from the Greens councillors. It’s extremely disappointing that Greens councillors in this place continue to support people that have publicly degraded and insulted our PSLOs. I’m confident Councillor MASSEY will tell anyone that listens that the power being reinstated to barbecues in Musgrave Park and Kurilpa is because of her advocacy. In case there was any ever doubt, this is not the case. Councillor MASSEY’s so-called advocacy is about as effective as a wet tissue. Council will continue to monitor both Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point and respond to challenges accordingly. Issues such as these are incredibly complex, which is why the adults in the room are handling it.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak in support of this motion put before us today. Housing insecurity and cost of living are some of the biggest issues facing people in Brisbane right now and we know that every level of government has a role to play in addressing housing insecurity, but also in the way that we support those who are most vulnerable in our community. On this side of the Chamber we have long called for targeted support and more of it for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and the incredibly vulnerable people living in our city. These are incredibly complex issues that require multifaced approaches to address.

We need to be working together with all levels of government and NGOs (non‑governmental organisation) to treat these people with decency and respect, to support them to find homes and address the complex causes that lead to these situations. Yet the LNP Administration, again, has failed to prioritise this important work. Instead, what we see is a Council that chooses to take an inhumane and punitive approach by turning off power to those who are most vulnerable, sleeping rough in Musgrave and Kurilpa Point parks. This is, of course, on the same day that we have found out that Council have spent an eye-watering $137,000 on a party for the Metro for 3,000 people at $45 a head. But apparently we cannot possibly find the resources within Council to support rough sleepers and I assume today that the LNP will vote this motion down.

This is just another example where the LNP have their priorities all wrong. The LNP Council and the LORD MAYOR have engaged in what I think is shameful and a classless rhetoric and have demonised these people. As the city’s leadership, the LNP need to be supporting and advocating for the most vulnerable in our city. Instead, they’ve made decisions to cut power to the homeless. These decisions are so wrong and completely heartless. I’ve started a petition and already in a few short days nearly 170 people have signed it to get the power back on. Today we are all calling on the LORD MAYOR and the LNP administration to please show some compassion and turn the power back on. Will you finally listen?

Deputy Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Okay, listen in rise to speak on this motion because I have a group in my ward that actually do work at Kurilpa as well as at Inala with the homeless. Now I know Councillor HOWARD has met Margarita who works in Kev Hooper Park and she and her group work with homeless people to try to—and they do more than just give them a really good feed, by the way, it’s like silver service and they get it one day a week on a Friday usually. But they actually work with them and mentor them and try to get them work, try to get them accommodation and actually a lot of their volunteers end up being those people that they helped.

Now they can’t operate at Kurilpa because there’s no barbecue. So we’re disadvantaging the people that are actually doing the work with the homeless, that government doesn’t do, right, probably government can’t do all that, it does take those volunteer groups as well to do that, some of that work as well, but the government can support that. Really, all I heard from Councillor HUTTON was about $25,000 damage to the infrastructure, right? We’ve got to put people before money. People should always come before money. We should be able to do what we need to do to make the place safe, I totally agree with that, but we have to obviously work out different strategies of dealing with the issue and I haven’t heard any other solutions other than turn it off, turn off the power, right and close the toilets in some cases. I think I heard that maybe a week or so ago.

But it’s really important that we certainly try to do everything we can as a Council to help the homeless in this city. We are indirectly responsible for them, right? Yes, it’s a State Government thing about housing, but we can do our bit and we’ve laid it out over the last number of months about what Council could do more in supporting the homeless. I’ve got a number of homeless people in my ward of course, as I’m sure it’s right across Brisbane, it’s just not in my ward and it’s certainly not at Kurilpa or Musgrave Park, they’re right around, but they’re quite hidden at times because they sleep in cars, behind petrol stations in groups so it keeps them safe. A few of them have occupied the parks in my ward, especially in the Inala area because we’ve got some really big parks, so they can sort of just—you don’t see them, except during the day maybe, but at nighttime you don’t see them and they do that to keep themselves safe of course.

But Margarita and her group, I mean she’s been interviewed by the ABC and all the channels when all this initially happened, right? I said, well the first opportunity I get to try to advocate for the Kurilpa barbecue to be turned back on, because there’s a lot of homeless people that counted upon her and she’s not able to undertake the good work she’s doing on behalf of this city. So thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate? No further debate.

Right of reply, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Firstly I want to thank everyone for their contributions. I’d like to begin by stating a couple of numbers from today. Six in Orleigh Park, 11 at Kurilpa Point, one in Bunyapa Park and 15 in Musgrave Park. That is the number of visible tents in Kurilpa. That number is no demonstration of the amount of people, but I think it’s a pretty high number. That totals about 40 and to go further, thank you for your statements, Councillor STRUNK, those 40 people that have just been moved around have not been mentioned at all by Councillor HUTTON.

Interestingly enough, Councillor HUTTON only mentioned the cost and of course in mentioning this, Councillor HUTTON forgot to mention that the power boxes in not only Musgrave Park, not only Kurilpa Point but many parks across the city are consistently used or accidentally left open and have been used not only by people for events, but people in community. Incidentally, as something that the Liberal councillors that did stand up kept saying, repeating, that the USB power points were the only solutions that the Greens have offered. I’ll go into all the other various solutions, but incidentally, had I been allowed to put in USB power points over the past 18 months, those power boxes won’t have been opened and that would have saved the thing the Councillor HUTTON is most concerned about, $25,000.

But of course most people know that we have suggested many more things than USB power points. We’ve suggested a vacancy levy from this Council, we’ve suggested a major crackdown on the Airbnb, something that we haven’t heard from since from this LNP Council to ensure that rentals that used to be on the market that are now in the temporary rental market can come back on because of course not a single development in West End will be affordable for anyone living on the streets. We’ve also suggested rates caps, we’ve also suggested the refurbishment of buildings that are unleased in the Central Business District. This was a point that me and the LORD MAYOR actually agreed upon and that was in June 2023 and since then we haven’t heard a word.

