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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4757 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 18 February 2025**

**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)** |
| Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo) (Deputy Mayor)  Krista ADAMS (Holland Park)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Julia DIXON (Hamilton)  Alex GIVNEY (Wynnum Manly)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor) (Deputy Chair  of Council)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Danita PARRY (Marchant)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera)  Penny WOLFF (Walter Taylor) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Lucy COLLIER (Morningside) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)  Emily KIM (Calamvale)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillor (and Ward)**  Trina MASSEY (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

Chair: I declare the meeting open.

## APOLOGIES:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

Councillor COLLIER.

**379/2024-25**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS, and he was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Lucy COLLIER, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY.

Chair: Further apologies?

Councillor MASSEY.

**380/2024-25**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Seal CHONG WAH, and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Trina MASSEY, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmation of minutes please.

**381/2024-25**

The Minutes of the 4756 (Ordinary) meeting of Council held on 11 February 2025, 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 upon Ms Jane Britt who is going to address the Chamber today on tactile ground surface indicators. Please proceed Ms Britt, you have 5 minutes.

**Ms Jane Britt – Tactile Ground Surface Indicators**

Ms Jane Britt: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, LORD MAYOR and Councillors. I am Jane Britt, I wear multiple different hats. In my professional life I’m a Disability Policy Consultant or otherwise you might like the term ‘nerd’. I’m also deafblind and I’m a constituent of the Morningside Ward.

I want to address you today, as someone who is deafblind, about the use of tactile ground surface indicators, or tactiles, across Brisbane City. Tactiles are something that are used by people who are blind or vision impaired, like myself, to keep ourselves safe in the community. They are either horizontal, which helps us with direction and getting around or they are round, which are hazard tiles, which enable us to know whether obstacles are upcoming like hazards including train tracks and driveways.

The problem that has now come about, as a result of the public’s lack of awareness of what tactiles are, is that they have been blocked from time to time. People stand on them, particularly in areas like the Queen Street Mall, to hold conversations or use mobile phones. They may otherwise place obstacles across the tactiles. Which is incredibly dangerous because for someone with low vision, it means that I’m right on top of the obstacle before I am able to identify it. It may mean at times that my cane collides with it first before I am able to do anything about it. This causes a risk of injury to myself, as well as to other pedestrians.

What I’m asking for from the Brisbane City Council, is to have a better public awareness through some kind of campaign, through different levels of marketing, to enable the public to understand why they exist. I’d like to thank the Council for what it has done to date to enable people in Brisbane to understand why the tactiles exist. However, we really do need to increase that awareness.

As I said, the fact that people stand on it and the fact that obstacles are put on the tactiles, means that the public is not fully understanding what they are there. In fact, many people are incredibly surprised when I tell them about how I use them and why I use them.

The reason that this should matter to all of you in this room, is that it’s part of Brisbane’s inclusion plan, under ‘Travel: A city where everyone can move around safely and easily’. It’s also part of Queensland’s disability strategy, under ‘Inclusive Communities’.

This also should matter as part of your legacy. It’s not just about making Brisbane physically accessible, it’s about shifting community attitudes about disability. If more people had understanding of what it is to navigate in an environment where, as one of my vision impaired friends once said, every time you step outside your door, it’s like navigating an obstacle course. An unknown obstacle course because you don’t know what’s out there.

In the long term, as we head towards Brisbane 2032 with the associated legacy, *Elevate 2042*, we really have something that is great at our hands, to increase the amount of public accessibility across Brisbane but also the level of community awareness around what they can do to enable our communities to be safer and more inclusive for people like myself.

So the final question that I ask to the Council is, what can you do to increase public awareness of tactiles? Why they are used but also to increase community awareness of the fact that there are pedestrians who are navigating areas that are not necessarily safe. We’ve had a rise in e-scooters, we’ve had a rise in electric vehicles, which are mostly silent. Therefore the idea of navigating the world is becoming one that is more and more fraught.

So I’d like to conclude this by putting the question back to you. What can you do to help our community? Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you, Ms Britt.

I’d now like to call upon Councillor HOWARD to respond.

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

Councillor HOWARD: Well thank you, Chair. Miss Britt thank you very much and may I call you Jane, is that alright? Thank you. Because Jane, I do want to say a huge thank you for coming in today and for raising this very important issue. I know that you participated with us in the past, I think in 2018 when we had our first campaign. I know that at some stage I participated where I was blindfolded and given a cane and I failed dreadfully, I have to tell you. So I know how incredibly difficult it is and I have, on occasion, explained to people in the mall what these things are for. You know I say—and they’re very surprised.

So you’ve hit on something that is absolutely 100% what we need to be doing. You know we tell people but you just have to keep telling people why these things are there. It’s an amazing opportunity for us and so you’ll be very pleased to know that this year’s Braille Trail Awareness campaign will be a digital campaign and it’s scheduled to run from March through to October. Which will consider social media, CityCat screens, the Queen Street Mall screen, Council’s website, internal promotion to Council staff and we’ll also be seeking feedback for Vision Australia and Guide Dogs Queensland. But we’d also welcome your input so I know that my team will reach out to you. In fact I’ll have a word with you after this to make sure we can put you in touch with our team so that we can get the maximum benefits out of what we’re doing with this campaign because we really know how important it is.

As you said, we’re moving to an Olympic City, an Olympic and a Paralympic City and we know how important it is for our visitors to Brisbane to move around but I’d also like to just mention to you some of the things that we have achieved. Because we have recognised the importance of the accessibility through our inclusive Brisbane plan, as you mentioned. The plan guides Council’s work to ensure that Brisbane is a place where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can travel, work, live, enjoy and connect.

So it’s a very important plan that we work with. We know that in the past it’s been very successful for some of the projects that we have worked on. So the Braille Trail, running from Reddacliff Place, down Queen Street Mall and into Anzac Square, is a major aid for people with visual impairment and it navigates through the CBD. It’s on occasions that I have explained to people what that is for. So we’re very much looking forward to making sure that on a regular basis we touch base with Guide Dogs Queensland and some of the other areas.

Of course we also know that there are a few more obstacles that are around in the mall now, some scooters that we have there and things such as that. We are working very closely with those to make sure that they’re parked correctly. Of course with this awareness campaign, we will be sure to make sure that we’re letting people know exactly what they’re there for and to make sure that we can help for the future.

So, once again, thank you for taking the time to come and talk to us. We really do appreciate it when people come in to the Chamber because I think all of my colleagues who are here really appreciate the effort that that takes for you to come in. So we appreciate that greatly and I look forward to having a chat with you so that we can further the conversation. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD and thank you, Ms Britt, for coming in today. Thank you.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Councillors, we will now move to Question Time. Are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or 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, residents know that the Schrinner Council is focused on keeping Brisbane moving. Can you update the Chamber on recent developments with the Council’s EBA (Enterprise Bargaining Agreement) negotiations and any anticipated public transport impacts?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to Councillor PARRY for the question. Well, for several months now, Council has been working with all of our unions to reach a consensus on our Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, which expired in October. That includes the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, or the RTBU, who represent our bus drivers.

On Friday, Council met with the unions again in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Whilst a large number of items are now resolved, there remains dispute of elements of the agreement that relate specifically to pay rises. Council has put on the table a fair and reasonable offer. This offer involves a 3.75% pay increase upon certification and 3.25% pay increase the following year. Which equates to a 7% pay rise over 2 years for all employees, which includes bus drivers.

This offer is well above the rate of inflation and we believe it meets community expectations. Disappointingly, the unions have rejected this offer. On Monday the RTBU provided Council with written notice of work stoppages to occur on Thursday 20 February between 4am to 6am, on Thursday morning. Unionised bus drivers may choose to stop work as part of protected industrial action.

The union is inviting drivers to stop work for a one-hour block between 4am to 5am and then again from 5am to 6am, to take part in either of the stoppages or both. What this means is at the end of a scheduled run, a bus will end its trip with no passengers on board and return to its depot. That means that the remaining services in that run will not be delivered.

It also has the potential to add significant congestion and queuing, as buses partaking in industrial action go to and from depots because of replacement buses that we will need to deploy to try to fulfil those services. These 2-hour long stoppages will, of course, cause significant disruption to our bus network. It will particularly impact essential shift workers such as nurses and midwives, who rely on our bus network to get to work in the early hours of the morning. It has the potential, of course, to cause commuter chaos across our city as commuters are left stranded at their bus stops.

As I mentioned, there will be impacts across all of our morning peak services as our driver workforce attempts to catch up with demand. Brisbane commuters will feel the pain of these strikes. I encourage all of our customers to make alternative arrangements. Whether it be other public transport modes such as rail, active transport options like cycling and e-scooters, or opting to work from home. Or using private motor vehicles.

We know that this isn’t always possible, particularly for the city’s lowest income workers. These strikes will, unfortunately, have the biggest impact on them. The RTBU knows this, Madam Chair, but they are proceeding anyway.

So why is this happening? Well we know that the RTBU was seeking a 12% pay rise over 2 years. This is despite the fact that bus driver pay has increased by over 30% since 2012. Our bus drivers are some of the best paid bus drivers in the country. Just don’t take my word for it, Madam Chair. The same union, the same union were saying 2 years ago that there was a pay freeze and, of course, there was no pay freeze, that was a lie.

So they were also saying 2 years ago that celebrating a 7.4% and an 8% increase over 2 years.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: I didn’t think you were allowed to say the word ‘lie’.

Chair: Yes, I was just about to check that, Councillor CASSIDY.

Was that—were you quoting somebody then? Or were you using the word ‘lie’, Councillor MURPHY because I’ll ask you to change it if you were—

Councillor MURPHY: I’ll withdraw it, Madam Chair.

Chair: —please.

Councillor MURPHY: I’ll withdraw it.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MURPHY: So either there was a pay freeze, or the union was celebrating the enormous pay rises that it got for drivers. But it can’t be both, Madam Chair. So, what I will say is that—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chair. So just to be clear, 2 weeks in a row now, other Councillors have used the word ‘lie’ or ‘lies’ and you have not noted their unsuitable meeting conduct in the minutes. Can you advise why you’ve treated me differently to these Councillors?

Chair: Councillor, I have had Councillor MURPHY withdraw his comment. You know very well that I don’t immediately note people in the minutes. I do give you fair warning for your behaviour unless it is incredibly unsuitable meeting conduct.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: What I will say, Madam Chair, is that causing commuter chaos on our roads is not furthering the cause of the RTBU or its members and certainly not our drivers. This action does not—

Councillor JOHNSTON: So point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, I note that you did, last week, offer to withdraw—offer the opportunity to withdraw but I draw your attention to the fact that that’s not how you treated me when you noted me in the minutes. I was not given any opportunity to withdraw. So, again, I ask why are Councillors being treated differently and why have I been noted in the minutes when other Councillors are not being?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON I don’t uphold your point of order and I ask you not to keep repeating the same point of order when I’ve already addressed it.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Madam Chair, this strike action doesn’t hurt Council and it doesn’t hurt the State Government, it hurts the commuters of Brisbane that are trying to get to work.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: It also hurts our bus drivers who will now have to wait longer to get the pay rise that they deserve. A pay rise that is fair, that is reasonable and that is in keeping with community expectations. A pay rise that is above inflation and a pay rise that the city can afford. We will continue to negotiate, in good faith, with our drivers and their unions on this issue. But we would ask that they seriously consider actions which impact and hurt the commuters of this city because we don’t support them.

Chair: Further questions.

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 2**

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

LORD MAYOR, last week you were jet-setting internationally, while back home in my ward, locals experienced flooding after just 30 millimetres of rain. I’ve been told by Council officers that much of the drainage in my area is not up to modern standards but there is no money in the budget to fix or upgrade it because you have not allocated funding in Council’s budget.

I’ve also heard multiple reports of drains clogged with leaves going months without maintenance. The only way drains are maintained now is after complaints are made. Because, again, there’s not enough staff or funding from you for a proactive approach. So my question is, why do you think spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on overseas travel for LNP politicians is more important than maintaining local drainage networks?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, I don’t accept the premise of the question because it’s not accurate. The reality is that Council has invested significantly more in drainage in recent years. In fact in one of our recent budgets we doubled the budget for drainage. Despite this reality we have seen Labor continue to make inaccurate claims about drainage but also we have seen Labor continue to give false expectations to the community.

The idea that there’s magical drainage projects that can solve the flooding problems of Brisbane is not borne out by the reality of the situation. Yes, we invest in drainage, yes, drainage can make a difference but Brisbane is built on a floodplain. There are some areas that are at sea level or even below sea level, including areas in Councillor CASSIDY’s ward. These areas are actually prone to flooding, regardless of any drainage networks. Because they are simply at the level of the sea.

So to give people the false expectation that you can magically make flooding at sea level disappear, is not a responsible thing to do as a local Councillor.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: I think the LORD MAYOR is being incredibly disrespectful to Council officers who have provided advice that there are drainage projects that need to be done and will address flooding. But the LORD MAYOR—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor CASSIDY: —simply won’t allocate funding to them.

Chair: —Councillor CASSIDY. That’s not a point of order—

Councillor CASSIDY: He should be relevant to the question.

Chair: If you’ve got more to say on this you can do it in General Business (GB).

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: As I was saying, Madam Chair. It is irresponsible to give people the expectation that you know drainage—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —projects will magically make—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —flooding disappear in Brisbane—

Chair: Point—just one moment, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —is irresponsible.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: The LORD—the Council Code of Conduct is extremely clear. The LORD MAYOR cannot call Council officers irresponsible for providing that advice. He must not say these things in here—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: and in the—because in the meeting you have to—

Chair: You are twisting those words.

Councillor CASSIDY: —you have to address it.

Chair: Please.

Councillor CASSIDY: You have to address it.

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

LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It’s also irresponsible to twist the information provided by Council officers in good faith to make a political point because that is what we are seeing here. There is only one person misrepresenting the facts and it is Councillor CASSIDY. So we’ll continue to fund the good projects that will make a difference. Just as we have done when we doubled the budget for drainage works in recent years.

We will continue to do that and I would invite Councillor CASSIDY the opportunity that’s been afforded to all Councillors to put in his budget submission and it will be considered. As will the submissions of all Councillors in the relation to the preparation—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —of the upcoming budget. Now Councillor CASSIDY loves to play politics with these issues because, for him, everything is political. But I think it’s actually—it is not responsible to create false expectations when it comes to things like flooding. We know that Brisbane is a city built on a floodplain. We know that many suburbs are at sea level. We know that, regardless of what is spent on drainage, there are some areas that will continue to flood.

A significant amount of this flooding that happens in Brisbane is actually overland flow as well. Not river flooding only, not creek flooding only but also overland flow from the natural contours of the ground that has happened—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY—

LORD MAYOR: —for eternity.

