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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4753 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 3 December 2024**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

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

The Chair of Council (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) (until 31 January 2025)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo) (Deputy Mayor) (from 3 February 2025)  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.

Councillors, I have had time to reflect on last week’s meeting in relation to the ability to request items to be taken seriatim for voting within Committee reports, following the conclusion of the 3 hours allowed for debate on those Committee reports. Going forward, I will allow report clauses to be taken seriatim if any Councillor so requests. I will take the requests from Councillors as each report is put to the vote.

## APOLOGY:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

Councillor DIXON.

**302/2024-25**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Steven HUANG (Deputy Chair of Council), and he was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY.

## MOTION OF APPRECIATION:

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

LORD MAYOR, would you please move the motion.

**303/2024-25**

The LORD MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, the following motion of appreciation—

*“As this is the last Council meeting of the year, Brisbane City Councillors thank all Council staff for their hard work and dedication in making Brisbane an even better place to live, work, and relax in 2024.”*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, Madam Chair. Well, City Hall is buzzing with the sound of the Seniors Christmas Parties downstairs and it’s always a joyful time. I see Councillor GIVNEY, the Councillor for Wynnum, Wynnum, Wynnum, Wynnum, Wynnum has decorated the Chamber. I see a number of you are wearing festive clothing, but it is the time of year when we are genuinely grateful, even more so than normal. To the Council team, the larger Council team, the larger Council family, that do such a great job over the year for Brisbane City Council and most importantly, for the people of Brisbane.

It seems like this year has gone faster than others, it could have something to do with the fact that there was an election at the beginning of the year. We tend to sort of—that puts everything on fast forward in some ways. But an incredible amount has happened this year and particularly during that early period of the year where we were in a caretaker period. I genuinely appreciated the way that the leadership of Council and everyone in this organisation kept the city running, kept the city ticking along, continued to do the things that needed to be done, even while the democratic process was underway, delivering amazing results as they always do.

We genuinely appreciate as well at this time of year the Council officers, particularly those doing frontline essential services that will be working when other people are taking a break. We know that there are many people in that category, whether it’s continuing to fill the potholes and resurface the roads, whether it’s continuing to be in the BMTMC (Brisbane Metropolitan Transport Management Centre) traffic management and transport management centre, making sure everything is flowing. Whether it’s the people that maintain our parks, that clean our streets and maintain the malls, there are so many jobs that continue on throughout this festive season. We’re particularly grateful for those who give their time during that period to make sure Brisbane keeps operating as so many people take a break.

We also acknowledge that there’s been a lot of work done when it comes to gearing up the relationship this year with the State Government, when it comes to a new transport contract that was agreed to with the former government and a better deal for Council. Now the works that’s been done in recent times, in particular, which will help deliver the rollout of Brisbane Metro from 28 January next year. These are critical changes and improvements that have been made throughout the year and it wouldn’t have been possible without the support right across the organisation of so many wonderful people.

This time of year is also the time of year when we have the Lord Mayor’s Awards for Excellence, which as the name suggests, acknowledge innovation and excellence and great work that is done right across the Council. This year I can confirm the winners of the Awards for Excellence include the Courage to Make a Difference award going to the Koala Partnership Research team, which do a fantastic job. The Getting Things Done award to the Walter Taylor Bridge Essential Maintenance team, who did a fantastic job in delivering that project. The Passion for Brisbane award goes to our Environment Centres’ Bush Kindy Program team, which is also a wonderful project that engages with some of our youngest Brisbane residents and gets them passionate about our natural environment.

The Respect for People award goes to Brock Winter, a different Brock, in Organisational Services and he’s done a fantastic job in the culture of the organisation. Responsible Customer Service award, Public Space Liaison Officers (PSLOs), and we know also that they are at the frontline, and they deal with incredibly challenging and complex circumstances. Also they will continue to be working throughout the break as well and we appreciate them for what they have done and what they continue to do. The Value for Money award goes to the Resilient Clubs Support Program team and the Working Together award went to the $2 Summer Dips team, who got the award for last year but are just gearing up as of the weekend for another big summer.

I want to thank everyone that’s been involved in those teams, but every single person that works for or with Brisbane City Council. It is a wonderful organisation to be part of and I know that people do these jobs right across the organisation because they care about Brisbane, they want to make a difference, they are passionate about our city and they want to see it—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. I rise to speak on this motion of appreciation to Council staff. I’m very thankful for the fantastic work that Council’s employees, contractors and labour hire workers do each and every day in Brisbane. They support us as Councillors day in, day out, in this place, in our wards and serving the people of Brisbane. They really are the backbone of this organisation. That’s why I get disappointed and I know my colleagues over here do when we hear how they’re treated by this LNP Administration. Recently we learnt that library employees are feeling uneasy because of cuts to programs and staff. Brisbane City Council library staff numbers have been cut by around 30 positions in the last 2 years.

Right across the board, we hear from staff who are being overworked because contracts are ending without those positions being filled. We can see the evidence of that in Questions on Notice just today. Further to that, the LNP recently gave their offer at the negotiating table for the latest enterprise bargaining agreement, blatantly targeting staff as a measure to save costs. A proposed 3% wage increase just months after the LORD MAYOR and all of us as politicians received a 4% backdated pay rise in July is a slap in the face for dedicated Council staff. To rub salt in the wound, the LNP have also proposed to reduce redundancy entitlements from 3 weeks per year of service to 2 weeks when an employee is made redundant. For someone who’d worked for Council for 20 years, that would mean $50,000 less in redundancy payments.

Now we know why the LNP regime plan on making staff cuts. The mid-year financial report before us later today says it in black and white, there’s $56.5 million in employee cuts this financial year and almost $120 million in employee cuts over the next 4 years. Council workers will return next year questioning how much longer their position in Council is safe for. We know the LNP cannot be trusted when it comes to cutting staff. Over the last few years we’ve seen contract and temporary staff cut, casual staff cut and now we worry about permanent staff facing the chopping block next year. How about we get back to basics and look after the people who do that best, our workers.

I want to let each and every worker in Council know that the Brisbane Labor team on this side of the Chamber hears you, we value you and we have your back. We will continue to fight for you. We thank you for all your efforts and dedication that you have shown over this last year, whether it’s library staff, bus drivers, road crews, mosquito spraying. All those frontline employees with boots on the ground, all those working in compliance, finance, transport planning or asset services, we thank you very, very much for your work.

There’s also the staff that help us here in City Hall, of course, Helma, Alina, Milica, Raymond and Billy, you make every day we’re in this place feel so welcoming and we appreciate the work that you do to support us. You are here early in the morning to late in the evening and you always have a smile on your face, so we say thank you. To the IT team who are listening along now, also deserve a special mention, Aaron, Billy, Brody, Hope and Craig and the team of streaming guys as well, you 2 are here early in the morning and late into the evening and you keep these meetings running smoothly and our staff connected.

To the Committee clerks and the clerks who are here in the Chamber, thank you for your work in making sure that we meet all our obligations under the City of Brisbane Act in terms of how we vote on things and how things are recorded and that is a very important thing. To Daemon and to the Councillor Support team, your support is invaluable. To us as local Councillors and the work that we do in representing our communities to the best of our abilities. I know it’s busy and sometimes very stressful and we ask a lot, but your support is really invaluable to us. To the Council officers who assist me locally in my duties as the Councillor for Deagon Ward, thank you very much. We’ve kept you very busy this year in parks and footpaths and roads and in drains and I say a very big thank you on behalf of me and my staff in my ward office for your support this year.

Last if not least, of course, I’d like to thank my staff that work directly for me. This year was an election year, as the LORD MAYOR said, then they went above and beyond during that period and the period since. Obviously wasn’t the result on this side of the Chamber that we had hoped for, but I’m proud of the efforts and the result I received in the Deagon Ward, of course. I wouldn’t be able to do this job in any way, shape or form without the enormous support I get from my team there, Jen, Emily and Ronan in the ward office and Quinn, who left earlier this year, after 4 years of very hard work, to go on to do different things. Thank you very, very much for everything you do.

I know every Councillor in here understands and appreciates the work those staff do every day of the week. It’s not just a 9 to 5 job, they really do put their shoulder to the wheel. Our Labor team here in City Hall is also supported by a small yet hardworking and loyal team. Erin, Paul and Jess who are listening along, thank you very much for all you do to keep our team here in City Hall on track, the support you give us. To all those staff, those I’ve mentioned, those I’ve not been able to, no matter how you’re spending this festive season, I wish you a peaceful and relaxing time with things that make you most happy in life.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I also rise to speak on this motion of appreciation. Councillor CASSIDY, through you, Madam Chair, has mentioned many, many people which potentially we’ll all mention as well. It’s always a problem, you don’t want to leave anyone out, so you need to know that you are all appreciated. I do want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued hard work and dedication to all of us here in City Hall as a team. My staff and I have enjoyed working alongside you all and look forward to working with you in the new year.

Obviously a particular mention to a few people. Grant Murray, who is our Outcome Manager and I know he’s an Outcome Manager for a few others in the Chamber and he is exceptional. For someone who’s come from outside of Council, he certainly does a fantastic job. Then there’s Martin McNamara, Tim McCoy, Daemon Hughes, Jim Lynch, Mark Burton and then we’ve got the IT, James, Billy, Craig, Aaron. Then we’ve got Hopewell and Brody also in the IT team as well, who keep us online so to speak. They’re available at the drop of a hat.

For me particularly, my office staff, Heidi, Fiona and Michelle. Heidi’s been with me from day one, in fact before day one and she’s now down to 2 days a week, but she still works just as hard as she always has. Of course, Fiona has been a fabulous addition, as has Michelle, to the team. Everybody here and working in the City Hall, the Chambers staff, they have been here, some of them have been here for a long, long time, right from the beginning. Some have even worked in my own office, which has been fabulous.

The Lord Mayor’s Office team, everybody that works in that space, the ladies who do our afternoon tea for us, and look after us. Billy, who always makes sure that we’re all well fed and watered. The other people I wanted to mention, and I know Councillor HUTTON won’t mind me saying this, City Standards and compliance, that’s a team very close to my heart. They work extremely hard, they are the doers. If anything’s got to be done, it’s Councillor HUTTON’s team and I really want to take this opportunity to thank them all particularly, because I know just how hard they work.

I hope they all have a nice break over Christmas, as you all do and let’s pray for some just gentle weather in January, because none of us want to go back through what we did last time. Fingers crossed it’s just gentle, sunshiny rain and we’re all good to go. I hope you all have a great break anyway and we all come back refreshed in February. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on this motion of appreciation to Brisbane City Council staff. In what has been an incredibly difficult year for many residents, I give my heartfelt thank you to Brisbane City Council workers. Workers who have had to do more with less resources and colleagues. I see you, I recognise potential frustrations, feelings of uncertainty and disappointment. Yet even in light of these challenges, I recognise the great contributions and the hours served even with these constraints to deliver positive changes and deliveries for residents across Brisbane.

I want to share a couple of specific thanks, starting with those that support us here in Chambers and Committees, to the clerks, to the IT support and of course, Milica, Alina, Helma, Billy and Raymond. I want to share my thanks to the staff in TPO (Transport Planning and Operations). I appreciate the openness to my advocacy to look at design from a less car-centric approach, prioritising pedestrian safety, active transport routes and improvements. Thank you for your openness. I want to thank the Museum of Brisbane and Powerhouse staff, who provide entertainment through arts in what is a great time and challenge for artists and artists across Australia, not just Brisbane. Thank you for everything you do.

I want to thank transport planners. While we aren’t always in agreement, I appreciate the delivery of information and I look forward to more transparency to ensure Gabba Ward residents, who are incredibly engaged and active, are delivered information and not kept in the dark. I want to thank our maintenance and greenspace crews. I want to thank our cleaners, including those that are contracted. I want to thank the customer service workers, who are always so friendly and helpful. We appreciate you so much. I want to thank library workers. Across the year I understand there have been horrific cuts hitting libraries, our libraries, hard.

What library workers do is incredibly important. These spaces are community spaces, they’re spaces for learning, they’re spaces for respite, they’re spaces for building community and reducing social isolation. Thank you for what you do. Special thanks, of course, to Kurilpa Library staff, Loretta and her team.

I want to thank festival liaison team. I’ve seen great efforts, particularly in site approvals across the ward which have shown compassion and care for rough sleepers. I really appreciate the effort and look forward to working with you more in the future.

In what was the worst housing crisis since the Depression, I want to thank Public Space Liaison Officers, who are at the frontline in sometimes very challenging and complex situations. Thank you for your compassion. A special thanks to Ryan and Keir, I appreciate the time and work we’ve done in this space over this past year.

I want to thank Daemon and Sara. I know I am one of many Councillors that you all work with, but I want to pass on my thanks for your work and support. I want to ensure that because my colleagues in The Gabba Ward also want to pass their thanks, not just to Daemon and Sara but to everyone that they work with across the Brisbane City Council team.

Lastly, I would like to thank The Gabba Ward staff, Taylor, Trish, we had a couple of moves, but also our temporary staff, Maddie and Nicole and of course, Aurora. It takes a team of dedicated people to do the work that we do. I appreciate everything that you do. Thank you so much for every contribution that you do to try to make residents’ lives in The Gabba Ward better.

Lastly, I just want to say wholeheartedly, Brisbane City Council is a service‑focused Council and that takes a lot of people to make that happen. To each and every one of you, I thank you and I wish unequivocally that you have some good rest and that you enjoy the holiday season and have a safe holiday with your family, your friends and any loved ones. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor PARRY.

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I also rise to speak in support of this motion. What a year it’s been for our city and indeed for our Council officers, who work so hard to make it better. As a brand new Councillor in this place, navigating what is a very large and complex organisation can be daunting, but throughout my 12 months here I have felt enabled, empowered and supported to do my job really well and that’s thanks to Council officers.

We have such a professional and dedicated workforce, and every single ward is unique, but what we all have in common is that we are a city that has had to deal with the challenges of growth. There are more and more challenges popping up daily. Thanks to the expertise, work ethic and good humour of my Outcome Manager, Tom McHugh, in Marchant we’ve been able to tackle these challenges head on. I think a lot of us know Tom and we know how professional he is, how calm he is and honestly, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do without him. Some of those challenges indeed we’ve been able to turn into opportunities, so thank you, Tom, from all of us.

A few other people I’d like to mention, our senior arborist, Tom Leonard and his team. We love our trees in Marchant, except when we don’t, so we really appreciate—and every other ward too, I assume. We really appreciate dealing with the multitude of requests that we put through on a regular basis. Alan Jarvis, our waterways guru and our king of Kedron Brook. There is nothing that Alan doesn’t know about this iconic asset and Alan, your advice and expertise has been invaluable, so thank you so much.

Troy Reed, Matt Wardlaw and the team in leasing, we’ve worked really closely together this year. I’ve got a lot of local sports clubs and community groups and I’m really proud of what we’ve achieved for them, thank you.

To the team at waste services who help us to no end when we have issues with bin collection requests or requests for bins, thank you very much. To Daemon and his team, Daemon’s been mentioned a few times already, but thank you for making sure that the bills are paid, the office is looked after.

To the IT team, thank you for solving our IT woes beyond just a simple restart. Thanks for putting up for us. Jim Lynch and his team in grants, who coordinates the delivery of approvals for the Lord Mayor’s Community Fund, you are always efficient and always helpful. Thank you, Jim.

Colleen Kelly and the communities team, who do so much for our community. Colleen is known by everybody on a first-name basis in this sector on the northside. She’s passionate and she cares. Thank you, Colleen. Megan Bellamy and her team at the Chermside Library, unofficially the busiest library in Brisbane. We will get there one day, Megan.

To Hilary at the small but mighty Grange Library, thank you so much for all you do for the community and for us. To the various teams across Council like compliance, Development Services, parks and traffic. Matthew Pye, thank you for all the work you do in investigating and responding to residents’ requests in a timely manner.

To the facilities team for looking after my ward office. One day we will hang that whiteboard, 2025 is our year. I’d also like to give a special shoutout to the customer service extraordinaire and our neighbour, Al, who’s always happy to help us with those extra curly questions from residents. To all of the PAs (Personal Assistants), policy officers, all the staff in the Chairs’ offices and the Lord Mayor’s Office, thank you so much for supporting me and my ward office with all of our questions, no matter how silly and following through on all those requests and wearing all the hats. We appreciate everything you do for us.

Finally, to my incredible ward staff, Anthony and Kayla, I’m so proud of what we’ve achieved this year as a team. You both go above and beyond for our residents. You show kindness and compassion and you have a lot of fun in the process. Being a Councillor, you are the most accessible level of government and I think that everybody I speak to talks about what wonderful interactions they have with the office. You’ve helped me to do this job and I couldn’t be more proud of what we’ve done this year. Thank you.

In closing, I will just reiterate my thanks to the entire Council workforce. Together all of us have made a real difference in 2024. That’s why we’re all in this game, to make a difference. I thank you, I hope you have a really restful period over Christmas and a really successful new year and yes, please don’t let it rain too much. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I too, rise to speak to the motion of appreciation for our Council workforce. I, you know, am only—I was reminded the other day actually that I am only relatively new to this role, having been here for a short year and a half. But I think one of the key takeaways from being afforded the privilege to represent my community and the people of Brisbane is the opportunity to serve, but also to work alongside some of the most incredible people who share those same values and wake up every single day wanting to make a difference whether—no matter what their role is, no matter how many hours they work every single week.

Whether they are doing the important work of moving people around Brisbane on a bus or a CityCat or a ferry, or they’re even the people who—you know, the public space officers who I ran into just a couple of weeks ago, who were taking such care to really make sure that all of our local memorials were in tip-top condition. You could tell—I think every interaction with anyone who works for Council, the pride that they take in serving their communities is completely unmatched. So to have this opportunity to put on record from all sides of politics our thanks for the work that they do every single day—you know, we’re just the politicians, we’re the faces on the offices, but we’re only as good as the people who serve the organisation.

There are just a few specific thanks I wanted to make today. Of course, the Council staff who support us and local residents, in the Morningside Ward in particular. Every single day we get literally hundreds of emails. We’re in a high-profile location, so lots of walk-bys, lots of regulars who have lots of very interesting questions. I know I’ve certainly learnt a lot about all of the ability that Council has to make a difference to people’s everyday lives. I particularly want to thank the Council staff who support us in the ward office and local residents each and every single day.

I want to start with thanking the public space officers who work so hard to make our parks and gardens beautiful. I know often I’m out walking in the mornings with my family and you’ll see officers just taking that extra bit of care to make sure any bits of rubbish that were left behind were picked up, or maintaining the garden beds or cleaning our streets. Those sorts of things, no matter—it might seem small, but it actually makes a community an amazing place to live and why people either choose to stay in the area or choose to move themselves and their families there and really make a life there.

I want to thank the TPO team. Yes, lots of complicated questions and requests but always very diligent in responding, no matter what the outcome is. Development Services—I think, yes. A lot of people think that maybe your ward office staff or you as a Councillor are automatically a town planner when you get this job. They have been incredibly supportive in not only making sure I’m kept up to date with information and helped answer a lot of complicated questions but have actually been really proactive in helping answer what I think are really important questions on the future of what the Morningside Ward looks like and how developments interface with that. I’m really, really grateful for their help.

Also want to shoutout the arborist team. We have, you know, actually an amazing heritage park in our area and we’ve had some really challenging issues with fig trees that are over hundreds of years old. The arborist team have really been quite caring in the way that they’ve dealt with that. I think there’s always the opportunity that these things are seen as trivial, but each of those trees is named for a local person who has sacrificed their life and they’ve really taken a lot of care out of that. We have unfortunate issues with tree disease and rot and stuff, and they’ve been really proactive in working alongside me, the community and the Historical Society and descendants of those families who are still living in the area today. I’m really grateful for their help.

The Lifestyle and Communities team, in particular Matt and Andrea, who are always so responsive. Our local compliance officers, City Standards team and the field services staff that work in the depot, particularly on the one in Redfern Street, that’s such an important community hub. Bulimba Library team, the team in the Contact Centre. Morningside Ward Outcomes Manager, Sara. The teams who help us resolve issues and deliver projects for local roads, parks and drainage every day. PSLOs, Grants Team, the team in City Hall, we’re so grateful for everything you do. Last but not least, my Morningside Ward Office staff, Courtney, Alex and Cameron, so, so grateful for everything you do.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the motion of appreciation and reflect on the incredible support I’ve received in my first year as Councillor. As someone newly elected in 2024, stepping into a long-held seat could have been daunting, but the warm welcome and guidance from Council staff made all the difference. From day one I’ve been met with patience, understanding and plenty of smiles, even when I sent tasks to the wrong teams. I’d like to acknowledge some standout individuals who have gone above and beyond.

First, I’d like to thank Shannon Clarke. Shannon’s professionalism and knack for turning my overexcited ideas into actionable plans has been invaluable. Her personable approach, quick responses and ability to navigate sensitive matters makes her truly irreplaceable. I thank you so much, Shannon. To Chris Jameson, thank you for your unwavering positivity and willingness to meet with local residents when required. Your can-do attitude has made a huge impact on my role and our ward. Matt Trevor, even though now in a new role, I’m grateful for your work supporting our community groups with their leased sites. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you in your new role.

Brendon Whittaker, a true guardian of the Wynnum Manly Foreshore. Your expertise and long-time local knowledge are so valuable and respected. Thanks also to Benny and Brian from TNO (Transport Network Operations) for their tireless support with road issues and to Jordan for your help navigating our compliance needs. A big shoutout to Dion and the safer communities team for all your sensitive work supporting our vulnerable community members. From Committee meetings I’ve been inspired by the vibrant cultural programs under Councillor HOWARD’s portfolio, Brisbane Festival, the Seniors Concert, The QUBE Effect are some shining examples. I want to thank Julie Byth, Simon Alexander and your teams for all that you do for our city.

In Councillor DAVIS’s portfolio, the passion of the NEWS (Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability) team for conservation and sustainability is extraordinary. Thank you to Wade Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Sisson and their entire teams for all that they do for the recreation and environments in our city. To Theresa Wyatt and the Wynnum Library team, Theresa, your creativity and dedication have always been exceptional, even when we worked together in our past careers. It’s so wonderful that I get to see you now and continue working with you at the Wynnum Library. A heartfelt thanks to the unsung heroes of our city, the bus drivers, the waste truck drivers, the ferry captains, the parks teams, the road crews and the cleaners. You keep Brisbane moving and we’re so thankful for all of you.

To Tim Wright, thank you for stepping into the CEO position this year, we appreciate your leadership. To Daemon and his team for ensuring that Council has the right staff in the right spots is really, really important. To the IT team, Billy, Aaron and Brody for keeping us connected and to Billy here in the Chamber, who is always filling my water glass with a smile. I appreciate you more than you know.

To my neighbouring ward officers, Debbie and Ashleigh at Chandler and Carrie, Brooke and Rachael at Doboy. Thank you for always taking our calls. To the incredible Contact Centre team who take our community calls in such a friendly and professional manner. Councillor MURPHY and Councillor CUNNINGHAM wanted to make sure we thanked Sara Canham and Tristan Macrae for their consistent support. We are thankful to all the teams that support the eastside of our wonderful city.

Finally, to my Wynnum Manly Ward team, Paige, who’s now currently on maternity leave, Tom and my pillar, Toni. You are the backbone of our ward office and I could definitely not do this job without you. Sorry if I’ve missed anyone, because I’m still meeting everybody in the Council team, but hopefully next year I won’t miss anybody out. I’m truly thankful to be a part of such a collaborative and caring Council community and here’s to all of you having a wonderful Christmas. I wish that you have a happy and safe festive season, that you get to spend time and have a break with the people that you love, doing the things that you love, so thank you very much.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I also rise to acknowledge the motion of appreciation for Council staff. As a new Councillor on a steep learning curve, all staff have been so responsive, willing to share their knowledge and expertise which is extremely valuable to me and our community. There are simply too many people to name here today, all of you are incredible. I really appreciate the time and your energy and dedication. I also would like to thank my Paddington Ward staff, you’re amazing. You all go the extra mile to support me and our community and I value you so much. Thank you so much.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the motion of appreciation and to acknowledge the hard work of Brisbane City Council’s dedicated officers. Across our great city and especially in the west, we are grateful for their support. Whether it’s maintaining parks, repairing potholes or ensuring our bus network runs smoothly, their contributions are essential to keeping Brisbane moving. It’s easy to overlook the behind-the-scenes work that keeps our city clean, organised and connected but today we must take a moment to recognise their great efforts.

On behalf of the Jamboree office, Councillor HUTTON, the Pullenvale office, Councillor ADERMANN, The Gap office, Councillor TOOMEY and the Walter Taylor office, myself, I would like to highlight a few officers whose work over the past year has gone above and beyond our expectations, so thank you to these dedicated people. Firstly, thank you Shane Klepper for your genuine efforts in working with numerous western Councillors to achieve outcomes that we are seeking. Thank you also to Grant Murray and the broader PPI team for your efforts with parks, civil, arb and CARS, including Chris Jameson, Peter Simpson, Julian Rix, Rebecca Deslanders, Brad McFadyen, Chris Goopy, David Graham and Mavrick Horneman.

Thank you also to Peter for your advice on roads and drainage grates and other engineering matters. Thank you to Steve Schuhmacher and his advice and assistance with a range of matters pertaining to Mount Coot-tha and all of those bushland reserves in our western suburbs. Thanks to Simon Butterworth for his advice on built environment and Simon Fox for his work with the many environmental and bush care groups within the western suburbs. We’d also like to say thanks to PSO Greenspace for their team at Darra depot for their ongoing care and maintenance for our memorial gardens each year.

Thanks to our Connected Communities team and in particular, Mitch Barlow for his work and assistance, for example, with the old Toowong Bowls site, the Witton Barracks Community Hub and the Kenmore Community Centre project. Thanks to Richard Heinz for his hard work with the upgrade to the Bellbowrie pool. Thanks also to Matt Larney and the compliance team for everything that you do to keep things running smoothly and a special thanks to Nic Cooper and Gayle Smith, who support our local clubs and community groups every day. Thank you to Annabelle Matthews, Brendan Gillham and Mark Viney and the development services team for your ongoing support and answering our many questions.

Thanks also to Stacey, Louise, Andrea, Charmaine and the team for your ongoing works with the Moggill Road upgrade and for getting the job done on the Walter Taylor Bridge works early. Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Wade Fitzgerald and Sarah Bishop for your assistance with the old Toowong Bowls site and for the Taringa Playground Park. Thank you to Kylie Olsen and the entire team at Indooroopilly Library and to Julie Tree and the whole team at Toowong Library and team leader Liz Denning at Mount Ommaney Library. Thank you to Steph and Matt, the TPO team, for your ongoing efforts in keeping our roads safe. Thank you to our entire team here in the Chamber who look after us every Tuesday session.

Now to our ward staff in the west, Adele, Brittany, Helen, Sara, Linda, Ben, Marty, Aaron, Paul, Micaela and to the Walter Taylor team, Kylie and Melissa. This is no ordinary job and we appreciate the support that you provide our officers and our communities at large. We would be lost without you. Thank you to all the team in the LORD MAYOR’s office, we appreciate you. When we look back on the past year, none of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication, expertise and hard work of all of our officers.

On behalf of the people of Brisbane, I sincerely thank each and every one of you. Your commitment does not go unnoticed and the positive impact in your work across our great community is greatly appreciated. Your efforts inspire others to continue to grow, to make our beautiful city even better. Thank you for your outstanding service and for helping to make Brisbane even better. Wishing everybody and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I rise to thank our wonderful Council officers who have been a godsend since I was first elected in April this year. Like Councillor MARX, in particular, I wanted to thank Grant Murray, my PPI Outcomes Manager, who has gone above and beyond to support myself, my staff, Jennifer, Fahima and Hudson at the office to create great outcomes. He has even walked the streets with me in Pallara so we can both plan and visualise possible solutions for residents, given the complexity of this area. Also, to Nic Cooper, thank you for teaching me how to use the Council mapping software, that changed my life. Jennifer, my senior Ward Advisor, also helped me open my office on day one where we were flooded with enquiries. She’s been my rock. I’m so grateful to have a knowledgeable team assisting Calamvale Ward residents with her 20 years of work in Brisbane City Council.

I also wanted to thank Hope, who was there to help me set up my office with IT. He was one of the first Council officers that I met from this organisation and it gave me a really good impression of what was to come. So I just wanted to give a special thanks to him and it’s always great whenever I run into him at City Hall. Another memory that I’ll never forget this year is when Mo Hassan, the coordinator of waterways and drainage actually came directly on site to help me rescue a baby duck from a stormwater drain earlier this year. He literally ripped open a metal grate with his hands and then after hours of the family of ducks quacking at the drain, never seen anything like that before and the whole street came out to help, so that was really wholesome to see.

Another wholesome moment from a Council officer from fleet services, Brett King and Leeanne Mason of fleet services. Long story short, I left a pot plant that I was going to give to a local hairdresser who shut down their business in my glovebox when I was giving a car back. Then basically the plant sort of died and then they revived it and gave it back to me. So very grateful for their very nice help. Never thought that would happen, so thank you so much. You guys are the best. I guess it was just so busy this year. Finally, I thank all the Council support staff, Daemon, the onsite maintenance crews and last but not least, my amazing and unofficial Calamvale youth advisory team, Semisi Manu, Fahima Ahmadi, Izaak Chen and Shraddha Makkar.

We also have a former LORD MAYOR’s youth advisory participant in the gallery here today, Joshua Dickman. Super sad you went to Canberra, but I’m sure you’re on to much better things over there. We’re also especially excited this Saturday to launch our first Calamvale Youth Advisory Council at our Christmas markets, where we’ll have also our young leaders coordinating fresh markets every couple of months next year, hopefully every month if we do it well. I always thought as a young person myself that they should be given a chance to take on more responsibility if that’s something they want, so that’s why that’s exactly what we’re doing in Calamvale.

This Christmas, I’m also thinking of everyone including those who’ll be alone without a home, with all the strength and love. I’m also wishing everyone a very jolly Christmas and look forward to working hard together next year. Thank you so much for making my first few months a welcoming experience in this Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. Listen, I rise to enter the debate—not so much of a debate but thank you to Council officers. I want to kick off with my great appreciation to my ward team, Pam McCreadie and Jenny Lam, 2 of the hardest working people I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with. Pam has been with me right from the beginning and she really is a great advisor. She’s picked up a lot of Council knowledge, of course, over those 8 years, going on to 9 now. Jenny, who just started with us last—well really last November, but it really didn’t kick off until this New Year.

She’s just picked up the job so well, she’s terrific on social media. She’s of a different generation than Pam and myself and it’s really nice to have that generational difference in the office. But of course, we had that election this year and I’m sure all the other Councillors here really—not that they actually work on the election or re-election during working hours, but I’m sure most—a lot of them, of course, do a lot of that work for us, for the election after hours and on the weekends as well. I just can’t speak too highly of these 2 and I just wanted to kick off my appreciation with the team this year as well.

Now following on from that, of course, the Councillor Support group, of course, Daemon and Penny. My team tells me that they are wonderful to deal with, they’re very professional in the way they deal with those issues that come up from time to time. They’re a great resource for the ward office, just to keep everyone on track, including myself, as to what we need to undertake in order to support our constituents. Of course, Grant Murray, the Outcomes Manager, who’s been now with me I think—or been helping us now for about 3 years now.

Again came from outside Council, as Councillor MARX said, but he’s just been an unbelievable, effective Outcomes Manager, even though he didn’t really have much knowledge in regards to how Council operates. But he’s really done a terrific job for me and I’m sure many others that have him as outcome manager over the last 3 years. We give him the information that he needs in order to do his job and then he just schedules what’s on the list and just gets on with it and keeps us informed on a weekly basis as to what’s happening. I’m sure other outcomes officers do the same thing.

I also want to make special mention, of course, Pieter Sytsma and Chris Dailey, who have been looking after the lake and the other waterways within the ward. They’ve done a terrific job with the lake. We just had a little bit of an outbreak with some of that blue-green algae, but with all the rain that we’ve had in November it’s really, I suppose, sort of kept it in check a little bit. Although we have a few worried residents at the moment and they’re worried about that blue‑green algae, as I am as well. Our transport guys, of course, Raj and Kiran, TPO guys. Again they’ve been sort of with me right from the beginning as well, so we had a really good working relationship. Again 2 really professional guys that know their stuff.

Then when things arise and there are some issues with yellow lines or anything to do with TPO, when they give me the answer to the question I ask them they’re very credible, very believable and we try to address some of the concerns, of course, that residents have. Especially in regards to parking in residential roads, that’s a big one. It is, I’m sure, with a number of other Councillors here as well. IT, of course, they’ve been mentioned but I’m going to mention them again because we couldn’t do our jobs without these things called computers and communications in general. Billy, Aaron, Craig and Hope and Hopewell, again my team is really, really thankful that they respond in an appropriate time—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor STRUNK: —when things go wrong and I do appreciate—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK—

Councillor STRUNK: —their input and their help when things do go wrong. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak briefly on the motion of appreciation. It really is a tale of 2 cities when you sit here and listen to the LNP Councillors and their interactions with Council officers and then you think and reflect on the year on yours. But I’d like to start by acknowledging the good, which is the service delivery staff who are on the frontline at Brisbane City Council, whether that’s in waste, street cleaning, libraries, the call centre, bus drivers, parks officers, to name a few. There are a huge number of frontline Council officers out there who are putting their heart and soul into their job. Like other Councillors here today, I thank them very much for their hard work.