We know that this LNP Council isn’t actually working on this. I recognise the Public Space Liaison Officers are doing an amazing job. However they’re under, under, under, underfunded. We know this because literally the week that the photos in Musgrave Park were taken, Public Space Liaison Officers reduced their appearance and their support in the park from Tuesday to Wednesday mornings, Tuesday and Thursday mornings just to Wednesday. So when we talk about a Council that is saying they are doing everything, is the reduction to only one day a week to connect with rough sleepers, not only at Kurilpa Point, not only at Musgrave Park but citywide, actually doing everything?

I’ll also go further. Councillor HOWARD said that it’s a complex issue. Of course, that is undeniable. I invite Councillor HOWARD to come with me to Musgrave Park and Kurilpa Point.

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor HOWARD: What Councillor MASSEY is saying to the Chamber is incorrect. The PSLOs were withdraw from the area because of the abuse.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Councillor HOWARD, it is not for debate.

Councillor MASSEY: Is that a point of order?

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, that’s not, a point of order is not for use for debate.

Councillor MASSEY, please continue.

Councillor MASSEY: As I was saying, it is a complex issue and I do hope that Councillor HOWARD is paying a lot of attention to this. In rebuttal for trying to do everything we can, after the response that happened to Paniyiri, I’ll just be mindful to say that I called Councillor HOWARD into a meeting to make sure that it was clear that after Paniyiri is over and the temporary housing was available, that there was a big concern because of the Magic Round that temporary housing wouldn’t be available. Of course Councillor HOWARD did not actually know this and then had to contact State Government.

I am on the ground. We know that power and now of course turning on barbecues is really important, the barbecues specifically the QPS (Queensland Police Service) told me personally, they talked to Council because they advised that the cannisters, because the barbecues were turned off, were the most deadly part. Be honest, show some compassion for this.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MASSEY, your time has expired.

Now I put the motion to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Deputy Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

NOES: 10 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

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

**207/2024-25**

The DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the notified motion submitted by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON at the meeting on 14 May 2024, be taken off the table.

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

### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON NOTIFIED MOTION – INSTALL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT INTERSECTION OF IPSWICH AND EKIBIN ROADS, ANNERLEY

Deputy Chair: Further speaker on the motion?

Councillor STRUNK: Point of order. Point of order, Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor STRUNK: Have we got a copy of that, that’s been circulated?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Sorry, I wasn’t talking to the DEPUTY MAYOR. Sorry, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Deputy Chair: Yes, a copy was circulated to all councillors.

Councillor STRUNK: Sorry?

Deputy Chair: Yes, a copy was circulated to all councillors.

Councillor STRUNK: Okay, thank you.

Deputy Chair: So whilst the clerk is distributing the motion, I will read it. The motion from 14 May 2024 has been taken off the table. I will restate the motion for the Chamber while it is being redistributed. So Brisbane City Council urgently install a zebra crossing or wombat crossing on the uncontrolled slip lane at the intersection of Ipswich Road and Ekibin Road, Annerley, allocating funding from Infrastructure for Brisbane – Program 2 as it has at similar locations at Norman Park.

Any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Sorry, yes?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Sorry, yes, Council have spoken—

Councillor COLLIER: Could you please advise us who has spoken?

Deputy Chair: —Councillor JOHNSTON and GIVNEY, so any other councillors can enter the debate now. So it resumes from where it left on 14 May.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair, and it’s been a little while since this motion was debated in this place and it probably had a momentum at the time of debate that we have lost by laying—the Administration has lost by laying it on the table. I think part of their logic for laying it on the table was that this referred to a budget item, this was referring to the future budget. Now this crossing point is actually in my electorate, but Councillor JOHNSTON has represented this area and both of us agree that this intersection needs to be made safe by putting in lights or making the actual crossing point to the intersection safe, as has happened at a number of places around the city.

In particular, I think of one intersection where this has happened down at Gow Street and Ipswich Road and right adjacent to that we have the Deaf Society of Queensland. So part of doing that has been to enable a safe crossing for people who are experiencing issues with their hearing. Similarly at this site, we have a number of people who use this particular crossing who are affected by visual issues in terms of blindness and we have the Blind Society there on Ipswich Road. So part of installing—calling for improvements at this intersection at the uncontrolled slip lane is about making this intersection safer for the residents who use it, for people who have a disability who use it, for the many school children who use it and the many parents who use it.

So I don’t think this—I was surprised the LNP wanted to hold off funding this because it was just such a no brainer. They’ve done it at so many other intersections. So I’d encourage the LNP and the Chamber to fund the improvements at this intersection because it just makes perfect sense, it’s something that’s reasonable and something the residents would expect. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak onto this motion briefly. The importance of pedestrian safety is something critical to the work that we do here in Council and the reason it’s so important is while people are drivers, people are cyclists, people are scooters, people are roller bladers, people are skateboarders, everyone in this city is a pedestrian. So when we look at the opportunities to create a more pedestrian-safe city, the idea of a zebra crossing or a wombat crossing in what I would call a high—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: —a high-movement zone and a high-conflict zone, right and when I talk about conflict, the interaction between cars, pedestrians, cyclists, scooters and otherwise. We have to look at them as upgrades. We have to consider them as upgrades that we can deliver go the city.

Now Councillor JOHNSTON, through you, Chair, has moved this motion for the betterment of her community, to try to enable safety for residents, safety for school children, safety for people that have disabilities and safety for everyone involved and this should be considered as a positive thing. This should be viewed upon as a positive thing, even though it was in May that this was put on and then put on the table, this should be viewed as a positive thing.

Unlike, through you, Chair, I am not surprised because we know that the LORD MAYOR stated very clearly in budget debates in June that any upgrades like this, crossings, pedestrian safety, intersection, et cetera, et cetera, are downgrades. It would be, I believe in the Liberal Council Administration, Council’s best interest to counteract a very public statement by potentially triggered LORD MAYOR, calling pedestrian safety, calling for safety of everyone, noting again that everyone is a pedestrian, a downgrade by actually applying money to this and proving that the safety of pedestrians across our city is a positive thing.