Chair: —that is inappropriate. Stop calling out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor CASSIDY called me ‘mate’. I ask him to withdraw that. That is not accurate.

Councillor CASSIDY: I will absolutely withdraw that.

LORD MAYOR: I feel much better. Madam Chair, I simply would ask Councillor CASSIDY to put in his submission and it will be considered.

Chair: Further questions.

Councillor ADAMS.

**Question 3**

Councillor ADAMS: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair for Transport, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY. In the answer to today’s Questions on Notice, the Opposition Leader’s misleading claims about the cost of Brisbane Metro have been exposed for all to see. As he leaves the Chamber, Councillor MURPHY you might like to outline just how wrong—

Chair: Councillors, thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, Councillor CASSIDY.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh, Councillor ADAMS, is it okay of I go to the toilet—

Chair: No, that’s—

Councillor CASSIDY: —for a break?

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, that’s—

Councillor CASSIDY: Is that alright? I don’t accept this bullying from Councillor ADAMS.

Councillor ADAMS: It was quite a coincidence that he stood as soon as I said his position.

Chair: Councillor ADAMS.

Councillor ADAMS: However, as he is now not in the Chamber, so I will ask again and his team can tell him. Can you outline for us, Councillor MURPHY just how wrong one man can be?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, I can, thank you Councillor ADAMS, I can. I know that Councillor CASSIDY has left the Chamber but this will be, I think, for the benefit of his colleagues as well, Madam Chair. So he is so very wrong. We need to start, I think, Madam Chair, with a bit of a history on Labor’s cost claims on Brisbane Metro. Because it’s a rich history actually. It’s a rich history.

So I could have gone back a long way but I thought I’ll just go back a couple of years, just to give you an idea of some of the claims. So the first claim—well go back as far as 2023 that is when Councillor CASSIDY, on social media, claimed that Brisbane Metro’s cost would exceed $2 billion.

Then again he claimed in 2023 that it would be 36 buses for $2 billion. He then also claimed that the—in 2022 that the project was $1.7 billion but in the same meeting also claimed it was $2 billion. Then finally, this year they’ve arrived at calling it on social media, a project that cost $1.55 billion. Which is, guess what? The published budget of Brisbane Metro.

So there’s been a number of cost claims that Councillor CASSIDY has made when it comes to Brisbane Metro. For the benefit of the Chamber I will table just a selection of the cost claims for Brisbane Metro. But this is part of a pattern of behaviour, Madam Chair, of making outlandish and outrageous claims when it comes to the city’s signature public transport project.

The most recent one was that there was water coming in the roof of Brisbane Metro. That the metro was leaking. Do you want to know what the truth was? It was raining. It was raining on the roof and there was rain on the roof and some people who were wet tracked water into the vehicle. So that’s another one.

There was another claim that he made that the aircon wasn’t working, on a cold day. The thermostat switched off and so the aircon wasn’t running. There’s cold days even in January, Madam Chair. So that was another one.

There was a claim he made—he made a claim—well check the weather records, Councillor CASSIDY, I think you’ll find there was a cold day in January. There was a claim that he made—remember the claim that he made that we’d ordered too many metros.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Councillor ADAMS. do you remember that one, 60 metros? What do you do with 60 metros. Then, do you remember the follow up claim made the year later that we’d ordered too many metros. Too many, there was not enough metros and then all of a sudden there was too many metros.

It’s like the claim he made when we were running the campaign around the buses. When he said you are blackmailing the State Government, this is an outrageous abuse of ratepayers’ money. Then when the deal was done he came in and said, well I could have got a better deal than that. You know, I thought that was pretty soft serve, LORD MAYOR, you could have gone harder. That was another fun one.

Then there’s the claim of the tunnel collapse, that we covered up a massive tunnel collapse in the Adelaide Street tunnel.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: A tunnel collapse. I’ve never heard of a tunnel collapse. What I did hear about was a void that was fixed very quickly, Madam Chair, there was no tunnel collapse. Councillor CASSIDY continues to make that claim that there was some sort of cover up but he won’t—he will find that there is no evidence of that.

So what we have, Madam Chair, is *Deal or No Deal* Jared. *Deal or No Deal* Jared. But every case you open, instead of there being money inside there’s another mistruth. Every case is like that, numbered one to 50.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: When it comes to Metro, there is no truth—

Chair: One moment, please, Councillor MURPHY.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes. Madam Chairman, the rules require Councillors to refer to each other properly and Councillor MURPHY is not doing that with respect to Councillor CASSIDY.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor MURPHY, please refer to Councillors by their proper name.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, Madam Chair. Now Councillor ADAMS asked a very good question. Which was about the Question on Notice that was asked. Now, in that Question on Notice, Councillor CASSIDY asked for a detailed breakdown of the costs related to the Metro project. He has been claiming, let’s remember, Councillors, for many years that this is $1.5 billion to $1.7 billion for 60 or 36 buses, depending on what he feels at the time.

What he got in that Question on Notice is irrefutable proof and evidence that over 67% of the cost of Brisbane Metro is actually related to hard infrastructure upgrades on the busway. Over $800 million. Not $1.5, not $1.4, not $900. Not over $2, but over $800 million, two thirds of the project is related to hard infrastructure. That infrastructure is opening all around the city. You see it on the bus network as you move around. You see it on M2, which is now operating.

Brisbane Metro is more than just a bus.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor MURPHY: It is a game changing project for our city.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors don’t call out.

Councillor MURPHY: It is upgrading infrastructure right across the network and it will be the most important public transport project—

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: —to open this year in Brisbane.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY.

**Question 4**

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

The Brisbane Street Art Festival has significantly transformed our city’s urban landscape over the past 9 years. The festival has not only beautified and revitalised public spaces but has also fostered community engagement through workshops, artist talks and collaborative projects.

It has supported both emerging and established artists by providing a platform to showcase their work to a broader audience. While also educating the public about street art, it’s history, its cultural significance, helping break down misconceptions about the art form.

As the Brisbane Street Art Festival gears up for its 10 year anniversary, it’s deeply concerning to learn that Brisbane City Council has chosen not to support this pivotal event with any funding this year. Given your public commitment to supporting street art, artists and a vision for Brisbane as a world class creative city, will you reconsider this decision and reinstate funding for the festival?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: No, I won’t. because we’ve actually gone a step further and we have engaged Brisbane’s very first Street Artist in Residence.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Not just for a limited time festival but on an ongoing basis. To provide us direct support and advice and to make sure that we get more street art delivered right across the city. Now this engagement started off with the opening up of new public street art walls or—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —legal graffiti walls. I was proud to be joining with Councillor CUNNINGHAM at the first one in Greenslopes. Then we opened up a second one as well, down at Tingalpa. We want to do so much more when it comes to street art in Brisbane. What our vision is, is to make sure that when people arrive here over the coming years, as Brisbane becomes an increasing tourist destination, as we go into the Olympic and Paralympic Games, that they see amazing street art all over the city.

So we want to do more. We want to do more. The Brisbane Street Art Festival has its place and I have no doubt it will continue. It will continue without our support. But we want to up the ante. Which is why we now have a permanent adviser for street art in our city. I’m very much looking forward to that adviser to rollout and make Brisbane a street art capital in Australia with amazing street art. We have so many talented street artists and we want to support them and we want to showcase them.

Chair: Further questions.

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN.

**Question 5**

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of Communities and the Arts Committee, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD, the Schrinner Council is making Brisbane’s lifestyle even better with world-class facilities for residents to enjoy. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest project the Schrinner Council will deliver to support our community in the western suburbs?

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Chair, and through you I thank Councillor ADERMANN for the question. I know it’s a very exciting project for the residents of the Pullenvale Ward and especially for the members of the Shed West Men’s Shed, the bridge club and the eWaste Connection.

Madam Chair, this project would not have been possible without the former Federal Member for Ryan, Julian Simmons, who worked together with Councillor ADERMANN to secure $1.5 million in funding from the Australian Government to deliver this brand new facility for these very valued community organisations.

Today I am very pleased to announce that construction is kicking off this month, which will start with the demolition of the central building, located between the Men’s Shed and the bridge club, before getting on with the exciting work of the new build.

Madam Chair, the new and improved Kenmore Community Centre will include a brand-new communal meeting place, a card dealing room for the bridge club. An area for the Men’s Shed tech hub and approved amenities, including 2 ambulant toilets and an accessible toilet. Because, as we know, Madam Chair, accessibility and inclusivity is now embedded in everything that we do and within every part of Council.

The Kenmore Bridge Club building will have internal walls removed to maximise playing space for club members. We will also be delivering a new kitchen, an ambulant toilet, along with a new covered outdoor seating area for the bridge club, so that members can enjoy the best of Brisbane’s subtropical lifestyle.

eWaste Connection will have additional office and storage space to support the work they do to deliver sustainable outcomes for e-waste while supporting people of all abilities with opportunities to volunteer and learn new skills. eWaste Connection will also benefit from a new ambulant toilet for their building as well and we will be installing a new dust extraction system and upgraded kitchen for Shed West Men’s Shed.

Now, Madam Chair, we all know how important our men’s sheds are in improving the health and the wellbeing of members. They play such an important role in reducing the number of men who are at risk from preventable health issues that emanate from isolation. I know that they are all looking forward to their new facility, which is due to be complete in June this year, if all goes to plan with the weather.

The new and more accessible Kenmore Community Centre will allow even more people to enjoy and take part in these vital community organisations. Now, Madam Chair, through you, I’d like to thank Councillor ADERMANN for his tireless efforts in working together with Shed West Men’s Shed, the Kenmore Bridge Club and eWaste Connection, to achieve a facility which meets the needs of all 3 organisations.

I’ll say here, Madam Chair, that the LORD MAYOR and I met with these organisations at the very beginning of this project and we had a lot of work to do to make sure that we were taking into account all of the requirements of each of the organisations. I know that Councillor ADERMANN’s tireless efforts following that meeting have really made a difference and got us to where we are today. He will also, no doubt, help them thrive and continue to grow their membership into the future.

I’d also like to thank our Connected Communities team and the City Projects Office for their hard work in designing and delivering this brand-new community facility.

Chair, this is just one of the many ways the Schrinner Council is delivering for our communities. Because we, on this side of the Chamber, recognise and value our community organisations. Our community organisations are the heart of our suburbs where residents choose to spend their leisure time and their community impact is immeasurable.

In addition to delivering new and upgraded community facilities like the Kenmore Community Centre, we are delivering programs like the Lord Mayor’s Better Suburbs Grants, which has provided over 370 community organisations with funding and support to improve facilities and organisational operations. The success of programs like the Lord Mayor’s Better Suburbs Grants demonstrates just how grateful our community clubs are that the coalition of chaos was not elected last year.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: The coalition of chaos has no plans for our community clubs. Through you, Madam Chair, can you guess show many election commitments those opposite had for our community groups and sporting clubs? Well I will tell you. They made no commitment to help our local clubs or provide them any additional funding support.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: Madam Chair, I suppose that’s why—

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor HOWARD: —we’re here. We promised to support our community—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor HOWARD: —organisations. The Schrinner Council will always prioritise our community clubs. Thankfully, Madam Chair, Brisbane residents saw right through those—

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, your time has expired.

Further questions.

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 6**

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

Last week I received an influx of reports from concerned locals who feel neglected by this LNP Council when mourning loved ones in the Balmoral Cemetery, surrounded by grass over a metre high. I’ve also had contact with residents across Brisbane concerned about the lack of maintenance at Toowong, Lutwyche and Pinnaroo cemeteries.

While this was all going on in Brisbane, you travelled to Singapore and Europe and then, instead of returning to get back to work, you were at a $25,000-a-head dinner for your LNP mate Peter Dutton. What was on the menu that night?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Look, I wasn’t at that function, thank you.

Chair: Further questions.

Councillor GIVNEY.

**Question 7**

Councillor GIVNEY: Sorry, my question is for the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY, last week we heard how the Schrinner Council is keeping Brisbane moving with the new Kangaroo Point Bridge. Which is already proving more popular than ever predicted. Can you please update the Chamber on the new addition to the bridge that will help make Brisbane’s—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GIVNEY: —lifestyle even better?

Chair: Councillors. One moment.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, I can, Councillor GIVNEY and given the LORD MAYOR didn’t attend that function but he might want to get a top-quality feed, he can now go down to Mulga Bill’s.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Which is the new restaurant at the Kangaroo Point Bridge, which has opened at the City Botanic Gardens landing side. Of course, Mulga Bill’s was inspired by the Banjo Paterson poem, *Mulga Bill’s Bicycle*. The café celebrates cycling and it also celebrates its function as a critical active transport link to ease congestion and to keep Brisbane moving.

Now this 60-seat café provides casual dining options, so breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Alice Street landing. It keeps visitors and passers-by well fed and caffeinated. Now, I had the pleasure of trying their coffee at the opening on Friday. As a self-confessed coffee snob myself, I can tell you they have a fantastic machine and a wonderful barista staff.

Now the owner Michael Tassis was also in attendance on Friday morning at Mulga Bill’s and the soon-to-be-open restaurant, Stilts, will also be owned by Michael Tassis. This, of course, was a fantastic local company that we selected to head up the operations of the new precinct, because of their strong track record in Brisbane’s hospitality industry and their commitment to sustainability, local ingredients and local employment.

It was a great morning, Madam Chair. There’s nothing more exciting than I think when our city’s infrastructure projects and our city’s local businesses can find an opportunity to work hand in hand. That doesn’t always happen, Madam Chair.

Now, I also ran into a number of passers-by who we using the new bridge, who did not hesitate to tell me that they think this bridge is becoming an icon, a Brisbane symbol of our river city. This is in no small part due to the Schrinner Council’s commitment to building more of them. Now residents are very much demonstrating just how much they love these bridges. I’ve told the Chamber, since 15 December an average of over 10,000 trips per day over the Kangaroo Point Bridge. Residents have given this bridge an overwhelming endorsement with their feet.

Unfortunately, we know there’s a number of people in the Chamber who don’t love our bridges in the same way that the rest of Brisbane does. They particularly don’t like when bridges and local businesses collaborate, Madam Chair. In fact, they despise it and they have been openly hostile to commercialisation and activities on and around these iconic landmarks. I’m, of course, referring to our friends opposite.

Now we had Councillor GRIFFITHS last week who mocked our ‘grand stories of lovely bridge openings’. Like none of this happened, like it was all a myth and nobody attended, nobody crossed. But, of course the bridge is real, you can tell it’s real because it goes 95 metres high into the sky.