I also want to acknowledge all the support staff that help our offices run and help Council run behind the scenes. There are a lot of staff who work very hard in those areas and I’m not going to outline them all today, but certainly there are a lot of people who keep our offices running and Council running to support the organisation, so want to thank them as well. I feel very strongly though, as I’ve said in past years in this place, that they are being let down by the leadership of the LORD MAYOR and his Civic Cabinet and the senior management, the executive level management of Brisbane City Council, the organisation.

Without question, there are massive problems in Brisbane City Council. You know, Councillor GIVNEY’s experience is traffic engineers get back to her. Well, 6 months later we’re still waiting for a sign to go up out my way, so there really are some problems with I think some areas of the city being prioritised while others aren’t. There’s clearly a problem with funding priority and at the senior executive level those officers are in a position to ensure that Council can carry out its charter fairly and transparently and yet they do not do that. Time after time the officers, the very senior officers I’m talking about, work with the LORD MAYOR to fund and resource projects only in LNP areas to the exclusion of many others. That problem, that fundamental disparity within Brisbane City Council, the politicisation of Brisbane City Council, is simply becoming more stark.

They’re also being let down by funding cuts. Not only the LORD MAYOR’s cuts to last year’s budget, but his funding cuts to this year’s budget. Now on radio this morning, the LORD MAYOR claimed there was more money than ever for road resurfacing and potholes. But we know in the budget that he announced just in June he cut that funding by around $10 million. That has had a real impact on the crumbling roads all over Brisbane. So the LORD MAYOR might say there’s more money than ever, but that’s not what is in his budget and that is not what residents are seeing on the ground. That is putting frontline Council officers under pressure to fix problems that they have no resources and funding to do. That blows out the timeframes to fix the footpaths, to fix the roads, to resurface, to trim the trees, to plant new trees, 6 months of the year and barely a tree’s been planted.

These are the problems of poor leadership combined with political management of this Council. We’re also seeing, of course, just even in answers on Questions on Notice today, that 572 permanent Council staff—that doesn’t include the cuts to all the temporary and contract staff—572 permanent staff left Council this year. They have been replaced with just 99 people, so where nearly 600 Council officers were doing the job that they were employed to do, serving the people of Brisbane, they’ve left for a whole range of reasons and they have been replaced with just 99 replacement staff.

Now there is no way, no way that people can get their job done and more in the environment they’re in with less people, we can see that on the ground. Now this is a failure—let me be clear—of leadership from the LORD MAYOR and his Civic Cabinet and the very senior levels of Council executive leadership. It is appalling that there are excuses made for problems time after time after time. It’s no longer acceptable that this Council operates as a political organisation. It’s no longer acceptable that this Council cuts essential services to our communities. It’s wrong.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on this motion of appreciation or gratitude for our employees. I’d just like to acknowledge the great work of all our Council staff. First off, I would like to acknowledge my own team, Lisa, Tracy and Sue. Those 3 staff have been with me now over 20 years, providing service for the residents of Moorooka Ward. We are very—work very well together, very enjoyable team to work with, very professional and a bit of fun. I look forward to our Christmas lunch again.

I also need to acknowledge the great work of Camile and Therese who are in the office. Can I just say that the service you provide just is such an important link between what I do as the representative, but what Council does in terms of getting outcomes for the community. I need to jump back to December 2023 and say the week before Christmas last year we had major storms in Moorooka Ward. For some reason it just hit Moorooka, a couple of storms combined.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: And a little bit of Tennyson, a little bit of Tennyson. The week before Christmas we had over 600 tree jobs, we had a massive amount of work that came through the office. That was logged by my office in 2 days, so 600 jobs and they were largely cleaned up in a week. We had crews from all over Brisbane coming to do that work and I just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to those staff, because that was a really big thing to do the week before Christmas and it was a huge outcome to get for the residents of Brisbane. I also need to acknowledge the LORD MAYOR and I did talk about that and we were able to get that result, so thank you, LORD MAYOR. It was a good result for the residents in Moorooka Ward and Tennyson Ward.

Now I always have a little bit of a naughty and nice list. I do like this list, to keep it all year. I want to do my nice list first, there are 3 people on the nice list that I want to—there are many, many, many people on the nice list. But the 3, top 3 people I want to acknowledge this year, first off is Shannon Clarke. Shannon Clarke is my liaison officer. Shannon, one person has taken the role of 10 people that we used to have and the regional team has taken that role on and has really done exceptionally well. She doesn’t just work for me, she works for about 5 other Councillors as well. I think of Shannon, and I’ve said this to Shannon, I think of Shannon like a little *Bluey* character. She’s just running round doing jobs everywhere and she’s able to get results. She’s very effective and very good at getting results out of the organisation, so thank you, Shannon.

I also need to acknowledge the work of Chris Jameson in trying to get outcomes from our NEWS branch and trying to get outcomes for the flooded residents in Rocklea. Chris, we just need to keep trying with that. Also, Krysten Booth, who’s trying to fix up the issues that we have in PPI and PSO. There are many, many other staff that I deal with regularly, I’d like to thank them as well for their great work, their professionalism and customer service.

Now my naughty list, this list has certainly grown this year and that’s particularly since the results of the election, where some of the naughty officers have appeared and raised their head. That concerns me a bit, I certainly am most concerned when it impacts my residents. Particularly concerned when residents—and it’s interesting, as you said, Councillor JOHNSTON, how illuminating it is today when you hear from LNP Councillors about the level of service they’re getting. It’s very illuminating to hear that and to hear the different sorts of levels of service provided across the city and the way, for me and my residents, issues aren’t being resolved. There are a number of Council officers on that list, but I’m not going to name them. I’d like to wish all officers a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025 and look forward to working with you all next year. Cheers.

Chair: Further speakers? No further speakers.

LORD MAYOR, right of reply?

I will now put the motion of appreciation.

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

Chair: I’ll remind Councillors to sign the appreciation when you come up.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmation of minutes please.

**304/2024-25**

The Minutes of the 4752 (Ordinary) meeting of Council held on 26 November 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 Ms Margaret Gamble, who will address the Chamber on investment of transport infrastructure near the State Hockey Centre at Morningside. Can I remind all Councillors that under the provisions of section 32A of the Meetings Local Law, no debate or interjections will be permitted during this agenda item.

Ms Gamble, please proceed when you are ready. You have 5 minutes.

**Ms Margaret Gamble – Investment of transport infrastructure**

Ms Margaret Gamble: Thank you. Madam Chair, LORD MAYOR, fellow Councillors—I’m not a Councillor, sorry—Councillors, thank you for allowing me to address you today. I’ve come to you as a resident who has been a long-term resident of Hawthorne and Morningside. I’ve lived in that area for 3 decades now and raised 2 beautiful, respectful young men. In that time, I’ve been involved in dragon boating down at the Bulimba 18 Footers Club, which was moved out of there to the Colmslie Beach area in 2008. I’ve also participated in a Committee meeting—community meeting in 2010, looking at why or how we could possibly get a green bridge from Bulimba over to Teneriffe. I’ve also been heavily involved as a volunteer manager for a not-for-profit organisation, that had lots of work associated with Foodbank.

Now all of those connections have led me here today. I’m here to ask where is the infrastructure money for a CityCat stop? Suggesting at the end of Col Gardner Drive—I’ll explain why I think that would be a great location. I have actually put this forward since 2008 on regular communications with Council and received no positive outcome. I also want to know if you could think about possibly putting in a green bridge on the southside, that would link people between the areas of the Gateway Bridge and Bulimba.

The reason being that that area is now becoming very popular on the southside, not the northshore side, the opposite side, has become and is becoming extremely popular. We have a State Hockey Centre along Col Gardner Drive. We have a local circus use that area and we have the Colmslie Aquatic Centre, and the dragon boating down at the wharf. That area has absolutely no public transport access. This also impacts the Foodbank, because they rely heavily on volunteers. As we all know and especially myself as a previous volunteer manager, most volunteers are my age or older and are regular public transport users.

You’ve got the State Hockey Centre, the Colmslie Aquatic Centre, you’ve got the dragon boaters, you’ve got the circus, all competing for car spaces that are just not available. This wouldn’t be an issue if there was a public transport solution, but there isn’t one. The reason I suggested and have for many years since 2008 for a CityCat stop in that area is that there was nothing past Apollo Road. You have Bretts Wharf on the other side and Apollo Road and then Northshore opened and it became this hub on the other side. But there’s nothing linking that side to the Colmslie Beach area, which is right across from there. It would be a quick skip across.

You’d have to drive over the Gateway Bridge to get across, or you have to go via the Story Bridge, both of which are fairly lengthy ways to do it. If you go the Gateway Bridge, it’s not only—the other part of that is that it’s an expense that we probably would prefer not to use. So, I’m just putting it to this group if you could consider a public transport solution for that area, so that those particular activities along Colonel Gardner Drive have that option. Also, you’ve got your volunteers that access SecondBite and Foodbank, who could also be benefited by a public transport solution.

The last thing I want to bring your attention to is the only access point to those activities is Colonel Gardner Drive. I don’t know if you know the piece of road I’m talking about, but it’s disgusting. The access point to Lytton Road—that’s the only place where you can enter it—becomes a hazard the minute there is a slight bit of rainfall. So you can imagine what it was like on Sunday, absolutely no way you could exit that road with safety. If you’re not going to put in a public transport solution, my other request is to please improve the drainage so that intersection is safe, because at the moment it is extremely unsafe.

Chair: Thank you, Ms Gamble.

Ms Margaret Gamble: Thank you.

Chair: If you’d like to take a seat, I’ll now call on Councillor MURPHY to respond.

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

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you very much, Ms Gamble, for taking the time to come in to address us in Council about access to the Queensland Hockey Centre. I must admit, I am familiar—I always thought it Col Gardner Drive, but I might be corrected, it might be Colonel Gardner Drive, but I’ll take my instruction from Councillor COLLIER on the correct pronunciation of that. But look, we know this is a hub for local sporting groups and clubs and there’s several clubs that call that peninsula home. We absolutely want the Australian Olympic team in 2032 and the Paralympic team as well to be full of homegrown heroes and of course that starts with supporting our local sports clubs and facilities.

I want to talk through some of the suggestions that you’ve made to us today, specifically the suggestion for a new CityCat terminal and of course the new bridge between Bulimba and the northern riverbank. Starting with the green bridge, you are very right in that there’s some distance between the Gateway Bridge and the next river crossing, which is actually the Story Bridge. You may not know that a few years ago, actually quite some years ago now, about 10 years ago, the former Labor State Government actually did a study into the feasibility of a bridge between Bulimba and Teneriffe. Ultimately, that study found that a bridge in that location was not feasible.

The reason being that the bridge would require a 30-metre clearance above the river, which is the same height as the Story Bridge, so you can think of the deck being quite high. I’m sure as you know, that part of the city is quite flat on both sides and so we would need to do significant ramping and the bridge would be at quite a height into both Bulimba and to Teneriffe. That would be quite imposing on the local community and we think for that reason the State Government didn’t progress with that proposal.

However, I would encourage you to reach out to your local State Member, Di Farmer, to request a copy of the report that was done by DTMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads). I understand she has it and to have a look into that work that was done on the feasibility of that bridge. We have been—she’s previously been an advocate of that connection in the past. However, ultimately, it was her State Government that didn’t progress with the bridge in this location, we think due to those constraints that we’ve been talking about. Obviously as well the cost of any bridge there would be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Now you also mentioned the possibility of another CityCat terminal for the east of Northshore Hamilton or Apollo Road for the residents on the southside of the river. Of course we are always looking for ways to improve our CityCat network. In fact just this morning we announced the reopening of the Mowbray Park terminal on 9 December, so next week. Of course the location that you’re talking about at Colmslie Reserve is quite close to the existing Apollo Road terminal. I accept that they serve different residents, different communities, however, Apollo Road is one of the Council’s least used ferry terminals.

We need to consider how many people would use a terminal in a similar location in that stretch of the river. We understand the Bulimba Barracks development is coming and that has the potential to drive growth in that catchment. However, we would like to see what that would do to patronage before considering a terminal further downstream. Of course there are some destinations like the Hockey Centre, but without the residential catchment that actually supports the patronage there, it would be very difficult for this terminal to maintain patronage demand and therefore, make that terminal construction good value for money outcome for ratepayers.

We also know that there’s a strong rail corridor through this part of the city, which does make the attraction of the time it takes for a CityCat to get from further downstream into the river an unattractive alternative to the rail network and also the bus network as well. You might not know, Ms Gamble, but it takes 90 minutes to get from one end of the river on the CityCat network all the way to the end of the network at UQ (University of Queensland), St Lucia, so it is quite a long trip. We know that we don’t compete alone, we compete across a multimodal group of transport options for residents to choose.

However, I will say, Ms Gamble, we are undertaking a strategic review of the CityCat network in 2025 and we’d be keen to hear what Brisbane residents’ thoughts are on the future of our network, as well as your thoughts as well. I would encourage you next year to make a submission to that review. I’m about out of time, but thank you again, Ms Gamble, for coming in. We certainly appreciate the time you’ve taken to address us.

Chair: Thank you and thank you, Ms Gamble, for coming in today.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Thank you. Councillors, we’ll now move to Question Time.

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

Councillor PARRY.

**Question 1**

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY, earlier this year the Schrinner Council was overwhelmingly re-elected with a mandate to keep Brisbane moving. 2024 has been a massive year for the LORD MAYOR and our team. Can you give us a wrap-up of the achievements of the Schrinner Council in 2024 when it comes to transport?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I can, Councillor PARRY. We know in March this year the LORD MAYOR and the Schrinner Council made a promise to keep Brisbane moving now and into the future. We’ve spent every day since committed to delivering better transport infrastructure and more services, more often to the people of Brisbane. While I know Councillor PARRY is eagerly awaiting her Spotify Wrapped for the year, I’m happy to give a transport wrapped of what we’ve achieved in 2024.

We started this year with the opening of the Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera green bridge and that exceeded all expectations. It is multi-award winning. Usage has doubled our projections and it wasn’t just delivered on time, it was delivered under budget, but we’re not done just yet. We’ll finish 2024 by opening another bridge, the Kangaroo Point Bridge, on 15 December. It’s a bridge that’s been talked about for centuries, for literally centuries, but people will be ‘Walking on Sunshine’ across that bridge in less than 2 weeks’ time, thanks to the vision of this LORD MAYOR and the Schrinner Council.

As well as these bridges, CityLink Cycleway is ‘Moving On Up’ as we extend it from East Brisbane to West End. Last month, we started the first Safer School Precinct and celebrated the 20th anniversary of active school travel. 2024 also saw our next generation e-mobility contracts and Councillors, just like The Beatles, we said ’Hello, Goodbye’ in 2024. It was quite a ‘Magical Mystery Tour’, because we said hello to Beam, then we said goodbye to Beam and then we said hello to Neuron once again. But, Chair, we aren’t just delivering on active transport, we’re also delivering on public transport.

This year we worked tirelessly to deliver a landmark public transport funding agreement with the State Government. We took the State Government to task in June with hundreds of billboards across Brisbane and we asked Brisbane residents to back our buses. The State Government held out for a while, they said we were just a Local Government asking for more money. I could have gone with a few songs here, Chair, I could have gone with a few songs, but I’m going to go with ‘Waterloo’ by ABBA, because they couldn’t escape if they wanted to. We were everywhere, Chair. We secured that deal for fairer funding for our buses to deliver for Brisbane. The song says that history book is on the shelf, it’s always repeating itself, but for once it’s not repeating itself—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, Councillor MURPHY. One moment.

Councillor MURPHY: —because we now have a great relationship with the State Government.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, thank you. Just one moment.

Councillor COLLIER, please do not call out. Councillor COLLIER, several times you were calling out. Please also keep your conversations quiet.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Madam Chair, I know they don’t like to hear it but we have a great relationship with the State Government, because with the LNP’s permanent 50 cent fares, we know that we are now ‘In da Club’ of the cheapest public transport fares in the country. How good is that and how good is it to be a Queenslander? Now we know 50 cent fares have resulted in a huge increase in patronage on our CityCats and ferries. This year we upgraded Dockside, we brought the CityCats to Howard Smith Wharves. This is now one of the city’s most popular terminals, we had 60,000 passengers a month there. We continue with our delivery of next generation, generation 4 CityCats.

Of course ‘Who Let the Dogs Out’ Chair? It was our wonderful ferries team, with the transformation of our CityCats into Bluey and Bingo. Chair, that is not all, because from Monday 9 December, the CityCats will be ’Backstreet’s Back’ at Mowbray Park. Early next year we’ll double the frequency of our KittyCat services, which means a new cross-river service every 15 minutes. It’s a bit like Cat Stevens’ ‘Father and Son’, Chair, we will look after both the CityCats and the KittyCats.

Last but by no means least, Chair, it’s the Brisbane Metro. In 2024 we opened new platforms at the Cultural Centre and UQ Lakes. We completed the new Metro depot at Rochedale, the largest in the country and we finished the excavation of the Adelaide Street tunnel. Of course, we brought the Metro to life, by Evanescence, that one, Councillor ADERMANN, in October, with passengers able to catch our most beautiful bus during the 169 preview. This Sunday, Chair, we revealed the start date with the ‘New Kid in Town’ by the Eagles, the new Premier David Crisafulli. We confirmed our plan—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor MURPHY: —for the staged implementation of Brisbane Metro.

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

Councillor CASSIDY: Councillor ADERMANN has shouted out 3 times and I’m finding it very difficult—

Chair: I’m not going to go—

Councillor CASSIDY: —to hear Councillor MURPHY.

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

Councillor CASSIDY: Councillor ADERMANN continues to shout out during his answer—

Chair: —and I’m not going to go and tell you again that—

Councillor CASSIDY: —and he’s displaying unsuitable meeting conduct—

Chair: —you totally understand—you understand—

Councillor CASSIDY: —and you should take some remedial action, rather than just being biased against Councillor COLLIER in isolation.

Chair: Councillor, we’ve had this discussion before and you know very well that people are able to support the speaker, as you did earlier with your own speaker.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chair, last week and the week before you specifically said I could not make supportive interjections in support of what the speaker was saying. So why are you—

Chair: I don’t uphold your—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —allowing LNP Councillors—

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: —to do this while I wasn’t allowed to?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: I was talking about the successful 169 trial, Madam Chair, and with that ‘Confidence Man’ we’ll be ready to start permanent Metro services on the M2 on 28 January, just 56 days away. The best part, Chair, is it means a very good year for Metro in 2025. Chair, I want to cap off by saying that 2024 has been huge for transport in Brisbane. I want to thank all the staff in Brisbane infrastructure and Transport for Brisbane for the incredible work they do for our city. This year, more than any year, has proven to me that in life and in politics you only get what you give. Team Schrinner is going to continue to give 100% for the people of Brisbane into next year.

Chair: Councillor, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers—further questions?

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

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

LORD MAYOR, your regime recently lied about the data used to demonise homeless people living in tents across Brisbane. You also lied by saying the Queensland Fire Department—

Councillor WINES: Point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: —told you about dangerous—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I ask you to rephrase that. You know very well that we do not use that terminology in—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: It is a decision that I have made as Chair, and you know full well, so you either rephrase it or ask a different question.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Well that is contrary to your ruling from last week.

Chair: Councillor, it is not—

Councillor CASSIDY: Is this a new ruling?

Chair: —I do not uphold your point of order. Please resume your seat.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION OF DISSENT**

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| **305/2024-25**  Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.  Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent was declared **lost** on the voices. |

Chair: Further questions?

Are you asking a question, Councillor COLLIER?

*Councillorinterjecting.*

Chair: Then do so.

Councillor COLLIER: LORD MAYOR, you said that the Queensland Fire Department told you about the dangerous unauthorised fires in homeless camps, but that wasn’t true. You lied about why you were cutting First 5 Forever funding when we—

Councillor WINES: Point of order. Point of order, Madam Chair. Councillor COLLIER has used a word that you’ve directed her to not use in direct defiance of your ruling. Could you please provide advice to both her and the room on that topic?

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, either you modify your question—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: —or I’ll rule it out of order. Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Could you just clarify, last week you said that we couldn’t call someone a liar, but that the word—you could describe an act as a lie.

Chair: No, I did not, Councillor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor, I have not and we have been told not to use that word. The only—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, Councillor COLLIER, not that I—I don’t want to debate this. Someone repeated what Councillor GRIFFITHS had said and that was what they were repeating and I had asked him not to. Ask your question or we’ll move on to another Councillor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

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

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: LORD MAYOR, you said you were launching the Brisbane Metro early and your story kept changing about why it got pulled overnight, another lie.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER—

Councillor COLLIER: You lied about knowing—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER—

Councillor COLLIER: —the Story Bridge—

Chair: —I caution you on unsuitable meeting conduct, because you have not rectified what I’ve asked you not to say.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: LORD MAYOR, one day you said you didn’t know about the Story Bridge needing help years ago and then you actually do. Now all of a sudden you’re crying poor to the Federal Government, again not telling the truth that you can’t find the funds for a $4.5 million business case. When it comes to the Moggill Road project, you told hurting businesses—businesses and business owners that the project would be done early this year, another lie.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: As it is now—

Chair: Change it.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Do not use the word lie.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, do not call out.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: LORD MAYOR, you told hurting business owners that the project would be done early this year, but that wasn’t true. It’s now a year behind and double the cost. The people of Brisbane are being misled by your regime. Why can’t you just be honest about your mistakes, apologise and take some responsibility?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well Merry Christmas, everyone. We had an opportunity just before to say a simple thing, thank you, but the Labor Party turned it into a party political slanging match. They couldn’t simply say the words thank you, they had to play party politics.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: That’s why nobody likes them, that is genuinely why nobody likes them and they keep losing, because they can’t help but play gutter politics, as we’ve seen in this question. There’s one thing that I have always done and that is accept responsibility and if things—and if circumstances change, well then absolutely I’ll front up and I’ll explain what’s happened and why.

*Councillors interjecting.*

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

You’ve asked your question and you are not able to call out across the Chamber while it’s being answered.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Yes, it is, Councillor COLLIER and Councillor GRIFFITHS, if you don’t like the answer it doesn’t mean you can call out across the Chamber. I’ve told you many times to save it to GB (General Business) if you have further things to say.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Was that just a ruling you just made?

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, yes, I have told you many times it’s unsuitable meeting conduct while another Councillor is on their feet. It is in the Meetings Local Law and you are not to call out while the LORD MAYOR is answering the question, or any other Councillor for that matter.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION OF DISSENT**

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| **306/2024-25**  Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.  Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent 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: 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, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Before I call you, LORD MAYOR, I’ll just remind Councillors, Procedures for good order, number 51(1) “when the Chair speaks during the progress of a debate, any Councillor then speaking or offering to speak shall immediately be seated.” (2) “Every Councillor present shall preserve strict silence so that the Chair may be heard without interruption.”

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Look, I understand at this time of year some people can get aggro. You know, there’s a lot on at this time of year, everyone’s looking forward to a break. People can lash out and we’re seeing that unfortunately today. We’ve seen a massive loss, the lowest Labor vote ever in the city’s history earlier this year. We’ve seen the most incompetent Labor Government ever swept out of office just weeks ago—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —and now it looks like the incompetent Albanese Government—

Chair: Point of order. One moment.

LORD MAYOR: —is on the ropes as well.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, LORD MAYOR.

Councillors.

Councillor CASSIDY, your point of order?

Councillor CASSIDY: Relevance. The point of order’s on relevance. This isn’t E&C (Establishment and Coordination Committee), the LORD MAYOR can’t talk around the world—

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: —unless he has to answer the question.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So I was just illustrating maybe why the Labor Party is so belligerent, nasty—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —and ungrateful to the Council staff at this point of the year.

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, your point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: I just want to clarify what your ruling was on Councillor CASSIDY’s—

Chair: The LORD MAYOR is coming to the question, to answering the question, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: So what is your ruling exactly?

Chair: If he’s given the opportunity—

Councillor COLLIER: So what is your ruling exactly?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I just—I don’t understand.

Chair: The LORD MAYOR is answering the question.

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor COLLIER: So is that your ruling, that he is—that what he is saying is okay?

Chair: No, I don’t uphold that point of order and the LORD MAYOR is answering the question, when given—Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION OF DISSENT**

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| --- |
| **307/2024-25**  Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.  Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent was declared **lost** on the voices. |

Thereupon, the DEPUTY MAYOR and Councillor Julia DIXON immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **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, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Now let’s deal with this issue, these issues, one by one. First of all Musgrave Park. You’ve heard in this Chamber, you’ve heard time and time again, members of the public, people that work for charities, pleading with authorities to do something about the violent situation that has evolved in Musgrave Park.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: There have been hundreds of residents contact us. Our own Public Space Liaison Officers have said we do not feel safe going down there anymore. Labor, and some do-gooders, want to think that there’s no problem there. ‘Nothing to see here, everything’s fine.’

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: Never mind the fires, the reported stabbings.

Chair: One moment, please, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor COLLIER, your point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: Just on relevance. My question was about the specific mistruth about saying publicly that the Queensland Fire Department told Council about dangerous and unauthorised fires, which, in an extraordinary and unprecedented move, the Fire Department came out and said that was not the case.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: The LORD MAYOR is not being relevant to answering the question.

Chair: It was a very long question—

Chair: —that you gave the LORD MAYOR.

Councillor COLLIER: I’m being very specific.

Chair: He has 5 minutes to answer the question and he is coming to—he is answering your question and the issues that you raised.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Now we know that both Labor and the Greens are just happy for people to live in tents permanently in parks across the city. They offer no solutions, they just say leave them alone. Leave them alone. Whereas when safety is an issue we step in, we work with other authorities, we take action. Now, in this specific case, an officer in the QPS (Queensland Police Service) contacted an officer in our Corporate Security unit in Council and made this specific request. So—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: QFES (Queensland Fire and Emergency Services) and so—

Chair: Thank you but Councillors do not out across the Chamber.

Councillor COLLIER, I warn you. Remain quiet while the LORD MAYOR is answering your question.

LORD MAYOR: Let me be clear. Someone from the Fire Department called one of our officers and made this request. Now, Councillor COLLIER, I hope you’re not calling one of our officers a liar.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Through the Chair, through the Chair, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: Because that would be inappropriate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chairman, the LORD MAYOR has just used a word that you have said is not allowed to be used in this Chamber.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: What action are you going to take against him?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Thank you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, I raised a point of order and you just ignored me.

Chair: Yes, I don’t—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You did not respond.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman. Not only did you just not respond at all. You are now demonstrating your complete bias by saying that Opposition Councillors cannot use a word, while the LORD MAYOR can. So, Madam Chairman, why is it the LORD MAYOR can use the word liar but a Labor Councillor cannot?

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

But LORD MAYOR, I know that Councillor COLLIER used that word several times and made accusations. But I’d ask you to try to use another word, please. Thank you.

LORD MAYOR: Well thank you—

Chair: Even though you are repeating.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was quite clearly—I was not calling anyone that word. I was saying I hope that Councillor COLLIER is not calling a Council officer that word. Which would be inappropriate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, the LORD MAYOR is now defying your ruling.

Chair: He has not—

Councillor JOHNSTON: He is—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —inferring completely that that’s what Councillor—

Chair: No.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —COLLIER has done.

Chair: I do not uphold your—

Councillor JOHNSTON: That is inappropriate—

Chair: —point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —conduct under the Meetings Local Law.

Chair: I do not uphold your point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Of course not.

Chair: The LORD MAYOR is not using that word—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: He did, multiple times.

Chair: —and trying to answer the question.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I have warned you 3 times.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, we believe, that it is absolutely appropriate to take safety seriously for the residents of Brisbane, for the people who are in the unfortunate situation of living in tents. We want them in homes and that’s what our aim has always been. To work to get them in homes, to support them. Whereas you see Labor and the Greens quite happy to say ‘no problems here, just leave them alone. Just ignore it, just turn a blind eye.’ You know, ignore the violence reports, ignore the danger requests from local residents, the hundreds of requests we’ve had from residents and businesses. So we will always step up and do what needs to be done. We believe that safety should be a priority and everyone is entitled to safety.

When it comes to First 5 Forever, a State Government program, which the State Government reduced funding for, which we picked up the bill for, for many, many years. As I said, we can no longer afford to pick up the bill for State reductions in funding with so much cost shifting that’s occurred over so many years.

When it comes to Metro, we were very clear, there would be a 4-week trial, a preview.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

LORD MAYOR: We said that on day one.

Chair: Look, thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor TOOMEY.

**Question 3**

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

Councillor WINES, we’ve just heard about some of the significant achievements that the Schrinner Council has delivered to keep Brisbane moving. It has also been a very big year in the Infrastructure portfolio. Can you please update the Chamber on what the Schrinner Council has delivered in 2024 and what Brisbane residents can look forward to the most in 2025?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair, and can I thank Councillor TOOMEY for the question and for his ongoing interest in ensuring that we keep Brisbane moving. This last year saw not only this Council keep its commitment to keep Brisbane moving but the people of Brisbane overwhelming endorse that ambition and we, as the people, to deliver that ambition.

How do we do that? How do we keep Brisbane moving in the Infrastructure portfolio? Well, I’ll begin by recognising the questioner, Councillor TOOMEY, and identifying that the principal route for this community, that being Waterworks Road, has been reviewed. There will be a public consultation that’s either launched or very close to launching, to talk about the operational improvements of Musgrave Road and Waterworks Road. To make people in that community move around more efficiently, particularly in peak times. But to get more people, more places, more often, the way they want to move.

Now, I look at you, Madam Chair, and I note that one of the big projects of this year that would be a ribbon cutting, but for the deeply unseasonable November rain, on Beams Road 1A. Which has been significantly, more than 90%, complete and it is interfacing well with the State Government’s works, that is the 4-laning of that road that carries more than 25,000 people a day, the construction of an active cycleway with that.

But also, I can reassure both you, your community and all Councillors, that that project will be moving into Beams Road 1B as we have opened the EOI (Expression of Interest). So what have we enjoyed this year? The significant works of Beams Road to the west of the train line. What to look forward to next year? Significant works east of the train line, as we continue to move through the Beams Road Corridor.

I see Councillor ADERMANN and I recognise, and Councillor WOLFF, and I recognise their communities’ sincere interest in the removal of the Indooroopilly roundabout and its replacement with an overpass and through—over bridge and through lanes. Which will significantly improve the throughput of that intersection. It will reduce the potentially dangerous interactions that were occurring at that roundabout. Not only was there no roundabout, there will be clean and clear driving through that intersection, particularly in an east-west movement.

That intersection carries more than 50,000 vehicles per day and all directions will see material improvements in the efficiency of that particular community. As we know, but the unseasonable rain this November, that project will be finalised in the early months of next year, as was advised to Council last week.

However, that has not been the only thing we’ve done in the Moggill Road area this last year. As you know, it is a corridor program, we have delivered a number of upgrades. Off the top of my head there was a congestion busting project delivered near Indooroopilly State School. There’s also, in early years, of course, delivery of the upgrade of the lights near the large ironwork artwork near BBC (Brisbane Boys’ College) and Wests Bulldogs’ fields.

Now, we have also launched the restoration program and plan and committee for the Story Bridge. I can reassure Councillors that that committee has been announced and has met on a number of occasions and will be providing a public report in the near future. Can I thank those gentlemen who have joined that committee for their work, both what they have done but also the important work going into the future.

Now, I think it’s also important, while we sit here and talk about the future of the Story Bridge, to reflect on the significant works that have already occurred on the Story Bridge. With significant restorations work having occurred on spans 1 through 7 and work is ongoing at the moment as we finalise the work on span 7. These are the spans over river and we’ll be moving into our restoration program into the future, planning and expected, with cooperation from other levels of government.

Also returning to the western suburbs, this year we saw the delivery of the much‑needed and well-executed maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. The grinding of the—the grinding back to the bridge deck, the replacement of the epoxy, the replacement of the surface and the re-tensioning of the ropes and joints and joists was a key project for that community. To ensure that we can use that much-in-demand bridge.

As the LORD MAYOR identified earlier, it was awarded the Council’s ‘get it done’ award and a well-deserved recognition that was. Bringing that project in 5 days ahead of schedule and being able to get that part of Brisbane moving.

Chair: Councillor WINES, your time has expired.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 4**

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

LORD MAYOR, Rocklea residents and business are once again stressed and upset by major flooding of Stable Swamp Creek. A $100,000 Council report has recommended desilting, removing of weed, trees, rubbish and debris from this clogged one kilometre of creek and here’s the report. Given half the creek is owned by Council and half by the State, will you ring the Premier and sort out this flood problem once and for all so that we can get this creek fixed? Yes or no?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you for the question, Councillor GRIFFITHS. I am aware that the location that you are talking about is one of the most flood prone parts of the city and low‑lying parts of the city and one of the first areas to flood. This is not because of Labor, it’s not because of LNP, it is because of geography. The suggestion that somehow some work along the creek with magically make the flooding go away is not realistic.

I certainly hope that you are not trying to give residents the hope that a bit of cleaning out will magically make flooding go away. Because it won’t. It won’t. Now there are always some improvements that can be made and we’ve long had a commitment to do work on the land and section that we control. The sticking point has always been the State Government. Now, I know that for most of the last decade we have had a Labor State Government. We know that this problem has arisen because the former Labor State Government did not want to do their part with the section of creek that they controlled.