I know that maybe that won’t happen here tonight, but please, please bear this in mind. Every single one of these pedestrian safety improvements, every single crossing, every local traffic calming, every wombat crossing, every intersection that is rejected by this Liberal Administration again sets the precedent based on what the LORD MAYOR so publicly said, that all of these are consider downgrades. Let it be clear, we know that across all our wards people want these upgrades. People want to be safe crossing roads, people want their children to be safe walking to school and crossing roads, so please, in what is a predominantly empty Chamber, I compel Liberal Administrations to go against the leader’s words that these are all downgrades and instead, vote for pedestrian safety, which is for the safety of all residents in Brisbane.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I’ll just keep my remarks really brief. Just 5 minutes, no, I’m kidding. The motion talks about the location in Norman Park and I just want to talk about what a positive impact that has had in my community and I want to thank the Commonwealth Government for funding that project through the Black Spot Program. Residents have already come to me in the time that this project has been completed over the last year and just said it’s made a huge difference to a notorious local hotspot. This is a spot that is next to a train station, next to a very, very high-use footy club, there’s cricket, there’s shops, there’s a lot going on, childcare centres, churches nearby, petrol station as well.

Just want to put on the record my thanks to the Council officers who put this program up for funding, thanks to the Commonwealth Government for delivering that funding for the community, this has had an incredible positive impact for the residents and visitors to Norman Park and it would only make sense that it would be considered elsewhere in the city. It’s a relatively, in the grand scheme of things, actually a relatively low-cost solution for pedestrian safety and for motorist safety and it’s a commonsense outcome.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

As there is no further debate, I will now put the motion to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Deputy Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

NOES: 10 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

### RESIDENTIAL RATES PAPER BILL FEE EXEMPTION

**208/2024-25**

The Deputy Chair then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed as item 8B on the agenda, and called on Councillor Jared CASSIDY to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER—

*That this Council introduces an exemption for the residential rates paper bill fee beginning on January 1, 2025 for pensioners and concession card holders.*

Deputy Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. This LORD MAYOR and his regime are sneaking in rates and charges in every way they possibly can and this newly announced fee for paper rates is no exemption—is no exception. They’ve run cash reserves dry, blown the budget on big projects, lost sight of the basics, we’ve heard about that all day today, in fact they’ve lost sight of why they were elected in the first place. According to the LORD MAYOR, he hadn’t thought about taxing pensioners who prefer to receive a bill in the mail than scan a QR code and get online before the last election. But we don’t really believe that on this side, all in a bid to bring in an estimated $2 million to make the LNP’s budget bottom line look better after years of mismanagement and waste is not something that is done just overnight and is not a quick decision. It comes down to priorities.

Now that money, we know, could have been found elsewhere, didn’t have to cost ratepayers extra for receiving their rates bill. We found out last week that Council is paying $5.7 million to Australia Post for unaddressed mail, including the self-promoting *Living in Brisbane* newsletter. But it’s truly puzzling to think that this LNP Council will continue to post that hard copy newsletter to every single resident while introducing a tax on rates bills. Now let’s not forget, rates are taxes themselves, they’re for all intents and purposes, they are taxes. So the LNP are now taxing you to receive your tax bill, basically. This charge that we’re talking about tonight was buried even deeper than the 50% increase in fees for people paying their rates on a credit or debit card and I imagine in this cost of living crisis there’s an increasing number of people paying their rates using a credit or debit card.

It was not mentioned, this pensioner tax was not mentioned at the LORD MAYOR’s press conferences around budget time, it was not mentioned in the LORD MAYOR’s speech, so we wonder what other fees and charges this regime is going to sneak through next year. This LNP regime is shaking down ratepayers for every cent and dollar it can and it needs to stop. Ratepayers really are paying more and getting less. You can’t believe this LORD MAYOR and his regime when they say this isn’t a pensioner tax. There’s a very simple reason why. Other organisations, service providers and councils who have these charges for paper bills exempt pensioners and concession card holders from these charges. Many businesses including, as we heard earlier today, Telstra, Foxtel, Vodafone, Energy Australia, Origin Energy, among others, provide exemptions for pensioners, disabled, disadvantaged or concession card holders for their paper bill fee.

The Queensland Government provides a number of ways in which you can pay your vehicle registration, for instance. But crucially, it has not chosen to charge customers who receive their notices in the mail. Urban Utilities, Unitywater, don’t have a paper bill fee either. Let’s look at neighbouring councils, the most appropriate comparison, Gold Coast, Redland City, Ipswich and Logan do not charge this fee. Since the LORD MAYOR has become entirely obsessed with the Moreton Bay Regional Council over the last 2 weeks—sorry, the Moreton Bay City Council, I should say, they charge a paper bill fee but of course exempt pensioners from the same pensioner tax that this LNP Council wants to bring in if you’re a self-fund retiree, concession card holder or receiving a pension. Noosa is the same.

So it appears that Brisbane will be the only council in South East Queensland cruel enough to put this tax onto pensioners and I say shame on the LNP.

Deputy Chair: Any further speaker?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Okay, yes, thank you, Chair, Deputy Chair. Listen, the fact is at the last census 14% of people over the age of 65 do not have a computer or a phone or, for that matter, of course an internet plan through NBN or whatever service provider you can get it through nowadays. So if you work out, there’s like 450,000 ratepayers, 14% of them do not have a computer or a phone or a plan. Now why should they be targeted? Why should they be treated differently, right? Why should they be penalised, I should say, for not having a computer or a phone and this is the census that was taken 5 years ago, too, by the way, we’ve got another one coming up soon. So when I saw that figure, I thought, well, you know, I mean this is going to—many thousands of people are going to be charged this.

I have the pleasure of actually representing probably one of the more socially economic areas, more depressed areas in Brisbane, we have a lot of pensioners, they’re not on a lot of money, of course, and some of those pensioners—and they own their homes, by the way, so they can’t get into public housing, they actually own their homes, but virtually every fortnight they’re down to their last few dollars. This $2, the LORD MAYOR says it’s only $2, you know, well sometimes that’s all they’ve got left at the end of their fortnight, right? Now this is just another nail in their financial budget, their household budget. It may not be a lot to him or a lot to any of us here in the room, but I’ve actually had firsthand knowledge of this because I’ve had some of these pensioners, because we’ve got 2 pensioner groups that meet in the Civic Hall on a weekly basis and they’ve told these stories.