We also heard from Councillor STRUNK who offered up a range of strange contributions last week. He had an analysis of tunnel building, which deserves a full response on its own. But I wanted to talk about his exceptionally passionate defence of cars. Councillor STRUNK warned us that ‘Brisbane is a car-based city and has been for over 100 years’ and that will never change.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, I thought that was interesting. What Councillor STRUNK doesn’t realise is that the people closer to the city actually love these active transport options. If they can use them then they take their car off the road by their own choice. This, in turn, reduces congestion and it leaves more space for those in the suburbs where they need to drive or catch a bus. Suburbs like Forest Lake Ward, indeed.

Who could forget the illuminating debate we had late last year about allowing people to have an alcoholic drink when they climb the Story Bridge. This is where we got the infamous “toast with a Coke” quote from Councillor STRUNK and not everyone likes Coke, Councillor STRUNK. Some people like Pepsi Max. But some people also like champagne and they can sip a champagne at Mulga Bill’s or Stilts when they open—when Stilts opens later this week and when Mulga Bill’s gets its liquor licence from the State Government, Madam Chair, which I’m advised is not yet but should be any day now.

So, Madam Chair, let’s all have a toast to the iconic, the great, Kangaroo Point Bridge. All that it does for our city and all that it is yet to do. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Further questions.

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 8**

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

LORD MAYOR, you’ve said over the last 2 years that it’s the State Government’s responsibility to manage homelessness in Brisbane, primarily. More recently, you have said you look forward to working with the new Premier, David Crisafulli, your political ally. So, could you please detail what conversations you’ve had with the Premier about Brisbane’s homeless crisis and what extra services you’ve requested from the State Government to deal with this crisis?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, this question’s a bit rich, given that Councillor CASSIDY obviously now reads *The* *Courier-Mail* again. He was very critical of *The* *Courier-Mail* in recent years and has said some very disparaging things about *The* *Courier-Mail*, but obviously these days reads *The* *Courier-Mail*. If he reads *The* *Courier-Mail* he would have seen in the paper today the shocking information about the former Labor Government’s under investment in public housing, in social housing, that will generate a shortfall of 30,000 homes, 30,000 homes.

He has the gall to come in and say, for a government that’s 100 days in, ‘what have they done to solve the homeless crisis?’ When it is—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —the Labor Government—

Chair: One moment, one moment LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —that created this crisis.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: The LORD MAYOR can have these views and that’s fine. But my question was about what he’s doing.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: My question was specifically what conversations the LORD MAYOR has had—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: —and what he has requested of the new Premier.

Chair: The LORD MAYOR has 5 minutes to answer the question and I do ask you to refrain from calling out while he is doing so.

LORD MAYOR.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor.

LORD MAYOR: I understand that Councillor CASSIDY doesn’t want to talk about the record of the former Labor Government who has been in power for more than 30 of the past 35 years and has overseen the creation of this housing crisis. Specifically, the serious and reprehensible underinvestment in social housing. We have seen the social housing waiting list grow. We have seen the government, in fact, selling off social homes—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Selling off social homes.

Chair: One moment, please LORD MAYOR.

That is what I’m referring to, Councillors. Please stop calling out, let the LORD MAYOR answer the question.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: We have seen the State Government, the former State Government, selling off social homes and struggling to actually have a net gain in social homes. Yet, going into the election they told people everything was on track to deliver tens of thousands of new social homes. When, in fact, we see the reality will be a significant shortfall based on the former government’s plan.

Now, the reality is, people who are sleeping rough, people who are living in tents in parks or sleeping in cars need somewhere to go. In the very first instance, they need crisis accommodation but ultimately they need a secure roof over their head. Now, our Council has been doing its part in making sure that we approve new house supply and that’s why we have supported the creation of 57,000 new homes through development approvals while I have been the LORD MAYOR. Most of those homes have been opposed by Labor and the Greens.

Now we are not responsible for the provision of government housing. Although we do invest in government housing through our joint ownership of the Brisbane Housing Company. The Brisbane Housing Company has delivered more than 2,000 homes and has plans to deliver thousands more homes and we have recently been looking at ways that we can support them with extra funding or land, where appropriate, as we’ve seen through this Chamber.

But ultimately, homes need to be built and they need to be built by the State Government.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: We have an expectation—

Chair: One moment, please LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: On relevance. We’re getting very close but the LORD MAYOR still won’t answer the question, which was specifically what conversations he has had and what extra services he has required of the State Government to address this.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I do not uphold your point of order.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: I have confidence that the Crisafulli Government will actually implement real plans to deliver more social housing. Now I know that during the time, the short time that they were in office previously, they geared up a plan to build a significant amount of social housing in the Logan area, which was then shot down by the Labor Government, it was shot down by the Labor Government and so—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: One moment, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: My question was specifically about what conversations the LORD MAYOR has had with the Premier and what extra services he has requested for Brisbane. Logan had nothing to do—or the previous LNP Government had nothing to do with my question. I’d just ask you to draw him back to the specifics of the question.

Chair: The LORD MAYOR is answering the question.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: If I’ve had conversations with the Premier, I certainly won’t be telling you about them, Councillor CASSIDY, because my focus is about getting things done for our city, not about revealing private conversations I may or may not have had with the Premier.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Councillors, just because you don’t like the answer doesn’t mean you can keep calling out and calling points of order.

LORD MAYOR, thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor MARX.

**Question 9**

Councillor MARX: Yes, Madam Chair, my question is to the Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS, last week there was much discussion of the so-called bushland acquisition levy by those opposite. I was not aware that there was such a thing as a bushland acquisition levy, I thought perhaps they were talking about the Bushland Preservation Levy or perhaps a new Labor tax. Can you please explain to the Chamber what the Bushland Preservation Levy actually is?

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Well thank you very much, Madam Chair, and I’d like to thank Councillor MARX for the question. Madam Chair, as Councillor MARX reminds us, there is no bushland acquisition levy. Indeed it is the Bushland Preservation Levy and we’ve had that since 1991. Now I know Councillor GRIFFITHS isn’t here today but you never know, he might be watching from home. But he does like to come into the Chamber and he does like to make up stuff and provide information to this Chamber that is not entirely accurate. So what I’d like to do, Madam Chair, is for the benefit of the Chamber, is to once again outline what the Bushland Preservation Levy is all about.

As the name suggests, the levy exists for the preservation of our bushland and it supports a number of programs. It supports the Community Conservation Partnerships and Community Conservation alliance and this funding, Madam Chair, provides assistance for Habitat Brisbane, our Creek Catchments groups and the Wildlife Conservation Partnerships program. All 3 of these programs aim to increase community involvement in preserving and improving our city’s natural assets and waterway health. There are almost 9,000 volunteers and partners across Brisbane that participate in those programs that work to deliver bushland and waterway improvements. There are also, for noting, over 1,000 sites that cover over 3,500 hectares.

Another program under the Bushland Preservation Levy is the Conservation Reserves Management Program, which is a rolling program to restore, rehabilitate and upgrade infrastructure in and around Council-owned or managed natural assets. This program helps with the fire preparedness and management, it secures natural areas from illegal access, preventing degradation from vehicles, from dumping and the like. It helps with the rehabilitation of bushland and it provides safe access and facilities for community enjoyment.

Let’s take Karawatha Forest, for example. Much of the land was saved from urban development and this site now is an area that we do see koalas, we do see greater gliders and native frogs. This is now also accessible through public access and we know that people really do appreciate that space in Brisbane. Then of course there’s the Wipe Out Weeds and Brisbane Invasive Species Management Plan, which delivers weed and invasive species management and restoration projects in line with our Biosecurity Plan.

Of course there’s the Oxley Creek Transformation project and anyone would think that Councillor GRIFFITHS one week will come in and support that project and the next week does not. It is our 20-year commitment to transforming the Oxley Creek corridor from the Brisbane River to Larapinta into a green lifestyle and leisure destination. There is 150 hectares at Archerfield Wetlands, which are now accessible through the shared walking and cycling trail. Of course there is the Bushland Acquisition Program which acquires new parcels of land to be rehabilitated and preserved for future generations of the city to enjoy.

From Lord Mayor, Sallyanne Atkinson’s initial purchase of a 12-hectare site at 495 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive at Mt Coot-tha back in 1990, through accelerated programs under both Lord Mayor Newman and Quirk, we have now secured more than 4,400 hectares of bushland that will be preserved for years to come and LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER is a great supporter of the continuation of this program. The amount of land that we have secured to date, Madam Chair, is the equivalent of almost 600 Suncorp Stadiums. But don’t forget that this is a voluntary program.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: Yes, Councillor TOOMEY, it is an incredible figure, an incredible figure and one that we should be very, very proud of and I know that you are. But as I was saying, this is a voluntary process, we don’t acquire land by force. Instead we wait for landowners to volunteer their properties for the program and we are constantly in negotiations for new parcels. Madam Chair, this is a very important part of what we offer our city. The levy provides all of those things that I’ve spoken about today. We know that Brisbane is the most biodiverse capital city and we want to continue with that mantle. We will continue to invest through the preservation levy, all of those things that I’ve spoken of, and I look forward to coming back and speaking of more properties in the future.

Chair: Councillor DAVIS, your time has expired and that now ends Question Time.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Chair: LORD MAYOR, the Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 10 February 2025.

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 10 February 2025, be adopted.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**SERIATIM FOR DEBATE AND VOTING - CLAUSES A, B AND C**

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| --- |
| At that time Councillor Jared CASSIDY rose and requested that Clause A, UPDATE TO ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES POLICIES; B, CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JANUARY 2025; and Clause C, AMENDMENTS TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – MT GRAVATT CENTRE – SUBURBAN RENEWAL PRECINCT, be taken seriatim for debating and voting purposes. |

Chair: LORD MAYOR, item A.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION BE TAKEN OFF THE TABLE**

**382/2024-25**

Councillor Lucy COLLIER moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the motion submitted by Councillor Lucy COLLIER at the meeting on 14 May 2024, be taken off the table.

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: 5 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK and Trina MASSEY.

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Clause A.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to start by offering my condolences and the condolences, no doubt, of all Councillors on the passing of former Lady Mayoress, Pearl Ruby Harvey, who was Roy Harvey’s partner and wife. Pearl Ruby Harvey was born on 29 August 1921. She grew up in Aspley at a time when it was predominantly still an agricultural area. At the age of 16, Pearl commenced work as a stenographer and she was working in a tannery in Kedron and she met Roy Harvey there. They went on to marry at St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Nundah in December 1949. The very next year, Pearl was active in the community, volunteering and on the campaign trail to support her husband, Roy.

Roy would spend a total of 26 years, or 27 years as an Alderman in the Council, including 3 years as the Lord Mayor of Brisbane. This was long before Councillors or Aldermen had an office or any support, so it was just the Councillor on their own, and in this situation, Pearl stepped up as a volunteer to provide administrative support to Roy. Roy didn’t need to offer Pearl to volunteer because she was an active community worker and she kindly offered to assist with schools, clubs, local community organisations, where she volunteered in positions such as secretary or treasurer.

As an Alderman’s wife, of course, Pearl supported representation at many local and Queensland events, including extending to intergovernmental delegations and later the Edmonton Commonwealth Games, the 1982 Commonwealth Games and even 5 royal visits as well. After 27 years in Council, Roy and Pearl retired to Caloundra, where Pearl remained an active participant in her local community, even after Roy’s passing in 2006. According to the words of Lutheran tradition, Pearl was called home on Tuesday 11 February at the age of 104. On behalf of Brisbane City Council and the people of Brisbane, I wish to pass on our sincere condolences to the Harvey family and all of those who knew Roy and Pearl and to thank her specifically for her role in creating a better Brisbane and particularly her role as Lady Mayoress as well.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Last week, I understand, the DEPUTY MAYOR again raised our concerns about rising antisemitism in Australia, including locally. This is of great concern to me as well personally, as I know it is and should be to all Councillors. Today there’s been another incident of racist and antisemitic graffiti down in South Brisbane. We have arranged for this graffiti to be quickly removed, but it is graffiti that included swastikas and also racist comments as well. This is not the type of city that we want to live in. This is not something we should tolerate as a city. We are a tolerant city and should be a tolerant city, but we should not tolerate this kind of hate. So I just want to again state that we live in a place that should be respectful of all people and certainly not peddling hate or fanning the flames of hatred in our community.

We’ll continue to work with the authorities and would also reiterate the very serious call that has been made now, at least twice, by the head of ASIO, obviously the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, that’s responsible for managing threats within our community, where they have asked for politicians and community leaders to avoid public commentary which inflames tensions and contributes to the destabilisation of our social cohesion. Those comments aren’t made by people like that very often, but when they are made we should listen because they know things that we don’t and they see threats that we don’t necessarily see. They have information that we don’t necessarily have and we should take those claims and that request very seriously.

Last week I was absent from Council because I was on a delegation with the mayors of South East Queensland. I joined the mayors of Noosa, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Ipswich, Logan, Scenic Rim, Redlands, Toowoomba, Somerset and also the Deputy Mayor of Lockyer, to visit 3 locations. We visited Singapore first, Singapore was a flight stop-over location and we took the opportunity to visit that amazing city and to have a couple of days of meetings there. Our first visit in Singapore was regarding a very basic municipal service and that was waste management. Singapore obviously has a limited amount of land, it is an island nation and they have a real challenge with land. They don’t have the abundance of land that we have and so things that maybe we take for granted they can’t take for granted.

At the moment, their landfill is actually on an island and it’s been a manmade island, I understand. That’s not a sustainable outcome because that landfill is filling up. They’re effectively creating an island of waste off the coast of Singapore. They’ve invested heavily in waste-to-energy facilities to deal with their waste stream and a city of 6 million people creates a significant waste stream. It is a large city, it is a bustling city, it’s a successful city. We visited the waste to energy facility at Tuas and it’s operated by Keppel Seghers. It is a state-of-the-art waste-to-energy facility, it’s capable of holding—of dealing with 800 tonnes of solid municipal waste each day, it operates 24 hours a day. It’s located at least a kilometre from the nearest residents and uses all of the state-of-the-art technology that you would expect. We discussed the different technologies available for waste-to-energy plants.

We also discussed how these plants are funded and owned. This particular one was funded as part of a public-private partnership where there was partial government ownership and partial private investment in the facility. It was fascinating and interesting to see how they operate their waste management stream in such a high density but constrained city with limited landfill options. The waste‑to-energy technology was very much an eyeopener and a learning experience for the mayors. We know that as we go forward waste to energy is an option that we need to consider as a region and obviously with the State Government’s landfill diversion targets, obviously technologies like waste to energy become more and more viable over time. So it was important that we as a region had the opportunity to visit that facility.