I don’t remember Councillor GRIFFITHS being very active at that point in time in the way that he is suddenly now. Some would sense that there’s some politics at play here. But the reality is if we can get the State Government to do the work on their side of the creek then that would be a good outcome. Our commitment remains that we’re prepared to roll up the sleeves and do what needs to be done when it comes to our section—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —and we’ll continue working.

Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR, one moment.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The question was an appeal to the LORD MAYOR to actually speak to the Premier and get this issue resolved. Yes or no?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS, the LORD MAYOR is coming around to—in answering his question.

I ask Councillors to remain quiet while the LORD MAYOR is answering.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, of course we want to see some work done. Which is why we’ve made the commitment to do this work and we’ll continue to try and get the State Government to do work in this location as well. Those efforts are ongoing. it’s not as though we haven’t actually asked. It’s not as though we haven’t been consistent in our position on this. The person who has been inconsistent if Councillor GRIFFITHS. Who did not want to take the fight up to the Labor Government in the past, but now, is suddenly red hot on this issue.

But I would stress, again, that even if work is done, it will not eliminate flooding. It will not. It may make a minor difference. It may help some water get away slightly quicker. But it will not solve flooding in that area. It is a very flood-prone and low-lying area and it always has been. As I said, this is not about Labor or LNP, this is simply about making sure that different levels of government can work together where work is needed to be done. We will consistently pursue State Government to make sure that they hold up their end of the bargain. As I said, our position remains unchanged on that.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 5**

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

Councillor HOWARD, can you please update the Chamber on what we have done in 2024 to make Brisbane’s lifestyle even better and what Brisbane residents can look forward to in 2025?

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Madam Chair, and through you, thank you to my wonderful Deputy Chair, Councillor ATWOOD for the question. What a year it’s been for the Community and the Arts portfolio. The community and lifestyle division is what makes Brisbane the lifestyle capital of Australia. In 2024 Council has continued to deliver thousands of free and affordable events and festivals right across Brisbane. Some of our signature programs, such as BrisAsia Festival, Valley Fiesta and the Lord Mayor’s City Hall Concerts, have continued to grow in popularity after yet another fabulous year.

Council also plays an important role in supporting a wide range of external festivals and events. Our incredible officers have worked closely with organisers of city-wide festivals such as Brisbane Festival, the Brisbane Writers Festival and the ever-growing Wynnum Fringe. A highlight for me, personally, was marching with River City Pride on Pride Day. As always, an amazing experience and I thank River City Pride for their ongoing work.

Here at Council we’re proud to deliver and support local community events for all to enjoy. The events aren’t over yet, Madam Chair. In fact, the best is still to come. It wouldn’t be Christmas in Brisbane without the Lord Mayor’s Christmas Carols and this year’s even will be the most festive one yet. With tickets selling out in under an hour, people are welcome to register for the Victoria Park / Barrambin live site and join in on the festive joy.

Following its huge popularity last year, the Schrinner Council’s $2 Summer Dips is back to keep families cool this summer at an affordable cost. More than 660,000 pool trips were made during the highly successful 2023-24 inaugural program, which saved residents around $2.4 million in just 3 months. A trip to one of our Council pools is a great way to entertain the kids, cool off or stay active. We know how much residents love this initiative and it’s just one of the things that makes Brisbane’s lifestyle even better.

In May, Council hosted our signature Homeless Connect event. The important event provides a range of free services to some of our most vulnerable residents. This includes things such as access to medical and allied health professionals, haircuts, immunisation services, housing support, personal hygiene items and clothing. We had over 4,000 visits to service providers on the day and over 400 health consultations delivered to attendees. With over 800 people taking part, this incredible event is so important to some of our most vulnerable presidents. I thank all the incredible Council officers and volunteers that helped make the day such a success.

There is one thing I must remark on when discussing our work to address homelessness in our community, Madam Chair, and that is, of course, the role of our PSLOs. I know it’s been a huge year for our PSLOs and they face multiple challenges. Not just the demanding nature of their job but also the unfortunate politicisation by those opposite. Despite this, they have had over 2,450 engagements with people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. The impact they have in helping people get out of parks and get a proper roof over their head cannot be understated.

Now, here at Brisbane City Council we have the largest library network in Australia. With 33 libraries, a mobile library and a pop-up library and a city archives. Council spends significantly more than our closest comparable library network and residents continue to demonstrate that it’s money well spent. I’m excited to announce that our total library visits for 2024 is projected to be around 5.6 million. Which is a notable increase from last year. Our BNELibraries app continues to soar in popularity—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: One moment, please Councillor HOWARD.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chairman. I have a procedural issue I’d like to raise with you. On the 12 November. In the minutes that are publicly available, you made the statement to the Chamber that the word that you cannot use with respect to lies, is where you call someone a liar to their face. So your ruling was, and I quote, “and it’s when you are calling somebody a liar straight to their face.” That is after Councillor ADAMS and another Councillor, I think Councillor CASSIDY, had used the word lies.

So that’s only 3 weeks ago, if that. That you made the ruling that the word liar was out of order. But today you’ve changed that to say now the word lies. Which have been used by the following Councillors in the last few weeks, the DEPUTY MAYOR repeatedly, Councillor CASSIDY, Councillor MURPHY, Councillor WINES and Councillor GRIFFITHS, were all okay.

So, Madam Chairman, is the word lies, in your view, inappropriate in this house? In this place, sorry. Or is it, as you said on 12th, that it is using the word liar.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’ll read out from what I have—I have my words here that I have previously spoken in the Chamber. I said, “I wish to advise the use of the word lie during debate in this place. I have now had the time to consider the ruling of previous Chair of Council that this word, in any form, is not to be used. I advise the Chamber that this, too, will be my view going forward.”

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair. Since then—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. Since then, Madam Chairman, on repeated occasions, numerous Councillors have used a version of that word and you have not taken action against them. Including the LORD MAYOR and the DEPUTY MAYOR. So why is Councillor COLLIER being singled out today?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I do not uphold your point of order and I’m not going to debate it. I have said what I have said before and I’ve pulled up Councillors for using the word many times in the past.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I will not debate it.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Another way the Schrinner Council is making Brisbane’s lifestyle even better is through our incredible grants program. Whether your community organisation is an aspiring artist or an historical association, we have a grant program for you. In 2024, the Schrinner Council introduced the Lord Mayor’s Safer Suburbs Grant. The new grant provides funding to support projects that strengthen security for our community clubs.

The Safer Suburbs Grant was an election promise by the LORD MAYOR in response to the rise of break ins and thefts at our local clubs. The immense uptake we’ve seen in applications for this program demonstrates just how necessary it is. With successful applicants being announced imminently.

Madam Chair, it’s been a huge year for the Community and the Arts portfolio and I’d like to thank all the Council staff that made it such a success. Our team is excited to continue—

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, your time has expired.

Councillor HOWARD: —to make Brisbane’s lifestyle even better.

Chair: That now ends Question Time.

LORD MAYOR Establishment—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: —point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Just seeking on a procedural matter, Chair. Question Time ran for 53 minutes today. Last week it ran for 43 minutes, 2 minutes short of the 45 minutes. Your ruling then was that it couldn’t exceed 45 minutes.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, thank you but it’s 43 minutes that it has run for.

Councillor CASSIDY: So what’s changed this week, Chair, is that in previous weeks, including last week and the week before, you didn’t stop the clock during divisions. But this week you have. Yes, that’s correct.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No, I—

Councillor CASSIDY: If you look at the times then that is correct.

Chair: —the clock has—

Councillor CASSIDY: So is this a change of practice?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor but the clock continued. If you want to have a look at every week that we’ve had 7 questions, I think it is. Thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY I don’t—I do not uphold your point of order.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – CHAIR LEAVE THE CHAIR**

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| **308/2024-25**  Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the Chair leave the Chair.  Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **lost** on the voices. |

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

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

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor TOOMEY: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I know Councillor WINES is an exceptional human being but he does not have the ability to—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor TOOMEY: —log in to a laptop—

Chair: Yes.

Councillor TOOMEY: —while it’s closed.

Chair: Councillor TOOMEY, that’s not a valid point of order.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 25 November 2024.

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 25 November 2024, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**SERIATIM FOR DEBATE AND VOTING – CLAUSES A TO E**

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| At that time, Councillor Jared CASSIDY rose and requested that Clause A, SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL OF PROPOSED LOT 2, 275 AND 285 GOODERHAM ROAD, WILLAWONG; Clause B, CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER 2024; Clause C, 2024-25 BUDGET – MID-YEAR REVIEW; Clause D, AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF THE STORY BRIDGE ADVENTURE CLIMB OPERATING AGREEMENT; and Clause E, *AP247 COUNCILLOR CONDUCT ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION POLICY*, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Look, one moment.

LORD MAYOR: Okay thank you—

Chair: LORD MAYOR, yes Clause A.

LORD MAYOR: Now Labor Councillors and Councillor COLLIER, in particular, obviously on instruction from the Leader of the Opposition, was trying very hard to throw a lot of mud around before. But I did want to place on the record some important information.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor COLLIER do not call out while other Councillors are on their feet. I’ve told you endless times and I will formally warn you shortly.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I did want to particularly place on the record the first inaccurate and false claim that Councillor COLLIER made, in particular. Because it is quite offensive and it’s quite offensive to Council officers. Now the claim was made that somehow it was made up that there were fires in the park, in Musgrave Park and that QFES has asked us—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —and that QFES has asked us to deal with the situation and switch back on the electric barbecues. You know, you remember the electric barbecues were being repeatedly damaged and vandalised. Hotwired, broken into to get illegal access to power, in an unsafe manner. So the barbecues were switched off for safety reasons.

We then saw some claims on social media about fires in Musgrave Park. Now, I’m going to read a message chain, that was within the Council system, from an officer in our Corporate Security unit. This officer is engaged, from the point of the safety of Council officers and staff and members of the public in a public park, which is hence their interest there. This officer is also from the unit responsible for installing the CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) cameras that we install. So this is why it is relevant and why they were involved.

Let me read this out, message from the officer. ‘Apparently, there is a Facebook post about fires last night but we can’t substantiate. We’ll look into it and let you know if we see anything.’ So, first order of business was to check the CCTV footage. They couldn’t find something from the CCTV footage.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, given the LORD MAYOR released a commercial-in-confidence document last week. Can we be sure that this is not an official communication, as is all default correspondence at Council, which, as I know, is also confidential to Council. So does the LORD MAYOR have permission to read this information out?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. It’s up to the Councillors to decide whether they have the right information and that they can say that.

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, under the Meetings Local Law, in this place you are the person who determines whether something is confidential or not. I am bringing it to your attention and I would ask that you follow the Meetings Local Law.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON it does—yes, unless it’s in this report, where it tells us that is commercial in confidence et cetera, I would not know that.

LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: This is not commercial in confidence.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Isn’t it interesting that Councillor JOHNSTON and Opposition Councillors—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —can make big claims.

Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman, I’m not claiming something is commercial in confidence. But correspondence between Council officers is classified as official. Official means confidential under the relevant Council policy. My question to you, as the person responsible for confidentiality in the Chamber, is have you assured yourself that the LORD MAYOR is not breaching the confidentiality requirements?

Chair: I don’t agree with you, Councillor JOHNSTON. I do not uphold your point of order and as I said, I’m—it is up to the LORD MAYOR to know and to decide whether he can pass on that information.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Madam Chair, Councillor JOHNSTON has made, I think, what now, 7 points of order during this meeting. I would ask that you consider these repeated, flagrant, pointless points of order an active disorder in and amongst themselves and that you make a ruling accordingly if they continue.

Chair: Thank you Councillor MURPHY but I don’t uphold that. I haven’t made that ruling as of yet, thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. We see this happen time and time again where an outrageous and untrue claim has been made and then we go and provide the evidence and they’re like oh, you can’t provide that evidence, that’s secret. That’s commercial in confidence, that’s confidential. So we see Councillor JOHNSTON jumping up, the Labor defence force, every time. To try and protect them from themselves.

But the reality is a claim has been made. It is not a true claim and the facts need to be put on the table. Which is exactly what I’m doing.

So back to my point. Back to this correspondence. We’ll start from the beginning again because you’ve obviously been distracted multiple times. ‘Apparently there’s a Facebook post about fires last night but we can’t substantiate. We will look into it and let you know if you see anything.’ The cameras were checked, they couldn’t see anything, based on the positioning of the cameras. Then a follow up message from the same officer. ‘I spoke with the QFES’, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, ‘who confirmed there were 2 tent fires last night near the Edmonstone Road end of Musgrave Park. They were unable to determine the cause of the fires but suspect a local source. Unfortunately, our CCTV cameras have no coverage of this particular area. QFES has requested we remove the gas bottles and barbecue and look to reinstate the electrical barbecue as it is a lot safer from a fire point of view.’

So QFES has been in touch and talked to your Corporate Security team. They have asked us to remove the gas barbecues and bottles and reinstate the electric barbecues. Now, there’s been a claim made that this never happened and that an untruth was being told. That claim, to be clear, is against a Council officer. Now, I know that they want to play politics, they were making that claim against me. But I actually trust the people that work in this organisation.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: You know what? I didn’t even need to see their message. When I get relayed the information that a member of our Corporate Security team has been contacted by the QFES and asked us to do something, I take that seriously. My first response is not, oh, is that officer lying to me—is that officer telling the truth? No, of course not. I trust the people that work in this office, in this organisation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, you’ve just restated for everybody that you can’t use any version of that word and yet that’s what the LORD MAYOR—

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —has done in breach of your ruling.

Chair: Councillor, thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON and he corrected it himself. So I didn’t have to say anything. Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Now it’s become very clear that there are many casualties in Labor’s attempt to play politics. Today Council officers have become the casualty in many ways. They’ve become the casualty because Labor couldn’t simply say, thank you to the people that work in this organisation. They had to play grubby politics. They had to politicise a non-political motion. It’s really quite sad.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: It’s really quite sad that they can’t, for one part of the meeting, put aside politics at the beginning of the meeting in a motion of special appreciation. It’s also very sad that we now see, because of Labor’s game playings, what Council officers have told my office, and thereby by extension, me, is being questioned. The veracity of that claim is being questioned. Once again, it’s an attack on the Council officers of this organisation and it’s an attack at the time when we should be thanking them, not attacking them.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, as I said earlier, we take requests from our own officers, whether they’re PSLOs out in the parks, our Corporate Security unit, residents that live around Musgrave Park and use the park and walk through the park, local businesses. We take those requests seriously and we’ve acted. We’ve also responded as the situation evolves. It’s really quite disappointing the way that Labor has tried to use this issue for base political point scoring.

So, obviously, when it comes to Musgrave Park and the request to switch back on the barbecues, we were requested by the QFES to do that and we did that, end of story. End of story.

Now, moving on. As I always do, I wanted to talk about the lighting up of assets across the city. On Monday, last night, City Hall was lit up in red and green for Christmas. Also the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place were lit up in blue, green and orange for Disability Action Week. Today, all of our assets will be lit up in blue, green and orange for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and obviously it’s day of acknowledgement and awareness that we fully support and actively support.

On Wednesday and Thursday the assets will be lit up in purple for, once again, for the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust Christmas Appeal, which is well under way. Then for the remainder of the week, back to red and green for Christmas.

On the weekend we had an important announcement about the start, on a permanent basis, of Metro services. It was great to have the support of the Crisafulli Government and the new Transport Minister Brent Mickelberg to make that announcement. Because what the former government couldn’t do was work with us to lock in a start date of permanent services.

They were aware of the preview that we had put forward, they were supportive of the preview. But we weren’t able to—before they went into caretaker period and then the election—lock in a date for the start of permanent services. That has now been done, that date is 28 January. Just as we’ve come through the Australia Day long weekend and as things are starting to get busier again towards the end of January and people—more people are coming back to the office. School is back and then we’re seeing people thinking about going back to university as well in that period.

So, just as things are getting busier, we’re starting permanent Metro services on the M2. Which is between—Councillor CASSIDY thinks it’s funny.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, Councillor CASSIDY, the Metro denier until the end.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It’s not going to happen. He says it’s not going to happen.

Chair: Councillors, thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY, please don’t call out.

LORD MAYOR: Well, we look forward to jumping on board our permanent Metro services when they start on Tuesday 28 January between the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital and UQ. Which is currently one of the busiest, if not the busiest, public transport routes in Queensland.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**309/2024-25**

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: Then we’ll also see, at that time as well, the introduction of some changes to school bus routes as well. This something that’s being done in partnership with Translink for the start of the school year.

In quarter 2 next year we will see M1 introduced into the network and the new bus network will also be introduced at that same point in time. That will see the biggest boost to transport services that we have seen in a generation. One hundred and sixty thousand extra bus trips added into the network, together with permanent Metro services on M1. Which runs between the Eight Mile Plains Station and Roma Street.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, I refer you to the Meetings Local Law, section 37, initially 37(1)(c). Which requires any matter before the meeting that is required to be kept confidential and that is supported by 37(3) that states, “It shall be the duty of the Chair to determine whether a document marked ‘confidential’ contains any matter which falls into the definition of ‘confidential’ in Schedule 1.”

It’s a mandatory provision under the Meetings Local Law, Madam Chair, that you make the decision a whether any other matter, in this case the document the LORD MAYOR is reading from, is, in fact confidential. Under Council policy, that includes documents marked official. So can you please advise why you don’t believe it’s your responsibility to oversight the issue of confidentiality in the Chamber?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, as I stated, it wasn’t marked confidential. It wasn’t a document that’s being tabled and marked confidential. It was—and official does not mean confidential. So yes, I have made my ruling and that is my role here and I made the ruling. So I don’t uphold your point of order. The mere factor—and even if “the mere fact that a document was marked as ‘confidential’, it does not mean that it is automatically ruled out of order pursuant to section 1(c).”

LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. The document was not marked as confidential, it was not marked as official, it was not marked as commercial in confidence either. More than that, I didn’t table the document, not did I reveal the name of the officer.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So Councillor JOHNSTON will go to great lengths to cover up the truth.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: She’ll go to great lengths, including making—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —multiple, pointless interjections.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we’ll see the introduction of M1 and the new bus network in quarter 2 next year. In quarter 3 we will see the switch made between the Queen Street bus station and the Adelaide Street tunnel. Which—tunnelling has now been complete and we move into the internal fit out and the fire and life safety services and technology that needs to go into fitting out the tunnel. So that work is now underway and this new tunnel will help really unlock the bottleneck when it comes to buses and public transport in the heart of the CBD.

So that will allow us then, not only to run metros and other bus services through the new tunnel, relieving pressure and capacity on Queen Street bus station. Making the flow between Victoria Bridge and the King George Square or City Hall station seamless. But also it would allow us to go to a higher frequency service. Now, we’ve always had the ambition to go to 3-minute services. We’re starting Metro at 5-minute services. But when the tunnel comes online and we can operate through the tunnel, we can then unlock that bottleneck and go to 3-minute frequencies.

There are no other frequencies like it anywhere in Queensland. No other transport service offers 3-minute frequencies. So this will be a game changer, 5 minutes is a good frequency, 3 minutes is even better and it’s truly turn up and go. So that’s the kind of frequency that people know that even if they miss a Metro, they don’t have to worry. Because there’s another one shortly behind that will turn up so they can jump on board.

We’ll also see, with the support of the other levels of government hopefully, work progressing next year on the rapid business case for potential Metro expansion. We’ve been very clear, we want to have a look at expansion to Brisbane Airport, expansion to the northside along the Gympie Road corridor and expansion along the eastern corridor as well, out through Old Cleveland Road to Chandler and beyond to Capalaba. Then, finally, expansion, potentially down to Springwood as that new busway is completed.

So a very exciting time for public transport and Metro. Despite the few Metro deniers that are still around, is happening, it’s coming and it won’t stop, it won’t stop. So once it starts on 28 January it’s a permanent service.

$2 Summer Dips is now in place and we’ve already had a big couple of days of $2 dips and once again, I want to commend the team that’s helped us make that happen. To keep the cost down for families and people looking for things to do in the city over summer.

Item A is the surplus property disposal of industrial land at Gooderham Road, Willawong. Council is the owner of 2 parcels of land. These lots are zoned as General industry, not suitable for housing. Two parcels of land were impacted by the upgrade of Gooderham Road and Burman Road intersection in 2019. One of the 2 existing lots has been reduced in size to accommodate the intersection upgrade.

A closed road that is no longer required, thanks to the intersection upgrade, is being converted to freehold land. The road titling process is being finalised and the proposed new lot boasts an area of 6,644 square metres. As we promised, we’ve continued to do a program of review of our landholdings across Council to determine what is surplus to our needs, what can potentially be used for housing or what is appropriate for other purposes.

This is something being done at the State Government level as well and we’re continuing to go through this process. So we’re recommending the sale of this surplus site. With the proceeds going back into the Council budget to help fund all of the great things that we’re continuing to do across the city.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair. Oh, sorry.

Chair: One moment, please can I just get these points of misrepresentation?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. In his speech, the LORD MAYOR said a lot of things but he specifically said that I said that there weren’t any fires. I said that the Queensland Fire Department told the LORD MAYOR. Sorry, the LORD MAYOR said that he knew that the Queensland Fire Department told him about dangerous, unauthorised fires and that’s not the case. I table this document, which is a report from the *ABC* (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) dated 28 November 2024, titled ‘Brisbane City Council fails to back up claims of rising violence against homeless’. I’ll read a short insert.

Councillor WINES: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Madam Chair. At what point does this become a speech in its own right?

Chair: Yes, thank you. Councillor COLLIER it is just to say how you were misrepresented, not to go into a debate. Thank you.

Councillor COLLIER: I’m giving context to what I said.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Sorry—

Chair: But if you—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: —I just can here you over the calling out—

Chair: —I said no, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: —from the other side.

Chair: But if you would prefer to go further in General Business about the issue, that is up to you.

Councillor COLLIER: I’ll table the document for the LNP to read, thanks.

Chair: Thank you.

I’ll now call on Councillor CASSIDY. Your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. The LORD MAYOR’s disgusting misrepresentation was—he claimed that I, apparently, didn’t say thank you at all during my speech on the motion earlier. There’s 6 occasions that I just highlighted here where I said the Labor team hears our Council staff, we value them, we have their back and we fight for them. We thank you very much. Thank you, thank you very much.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, again.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you.

Councillor WINES: I mean it’s the same one.

Councillor CASSIDY: So thank you very much for everything you do. So the LORD MAYOR lied.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor CASSIDY—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Would you care to retract that last part?

Councillor CASSIDY: I don’t know. I’m not sure what the ruling will be after this but the LORD MAYOR did not tell the truth.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. During his speech, the LORD MAYOR said that I went to great lengths to cover up the truth. My issues in this Chamber have simply been to outline the Chair’s mandatory requirement to determine whether documents are confidential or not.

Chair: Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **310/2024-25**  It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Alex GIVNEY, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors locked.  Council stood adjourned at 3.28pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY on item C—on item A.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you. Just on item A, the surplus property disposal, now, what we have before us today, I am a bit confused with what the LORD MAYOR said about introducing this item and what it is before us today. The LORD MAYOR said a lot in his E&C introduction, a lot of things but not a lot on this one. What I did hear him say is that the State Government and Council are going through a process to identify land for use for housing. The land—and I understand there’s also some land that can be rezoned from industrial uses or former industrial uses to housing, but I’m not sure that that would be the intent of this item. I’m not overly familiar with it, but from talking with Councillor GRIFFITHS and Councillor KIM, who are very familiar with this site down that way between their 2 wards, that might be a very interesting use, to develop that specific site as an island amongst all this other industrial land as housing. So, I’m not sure.

The LORD MAYOR may have misspoke, but regardless of that, it is currently zoned as industrial land. We can see the plans attached to the E&C item state that the land was acquired and its industrial zoning retained and acquired because of the upgrade of Gooderham Road and Burman Road intersection back in 2019 and is surplus. So we understand that’s the process of which we’ve gone through in here over the last month or so and the disposal of a whole lot of residential land. So, that will now be converted, this one, to freehold and available for disposal once that is created. It’s an interesting one here, in that noting very close by the suburb of Pallara, particularly, is rapidly growing. You can see on the map that Council provided in the papers here today the rapid expansion of that suburb.

I think I’ve heard Councillor KIM say, if you go back 5 years, there was 500—were a couple of hundred people living there and now there are 3,000, I think, growing, probably more than that in that pocket of Pallara, particularly. There are a whole lot of infrastructure needs there. Obviously, there was a road upgrade ahead of some of that, but this land is now being disposed of as surplus to that, but there are a lot of needs inside that suburb there that Council has been lacking in terms of investment out there. We think there is potentially a great opportunity here in the sale and disposal of this land for funding vital infrastructure upgrades in the local community.

We don’t want to see—we know in reality what the LNP will want to do. They’ll want to sell this land for a confidential amount of money. We can’t talk about what the market value is of this because it’s been marked as commercial-in-confidence by the LNP. We know they want to sell this land to plug the massive black hole on the Metro bus project, on the Moggill Road project in Indooroopilly, on the green bridges projects and their massive blowouts on that. In total, well in excess of $1 billion of blowouts and massive delays on those inner-city projects. We heard from the LORD MAYOR—

The second thing he said about this is that it is the LNP’s intention to sell this land and return that money to consolidate a revenue so it can go back into paying for those blowouts, those external consultants, maybe all those marketing and comms firms that the LORD MAYOR issued a contract for millions of dollars’ worth just a few weeks ago. We don’t want to see money generated from this local community taken away to fund fixing the bad mistakes of this LNP LORD MAYOR and his inner-city projects. Council is obviously going through a process at the moment at an officer level of identifying land that is surplus to needs and, obviously, the first consideration we think should be around providing affordable housing and partnering with social housing providers where appropriate.

Again, where I started with all this, I’m not sure that this is one of those sites. It is an interesting sale, and what proceeds will come from that sale, given that this isn’t intended—well, not from the papers, anyway—to be a site for housing, like the LORD MAYOR said in his opening statements. It’s actually just a sale of land to generate an income to plug a massive black hole in the LORD MAYOR’s budget. Massive, massive black holes, as we will discuss in the items coming up here. We would reiterate our calls for Council to, instead of just identifying opportunities to sell land and make profits from that and return that to consolidated revenue to pay for massive cost overruns and cost blowouts on inner-city projects, actually look at this process through a lens of finding and building homes for people, rather than just using it as an exercise to generate an income for a regime that is getting more and more desperate by the day.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Chair, I rise to speak on Clause A in relation to the disposal of proposed lot 2, 275 and 285 Gooderham Road in Willawong. It’s unclear if the commercial‑in‑confidence amount received at the disposal of this land will be reinvested back into our suburbs. That’s what we on this side of the Chamber want to see. I know residents want to see how this Chamber is going to help them, and this clause means Council takes action nearby while turning a blind eye to problems just further down the same road. There are many questions unanswered on our side here today which we’re about to talk about. Given this clause was produced with no consultation with myself, Councillor GRIFFITHS and, by extension, all of our residents in Willawong and Pallara, and no report was produced in consultation with surrounding facilities such as Unidus and the Animal Welfare League, we’re left with many unanswered questions.

This disposal of land is at the border of the Moorooka and Calamvale Ward, and it is deeply frustrating that, while we are working with Council officers remotely on a variety of improvements to this area, there is a lack of communication from the LNP Chairs who are indicated to attend these E&C meetings with at least a heads-up verbally about how we could put our ideas together. That’s all that we ask for, just a heads-up. The E&C minutes state 6,644 square metres will be the lot for sale, including the closure of a road that is minuted as being no longer required and will be converted to freehold.

There are a few outstanding questions Councillor GRIFFITHS and my residents would like to have answered, including how many motorists use this road currently, how will the residents of Willawong and Pallara be informed of these changes through mailout and with early notice, will there be a closure at this intersection and for how long, given the state of progress and activity that happens at this end of the industrial zone, an entryway to Pallara and the lack of investment from this LNP Council that is evident as you travel down Gooderham Road, which then continues on to Ritchie Road, can residents expect further progress and upgrades from Brisbane City Council in this new financial year handed down by the LORD MAYOR?

I ask that the LNP Council strongly consider the residents’ requests to improve this road. If you’re willing to sell off this land, why don’t we consider improving this same road that motorists have been complaining to Council for years about? There are legitimate concerns regarding a lack of active travel, including the 2026 split campus model that means Pallara State School parents will be picking and dropping off school students from one end of Ritchie Road to the other, which connects to Gooderham Road, stated in this clause. To me, this commercial‑in‑confidence amount is what could significantly improve this area, the same area that I have been instructed to hold off for until developers pick up the tab and construct footpaths, despite the fact they’re for estates that were developed years ago.

The following amendment proposes a pledge that the LNP Council can support residents in Pallara and provide more to our area. If it’s not through these means, then there should be another. I move the following amendment to Clause A, surplus property disposal of proposed lot 2, 275 and 285 Gooderham Road, Willawong.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION REPORT CLAUSE A**

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| **311/2024-25**  It was moved by Councillor Emily KIM, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that Clause A – SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL OF PROPOSED LOT 2, 275 AND 285 GOODERHAM ROAD, WILLAWONG, of the report be amended as follows:  *Insert new point 9 which reads:*  *9. That the proceeds obtained from the disposal of proposed lot 2, 275 and 285 Gooderham Road will be reinvested to local infrastructure including upgrades on Ritchie Road, kerb and channelling, and footpaths.*  *Point 9 and point 10 are renumbered point 10 and point 11.*  *AND*  *In Attachment A, insert third point (iii) at the bottom of the draft resolution.*  *(iii) That the proceeds obtained from the disposal of proposed lot 2, 275 and 285 Gooderham Road will be reinvested to local infrastructure including upgrades on Ritchie Road, kerb and channelling, and footpaths.* |

Chair: Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. On the condition the funds obtained at the disposal of these lots can be reinvested into upgrading Ritchie Road, then that’s where our side of the Chamber can be in support of the substance brought before us in this motion today. However, as mentioned previously, there are still many questions unanswered and this amendment is quite self-explanatory.

I also wanted to put on record, in relation to this amendment, that we have done our homework and done the best that we can with the resources that we have been provided with Council. We have also used the Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF) on designs to include a traffic island in Ritchie Road and another design to connect a missing footpath link along Ritchie Road.

Recently, we upgraded a footpath for $40,000 in Parkinson, which is another suburb nearby, but I understand for any kind of construction remotely similar in Pallara, it’s going to cost significantly more, and one that a Suburban Enhancement Fund can’t afford. So, this is why we’ve brought up this amendment today. This is an opportunity to help us in Pallara. I sincerely hope we can work together with Council and see some bigger funding. We’re going to have the designs ready by next year, and I hope that the LORD MAYOR can extend his capital budget and be a helping hand to residents in Pallara who are deeply upset.

We do understand the limitations due to our current economy. However, in a cost‑of-living crisis like this and as a new Councillor, I hope progress can be achieved by taking a different approach. This really is a cry for help. I don’t understand how else we can really continue developing these footpaths. I’m quite concerned, given that legitimately, there will be 2 state campuses created on this road. Gooderham Road connects to Ritchie Road as you drive down. The street name just changes. So, to me, it’s quite interesting that this is happening. I would love a bit of a briefing from our Council Chairs or any kind of notice or more information about this one, hence why this amendment has been brought up today.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to support this motion, having represented Pallara before, but also representing part of this area in terms of Willawong. I’m really shocked that this has come to the Chamber without any briefing for myself or for Councillor KIM. I’m shocked by it, but I’m not surprised. The Administration is very biased in the way that they provide briefings and provide information to elected members. I am particularly disappointed once again in our executive team for not being unbiased in the way they’re providing information to elected members of this Chamber.

What we have here is a request for one, information, but we also have a request here for putting money back into the community. Pallara and Willawong are areas of high growth, high population growth, many new people moving into the community and they need support in terms of infrastructure. We keep seeing this oversupply of infrastructure in the inner-city, another green bridge, another major road being done. It’s constant buckets of gold pouring into the inner-city, and yet we see the suburbs miss out time and time again. Pallara is one of those areas that is missing out because of a real deficit of the provision of infrastructure by Council in this area.

I believe that this site is not suitable for housing, as seemed to have been indicated by the LORD MAYOR. My understanding is that this site is within the zone of Ace Waste, which is the burning of medical waste in Willawong. Ace Waste, there is a zone around that company that stops residential or childcare facilities being built because of the nature of the waste being burnt there. My understanding is this land would be suitable for industrial land, but I certainly support Councillor KIM in relation to the provision of the funding from the sale of this land directly dedicated for infrastructure and provision of infrastructure in Pallara and Willawong. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I just rise to speak on the amendment to item A that’s been proposed by Councillor KIM. Week after week, and we don’t hear it as much as we used to, but the LORD MAYOR says, ‘bring your ideas to the Chamber’. Now, that’s something that I’ve done for many years, and I note that that’s what Councillor KIM is doing with this amendment, as well. She has put forward a reasonable suggestion to see the proceeds of the sale of a section of land in an industrial area to be reinvested back into essential infrastructure, into a growing part of her community. This does strike me as a very good idea because we know that if something does get built on this block of land down the track, those infrastructure charges won’t necessarily go back into the local area. The LORD MAYOR puts them into consolidated revenue and that money funds projects in LNP wards.