Most of them are actually homeowners actually, so they really do it tough to try to pay the rates to start with and now they’ve got to pay for their bill, $2 for their bill. I mean it’s just ludicrous when you think about it. No one should have to pay for a bill, right? I mean they pay for this in their rates anyway, so they pay for the service to actually send the bill to them so they can pay it on a quarterly basis and it’s just incredible. I just can’t believe how miserly and how unthinking this Council is on this particular issue, you know, when it comes to those that really do it really tough every fortnight, trying to make ends meet, especially with the cost of living increases that we’ve all experienced, not just them of course.

I just think it’s something that should be set aside and not followed through on because I just think it’s $2 million to the bottom line, but for what we spend on a lot of other stuff, including parties, you know, I mean for all we know, I don’t know what the party for the bridge is going to cost, but if you add those 3 parties together, I mean you’re probably getting close to the $2 million or at least $1 million anyway. So there goes the savings that you were going to make on not sending the bills out by post. Anyway, I support the motion, of course. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I think today has been an absolute illuminating demonstration of just how heartless the LNP really are deep in their core because yeah and they have shown their true colours today because not 5 minutes ago this LNP Administration voted to withhold power to those who are the most vulnerable in our city and now not one Councillor—

Councillor HOWARD: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Claim misrepresentation.

Councillor COLLIER: I haven’t spoken.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Councillor HOWARD: Through you, Mr Chair, that is not true. The power is—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, point of order.

Deputy Chair: Yes, point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: It’s my understanding that you have to have spoken during the debate to claim misrepresentation, is that correct?

Deputy Chair: Okay, yes, Councillor HOWARD has spoken during the meeting, so she can claim to be misrepresented.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Excuse me. Well I have got the advice that Councillor HOWARD has spoken during the meeting so she can claim misrepresentation. So yes, Councillor COLLIER, would you like to continue?

Councillor COLLIER: That’s new, that’s a new ruling, new rule according to the LNP in this Council. If we’re going to talk about the rules in Council, how great are the family‑friendly hours? Aren’t they just fantastic? They work so well. I’m obviously being sarcastic. Yes and I understand that the LNP in the State, one of their top priorities is of course removing family‑friendly hours, so I don’t know if the acrobatics that has been on display by the LORD MAYOR, he’s backflipped on every other major issue, maybe he’ll backflip on his supposed family-friendly hours as well to fall in line with his colleagues now at 1 William Street. Anyways, I digress.

Today has been an absolute masterful display of just how heartless the LNP really can be and not one Councillor from the Administration side of the Chamber has gotten up to defend this cruel pensioner tax. Let’s call it what it is and be really honest. We have seen the most shameful comments from the LNP who have doubled down on taking money, reaching into some of the most financially restricted people within our community, reaching into their pockets and taking out more money than they ever have before, because let’s not forget, under this Administration, rates are up, up, up and going up. Then we’ll add on top of that another pensioner tax every year.

The LNP find new and creative and cruel ways to put the people who are on the fringes of society in an even worse position and I just want to read out something that someone had commented to me before when I mentioned the vote earlier about cutting power to the homeless people in Kurilpa and Musgrave Park. This resident of mine said, not surprising from the LNP, poor people, vulnerable people, people on the edge don’t count to them. I couldn’t have said it better myself.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate—

Sorry, Councillor HOWARD, your misrepresentation.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Councillor COLLIER has misrepresented by saying that the electricity has been turned off to the barbecues. Both Councillor HUTTON and I have indicated that that’s not the case.

Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak to this motion briefly. We have seen an incredible face of the LNP Administration today, an incredible face, it’s almost like a mask-off moment because here again what we are experiencing is a lack of understanding about people, but again a focus just on numbers. We know if we focus on numbers that this year in the 2024-25 budget that rates revenue increased, but of course the budget contracted by $300 million. What we have here for some of the most marginalised people, not everyone, not every pensioner is marginalised, but there are of course marginalised pensioners in the community, is a new way to increase revenue for a Council that is running out of money.

When I say that, I say that because the amount, the $2 million that is suggested might not mean a lot to a lot of people, millions are unrecognisable, right? It’s an unfathomable amount. But to individual people, to individual pensioners, that does make a difference, especially on top of the rates that they’re already paying. I know this because I speak to pensioners in my ward. I know that because just recently I spoke to a pensioner that was getting me to help them transfer $30 from one Go Card to another because that’s all they had. Of course when we come down to it, there’s no way that you can say that this is not revenue building.

This is the unsaid here, even though it’s pretty obvious. This is about delivering more revenue, delivering more revenue, $2 million, to a Council, an LNP Administration that is cutting budget, delaying projects, delivering a rates revenue increase year by year. This is $2 million being fleeced out of pensioners when there are parties being thrown, when there are luncheons being thrown, when there are international trips being thrown. The reason why this is such a face-off moment is because there’s no pretending anymore. It’s impossible for anyone in this Chamber to pretend that the budget is in a good position. I mean I’ve heard of—I mean these could be just rumours, again, this is what I’ve just heard, that even this Council is potentially looking at creating an increase in revenue by charging for people to go up the Brisbane watch tower.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: I hope that’s not true. I hope that’s not true. The people’s place, we will try to generate revenue for something I know I was up in that watch tower, I know I was up in that watch tower as a child and it gave me a love not only for this place that should have respect, but also for the City of Brisbane. So what this is, is about revenue building and we’re taking revenue from some of the most marginalised people and that is a true shame. But there is no surprise here, right? When we try to protect people, pedestrians, which is everyone in Brisbane, these are considered downgrades. When we try to protect people, the most marginalised in our community, they’re put in more dangerous situations where they have to deal with dangerous gas cannisters that could have killed someone, that’s why the barbecues are on. When we have a choice to ensure that some of the most marginalised people aren’t used for $2 million because this Council doesn’t have enough money and instead doesn’t come clean about not having enough money, we choose to punish these people more and that is the face-off moment.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to support his motion and just to say tonight’s meeting has been very revealing for me, in fact the whole day has been very revealing for me and the gaslighting that goes on in this Chamber by this LNP Council is incredible. It’s incredible. The gaslighting by the LORD MAYOR towards pensioners is—like the LORD MAYOR’s not here, let’s put that on the record, the LORD MAYOR is not here, he appears for his half-hour performance and then leaves. So none of these messages get through to him and frankly he doesn’t give a crap about these residents or about the fact that they’re getting this charge. What I’ve seen tonight is inflated hubris of a magnificent level and it’s actually—I think it’s probably because of the win they’ve had at the State level and their inflated egos and their overwhelming majority in this Chamber. But it’s delivering really bad results, certainly for the area I represent.