We then visited the Surbana Jurong (SJ) campus. Surbana Jurong is a large, publicly‑owned company in Singapore that delivers infrastructure. It also owns a number of local Australian businesses, including the Robert Bird Group, which was a business that was established in Brisbane and a company called SMEC. You may have heard of SMEC, but it stands for the Snowy Mountains Engineering Company. It is the company that built the Snowy River scheme, the original one, and it’s now owned by the Singapore group, Surbana Jurong, but obviously has offices here and continues to do great work across Australia. The SJ Group has more than 16,000 staff across the world, including a number of local staff here in Queensland. They specialise in built environment and they’ve also been involved in so many infrastructure projects, including not only building roads, bridges and various other infrastructure, but homes as well, to meet the needs of Singapore.

An interesting discussion was had about the model of housing ownership in Singapore, where more than 80% of people live in public housing. But it is a different model of public housing than we have here and in fact Singaporean residents have the opportunity to purchase their home. So yes, it is public housing, but effectively over time they pay off that house and they eventually get ownership of that house. But no house or apartment can be owned for longer than 99 years, everything is on a 99-year lease and so yes, you can own your own home, but you can’t necessarily transfer it into your family if you pass away, there’s quite a complex model of ownership. But in Singapore there is no visible homelessness.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**383/2024-25**

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. In Singapore there’s no visible homelessness and people that need access to a government or social home get access to a government and social home. They have certainly, I think, done what many countries have aspired to do and I think that’s because of the leadership of the original founder of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, who had an aspiration that everyone would have access to a home. They have a different model in Singapore, some people would argue that it wouldn’t necessarily work here in Australia, but it’s certainly a real-life example of a nation that was able to eliminate homelessness and so that was a very interesting discussion indeed.

Singapore, I mentioned, has a shortage of land, but it also has a shortage of natural resources and it has a shortage of water. We visited the Marina Barrage site, which is right next to the Gardens by the Bay and Marina Bay Sands and that precinct there. What they have created is a dam with a series of walls that can open up and close and they effectively want to use every single drop of natural water that lands on the island. They have created a series of reservoirs and dams, they treat that water, they recycle that water. It’s called NEWater, which is fully recycled water and that is used by the island as well in various ways.

But this particular dam was an engineering feat, a 350-metre wall across the channel which, as I said, has opening walls. But they have previously relied on Malaysia for the vast majority of their water supply, so the water supply gets pumped from Malaysia. Singapore has needed to be more self-sustainable when it comes to their own water needs and so they’re using water, they’re recycling water and it’s quite common and accepted there that that’s the thing to do.

We visited the Centre for Liveable Cities and were hosted by Mr Hugh Lim, the Executive Director. The Urban Redevelopment Authority building was the host to the Centre for Liveable Cities and this is very much an organisation that has had a long-term plan for the development of Singapore and has helped transform the nation over the last 50 years. When you go into this building you can see that they have a model of the whole of Singapore. It’s like one of those architectural models where someone has gone to great detail to build little buildings. Well they’ve got the whole of Singapore in a room, on a model and they use this to illustrate what the long-term plan is for Singapore. They have tours coming through constantly, they make sure their population is engaged in how Singapore will change and grow.

One of the things that is remarkable is that they set a plan 50 years ago and they stuck to that plan. Who would have thought? Something that I guess we all aspire to in western countries, but we have governments change and plans change. They set a plan 50 years ago and they are rolling out that plan and that plan has worked. They have gone from being a developing country to one of the world’s most advanced nations and a nation where everyone has a home and there are good incomes, good job opportunities and it is a globally connected city.

At this visit we signed an agreement to join the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Network. We were invited to join this network as we have been in the past awarded as a Lee Kuan Yew Prize city. There was an opportunity to officially ratify that agreement for us to become part of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Network. Other cities in the network include New York, Seoul, Korea and Vienna in Austria. The prize recognises the most vibrant liveable and sustainable cities in the world and it encourages sharing of ideas and exchange of information and knowledge and learnings.

We visited the National Computer Systems Group, NCS, which is a subsidiary company of Optus, or Singtel Optus. As you know, Optus, the Australian telecommunications company, is owned by Singtel, which is the Singapore Telecommunications company. This was an opportunity to see some of the latest cutting-edge technology when it comes to systems that are available to deliver smart cities. Whether that’s making smart travel choices, dealing with traffic volumes, parking availability, there’s a whole range of smart technology being employed in Singapore by companies like NCS that was fascinating to see.

In fact one of the sort of moments that I’ll never forget is that they’ve developed a program for cities to manage their fleet of robots. Robots for cleaning the street, robots for doing various things. They have security robots to patrol areas and they’ve got a software system that manages all of the city’s robots. One thing we did discuss with them is that in Australia security robots have been beaten up by the public and that was quite surprising to the Singaporeans. I don’t think they liked that, but the reaction of some Aussies to robots patrolling the street has not been a good one. It’s like a dystopian future that some people don’t want to live in, but in Singapore they have robots patrolling the airport, robots patrolling train stations and they are effectively security robots that feed back live feed to the police and authorities.

We had a visit to Singapore’s most important tourist attraction, which is the Gardens by the Bay. Probably the world’s most amazing botanical gardens, an absolutely amazing creation which has millions of tourists. I think it was something like 14 million tourists a year visit the Gardens by the Bay. There’s a glasshouse installation, some of you have been to it and it was great to see there’s a whole area designated for Australian plants in there. You’ve got the kangaroo paw growing, you’ve got the bottle trees, the grass trees, absolutely amazing. Just how you can create that—and it was actually reclaimed land that it was created on—and then turn it into a major tourist attraction has been absolutely inspirational.

Singapore was always known as a stopover city, where people would catch a flight there and then they’re going somewhere else. They’ve deliberately created attractions so that people will stay a night or 2 nights and that has massively boosted their economy. There’s an opportunity for us to learn from that as well.

We then moved on to Greater Manchester. Now I’d certainly never been to Manchester before. I had heard about Manchester, mainly as a result of its football teams, but I was actually very interested to learn the rich industrial history of Manchester. The Industrial Revolution started in Manchester, the very first factories in the world were in Manchester and so that’s where the Industrial Revolution kicked off.

That was a very different era and now we’re in the post‑industrial era. Virtually all of those factories have closed and large parts of the city were derelict for many, many years. Jobs were lost, there was economic devastation. As we know, over time factories have moved to other places, industries have closed down and that’s what happened in Manchester.

So the story of Manchester and the learnings from Manchester was how a post-industrial city can recover from the devastation caused by the loss of industries. They have done an incredible job, they have really done an incredible job. The way that they have transformed areas in their city and revitalised them, previously derelict areas, and created new thriving communities, new thriving industries, has been inspirational.

What else was inspirational was the arrangement that they had negotiated with their national government. Now in the UK (United Kingdom) they don’t have the same system of government as we do, they have 2 levels of government. But they have regional councils as well as local councils, so you could argue there’s 3 levels of government but there’s 2 levels of councils. The national government, through a city deal, has progressively devolved power to local councils. Wouldn’t that be a wonderful thing if it came with funding sources as well? Because that’s what they did in Manchester, they devolved responsibility and power to local councils, but they gave them funding sources to match.

Here they devolve responsibilities, never power, just responsibilities, but there’s no funding ever to match. The Manchester City deal was a groundbreaking deal and they have really used that to gear up their levels of service, to create new funding sources to service their community, that also relieves pressure on the national government as well, because the Local Government can be self‑sustaining and they have ability to collect their own revenue sources. Manchester has done many things when it comes to improving transport, but like London they have an obsession with double-decker buses.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**384/2024-25**

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

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. They have an obsession with double-decker buses and they’ve created—they’ve just—the local councils have just taken over the transport authority. Previously the transport authority was operated through a range of private concessions and the councils decided to take it back on and run it themselves. They have created a range of new services and improved public transport offerings as a result of that. They had to pay out the private concessions, so the council paid out the private operators, took back the buses and operated themselves, which is an interesting model. But that was something that they were able to do with their own funding source. Obviously a challenge here because our transport contribution is funded through general rates. We don’t have a funding source, we don’t collect the fare revenue, but they’re doing some great things with transport there as well.

We visited what was known as Sportcity. Sportcity was a precinct which was previously derelict factories and they’ve created some amazing facilities there for sports and entertainment. They have created a huge entertainment centre which can host concerts and sporting events, it’s an indoor facility. They have got a huge stadium there, the Etihad Stadium, which is home of the Manchester City team. They’ve also got a range of training facilities and other sports facilities in the precinct, so they’ve used the derelict area, or previously derelict area, to create a thriving sports hub which they refer to as Sportcity. They’ve also connected that in with the great public transport as well, which makes a lot of sense and was a great outcome.

We also visited MediaCity, which is based on a similar principle, taking a previously derelict area and the headquarters of the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) moved into that location. Then a whole heap of other media companies moved in, universities moved in and it’s become a thriving hub and a source of jobs in an area that was previously devoid of them. There were a lot of learnings from Manchester, we also talked to Manchester about their waste management. They also operate waste-to-energy facilities and they have an incredible diversion from landfill of close to 100%. They’re virtually not sending anything to landfill at all. They’ve got multiple waste-to-energy facilities, they’ve got great recycling facilities and there was a lot to learn from them as well.

We then moved on to Paris and our first visit was to the Adidas Arena. The Adidas Arena was an 8,000-seat facility in the northern suburbs of Paris, which are economically challenged areas of the city, seen as areas that could use investment, that needed investment. One of the deliberate decisions of the City of Paris and the surrounding councils was to make sure that investment for the Olympic Games would go into areas that needed a lift. Those northern suburbs of Paris, around Saint-Denis, benefited from investment of new facilities such as the Adidas Arena. This facility opened just one month before the Olympics, that’s called cutting it fine, if you ask me, but it’s been used ever since in a much greater way than anticipated.

We then had meetings in the City Hall in Paris. We had a lot of interesting meetings and we met with the housing Deputy Mayor. Actually there’s 34 Deputy Mayors in Paris, Councillor CUNNINGHAM, and so effectively every Committee Chair is a Deputy Mayor, they’ve got 34 Committees. The person that I was talking to that we were meeting with had very similar housing policies to the Greens Political Party. I was like this sounds very familiar. He was a member of the Communist Party and they have Communist Party councillors there. I’m like this is the same policies basically. They support a vacancy tax, they have a range of Greens-like policies for housing. It was like being in a parallel universe.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Look, we know that recently in *The Courier-Mail* Jonathan Sri was claiming he’s not a communist, but they had the same policies as the Communists, so it’s quite interesting. We had a range of meetings with various Deputy Mayors and they were really useful, simple things from what they had to do when it comes to city cleanliness and the management of street cleaning and rubbish collection during the Games—an extraordinary effort—to transport, we talked about transport and mass transit and mobility and how that operated during the Games. We talked about housing. We also met with the Deputy Mayor—that was the second time I’ve met him, Pierre Rabadan—who I previously met as well and we had another great chat about the learnings from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

We visited a number of the other councils in the Greater Paris region, including Saint-Denis which is in the northern suburbs that I mentioned, including the main stadium, the *Stade de France*, an 80,000-seat stadium which was built for the 1998 FIFA World Cup. That is an example of using legacy infrastructure, but it was good legacy infrastructure. It was an 80,000-seat stadium, it wasn’t QSAC (Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre), it wasn’t QSAC, it was a good facility. We also had some discussions, Paris airport or *Charles de Gaulle* Airport is investing heavily in advanced air mobility, otherwise known as air taxis. They were telling us about their experience with trying to get an air taxi service operational.

We visited the swimming complex which is built right next to *Stade de France*. It was a purpose-built swimming complex which will be a legacy swimming complex for the community. We visited the Nautical Stadium which was the canoeing, kayaking and the rowing, and that was something that in Brisbane that will be hosted by Redlands. We also were hosted by the Australian Ambassador in France, where she was kind enough to invite a lot of French businesses who wanted to do business in Queensland, to create some connections and some opportunities. Some of those French businesses were involved heavily in the Olympics.

We had a great chat with one such business who received the contract to organise the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games along the *Seine*. We had a great chat about the complexities of organising an event like had never been held before, no opening ceremony has ever been held outside a stadium like that. The security challenges, but then also some of the practical challenges of not knowing who was performing in the opening ceremony. Some of the performers that we now know, they were not ever told who they were. So they had to plan an event without knowing who was performing, quite incredible. They have offered their services to Brisbane, but I’m sure we’ll go through a procurement process for that. So there were a lot of great learnings.

Finally, I forgot to mention we met with the President of the Greater Paris region, Valérie Pécresse, and she is responsible through the Greater Paris region for the entire public transport network in Paris. We also met with one of her Vice Presidents, Alexandra Dublanche, she’s responsible for economic development in the region. Following our visit, she posted on social media about that visit and she was talking about welcoming our delegation, but she said in her post, the Olympics created lasting economic benefits for France and the region. It created 137,000 jobs, including 10,000 indirect jobs and that was also from foreign investments linked to the Games, so investment that would not have otherwise happened without the Games. That the Paris region attracted 130 foreign investment projects, including 4,000 direct jobs.

She said here—and this sounds very familiar—hosting the Olympics is not just about 2 weeks of competition, it’s about decades of transformation. She offered her support and advice to Brisbane as well, so there was a lot that we learnt. It wasn’t just about the Olympics, it was about a whole heap of municipal issues. I guess the important thing was that we’re able to build stronger and closer relationships with the mayors of South East Queensland too. At the recent election last year, more than half of the mayors changed over and so it was an opportunity to build strong relationships, because COMSEQ’s (Council of Mayors South East Queensland) motto is one region, one voice and together as mayors we are stronger.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**385/2024-25**

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: Together as mayors we are stronger, because in these areas that we visited one thing was common. That whether it’s Paris or Manchester, whether it in the past has been other locations, when local governments get together they collaborate, they advocate, they lobby together, they can achieve amazing things. That was the story in Manchester, that was the story in Paris during the Olympics and so local governments working together is sadly quite a rare thing in Australia. There is no other organisation like COMSEQ in Australia and there’s certainly no other organisation that has the sheer scale of councils.

Five out of the top 10 largest councils in Australia are in South East Queensland. COMSEQ is one of a kind and it is a really good thing. The mayors have a wide range of different views, some mayors you could call them conservative, some mayors you can call them genuinely independent, not one way or the other, some mayors are associated with the Labor Party. But we all built some closer bonds and we all developed a desire to work together to see our region prosper from the opportunity that we have ahead.