So, I just want to congratulate Councillor KIM. I think it’s a very sensible amendment. I know the LORD MAYOR will be right behind it because it’s exactly the kind of local issue that he thinks this Chamber should be debating. I think it’s a good one, and I’ll support it.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, I too want to rise and talk to the amendment that Councillor KIM has put forward. She’s a champion for Pallara and she wants to see infrastructure go ahead in that suburb. It has been neglected for many years by the former Councillor for Calamvale and I know that the infrastructure is much needed there. You only have to look at Ritchie Road, which she talked about Ritchie Road a little bit, but it’s not all about Ritchie Road where this money could be well spent. Ritchie Road, of course, deserves some better bus stops. because we only had basic ones installed by the former Councillor. There was no sit down, there were no shelters, there was nothing. Anyways, of course, that kerb and channelling would do so well along Ritchie Road. It’s probably one of the more neglected roads right across Brisbane, actually. I was actually shocked that it was so close to a school.

This amendment, I think, goes a long way to try to address the shortfall in funding for Pallara that has been experienced for many, many years. I know when Councillor GRIFFITHS was the Councillor for this area, he was asking for this type of support and it just didn’t come. Then, when you lost it on a redistribution, a few things happened, but not a lot. It was all about the school, which was important, but there is so much more that needs to be done. I just commend Councillor KIM for bringing this amendment to the Chamber, and I hope that Councillors on all sides of this Chamber support this amendment because I think it is well thought-out and I think it’s very much needed. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. This is just extraordinary. The LNP can’t go off script and can’t think on their feet. You would think Councillor WINES would get up because he would know the area. He knows the issues that Councillor KIM has been raising and the community has for a long period of time.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, they haven’t had the preprepared notes. I get sometimes you have to have them, but this is not something that’s new. This is not something that’s new. This is something that Councillor KIM has been talking about since she was elected and for a long time before that. This is something that I spoke about in the Council Chamber when Councillor KIM was the Labor candidate out there, and the LNP Councillor at the time, Angela Owen, did nothing about. The Chamber knows full well the parlous state of Ritchie Road and surrounding streets there. We all remember those photos of that poor woman who was having to put her children into Ubers and taxis to get them to and from school because there were no bus stops there, but then had to wade through puddles because there was no kerbing and channelling to get to the road’s edge to get to the Uber or the taxi.

So, this Chamber is very well aware of the issues out there in Ritchie Road. I remember going to a public meeting out there, Councillor KIM was there and Councillor STRUNK, a few years ago to talk to residents about that, about their dissatisfaction with the LNP in that part of the world. This is a very sensible solution to it. There are, we could probably assume, millions of dollars going to be generated from the sale of this land, and the kinds of upgrades that Councillor KIM has talked about are the bread and butter of Council. It is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Well, yes. They can’t get fixing the Story Bridge right. Maybe they could get putting some kerbing and channelling in and some safe crossing points and some footpaths down a major local road in this community. We certainly hope from the LNP’s silence on this that they will be supporting Councillor KIM’s great amendment to this here. It’s very straightforward, very simple, but sends a very powerful message to that community. They’ve got a real champion in Council here fighting for them consistently, and not just towing the Civic Cabinet line and not just towing the instruction that they’re given from up high, like LNP Councillors are unfortunately in this place. I look forward to us all joining together and supporting this amendment today.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor KIM, right of reply.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I suppose I’d like to thank all the Councillors for their contribution today, but if there is one thing that I’d just like to end this with, it’s regardless of how the Council will vote on this matter, one thing that Councillor GRIFFITHS and I are very keen to look forward to is just a legitimate briefing about what’s going to go on with this project, if you decide to proceed with it. I think it’s really poor form to not provide us with any kind of briefing. It’s a reflection on how this Council treats residents in Pallara and Willawong. It’s all that we ask for, at bare minimum, and I think given the amount of work that we’re doing in these areas, the fact that we care about our residents and we want to be able to keep them posted about what happens in these Chambers, I think this is incredibly poor form that we’re getting blindsided by a simple motion that comes up just a couple days prior, and that’s all we know about it as local councillors.

Personally, I don’t think that’s good enough. If anything, I’m so relieved that there has been a change of councillor in this area, given I can only imagine that these things would just all of a sudden happen in the area, and none of us as local residents would have any clue what’s going on, let alone be told. I think it’s time that things change. I’d love to see a collaborative approach. I’ve brought this up today because I think it should be put on the record that we had no prior knowledge about this. It would be great to get a bit more communication going and, if we don’t get any more notice, I suppose the next step is to ramp up the community pressure to get all the local residents to contact the Chair, contact the Council to ask for more.

We’ve tried every other platform. If there are any other avenues that we can try, please let us know and we’ll give that a go, as well, but otherwise, we’re going to keep trying, keep bringing this up, like the LORD MAYOR instructed us to do when I first got elected in. Thank you.

Chair: We’ll now put the motion to the vote.

**Amendment put:**

The Chair put the motion for the amendment to Clause A of the Establishment and Coordination report to the Chamber resulting in it being declared **lost** on the voices.

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

The voting was as follows:

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

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

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

Chair: Further speakers on item A?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A, which seeks Council approval for the disposal of proposed lot 2, 275 and 285 Gooderham Road, Willawong. Madam Chair, there’s no conspiracy theory here, despite what members of the Opposition might think. Just like all levels of government, Council has a rolling program to review the land that we own to ensure our continued ownership is in the best interests of residents and our ratepayers. You see, by carefully managing the land that we own, we’re striking a balance, ensuring we don’t add unnecessary costs onto residents, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis. Now, Council owns 2 parcels of land at this location—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —that were impacted by the intersection upgrade in 2019.

Chair: One moment please, Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your—I didn’t think you were mentioned, no, your name.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Councillor CUNNINGHAM said Opposition Councillors who spoke, I was one of those, and said that I was talking about conspiracy theories. I claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Anyway, Madam Chair, the parcels of land are classified as industry, just to be clear. Following the completion of the intersection upgrade, one of the parcels has been reduced in size to accommodate a new road. Another road connection was closed as part of the intersection upgrade and is now being reclassified as freehold land. The road titling process is underway, which takes some time, and this will create a new lot by consolidating the closed road with the 2 existing Council lots. So, the total area, Madam Chair, is a proposed new lot of 6,644 square metres. I can confirm that any proceeds from the sale of surplus land does go back into funding future projects, Madam Chair.

I’d also just like to point out at this point in response to comments from Councillors from the Opposition, 89% of funding in the LORD MAYOR’s 2024- 25 budget is invested into our suburbs, and we look forward to considering any needs for upgrades in this area through the budget process, which is the appropriate way to consider any requests. I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY, your misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Chair. Councillor CUNNINGHAM claimed that me or Councillor KIM said there was a conspiracy theory around the sale of this land.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY—I mean, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: I don’t recall—I thought you denied Councillor CASSIDY.

Chair: No, Councillor WINES. No, I am allowing it—

Councillor WINES: I just appreciate that—

Chair: —as I have for others. Thank you.

Councillor WINES: —you do understand you can—

Chair: No, I can—

Councillor WINES: You don’t have to accept them all. Oh, right.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. What I said was, I was confused because the LORD MAYOR said this land was for housing, but the papers before us today said it was owned industrial and was being sold for—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, the LORD MAYOR said the State Government and Council are going through a process to identify land for housing. That’s what the LORD MAYOR said. The paper said something very different.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR, you’ll have a right of reply in a moment.

Councillor CASSIDY, finished?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly on item A. I just think that Councillor CUNNINGHAM’s response on this issue, she didn’t speak to the amendment itself but then stood up and spoke on the item. It was made very clear through what she said and what she did not say that there is no intention that this funding will be reinvested back into the local community, so there is no commitment to do that. It is disappointing to hear Councillor CUNNINGHAM say what is often said by the LNP, that they are investing money into the suburbs. We know they are doing that, but it’s all in LNP areas.

So, I think it is just a poor reflection on the finance Chair that she was unable to recognise a good initiative as proposed by Councillor KIM, and just plans to undertake the same old business-as-usual type operation, which is simply pork barrelling in LNP areas at the expense of other parts of Brisbane that are neglected, like my ward or Councillor KIM’s ward or Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward and others.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, I rise to speak on Clause A. I was interested when this came into the papers. I sat down with my ward advisor and we just had a look at this block of land. It’s a fairly sizable block of land. It’s one-and-a-half acres, and it’s quite a valuable piece of land, too, I believe. I think that whatever we are able to achieve from the sale is something that would be quite substantial. Now, if we have a look at this block going back to—and with newer maps, you can go back to 2009. It’s always interesting to have a look at how a block has transformed over the last almost, what, 15 years? Up until about 2 or 3 years ago, maybe 2 years ago, it was a fairly slight—there was a substantial biodiversity overlay of this block.

When the upgrade of the intersection happened, that biodiversity just disappeared. It just evaporated. Probably the excuse will say, ‘oh, we had to do that because of the intersection upgrade’. Well, I don’t see how that’s possible, but anyways, I don’t think we conform to even our own—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: We don’t, we don’t. We just—it’s there to be used as a tool when you want to use it. Certainly, there wasn’t any State Government overlays that I could see, but anyways, there were Council overlays on it. This block of land, which will achieve, I reckon, quite a lot of funding for the Council, you could use it for all sorts of different purposes, I suppose. It could even be a petrol station and a truck stop. There’s a lot of trucking that happens in and around, of course, as you can probably imagine. Also, you could also make it into light industrial impact business units, as well, which I have quite a number of those in Richlands which are very successful.

There’s plenty of room here to do all sorts of things with this particular block of land, and I’m sure whoever the new owner will be will want to obviously be able to develop it into something quite substantial. As you say, it’s got really—there’s a 2-road frontage, and the road that they closed down, which runs along the back of the triangle which has now been closed, it’s still in existence. The road’s still there, so it could be repurposed again for another road. Theoretically, you could have 3 roads right around the whole block for accessibility and any things you wanted to do with it. I just think it was quite an interesting look into what had happened with the block over the last 15 years.

The finance Chair of Council says, we’ll use that money on future projects. Well, can we believe that? Will we ever see it? Can we even find out where that money went? I think it’s a bit disingenuous to say something like that, as much as they probably believe it, but I think, like Councillor CASSIDY said, that the money will probably be used to pay down the debt for the blowouts and everything else that’s happened over the last 2 years, I suppose. It’s just sad that that the amendment that Councillor KIM put forward is not going to be realised. That money that’s going to come from the sale of this really valuable piece of land won’t be able to be used within the Pallara Ward or the Pallara suburb which is very much needed. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

No further speakers.

LORD MAYOR, right of reply.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Just briefly, there seems to be a lot of conjecture about what I said, so I’ll confirm what I said. Both the State Government and the Council and, in fact, other councils are looking at all our land holdings. This was an outcome of the housing taskforce that we were a part of in the previous government to look at all of the land holdings that we have to see if there’s land that’s suitable for housing. As part of that scan, we found this block, but it’s not suitable for housing. It’s zoned for industry, and so one of the reasons why we’re disposing of this surplus land. It’s not suitable for housing. It is an industrial block, but the search originally happened as part of our scan for land for housing that we might have.

You will remember recently we made a transfer of a house to Brisbane Housing Company as a result of that scan, and there’s been some other blocks of land identified that can be released into the private market to provide opportunities for new housing. This, as I said, is an industrial site, so it’s not suitable for housing.

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

**Clause A put**

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

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

Chair: We will now move to item B.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Just briefly, the item B is the contracts and tendering report for November. Two particular ones worth mentioning here are the new switchboard for the Garden City bus depot, as a result of the need to replace some aging equipment which has reached the end of its life, and also micro-tunnelling work for a stormwater project in New Farm Park to provide some additional drainage relief capacity to the southern end of New Farm. I commend this item to the Chamber.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. The contracts and tendering report before us today is the sum total of all of the work that this LNP regime have done for the entire month of November. The entire month of November’s work on the basics, on getting roads resurfaced, on drainage works, as we heard a little bit about just then, on all sorts of contracts to get playgrounds built, to get shade built around playgrounds, around Brisbane.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: They contract everything out. These reports give us an indication of the work ethic of the LORD MAYOR and the Chairs of Council. What do we have before us today in Clause B? Just 2 contracts, just 2 things. That’s all this LNP regime could muster up the strength to deliver in the month of November here in Brisbane. Now, we know why, because when you look at the item that’s coming up shortly, the next item, we get an understanding of the depth of the cuts to the basics out in the suburbs of Brisbane. Things that were announced just months ago or even just weeks ago are being cut in that item. The contracts are the bread-and-butter work of Council.

When the LORD MAYOR hands down his budget and has the attachment, that it’s now called, or the addendum, which is a Suburban Works Program, all of those things then are carried out by Council officers to go and engage external contractors to deliver those items. That’s what we see, the result of that work, the result of all of the funding that the LORD MAYOR allocates. Now, there used to be a reasonable amount of transparency because that was included in the budget, those lists of works, the Suburban Works Program was included in the budget and there was some level of accountability as to what was being delivered and what was not, as they were removed in quarterly reviews.

There’s no level of accountability and transparency when it comes to those items, so all we have to go on now is the work that Council undertakes in contracts and tendering, month in, month out to fund the works and to carry out the works that the LORD MAYOR apparently funded. All of those apparent billions of dollars he’s spending out in the suburbs of Brisbane, when you look at this, when you look at the contracts that are here, one is for a switchboard for the Garden City bus depot, electrical components, a single switchboard for a bus depot, and the other one is some micro-tunnelling for a stormwater drain at Elystan Road in New Farm.

Now, that’s important work, as we have seen over the last weekend here in Brisbane. We have seen massive amounts of flooding from—I get that there’s been up to 300 millimetres of rain through the entire month of November. There was about 100 millimetres falling on Sunday, and massive amounts of flooding in places in Brisbane that really didn’t expect it and shouldn’t have expected it, even places like in Milton where we saw backflow devices installed recently, and that has caused what looks like massive amounts of flooding because that fresh rainwater coming down from the sky isn’t able to get away, isn’t able to get away.

What is the response when all of these issues arise from the community, the massive amount of issues in drainage that were uncovered in the 2022 floods, and then a massive amount of rain in January this year, massive amount of rain over the weekend, and we’re seeing places flood over and over again? Some micro‑tunnelling for stormwater at Elystan Road in New Farm is all this regime could be bothered doing in the month of November. So, it’s great to see that level of investment, that occur, but what we need to see is a whole lot more. There are countless numbers of drainage projects that have been announced, reannounced, cut, reannounced by this LORD MAYOR.

What we have found out in the first quarter review that came last week or the week before, that there were just 2 drainage projects completed, just 2, just 2. I assume maybe this will probably be the one that is completed this quarter. In the first quarter of this financial year, 2 drainage projects completed across Brisbane, and we suspect this will be the one that they manage to complete. You get the LORD MAYOR and Councillor CUNNINGHAM stand up in here just moments ago, saying that they’re spending all this money out in the suburbs. They’re investing in hundreds, if not thousands of projects worth billions of dollars.

Well, the numbers don’t lie. Look at your own E&C report. I know they don’t spend long in E&C. I think the last one was 25 minutes or something. There was plenty of catering, no General Business, 25 minutes to discuss items, of which there was a few that came through, the latest minutes we’ve seen there. Obviously, LNP Chairs are not across the detail. Maybe it’s just the LORD MAYOR’s office is now—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —just instructing a tick and flick exercise, but the numbers don’t lie in the contracts and tendering report that’s before us today, that residents aren’t getting good value for money out of this regime. They are paying more, whether it’s through their rates, whether it’s through a pensioner tax on their rates bill, whether it’s through fees and charges being jacked up each and every year. We’re seeing less, less, and less being delivered in the suburbs of Brisbane. This is an absolute shambles of a Council led by this LORD MAYOR.

We know that Council officers work hard with what they’ve got, but can you imagine—I don’t reckon any of these LNP Chairs or the LORD MAYOR would actually have the conversation with Council officers who were instructed to start working on these projects that were ostensibly funded in the budget through the Suburban Works Program, and then weeks later cut, and then weeks later, more of them cut, and then weeks later, again today in this mid-year review, more of those things cut. It must be very demoralising to work in Council at the moment when, as Council officers, they’re required to do more with less staff, and then when they start to get ahead of steam on some of those projects, the rug gets completely pulled from underneath them.

The LORD MAYOR and these Chairs have the gall to get up here and say they care about Council staff, and apparently care more about Council staff than we do on this side of the Chamber. Well, the evidence wouldn’t suggest that, and these contracts today before us and other items we’re going to debate don’t suggest that, either. The facts do not lie.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak to the item before us today, the contracts and tendering, and to speak directly to the matter of the Elystan Road, New Farm drainage works. Now, I have to address some of the pieces of commentary made by Councillor CASSIDY directly. He has said that somehow, because there is only one item in this particular report, that the amount of drainage occurring in the city has somehow reduced. That is not correct. The vast majority of drainage projects delivered by the Brisbane City Council are delivered by in-house, full-time, permanent Brisbane City Council officers. Right now, I can tell you off the top of my head, we have projects active in the Ashgrove area and either still active or very near conclusion in the West End area, and they are both major works that are occurring at the moment.

Now, the other reason that you don’t see a lot of drainage works occur in wet season is because drains require it to be dry, because the drains themselves are a conveyance of stormwater. They require—if you are in the working pit doing up the drain, the drain is typically not functional through the wet season. So, we typically backend or frontend our drainage works. Most of the drainage works that Brisbane City Council delivers will be April, May, and June because that is historically drier than other parts of the year. Now, you typically don’t do a lot of drainage works in summer because you need the drains to work right, and so sometimes that is lost.

I think the actual functional way that our drainage system works is lost on some Councillors. I appreciate that Councillor CASSIDY doesn’t really understand the basics of a lot of what this Council does, and he concludes that matters if they—that this Council must only outsource its works. I assure he and all other Councillors that that is not the case. For example, as I said, underway, Frasers Road, Ashgrove; Naroo Street and Devonhill Street, The Gap; Mornington Street, Red Hill; Drury Street, West End; and then also this year that have been delivered, Oxley Terrace, Corinda; Blandford Street, Grange; and Smith Lane, Upper Brookfield.

I hear Councillor JOHNSTON interjecting, I assume it’s in support because it was to the benefit—a community project to the benefit of her residents and, as we heard earlier, she claims that never happens, but I can think of 3 this financial year that have been delivered for her community in spite of her protestations. That is but one more example of that. Now, the work we’re doing in Elystan Street in particular requires micro-tunnelling. However, a small portion of Elystan Street will be closed for that drainage work to occur. There will be detours in place, but they’ll be advised to that community in good time. I believe that that has begun.

Also, as part of this works, there will be some drainage works completed within New Farm Park, and there will be some areas within New Farm Park that will be used for stabling and that there will be works concluded in that area, we are hoping, in the early quarter—first quarter of next year. Now, I just have to take a moment to remind Councillors in the New Farm Park area, New Farm Park is the low area of the New Farm community, and it draws a lot of the drainage into that area. So, to get the water out of the households, the capacity into the park, which on some days operates as a drainage basin, the water has to be conveyed into the basin. So, that’s what this work speaks to.

As I said, this Council, the vast—I’ll say it again. I think it’s important to say this so that people understand. The vast majority of drainage construction by the Brisbane City Council is delivered by permanent Brisbane City Council crews. Sometimes work is required that requires material or technical machinery that we don’t possess, like micro-tunnelling. This contract speaks to our need to micro‑tunnel through that area to ensure that our effect on the local community is reduced and the work is done in an adequate and timely manner.

Another point I feel I must say again, we don’t typically do a lot of drainage work in the wet season because whatever drain we’re working on is no longer conveying water through that drain and often, through wet season, we need it to. So, we do the bulk of our drainage work in the dry season or in the fourth quarter of the financial year.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

I have called you Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh, sorry. I didn’t hear you at all. Thank you. I rise to speak briefly on item B. I’ll just start by saying I’ve been a Councillor here for 16 years, and I have never seen a contracts report come through with only 2 items in it. I am not surprised, to be honest, that this is what the LNP Administration have fallen to, this new low of failing to deliver for the community, but this reflects what is going on out there in Brisbane. The fact that there are only 2 projects being undertaken this month on anything—let’s put aside this one, there’s one on fixing a switchboard and the other one on a little bit of tunnelling in New Farm Park. There are no projects on anything else that this Council has entered into for the month of November.

Now, there’s plenty of things that are inside and dry that this Council could do, and it’s just shocking that this is a reflection of the LNP’s work ethic. It is a reflection of their leadership. The big problem here is that the LORD MAYOR has a dodgy budget that has failed to invest the funding needed into projects in the city. We know there were massive cuts last year, and his budget in June this year also made further cuts. We can see that starting to flow through in the budget now, because these projects that we presume are in there like—the CEO did eventually provide a list to most Councillors of the projects in the budget, so we presume they’re in there, but they’re just not coming through to Council through the procurement process.

So, it is a little bit surprising that there are only 2 items on here. I note the explanation given by the Infrastructure Chair that it’s usually done in the, the fourth quarter.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. It doesn’t really explain why we get to the third and fourth quarter of the year and all the drainage projects from the previous year roll over to the next year. Thanks for raising Oxley Terrace, Oxley, because that’s exactly what happened to that one. It was promised 2 years ago and they started it, and then it was supposed to be finished last year, so if that’s still going in 2025—

Councillor WINES: Point of order. Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim, Councillor.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it was in this year’s budget that that project was funded in.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, it was last year, and if it’s still going, that would be somewhat of a surprise to me. I guess the really interesting thing is, and I look forward to further debates on this, that Councillor WINES seems to think that these projects don’t keep rolling over, so the problem is their inability to deliver them. That’s fundamentally the problem, and that is reflected in the item before us today.

Chair: Councillor WINES, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor WINES: Yes, thanks, Madam Chair. As I stated in my comments, it was very clear that whatever projects occur in Tennyson Ward, Councillor JOHNSTON will criticise and attack regardless of their merit, regardless of whether they are—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor WINES: —to the benefit of her community or not. As I said in my statements, there were 3 quality—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Councillor WINES: —projects, all of which delivered—

Chair: Councillor WINES—

Councillor WINES: —in her—

Chair: —as I said to the other Councillors, point of misrepresentation, please make it brief and to the point. What was your point of misrepresentation?

Councillor WINES: My point is that Councillor JOHNSTON attacks all projects delivered in her community at all times, and finds fault with everything—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor WINES: —regardless to the benefit of her own community.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. Interesting times in the Chamber this afternoon. Anyways, I rise to speak on this item, Clause B. It’s quite interesting. Is it about—is it only having 2 contracts in here? Is it about what the Leader of the Opposition said, my leader, Councillor CASSIDY, said about cuts to the budget and to projects because of that? Or is it about work ethic, as Councillor JOHNSTON said, or is it just a strategy to delay bringing contracts into this Chamber so that we can debate them? Because we’re not going to sit until February, right? That’s a long way off. You’ve got December, January, February, so it’s 8 weeks away. Is it a strategy of doing that? We don’t know.

We don’t know but, and I agree with Councillor JOHNSTON in regards to, I’ve never seen 2 contracts only coming into contracts and tendering. I’ve seen maybe minimum 5, but I don’t think I’ve ever seen anywhere near as low as this, 2. Of course, the 2 that are here are, of course, worthwhile projects. Don’t get us wrong. We’re not saying anything along those lines, but the LORD MAYOR said, well, a lot of this work is done by internal Council officers in regards to drainage projects. Well, we don’t really know that because we don’t really get told of them. Now, the Infrastructure Chair has just listed about 7 of them right.

Now, we don’t know when they started, when they were proposed, when they were funded, how big the projects are. Are they very small projects that, let’s just say, can be undertaken by a Council team right or are they major projects that a number of teams have to undertake? We don’t know what the cost of those are and we don’t know where they are. We don’t know if they’re in my ward or Tennyson Ward or Moorooka Ward. We don’t know any of those, unless maybe there is some night work that’s going to happen and then we get notified of it, of course, so that we can let our residents know. Literally, for all of November, this is the only 2 contracts, which is phenomenal in itself.

Then, we’re not going to sit for another 8 weeks, and by that time, the delegates will make all the decisions. It won’t be anyone in this Chamber. It will just be all noted that this is what’s transpired. It’s a *fait accompli*, right? I just think it’s really sad to sort of see this amount of work ethic, as Councillor JOHNSTON said, and maybe it is very reflective of the fact that the budget cuts are really cutting into contracts and tendering, so that a lot of the projects that should go ahead, we just don’t have the money anymore. It’s been spent on rolled gold projects that yes, you can make a case for, but you’ve got to do the basics. We’re in River City here. We’ve got to do more with the flood mitigation, because I don’t think it’s going to be 10 years before the next one. God forbid right, because you don’t want anyone to have to go through that.

We’ve got to do everything we possibly can to mitigate that flooding over land and through creeks and through the river as best we can for the resources that we have. I just think it’s really sad to only see one micro project here, and I don’t know what that project looks like. I don’t know how big that micro drain is going to be or pipe or whatever, but anyways—and maybe it should have been able to be done by internal Council officers or workers. It’s micro, so maybe we should be doing it instead of contracting it out. It would probably be a lot cheaper and employ probably some good full-time staff, as well. Thank you, Chair. I’ll finish my comments there.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item B, and I’m a bit shocked by this report coming to the Chamber in the last meeting of 2024. I’m really disturbed by this report and disturbed by the argument I’ve heard today. It reflects the very little leadership that is shown in this Chamber or by this LNP Administration, and even less so for me, their lack of concern for residents, genuine concern for residents. I note here that Rocklea is not getting anything. We heard the LORD MAYOR say today, well, Rocklea floods. It’s one of the lowest points in the city and it floods, so people should expect to flood.

Well, New Farm Park is being well looked after here, LORD MAYOR, with this particular project. I haven’t seen one public meeting, you at one public meeting there. I haven’t seen you do any media there. I haven’t seen you speak or respond to residents there, but they’re getting the attention. They’re getting the attention and Rocklea is ignored. Rocklea has the worst flooding in Brisbane. It has it continually. I’ve sent you messages, LORD MAYOR—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —with pictures about Rocklea.

Chair: Point of order—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Here we go.

Chair: —DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Relevance to the report. This is a General Business speech, not a contracts and tendering debate.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR. If you can come back—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Actually—

Chair: —to the actual report, please.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Well, just wait a—

Chair: Councillor Massey.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I am about to get to it. We’ve heard about—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —Upper Brookfield, we’ve heard about Red Hill, we’ve heard about The Gap, heard about Ashgrove, and heard about West End. So, I’m talking about Rocklea. Rocklea has missed out. Rocklea has missed out. You know that residents have really suffered at Rocklea.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I think Councillor GRIFFITHS just reiterated Rocklea is not in the report.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, it isn’t in the report and it should be in the report.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I do ask you to come back to the contracts and—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Oh, I’ll just raise—Upper Brookfield isn’t in the report.

Chair: Councillor, I’m speaking. I’m speaking.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m just saying, you haven’t pulled them up.

Chair: Don’t while I’m speaking.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: You haven’t pulled them up.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m just saying.

Chair: I warn you. It is not in this report, which is about contracts accepted by the delegate, so please come back to item B.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, you allowed Councillor WINES to speak about numerous areas, including Ashgrove, Red Hill, Oxley, The Gap, and you did not rule—West End not in the report—and you did not rule his speech out of order. So, why are you applying—

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: —a different standard to Councillor GRIFFITHS?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Oh, absolutely.

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

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION OF DISSENT**

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| **312/2024-25**  Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.  Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent was declared **lost** on the voices. |

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’ll keep going with my speech. Residents across the city are missing out and residents in the worst affected flood areas of the city are missing out under this LNP Administration. What do we know about full residents? With 20 years of LNP Administration in the city, we know flooding has never been worse across the city and we know that more people than ever have been have affected by flooding. We know that this Council has no plan for flooding, no plan for our waterways, despite repeated requests for this Administration’s—LNP Administration to transparently list—let’s list all the flood work, all the flood mitigation work that needs to be done so that resident aren’t impacted by flooding.

But no, do we see that? No. What we see is time and time again, this biased, biased Administration bringing through work that’s benefitting their own wards, benefitting LNP wards, and not giving crap about the residents in other areas of the city, not worrying about them at all. Madam Chair, this is not good enough. This is bad for the City of Brisbane. This is bad for our residents. I know my residents want to speak to you, LORD MAYOR, but when they’ve tried to speak to you, you’ve been either in Egypt or Switzerland on some first-class junket and haven’t been able to come and meet with them. They are really annoyed and really upset that their homes flood, that their homes are affected by—their roads flood, their areas flood, they’re very stressed with that, and this Council has chosen to do nothing about it. This LNP Administration has chosen to do nothing about it, and the blame sits squarely at your feet.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

LORD MAYOR, right of reply.

LORD MAYOR: Well, now I’ve heard it all.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I remember—it’s not about you, Councillor GRIFFITHS. As much as you want to make it about you, it’s not about you.

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

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I’ve asked you to stop calling out while another speaker is—

*Councillors interjecting.*

**ORDER – COUNCILLOR STEVE GRIFFITHS**

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| 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: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Now, Councillor GRIFFITHS, it is really clear to me now that we’re seeing a really cynical exercise being pursued here, one where Councillor GRIFFITHS seems to be promising that there’s a simple fix to flooding in his area, and it’s only if the Council would do this or that, then flooding would not be a problem. We know that that is false—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —and when we see—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: When we see these types of claims and this type of politics being played, people rightly become cynical because it is an area where we’ve seen, for example, the Federal Government and the State Government investing heavily in buying up houses throughout the Rocklea area, throughout Councillor GRIFFITHS’ area. Why? Because a drain won’t fix it. Drainage works won’t fix it. There’s been an acknowledgement that the houses have to be moved from that area because they will continue to flood. So, the type of politics that Councillor GRIFFITHS is playing is cynical, and I would expect better from someone that represents an area where, rather than trying to offer false hope and play political games, he should actually be serious and upfront with the residents about what’s achievable and what’s not, about what certain projects will deliver and what’s not.

I’ll move back to the report here, and as I said, I thought I’d seen everything, but it’s quite clear that there’s a deliberate filibustering going on here from the Labor team. I’ve never seen them talk more on contracts and tendering, but you know what they usually say? They usually say, it’s an outrage that the Council is outsourcing so much work. Today, it’s like it’s an outrage that we’re outsourcing so little work. It is extraordinary the way that they can backflip. Cirque du Soleil, Councillor CASSIDY, put your application in—through you, Madam Chair—

Chair: Thank you

LORD MAYOR: —to Cirque du Soleil. We have a new trapeze artist, the new backflip king, because you come in here time and time again, month after month, saying none of this work should be contracted out, Council should be doing it in-house, and then this time, a complete reversal of position. Oh, not enough is being outsourced. Not enough is being contracted out. You’re not doing anything. As Councillor WINES pointed out, there’s an incredible amount of work that’s being done by Council officers, by our teams internally, and Council continues to provide the backbone of so much work—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —that occurs across this city.

Chair: Stop calling out, Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: To be clear, Labor is saying that we’re not contracting out enough work. In the month of November, Labor is saying we haven’t contracted out enough work. That’s what’s been going—that’s what they’ve just wasted 40 minutes saying, where they all got up with their preprepared speeches designed to filibuster and waste time.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Just on relevance, I thought the LORD MAYOR was summing up contracts and tendering. He seems very upset that Councillors are exercising a democratic right to debate items. This is, in fact, the only forum we have.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: I don’t think we were contained in the report.

Chair: No, Councillor CASSIDY, the LORD MAYOR has a right of reply and he’s doing that.

LORD MAYOR: I just thought it was quite extraordinary because it was quite clear that, in Councillor CASSIDY’s preprepared speech—and I do believe that he practiced in front of the mirror for that one—he really worked himself up. He went red. He got really angry. He believes he’s a great orator—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —and made a great contribution here.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: On relevance, descending into cheap personal insults is just—

Chair: Councillor, that is the same—

Councillor COLLIER: —absolutely ridiculous.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: At least the—thank you. At least the LORD MAYOR is the one on his feet and having—excuse me. Councillors, you both have the ability to have your say and when you are on your feet, I call up other people if they interject, which is what you are doing.

*Councillor interjecting.*

**ORDER – COUNCILLOR LUCY COLLIER**

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

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Will you be reprimanding the LORD MAYOR for abusing Councillor COLLIER and screaming at her just now, and Councillor HOWARD and the DEPUTY MAYOR?

Chair: I have just told all Councillors, and you can check the minutes later, to stop talking and calling out across the Chamber.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION OF DISSENT**

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| **313/2024-25**  Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, that the Chair’s ruling be dissented from.  Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion of dissent was declared **lost** on the voices. |

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 17 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

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

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Excuse me, Madam—point of order.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I just had a point of order in relation to the MAYOR’s speech. I’d just like to correct, I just want to make it really clear that I’ve never said to residents that drainage work down in Rocklea will totally solve the problem of flooding, never ever.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS, but I hadn’t called for your misrep yet because the LORD MAYOR hadn’t actually finished.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: That’s okay. I know it seemed a long time because of everything that was going on. LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, twice during that division, the DEPUTY MAYOR approached you while you were in the Chair, encouraging you to call for—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair. Claim to be misrepresented.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Continue, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillors.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, that was Councillor ADAMS loudly interjecting. When you say Councillors, you’ve got to actually mention Councillor ADAMS, you know. So Madam Chairman, twice during that division, Councillor ADAMS approached you in this place while you were chairing the meeting and advised you that there should be a 15 minute adjournment. Madam Chairman, that is inappropriate conduct to do that. It is completely improper for her to be suggesting what you do. You admonish others when they do it. It is absolutely wrong that she do that and she has denied that she’s done it twice now, Madam Chairman. Will you take action against the DEPUTY MAYOR for her behaviour in the Chamber?