So let’s hear some feedback my office has received. So there’s a number of these. Jane phoned regarding the $1.98 fee for printed rates notice. She said her husband wouldn’t even know how to turn on a computer. She’s very concerned because he might have to go away to care and she can’t help him in regards to this. Then we’ve got another resident from Nathan. He and his wife are 85 years old. They don’t want to get online. They require hard copies of bills to keep records of and place them in folders. I know my folks are like that. He receives exemptions from Suncorp and his electricity provider. He requested the LORD MAYOR actually look out for elderly pensioners, not do them over. Or Dennis, he’s a pensioner who doesn’t have an email. He doesn’t think pensioners should have to pay extra for their bills.

Or Jean, she’s upset with the fee, it makes her feel like there’s no option. She said she’s been scammed before online and likes getting hard copy mail. She’s saying, sure, $7.92 might not seem a lot to politicians, but it’s a lot to her. Then she goes on, how cynical is the Council, is saying they can win one of 20 $100 vouchers when you sign up. She’s just saying, it’s insulting, LORD MAYOR. Another one, he wants me to pass on his comments. He says it’s grossly unfair for pensioners who are struggling to be slugged with an extra $2 rates notice. He requires it for his disability. Irene also contacted me, protesting about the $2 charge. She believes it’s discriminatory to pensioners who do not have the internet and they don’t have a printer. She doesn’t have a credit card as she gives her daughter cash to pay her bills online.

These are regular folk from my ward who contacted me saying these are the issues for them. Is there anyone over there with a heart? Is there anyone over there listening?

***EXPIRATION OF PERIOD FOR DEBATE OF NOTIFIED MOTIONS***

At that point, 9.22pm, the Deputy Chair advised that the period allowed for debate of notified motions had expired.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, under the provisions of section 41(13)—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: This is pathetic.

Deputy Chair: —of the Meetings Local Law, on the expiration of the period, allow for debate of all notified motions. I shall now put the current motion to the meeting without further amendment or debate.

The Deputy Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Trina MASSEY.

NOES: 10 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

Deputy Chair: Councillors, that’s the end of the meeting. I declare the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (received on 31 October 2024)**

1. Please advise the average answer time for calls to the Contact Centre, broken down by month, since 2020.
2. Please advise the average answer time for calls to the dedicated Business Hotline, broken down by month, since 2020.
3. Provide a breakdown of the number of staff currently employed by Brisbane City Council.
4. How many staff have voluntarily tendered resignation to Brisbane City Council since 27/8/2024? Please provide actual staff and FTE numbers.
5. How many total staff have ended employment with Brisbane City Council since 27/8/2024, including voluntary & involuntary separation, contract completion or early termination by either party, etc? Please provide actual staff and FTE numbers.
6. Please advise the total $ spent on labour hire across Council for 2024-2025 YTD.
7. Provide a breakdown of the staff working in the BCC Contact centre, including BCC Permanent, BCC Casual, BCC Contract, Labour Hire, Agency, and Other (please specify).
8. Please provide the total cost – including all staff costs – of the Brisbane City Council stall at the 2024 Ekka.
9. How many visitors attended the BCC stall at the 2024 Ekka?
10. How many total subscribers are currently subscribed to Council’s Brisbane Severe Weather Alert Service?
11. List all instances of advertising the Severe Weather Alert Service to residents of Brisbane in 2024 eg. message in rates notice, advertising at event.
12. How many rate payers have opted to receive their rates bill electronically since 1 May 2024?
13. How many rate payers have opted to receive their rates bill electronically since 1 October 2024 (in addition and seperately to above figure)?
14. Please provide a breakdown by Ward, of the sum of overdue rates bills and the number of properties.
15. Please provide the cost of printing and distributing the Living in Brisbane flyers in the 2023-2024 FY and 2024-2025 FYTD
16. Please provide the cost of printing and distribution per individual Living in Brisbane flyer for the 2023‑2024 FY and 2024-2025 FYTD
17. Please advise the individual electrical maintenance performed at Musgrave Park since June 2023, listing date, cost of repair/maintenance, and brief description of maintenance required and works carried out.
18. Please advise the individual electrical maintenance performed at Kurilpa Point Park since June 2023, listing date, cost of repair/maintenance, and brief description of maintenance required and works carried out.
19. What is the annual cost (financial year) of providing the Brisbane Library App (BNELibraries) since its introduction, including current FYTD.
20. Please advise the number of monthly users of the Brisbane Library App (BNELibraries) since its introduction.
21. How many physical item ‘checkouts’ were processed via all Brisbane Libraries in 2023/24 FY?
22. How many physical item ‘checkouts’ were processed via all Brisbane Libraries in 2024/25 FYTD?
23. How many digital item ‘checkouts’ were processed via all Brisbane Libraries in 2023/24 FY?
24. How many digital item ‘checkouts’ were processed via all Brisbane Libraries in 2024/25 FYTD?
25. What is/was the average wait time for a physical library book in each FY since 2019, listed separately.
26. What is/was the average wait time for a digital library e-book in each FY since 2019, listed separately.
27. What is/was the average wait time for a library audio-book in each FY since 2019, listed separately.
28. Please advise how many physical items have been added to the Brisbane Libraries catalogue in 2024/25 FYTD?
29. Please advise how many physical items were added to the Brisbane Libraries catalogue in 2023/24 FY?
30. Please advise how many digital items have been added to the Brisbane Libraries catalogue in 2024/25 YTD?
31. Please advise how many digital items were added to the Brisbane Libraries catalogue in 2023/24 FY?
32. Please advise the actual expenditure on physical items added to the Brisbane Libraries catalogue in 2024/25 FYTD
33. Please advise the actual expenditure on digital items added to the Brisbane Libraries catalogue in 2024/25 FYTD
34. Please advise the actual budget amount for replenishment of physical items for libraries for the 2023/24 FY.
35. Please advise the actual budget amount for replenishment of digital items for libraries for the 2023/24 FY.
36. Please advise the indicative budgeted amount for replenishment of physical items for libraries for the 2024/25 FY.
37. Please advise the indicative budgeted amount for replenishment of digital items for libraries for the 2024/25 FY.
38. How many checkouts/collections have been provided via 24/7 library lockers, monthly, since their introduction?
39. How many residents have utilised the media conversion stations in selected libraries in 2023, and 2024 YTD.
40. Please advise the number of FTE staff at each Brisbane Library location, at 1 July for years 2019 to current, listed separately by year.
41. Please advise the number of FTE staff located in Brisbane Libraries (all locations), at 1 July for years 2019 to current, listed separately by year.
42. Please advise the number and title of FTE staff employed directly related to Brisbane Library service delivery, but not located permanently in a Library location, at 1 July for years 2019 to current, listed separately by year. (eg. General library administration in BSQ etc).
43. Please advise how many room bookings have been made at all BCC Library locations annually at 1 July for years 2019 to current, listed separately by year.
44. Provide the total lease fees paid by Council on leasing non-Council owned assets for the 2023/24FY.
45. Provide the total lease fees paid by Council on leasing non-Council owned assets for the 2024/25 financial year to date and a list of those assets.
46. Provide the total lease fees paid by Council on leasing CBIC owned assets for the 2023/24FY.
47. Provide the total lease fees paid by Council on leasing CBIC owned assets for the 2024/25 financial year to date and a list of those assets.
48. From November 2023 to date, how many households have ordered new green‑top bins?
49. How many households currently have a green top bin?
50. How many Brisbane City Council bus drivers had claims approved by City Workcover in 2023?
51. How many Brisbane City Council bus drivers had claims rejected by City Workcover in 2023?
52. How many Brisbane City Council bus drivers had claims approved by City Workcover in 2024 YTD?
53. How many Brisbane City Council bus drivers had claims rejected by City Workcover in 2024 YTD?