Moving on to the items on the agenda in front of us, look, I apologise, I know that was a long report but it’s important that I share that. Item A is the update to the Organisational Services policies, including Council’s Guarantee Policy and the COVID-19 Response Policy. Council’s Guarantee Policy outlines the use of guarantees to compensate Council for credit risk in cases where a party fails to fulfil contractual obligations. Effective implementation of this policy ensures a consistent and structured approach to managing guarantees for councils. Following a recent review of the Guarantee Policy, an amendment has been proposed to update the reference in the policy supporting information from Brisbane City Council’s accounting practices to guarantee procedure. The reference has been updated directly, to directly refer to the applicable procedure instead of the overarching practice. You can tell that was written for me because it’s—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, it is a bit of a mouthful. The COVID-19 Response Policy, obviously it’s been 5 years now since we first had to respond to the pandemic. Council followed health advice from Queensland Health, while also providing our city’s community groups and local businesses with support during a difficult time. Our approach was to ensure timely and appropriate response to the various challenges of COVID-19 where presented. As an employer, Council’s COVID-19 Response Policy was developed. It provided a mechanism to quickly consult on and implement and finalise procedures and control measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These controls obviously at the time had a significant effect on the way we all work. Often organisations take a long time to change the way they work. We all had to change overnight and obviously this policy reflects that.

Item B is the contracts and tendering report for January 2024. Seven out of 8 contracts were awarded to local suppliers, being 87% of contracts.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, just—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you. Yes, they’re all seriatim, so just item A.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on this item before us today and just with your indulgence would like to thank the LORD MAYOR for his words on the passing of Pearl Ruby Harvey. I wasn’t aware, but a great Council eulogy for the life and times of the Lady Mayoress. From all accounts, led an incredible life herself on top of the work that she obviously did as Lady Mayoress in supporting the work of Roy Harvey through some important times in Brisbane. We certainly add our condolences to the words that the LORD MAYOR said in here today and thank the LORD MAYOR for doing that.

I was very pleased to get the report from the LORD MAYOR just now on his travel, trip overseas. Quite comprehensive. It’s good to get that and good to get that in a timely fashion, of course, not a lot of other LNP Councillors don’t give them as fulsomely as that. The LORD MAYOR was amazed there’s no homelessness in Singapore, but we’ve heard earlier today he had no view on it here in Brisbane apparently. Discovered that the Industrial Revolution began in the UK, probably missed that one in school, I suspect. Recycling’s so good in Manchester they have almost zero waste, but refuses to do anything about it here in Brisbane and went to Paris to talk about housing with communists. I’m sure his jaw hit the ground when he realised what meeting he was in then, but an interesting one, I’m sure, nonetheless.

But on the talks of housing and homelessness as a result of having an Olympic Games in your city, the LORD MAYOR certainly didn’t talk about the enormous displacement of rough sleepers, of people on the margins of society and people under housing stress in Paris. That has now in some cases become permanent as a result of the Olympic Games. So I certainly hope the LORD MAYOR learned some lessons from that and has some plans, not just to address it directly but also to advocate at higher levels of government about changes to how an Olympics is delivered in terms of a housing response that we will need to make here in Brisbane.

Clause A, the update to Organisational Services policies. We will support this item today because it seems like a pretty reasonable, straightforward move. The Guarantee Policy looks at how Council receives compensation for credit risk if contractual obligations are not met and that’s very important of course to have that in place. The COVID policy was implemented as a response to the pandemic, which significantly affected workers here in Council, with so many of them being on the frontline and delivering services. It obviously makes sense that we no longer require that document, that the pandemic is largely over, even though COVID is not. I’m sure plenty of us have had or know people that continue to contract COVID and the impacts that that has on the workforce is still evolving, without requirements for isolation and leave.

Managing illness at work goes back to those days of potentially having people who are infectious and contagious attending work as well. But that is very much a business-as-usual problem for an organisation like Council that it needs to address on a day-to-day basis. Within that policy around COVID arrangements though, there was greater flexibility offered to work from home and that was certainly, I think, a positive outcome in terms of Council’s workforce finally being able to demonstrate that flexible work arrangements, where they meet the needs of the worker, the employee and where they are able to still deliver the service that they are required to, that those arrangements can work.

For years and years in the leadup to COVID we were continually told that those flexible work arrangements, work from home and starting the job from home rather than attending depots and things like that couldn’t be accommodating because we would see a loss of productivity. But what in fact we saw over that period of time and that flexible work arrangement was that productivity actually increased. There was less sick leave taken, for a variety of reasons and productivity actually increased and people’s time spent at home with their families and travel time and all that sort of stuff was better for workers as well.

That has sort of stuck, I guess, in Council. We’ve seen last year, I think, the contracts for office space see a massive reduction in the office space required across Green Square and Brisbane Square as well. I go up to Brisbane Square from time to time to look at files, sorry to the Information Services team if you’re listening along. I know we ask a lot and I go up and inspect a lot of files up there. But you walk through there and it is a bit of a ghost town these days. I know it’s being prepared for refurbishment in some parts there, it certainly needs it, the working arrangements for a lot of staff there are substandard. But you do get a sense that there’s sort of less buzz and less hype in a lot of those floors up there, a lot less collaboration, I guess.

When you look at the statistics, that there’s close to 400 less staff now working in Council, 400 less permanent staff now than there were just a couple of years ago, you sort of get a sense of that when you go into workplaces. The ones that are left, of course, are being asked to do more work with less resources than ever before, doing more in their day to cover the shortfall of a colleague that no longer works in Council, or might be on leave and is not being backfilled. We know that even where Council staff are making a fair and reasonable request for a wage increase, that the LNP are fighting them tooth and nail every step of the way.

It’s quite incredible when you listen to the rhetoric from Councillor MURPHY earlier about the bus driver wage offer, which also applies to other Council staff working across divisions and across offices and out in the field there. To know that those staff for the last couple of years—and this has been at an increasing rate—are being asked to in some cases do the work of 2 people, but the LNP are denying them a fair wage increase. We’re not just talking about keeping in line with an official number that’s released in terms of inflation at a national level, or even at a Queensland level. We’re talking about recognising the hard work of hardworking Council staff when they are seeking fair remuneration.

If they have for the last 2 years been doing 2 people’s jobs because as their colleagues exit the organisation they’re not being replaced, we think a fair and reasonable wage offer like the one that Council staff are putting to Council should be supported. Those platitudes, those platitudes we hear on one hand from the LNP, that they say they’re worker-friendly and they’re flexible, mean absolutely nothing when their actions speak the opposite and much more loudly. I put this to the LNP today, that even when those platitudes are uttered they’re pretty hollow. Because we heard Councillor MURPHY literally say today that the wage offer for Council employees is, according to him, fair, reasonable and in keeping with community expectations, despite the fact that Councillor MURPHY received a pay rise that was higher, and backdated, than the one he is offering Council bus drivers. Shame on him.

Chair: Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak just briefly on item A. Firstly, to the Guarantee Policy. This sets out clear guidelines regarding the use of guarantees to manage credit risk for Council in situations where one party does not meet its contractual obligations. By implementing this policy effectively, Council ensures a structured, consistent and transparent approach to managing guarantees, reducing our Council’s financial risk, while maintaining accountability for the residents of Brisbane. Our recent review of the policy identified the need for an update to the policy supporting information and as a result, an amendment has been proposed to change a reference from *FMA700 Brisbane City Council Accounting Practices* to FMA501 guarantee procedure. The revision is intended to enhance clarity by ensuring the policy directly refers to the specific procedure governing guarantees, rather than the overarching accounting practice.

Now onto COVID—the removal of the COVID Response Policy. Madam Chair, it’s now been 5 years, as we all know, since Council had to first respond to the pandemic. Over this time, we’ve witnessed significant changes in how this public health challenge has been managed. Throughout that time, Council remained committed to following the health advice and directives importantly that were issued by Queensland Health. At the same time, we recognise the need to support our city’s local businesses, community organisations and residents in navigating the lifechanging disruptions and uncertainties of that period of time.

Our approach was centred on ensuring a timely, flexible and appropriate response to the various challenges presented by the pandemic. We adapted quickly to evolving circumstances, ensuring that necessary measures were in place to protect the health and wellbeing of our workforce and the community. As an employer, Council introduced the COVID-19 Response Policy as a key mechanism for responding to the pandemic. This policy, at the time, helped to manage the phase of the pandemic where we were dealing with transmission in the community, meaning that Council staff were testing positive to the virus, or were close contacts with someone at home.

The policy enabled Council to quickly consult on, implement and finalise procedures and controls to mitigate the risks associated with the changing and evolving circumstances. At present, there are no longer any special arrangements for managing COVID. It’s now addressed in the same way as other communicable diseases under the Council’s organisational Zero Harm management system. I’m pleased to have support from both sides of the Chamber for these policies and I comment them.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I’ll rise briefly to speak to item A, specifically around the COVID Response Policy. I think it’s important to remember that while the immediate crisis might be over, there are threats of new variants and potential outbreaks and this remains a concern. Of course one of the biggest concerns is vulnerable populations, including elderly, those with underlying health conditions, immunocompromised individuals. They continue to be at greater risk, not only in our broader community but also within our staff. As a local Council we must continue to prioritise the protection and support of these most vulnerable, noting that there are still COVID-19 deaths and hospitalisations and inclusions into ICU (Intensive Care Unit).

Of course outside of a formal policy, it’s important with Council staff that are particularly vulnerable to remain as risk-free as possible, because transmission is still occurring. Stuff that we can do in support—and I know that this Council already does that I’m incredibly supportive of includes risk assessments, evaluating the risk faced by vulnerable staff, adjusting their work roles and schedules as needed. Of course less possible with less staff, but I do support it. I also support, of course, the work that Brisbane City Council is doing in health and wellbeing programs and hope for their expansion.

Employee Assistance Programs, EAPs for mental health support, as well as wellness initiatives in fitness and stress reduction do help staff resilience and manage mental health. We must continue flexible workplace arrangements. Working remotely or hybrid models are incredibly important and these adjustments minimise exposure for vulnerable staff and reduce the stress associated, returning to the office with potential of getting sick because, again, the most vulnerable in our communities and in our staff are immunocompromised. Of course communication channels, which I know can be a challenge in Brisbane City Council.

What we want is open, transparent communication with vulnerable staff that will allow Brisbane City Council to address their concerns, check in regularly and ensure their needs are reassessed as circumstances change. By maintaining this dialogue we can ensure that no one feels unsupported. I want to reiterate that the health and wellbeing of our vulnerable staff members should remain a top priority. As a Council we should be committed to providing the necessary support to make these adjustments. If I can just very quickly speak to something the LORD MAYOR said earlier, before, I’m sure the LORD MAYOR knows that Paris already has a vacancy levy, 70% in the first year and 34% in the second.

Chair: Just to the report.

Councillor MASSEY: Just saying.

Chair: Just to the report, thanks, Councillor MASSEY.

Any further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on one of the measures in Clause A and that is the removal of the COVID-19 policy. I mean we lived through COVID-19 and we had to adjust our lives quite a lot actually. Measures had to be put into place at all levels of government and businesses as well of course, to deal with the COVID‑19 pandemic. Certainly Council had to do their part and Colin Jensen, the CEO at the time, undertook that amount of work with others on his team to put the measures in place to deal with it.

Now a lot of those measures of course came from the State Government health—the senior health officer, Jeannette Young and the Premier and the Health Minister at the time. It was done in a pretty quick manner actually, I was just thinking when I saw this coming to Council, coming in Clause A, that it just took me back a little bit to all the sacrifices that we had to make as a collective society to help minimise COVID-19 until they found a vaccine that was available. But we did a lot of stuff because of this policy that I’m just hoping that we’re not going to forget, some of that that we learnt, right? Something as simple as hand sanitisers and we still employ that in the office, in the ward office, as well as in the toilet facilities as well. I don’t know if that happens right across Council, but I hope we don’t lose that measure that was put into place pretty quickly.

The cleaning of the offices as well of course has been lessened since COVID became less of a crisis. It’s still going, people are still dying of course, but not in anywhere near the numbers and the infection rate is not probably as high. But I just wanted to mention a couple of things that one of my—a couple of my team mentioned to me and that is that the office cleaning—we used to have a daily actually and in handles and all sorts of things to sanitise—to try to treat those surfaces, right? Like handles and desktops and things like that, to try to minimise the infection. That was sort of taken away towards the end of the COVID crisis, but also the cleaning of my office actually went from 5 days a week to 2, which I think is probably a little bit—probably needs to be increased again, because the office staff have taken a lot of that on board.

Chair: If you can come back to the report please, Councillor STRUNK, thank you.

Any further speakers?

LORD MAYOR?

We’ll now put item A to the vote.

**CLAUSE A PUT**

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

Chair: We’ll now move to item B, Contracts and Tendering, Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for January 2025.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Seven out of 8 contracts were awarded to local suppliers, being 87% of the contracts. So far this financial year, 68 contracts have been awarded to local suppliers, being 94% of all contracts and a total spend so far this financial year of $748 million with local contractors. Contracts this particular month, which is January, include upgrades to facilities at Keith Payne Park in Stafford. Management of Artforce Brisbane, as you know, which is the wonderful program which sees artwork delivered on traffic signal controller boxes. There’s also community street tree planting, there’s also the demolition of houses that have been acquired under the Bushland Acquisition Program. There’s updates to our green waste processing services panel and a booking, ticketing and online payment solution for Council’s community halls and planetarium. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on Clause B, Contracts and Tendering, which is the report from January 2025. A range of contracts here for January, a bit better than we’ve been getting used to over the last few months, it’s getting better. There was just one for the month of December and 2 for the month of November. There’s a couple here, but there are some ones worth talking about, I think. When you look at Contract 1 and—or Contract 1, which has 2 packages of work in there, we see that’s for the Bushland Acquisition Program. Something that’s very topical, we’ve been talking about that in here for the last couple of weeks. As we know, this fund was established in 1990 by Sallyanne Atkinson so Council could buy land to protect Brisbane’s unique bushland. Buy land to protect Brisbane’s unique bushland.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I’ll remind you that it’s just about the contract and that is for the demolition of the 2 houses.

Councillor CASSIDY: So, thanks very much, Chair. The Administration—that Administration, as we heard from Councillor DAVIS today, purchased just one property and then over the subsequent 13, 14 years of the Labor Administration purchased thousands and thousands of hectares, including the greatest real estate deal in Brisbane’s history. Purchasing 500 hectares of the Boondall Wetlands for $1.

Chair: Again, Councillor CASSIDY, I’ll bring you back to the actual report please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. So this—for the package before us today, is for the demolition of homes using bushland money. Now we understand that these are on properties that were purchased using the Bushland Acquisition fund and at the 20th anniversary of that fund, Sallyanne Atkinson said herself that that program is all about—and I quote—buying up the land that was going to be developed quickly. Buying it quickly to preserve that bushland. Now it’s obviously become alarmingly obvious over the last few years and particularly with today’s contracts before us today, that this fund is being used to do a lot more than just buy bushland. It’s being used for general maintenance today, the demolition of buildings as we see here before us. What’s funding this work before us today is a levy that’s put onto every rates notice that’s sent out to every ratepayer in Brisbane of 3.5%.