Chair: It is not a point of order and many people are having conversations in this Chamber, so I don’t uphold your point of order.

Misrepresentation—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: —DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’ll say it for a third time in the Chamber so she can listen perfectly. I said, feel free to call on me for an adjournment, Madam Chair, for 15 minutes if you’d like them to settle down.

Chair: We’ll come back now to the LORD MAYOR’s right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, I am concerned by your statements that you are regularly approached in the Chamber with issues that are raised. I am concerned that people are instructing you outside of the ordinary point of order process, as the DEPUTY MAYOR attempted to do. Madam Chairman, can you—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Just one point of order at a time, and we are listening to Councillor JOHNSTON’s point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, can you confirm that you are not being influenced in the chairing of this meeting by others outside of the formal process of raising a point of order?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I am chairing the meeting, so I am responsible for those decisions or what is going on, and I will pull people up if I feel I need to, so I don’t uphold your point of order.

We had a point of order from—do we have one from the—okay, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. I just had a point of order relevant to the discussion that has just been occurring about people approaching the Chair. I witnessed Councillor JOHNSTON approach you twice in what I would call an unnecessarily hostile manner, one that I would view as unworthy of this place. I seek a consideration by you to reflect upon her conduct and her unnecessary aggression toward you at that time.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES, but as I just said to Councillor JOHNSTON, I will decide and make that decision myself.

LORD MAYOR, right of reply?

We’ll now put that to the vote. We’ll now put item B to the vote.

**Clause B put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 15 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Julia DIXON, Alex GIVNEY, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Nicole JOHNSTON.

ABSTENTIONS: 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.

Chair: Councillors, we’ll now move to item C.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Item C is the mid-year budget review, and we’re working very carefully on an ongoing basis to manage the costs and expenditure in our budget to make sure we can keep the budget balanced. We can keep delivering the things that are essential for the people of Brisbane, not only to keep the city ticking along, but also the infrastructure that’s required for the future. We absolutely continue to do that on an ongoing basis. We heard earlier today commentary on the Labor Party’s or the Labor Opposition’s outrage that we were rightsizing the organisation by not necessarily filling a position when someone leaves the organisation, as though that were some kind of major problem.

We made it very clear that there would be no forced redundancies, and that the permanent employees of Council can be aware that their role and their work with Council is safe. We said we would look at consultancies and contractors, which we did. By extension, it’s also sensible and responsible that, if we’re going to change the size of the organisation to manage expenditure and keep the budget balanced, that we would do so in a measured and responsible manner. Rather than letting people go, if someone leaves the organisation, we ask the question, well, what’s the optimum size of that unit or this organisation going forward? That’s the type of thing we’ve been doing to make sure that in a measured, sensible, and planned way, we’ve been able to reduce the expenditure of the organisation significantly.

We’ve also been able to make sure that Council has a responsible headcount without seeing people out the door. That is the right way to do things, and it’s quite extraordinary that Labor thinks this is somehow outrageous or inappropriate. If someone leaves the organisation by their own choice, absolutely, management should ask the question, well, what’s the optimum arrangement going forward and how can we look at things to make sure we are keeping the budget balanced, delivering the services that are required. This is just one example of how we’ve been managing costs and keeping the budget balanced.

All of this is contrary to what Labor Councillors believe. All of this is what they campaigned against at the election when their vote went down to 26% across the city, but the reality is, the people of Brisbane support responsible financial management. That is exactly what we’ve been doing, and we continue to do that. The reality is that the pressures aren’t magically gone now. There are still inflationary pressures. We’ve been told, for example, that Australia cannot expect inflation to return to sustainable levels between 2-3% until 2026. So, despite all the commitments and promises at the Federal Government level, inflation will not be down to its normal levels until 2026 is now the current prediction.

That means we need to continue managing costs. We need to continue controlling expenditure to make sure we keep the budget balanced, because there are still cost pressures on this organisation. These statements and the budget review that’s coming through includes the continued massive investment that we’re making in infrastructure of around $1 billion. It includes also some positive news, as well. This budget review is the first financial statement that includes the additional funding that we were able to win in our negotiation with the State Government for public transport.

Now, historically, the State Government has funded public transport in Brisbane 80% with Council putting in 20%. Over the years, the State Government has, I guess, squibbed their responsibility, and it’s now closer to 60% State Government funding, 40% Council funding. It went from 80-20 with the State Government paying 80%, 20% Council, to now around 60-40 with Council putting in 40%. We’ve effectively doubled our contribution to public transport. So, what’s happened is this. We continue to invest at the higher level, but we’ve got the State to top up their investment.

That’s starting to flow through and that is a good thing, because it means we can deliver improved services. We can roll out the Metro and the new bus network, and that’s starting to flow through in these budget statements, as well. Last year, we were especially focused on making sensible savings. We were very upfront with people about the need to do that. I say again, we need to continue to monitor this very closely while inflation is high, and while there’s pressures on inflation and the Council budget, and we’ll continue to do the responsible thing.

The update also includes the recovery of some Council costs from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, or the QRA, in response to work that has been done since the 2022 floods. Now, sometimes this money is paid after we’ve done the work, and so we’ve been progressively following up to get as much as we possibly can reimbursed through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, acknowledging though that Council was around $300 million-plus out of pocket as a result of the 2022 flood. Overall, this budget update sees an increase in the net result for 2024-25 of 21.3 million. We’ll continue to make sensible savings to help balance the budget and keep downward pressure on rates and rents.

I also want to thank and pay tribute to Councillor CUNNINGHAM and the finance team, the budget team that have been continuing to work to make sure that we manage and control expenditure and expenses so we can keep the budget balanced. Once again, our approach has been consistent, and in this budget review, we’ve maintained that financial discipline and we will do so going forward.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on Clause C, the mid-year review, which is a new thing. It used to be a second quarter. It used to be called a second quarter review. Now it’s called a mid-year review. It was interesting to listen to the LORD MAYOR speak with a forked tongue just now when it comes to Council workers. I was really proud to, just last week, stand with representatives from unions who represent thousands of Council workers at the front of City Hall last week, discussing the disappointing—to say the least, that’s a nice way of saying—disappointing wage offer and redundancy offer that this LNP regime was making to Council staff. We were raising concerns about reducing those redundancy payments.

We should be worried. We should have been worried then, and we should be very worried now because the LORD MAYOR said, and I quote—this is just now—how do we “change the size of the organisation” to reflect cost pressures when it comes to staff? That was the LORD MAYOR’s quote just now. There is, in the papers before us today in black and white, in this financial year alone, a $56.6 million cut in employee costs. If you look in the forward estimates here in 2025-26 through to 2027-28, there’s almost $120 million in employee cuts over the next 4 years, well, next 3 years, anyway.

We discovered in recent weeks, Chair, that there are 30 fewer staff working in libraries than there were 2 years ago. Now, the LORD MAYOR has claimed that as a librarian leaves the organisation, they were needed 2 years ago. Apparently, 30 of them are not needed in 2024, at the end of 2024. I don’t understand why, when the LORD MAYOR talks about changing the size of the organisation to reflect cost pressures, he doesn’t make cuts to major inner-city projects. He is now clearly belling the cat and he is saying that the savings are going to be made in reducing the size of Council’s workforce and offering them a pathetic wage increase, and attacking workers’ redundancy entitlements.

We know that projects have been so badly mismanaged, budgets have been blown so much, that has put Council into—well, not Council, I should say the people of Brisbane, the ratepayers of Brisbane, into huge debt levels that they’re now—this LNP regime is taking that out on Council staff. Now, since Council’s budget was released in June, debt has grown by $44.4 million, which is now sitting at almost $6.3 billion. $6.3 billion, and just think about what do we have to show for that? We’ve got the Metro bus project, which launched and then didn’t, and is now having some sort of stage launch.

The LORD MAYOR described it as a new launch date, a new launch date next year, but on *9News* the other night, it was described as a new trial. Another trial is how it was described on *9News* the other night. So, the first rollout on whatever they’re calling it, M2, is apparently actually a trial, not the firm launch in January, late January next year. Then, we hear that there are more delays with the Adelaide Street tunnel and infrastructure upgrades right throughout the busway network, which will delay the opening of the Metro until late next year. So, we know that that’s what we’ve got to show for those billions of dollars, a project that is late and that is massively over budget.

When it comes to things like congestion in the suburbs of Brisbane, when it comes to things like investing in suburban upgrades out there on Ritchie Road, when it comes to things like investing in drainage, what do we have to show for the $6.3 billion in debt that has been amassed largely on this LORD MAYOR’s watch? There’s the green bridge at Kangaroo Point, which is $100 million over budget. That’s something to show for it. The Metro bus project, as I said. The Moggill Road project will be something to show for that $6.3 billion, but what about the 187 other suburbs in Brisbane? What about everybody else?

Now, we’re seeing in these papers before us today, Chair, some improvements to revenue in this mid-year review. That is entirely thanks to the former Labor State Government bailing this Council out when it came to that bus deal. Councillor MURPHY giggles away, but the only increase in revenue we’re seeing here, which is offsetting some of these massive increases in cost blowouts and debt, is public transport funding from the Labor State Government, the bus funding deal and some Reconstruction Authority flood recovery works, as well. On those 2 items, which are positive revenue coming from the State Government, all we hear from this LNP regime is blaming and complaining.

Now, what we know about the Metro and the massive cost blowouts, of course, is that that budget first flagged was 944 million. We’ve heard last week, I think it was, it’s now up to 1.55 billion. We have no real idea, even if you listen very carefully to everything the LORD MAYOR said in today’s meeting, we have no idea when it’s actually going to start fully. The people of Brisbane have no idea when those 3-minute intervals are going to be available on the busway network with these Metro buses, given because the start dates are so rubbery with these new Metro services. We find out how many Metro buses are actually in the country, 30-something, 30-something out of the 60, so it was never going to be launched this year. It was supposed to be launched last year. Anyway, we know where we’re at with that one, sort of, and that is continuing to evolve.

We know the LORD MAYOR likes to play politics and he sat on the damage caused on his watch to the Story Bridge for so long, just to try and score some political points, to just raise this around the corner from a Federal election to try and get $4.5 million out of the Federal Government, and as if to say that there was some sort of special request that was put in, and it’s all on the Federal Government whether they approve that funding or not. Well, in reality, what we actually know is that was a standard funding application process that happens each and every year that Councils can apply for to get funding for these types of projects.

Now, the LORD MAYOR knew apparently that there was extensive damage to the bridge. We heard from Councillor WINES earlier how much work over the last 5 years had been done to rip up the road surface and peel back decades and decades of lead-based paint. Why did they wait this long? Why did they wait this long if it wasn’t, one, that they’re entirely broke and they’ve made the people of Brisbane through their Council entirely broke, or 2, because they’re trying to play political games? Whenever the budget starts to look rough, the LORD MAYOR points a finger at everyone else, but the figures do not lie.

Further down in the report, the budget report we have before us today is that we see Councillors saving money on the cost of the Victoria Park Catalyst Works. So they’ve delayed their centrepiece park project, the Victoria Park project, now. They’ve delayed that and they’ve put some clever words and clever accounting in there to make it seem like that’s a rephase project, but obviously, we know really what’s going on there because the LORD MAYOR is so desperate to see a stadium built in Victoria Park, despite it being ruled out by anyone and everyone that has asked about it, apart from the LORD MAYOR.

So they’re absolutely desperate to see that work that we are now seeing a delay to the Victoria Park project, which was the LNP’s centrepiece when it comes to park investment, apparently. So, they’re not investing enough in suburban parks. They drew all that money out of suburban parks to spend it in Victoria Park, but now we are seeing a situation where Victoria Park is not even going ahead. All those early catalyst works are being delayed. In the Future Brisbane program, we see a $3.5 million cut to the newly named and the newly introduced Better Suburbs – Places and Spaces project. This is one that replaced the Village Precincts Project, which is now called Better Places and Spaces project. We know that—evidence suggests to us, you don’t have to look far, that the LNP don’t really care about the suburbs of Brisbane. They made that crystal clear in all the decisions they make in this place and particularly through this mid-year budget review. The Better Suburbs program was supposed to be—it was a very small amount of money, but supposed to be about enhancing public spaces and improving our neighbourhoods through footpath and kerb upgrades, greenspaces, street furniture, and connectivity. This year alone, it is being reduced by $3.5 million and almost $1 million into the next year, as well. So, there’s one project underway in Nundah at the moment, but now there are question marks over future proposed projects in Stafford, in Wynnum, in Indooroopilly and in Salisbury. It’s nice that the responsible Chair for this program area could get one funded in his own ward, but then he’s cut everyone else loose entirely. Another decrease we’ve seen—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

**314/2024-25**

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

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. We see in this review here that there is massive decreases in library funding. I mentioned earlier in my remarks that we have now discovered, through Questions on Notice, 30 fewer library staff. I’m not talking about staff that work in Library Services broadly in Council as a whole, that have something to do with library services. I’m talking about staff that work in our libraries. I know now from my own local experience that, when a Team Leader at Zillmere Library has gone on leave, the Team Leader from Sandgate is just filling that job. There’s not someone else brought in to fulfil that job. It’s just a Team Leader from the closest library has to be 2 Team Leaders now, 2 Team Leaders, but the LORD MAYOR thinks that’s okay when he says that this is just about changing the size of the organisation to reflect cost pressures.

He doesn’t talk about service delivery. He doesn’t talk about providing services to the people of Brisbane, but what we see in here is not just cuts to programs and staff, but also giving less money for libraries overall. We see that in terms of collections, whether that be digital assets, whether that be books. Libraries are going to be less and less a space where people go and feel supported by Council and by librarians and library staff because there simply aren’t enough of them, because Council won’t employ them. The LNP won’t employ new library staff because, as those experienced librarians and library staff are exiting Council, they are not being replaced. That’s not something that we are making up. That’s something that’s in the Questions on Notice before us today, quite incredibly.

Just on staff, too, and we heard this before so we asked some questions about this, so we heard from the LORD MAYOR that he wants to change the size of the organisation. We know that the LORD MAYOR on his—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: This is verbatim, yes. So, on his watch so far in the last 12 months, we’ve seen 572 separations, 572 separations from Council, and 99 people have been recruited to Council. Now, the LORD MAYOR wants to find savings. Now, over the last 12 months, we have seen cuts to projects left, right and centre. I’ve seen cuts to pedestrian safety upgrades in my own ward where zebra crossings were to be raised, then that’s no longer happening. We see park upgrades, drainage projects be carried over from year to year, and that expenditure not occurring. I think the LORD MAYOR and Councillor CUNNINGHAM and LNP Councillors have found—I’m sure they can find more to cut, but they’ve found as much as they can in terms of simple suburban projects and now they’re going after staff.

Now they’re reducing the size of Council’s staff, 572 separations, including 196 from Transport for Brisbane, 35 from City Planning and Sustainability, the very staff that we need on deck to help us as a Council to address the housing crisis here in Brisbane, 84 separations in Lifestyle and Community Services, 167 in Brisbane Infrastructure, 18 in City Administration and 72 in Organisational Services.

The 167 who have left Brisbane Infrastructure have only been replaced by 35 staff. Now I know from experience that the hundreds and hundreds of open rolling cases that TPO and TNO offices are working on, on the northside of Brisbane, let alone in other regions of which they are located, is growing at a rapid an exponential rate but there are less staff working on those issues year after year after year. Now I could see this occurring in my own ward, I could see staff not being there and not being able to do the work they desperately want to because they are absolutely swamped and this confirms it now, on Councillor WINES’ and the LORD MAYOR’s watch, 167 Brisbane Infrastructure staff have left Council in the last year and only 35 have been recruited to replace them.

So people who pay their rates are paying more, but they’re getting less and we were decried by the LNP months ago, earlier this year, when we said that Council staff are increasingly doing more work but not getting paid for it. It turns out that is 100% true. So the workload is not decreasing, the workload on these Council officers isn’t decreasing, it’s just their colleagues are. So almost 500, a net loss of almost 500 staff over the last 12 months, of course we’re going to be seeing massive cuts to employee costs when the LORD MAYOR offers them a subpar pay increase when he attacks their redundancy entitlements and we know that, for instance, one of those librarians who are leaving Council, say they had 20 years of experience in Council and were made redundant by this regime, if their redundancy offer got up that they’re offering at the moment, that person would lose $50,000 in entitlements when they exited Council. That’s a lot of money.

So we can see in the papers before us today, as I said, I don’t want to get my numbers wrong here, a $56 million reduction in employee costs this year, a $120 million reduction in employee costs over the next 3 years, means only one thing. Staff are going to get paid less, there’s going to be less of them and they will have less entitlements. Now the LORD MAYOR had the gall to stand up before and claim that we don’t have the backs of workers, that we don’t thank workers. If that’s the thanks that our Council workers get from you people, that is not much thanks, is it? When those workers were listening along and there are Council officers, sometimes there’s hundreds of them that listen along to these meetings, mostly Council officers, mostly Council officers who listen to this meeting, we hear you.

We know, we can see here the damage that is done by the political decisions of Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM and LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER in every one of those LNP Chairs. We can see the damage that is being done to the Council organisation by their political decisions, by ripping $120 million worth of Council staff out of Council over the next 3 years. So we know there’s cuts to projects, we know now there’s cuts to Council staff, which means more cuts to Council services. How could they possibly bring back the First 5 Forever program when they cut 30 staff? Even if they got the funding that they claim is missing from the State Government, of which I don’t think they asked for from the incoming LNP State Government, even if they got all that, they couldn’t possibly deliver the projects and the services that people expect in the suburbs of Brisbane because they are gutting Council’s workforce.

They are gutting Council’s workforce, they are seeking to divide it, to demoralise it and to control it. This is the LNP way. They are the same at every level of government. They’re not in this to deliver for the people of Brisbane. They’re not in this to provide great and secure and well-paid jobs for workers. They are only in this for themselves and that’s what these papers before us today shows us. This is a disgusting approach that after 20-something years of LNP rule, will do to an organisation and people are noticing. Workers are feeling the most demoralised they ever have in Brisbane City Council, people out in the suburbs are noticing the decisions that this LNP regime are making and the LORD MAYOR can get up and say that he reigns supreme because he was re-elected in March this year and he feels like he is entirely untouchable.

But despite them acting like a regime, we are democratically elected to represent the views of our communities and I just really wish LNP Councillors would stand up to the bullyboy tactics of this LORD MAYOR and represent their communities.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Yes thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item C, the mid-year review. Our focus is and always will be on maintaining a balanced budget so that we can keep costs down for the residents of Brisbane. You can do that one of 2 ways, Madam Chair, as I see it. You can take the approach of a Green-Labor coalition of chaos, which would make $3.5 billion worth of unfunded election commitments and deliver a budget black hole that could have only been filled by massive rate rises, the likes of which we haven’t seen they were in office last time. Or, alternatively, you can do what we did, take a sensible approach and manage expenses carefully in an environment where the cost of nearly everything has risen dramatically over the past few years.

This was the approach that we were upfront with residents about last year and the plan that the residents of Brisbane have endorsed at the election. This year’s budget was honouring that commitment, Madam Chair. It was about living within our means and keeping our costs down, so we don’t have to pass on costs to residents. By making sensible savings to keep the budget balanced, we’ve been able to reduce the burden on households. We’ve done just that. The mid-year budget review before us today shows that our plan is working, despite continuing economic impacts and competitive market conditions that continue to impact Council’s operations.

As the LORD MAYOR has said, the Reserve Bank Australia is not expecting inflation to sustainably return to its 2% to 3% target until 2026, proving underlying inflation is still persistent and global tensions continue to impact energy and commodity markets. Despite these challenges, we’ve kept our budget balanced, while ensuring Brisbane owner-occupiers pay the cheapest residential rates in South East Queensland. Today’s mid-year review does show some updates since the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —handing down of the budget in June.

Chair: Sorry, Councillor CUNNINGHAM. Point of order—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Do you want—you need to press your microphone.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you need to press your microphone.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair. Revenue has decreased by $32.6 million, mainly due to the accounting treatment of land sales the Councillors will recall seen coming through the Chamber at our previous sittings. The revenue adjustment is required to correctly reflect the accounting treatment from a capital revenue perspective. We also start to see the flow through of revenue from the State to better fund Brisbane’s bus network and to keep our—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: —cities moving.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Today’s—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You have a positive obligation to maintain a quorum in this place and there is no quorum.

*At 5.40pm, the Chair advised the Chamber that a quorum was no longer present and directed that the divisional bells be rung.*

Chair: Councillors, as we do not have a quorum, as per section 32 of the Meetings Local Law, the meeting, it will be adjourned until the next ordinary meeting of Councillors. Merry Christmas. Stay safe.

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

## SECOND DAY – Tuesday 4 February 2025

Chair: Councillors, we now resume the adjourned meeting of 3 December 2024. Debate resumes at Clause C of the Establishment and Coordination report of 25 November 2024, taken seriatim for debate and voting. Councillors who have already spoken are the LORD MAYOR and Councillor CASSIDY. There is 42 minutes left for debate of reports. Councillor CUNNINGHAM, you have 2 minutes and 14 seconds remaining for your debate.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to continue my remarks on the mid-year review. Before we adjourned, I was saying that in this review, we start to see the flow through of revenue from the state to better fund Brisbane’s bus network and to keep out city moving. We can roll out the Metro and the new bus network and that’s starting to flow through with these budget statements. We also see some recovery of costs from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority in response to the clean-up following the 2022 floods.

Now, regarding debt, Madam Chair. The Leader of the Opposition—and I will quote on this—stated that debt is now “sitting at almost $6.3 billion”. Madam Chair, this is simply not true. Council’s net debt is actually $3.6 billion and has fallen by $44 million since the budget was published in June. Again, the Leader of the Opposition is showing that he is clueless when it comes to matters of finance. Councillor CASSIDY claimed total liabilities as debt, which includes leasing payments and other accounting treatments. Madam Chair, it’s clear he simply just doesn’t understand the numbers. It’s no secret that this Administration has embarked on a record infrastructure program to support our growing city and borrowings have, of course, been required.

We’re proud of our record on major infrastructure projects which support our economy, not just during construction, but for the years to come for Brisbane residents. On top of this, more than 89% of our $4 billion budget is invested in the suburbs of Brisbane to make them even better places to live, work and relax. Although we’re on track, Madam Chair, we are still facing the challenging times that, sadly, all local governments in Queensland face. It’s important that we continue to make sensible savings to balance the budget and keep the pressure off rates and rents for everyone. Our approach has been vehemently opposed by those opposite, but we were upfront with residents before the election and residents have backed in our sensible plan.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to enter the debate as well. Well, here we are today more than 2 months after this mid-year review was first brought to Council—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes. I’m glad that the LNP have decided to turn up this time. We are really only talking about it now thanks to the sheer incompetence of the LNP who can’t even keep a meeting going to talk about their budget priorities. It’s no wonder that they sacked the leader of the house, Councillor ADAMS. Or maybe she is still leader of the house. I don’t really know. That’s kind of just a made up title.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: It was made up to start with. Okay. Anyway, we’re back here again today to talk about this LNP regime’s badly mismanaged projects, blown out budgets, staff cuts, services in the suburbs cut—and that’s the high-level summary of all of the wrong priorities of the LNP Council and how they affect people right across Brisbane with their political agenda and their choices. This mid-year review that we’re looking at today is even worse than the budget that the LORD MAYOR and his team handed down last year, because somehow things are only getting worse under the LNP. We see in this budget review that the cuts are locked and loaded, and it reflects what we, as local Councillors, are seeing in every single suburb across our communities. These are the basic services that Council are expected to deliver. Now, they are less than ever before.

I know that every single ward office would have absolutely been inundated over the last 2 months with complaints—complaints about things that are the basics—the long grass that’s left unmown, potholes that can’t get filled, drainage issues that officers tell us there’s no money for, kerb and channelling repairs that have to wait, again, because there’s no money. All of these things are telling the story of the decisions of this LNP Council. When people ask, why can’t we get Council to do the basic act of mowing our grass in our parks, in our cemeteries, in our streets? Why are our streets filled with water from blocked drains that can’t get cleared? The answer is always the same.

This LNP Council have made the decision and made the choice to cut funding to cover up what their real priorities are. Those priorities are advertising themselves and a couple of flashy big billion-dollar projects and made huge cuts so that residents are missing out. I’ll, again, reiterate that our main concerns are about Council’s intent as well to execute $120 million in employee cuts over the next 4 years. The decisions of this LNP Council around what they choose to prioritise should not be taken out on the hardworking Council staff who are tasked with doing the absolute best that they can with less than ever before. That’s not fair. On this side of the Chamber, we are on the side of local residents. We will always stand with them to get a better deal for every suburb in Brisbane.

In summary, this LNP budget review stands for less suburban drainage, less spent on active transport, less spent on park and tree maintenance, less potholes in suburban streets repaired, less on road projects, savage cuts to suburban libraries, and cuts for the poor, hardworking Council staff and their entitlements. How is this a good thing? It should come as no surprise, but this Labor Opposition cannot support more LNP cuts because the people that these cuts hurt the most are the people of Brisbane.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just before I commence on a point of order, are these matters seriatim for debate and voting that are left or are they—

Chair: Yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: All of them, individually?

Chair: Yes. That’s correct. Seriatim for debate and voting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Sorry. Are the budget review and the—

Chair: Yes. All completely—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —Councillor stuff—they’re separate?

Chair: All completely separate. Yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay.

Chair: We’re just on C.

Councillor JOHNSTON: All right.

Chair: Thanks, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just briefly, it is nice of the LNP to turn up. I guess now the new CEO’s here, they’re on their best behaviour and they’ve stayed.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors. Councillors. Councillors. All Councillors on both sides, please do not call out while a Councillor is on their feet speaking.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: They are, aren’t they? I mean, it is their responsibility to maintain a quorum and they were unable to do so. I do note that Councillor LANDERS was going to allow the meeting to continue without a quorum until I came in and raised it.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, because it’s your job to maintain—

Chair: Councillors. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —a quorum. It’s very interesting, I think, that the LNP don’t think they have to turn up to the second part of the meeting. It’s a fascinating thing. Just briefly on the second budget review, I think this gives the CEO a pretty good idea of how poorly the finances of this city are being run. We just heard the Finance Chair and the new DEPUTY MAYOR say that, ooh, Council’s getting more money in from the State Government, but ooh, we need all these sensible savings. The 2 things really don’t add up. What we’re seeing in the second budget review—which is the same as every budget review—is the humpty-dumpty routine of cutting and rolling over, of pushing projects out for one year to 2 years, of rephasing expenditure, and essentially, cost blowouts.

Now, it’s happening everywhere—right through each of these programs. There’s a couple of things I want to talk about. Firstly, the bikeway projects. Now, I know the State Government has provided funding for Council for the Annerley Road bike lane design, but this Council’s got no intention of doing it this year and we’ll be lucky if they do it next year. I know that the Council—the State Government has provided $1.5 million to Council for park upgrades in Graceville, which only 6 months ago, I was told wasn’t going to happen at all. Now that the State has put their money in, it’s shamed Council into it, so it better appear in the budget this year because it’s tied to a timeframe—but what we’re seeing is projects that the State are funding are not being delivered by this Council. That’s because they’re not in LNP wards. It is very problematic.

I also want to note the issue around flood reconstruction and the lack of action in my ward. There is—for the CEO’s information, Madam Chairman—one park in Brisbane that is still closed after 2022 floods. That is Cactoblastis Corner in Sherwood. It was catastrophically damaged by the floods. There were major vertical and horizontal landslips in this beautiful riverside park that our community fought hard to maintain. Instead of fixing it, late last year—I think it was November—the LNP Administration handed the land back to the State Government, so Council has abandoned this parkland and said, we want nothing to do with it. This is despite the Queensland State Government saying, I’ll give you $11 million to fix it. Council goes, ooh, that’s a bit hard. We can’t do that. It’s a bit complicated.

Meanwhile, 3 years later, Council’s assets that they do have to fix—the stormwater trunk main and the bio-retention basin—are still not fixed. There is a plastic pipe running above ground that carries the stormwater. There’s a plastic pipe that you are running for stormwater and water supply. Now, they’re working on their trunk main. They’ve been out to see me and told me about their plans. When I ask Council, what’s happening with our assets that Council will have to fix, they say, the current pipe is functional. Now, I don’t know how many stormwater mains in Brisbane are PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic and have been that way for 3 years in a massively flood damaged park. That is the only park in Brisbane that’s still closed but it’s called Cactoblastis Corner. It’s in appalling shape.

It just shows you what this Administration are truly like. They talk about flood recovery. Sure. In their areas, but not in Tennyson Ward where we still have outstanding flood recovery. That includes stormwater drainage, which remains Council’s responsibility. The failure of this Administration to properly manage this budget, to spend the money where it is needed, is appalling.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. Look, I’ll speak briefly to item C. Look, what we see in these papers, that we are now continuing to debate over 2 months later, is the continuation of the deep financial trouble that the LNP Administration is in. We’re seeing a desperate scramble to cover up the growing shortfall. In 2023, when the Council made a 10% cut to that year’s budget—the 2023-24 budget—back then, I said, the situation will only spiral and get worser. The full extent of the crisis that the budget will be in will not be seen for years later. We’re kind of seeing that play out.

I think previous to me speaking, there have been many comments on the different ways that this Council throughout this—through this mid-year budget, has shown scrambling for money—whether it’s the fire sale of disposal of Council properties that we’ve seen through this budget, and also, of course, the budget cuts to employee costs that many people have talked about. I’ll only touch on that briefly because the one thing I want to make sure that’s noted on the record is that $56 million from this year is about 6% of all the staff within Brisbane City Council. That’s a huge hit. The reason why that’s a huge hit is because that’s people. That’s people that will be impacted. Not just the workforce that will not be here anymore, but what it means is less staff, more work, more pressure, more uncertainty for the workers that we thanked on the morning of 3 December.

Naturally, these kind of cuts means a shift in priorities. Projects are being delayed, pushed into future years. Language used in the documents that we initially received last year used the words, transfer, realignment, reallocation. It appears that transfer is there 4 times. Realignment, another 4 times. Reallocation, about 5 times. What this is saying, what these words mean is cuts. Big and small projects that were meant to be completed this year or from the previous year that have been kicked on are being moved into next year’s budget. Again, while projects that were planned for this year are now being postponed for future years.

The shifting timelines and delays to much needed improvements in our communities are terrible for communities, but also, it compounds the uncertainty surrounding this Council’s ability to deliver on the promises that it makes. What we’re seeing here is a budget that continues to show the deepening financial crisis under the LNP Administration. Instead of a vision for growth and sustainability, we see short-term solutions—selling assets, cutting jobs, pushing projects down the line. The people of Brisbane deserve better than this. They deserve a government that plans for the future, invests in its workforce. Not one that is scrambling to cover its mistakes.

I hope that we can have this open discussion. It’s taken a while but it’s really important to have this discussion. The reason why it’s important is we are here—all of us—to serve the community of Brisbane. As we’ve experienced—not just in the previous summer but this summer—there are so many delays on deliveries for The Gabba Ward. You hear me talk about public transport, but in true honesty, the drainage, the piping that will keep people safe when they are flash flooding, the anxiety that people feel—2 days of rain in The Gabba and people are literally—one day of rain and people are calling me. I think that’s what’s really important to remember here. Like we can stand here and politic all we want, but I think everyone here wants the best for their communities, for the people of Brisbane, and also the people that they represent. That’s what we fight for. What we’re seeing in this budget is decisions made by the LNP Council that are kicking the problem down the road. I tell you again—as I did in 2023, as I did in 2024—the problem will just spiral, and we will find ourselves more and more and more in debt. We need to fix it. I hope we’ll do the work to do that.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, Madam Chair. Just briefly, I want to talk about the infrastructure financial statement. Just a couple of items out of that that don’t make a lot of sense. Well, depending upon which way you look at it. Either we’re cutting or—I don’t know. It’s really tough to sort of make sense out of it. If we have a look at the revised income budget for this item—income—it was revised down about $14 million to $214 million for this year. Now, that’s fine. I mean, it was revised down. That’s the things that happen, but for the next 2 years in the forward estimates, it actually stays exactly the same, $214 million.

Now, I’m not an accountant. I’ll be the first to admit that, but when you see 3 figures for 3 years being exactly the same, it’s a red flag for me. I don’t see how that’s—and of course, we don’t really get—we really don’t get any information anymore in these reports that we can actually make sense of what’s actually happening. Because they keep that information to themselves. Whether even the backbenchers on the other side of the Chamber actually get that information or is it—I think it’s kept within the E&C really, and of course, the CEO’s office as well. Then it jumps by 10% in 2027-28, so again, $214 million, $214 million, $214 million. Then up 10%. I think it just looks a bit strange to me, being an old retailer. When you consider this is income, this is what we need to actually fund what we’re going to do and it doesn’t change for 3 years, that’s strange.

Then if we have a look at the expense budget, there’s a dramatic—it drops off the cliff. It stays pretty consistent, but it drops off a cliff in 2026-27 by about $300 billion, so what are we not funding anymore? What did we cut? Our expenses are down by $300 million. That’s a pretty fair whack out of the budget of our making. That’s quite an interesting figure for me. Then if we have a look at the capital expenditure, it decreases every year through the forward estimate so obviously we are not doing that infrastructure that we should be doing, right? Especially those area of the infrastructure spend that we need to help make our city more resilient when it comes to floods, right? Backflow valves, and things like that as well.