## 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 the meeting on 29 October 2024)**

**Q1.** How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding mosquitoes in any context since 1/1/2024 – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.

***A1.***

| ***Label / Contact Reason*** | ***Total*** |
| --- | --- |
| ***Mosquito*** | ***1,069*** |
| *Request for Service* | *1,004* |
| *Request for Advice* | *34* |
| *Request for Information* | *29* |
| *Notification* | *1* |
| *Complaint* | *1* |

**Q2.** How many enquiries (all have been received by the Brisbane City Council Contact Centre in relation to mosquitoes since 1/1/2024?  Please provide breakdown by suburb.

***A2.***

| ***Suburb*** | ***Total*** |  | ***Suburb*** | ***Total*** |  | ***Suburb*** | ***Total*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Acacia Ridge* | *1* |  | *Gaythorne* | *1* |  | *Northgate* | *3* |
| *Albion* | *4* |  | *Geebung* | *8* |  | *Nudgee* | *4* |
| *Alderley* | *4* |  | *Gordon Park* | *7* |  | *Nudgee Beach* | *4* |
| *Algester* | *9* |  | *Graceville* | *6* |  | *Nundah* | *7* |
| *Annerley* | *6* |  | *Grange* | *8* |  | *Oxley* | *7* |
| *Ascot* | *4* |  | *Greenslopes* | *3* |  | *Paddington* | *6* |
| *Ashgrove* | *6* |  | *Gumdale* | *1* |  | *Pallara* | *29* |
| *Aspley* | *11* |  | *Hamilton* | *14* |  | *Parkinson* | *5* |
| *Auchenflower* | *6* |  | *Hawthorne* | *7* |  | *Pinkenba* | *17* |
| *Bald Hills* | *12* |  | *Heathwood* | *4* |  | *Ransome* | *2* |
| *Balmoral* | *9* |  | *Hemmant* | *3* |  | *Red Hill* | *4* |
| *Banyo* | *6* |  | *Hendra* | *14* |  | *Riverhills* | *2* |
| *Bardon* | *14* |  | *Herston* | *4* |  | *Robertson* | *3* |
| *Bellbowrie* | *1* |  | *Highgate Hill* | *2* |  | *Rocklea* | *11* |
| *Belmont* | *3* |  | *Holland Park* | *3* |  | *Runcorn* | *3* |
| *Boondall* | *16* |  | *Holland Park West* | *6* |  | *Salisbury* | *1* |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *18* |  | *Inala* | *4* |  | *Sandgate* | *7* |
| *Bridgeman Downs* | *2* |  | *Indooroopilly* | *8* |  | *Seventeen Mile Rocks* | *1* |
| *Brighton* | *16* |  | *Jamboree Heights* | *1* |  | *Sherwood* | *11* |
| *Brisbane City* | *5* |  | *Jindalee* | *4* |  | *Shorncliffe* | *6* |
| *Brookfield* | *1* |  | *Kalinga* | *10* |  | *Spring Hill* | *1* |
| *Bulimba* | *17* |  | *Kangaroo Point* | *2* |  | *St Lucia* | *3* |
| *Calamvale* | *14* |  | *Karana Downs* | *1* |  | *Stafford* | *7* |
| *Camp Hill* | *10* |  | *Kedron* | *4* |  | *Stafford Heights* | *5* |
| *Cannon Hill* | *12* |  | *Kelvin Grove* | *8* |  | *Stones Corner* | *1* |
| *Carina* | *13* |  | *Kenmore* | *4* |  | *Stretton* | *2* |
| *Carina Heights* | *4* |  | *Keperra* | *11* |  | *Sunnybank* | *7* |
| *Carindale* | *12* |  | *Kooringal* | *2* |  | *Sunnybank Hills* | *8* |
| *Carseldine* | *7* |  | *Kuraby* | *3* |  | *Taigum* | *8* |
| *Chapel Hill* | *3* |  | *Larapinta* | *1* |  | *Taringa* | *9* |
| *Chelmer* | *12* |  | *Lota* | *4* |  | *Tarragindi* | *1* |
| *Chermside* | *11* |  | *Lutwyche* | *4* |  | *Teneriffe* | *5* |
| *Chermside West* | *8* |  | *Lytton* | *1* |  | *Tennyson* | *7* |
| *Clayfield* | *12* |  | *Macgregor* | *2* |  | *The Gap* | *4* |
| *Coopers Plains* | *11* |  | *Manly* | *7* |  | *Tingalpa* | *12* |
| *Coorparoo* | *17* |  | *Manly West* | *17* |  | *Toowong* | *4* |
| *Corinda* | *11* |  | *Mansfield* | *24* |  | *Upper Mount Gravatt* | *7* |
| *Darra* | *9* |  | *Mcdowall* | *5* |  | *Virginia* | *5* |
| *Deagon* | *2* |  | *Middle Park* | *1* |  | *Wacol* | *1* |
| *Doolandella* | *2* |  | *Mitchelton* | *5* |  | *Wakerley* | *3* |
| *Drewvale* | *3* |  | *Moggill* | *3* |  | *Wavell Heights* | *10* |
| *Eagle Farm* | *2* |  | *Moorooka* | *6* |  | *West End* | *4* |
| *East Brisbane* | *9* |  | *Morningside* | *18* |  | *Windsor* | *19* |
| *Eight Mile Plains* | *9* |  | *Mount Gravatt* | *2* |  | *Wishart* | *6* |
| *Ellen Grove* | *1* |  | *Mount Gravatt East* | *3* |  | *Woolloongabba* | *1* |
| *Enoggera* | *12* |  | *Murarrie* | *18* |  | *Wooloowin* | *3* |
| *Everton Park* | *3* |  | *Nathan* | *3* |  | *Wynnum* | *21* |
| *Fairfield* | *7* |  | *New Farm* | *8* |  | *Wynnum West* | *5* |
| *Ferny Grove* | *7* |  | *Newmarket* | *3* |  | *Yeerongpilly* | *2* |
| *Fig Tree Pocket* | *1* |  | *Newstead* | *7* |  | *Yeronga* | *15* |
| *Fitzgibbon* | *8* |  | *No Suburb / RFI* | *29* |  | *Zillmere* | *4* |
| *Forest Lake* | *12* |  | *Norman Park* | *7* |  | ***TOTAL*** | ***1,069*** |