I wonder how people really feel knowing that that levy, that 3.5% levy on their rates, is being used for other things, like paying almost half a million dollars to a demolition company to demolish houses rather than purchasing more bushland. I certainly don’t think that’s in the spirit of the program, as is paying for general maintenance, paying for fuel for cars to be driving around, paying for photocopying costs and such. So we don’t believe that’s in the spirit of the program and certainly not in the spirit of the program which Sallyanne Atkinson established when we listen to her own words, that was about purchasing bushland, not about demolishing houses. We know ratepayers fork out around $20 million a year for the Bushland Acquisition Program and they should be able to trust that their money is being used for its intended purpose.

On Contract 5, Chair, which is for the Asia Pacific Cities Summit, what we see before us today is a contract for a summit conference organiser. The summit, of course, is something we support, the summit. It’s a great Labor legacy of course, set up in 1996 by LORD MAYOR Jim Soorley and it’s meant to be Brisbane City Council’s signature biannual international event. It comes as no surprise of course that the LNP found a way to contract it out over the years. The LNP is spending, Chair, almost half a million dollars on a contractor to plan this event, despite have extremely capable staff in Council’s own International Relations and Multicultural Affairs unit and across the CEO’s office, across the Lord Mayor’s Office presumably, who put a lot of time and effort into planning events and large events that Council hosts.

This inhouse unit was set up to coordinate business missions and to enable development opportunities and foster long-term partnerships between local and international organisations. The International Relations and Multicultural Affairs unit sounds like the perfect fit for a unit within Council to organise a city summit, doesn’t it? You’d think so. So you’ve got to ask yourself the question why is the LNP spending almost half a million dollars on someone else to plan it? None of those, what do they call them, sensible savings? They’re called sensible savings when they ditch staff, they don’t call it sensible savings of course when they contract out.

So it’s becoming harder and harder to believe this LORD MAYOR when he cries poor, that Council can’t afford to deliver services out in the suburbs of Brisbane like drainage, but can afford to spend half a million dollars on a contract of which Council should be able to manage inhouse. Or should if they hadn’t have gutted Council’s workforce. This is of course the same LORD MAYOR that slapped a new tax on pensioners just to receive their paper rates notices and now contributing to throwing a lavish event in Dubai. I’m sure he’ll no doubt be one of the guest speakers, another overseas travel bill coming our way, I’m sure.

So that one’s a little disappointing and you sort of start to build a picture when you read through these documents about the LNP’s long tenure in Council. They say it’s a good thing. I think the people of Brisbane, when they realise that all of these problems that are plaguing us now are all sheeted home to the decisions that a 21-year-old political Administration have been making and losing touch fundamentally with the priorities that ordinary working people in Brisbane have. Before us today you see that, you see even on programs that the LNP say they are proud to have established, like the Bushland Acquisition Program, that they are entirely bastardising that program now and using funds that were intended to purchase bushland to now demolish houses.

A city summit which had a very—Asia Pacific City Summit—which had a very clear agenda about putting Brisbane on the world stage and utilising Council’s amazing resources to do so is now being contracted out, because under the LNP that’s not in their interest to deliver those services as a Council for the rates that they levy each and every ratepayer of Brisbane. While there’s a little bit more in this month’s contracts document, a few extras in there, still a fail from this tired old LNP regime.

Councillor DIXON: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor DIXON.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **386/2024-25**  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 3.04pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

*At that time, 3.20pm, the Deputy Chair assumed the Chair.*

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak in support of item A, the report of contracts accepted by delegates of Council for January 2025. Specifically, I would like to highlight the panel refresh for green waste processing services. This is about expanding our panel of providers to ensure that we can continue to deliver a reliable and efficient green waste service for all of our residents. This panel is an important step to ensuring Brisbane remains a leader in effective waste management and we can continue to deliver this reliable and efficient green waste processing services, as I said, for all residents. As Australia’s fastest growing capital city, Brisbane faces ongoing challenges of waste management and we need to be thinking forward into 2042 about how we continue to divert waste from landfill. We’re committed to delivering a solution that reduces landfill and supports responsible waste management. As part of that, we are making green waste recycling more accessible. Mr Chair, I can confirm that our locals love a bargain. Brisbane residents have wholeheartedly embraced the slashing of cost for this service to less than a dollar a week.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: Councillor TOOMEY, I love your enthusiasm. Can I just add, The Gap Ward is actually our number one green bin ward. So, your enthusiasm is appreciated, and it’s great to see that your residents, too, love our green waste services. Now, can I just say that this makes it the most affordable service in the country, and as a result of the cost delivering measures that our Schrinner Council has taken, it is a fantastic solution that we hope even more residents embrace. Now, since we have cut the cost of green bins, we have now seen 165,000 green bins in circulation across Brisbane, which has diverted a significant amount of waste from landfill. But with this success comes the need to plan ahead. This panel refresh builds on the strong foundations we’ve already established.

With the current arrangement beginning in 2018, there were only 3 suppliers that could provide 80,000 tonnes of waste annually—processing, apologies. Today, with the support of this contract, we’ll now see 110,000 tonne of waste being able to be processed. This is a fantastic initiative and we want to see more and more waste diverted from landfill. So with more residents taking up this affordable service, we need to ensure the capacity for the future. Now, onboarding these additional suppliers will ensure that we have this capability and the capacity to manage this safely and responsibly. I commend this contract to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on Clause B, a couple of the contracts. Contract one—and there’s been some good talk, good discussion in regards to this Bushland Acquisition Program. This one, of course, was to remove those buildings that are still in situ after the acquisition. Now, I’d love to actually have the Bushland Acquisition fund actually purchase something in my ward, but since I’ve been Councillor, we haven’t had anything in my ward. The closest we got was—which, I think, some of this money is going to cover off on getting rid of this particular building. This old house was at 362 Waterford Road, which is in the Jamboree Ward, which used to actually be in the Forest Lake Ward back before the last redistribution.

But anyway, we identified, actually, that particular building, or maybe even the platform of the building, the foundations, as a possibility for a Men’s Shed. I raised that with the meeting I had with Councillor Vicki HOWARD at a meeting about my local Men’s Shed. Now that’s—it was part of a bushland acquisition, about $2.5 million or thereabouts—that’s not the exact figure, but about $2.5 million that we spent and there was an old house on board with that particular block, which is on the corner of Waterford Road—well, it’s actually just on the corner block, which has great visibility.

So I could see why Council purchased the acquisition or that bushland. It works well with the other greenspace around that particular part of the Jamboree Ward. So I just thought I would mention that, that I think it still is a good site for maybe a Men’s Shed, or something else for that matter. Anyway, contract 2, briefly, the Keith Payne Park toilet block in Councillor WINES’ ward of Enoggera. I had a look—once I saw it—because I had a couple of old toilet blocks myself that were funded through that COVID infrastructure package that we were given back during COVID, and I replaced a couple of old ones.

So I was really interested just to see how old this one was, and it definitely needs to be replaced. Definitely. I’m sure Councillor WINES is very happy to have that funded.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Sorry? This is in Marchant? We looked it up and it said Enoggera. Anyway, sorry for that. I’ll take the correction, through you, Deputy Chair. Take that interjection. But anyway, the interesting part was the park that it’s in actually—the toilet blocks, it’s a very long, elongated park. The toilet block—current toilet block is at one end and around about 110 metres is the actual playground, where the small kids, of course, play, in a nice playground area. I would just suggest that maybe the Councillor for Marchant maybe consider putting the toilet block, when it gets replaced, at the other end. There’s plenty of services at either end, and it’s just that I think the small kids probably need the amenity a little bit quicker than maybe the ones at the basketball court, where it’s next to. Anyway, I’ll just make those few remarks in regards to the contracts and tendering. Thank you, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor ADAMS.

Councillor ADAMS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on contracts and tendering, and in particular contract number 5. Just to set Councillor CASSIDY straight, because, yet again, he’s got it so completely wrong. The Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) is the premier city summit—see, I mentioned his name and he walked out again. Coincidence? Methinks not. The Asia Pacific Cities Summit is well and truly—oh, sorry, Mr Deputy Chair, perhaps he just needs to wee every time I stand up to speak. The Asia Pacific Cities Summit is the premier city summit in the southern hemisphere. It has been recognised by many as being better and more connected than the Singapore Cities Summit, which has been long-lauded as the premier summit across the southern hemisphere.

This year, it is going to absolutely next levels by being in World Expo City in Dubai. So I have to say, that the one thing I will agree with Councillor CASSIDY is that the officers that we’ve got in our International Relations and Multicultural Affairs team are absolutely outstanding. They do so much to make sure we foster those strong community networks across the city. We have strong relationships with our Sister Cities and they are doing a wonderful job underneath the Manager, Nicole Andronicus, who also oversees the Olympic City, to make sure that global positioning and international relationships is now at next level, whether it’s in trade or investment business connections.

That is their specialty, trade business connections, communities connecting. What their specialty is not and what we don’t expect them to be spending their time, is in conference organising. It is next level and it has always been much bigger than anything our Civic Events team do with regards to civic events. If you’ve ever been to a business convention meeting, you know that conventions and conferences are very, very different beasts. For many years, we have used the expertise and outstanding experience and delivery by Carillon Conference Management. They have actually supported us in the Asia Pacific Cities Summit in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023, and now are going to be our conference providers for 2025. So we are growing and it’s no short means because of the support we’ve had from Carillon and the fantastic work that Ashley and the team do as well.

You need to realise, particularly, when we have offshore Asia Pacific Cities Summits, that there is a lot of work offshore. We are the secretariat, we need to be there early, we need to make sure it’s organised. We have the Brisbane Pavilion, you have the speakers list, you have the keynotes. All of that is organised by the conference managers. Our team work nonstop here, nearly 12 hours a day, particularly, as we get closer, making sure that the invites go out to over 500 Mayors around the world. Last time, we saw a record of more than 100 Mayors join us here in Brisbane, more than 1,400 delegates that they encourage, they connect, they keep calling, they kept emailing, they make sure the e-newsletters go out. They never let one connection drop and, of course, the sponsors and the supporters from the Brisbane businesses.

So not only do they support us, but they can also leverage the APCS to make the economy in Brisbane stronger, because they get that global positioning and leverage as well. The team does an outstanding job, but they couldn’t do it without a professional conference manager, and that’s what we have got here, the best value for money and the best experience to deliver the premier cities summit. I look forward to Dubai in October, which I know a lot of Councillors are very excited about going and we are looking forward to a fantastic outcome later in the year.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I’ll add to the debate on contract 5 in the contracts and tendering report, and specifically add to the comments that Councillor ADAMS has made. Our relationship with Carillon Conference Management has gone on for a very, very long time. APCS has a 30-year history, kicked off in 1996, and it is an incredibly valuable forum, not only for the city, but also delegates from across the world who attend that event. As Councillor ADAMS indicated, this event is owned by Brisbane City Council under the stewardship of our International Relations and Multicultural Affairs team. They do a terrific job managing the portfolio of responsibilities they’ve got, but clearly, oversight of major events like this is a specialised capability.

We’ve got great capability in organising events, but events of this scale are a complex exercise and, accordingly, we work with an external provider. Now, the event in Dubai is at the Expo City Dubai. Councillor ADAMS mentioned that and the theme is Collaborate, Innovate and Transform. Our partner in this, Carillon, they’ve been involved in something like 600 events across the globe since they were established. So they are a group that has great expertise in this regard. They have a deep familiarity and longstanding relationship with this event and with Council and, accordingly, they add a great degree of value.

Now, looking at the ways in which they help us, other than just organising the event. They also help us with corporate sponsorship, delegate fees and a range of other revenue-raising activities. Over time and over different events, the amount that they assist with respect to revenue raising will outstrip the costs we pay in terms of contracting them. So over time, a very, very important relationship. As I mentioned, APCS is a key gateway for Brisbane businesses to reach global audiences, potential global clients and vice versa. From our perspective, this is a terrific event to not only support Brisbane business but to showcase our city. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor PARRY.

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Mr Acting Chair. I just want to speak on item 2, if that’s okay, very briefly. I just want to respond to a couple of the comments that Councillor STRUNK made. I appreciate him taking an interest in the toilets at Keith Payne VC Park. It is an excellent project and it certainly is needed. Those toilets are quite old and in terms of the location, what I would say is they’re actually located close to the memorial, so that’s where a lot of people gather on service days and that sort of thing to, obviously, honour Keith Payne, who was a VC (Victoria Cross) recipient for the Vietnam War—for his service in the Vietnam War.

One other thing I’d like to mention is last year, I was contacted by a resident called Sarah who asked for an improvement—an upgrade to that playground there. Knowing that these toilets were going to be upgraded and knowing there was a need in the community for a better playground, I hosted a park planning party in October last year, where we had lots and lots of feedback from local families. It is a heavily used park, not just the playground, but also the large amount of greenspace that’s there. It doesn’t look too big from the Google image photos, I get that, but it is quite a good-sized park.

We got lots of feedback and I’m very excited to say that we will be delivering a new playground this year, hopefully, all going well, to those local families that are located around that park. So they will get this brand new toilet block, which will better serve them. They will also get a new playground, which is very exciting, which I’ll be using my Suburban Enhancement Fund to fund. On top of that as well, I’m working with the RSL (Returned and Services League of Australia) Kedron-Wavell Services Club, to see if we can give that memorial a bit of an upgrade, so that what Keith Payne did to serve our country during the Vietnam War is honoured rightfully so. Thank you very much.

Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Deputy Chair, and I rise to speak on item B, contracts and tendering, in particular with regard to the bushland acquisition packages one and 2. Deputy Chair, as you would be aware, when we acquire a property through the Bushland Acquisition Program, to make safe those parcels of land, we remove infrastructure that is on the site. That can include a dwelling, it could be things like sheds or carports or garages, and we do that for a couple of reasons. We do it firstly to make safe, but second of all, we don’t want people graffitiing the infrastructure. We want to make sure that we clear the property so that restoration works can go ahead.

The properties before us today that were acquired are across the city. We’ve got 2 properties in Rachael Street at Moorooka, which is about a hectare of land. 478 Grieve Road at Rochedale, which is about 1.9 hectares. At Wacol, we’ve acquired 1.8 hectares at 262 Waterford Road. In my ward of McDowall, there’s 0.9 of a hectare along Old Northern Road. The site at McDowall, negotiations had been going on for several years with the property owners and it was when they decided to retire and move from a larger parcel of land to a smaller property that they reached out to Council and said we’re ready to sell and we were able to acquire that land.