Those are just a couple of items that popped out to me. There were some more in the lifestyle community services but I won’t go into those. I mean, it’s sort of—it’s been about 2 months. It seems it’s important, but it just seems like we’ve marched past those results and nothing much is going to be—I don’t think I’m going to get any responses here but who knows? Who knows, but I’ll leave my comments there. How many minutes are left? Who knows? Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor ADAMS.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam, Chair. I must say—

Chair: Councillor ALLAN. Sorry.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Look, I must say, that was an interesting contribution from the Opposition Councillors. The Leader of the Opposition doesn’t know the difference between liabilities, debt, net debt—as Councillor CUNNINGHAM indicated, who said debt was $6.3 billion. It’s closer to half of that. If you can’t get these basics right, what credit do you give to any of the comments that they might make? I’m going to hold Councillor STRUNK to account, here. He’s been a long-term member of the Finance Committee and he should have at least let the leader of his party know that there was a difference between debt and liabilities, but anyway, that’s an educational exercise they can go through.

What I do want to say is that the debt that we do have on the balance sheet has been used for transformational infrastructure that is going to provide benefits to the residents of the city for decades to come. One of the best examples is just recently with the launch of the M2 on the Metro. Let’s be certain. The debt that is on that balance sheet has provided and will provide great outcomes for the city.

Now, I was really interested in the contribution from Councillor MASSEY. She used the word, remember. Well, I thought that was really poignant—remember. Before the last election, we recognised that we had a range of challenges on the cost front—as most governments and organisations had—and we made a decision, prior to the last election, to look for 10% worth of savings in our budget. Why did we do that? Because we have a strong belief that we need to balance the budget, even in the face of significant challenges, and that we believe that’s a responsible approach to date from a financial management perspective.

We made that decision before the election. The Opposition—the coalition of chaos—knew that we’d made those savings, and yet—and if we hadn’t made those savings, it probably would have resulted in a 30% increase in rates for residents, but nonetheless, knowing the challenges, the coalition of chaos went to the last election with $3.5 billion of unfunded commitments. What an embarrassment and what a way to deceive the voters of the city. Fortunately, the voters of the city saw through that, and we were returned but that’s the stark reality of what we’re facing, here—an Administration that is focused on dealing with the financial challenges and the cost increases that we faced in recent years and a desperate Opposition who would say and do anything in order to secure Administration. Fortunately, the residents of the city saw through that.

We continue to have the cheapest rates in South East Queensland. We will continue to try and manage the budget in a way that not only balances the cost‑of‑living impact on the residents of the city, but also to maintain the basic services that we need. Certainly, we are operating in a challenged environment, but I have got to repeat, it’s very, very difficult to take feedback and guidance from the Opposition Councillors when they can’t get the basics right. I did want to turn to—actually, before finishing that point, both Councillor COLLIER and Councillor MASSEY made much of, you know, we’ve got to increase this, we’ve got to increase that. It’s as if sort of money grows on trees. You know, it’s just down the back of the couch. That is incredibly irresponsible.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Councillor ALLAN: They need to understand and lean into the challenges.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, please, Councillor ALLAN.

Point of order Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I claim to be misrepresented.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, misrepresentation.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you. I note your claims of misrepresentation.

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Now, before leaning into that, I did want to actually pick up on a couple of things that were said about the better places and spaces program. I probably don’t have enough time to go into that in any detail, but fair to say, the comments that were made by Councillor CASSIDY were incorrect and this program is very much alive. We are going to continue with the program through the remainder of this term. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor MASSEY: On my point of—

Chair: Sorry. Councillor COLLIER, you can go first.

Councillor COLLIER: Yes. Thanks very much, Chair. Councillor ADAMS said that I think that money grows on trees. I don’t. What I do think is that these budget decisions are a reflection of the choices that the LNP Council make and their priorities, which I think are wrong.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor TOOMEY: Point of order, Madam, Chair.

Chair: Point of—

Councillor TOOMEY: Sorry. You’re not meant to debate—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor MASSEY?

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor MASSEY: I’ll just quote. I didn’t say money grows from trees. I said, naturally with these kind of cuts, we’re seeing a shift in priorities.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MASSEY: It’s about choices.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to touch on my 8-month Councillor review of the mid-year budget review. The most disappointing part about this budget for me was the lack of clarity behind the Safer School Precincts program. I think previously, we heard Councillor ALLAN just talking about unfunded promises from the Brisbane Labor Council team when we were running the Council election but today I wanted to outline a couple of things that this LNP Council promised at their election, and we still haven’t seen delivered.

In the budget book that we received in our information figures, we also didn’t receive any figures, which I was surprised to learn wasn’t the norm with all of our Council colleagues who let me know that in previous years it looked very different. Given with the Safer School Precincts program that 66% of students in Brisbane are driven to school, and even more so in Pallara where there are no completed footpath connections or bus stops in adequate distance, I thought that it was very interesting that 20 days before the election, we heard this LORD MAYOR on this side of the Chamber announcing more funding to their policy to double funding to improve their Safer School Precincts program.

Now, it’s been one year and they’re failing to deliver their promises, including the failed launch of the Metro, mobile CCTV (closed-circuit television) promised before the last election. Just this morning, I was asking the Chair of Transport, what’s happening to the 15 additional bus stops that was mentioned at the last information sessions last year, including locations on Laxton Road and also Hawthorne Road. None of these are promises that we made on this side of the Chamber. It’s the ones that the LNP Council made at this last election. They mentioned it themselves. They’re things that they’ve promised. We’re simply following up to see when these commitments will be followed through.

To me, it’s really disappointing, again, that Pallara State School wasn’t included, despite all of the drama that happened earlier this year and last year when I was first elected. It only seems to be the case that when a journalist sniffs around the corner, Pallara is brought up into the next week’s business and then suddenly forgotten about. When I try and request for meetings with different branches in Council, I don’t seem to be getting anywhere. I look forward to requesting a meeting with the CEO at some stage to outline all of the correspondence that I’ve been receiving—the whole A to Z of everything going on in Pallara. Because there is information that I don’t have which is stopping us from planning in the most effective manner and using Council rates effectively. This is very disappointing, especially as a new Councillor. It’s also neglecting the real needs of outer suburban residents.

This is something that I was elected here to convey. To me, it’s quite funny that the LNP Councillors are happy to spend millions on publicity brochures, while cutting programs to keep children safe, despite what they’re very confident to say online and on TV. In my opinion, I don’t think brochures should be more important than our kids and I don’t think the safety of our kids should be placed at the backburner. I don’t think politics should be in the way of discussing the real issues that we have.

Recently, we also received 2 designs in Pallara that increases safety of infrastructure, but it costs about $400,000 which is more than half of an annual Suburban Enhancement Fund. I will be writing to the Minister for Education, alongside my local State Member as well, and also to the relevant parties involved to be asking for this critical funding, especially when a state school on Ritchie Road will be split into 2 campuses and currently there is no connecting footpath there. No matter how many times I bring this up to Council, no one seems to be taking it seriously. Instead, they like to play games. I think this is very disappointing.

This mid-year review, I hope that, first, being elected into Council, there would be constructive meetings, constructive outcomes. I think this morning was an example of that as well. For 8 months, we’ve been asking for answers, but we haven’t been getting anything in return, so I hope that this year looks a little bit different. It’s 2025. I hope that by the next budget, when it rolls around, these critical projects will be considered very seriously. I look forward to meeting with all the Chairs and hoping that they reply back when I request those meetings. Thank you.

Chair: Any further speakers? No further speakers.

We’ll now put item C to the vote.

**Clause C put**

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

DEPUTY MAYOR: Madam Chair?

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

**ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS IN AGENDA**

**341/2024-25**

In accordance with section 28(2) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, the DEPUTY MAYOR moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, to alter the order of business set out in the Agenda to remove Clause D of the Establishment and Coordination Committee report.

Chair: Is there any debate?

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

Chair: We will now move to item E.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thanks, Madam Chair. Item E seeks to amend the *AP247 Councillor Conduct Assessment and Investigation Policy*, following State legislative amendments. This follows the establishment of the Committee last—of the Committee rather, which came through the Chamber for approval in September last year. As most will know, the previous State Government amended the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act, which has required changes to the Councillor conduct investigation process. These changes are reflected in a new policy and these are the only changes, Madam Chair.

Firstly, there were the State amendments which removed the ability for Council to ask the Conduct Tribunal to investigate an allegation on Council’s behalf and provide a recommendation to Council. The practical effect of this amendment has meant that Council now needs to appoint a third party investigator for each referral received by the OIA (Office of the Independent Assessor).

Secondly, the changes to the legislation also amend the report requirements for Council to further include the number of referral notices received from the OIA, the total number of suspected conduct breaches, occasions where Council did not start or discontinued an investigation, the number of decisions made by the Councillor Ethics Committee, the average time taken by Council to make a decision following the receipt of a referral notice from the OIA, orders made in relation to a chairperson’s unsuitable meeting conduct, and the number of matters not decided by Council at the end of the financial year, Madam Chair. All of these amendments are included in the item that’s before us and the item will allow Council to start investigations, as that’s now consistent with the changes to State law. Thanks, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on this policy, AP247, the assessment and investigation policy relating to the Ethics Committee. The LORD MAYOR requested my nominations, or the Opposition’s nominations, back in June last year for the Ethics Committee in Council, so it’s now taken 7 months to create this policy to sit alongside it. That’s obviously why the Ethics Committee has not met and convened themselves and carried out any work, because they couldn’t do so without an effective policy. The policy that was in place was unable to be used.

The policy’s essential when it comes to the process that details how complaints about a suspected conduct breach are dealt with, so we’re glad that there is actually a policy before us today because the old policy didn’t align with recent changes. Back in September last year, we supported the reestablishment of an Ethics Committee in Council, but after reading through this clause last year I have reservations because of the lack of transparency in this policy itself. There’s a clear difference between supporting having an Ethics Committee and supporting the content of this policy.

Councillors have not been briefed on these changes. It’s not Councillors that are going to serve on the Ethics Committee, certainly not on this side we’re not briefed, but generally speaking Council’s not briefed on the changes. We’ve not been given the opportunity to ask questions on a matter that will directly impact how we operate as Councillors here. We know the LORD MAYOR is running what can only be described as a regime here in Council now. At the end of the day, he calls the shots and that doesn’t leave me with a lot of trust in the process. There is nothing stopping the LORD MAYOR from getting involved and directing Council officers towards outcomes, so we cannot support this clause.

There’s no detail on how the investigator will be engaged, other than through the Disputes Commissioner, who is directed by the CEO. That’s the process, you follow the tree up, the Disputes Commissioner reports directly to the CEO. The only person obviously in the organisation who can direct the CEO is the LORD MAYOR, so there is no guarantee through this process that there is—there’s no gatekeeper to politicisation of this process.

When I sought advice on the Ethics Committee back in September, I was told that there were multiple options regarding how it would actually work being considered. It’s still not clear which option Council has landed on, because there is not enough detail in the policy before us today. It actually poses more questions than answers and on balance we think reconvening the Committee, instead of bringing the matters it would consider to the full Council is a better way of handling those issues, we accept that. But now the policy’s been updated to account for the Ethics Committee to consider matters and make decisions based on reports from external investigators.

We do note and accept that the tribunal process has been scrapped under the recent amendments to reflect—in the State legislation to reflect that change, the policy does have to reflect that obviously. In this update it says once—in this update to the policy it says once a referral notice is forwarded to the LORD MAYOR and Councillors by the CEO, the Disputes Commissioner will assign an investigator to look at and make recommendations to Council about dealing with the conduct.

When I asked questions about the policy ahead of this introduction of the Ethics Committee back last year, I was told there were several options, as I said, in terms of modelling for the investigation and who would conduct—who would carry out the conduct of those investigations. But now having the policy in front of us, I am less informed than I was after that phone call months ago about the vital process. We don’t know who will investigate, we don’t know what brief they were given—they will be given in any circumstances at all. We do know the investigator’s report outlining the investigation process would trigger a meeting of the Councillor Ethics Committee, who will then determine whether a Councillor was engaged in a conduct breach.

I also note there’s a further change in this new policy that if the investigator obtains information that a Councillor was engaged in alleged corrupt conduct, the Disputes Commissioner may be advised—must advise and liaise with the CEO about a referral to the CCC. So there are some things that make a lot of sense in there, but it is so wide open in terms of the actual process an investigator will go through, we don’t know if there’ll be a panel of investigators. It could be a law firm that Council currently has on its panel of law firms available and the Disputes Commission might, in discussion with partners at that law firm, choose a lawyer to investigate or something.

That’s as vague as I just described then, a process is entirely what may happen under this investigations process. Because it doesn’t step it out, there isn’t clarity, there isn’t transparency around the process for (1) selecting an investigator, who they are, what qualifications there are, assurances that there is not political bias through that process, because we are a politicised Council of course. So (1) there are huge concerns around that and (2) how the investigation is undertaken is not clear.

Now if it’s the case that the State Government wasn’t clear in the legislation and the regulation about exactly how that investigation had to be undertaken, the smart thing to do in the absence of that would be to put in the policy, make it as clear as day exactly how an investigator would be chosen and how that investigation would be undertaken. As I said, we supported the establishment of the Ethics Committee and the 3 other Labor Councillors who are here right now, Councillors COLLER, KIM and STRUNK, will participate in that Committee. But we cannot in good faith today support this policy, which has raised a lot more questions than it has answered.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

## *EXPIRATION OF PERIOD FOR DEBATE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS*

At that point, 7.54pm, the Chair advised that, under the provisions of section 35(13) of the Meetings Local Law, the period allowed for debate of Committee reports had expired.

Chair: 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’ll go first to item E.

**Clause E put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause E 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 SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL OF PROPOSED LOT 2, 275 AND 285 GOODERHAM ROAD, WILLAWONG

**112/265/439/278**

**315/2024-25**

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

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

3. Council is the owner of 2 parcels of land at 275 Gooderham Road, Willawong (Lot 1 RP149219) and 285 Gooderham Road, Willawong (Lot 2 RP149219), as shown by red edge in Attachment B (submitted on file). These lots are zoned as Industry (General iidustry B) under *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

4. The 2 parcels of Council land were impacted by the upgrade of the Gooderham Road and Burman Road intersection in 2019. Due to the upgrade, Lot 1 RP149219 has reduced in size from 4,452 square metres to 1,489 square metres (as detailed in Attachment C, submitted on file). The road that is no longer required (referenced as Closed Road in Attachment C) will be closed and converted to freehold.

5. The road titling process is being finalised which will result in the creation of a new lot (the proposed lot) (shown on SUR210931-01 by red edge in Attachment C) which will have a land area of 6,644 square metres.

6. In consultation with relevant areas of Council, it was deemed the proposed lot to be surplus to Council’s needs and therefore, suitable for disposal.

7. The valuers engaged by Council have evaluated the new parcel of land and assessed the property at [Commercial-in-Confidence] (exclusive of GST) (refer Attachment D, submitted on file).

8. As the land is surplus to Council’s needs, it will be available for disposal upon lot creation, which will be completed prior to a contract settlement. The proposed lot will be offered to the market through a registered real estate agent via either tender or auction, as required under section 217 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012*.

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

10. **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 PROPOSED LOT 2, 275 AND 285 GOODERHAM ROAD, WILLAWONG**

As:

(i) Council is the owner of surplus land located at proposed Lot 2, 275 and 285 Gooderham Road, Willawong (SUR210931-01)

(ii) Council proposes to dispose of the land by way of tender or auction in accordance with section 217 of the *City of* Brisbane *Regulation 2012,*

then Council:

(i) determines that the land should be sold by way of tender or auction in accordance with section 217 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012*, on such terms and conditions satisfactory to the Project Director, Asset Optimisation, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance

(ii) authorises the Project Director, Asset Optimisation, Property Services, Organisational Services, to negotiate a sale price of the land calculated on the basis that such a price is either equal to, or greater than, the market value of the land, as set out in Attachment D (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### B CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER 2024

**109/695/586/2-006**

**316/2024-25**

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

12. Sections 238 and 239 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (the Act) provide that Council may delegate some of its powers. Those powers include the power to enter into contracts under section 242 of the Act.

13. Council has previously delegated powers to the Establishment and Coordination Committee and Chief Executive Officer, to make, vary or discharge contracts for the procurement of goods, services or works.

14. The *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) was made pursuant to the Act. Chapter 6, Part 4, section 227 of the Regulation provides that:

1. Council must, as soon as practicable after entering into a contract worth $200,000 or more (exclusive of GST), publish relevant details of the contract on Council’s website.

2. The relevant details must be published under subsection (1) for a period of at least 12 months.

3. Also, if a person asks Council to give relevant details of a contract, Council must allow the person to inspect the relevant details at Council’s public office. ‘Relevant details’ is defined in Chapter 6, Part 4, section 227 as including:

a. the person with whom Council has entered into the contract

b. the value of the contract

c. the purpose of the contract (e.g. the particular goods or services to be supplied under the contract).

15. The contracts detailed in Attachment A (submitted on file) represent contractual arrangements that Council has already entered into. The purpose of this report is not to consider making decisions about the contracts, rather for transparency of the decisions made on contracts entered into with a value greater than the threshold.

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

17. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER 2024, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

| **Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for November 2024** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contract number/contract purpose/successful tenderer/comparative tender/price value for money (VFM) index achieved** | **Nature of arrangement/ estimate maximum expenditure** | **Unsuccessful tenderers/VFM achieved** | **Comparative tender price/s** | **Delegate/**  **approval date/start date/term** |
| **BRISBANE INFRASTRUCTURE** |  |  |  |  |
| **1. Contract No. 534152**  **GARDEN CITY BUS DEPOT – NEW MAIN SWITCHBOARD (UPPER MOUNT GRAVATT)**  **Focus Construct Pty Ltd – $285,670**  Achieved the highest VFM of 29.05 | Lump sum  **$285,670** | Signature Projects Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 23.70  Kane Constructions (Qld) Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 23.35 | $320,610  $312,680 | **Delegate**  Executive General Manager, City Projects Office  **Approved**  23.10.2024  **Start**  13.11.2024  **Term**  20 weeks |
| **2. Contract No. CW15222**  **MICROTUNNELLING FOR STORMWATER AT ELYSTAN ROAD, NEW FARM**  **GCE Contractors Pty. Ltd. – $1,787,265**  Achieved the highest VFM of 43 | Lump sum  **$1,787,265** | *Offer not recommended*  Veolia Operations Pty Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 34  *Non-conforming offer*  DJ Mac Cormick Contractors Pty Ltd | $2,422,488  N/A | **Delegate**  Chief Executive Officer  **Approved**  04.11.2024  **Start**  11.11.2024  **Term**  30 weeks |
| **CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **CITY PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **TRANSPORT FOR BRISBANE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |

**ADOPTED**

#### C 2024-25 BUDGET – MID-YEAR REVIEW

**134/135/1164/1045**

**342/2024-25**

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

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

20. The 2024-25 Budget – Mid-Year Review (refer Attachment B, submitted on file) has been prepared and considers:

- emerging issues requiring funding and changes to income and expenditure for 2024‑25 through to 2027-28

- continuing impacts from economic and competitive market conditions impacting Council’s cost of operations and anticipated capital program delivery.

21. Although inflation is showing signs of improvement, underlying inflation is proving persistent, with the Reserve Bank of Australia not expecting inflation to sustainably return to its 2-3% target until 2026. In addition, the risks of global geopolitical tensions impacting energy and commodity markets remains elevated.

22. In preparing the 2024-25 Budget – Mid-Year Review (refer Attachment B), consideration is made to changes in internal and external factors since the adoption of the 2024-25 Budget. These factors reflect changes to income and expenditure for 2024-25 through to 2027-28 and include:

- emerging issues requiring changes to timing of expenditure for key projects to allow for maximum efficiency and effectiveness in delivery

- additional Queensland Reconstruction Authority funding for recovery of Council’s costs following the 2022 severe rain and flood event

- additional Translink revenue associated with a new contract for the operation of bus services continued focus on minimising impacts on ratepayers, businesses, and residents.

23. Council will continue to focus on sustainable budget management including:

- close monitoring of both revenue and expenditure to ensure a balanced budget is delivered

- delivering core, frontline services across the suburbs and city in the most efficient and cost‑effective manner.

24. The Summary of Changes by Program (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) provides explanation of changes.

Financial impact

25. The anticipated accumulated surplus at 30 June 2025 for the budget approved by Council was $14,479 million.

26. The sum of the proposed adjustments to the budget for 2024-25 will increase the anticipated accumulated surplus at 30 June 2025 to $14,536 million.

27. Changes to 2024-25 Budget:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total change**  **$ million** | **Revised budget**  **$ million** |
| **Income and expenditure** |  |  |
| Income | (32.6) | 3,006.2 |
| Expenses | (54.0) | 2,958.4 |
| Net result | 21.3 | 47.8 |
| Capital | 8.1 | 985.3 |
|  |  |  |
| **Financial position** |  |  |
| Assets | 5,238.2 | 44,782.3 |
| Liabilities | 44.4 | 6,290.4 |
| Community equity | 5,193.7 | 38,491.9 |

28. Community equity includes the increase in asset revaluation surplus of $5,136.5 million and $35.9 million in adjustments to opening accumulated surplus as a result of impacts from the final audited results of the 2023-24 financial year.

29. The net impact of this review on 2025-26 through to 2027-28 is listed in Attachment B, and is summarised below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Forward year budget commitments change**  **$ million** |
| 2025-26 | 32.7 |
| 2026-27 | (7.0) |
| 2027-28 | (1.2) |

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

31. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2024-25 BUDGET – MID-YEAR REVIEW**

As:

(i) Council proposes to amend the budget to address emerging issues and changes to income and expenditure for 2024-25 through to 2027-28

(ii) section 162(2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* provides that Council may, by resolution, amend the budget for a financial year at any time before the end of the financial year,

then Council:

(i) resolves to amend the Annual Plan and Budget 2024-25 by adopting the amended budget allocations for Programs 1 to 8, and Businesses and Council Providers in accordance with Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### D AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF THE STORY BRIDGE ADVENTURE CLIMB OPERATING AGREEMENT

**REMOVED**

#### E *AP247 COUNCILLOR CONDUCT ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION POLICY*

**109/268/189/347**

**343/2024-25**

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

47. On 22 November 2023, the *Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* received assent, resulting in amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) and *City of Brisbane Act 2010* which impact Council’s management of the Councillor conduct investigation process, including the content of *AP247 Councillor Conduct Assessment and Investigation Policy* (AP247) (refer Attachment C, submitted on file).

48. These amendments to the Act can be broadly categorised as follows.

- Conduct breach – Previously, a Councillor found to have engaged in conduct that contravened a behavioural standard or a Council policy, procedure or resolution, was deemed to have engaged in “inappropriate conduct”. This is now referred to as a “conduct breach”. A referral by the Office of the Independent Assessor (the OIA) of a conduct breach to Council for investigation no longer includes a recommendation on how to deal with or investigate the suspected conduct breach.

- Councillor Conduct Tribunal (CCT) – Previously, the OIA referred matters in which a Councillor was reasonably suspected of engaging in inappropriate conduct to Council for investigation and Council utilised the services of the CCT to conduct those investigations on its behalf. Following the amendments, Council can no longer refer conduct breaches to the CCT for investigation. Instead, investigations must be conducted by external investigators engaged by Council.

- Former Councillors – Certain complaints about the conduct of a former Councillor (i.e. allegations of conduct breaches or misconduct) cannot be considered by the OIA. However, should the former Councillor be re-elected within 12 months after their office is vacated, the OIA must conduct a new assessment and may require Council to undertake a subsequent investigation.

- Discontinuing Investigations – After receiving a referral notice from the OIA, Council may decide not to start or to discontinue an investigation into a conduct breach in select circumstances that include where: (a) the complainant withdraws their complaint or does not comply with a request from Council to provide further information; or (b) there is insufficient information to investigate the conduct. Additionally, Council must decide not to start or to discontinue an investigation into a conduct breach where the office of the Councillor is vacated during the investigation. A decision on discontinuing an investigation may be made by the Councillor Ethics Committee.

49. The legislative amendments mean that the following changes to AP247 are required (refer Attachment B, submitted on file):

- the requirement for an investigation report to be completed for each matter referred to Council by the OIA

- establishing a procedure for decisions to not start or discontinue an investigation and the associated notifications to the complainant and subject Councillor

- addressing natural justice provisions (formerly undertaken by the OIA during their initial assessment) that have been transferred to Council such as:

- providing the subject Councillor with information about the suspected conduct, details of evidence of the conduct and preliminary findings of the investigation before preparing an investigation report

- allowing the subject Councillor to give evidence or a written submission to Council about the suspected conduct and preliminary findings, which must be considered by Council in preparing the investigation report.

- publishing a summary of the investigation report prior to the Councillor Ethics Committee meeting that will consider the matter

- publishing a redacted copy of the investigation report following the Councillor Ethics Committee meeting

- establishing the process for engagement of external investigators and arrangements for decisions to be made by the Councillor Ethics Committee.

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

51. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO AMEND *AP247 COUNCILLOR CONDUCT ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION POLICY***

As:

(i) Council is required to adopt an investigation policy about how it deals with suspected conduct breaches by Councillors referred by the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) to Council to deal with pursuant to section 150AE of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act)

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

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

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

then Council:

(i) resolves to adopt *AP247 Councillor Conduct Assessment and Investigation Policy*, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file).

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

Chair: Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, 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, Julia Dixon and Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CHRISTMAS IN BRISBANE

**344/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Marketing, Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA), attended the meeting to provide an update on the 2024 Christmas in Brisbane program (the program). He provided the information below.

2. BEDA runs the annual program with unique events which activates the precinct for both visitors and locals to enjoy throughout the season, positioning Brisbane as the first-choice destination for Christmas. The objectives of the campaign are to:

- deliver economic benefit by driving visitation to the city

- drive awareness of the program

- drive attendance to program events

- deliver increased engagement and visitation on owned channels.

3. A survey of attendees of the 2023 program found:

- 60% visited from the Brisbane Local Government Area

- 11% visited from the Greater Brisbane Region

- 60% attended more than one day/night

- 56% would not have visited the city without the program raising awareness of events on offer

- an overall satisfaction rating of 8.5/10, enhancing Brisbane’s liveability.

4. Branding for the program celebrates Brisbane’s unique summer aspects by combining Brisbane-centric illustrated characters with classic Christmas motifs. The Committee was shown images of the program’s branding and advertisements.

5. The program begins with the lighting of the Lord Mayor’s Christmas Tree at 6.30pm on 29 November. This year the event will be in collaboration with the Starlight Foundation and a special performance by Dami Im. City Hall will be lit up every night from 7.30pm to midnight, from 6 December to Christmas Eve. This year’s display, titled *Santa’s SOS: A Christmas Rescue*, has been written by Brisbane-based author Rebecca Sheraton.

6. The popular Christmas tiny doors are making their return this year from 1 to 24 December, with QueensPlaza, Uptown and Wintergarden integrating into the activation. Pop-up performances and enchanting roaming acts will roam throughout Queen Street Mall (QSM) between 6 and 24 December, and the QSM Main Stage will feature *A Whimsical Wonderful Christmas* performance on 6, 13 and 20 December hourly, between 5pm and 7pm. QSM will also feature oversized baubles strategically placed throughout the mall, complemented by feature lighting on select trees and creating an immersive experience.

7. BEDA has partnered with neighbouring precincts to create a holistic program of activities to drive visitation and economic movement. Precincts promoting the broader festive offerings across the City include:

- The Star Brisbane

- Queen’s Wharf Brisbane

- City Parklands

- Roma Street Parklands

- South Bank

- Howard Smith Wharves.

8. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager for his informative presentation.

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Chair: The Transport Committee report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, 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), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Julia Dixon and Emily Kim.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Danita Parry (Deputy Chair) and Lucy Collier.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM – YEAR IN REVIEW

**345/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Policy Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the 2024 Active School Travel program (the program). She provided the information below.

2. Since the program began in 2004, 177 primary schools and 147,000 students have participated in the Council-supported, 3-year travel behaviour change program. Now in its 20th year, the program is the longest running active school travel program in Australia, which has proven to reduce single-car journeys and increase the number of families travelling by foot, bike, scooter, public transport or car pool. In 2024, the program worked with 27 schools and more than 14,800 students.

3. In addition to quantified health benefits for students and their families, the program has also allowed for the following opportunities:

- research and design of a high school program framework as part of the behaviour change component of the Safer School Precincts program

- improved data collection through trialling of an online portal

- a successful recruitment campaign to generate interest from schools to participate in the program

- designing Active Travel maps in-house

- collaboration with other South East Queensland councils on the development of their active school travel programs.

4. Each school has their own creative initiatives to inspire and motivate families to actively travel to school. The Committee was provided with examples of initiatives undertaken by Sherwood State School, Upper Mount Gravatt State School, Kenmore South State School, Sunnybank Hills State School and Aspley East State School.

5. The program’s awards event is held annually to celebrate successes and thank key stakeholders for their commitment. Invitees include principals, teachers, parents on the school program committee, local Councillors and internal and external stakeholders. The event recognises schools’ outstanding achievements and welcomes new schools selected to participate in the following year’s program. In 2024, Council provided the following awards:

- School of the Year, Sherwood State School

- School of Excellence, Upper Mount Gravatt State School

- Walk of Fame, Wishart State School

- Large Schools (>600 students) (Highest percentage of active travel and Greatest increase in active travel), Kenmore South State School

- Small Schools (<600 students) (Highest percentage of active travel), Greenslopes State School

- Small Schools (<600 students) (Greatest increase in active travel), St William’s School Grovely.

6. Schools commencing the program in 2025 include:

- Bardon State School

- Carole Park State School

- Fig Tree Pocket State School

- Graceville State School

- Jindalee State School

- Our Lady Help of Christians School - Hendra

- Our Lady of the Rosary School - Kenmore

- Sacred Heart Primary School - Sandgate

- Somerset Hills State School, Stafford Heights

- St Andrew’s Primary School - Ferny Grove

- St Thomas’ School - Camp Hill

- West End State School.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Chair: The Infrastructure Committee report, all those in favour say—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

**S****ERIATIM - CLAUSE D**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Lucy COLLIER requested that Clause D, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES IN ROLAND AND SOLLIS STREETS, GEEBUNG, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: We’ll now vote on A, B and C.

**Clauses A, B and C put**

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

Chair: We’ll now vote on item D.

**Clause D put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – SYDNEY COORDINATED ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC SYSTEM (SCATS)

**346/2024-25**

1. The A/Manager, Transport Network Performance, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS). He provided the information below.

2. From the mid-1980s until 2016, many of Council’s traffic signals were run on a system called Brisbane Linked Intersection Signal System (BLISS). BLISS was developed by Council and pioneered the use of local co-ordination modules connected to the traffic signal controllers (controllers) in the field. In 2009, Council started to introduce SCATS as an innovative and adaptive traffic management platform. In Brisbane, SCATS has attributed to the reduction of:

- 28% in travel-time

- 25% in stops

- 12% in fuel consumption

- 15% emissions.

3. As vehicles move through the road network, they are detected by sensors under the road at each intersection, while pedestrians are detected by push buttons at crossings. The controller processes these inputs and sends this data to SCATS. Algorithms are applied and optimal signalling instructions are sent back. These instructions determine the duration of green lights and the sequence of traffic movement. This process happens for every traffic light cycle at every intersection.

4. The controllers communicate with regional servers which then communicate with a central manager optimising the flow of traffic across the entire road network. The Committee was shown a diagram of how the controller receives information from inputs such as vehicle detectors and pedestrian push buttons. The controller processes this information and then sets the traffic light sequence in accordance with the programming of its personality. By using real‑time data, SCATS can make system-wide decisions across intersections, busy corridors or entire cities to reduce travel times.

5. Council is continuously investigating and implementing traffic network improvements. Recent completed projects included pedestrian countdown timers and left turn on red at signalised intersection. Current projects include:

- Emergency Vehicle Priority

- pedestrian auto call

- removal of right turn filters

- radar and thermal detection.

6. Recently, Council has launched the Brisbane’s Smarter Suburban Corridors project (the project) to upgrade the existing transport management system to embrace new and emerging technologies with the goal of becoming a global leader in transport technology. With a focus on reliable travel times, the project will take advantage of new and emerging technologies to enhance Brisbane’s transport network and prioritise faster and safer journeys for all road user, including public transport, on key road corridors.

7. The project objectives include improved:

- travel times by optimising key corridors to prioritise efficient movements for all road users

- reliability through consistency and predictability of travel times for all vehicles on key corridors

- safety by developing data-driven intervention and improvement strategies.

The project will also enable priority access to transport athletes, volunteers and dignitaries during the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games as well as ensure smart and adaptive management of events for all transport modes.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON ROADS BETWEEN 7TH BRIGADE PARK AND HAMILTON ROAD, CHERMSIDE

**137/220/594/288**

**347/2024-25**

10. A petition requesting Council install traffic calming measures on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, Chermside, was received during the Summer Recess 2024.

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

12. The petition contains 36 signatures. Of the petitioners, 19 live on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, 12 live on other roads in Chermside and 5 live in other suburbs in the City of Brisbane.