**Q3.** Please confirm the total mosquito spraying budget allocated for the 2023/24 financial year, and the amount that was spent from that budget.

***A3.*** *Funding for mosquito spraying is allocated as required. In 2023/24, $5.395m was spent on mosquito spraying.*

**Q4.** Please confirm the total mosquito spraying budget allocated for the 2024/25 financial year, and the amount that has been spent from that budget.

***A4.*** *Funding for mosquito spraying is allocated as required. In 2024/25, $1.108m has been spent on mosquito spraying to date.*

**Q5.** Please provide the number of FTE currently employed in mosquito control services for Brisbane City Council, and their job titles.

***A5.***

| ***Position Title*** | ***FTE*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Field Technical Officer Mosquitoes* | *1* |
| *Medical Entomologist* | *1* |
| *Senior Medical Entomologist* | *1* |
| *Senior Technical Officer Mosquitoes* | *1* |
| *Pest Management Technician* | *15* |
| *Pest Management Technician (Contractor)* | *5.25* |
| ***TOTAL*** | *24.25* |

**Q6.** How many wandering animals have been reported in 2024 YTD?

***A6.*** *2,600.*

**Q7.** Please advise the location of any/all Category 4 & 5 playgrounds in Brisbane City Council area currently

***A7.*** *There are currently no category 5 playgrounds in Brisbane. Over the 1,200 playgrounds in Brisbane, 120 are Category 4 and are located at:*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Marchant Park* |  | *Byron Street Park* |  | *Billabong Place Park* |
| *Clark Park* |  | *Lexus Street Park* |  | *Benelong Park* |
| *W. A. Jolly Park* |  | *Bruna Street Park* |  | *Creekside Street Park* |
| *Halford Park* |  | *Hair Park* |  | *Wills Street Park* |
| *Crawford Road Park* |  | *Hemmant Recreation Reserve* |  | *Whites Hill Reserve* |
| *Perrin Park* |  | *Wells Place Park* |  | *Brush Box Place Park* |
| *Durrington Park.* |  | *Yugarapul Park* |  | *Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve* |
| *Burnie Brae Park* |  | *Jacaranda Place Park* |  | *Sheehy Street Park* |
| *Marty Street Park* |  | *Cubberla Creek Reserve* |  | *Bangalow Street Park (No. 192)* |
| *Hickey Park* |  | *Dent Park* |  | *Hawera Crescent Park* |
| *Elanora Park* |  | *Penhaligon Park* |  | *Wittonga Park* |
| *Grange Forest Park* |  | *Sleaford Street Park* |  | *Hock Davis Park* |
| *Deagon Sportsground Park* |  | *Downfall Creek Reserve* |  | *Sedgemoor Street Park* |
| *Joy Taylor Park* |  | *Stretton Community Park* |  | *Ballinderry Street Park* |
| *Cracknell's Gully Park* |  | *Northgate Reserve* |  | *Phillips Place Park* |
| *Western Outlook Park* |  | *Rocks Riverside Park* |  | *C.J.Greenfield Complex Park* |
| *Palm Street Park* |  | *Merri Merri Park* |  | *Tollana Place Park* |
| *Bordeaux Street Park* |  | *Oxley Place Park* |  | *Forbes Park* |
| *Dewberry Close Park* |  | *Heritage Park* |  | *Monoceros Street Park* |
| *Don Randall Park* |  | *Ian Page Park* |  | *Mossvale Drive Park* |
| *Sandgate Second Lagoon Reserve* |  | *Booker Place Park* |  | *Dr Valentine Mcdowall Park* |
| *Jill Street Park* |  | *Fifteen Mile Corner* |  | *Amarina Avenue Park (Road Reserve)* |
| *Grenier Park* |  | *Karawatha Forest South* |  | *Melaleuca Green* |
| *Lota Camping Reserve* |  | *Brookfield Recreation Reserve* |  | *John Goss Reserve* |
| *Pallara Park* |  | *Joe Bradfield Centre Park* |  | *Torrens Crescent Park* |
| *Boorala Crescent Park* |  | *Fehlberg Park* |  | *Booloumba Crescent Park* |
| *Westbrook Park* |  | *Currajong Street Park* |  | *Cadogan Street Park* |
| *Joyce White Park* |  | *Presidential Park* |  | *Carindale Recreation Reserve* |
| *Shillington Place Park* |  | *Tristania Close Park* |  | *Cribb Road Park* |
| *Bushy Park* |  | *Lorikeet Park* |  | *Raven Street Reserve* |
| *Borella Road Park* |  | *Ospya Park* |  | *Orleigh Park* |
| *Symons Road Park* |  | *Greenways Esplanade Park* |  | *Argyle Place Park* |
| *Glindemann Park* |  | *Gladstone Street Park (No. 48-58)* |  | *Edwards Park* |
| *Mulbeam Park* |  | *Nundah Memorial Park* |  | *Kalinga Park* |
| *Bendell Park* |  | *Wembley Park* |  | *Thomas Mcbride Park* |
| *Lambert Mcbride Park* |  | *Turquoise Place Park* |  | *Windsor Park* |
| *Jock Hing Park* |  | *Belloy Street Park* |  | *Yowoggera Park* |
| *Les Atkinson Park* |  | *Booker Place Park* |  | *Dorrington Park* |
| *Seafern Street Park* |  | *Lakewood Avenue Park* |  | *Upper Kedron Recreation Reserve* |
| *Barrett Street Park (Water Reserve)* |  | *Westaway Park (Moggill)* |  | *Langley Avenue Park* |