I should also mention, I’m sorry, that 68 Lake Manchester Road in Kholo, Councillor ADERMANN, we acquired 4.5 hectares of land. It was interesting to hear some of the comments by Councillor CASSIDY. I thought it was Councillor GRIFFITHS that liked to come into this place and modify the facts, but it appears that Councillor CASSIDY is probably his mentor, the way that he had in fact presented his argument today. It wasn’t much of an argument because, as I mentioned this morning during Question Time, we have a Bushland Preservation Levy. We do not have a bushland acquisition levy and Councillor CASSIDY probably needs to listen carefully about what the Bushland Preservation Levy is about for which the acquisition program is part of. It’s all very clearly stated in the fees and charges in our budget each year.

The other interesting comment that Councillor CASSIDY made was in regards to photocopying, money being used for photocopying out of Bushland Acquisition fund. Now, it could be urban myth, but I am reliably told that, in fact, it was former Councillor Helen Abrahams, who was the last Labor Chair of my Committee, who was a great proponent of using Bushland Acquisition fund for printing and photocopying. So I just wonder whether Councillor CASSIDY, in fact, got the wrong administration.

Councillor STRUNK spoke about the Bushland Acquisition fund and how he might like to see more bushland purchased in his area. Councillor STRUNK, we are always talking to property owners where we feel that there is appropriate land that is environmentally sensitive and would be eligible under the Bushland Acquisition Program. But if you have any properties that you would like to put forward, the very friendly people in that area in my portfolio would be very happy to have a look. But just because you put it forward, it does have to meet some criteria and we would happily have a look at that.

Deputy Chair, I love what we do with the Bushland Preservation Levy. I love what we do with the Bushland Acquisition Program. Looking after our bushland is very important. It’s not just about acquiring, it’s also about maintaining and I would support the proposal that we have in front of us.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

If there’s no further debate now, I’ll put Clause B to the vote.

**CLAUSE B PUT**

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

ABSTENTIONS: 5 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK and Trina MASSEY.

Deputy Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, Clause C.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thanks, Mr Deputy Chair. Item C is the tailored amendment to the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, the Mt Gravatt Suburban Renewal Precinct. This is now our third suburban renewal precinct plan we have commenced under the fast-track process introduced by the former State Government. Brisbane has grown faster than any other capital city over the past decade, with more than 400,000 people expected to move to the city by 2046. Suburban renewal precincts are a key part of our plan to create more housing opportunities by converting under-utilised commercial and industrial areas into mixed-use precincts with attached homes.

Located approximately 8 kilometres south-east of the CBD, the Mt Gravatt Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct Plan will target properties either side of Logan Road, from Pickthorne Street to Broadwater Road, including properties close to Mt Gravatt Plaza. The Mt Gravatt precinct area is surrounded by major employment hubs, such as Westfield Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt Plaza and the Homemaker Centre, as well as high-frequency bus services along Logan Road. There are currently around 1,500 properties within the precinct area, including homes and businesses, with close to 40% of the suburbs’ residents renting.

Other non-residential uses include large-format retail, mainly car showrooms, hotels, medical facilities, schools, kindergartens and places of worship. Mt Gravatt Central is also well-connected with high-frequency bus services along Logan Road, giving residents the option of easy access to Brisbane City centre. By undertaking a precinct plan, we hope to revitalise the precinct as a vibrant, mixed-use destination with distinctive centres that complement, rather than compete, as well as unlock opportunities for additional employment, education and services. Council will work with stakeholders to create a vision for the area that will revitalise the precinct with higher density housing— high density housing and a mix of cafés, restaurants, retail and services, while also maximising the existing high-frequency public transport and open space. I commend it.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on item C, the amendments to *Brisbane City Plan 2014* for the Mt Gravatt Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct. I’m just going to get the item that’s before us today, which is the map before us. As we have for quite some time on this side of the Chamber, supported suburban renewal—in fact, we’re the creators of suburban renewal—through the 1990s, so I do know and accept that action needs to be taken to address the city’s crippling housing shortage. For years, we’ve seen this has been getting worse and this LNP Council has had a go-slow approach to making changes. They’re not my words. They are the words of LNP Councillors, including the Planning Chair, who talks about a methodical, slow approach. In some cases, it will take up to 10 years to see housing delivered from changes that the LNP are making.

So, we need to remember, as well—and all of this context, as well, that Councillor SCHRINNER and his LNP regime have been in power for the last 2 decades, the last 2 decades. They have had their hands firmly on the levers of power and planning here in Brisbane for almost a generation. Back when the LNP gained power in 2004, with the election of Campbell Newman as Mayor, Brisbane had a median house price of about $310,000. 2010 was about $460,000. This is when, at that point, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland raised the alarm, among many others, that the likelihood of home ownership for first home buyers was becoming more remote.

The house median in Brisbane now is around a million dollars and the unit median is around $700,000. According to the LNP, their approach is working. According to the LNP, they have done nothing wrong over the last 21 years. They think Brisbane continues to get better. I wonder if many people feel better off when they’re looking for a rental or looking for a home to buy in Brisbane at the moment.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I would have taken Councillor GIVNEY’s interjection but she didn’t do it loud enough. So, the LNP have absolutely no one to blame but themselves for the—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: No, I tried. I tried, couldn’t get it—for the lack of long-term housing planning and output of the City Plan and planning decisions that have been made. The suburban renewal precinct plan that was first announced back in 2022—the process of suburban renewal precinct planning was announced back in 2022, and there was a list produced of targets for suburban renewal, which were all over the city, including Yeronga and Wynnum and Runcorn, Alderley, a few in Moorooka, Stones Corner, Norman Park, Kedron, Nathan, Nundah, Dutton Park, Wilston and Wishart. There was also a map produced, releasing key areas for increased housing supply, which was an area in Chermside on Hamilton Road, not far from Westfield, a large area around Wellington Street and Lutwyche Road in Lutwyche. In Wynnum, Carindale—Upper Mt Gravatt was listed, which was the Westfield Mt Gravatt site, used to be known as Garden City, of course, and the Indooroopilly Shopping Centre site. Since then, since those areas were clearly articulated—what year is it?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: 2025. It’s hard sometimes when you’re signing the date, you forget it’s 2025, but we’re well into 2025. So, 3 years ago, in 2022, the LNP put on the table their comprehensive—so‑called comprehensive plan to address housing shortages here in Brisbane. Since then, in 2022, we’ve seen Kurilpa progress, Stones Corner and the early stages down at Wynnum, which is a very contained site, and we have this single page before us today. As I said at the outset, it’s good to see some plans moving forward. Obviously, we had reservations around the process at Kurilpa, but we have, of course, supported plans at Stones Corner and Wynnum to progress, to deliver a housing outcome for people, but there really is no urgency from the LNP about this whatsoever. They do really just tick boxes as they go when it comes to planning and when it comes to a response to a housing crisis.

As I said, we’ve supported those plans, but we bemoan the snail’s pace this is all taking and continue to be alarmed at this LNP regime’s attitude that their housing plan will take up to 10 years to see some housing built. These are the marquee sites. These are the sites in which are the fastest action that they’re willing to take is occurring. According to Councillor ALLAN, there will be a 10-year delay in seeing some of that housing built. In fact, we’re still waiting for anything to be built in the Kurilpa precinct area, TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument) area, 2 years on from the announcement down there. I guess it’s no surprise, though, when you follow this along, that the Schrinner regime is more focused on announcements and PR spin than the actual outcomes, really. They love the announcement. They don’t mind really what happens next because they just come up with a new announcement and then continue to roll on, announcement after announcement, no follow through and no delivery.

So, what we have before us today is the next little piece in terms of suburban renewal and a response to the housing crisis in solving that puzzle, which is very, very minimal detail. There are some words in the E&C report which are not the planning scheme change that we’re debating. The planning scheme change we are debating is a map. When I pointed out to Councillor ALLAN in the City Planning Committee this morning that he had released more information to the media than he had provided to Councillors on the Planning Committee about what’s being planned here today, let alone other Councillors that aren’t on that Committee that are in Council here today, making that decision, he offered the following insight to me.

There is no plan, apparently. There is no plan. This is the plan. We’ve been given a rough map outline, some lines on the map, which looks to tell us that the Suburban Renewal Precinct is around a high-frequency bus route on Logan Road. We can discern that, of course. It’s near the Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve and Glindemann Park in the southern part of that map area. It currently has mixed-use planning, but there’s no further detail on what people can expect from the process.

Now, as I’ve said before, as we increase density in these areas, we must make sure that there is infrastructure on hand to meet that growing demand for services. It makes sense to have new housing placed around existing public transport routes and greenspaces, but we do note that the location that is proposed here today is very different from the location that the LNP released some years ago now as the final plan, which was Upper Mt Gravatt, around the Mt Gravatt Shopping Centre, of course. So, we are interested to know how these exact locations are determined and who determines them and which precinct will be next.

Now, what we have come to learn from media reporting after the Stones Corner process was complete here in Council is that that was landowner and developer‑led over there, not Council-led, because Mark Stockwell, as reported in the media, said that he approached Council alongside other landowners—also, Stockwell’s a development company, as well—about redeveloping that area in Stones Corner, so came to Council with a vision, with an idea about what they wanted, and so Council started that process. We know that Kurilpa, of course, is developer-led because Councillor ADAMS said that it was the Property Council that approached her about that, and that’s why that process kicked off and started.

Councillor ADAMS: Point of order, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Yes, point of order.

Councillor ADAMS: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

Councillor CASSIDY: Councillor ADAMS hasn’t spoken about this, so she can’t claim misrepresentation, unfortunately, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Councillor ADAMS has spoken today, so she is allowed to have that.

Councillor CASSIDY: Not about that. You can’t claim misrepresentation. I’m talking about something—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You should check that, because we are denied that all the time.

Councillor ADAMS: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Yes.

Councillor ADAMS: Happy to withdraw, because I will be speaking.

Deputy Chair: Yes, it’s—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Sure. I’m happy to go on.

Deputy Chair: Well, it’s during the course of the current meeting, so she has spoken during the course of the current meeting.

Councillor CASSIDY: Not about the Kurilpa TLPI.

Deputy Chair: I have made my ruling.

Councillor CASSIDY: Well, she’s withdrawn it, anyway, so it doesn’t matter. The Mt Gravatt site that’s—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I don’t know. God knows. The Mt Gravatt site before us today, the lines on the map there, was not an area proposed to be looked at in terms of increasing housing supply, we know that.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

**387/2024-25**

It was moved by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK, that Councillor Jared CASSIDY be granted an extension of time. Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **lost** on the voices.

Deputy Chair: Further speakers on Clause C?

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Well—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Sorry, Councillor CASSIDY, Councillor ALLAN has the floor.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Yes, that was what’s on the floor, so, but now Councillor ALLAN has the floor.

Councillor CASSIDY: Division.

Councillor COLLIER: Chair, point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: I call for a Division.

Deputy Chair: It’s too late.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, seconded.

Deputy Chair: It’s already passed.

Councillor KIM: Seconded.

Deputy Chair: It’s too late.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Yes, sorry. Well, Councillor ALLAN is having the floor now.

Councillor ALLAN.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, Councillor ALLAN has the floor. Look, the Chamber voted—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: The Chamber has voted on the motion.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: There was—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: It’s too late for the Division.

Councillor ALLAN, you have the floor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, there has been a vote and once I voted no—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: It’s been voted on.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Look, Councillor CASSIDY—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, there has been a decision made by this Chamber, and then Councillor ALLAN is having the floor now.

Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I did want to go into a little bit more detail on this particular suburban renewal precinct, but Councillor CUNNINGHAM did a very good job of explaining it upfront. I did just want to take an opportunity, I think, just to highlight the inaccuracies and inconsistencies in Councillor CASSIDY’s contribution. It was really quite extraordinary. The submission we have before us today is to start or seek approval from the State Government to start a section 18 process. It’s nothing more than that. Once we get the approval from the State, we will go through the process of engaging the owners, engaging the community, in order to work up a draft plan. This is just the starting point.

One thing I would say is—and Councillor CASSIDY made much about the pace with which things are happening, with respect to some of our suburban renewal precincts—we spent a fair bit of time working with the State Government to agree the section 18 process and framework, so that certainly took some time, but this, the section 18 process, was something that was pursued by this Administration and it’s something that will give rise to much more rapid planning outcomes than our previous neighbourhood planning process. This is our Administration working with the State to bring about a planning process that will indeed be very, very rapid. The notion that the discussions or the suburban renewal precincts were announced in 2022 is correct, but a fair bit of that time was spent organising the framework and the process.

Now, we aren’t slow in responding to the housing challenge in Brisbane. As I mentioned last week in 2024, we approved 11,900 new homes in this city, well in advance of the target set by the South East Queensland Regional Plan of about 8,900. We have 9 years’ worth of supply of housing in the Brisbane City Plan. The latent capacity is there. We are continuing to approve more developments in this city. The problem is getting these projects out of the ground. Now, Council does not control the construction industry, but it’s worth bearing in mind that the previous State Government did much to ail the construction industry with their support of the CFMEU (Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union).

We are in a diabolical state and the levers that have made things worse were the ones pulled by the previous Labor Government. So, we are doing everything we can to continue to provide housing in this city. He made much of the fact that we’ve got a TLPI in place in Kurilpa. There are DAs (Development Applications) coming in there right now, so we know that there will be housing provided in that area, but like anything, it takes time to get approval through the system, and then for the feasibilities to stack up in order to bring about a viable development. This sort of notion that Council isn’t doing everything they can to bring about housing, it’s absolutely incorrect. Unless Councillor CASSIDY wants us to enter the construction industry, we cannot do any more than what we’re doing at the moment.

Now, one thing that I did want to pick him up on—and he’s been making this mistake for a better part of 2 years—since we announced the Housing Supply Action Plan, he keeps referencing a map that was in there. I’ve got a large A3 version here. These are not the suburban renewal precincts that we’re talking about. In the top left-hand corner, it says existing higher density areas will be used to increase housing supply, and he gets this wrong time and time again. So, I will table the map for Councillor CASSIDY’s benefit. Suburban renewal precincts will continue to be identified across the city, on criteria that we believe are appropriate. Some of those criteria include things such as high-frequency public transport where there’s an opportunity to leverage underutilised residential or commercial or industrial land, where we have existing amenity, where we have an opportunity to get some landowners to work together.

One of the things that we do need is cooperative landowners who want to work on a better precinct in their area, and that’s what we’ve got in Mt Gravatt. It’s what we had in Stones Corner. It’s what we have in Wynnum. We are continuing to identify opportunities across the city for suburban renewal—

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN, your time has expired.

Councillor ALLAN: —and they have all had the same features. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor ADAMS.