13. The roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road 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.

14. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming measures to be installed on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, due to a recent fatality involving a speeding motorist on Hodgkinson Street, is noted. Any traffic incident on Brisbane roads is regrettable and Council works closely with Queensland Police Service (QPS) to ensure any identified safety risks are mitigated. While it is not appropriate for Council to pre-empt the QPS investigation in relation to any incident, Council will always assist QPS where required and seek to implement any recommendations which are made. To date, QPS has not contacted Council about this fatality.

15. 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.

16. Traffic calming devices are generally applied to local and neighbourhood access roads, which primarily provide access to dwellings, residential buildings and other local streets, with limited traffic movements. It is noted there is existing traffic calming treatments installed in the area, including roundabouts, splitter islands, painted threshold markings, and traffic signals. Attachment B outlines these treatments.

17. Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Hodgkinson Street from a traffic survey undertaken in November 2022. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the traffic survey results. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 144 vehicles per weekday using Hodgkinson Street, which is low and well within the limit of a neighbourhood road. The average vehicle speeds were 32.2 km/h in the eastbound direction and 29.6 km/h in the westbound direction, indicating compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit.

18. At this time, Council has no plans to install additional traffic calming measures on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road. However, please be assured Council will continue to monitor safety in the area and will consider road safety improvements if required.

19. While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of 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

20. Councillor Danita Parry, Councillor for Marchant Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

22. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Nicole Johnston abstaining.

23. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT 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:** 137/220/594/288

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install traffic calming measures on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, Chermside.

Your request for traffic calming measures to be installed on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, due to a recent fatality involving a speeding motorist on Hodgkinson Street, is noted. Any traffic incident on Brisbane roads is regrettable and Council works closely with Queensland Police Service (QPS) to ensure any identified safety risks are mitigated. While it is not appropriate for Council to pre-empt the QPS investigation in relation to any incident, Council will always assist QPS where required and seek to implement any recommendations which are made. To date, QPS has not contacted Council about this fatality.

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.

Traffic calming devices are generally applied to local and neighbourhood access roads, which primarily provide access to dwellings, residential buildings and other local streets, with limited traffic movements. It is noted there is existing traffic calming treatments installed in the area, including roundabouts, splitter islands, painted threshold markings, and traffic signals.

Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Hodgkinson Street from a traffic survey undertaken in November 2022. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 144 vehicles per weekday using Hodgkinson Street, which is low and well within the limit of a neighbourhood road. The average vehicle speeds were 32.2 km/h in the eastbound direction and 29.6 km/h in the westbound direction, indicating compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit.

At this time, Council has no plans to install additional traffic calming measures on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road. However, please be assured Council will continue to monitor safety in the area and will consider road safety improvements if required.

While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of 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).

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

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES IN WILLIS STREET, ROCHEDALE AVENUE AND BARR STREET, TARRAGINDI

**137/220/594/316**

**348/2024-25**

24. A petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue and Barr Street, Tarragindi, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 28 May 2024, by Councillor Krista Adams, and received.

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

26. The petition contains 26 signatures. All of the petitioners live on either Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue or Barr Street.

27. Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue and Barr Street 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.

28. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming devices to be installed in Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue and Barr 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.

29. Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Willis Street from a traffic survey undertaken in March 2024. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 269 vehicles per weekday with average vehicle speeds of 38.3 km/h. Council has also assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Rochedale Avenue from a traffic survey undertaken in July 2024. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 235 vehicles per weekday with average vehicle speeds of 36.9 km/h. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the traffic survey results.

30. Taking into consideration that all Barr Street through traffic needs to travel through either Willis Street or Rochedale Avenue, and the traffic volumes are extremely low and well within the limit of neighbourhood roads with good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit, Council has no plans to install traffic calming devices in Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue or Barr Street, at this time.

31. While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of 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

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

Customer impact

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

34. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Nicole Johnston abstaining.

35. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT 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:** 137/220/594/316

Thank you for your petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue and Barr Street, Tarragindi.

Your request for traffic calming devices to be installed in Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue and Barr Street, has been considered. Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue and Barr Street 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.

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 Willis Street from a traffic survey undertaken in March 2024. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 269 vehicles per weekday with average vehicle speeds of 38.3 km/h. Council has also assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Rochedale Avenue from a traffic survey undertaken in July 2024. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 235 vehicles per weekday with average vehicle speeds of 36.9 km/h.

Taking into consideration that all Barr Street through traffic needs to travel through either Willis Street or Rochedale Avenue, and the traffic volumes are extremely low and well within the limit of neighbourhood roads with good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit, Council has no plans to install traffic calming devices in Willis Street, Rochedale Avenue or Barr Street, at this time.

You may be interested to know that Council is currently investigating a potential upgrade at the Esher Street, Sexton Street and Toohey Road intersection to improve safety, enhance visibility and overall performance of the intersection for the area. A concept design for this upgrade is available on Council’s website at brisbane.qld.gov.au and by searching ‘Esher Street and Toohey Road intersection upgrade – Tarragindi’.

While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of 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).

Please let the other petitioners know of this information.

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES IN ROLAND AND SOLLIS STREETS, GEEBUNG

**137/220/594/343**

**349/2024-25**

36. A petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 3 September 2024, by Councillor Jared Cassidy, and received.

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

38. The petition contains 82 signatures. Of the petitioners, 56 live in Deagon Ward of which 52 live on Roland or Sollis Streets, 17 live in other wards in the City of Brisbane and 9 live outside the City of Brisbane.

39. Roland and Sollis 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.

40. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming devices to be installed in Roland and Sollis 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.

41. There are numerous worthy infrastructure and community-based projects which compete for funding each year. Priority projects are typically those which provide the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity to the wider community. Therefore, 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.

42. Council has assessed the traffic volumes and speed of motorists using Roland and Sollis Streets from a traffic survey undertaken on Sollis Street in August 2024. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 643 vehicles per weekday with average vehicle speeds of 40.8 km/h. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the traffic survey results.

43. The traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of neighbourhood roads and there is very good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit. Accordingly, Council has no plans to install traffic calming devices in Roland or Sollis Streets, at this time.

44. While it is acknowledged that some motorists may be speeding in the area, speeding is predominately a driver behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of 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

45. Councillor Jared Cassidy, Councillor for Deagon Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

47. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Charles Strunk and Nicole Johnston dissenting.

48. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT 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:** 137/220/594/343

Thank you for your petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung.

Your request for traffic calming devices to be installed in Roland and Sollis 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.

There are numerous worthy infrastructure and community-based projects which compete for funding each year. Priority projects are typically those which provide the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity to the wider community. Therefore, 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 Roland and Sollis Streets from a traffic survey undertaken on Sollis Street in August 2024. The weekday traffic volumes show an average of 643 vehicles per weekday with average vehicle speeds of 40.8 km/h.

The traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of neighbourhood roads and there is very good compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit. Accordingly, Council has no plans to install traffic calming devices in Roland or Sollis Streets, 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 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**

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Chair: The Infrastructure Committee report, all those in favour say aye—

*Councillors say aye.*

Chair: Sorry, we have done that. Whizzing through them. It’s City Planning.

City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, 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 Penny Wolff (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Seal Chong Wah, Steven Huang and Sandy Landers.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair) and Jared Cassidy.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – HERITAGE GENERAL EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

**350/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of heritage General Exemption Certificates (GEC). He provided the information below.

2. Local heritage places require owners keep their properties in good repair. All works are assessable with approvals required under a development application or GEC. The GEC was introduced in 2023 to support owners maintain their properties, simplify the application processes and reduce costs.

3. The GEC is an essential regulation reduction tool that helps property owners, occupiers and custodians to conserve heritage places by providing upfront approval supported by clear guidance about how to carry out maintenance and minor works without harming heritage values.

4. *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* provides for a GEC to:

- permit specific works

- apply to works of no or minimal detrimental impact

- support best practice conservation

- apply to all local heritage places.

A GEC is of no cost to property owners.

5. The GEC is a detailed document and is set out with:

- instructions

- general conditions

- tables of types of works with examples that fit into those scope of works

- detailed conditions on how property owners must carry out works

- extra guidance on how to meet best practice heritage conservation

- definitions and contacts for further assistance if required.

6. The GEC program was recently the winner of the Queensland Planning Institute of Australia’s Improving Planning Process category. Online metrics, such as page views and document downloads indicate the popularity of the GEC program.

7. Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness and public feedback of the GEC program and undertake regular updates to reflect changing community needs. Council will also release new information and resources to support property owners when available.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, 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 and Steven Toomey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL CYCLE PARK (MURARRIE RECREATION RESERVE)

**351/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Major Projects and Asset Coordination, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Brisbane International Cycle Park (BICP). He provided the information below.

2. The BICP is located within the Murarrie Recreation Reserve (the Reserve) at 1238 Wynnum Road, Murarrie. Land within the Reserve was formerly utilised as a landfill site and has been listed on the Queensland Government’s Environmental Management Register. The Reserve consists of approximately 34 hectares and is owned and managed by Council.

3. From 2019 to early 2021, Council conducted community consultation on a draft master plan for the Reserve and received more than 500 community responses, including suggestions from a number of local sporting groups. The overall vision for the Reserve was to establish it as a destination for competitive cycling at local, state and international levels, while supporting recreational use and accommodating other sports, such as inline skating. Limited availability for new greenspace for sport and recreation use across Brisbane informed Council’s preference to activate the site based on an optimised design that meets community and sporting needs and utilises existing facilities where possible.

4. The following 4 key principles guided the Reserve’s overall design and concept plan:

- delivering a cycle hub for Brisbane which:

- promotes its great outdoors

- incorporates all forms of wheeled sporting facilities

- supports grassroots and community participation and learning

- accommodates community events and festivals

- creating a memorable experience, by:

- using topography and terrain

- designing greenspaces and shaded areas that are integrated with activities

- enhancing architectural aspects of the site

- integrating a water-conscious design and approach

- protecting and maintaining valued vegetation

- providing links to the facility, by:

- improving access to and from all modes of transport

- providing accessible links between all activity precincts

- continuing Brisbane’s cycling legacy, by:

- delivering a premier destination and training venue in preparation for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

5. During the planning stage, technical studies were undertaken across the site regarding:

- flooding risk

- contamination

- town and traffic planning

- stormwater and general water quality

- civil and engineering factors

- lighting

- acoustics

- environmental factors and ecology.

6. The final concept plan was released to the public in late 2021, which outlined the proposed phases of the overarching project, as well as the scope of the BICP. In June 2022, Council lodged a development application for Material change of use for the project which was approved in late 2022.

7. Initial stages of the project involved delivering infrastructure as part of the Vicki Wilson Playground upgrade, including:

- a seating area

- improved lighting and shade

- accessible paths

- a resurfaced car park with new line markings and additional parking spaces.

8. Delivery of the overall project involved implementing measures to:

- ensure the surface and width of the track are consistent throughout

- ensure the track meets current racing and safety standards

- resolve issues with criterium interfaces, including adjacent fields, mounds, level changes and adjoining facilities

- improve the user and spectator experience, by introducing safety measures, seating, signage, viewing areas and shade

- upgrade landscaping, including planting, irrigation and drainage.

9. Since completion, the project has delivered cycling infrastructure to support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond, including:

- a *Union Cycliste Internationale* (UCI) standard criterium track with a:

- 1,484-metre road cycling course

- 1,170-metre cycling course

- 500-metre inline skating track

- a new 2-storey, multi-purpose clubhouse with:

- toilet and change room amenities

- storage facilities

- a community space

- a viewing terrace

- an upgraded car park with more than 230 spaces

- a repurposed existing track for recreational use

- new fencing, walkways and plantings.

10. The site presents future activation opportunities, including:

- a learn-to-ride track

- a BMX pump track

- an off-road cycling course

- a dog off-leash area.

11. Several design specifications were considered during the construction of the new criterium track, including a consistent width and an even bitumen surface throughout the course. A 3‑metre-wide grassed area was installed on either side of the track for safety and drainage purposes. The track’s typography was also considered to meet Australian and UCI standards, ensuring appropriate rise and fall of the track, with the highest section being the start/finish point. Additionally, the inline skating track was designed with safety requirements, racing needs and spectator accessibility in mind, including the installation of a sheltered area for spectators and a timing loop for competitive events.

12. The design of the new clubhouse building was inspired by the form and shape of racing bicycles. The building is designed to be compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, with a ramp and lift for suitable access. The ground level is divided into 2 wings, with the western wing housing storage, a speed zone, a first aid room and a small canteen. The eastern wing contains wet areas and plant clusters. The first level features a covered, outdoor viewing deck, seating and a multi-purpose space.

13. A 25-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system and associated equipment were installed at the BICP, with power ratings ranging from 370 to 415 watts per hour, meeting up to 30% of the site’s electricity needs. The 68 panels within this system were installed at an optimal angle to maximise energy yield.

14. The BICP’s official opening event was held on 22 November 2024, with community members and stakeholders in attendance. The new criterium track was utilised by attendees, with Council receiving positive feedback about various aspects of the track’s design. The Committee was shown drone footage of the Reserve.

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

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: City Standards Committee report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CONSTRUCTION TRUCK DESIGN REVIEW

**352/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Fleet Solutions, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Council’s construction truck design review (the review). She provided the information below.

2. Council currently operates 66 construction trucks across Brisbane, with an ongoing fleet replacement program creating opportunity for continuous improvement. As industry developments and operational practices have changed overtime, improvements to the existing construction truck design are explored to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose and suitable for Council’s diverse operational needs.

3. The following have been identified for improvements as part of the review:

- storage of construction equipment

- addressing the limited use of tipper functions due to equipment storage configurations

- trucks equipped with cranes rarely make use of the crane function

- lack of charging and storage options for battery-powered tools

- opportunities to reduce manual handling required for heavy items, such as generators and compactors

- design enhancements and provision of large toolboxes to assist with daily tasks

- mitigating ingress and egress.

4. Council’s construction trucks are considered a workplace and must comply with various legislation, standards and policies including:

- *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018*

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

- *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*

- *Heavy Vehicle National Law (Queensland)*

- Council’s *Organisational Zero Harm Strategy 2022-2026*.

5. The Committee was shown pictures of Council’s existing construction truck design outlining considerations being made as part of the review, such as:

- appropriate storage and stowage of equipment

- vehicle access and operation

- standardisation and complete lifecycle requirements.

6. The purpose of the review is to provide a safe, fit-for-purpose and contemporary solution while maximising the design life of each truck. Fleet Solutions intends to:

- conduct stakeholder consultation

- manage any delivery and safety risks through standardisation

- ensure a full risk assessment and job safety analysis is undertaken

- conduct periodic review and further consultation if required.

7. Fleet Solutions are currently at the prototype stage of the design process. The prototype construction truck includes the following improvements:

- a reconfigurable layout for changes to cabinet and tray requirements

- electric lifting aid to assist with lifting and storing heavy equipment

- dedicated storage options for work area tooling and dedicated overhead racks

- storage cabinets fitted beneath body

- towing capabilities for multiple configurations

- storage for reinforced mesh panels to minimise overhead manual handling

- lighting improvements for night work and secure locking systems with door ajar alarms.

8. The Committee was shown pictures of the prototype truck design and build. The design of the truck will:

- meet safety requirements for working at heights by ensuring 3 points of contact are maintained

- provide load distribution considerations

- allow for the operation of electrical equipment via a 2,000 watt inverter

- provide fit-for-purpose design across multiple work areas.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Community and the Arts Committee, all those in favour say aye—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

**SERIATIM - CLAUSE B**

|  |
| --- |
| Councillor Lucy COLLIER requested that Clause B, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A MID-SIZED RECTANGULAR STADIUM AT PERRY PARK, BOWEN HILLS, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: So we’ll take A and C.

**Clauses A and C put**

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

Chair: Item B.

**Clause B put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 7 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

**353/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Connected Communities, Lifestyle and Community Services, and the General Manager, Community Facilities, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Council’s summer holiday programs. They provided the information below.

2. Council is delivering a range of events and activities throughout December 2024 and January 2025, including free, low-cost and family-friendly options.

3. The annual Lord Mayor’s Christmas Carols event will be held on 7 December at Riverstage, with $5 tickets for adults and free entry for children. Tickets for the event became available on 12 November and sold out within 50 minutes. For residents unable to secure a ticket, a livestreamed presentation of the event will be displayed at Victoria Park / Barrambin as part of a Christmas‑themed activation. The event will also be televised on 13 December on Channel 9. This year’s program will feature performances by:

- Conrad Sewell

- Ngaiire

- Josh Pyke

- Queensland Ballet

- Jess Hitchcock

- Emma Pask

- Luke Kennedy

- Fatai

- Andy Cook

- Dean Brady

- Waveney Yasso

- The Jingle Belles.

4. The Lord Mayor’s Seniors Christmas Parties 2024 program will run from 2 to 7 December, with 15 shows scheduled and 14,400 audience members expected to attend. Tickets are priced at $7.50, with the event being sponsored by The Village Retirement Group and in support of the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust. This year’s theme is ‘Jingle n Jazz’ and will feature a range of traditional and contemporary performances.

5. The Lord Mayor’s Lighting of the Christmas Tree event will be held on 29 November in King George Square. The tree is 22 metres tall and will be illuminated by 8,640 multi‑coloured lights. The City Hall Lights program will include a projection show titled *Santa’s SOS: A Christmas Rescue*. The production was written by Brisbane-based author, Rebecca Sheraton, and will run every 15 minutes on the evenings of 6 to 24 December.

6. Council’s Bands in the Parks Christmas program is scheduled to commence on 1 December and will include performances by:

- South of the River Community Band at Little Bayside Park, Manly

- Sunnybank Brass and Izabella Cihajic at King George Square, Brisbane City

- Swingalicious Big Band at Banyo Memorial Park

- South Brisbane Federal Band at Leshon Park, Yeronga.

7. The Government House Christmas Lights program will be held from 13 to 19 December and will feature musical performances as part of the Bands in the Parks series. A variety of local community bands will perform throughout the program, including:

- Jindalee Jazz Orchestra

- Mango Jam Big Band

- South East Queensland Symphonic Winds

- Brisbane Brass

- Bayside Brass

- Windsor Excelsior Band

- UQ (University of Queensland) Big Band.

8. Brisbane Powerhouse is hosting a range of events throughout December, including *Christmas Actually*, a live musical performance based on the film *Love Actually*. Australian artist, Dami Im, is performing at the Powerhouse on 8 December, with a combination of original and classic Christmas songs. A live musical adaptation of the Australian television series *Li’l Elvis and the Truckstoppers* will also be performed at the Powerhouse Theatre from 10 to 18 January 2025.

9. The Queensland Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker* will be performed at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre from 13 to 21 December. Children’s dance workshops inspired by the production will be held at the Thomas Dixon Centre from 14 to 22 December, with lessons designed for children with ranging ages and abilities. An on-stage ballet class based on *The Nutcracker* will also be held at the Lyric Theatre on 14 December. The class has been adapted to suit adult dancers of all ages and abilities and will be delivered by Queensland Ballet Teaching Artists.

10. Council’s Active and Healthy program provides free and affordable events and activities across Brisbane that promote movement, wellbeing and connection. The program is available to residents of all ages, fitness levels and abilities, and includes more than 150 activities throughout the school holiday period, such as:

- fishing

- abseiling and rock climbing

- orienteering

- kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding

- skateboarding and scootering

- ninja warrior and obstacle training

- dancing and performing arts

- sporting and fitness activities

- Christmas-themed games, music and craft workshops.

11. The Visible Ink Youth Hub is Council’s central hub for young people in Brisbane aged 12 to 25 years. The hub encourages participants to explore new ideas, access resources and connect with community partners. Throughout December, the hub is offering free:

- music sessions

- use of the sound studio for learning, performing and recording music

- art classes

- access to rehearsal rooms.

12. The Brisbane Greeters program provides free walking tours of the city by local volunteers. The program will offer daily Greeter’s Choice tours and weekly Best of Brisbane (Precincts) tours throughout most of December and January.

13. Council’s $2 Summer Dips initiative will run from 1 December to 28 February, with reduced entry fees for adults and children at participating facilities.

14. The Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium (the Planetarium) will open every day throughout the school holiday period, excluding public holidays. The Planetarium’s program includes:

- *The Dark Side of the Moon* Planetarium Experience

- the Journey to the Stars show

- the Cosmic Collisions show

- an interactive deep space explorer exhibit

- the Passport to the Universe show

- the Perfect Little Planet virtual tour

- the Tycho Goes to Mars show.

15. A range of tours and events will be held at City Hall throughout December and January, including:

- exhibitions at the Museum of Brisbane

- the Christmas Spectacular featuring Mirusia and Friends

- daily clock tower and City Hall tours.

16. The BrisStyle Twilight Markets will be held at King George Square on 6 and 20 December between 4pm and 9pm. These markets will feature a range of stalls run by local designers and artists selling handmade goods.

17. Council’s What’s on in Brisbane page provides residents with up-to-date information on the events and activities available throughout Brisbane. Alternatively, residents can find out what’s on offer by calling Council’s 24-hour Contact Centre.

18. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Managers for their informative update.

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A MID-SIZED RECTANGULAR STADIUM AT PERRY PARK, BOWEN HILLS

**137/220/594/284**

**354/2024-25**

20. A petition requesting Council construct a mid-sized rectangular stadium at Perry Park, Bowen Hills, was received during the Summer Recess 2023-24.

21. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the following information.

22. The petition contains 2,085 signatures. The head petitioner has also submitted this request as a Queensland Government petition, which closed on 31 May 2024.

23. Perry Park (D0085, B-RE-1827) is located at 34 Folkestone Street, Bowen Hills, and is leased by Council to YMCA Queensland, with Strikers, Sport, Recreation, and Welfare Association holding a sub-lease.

24. Council acknowledges that Brisbane has one rectangular sporting venue in which to host various sport codes and activities, being Suncorp Stadium. Suncorp Stadium has a seating capacity of 52,500, is located at Milton and is owned by the Queensland Government. It is also noted that concerns about Suncorp Stadium’s pitch were raised by stakeholders and the community in October and November 2023.

25. Council recognises the valuable role our community organisations play in providing our community with high quality, safe and accessible participation opportunities. As such, Council is committed to the allocation of designated land, facilities and funding to better the Brisbane community. This occurs via leases, licenses and other tenure and grant arrangements, not only for sport and recreation, but also cultural and community purposes.

26. While Council acknowledges the petitioners’ request to construct a mid-sized rectangular stadium at Perry Park, Council’s responsibility is to prioritise budget allocation to all Brisbane’s community organisations and is therefore unable to commit financially at this time to the immediate upgrade of Perry Park.

27. In addition, hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Games) is a once‑in‑a‑generation legacy opportunity for Brisbane, Queensland and Australia. While Council is the Host City and involved in the delivery of the Games, the majority of Games venues and village infrastructure is being delivered by the Queensland Government. The newly elected Queensland Government is undertaking a wide-ranging Olympics venue review which will consider all requirements for the Olympics.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

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

30. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillors Seal Chong Wah and Charles Strunk dissenting.

31. **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:** 137/220/594/284

Thank you for your petition requesting Council construct a mid-sized rectangular stadium for football at Perry Park, Bowen Hills.

Council acknowledges that Brisbane has one rectangular sporting venue in which to host various sport codes and activities, being Suncorp Stadium. Suncorp Stadium is located at Milton with a seating capacity of 52,500. It is also noted that concerns about Suncorp Stadium’s pitch were raised by stakeholders and the community in October and November 2023.

Council recognises the valuable role our community organisations play in providing our community with high quality, safe and accessible participation opportunities. As such, Council is committed to the allocation of designated land, facilities and funding to better the Brisbane community. This occurs via leases, licenses and other tenure and grant arrangements, not only for sport and recreation, but also cultural and community purposes.

While Council acknowledges your request to construct a mid-sized rectangular stadium at Perry Park, Council’s responsibility is to prioritise budget allocation to all Brisbane’s community organisations and is therefore unable to commit financially at this time to the immediate upgrade of Perry Park.

In addition, hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Games) is a once-in-a-generation legacy opportunity for Brisbane, Queensland and Australia. While Council is the Host City and involved in the delivery of the Games, the majority of Games venues and village infrastructure is being delivered by the Queensland Government. The newly elected Queensland Government is undertaking a wide-ranging Olympics venue review, which will consider all requirements for the Olympics.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mrs Cinnamon O’Shanesy, Sport and Community Officer, Healthy and Vibrant Communities, Connected Communities, Lifestyle and Community Services, on 3407 0823.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL AMEND THE WEEKEND FUNCTION HIRE RATE OF COUNCIL’S COMMUNITY HALLS

**137/220/594/291**

**355/2024-25**

32. A petition requesting Council amend the start time of the weekend function hire rate (weekend rate) for Council’s Community Halls on Fridays, from 2pm to 5pm, was received during the Election Recess 2024.

33. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the following information.

34. The petition contains 62 signatures from the Wynnum Manly Bridge Club Inc. (the Club). The Club are long-term hirers of Wynnum Municipal Hall located at 219 Bay Terrace, Wynnum. Of the petitioners, 44 live in Wynnum Manly Ward, 13 live in other wards within the City of Brisbane, and 5 live outside of the City of Brisbane.

35. The weekend rate for Council’s Community Halls ensures casual hirers can utilise larger venues. Larger venues are more desirable venues due to their size, capacity, availability of equipment and location. These larger venues can host events such as community gatherings, celebrations, weddings and musical performances. Council operates nine designated community halls that fall within this rate, including Wynnum Municipal Hall.

36. The rate start time and price is determined by Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges. As per the Lord Mayor’s budget announcement for 2024-25, the Schedule of Fees and Charges has been adjusted, with the weekend rate start time commencing at 5pm on Fridays. This change was effective from 1 July 2024.

Consultation

37. As this is a citywide matter, Councillor Vicki Howard, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

38. It is estimated that approximately 29 unique hirers, including the head petitioner, will benefit from the adjustment to the weekend function hire rate start time.

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

40. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/291

Thank you for your petition requesting Council amend the start time of the weekend function hire rate (weekend rate) for Council’s Community Halls on Fridays, from 2pm to 5pm.

The weekend rate for Council’s Community Halls ensures casual hirers can utilise larger venues for their desirable size, capacity, availability of equipment and location. These larger venues can host events such as community gatherings, celebrations, weddings and musical performances. Council operates nine designated community halls that fall within this rate, including Wynnum Municipal Hall.

The weekend rate start time and price is determined by Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges. As per the Lord Mayor’s budget announcement for 2024-25, the Schedule of Fees and Charges has been adjusted, with the weekend rate start time commencing at 5pm on Fridays. This change was effective from 1 July 2024.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Mareeta White, Community Halls Operations Manager, City and Community Halls, Community Facilities, Lifestyle and Community Services, on 3178 1664.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Finance and City Governance Committee report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, 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 Councillor Julia Dixon.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Lucy Collier, Trina Massey and Danita Parry.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 2024-25 SEASON PREPAREDNESS

**356/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, City Resilience, City Administration and Governance, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Council’s 2024-25 summer season preparation. He provided the information below.

2. Council’s City Resilience branch works closely with external partners to undertake activities for bushfire and flood preparation. These activities were showcased at the Council-coordinated Local Disaster Management Group meeting in October 2024, during which the group was provided with season preparedness updates from key stakeholders including the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire Department and Urban Utilities.

3. The Brisbane Local Government Area is surrounded by more than 10,000 hectares of bushland and managing fire risk is vital for protecting homes and environmental habitats. Council actively manages the risk of bushfires by:

- undertaking planned burns each year

- maintaining 570 kilometres of fire access tracks

- having more than 100 fire-trained staff and 20 standby vehicles.

4. The Committee was provided with statistics from Council’s capability statement, which details the number of volunteers and workforce members ready to respond to an event, in addition to:

- 8 new online disaster management training courses

- 194,119 subscribers to the Brisbane Severe Weather Alert (BSWA) service

- a new BSWA notification for planned burns

- Council hosting and participating in 64 engagement activities

- delivering 5 major disaster management exercises

- engaging with 12,522 residents to develop their emergency plan and kits.

5. Council engages the community through a broad-reach engagement plan, including 8 bushfire information sessions, a Seniors Expo and the Emergency Services Expo. These are in addition to facilitating and participating in a number of exercises across the year which were listed to the Committee.

6. Council is currently considering 13 locations for the potential installation of live stream flood monitoring cameras. This will enhance Council’s Emergency Dashboard to enable residents to view still photos or real time images during flood events. In addition to this initiative, Council has also secured waterRIDE, a creek flood forecasting enhancement which will allow for the creation of a new flood layer to view the extent of creek flooding and provide early advice on broad risk areas. Preparedness resources and Council’s strategic approach to providing public flood advice and warnings was detailed to the Committee.

7. The Brisbane City State Emergency Service Unit is currently undergoing recruitment and training to prepare for the upcoming season. By expanding membership and enhancing the volunteer base, Council strengthens its ability to respond to events and provide critical support to the community.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any petitions?

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

We’ll now move to General Business. Any speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak about the petition in the Infrastructure Committee report calling on Council to implement traffic calming devices in Roland and Sollis Street in Geebung. This was brought to my attention, the issue of rat running was brought to my attention in Roland and Sollis Streets some time ago, certainly more than 2 years ago. Over that time we’ve been working with local residents, communicating with Council, with police as well, about driver behaviour issues there. Local residents have been frustrated by the process or the slow process that Council’s gone through in response to those concerns.

Now it’s one street essentially, that is they form sort of a dogleg, 2 streets that flow into each other that connect Murphy and Robinson Roads. Those northsiders will know how busy Robinson and Murphy Roads are. It forms a perfect shortcut off Robinson Road to avoid a set of traffic lights that Robinson and Murphy Road intersect on. Cars can cut out that leg, turn left and head up to Chermside Shopping Centre and beyond onto Gympie Road. There’s a clear rat run through there. It doesn’t form a grid of streets or a precinct like a lot of others are, it literally is just 2 streets. To my mind over the years, it certainly should be eligible for some form of traffic calming because there is clearly a high number of non-local motorists using this as, in the technical definition of what we like to talk about, is rat running.

The response to the petition said—and I circulated this with local residents, who I understand have been contacting the LORD MAYOR directly as well. It is disappointing he isn’t here to enter—well couldn’t have entered the debate of course because we ran out of time, but certainly to hear this anyway. The petition response said the traffic volumes are low and well within the limit of neighbourhood roads and there’s a very good compliance with 50 kilometres an hour. However, the traffic counts that were provided as well as part of the response to me as the local Councillor, is that an August daily total showed that the westbound traffic averages were 470 vehicle movements and eastbound is 174.

It clearly shows that there’s a rat run occurring, there are 300 more vehicles. This is a very small, otherwise very quiet street where people like to allow their children to play in the front yard, that sometimes spills out into the driveway and with neighbours on the street. When you have an extra 300 cars making what you understand are frustrated rat run movements off a very congested Robinson Road onto another very congested Murphy Road out there on the northside. Council’s own statistics show that there is a clear pattern of rat running on there, but it didn’t quite meet the sort of artificial number that Council puts in the policy around providing some form of traffic devices.

Now this limits even what I can do as a local Councillor. Even if I made the decision through SEF to say okay, if we do up a—get a scheme designed and at some point maybe a shovel-ready project that the LORD MAYOR could fund through the capital budget—wouldn’t hold my breath but maybe something through SEF. But the continued sort of, pardon the pun, roadblocks that have been put in place for months and months and months as local residents have gone directly to Council through me to try and seek some answers, seem very arbitrary. This is, I suppose, an example I use of things that are occurring around the city as well. Part of me suspects that it’s also that there’s a bit of a directive about not approving these projects as well because they’re simply not getting funded.

It’s pretty embarrassing to go through a process and say yes, there’s clearly rat running going on here, you’ll be eligible for a scheme, a project to deter non-local drivers coming into your street and using it as a shortcut and then those things never get funded. I’ve seen that time and time again. What’s known as the Aberdeen Parade precinct in Boondall has been—you know, gone to detailed design using SEF funding from the Deagon Ward Suburban Enhancement Fund this year, after community consultation and concept designs over the last few years, yet it continues to remain unfunded and what Council officers tell me through those surveys is that that problem’s getting worse and worse and worse. I mean residents tell me that as well. This doesn’t seem to be an issue where we don’t have a problem. This seems to be another example of an issue where there is no money allocated to fix these problems under the LNP.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Yes, thanks, Madam Chair. Look, just I feel the need to respond to Councillor CASSIDY. It’s very difficult, I had a little bit of trouble tracking what he was saying because of course he voted in favour of the petition at that recent vote. He voted in favour of this Council’s position on Roland and Sollis Street. We divided on the Chermside petition D, not on the Geebung petition B, so Councillor CASSIDY in fact voted with us in an undivided—without dividing. Sorry, no, we divided on install traffic calming measures on roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, Chermside. We—Councillor CASSIDY voted for what was in this report on Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung, all right? Just after all of that, I think the record should reflect Councillor CASSIDY cast his vote in support of this majority’s position, all right? That should be the first thing that we—where we begin on this.