**Q8.** How many Brisbane app sessions were recorded per month from January 2023, to September 2024, listed separately by month.

|  | **2023 – 2024** | **2024 – 2025 YTD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TV Advertising |  |  |
| Online Advertising |  |  |
| Social Media |  |  |
| Influencers |  |  |
| Print Advertising |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |
| Outdoor Advertising |  |  |
| Cinema |  |  |
| BVOD |  |  |

***A8.*** *This question cannot be answered using the table provided as it does not relate to the data requested.*

**Q9.** What was the 2023/24 budget for Library expenses across BCC’s Libraries? Please also list individual budgets for each location.

**Q10.** What was the 2024/25 budget for Library expenses across BCC’s libraries? Please also list individual budgets for each location.

***A9. and A10.***

*The total budget for Council’s Libraries is publicly available in the Annual Budget. These expenses are apportioned at a service level and are not available for individual locations.*

**Q11.** What percentage of the First Five Forever library program was funded by Council 2023/24 budget and what was that figure for each individual library?

***A11.*** *Council funded overhead costs equal to 7.14% of total spend. A figure is not available for each individual library.*

**Q12.** What percentage of the First Five Forever library program was funded by Council in the 2024/25 budget and what was that figure for each individual library?

***A12.*** *Council funded overhead costs equal to 8.86% of total spend. A figure is not available for each individual library.*

**Q13.** Please list the organisations or persons who hire the Forest Lake Community Hall, Old Inala Hall, CJ Greenfield Hall and The New Hall halls regularly on a monthly or weekly basis?

**Q14.** Please list the occupancy rates for the following halls: Forest Lake Community Hall, Old Inala Hall, CJ Greenfield Hall, and The New Hall halls?

***A13. and A14.***

| ***Occupancy***  ***\*affected by buffer periods between bookings*** | ***Regular Hirers*** |
| --- | --- |
| ***CJ GREENFIELD COMMUNITY HALL*** | |
| ***46%*** | *Evangelical Community Of Pentecostal Church* |
| *Active & Healthy Programme - Zumba Gold* |
| *Republic of Vietnam Air Force* |
| *Thu Duc Reserves Officer Alumni Association of Queensland* |
| *Vietnamese Linedancing Group* |
| *Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation* |
| ***FOREST LAKE COMMUNITY HALL*** | |
| ***59%*** | *Bangladesh Puja & Cultural Society Inc.* |
| *BCC - Brisbane Lifestyle - Immunisation Team* |
| *Active and Healthy Programme - Yoga for Seniors* |
| *Forest Lake Photography Club* |
| *Happy Life Club (HLC) Brisbane Inc.* |
| *Lakeside Bootscooters* |
| *Matt Fiddes Martial Arts* |
| *Queensland Community Markaz Incorporate* |
| *Reconciliation Church Ministry* |
| *Revival Pentecostal Church Inc.* |
| *Sargam Music Academy Inc* |
| *T Church Australia INC* |
| *Vietnamese Mutual Assistance QId Inc.* |
| *Zumba with Jessie* |
| *Alcoholics Anonymous Forest Lake Steps Meeting - Into Action* |
| *Central Service office Brisbane Incorporated* |
| *Heartfulness Institute* |
| *Kadampa Meditation Centre Brisbane* |
| *National Seniors Australia Forest lake Branch Inc* |
| *Salvation Army Employment Plus* |
| *T Church Australia INC* |
| ***OLD INALA HALL*** | |
| ***41%*** | *Brisbane Christian Church* |
| *Forest Lake Fifty Plus Club Inc.* |
| *Mussidal Queensland* |
| *Oxley Samoan Wesleyan Methodist Church* |
| *Queensland Somali Youth Association Inc* |
| *Capoeira Classes* |
| *Revival Pentecostal Church Inc.* |
| *The Korean Senior Assn. of QId Australia Inc* |
| *The Vietnamese Senior Citizens Association Queensland Inc* |
| *Tower of Mercy* |
| ***NEW INALA HALL*** | |
| ***42%*** | *Assembly of God Church of Samoa in Australia - QId (Inala)* |
| *Diversicare* |
| *Inala Pensioners Inc* |
| *Inala Senior Citizen Inc* |
| *New Rose of Sharon* |
| *Reformed Church of Inala* |
| *Revival Pentecostal Church Inc.* |
| *Shaurya Entertainment Pty Ltd* |
| *Tokaikolo Christian Church* |

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 9.25pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

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)