The other point is if you reflect on his speech, there was, as our investigation showed, 643 vehicles per day on Roland and Sollis Street. Now Roland and Sollis Street is like a dogleg that connects 2 major roads in the Geebung area and it sort of works as one part of the network. We found that there were 643 vehicles per week day and an average speed of 40.8 kilometres an hour. While I appreciate that local residents would like fewer streets than that, there are streets in our city who have a much higher level of vehicles per day, with a much lower level of compliance, which would call this Council to them before this one. I appreciate some residents would view their concern as the most important one. However, we do need to take a whole-of-city response and quite frankly, if you’re at 643—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Councillor WINES: I appreciate—I’m not sure what Councillor CASSIDY’s going to say that I have misquoted him as saying, other than saying that 643 is very low for a street that would demand traffic calming. You would probably need to have 1,200 vehicles per day minimum for—to qualify for traffic calming, for a major traffic calming scheme. There would have to be a level of compliance well above this one. Now I appreciate that some residents may feel that they have some concerns. Can I encourage Councillor CASSIDY to consider using the sign scheme, the SAM (Speed Awareness Monitors) sign—excuse me, the SAM sign scheme, which I have found in my own ward to be a very effective way of managing these sorts of things.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: I hear Councillors calling out in support, that it’s been a great funded project that’s done a lot of good in their ward, which I appreciate that. I appreciate the support and so I have found it in my own ward a really effective way to address localised concerns without massive traffic calming schemes. I think that if Councillor CASSIDY reflected on that opportunity, that would be available to him. But look, I appreciate the concerns of the people of Sollis and Roland. However, at this time the city will have priorities which—in streets where there are much greater numbers of vehicles per day. I think that that’s reflected in the vote, where of course the Council unanimously voted for our position on that.

Chair: Point of misrepresentation, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I am thoroughly confused by Councillor WINES saying that we voted in favour of the petition response. I’m looking at the Infrastructure Committee report meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2024, to be presented to Council on Tuesday 3 December, which was the adjourned meeting in the Big Tin Can, whatever we call it. Table of contents item D is petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung. I’d say that Councillor WINES has something that’s incorrect in front of him. He might like to apologise.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I’ll just stick to what I was going to stand up and speak on, because I mean I think the biggest own goal going was just then, but anyway. I want to speak just briefly on *AP247 Councillor Conduct Assessment and Investigations Policy*. Only the Opposition Leader got the opportunity to speak on this item earlier because of the LNP’s appalling changes to the Meetings Local Law last year, that guillotine democratic debate in this Chamber at a set 3-hour mark. We tested today whether it could be extended for an important purpose, discussing bikeways in Brisbane and they said no. But it’s obvious the restrictions on the length of speaking, cuts to debate in the Chamber, the LNP do not respect democratic debate at all and we know that.

They’ve used their massive majority to restrict our ability to raise issues. I just want to put on the record very briefly my concern about what’s happened with this AP247. To be fair, the State Government have a hand in this and the problem lies as much with them as with this Council. However, it is Council’s poor—sorry, poor delivery of this new policy to meet the State Government changes that is the problem. Firstly, the policy before us is incredibly vague, it is opaque, it lacks clarity, it lacks substance and it lacks detail. It puts Councillor conduct matters in inappropriate conduct back into the hands of Council.

Now the OIA was set up to take those matters out of the hands of Council, to depoliticise the handling of code of conduct matters. Instead what we’re seeing here is the repoliticisation of a lot of these complaints. Having been here and seen how this process operated back in 2010 to whenever it was, you know, 10 years, a decade of this, it was appalling. Check out the ombudsman’s report from I think it was 2011 or 2012, where the ombudsman made very specific comments that the CEO was providing information to the panel of people who were investigating that was adverse to the Councillor. They didn’t know about it, they were being briefed and given information that we had no idea and could not respond to. The conflicted and corrupted system that existed in this Council back in the 2010s was appalling, it was appalling.

At least when the State moved to the OIA, which is obviously a failed body, I’ve said it to them in the inquiry and I’ve said it here many times, they’ve been unable to handle complaints in a timely way, they’ve been unable to figure out what’s important and what’s not. Instead of adjusting this issue of inappropriate conduct and putting in a slightly higher standard to weed out ridiculous small issues, they’ve just pushed it all back on the Council. Pushing it back into the same territory that existed over a decade ago, that caused so many problems within Council and we are seeing that same system happening again. This policy before us today is going to be the downfall of this process because it is so poorly written. The lack of detail in it—and I agree with everything that the Opposition Leader said—is really problematic. There are certainly a number of problems with the bipartisan approach the LORD MAYOR takes. The LORD MAYOR doesn’t speak to us or me or the Greens about the Committee composition of the Ethics Committee, only talks to the Labor Party. Immediately it’s been politicised—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, yes, but he at least wrote to you and said hey—he certainly wouldn’t do that with me or the Greens and certainly that indicates that he’s operating in a political way already. We know that because of what happened when the Committee was last constituted, when the LORD MAYOR came in this Chamber and used Councillors acting in good faith in a political way and created, I think, some really unpleasant issues because Councillors were doing the right thing when they served on the Ethics Committee. That was Councillor CUNNINGHAM and Councillor Cook. We know that not only does the LORD MAYOR politicise these things, that there were massive problems with the way it operated in 2010. Now there is a new chief legal officer—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —but I don’t have any confidence in this process at all.

Chair: Are there any further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, on a point of order, Chair, I just want to seek some clarification on the vote that occurred. I just want to confirm—for you to confirm, because the papers that were provided to us as councillors said that item D in the Infrastructure Committee was the petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung. Is that what was voted on when we separated?

Chair: Yes, Councillor CASSIDY, you’re right. Councillor, D is the one that was separated, which is the petition requesting Council implement traffic calming devices in Roland and Sollis Streets, Geebung.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you. It is important for me locally, thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Madam Chair. The official documents provided—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: —to me by the officers behind me say that D, requesting Council install traffic calming devices of roads between 7th Brigade Park and Hamilton Road, Chermside.

Chair: I understand the confusion, Councillor WINES, but the—

Councillor WINES: That was the record provided to me by officers as the official account.

Chair: Yes, the updated—there obviously was some confusion. There was an update, the updated version is the one that you’re referring to, Councillor CASSIDY and that is how we voted.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please keep—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you very much.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair. Sorry, I just need some clarification on that.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: What updated papers from the meeting of 3 December are you referring to, when that meeting had started and I’m not aware of any agenda change to the items. Can you please explain to me what changed and when?

Chair: It’s just the table of contents, Councillor. When you go into the actual body of that—and that was done before the last meeting, so obviously there was a little bit of confusion, because in the body it has the correct version but it had been typed up the other way in the contents. I assure you that we have voted on that correct item.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: If there’s been a problem with the Council papers, the normal process is to correct those through an amendment.

Chair: Yes, and they were before the last meeting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, no, no.

Chair: That was all done and I do remember it clearly that that was done, so thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I think you’ve misunderstood me, Madam Chairman. I’m not aware that there was a change to any Council papers once the meeting had started.

Chair: No Councillor, it was correct at the time that we had the last meeting. It was the correct version when it was distributed, but Councillor WINES unfortunately seems to have an incorrect version there. I can assure you—and you can go back and check that, but it was correct as it was distributed.

Councillor JOHNSTON: What?

Chair: Moving on, Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: That doesn’t make any sense.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order.

Councillor CHONG WAH: I’m just seeking clarification, why is there another version floating around?

Chair: Okay, I’m just going to say this again slowly. The distributed version was correct and the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, stop calling out while I am speaking. You have been in the Chamber long enough to know when I’m speaking, you do not. I can’t be any clearer, it is the correct version that you have there in front of you. We have voted correctly, Councillor CASSIDY.

Moving on, are there any further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: That is extraordinary, okay.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Sorry, just going to talk—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, do you want your colleague to speak? Please stop speaking and allow her to speak.

Councillor COLLIER: I’m just going to talk on one item of General Business this evening and that is about Council’s decision to cut CityCat services in Brisbane. Brisbane City Council and Councillor Ryan MURPHY and the LORD MAYOR have made the decision to cut more than 100 CityCat services from Apollo Road in Bulimba and the Milton CityCat terminals. As of December last year, services from Apollo Road—to and from Apollo Road in Bulimba dropped from 173 a day to 111 and Milton’s reduced from 122 to 71.

In summary, Council have cut 62 daily CityCat services on weekdays to and from Apollo Road ferry terminal. They’ve reduced 51 daily services at the Milton terminal. Other greatest hits of the LNP Council cutting river services, they removed the Norman Park ferry terminal last year—the infrastructure—without any notice or consultation, which of course follows the form of just cutting the service, full stop, without any notice or consultation. Of course last year Council introduced fees for cross-river ferry services that were free previously, without really mentioning it or speaking about it, they just tried to sneak that one in too. We are in an environment where, as we know, Brisbane is Australia’s most congested city and the 10th-most congested city in the world, 10th worst, sorry, 10th best or worst, I don’t know. We’re in the top 10.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: It’s not a good thing and either way, you would think that Council would be making decisions to add more services, or even just maintain the ones we’ve got, given the popularity. We’ve had Council presentations—Committee presentations in the Transport Committee and anecdotally, you go out and use the CityCat, you can see people are so excited to get back on the services, thanks to the previous Labor State Government’s amazing initiative, transformative initiative, the gamechanger, which of course is 50 cent fares. We’ve seen public transport patronage explode and especially on those CityCat services.

Given the context of that, you would think okay, Council’s probably just going to keep things going and maybe add some more infrastructure and some more services. So when these decisions were made, my community in particular of course were horrified and upset about that. They’re still coming to me every single day, telling me how frustrated they are that the LORD MAYOR and the LNP Council have made the decision to cut services from Apollo Road. It’s not just the peak hour commute, it’s commuting on the weekends. It’s not just for working, it’s for families, it’s an amazing opportunity to see all the wonderful things that our city has to offer. It is a tourist icon as well.

This decision was made with no notice and no consultation. We need to be encouraging more people to get on public transport and out of cars to reduce congestion on busy local roads. On behalf of my community, on behalf of the people who use CityCats in Milton as well, we’re calling on Council—and there are more than 800, about 800 people now who have signed the petition, I know there’ll be more to come, who are asking the same. Please restore the CityCat services cut and invest in more local suburban congestion busting projects.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you. Just one item of General Business and that is the festival that was held a couple of weeks ago at C.J. Greenfield. Now this is an annual event that’s been going for nearly 50 years actually and it’s the biggest Vietnamese festival in South East Queensland. All levels of government were represented, we had a senator and of course Milton Dick, the Speaker of the House, was there. We had representative, Kerri‑Anne Dooley, the Member for Redcliffe who drove all the way down to represent the Premier. That’s a bit of a trip down, I suppose about an hour and a quarter, something like that, or more. It’s been a while since I’ve been to Redcliffe. Anyway, she came down representing the Premier and of course, Councillor Sarah HUTTON of course was representing the LORD MAYOR and I was there of course.

There were multiple members of the 3 levels of government, which is always very much appreciated by the crowd, because it is a big thing for the Vietnamese community. Dr Duong Bui, who’s the president of the Vietnamese chapter and his committee put it on each year. It goes over 2 days, or 2 evenings I should say. We almost had a bit of a washout on the Friday, but thankfully there was praying going on that the storm went right around us and headed south. But I’ll tell you what, it looked dicey. We had a bit of wind and everything and it did look a bit dicey. There were some worried people with all the lightning coming down.

But anyway, we were thankful that it went around this year. It has rained in the past but not very often. As I say, it’s the biggest festival, short of the Moon Festival and it’s known as the Tết Festival for the Vietnamese community, but it’s basically the lunar festival which is celebrated by many cultures in Asia. But there was great representation from a lot of the churches as well, churches and temples. As I say, there was probably—the VIP list that they go through is probably about 50 people that they recognise. That’s how big a deal it is at C.J. Greenfield.

Just one note for the Chair, and that is that it’s about time that the C.J. Greenfield parking area, which takes in many sporting grounds, be sealed because it is probably one of the busiest sporting precincts in Brisbane. Driving past there any night of the week or on the weekend, there is always hundreds of cars in there. It’s used by soccer, it’s used by AFL, it’s used by cricket and of course the rugby league as well and netball and a few others. I just want to make note for the Chair responsible that it’s about time that we did get some—that it gets resealed or it gets sealed actually. It’s never been sealed in the all the time that it’s been open. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

No further speakers, that now ends the meeting. Thank you, Councillors.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (from meeting on 26 November 2024)**

1. As at 1 November 2024 how many properties in Brisbane are currently being used for a ‘Transitory Accommodation Purpose’?
2. As at 1 November 2024 how many properties in each Ward are classified under ratings category ‘23 – Transitory Accommodation’ (broken down by Ward)?
3. As at 1 November 2024 how many properties in each Ward are classified under rations category ‘24 – CTS Transitory Accommodation’ (broken down by Ward)?

***A1. to A3.***

|  | ***1 Nov 2024*** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Accounts per Ward by Category*** | ***Rating Category*** | | ***Grand Total*** |
| ***Ward*** | ***23*** | ***24*** |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *6* | *1* | *7* |
| *Calamvale* | *17* | *1* | *18* |
| *Central* | *11* | *807* | *818* |
| *Chandler* | *12* | *4* | *16* |
| *Coorparoo* | *11* | *24* | *35* |
| *Deagon* | *33* | *6* | *39* |
| *Doboy* | *6* | *7* | *13* |
| *Enoggera* | *10* | *5* | *15* |
| *Forest Lake* | *10* | *4* | *14* |
| *Hamilton* | *13* | *122* | *135* |
| *Holland Park* | *7* | *1* | *8* |
| *Jamboree* | *6* |  | *6* |
| *Macgregor* | *17* | *10* | *27* |
| *Marchant* | *3* | *84* | *87* |
| *Mcdowall* | *5* | *3* | *8* |
| *Moorooka* | *12* | *3* | *15* |
| *Morningside* | *17* | *26* | *43* |
| *Northgate* | *10* | *5* | *15* |
| *Paddington* | *25* | *206* | *231* |
| *Pullenvale* | *5* |  | *5* |
| *Runcorn* | *14* | *3* | *17* |
| *Tennyson* | *8* | *8* | *16* |
| *The Gabba* | *13* | *386* | *399* |
| *The Gap* | *5* |  | *5* |
| *Walter Taylor* | *9* | *34* | *43* |
| *Wynnum-Manly* | *16* | *11* | *27* |

1. How many enquires has Brisbane City Council received in regards to grass cutting, broken down by suburb and ward, during December 2023, January and February 2024?

***A4.*** *Note that the below figures include multiple contacts for the same request, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing request.*

| ***SUBURB*** | ***CONTACTS*** |  | ***SUBURB*** | ***CONTACTS*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Acacia Ridge* | *55* |  | *Lota* | *31* |
| *Albion* | *9* |  | *Lutwyche* | *6* |
| *Alderley* | *21* |  | *Lytton* | *3* |
| *Algester* | *20* |  | *Macgregor* | *14* |
| *Annerley* | *56* |  | *Mackenzie* | *3* |
| *Anstead* | *15* |  | *Manly* | *20* |
| *Archerfield* | *3* |  | *Manly West* | *62* |
| *Ascot* | *10* |  | *Mansfield* | *30* |
| *Ashgrove* | *75* |  | *Mcdowall* | *63* |
| *Aspley* | *45* |  | *Middle Park* | *8* |
| *Auchenflower* | *29* |  | *Milton* | *15* |
| *Bald Hills* | *41* |  | *Mitchelton* | *31* |
| *Balmoral* | *16* |  | *Moggill* | *32* |
| *Banyo* | *34* |  | *Moorooka* | *40* |
| *Bardon* | *55* |  | *Morningside* | *55* |
| *Bellbowrie* | *13* |  | *Mount Coot-Tha* | *2* |
| *Belmont* | *13* |  | *Mount Crosby* | *7* |
| *Boondall* | *64* |  | *Mount Gravatt* | *11* |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *72* |  | *Mount Gravatt East* | *67* |
| *Bridgeman Downs* | *85* |  | *Mount Ommaney* | *15* |
| *Brighton* | *51* |  | *Murarrie* | *33* |
| *Brisbane Airport* | *1* |  | *Nathan* | *16* |
| *Brisbane City* | *2* |  | *New Farm* | *16* |
| *Brookfield* | *23* |  | *Newmarket* | *24* |
| *Bulimba* | *59* |  | *Newstead* | *23* |
| *Burbank* | *10* |  | *Norman Park* | *32* |
| *Calamvale* | *41* |  | *Northgate* | *21* |
| *Camp Hill* | *50* |  | *Nudgee* | *9* |
| *Cannon Hill* | *47* |  | *Nudgee Beach* | *15* |
| *Carina* | *46* |  | *Nundah* | *22* |
| *Carina Heights* | *30* |  | *Oxley* | *105* |
| *Carindale* | *68* |  | *Paddington* | *49* |
| *Carseldine* | *43* |  | *Pallara* | *87* |
| *Chandler* | *22* |  | *Parkinson* | *53* |
| *Chapel Hill* | *29* |  | *Petrie Terrace* | *2* |
| *Chelmer* | *50* |  | *Pinjarra Hills* | *4* |
| *Chermside* | *47* |  | *Pinkenba* | *24* |
| *Chermside West* | *44* |  | *Pullenvale* | *8* |
| *Chuwar* | *1* |  | *Ransome* | *2* |
| *Clayfield* | *23* |  | *Red Hill* | *27* |
| *Coopers Plains* | *68* |  | *Richlands* | *17* |
| *Coorparoo* | *63* |  | *Riverhills* | *9* |
| *Corinda* | *40* |  | *Robertson* | *10* |
| *Darra* | *48* |  | *Rochedale* | *54* |
| *Deagon* | *18* |  | *Rocklea* | *51* |
| *Doolandella* | *26* |  | *Runcorn* | *68* |
| *Drewvale* | *7* |  | *Salisbury* | *59* |
| *Durack* | *17* |  | *Sandgate* | *38* |
| *Dutton Park* | *3* |  | *Seven Hills* | *20* |
| *Eagle Farm* | *6* |  | *Seventeen Mile Rocks* | *15* |
| *East Brisbane* | *27* |  | *Sherwood* | *28* |
| *Eight Mile Plains* | *44* |  | *Shorncliffe* | *11* |
| *Ellen Grove* | *25* |  | *Sinnamon Park* | *30* |
| *Enoggera* | *24* |  | *South Brisbane* | *8* |
| *Everton Park* | *74* |  | *Spring Hill* | *1* |
| *Fairfield* | *44* |  | *St Lucia* | *37* |
| *Ferny Grove* | *23* |  | *Stafford* | *63* |
| *Fig Tree Pocket* | *10* |  | *Stafford Heights* | *29* |
| *Fitzgibbon* | *45* |  | *Stones Corner* | *14* |
| *Forest Lake* | *119* |  | *Stretton* | *14* |
| *Gaythorne* | *8* |  | *Sumner* | *11* |
| *Geebung* | *15* |  | *Sunnybank* | *69* |
| *Gordon Park* | *24* |  | *Sunnybank Hills* | *56* |
| *Graceville* | *50* |  | *Taigum* | *30* |
| *Grange* | *18* |  | *Taringa* | *25* |
| *Greenslopes* | *42* |  | *Tarragindi* | *62* |
| *Gumdale* | *7* |  | *Teneriffe* | *19* |
| *Hamilton* | *42* |  | *Tennyson* | *13* |
| *Hawthorne* | *11* |  | *The Gap* | *97* |
| *Heathwood* | *30* |  | *Tingalpa* | *51* |
| *Hemmant* | *19* |  | *Toowong* | *47* |
| *Hendra* | *31* |  | *Upper Brookfield* | *1* |
| *Herston* | *12* |  | *Upper Kedron* | *35* |
| *Highgate Hill* | *20* |  | *Upper Mount Gravatt* | *37* |
| *Holland Park* | *70* |  | *Virginia* | *20* |
| *Holland Park West* | *56* |  | *Wacol* | *5* |
| *Inala* | *75* |  | *Wakerley* | *46* |
| *Indooroopilly* | *50* |  | *Wavell Heights* | *53* |
| *Jamboree Heights* | *13* |  | *West End* | *26* |
| *Jindalee* | *37* |  | *Westlake* | *12* |
| *Kalinga* | *18* |  | *Willawong* | *6* |
| *Kangaroo Point* | *15* |  | *Wilston* | *22* |
| *Karana Downs* | *11* |  | *Windsor* | *49* |
| *Karawatha* | *1* |  | *Wishart* | *52* |
| *Kedron* | *42* |  | *Woolloongabba* | *12* |
| *Kelvin Grove* | *32* |  | *Wooloowin* | *9* |
| *Kenmore* | *32* |  | *Wynnum* | *57* |
| *Kenmore Hills* | *6* |  | *Wynnum West* | *50* |
| *Keperra* | *52* |  | *Yeerongpilly* | *28* |
| *Kholo* | *1* |  | *Yeronga* | *57* |
| *Kuraby* | *19* |  | *Zillmere* | *38* |

| ***WARD*** | ***CONTACTS*** |  | ***WARD*** | ***CONTACTS*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *210* |  | *Marchant* | *226* |
| *Calamvale* | *257* |  | *McDowall* | *304* |
| *Central* | *48* |  | *Moorooka* | *344* |
| *Chandler* | *209* |  | *Morningside* | *207* |
| *Coorparoo* | *173* |  | *Northgate* | *186* |
| *Deagon* | *256* |  | *Paddington* | *230* |
| *Doboy* | *239* |  | *Pullenvale* | *178* |
| *Enoggera* | *203* |  | *Runcorn* | *245* |
| *Forest Lake* | *259* |  | *Tennyson* | *389* |
| *Hamilton* | *182* |  | *The Gabba* | *79* |
| *Holland Park* | *285* |  | *The Gap* | *260* |
| *Jamboree* | *245* |  | *Walter Taylor* | *167* |
| *Macgregor* | *199* |  | *Wynnum Manly* | *186* |

1. How many enquires has Brisbane City Council received in regards to grass cutting, broken down by suburb and ward, during December 2022, January and February 2023?

***A5.*** *Note that the below figures include multiple contacts for the same request, and can also include requests for information, complaints, suggestions, or a status update on an existing request.*

| ***SUBURB*** | ***CONTACTS*** |  | ***SUBURB*** | ***CONTACTS*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Acacia Ridge* | *41* |  | *Kholo* | *1* |
| *Albion* | *3* |  | *Kuraby* | *6* |
| *Alderley* | *10* |  | *Lota* | *9* |
| *Algester* | *11* |  | *Lutwyche* | *4* |
| *Annerley* | *16* |  | *Macgregor* | *7* |
| *Anstead* | *9* |  | *Manly* | *9* |
| *Archerfield* | *4* |  | *Manly West* | *15* |
| *Ascot* | *11* |  | *Mansfield* | *8* |
| *Ashgrove* | *59* |  | *Mcdowall* | *6* |
| *Aspley* | *22* |  | *Middle Park* | *4* |
| *Auchenflower* | *13* |  | *Milton* | *2* |
| *Bald Hills* | *23* |  | *Mitchelton* | *28* |
| *Balmoral* | *7* |  | *Moggill* | *11* |
| *Banyo* | *10* |  | *Moorooka* | *24* |
| *Bardon* | *33* |  | *Morningside* | *19* |
| *Bellbowrie* | *7* |  | *Mount Crosby* | *11* |
| *Belmont* | *2* |  | *Mount Gravatt* | *12* |
| *Boondall* | *16* |  | *Mount Gravatt East* | *29* |
| *Bowen Hills* | *4* |  | *Mount Ommaney* | *14* |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *22* |  | *Murarrie* | *9* |
| *Bridgeman Downs* | *18* |  | *Nathan* | *2* |
| *Brighton* | *19* |  | *New Farm* | *17* |
| *Brisbane City* | *2* |  | *Newmarket* | *6* |
| *Brookfield* | *13* |  | *Newstead* | *6* |
| *Bulimba* | *14* |  | *Norman Park* | *12* |
| *Burbank* | *6* |  | *Northgate* | *3* |
| *Calamvale* | *17* |  | *Nudgee* | *9* |
| *Camp Hill* | *11* |  | *Nudgee Beach* | *2* |
| *Cannon Hill* | *11* |  | *Nundah* | *11* |
| *Carina* | *7* |  | *Oxley* | *26* |
| *Carina Heights* | *10* |  | *Paddington* | *20* |
| *Carindale* | *27* |  | *Pallara* | *20* |
| *Carseldine* | *18* |  | *Parkinson* | *15* |
| *Chandler* | *8* |  | *Petrie Terrace* | *4* |
| *Chapel Hill* | *25* |  | *Pinjarra Hills* | *1* |
| *Chelmer* | *4* |  | *Pinkenba* | *8* |
| *Chermside* | *15* |  | *Pullenvale* | *6* |
| *Chermside West* | *12* |  | *Ransome* | *3* |
| *Chuwar* | *1* |  | *Red Hill* | *17* |
| *Clayfield* | *12* |  | *Richlands* | *10* |
| *Coopers Plains* | *19* |  | *Riverhills* | *10* |
| *Coorparoo* | *41* |  | *Robertson* | *3* |
| *Corinda* | *9* |  | *Rochedale* | *16* |
| *Darra* | *15* |  | *Rocklea* | *6* |
| *Deagon* | *5* |  | *Runcorn* | *12* |
| *Doolandella* | *17* |  | *Salisbury* | *24* |
| *Drewvale* | *4* |  | *Sandgate* | *12* |
| *Durack* | *17* |  | *Seven Hills* | *6* |
| *Dutton Park* | *1* |  | *Seventeen Mile Rocks* | *4* |
| *Eagle Farm* | *6* |  | *Sherwood* | *11* |
| *East Brisbane* | *6* |  | *Shorncliffe* | *4* |
| *Eight Mile Plains* | *10* |  | *Sinnamon Park* | *3* |
| *Ellen Grove* | *14* |  | *South Brisbane* | *2* |
| *Enoggera* | *5* |  | *St Lucia* | *19* |
| *Everton Park* | *12* |  | *Stafford* | *14* |
| *Fairfield* | *10* |  | *Stafford Heights* | *9* |
| *Ferny Grove* | *6* |  | *Stones Corner* | *1* |
| *Fig Tree Pocket* | *22* |  | *Stretton* | *14* |
| *Fitzgibbon* | *14* |  | *Sumner* | *7* |
| *Forest Lake* | *116* |  | *Sunnybank* | *16* |
| *Gaythorne* | *7* |  | *Sunnybank Hills* | *21* |
| *Geebung* | *10* |  | *Taigum* | *12* |
| *Gordon Park* | *8* |  | *Taringa* | *17* |
| *Graceville* | *10* |  | *Tarragindi* | *21* |
| *Grange* | *25* |  | *Teneriffe* | *1* |
| *Greenslopes* | *12* |  | *Tennyson* | *2* |
| *Gumdale* | *2* |  | *The Gap* | *46* |
| *Hamilton* | *18* |  | *Tingalpa* | *9* |
| *Hawthorne* | *4* |  | *Toowong* | *12* |
| *Heathwood* | *14* |  | *Upper Kedron* | *7* |
| *Hemmant* | *15* |  | *Upper Mount Gravatt* | *11* |
| *Hendra* | *18* |  | *Virginia* | *6* |
| *Herston* | *6* |  | *Wacol* | *7* |
| *Highgate Hill* | *5* |  | *Wakerley* | *12* |
| *Holland Park* | *23* |  | *Wavell Heights* | *18* |
| *Holland Park West* | *28* |  | *West End* | *9* |
| *Inala* | *30* |  | *Westlake* | *2* |
| *Indooroopilly* | *32* |  | *Willawong* | *6* |
| *Jindalee* | *17* |  | *Wilston* | *7* |
| *Kalinga* | *6* |  | *Windsor* | *20* |
| *Kangaroo Point* | *5* |  | *Wishart* | *29* |
| *Karana Downs* | *10* |  | *Woolloongabba* | *5* |
| *Karawatha* | *2* |  | *Wooloowin* | *3* |
| *Kedron* | *16* |  | *Wynnum* | *23* |
| *Kelvin Grove* | *23* |  | *Wynnum West* | *22* |
| *Kenmore* | *23* |  | *Yeerongpilly* | *3* |
| *Kenmore Hills* | *5* |  | *Yeronga* | *12* |
| *Keperra* | *15* |  | *Zillmere* | *18* |

| ***WARD*** | ***CONTACTS*** |  | ***WARD*** | ***CONTACTS*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Bracken Ridge* | *81* |  | *Marchant* | *92* |
| *Calamvale* | *98* |  | *McDowall* | *65* |
| *Central* | *21* |  | *Moorooka* | *150* |
| *Chandler* | *71* |  | *Morningside* | *63* |
| *Coorparoo* | *72* |  | *Northgate* | *60* |
| *Deagon* | *94* |  | *Paddington* | *121* |
| *Doboy* | *54* |  | *Pullenvale* | *116* |
| *Enoggera* | *127* |  | *Runcorn* | *63* |
| *Forest Lake* | *182* |  | *Tennyson* | *80* |
| *Hamilton* | *94* |  | *The Gabba* | *23* |
| *Holland Park* | *118* |  | *The Gap* | *90* |
| *Jamboree* | *100* |  | *Walter Taylor* | *106* |
| *Macgregor* | *75* |  | *Wynnum Manly* | *75* |

1. How many residents have visited each Council library in the last 12 months, please list for each specific library?

***A6.***

| ***Branch*** | ***Visits*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Annerley Library* | *27,058* |
| *Ashgrove Library* | *179,251* |
| *Banyo Library* | *52,074* |
| *Bracken Ridge Library* | *111,462* |
| *Brisbane Square Library* | *554,516* |
| *Bulimba Library* | *83,161* |
| *Carina Library* | *55,149* |
| *Carindale Library* | *392,619* |
| *Chermside Library* | *479,644* |
| *Coopers Plains Library* | *76,903* |
| *Corinda Library* | *68,068* |
| *Everton Park Library* | *111,308* |
| *Fairfield Library* | *109,000* |
| *Garden City Library* | *446,731* |
| *Grange Library* | *149,456* |
| *Hamilton Library* | *52,044* |
| *Holland Park Library* | *131,848* |
| *Inala Library* | *131,915* |
| *Indooroopilly Library* | *369,229* |
| *Kenmore Library* | *207,807* |
| *Mitchelton Library* | *137,439* |
| *Mobile Library* | *12,071* |
| *Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Library* | *19,426* |
| *Mt Gravatt Library* | *59,247* |
| *Mt Ommaney Library* | *164,188* |
| *New Farm Library* | *157,003* |
| *Nundah Library* | *84,039* |
| *Sandgate Library* | *50,070* |
| *Stones Corner Library* | *43,865* |
| *Sunnybank Hills Library* | *409,140* |
| *Toowong Library* | *264,724* |
| *West End Library* | *44,815* |
| *Wynnum Library* | *327,765* |
| *Zillmere Library* | *38,634* |

1. Please list all the number of permanent employees that have left Brisbane City Council in the last 12 months (for any reason), broken down by each BCC department eg. Public Space Operations, Transport Operations, Customer Services, People and Culture, etc
2. Please list all the number of permanent employees that have been hired by Brisbane City Council in the last 12 months broken down by each BCC department eg. Public Space Operations, Transport Operations, Customer Services, People and Culture, etc

***A7. and A8.***

| ***Council Division*** | ***Separations*** | ***Recruitment*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Transport for Brisbane* | *196* | *45\** |
| *City Planning and Sustainability* | *35* | *2* |
| *Lifestyle and Community Services* | *84* | *8* |
| *Brisbane Infrastructure* | *167* | *35* |
| *City Administration and Governance* | *18* | *5* |
| *Organisational Services* | *72* | *4* |

*\*Note that this figure does not include 479 new bus operators that have been commenced employment with Council over the last 12 months, as new bus operators are not classified as ‘permanent’ until training is completed.*

1. Provide details of how many development applications from BHC (Brisbane Housing Company) have been approved, including the number of dwellings, annually since 2022, listed separately by year and location.

***A9.*** *Since 2022, 262 new dwellings have been approved through Brisbane Housing Company. All information requested about these development applications is publicly available on Development.i.*

1. Please advise the amount of allowance/honorarium for State Emergency Services volunteers in 24/25 FY. If applicable, please also include positions/roles that are eligible for such payments.
2. Please advise the amount paid out for this allowance/honorarium in the 24/25 FYTD.
3. Please advise the budgeted and actual payment figures for the SES Volunteer allowance/honorarium in the 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24 financial years, including overall sum and total number of payments.
4. Please advise the amount budgeted for matching fundraising undertaken by State Emergency Services groups within the Brisbane LGA in FY 24/25.
5. Please advised the total amount paid to SES Groups in matched fundraising payments in 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24 FY. Where applicable please provide a breakdown of payments by group and amount.

***A10 to 14.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Financial Year*** | ***Payment Type*** | ***Total Amount*** |
| *21/22* | *Fundraising $4$ (Dollar for Dollar Scheme)* | *$25,067.97* |
| *21/22* | *Service Recognition (Allowance/Honorarium)* | *$131,256.45* |
| *22/23* | *Fundraising $4$ (Dollar for Dollar Scheme)* | *$45,360.01* |
| *22/23* | *Service Recognition (Allowance/Honorarium)* | *$130,029.67* |
| *23/24* | *Service Recognition (Allowance/Honorarium)* | *$143,600.00* |

*These payments are paid in arrears. Information for payments for 2024-25 will not be available until SES provides the data later in the financial year.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 8.29pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Don Reid (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Ethan Van Roo Douglas (Policy Advisor)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer to the Lord Mayor and Council Orderly)