Councillor ADAMS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I stand to speak on Item C before us, the Mt Gravatt Suburban Renewal Precinct. I am very excited to welcome planning into my ward again. This will be the third planning instrument I’ve had over the last 17 years, and it is basically the missing gap in between the Mt Gravatt corridor neighbourhood plan and the Coorparoo district and Holland Park neighbourhood plan. So, along Logan Road, between the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds and the Homemaker Centre in Glindemann Park. It is very much a commercialised area. It is also high frequency buses along this route, particularly in peak hours. It is also desperately in need of renewal. It is commonly called the ‘Terminus’ from any of those that used to be on a tram, and there are still plenty of them around, pre-1969, just a little bit before my time.

Mt Gravatt Central was the thriving hub in the 1970s and the 1980s of the Mt Gravatt area until Garden City established itself and became very much the larger, principal regional activity centre. But it still has some beautiful things about it with the Mt Gravatt Plaza that is down there, some very bespoke restaurants and cafés that have come into the central, but we are also lagging behind in what we need in open space, what we need in housing, and there are some very big opportunities along this corridor with so many car yards, which I do feel, with the greatest respect to Zupps, who have also been there for about 60 or 70 years, are going the way of dinosaurs. They are very much at the moment car servicing facilities, not really sales yards, or maybe where you pick up your new car after you’ve bought it online. Not so much the Saturday morning hundreds of people walking down and having a look at the car in the car yard, as well.

There is huge potential to make sure that we can provide houses and homes for people to live in the beautiful Mt Gravatt area. We have done this in Stones Corner. We have done this in Wynnum, and even though it was announced that Mt Gravatt was on the list in 2022, I’m not quite sure when it was coming, but I’m very excited to see that it’s now Mt Gravatt’s turn to shine and support the community and homes and houses. It is an area that has got a lot of opportunity also in Central Fair, a site that has not been redeveloped for over 10 years. It’s been a big hole in the ground for 10 years and we’re hoping that this might be the opportunity that the owners of that site will see that they can get some return on investment with homes there, as well.

Mt Gravatt Plaza has a very, very large site that, again, they have just purchased land near them, as well, and I’m sure they’ll be keen to speak to us, as well. Mt Gravatt Central itself does have the beautiful awnings and the high strip look of a high strip of years gone by, I must say, but I think the opportunity to bring feet to the street, it has definitely made the Mt Gravatt Central Business Hub, a very active small chamber in that area, very excited. With our recent addition of the SCURRS medical centre, which has really changed the whole outlook in this area, I think this is the next step to making sure it is the must‑see area.

Of course, we are at the base of Mt Gravatt lookout, the best views to the city, Councillor ADERMANN, that you will get anywhere in the city. We are a lot closer than Mount Coot-tha. It’s a beautiful forest. It is definitely brimming with wildlife and diversity. It’s got fantastic schools. It’s got the amenity there. When the Metro comes online with the new network changes, the public transport is going to be outstanding. So thank you, Councillor ALLAN and LORD MAYOR, for accepting that this is definitely an area that we can see growth and we can support the housing strategy.

I look forward to working with my community, now that the mapped area is out. Of course there is no plan, because we’ll be going out to the community to speak to them about what they want to see in that area. There is no plan in the top drawer, like maybe the South East Queensland Regional Plan, and this is what you’re going to get regardless of what you asked for. We’ll go out and speak to the community, and guess what? We’ll speak to the people that live in the area, the people that work in the area, the people that own the land in the area, and we will come to that consensus on what is best for our area, but when we see the great outcomes we’ve had from the Mt Gravatt corridor neighbourhood plan, I think everyone agrees that Mt Gravatt Central is ready for that kickstart and I look forward to working with my community to do that. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. Look, I was intending to introduce this item, but I apologise. I was having a meeting with the Consul-General of Japan just out in the office there. Look, this is something that I obviously am keen to support. Councillor ADAMS’ comments actually brought back memories because some people may not be aware, I was born in Holland Park and the Mt Gravatt Central shops were actually my local shops before Garden City existed. So, some of my earliest memories as a child were being pushed in a pram in Mt Gravatt Central. I remember the old Big Top, as well, before there was a Homemaker Centre arrangement there. There was this giant rocket ship that you could climb up that—anyway, I’m going down memory lane.

That’s not the point of today, but this is an important part of our suburban renewal program and the second such to come through. There are others in the works at the moment, but the critical thing and the point that the Leader of the Opposition seems to be missing is that we now have a new fast-track planning process that will help bring on planning changes sooner. Now, we are very much restricted by State Government processes when it comes to changing our planning scheme. At the moment, to change a section of City Plan or to bring in a neighbourhood plan can easily take 2, 3, or 4 years. In some cases, we send a plan up to the State and then it never comes back.

The original Kurilpa plan fits this. We sent the original Kurilpa South Brisbane plan to the State Government something like a decade ago, and it never, ever came back. It was sitting in someone’s desk there. So, that’s an opportunity for new homes to be built a decade ago, which people could be living in now, but this just illustrates the point that we are reliant on State Government processes. They can take time. Often, they take 2, 3, or 4 years to make planning changes. So, we have negotiated with the State a new fast-track planning process to section 18 where we can get planning changes done in 12 months or less.

This is happening with Stones Corner and now we’re moving ahead with Mt Gravatt and we’re looking at other opportunities, as well, for suburban renewal in well located areas, areas that have great access to facilities and good public transport that either exists or is coming. In the case of Mt Gravatt Central, significant changes will be made and improvements will be made along the Logan Road corridor as part of Metro line 1 coming online in the middle of this year.

So, this definitely ticks the boxes in terms of well-located areas. As Councillor ADAMS has pointed out, there are some great redevelopment sites that have sat there vacant, including the old Central Fair Shopping Centre site which would be an ideal location to have some mixed-use development. There’s other sites in the area. There’s also plenty of greenspace that people can enjoy and great shopping facilities. It’s a great location for more homes to be built, but we hear the Opposition complaining. On the one hand, they complain that we haven’t moved fast enough and we haven’t delivered enough, yet on the other hand, everything we do propose, they vote against. All of the new homes that we put forward, they vote against.

So, they say we’re not doing enough, but when we put forward proposals that will bring forward more housing sooner, they vote against them. That’s their record. The reality is they want to complain, but then they don’t vote for new housing supply. So, it is really disappointing that they’ve taken this approach. I am very proud of the way that Councillor ALLAN and his team and my team have been able to negotiate this section 18 planning process because it is a gamechanger. It means we can respond quicker to bring on more homes. Homes, by their very nature, will take time to be constructed, but this allows us to move quicker. Instead of 3, 4 years, this can be done in less than 12 months.

It does involve community consultation, it will involve community consultation, it does involve sign-off from the State Government and it will, but obviously, we’re starting this process. We want to get more homes built, and Mt Gravatt Central is a great opportunity to do that in an area well located with infrastructure and transport. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak briefly to these amendments. I think it’s been mentioned before that the documents before us have very little information and I know that Administration Councillors have talked about why this has very little information, but we are talking about a blank piece of page. I think we can all agree that there is a lack of detail at this stage, and it’s going to be really hard to review any kind of concepts of thoughts. The amended document does speak to many objectives, including providing the opportunities for additional housing supply and choice, revitalising the precinct as a vital mixed-use destination, unlocking opportunities for employment, education, and improving connectivity and infrastructure.

Of course, none of these objectives mention affordable housing, one of the most important keys to our housing crisis. It’s important because it provides stability for residents, provides equitable communities, and enables more entry into the housing market and, of course, affordable housing prevents homelessness. There are various other stated goals within this. As we know, there is very little information, so Councillors like myself and everyone else included will have to wait to see if these goals are actually truly translated into actionable outcomes.

What I would like to talk about also, is state some concerns around what is now clear, which is the tailored amendment process, section 18 of the *Planning Act 2016*. Previously, with the Kurilpa TLPI and also with Stones Corner, the expediated method wasn’t clear. Now, it’s clearer with what it is from the State Government. This section allows local Governments to request customised planning processes, with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning overseeing and approving the amendments.

A couple of things that I would like to place. The tailored process talks about the sustainability of the project, noting some concerns. Not all developments are appropriate for a tailored amendment process. Some projects, particularly large or high-impact ones, require more thorough and transparent scrutiny to ensure they meet community need and do not result in unintended negative consequences.

Another thing that I’d like to raise is about public engagement, which is crucial. While the tailored amendment process allows for targeted consultation, this is within the amendment itself. It raises concerns that the narrowing of the scope of public input could mean that the community’s concerns and needs are not fully addressed. If we’re looking to revitalise Mt Gravatt, the consultation process needs to be robust enough to engage with the people that actually live, work, and play in this area, and they also need to make sure and have faith that the planning system will listen to them and their concerns.

Another concern I’ll flag is—and it was clear today—the relationship with the LNP-controlled Council and State Government and their admitted close, cosy relationship with developers. This only just heightens the need for transparency and accountability in this process. It’s essential that we don’t allow the development of this area to simply serve the needs of developers, but ensure that it aligns with the needs of the whole community. I’ve talked about and been vocal about middle density increases in the middle suburbs of Brisbane, particularly around high streets and commercial hubs.

We believe well planned, sustainable urban growth that balances the needs for housing, accessible housing with the access of community to amenities and services, are vital to creating a liveable and sustainable Brisbane. Our hope is, my hope is that when this amendment returns, it will do so sufficiently, with the necessary infrastructure to support the future community. Infrastructure such as frequent and reliable public transport, cycling and scooter safety, pedestrian connectivity, and community assets like art spaces and neighbourhood centres.

In the meanwhile, I urge my colleagues in the Chamber and the wider community to stay vigilant throughout this amendment process. We must ensure that it aligns with the long-term interests of our city’s residents, prioritising sustainable development, adequate infrastructure, housing affordability, and a transparent process for all.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you, Deputy Chair. Listen, I rise to speak on this Clause. When we received the papers, I had a look at the map and we did a little bit of Google searching in regards to how big this actual precinct is and the scope that it’s going to take to hold a Suburban Renewal Precinct project. Clearly, it has been over the years—and I think it’s been mentioned in previous debate—that it’s sort of run down over the years, since Westfield at Garden City was built. That happens, and that’s happened not just there, but it’s also happened in other areas around Brisbane. When a very large shopping centre gets built, the business infrastructure around that that used to cater for those residents before the big shopping centre was built, certainly, they lose their clientele base or a lot of it. It becomes really unsustainable, a lot of those businesses, and it’s really sad to see that happen, but it happens not just in Australia but around the world.

The one thing that I picked up from what the LORD MAYOR was saying is the community consultation and the fast-tracking, that 12 months that he mentioned, the fast-tracking with community consultation. I’m thinking, well, I think the community consultation aspect is probably the first thing that’s going to suffer, because certainly, 12 months seems a long time, but when it comes to community consultation, really it isn’t. I mean, I have a supporting precinct in my ward that has now—will eventually take about 2 years for that to actually happen before they settle on a plan. That’s a very small precinct. This is like 1.7 kilometres long, if measuring on Google Maps is accurate, which is huge. It’s probably one of the biggest, I would imagine, that Brisbane is ever going to undertake.

I worry about the community consultation, more so than anything else. The intentions are good to upgrade. The intentions are good to put more housing potentially along there, probably, but as the previous debater said, there really isn’t a plan yet. This is really just to get everything in order to bring together a plan. We really don’t even know how much this is going to cost, but I imagine it’s going to be in the millions to pull together. That community consultation has really got me worried when fast-tracking 12 months, and I just worry that that community consultation is actually going to suffer and there wouldn’t be enough input from the local community.

Councillor ADAMS: Point of order, Mr Chair. Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

Councillor STRUNK: I didn’t even mention her name, but there you go.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, I know. Anyways, I think I’ll finish my comments there and I look forward to seeing the plan when it does come down, and actually how long that community consultation will actually take if the whole thing is going to be only 12 months, how much consultation actually takes place. Thank you, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Oh, sorry, your point of misrepresentation.

Councillor ADAMS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I didn’t say and nobody else said that the consultation was going to be fast-tracked. Section 18 fast-tracks the State’s responsibilities, not ours, the State’s, and that’s what holds us up. Consultation will be the same length it has always been.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Since there is no further debate, LORD MAYOR, right of reply.

Now, I’ll put item C to the vote.

**CLAUSE C PUT**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 23 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, and Councillors Krista ADAMS, Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, Penny WOLFF and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK and Trina MASSEY.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Acting Mayor (Councillor Fiona Cunningham) (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Adam Allan, Tracy Davis, Vicki Howard, Sarah Hutton, Ryan Murphy and Andrew Wines.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Adrian Schrinner) (Chair).

#### A UPDATE TO ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES POLICIES

**109/268/608/101**

**388/2024-25**

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

***FMA501 Guarantee Policy* (FMA501)**

2. FMA501 (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) describes how guarantees are used to provide Council with compensation for credit risk if one party (obligor) fails to deliver or perform on contractual obligations to the guaranteed party (obligee). The successful implementation of this policy will lead to a consistent and controlled approach towards the management of guarantees for Council.

3. Amendments have been proposed from a recent review of FMA501. This includes changing reference to *FMA700 Brisbane City Council Accounting Practices* to *FMA500 Guarantee Procedure* in the policy’s list ofrelated information (refer Attachment B, submitted on file).

***COVID-19 Response Policy***

4. The *COVID-19 Response Policy* (refer Attachment D, submitted on file) was developed to provide Council’s Chief Executive Officer with a mechanism to quickly consult on, implement and finalise procedures and control measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, where those controls had a significant effect on workers.

5. Council no longer has special arrangements in place to manage COVID-19, and it is treated like any other communicable disease. The mechanisms intended within the policy are no longer required, and it is therefore proposed that the policy is rescinded.

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

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE *FMA501 GUARANTEE POLICY* ANDRESCISSION OF THE *COVID-19 RESPONSE POLICY.***

As Council:

1. considers it appropriate to make amendments to the *FMA501 Guarantee Policy*
2. considers the mechanisms intended within the *COVID-19 Response Policy* are no longer required,

then Council:

1. approves amendments to the *FMA501 Guarantee Policy* as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)
2. approves rescission of the *COVID-19 Response Policy* in Attachment D (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### B CONTRACTS AND TENDERING – REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JANUARY 2025

**109/695/586/2-007**

**389/2024-25**

8. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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).

12. The contracts detailed in Attachment A (hereunder) 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.

13. The Chief Executive Officer provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

14. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT OF CONTRACTS ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES OF COUNCIL FOR JANUARY 2025, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

| **Report of Contracts Accepted by Delegates of Council for January 2025** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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. CW15161**  **BUSHLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM – PACKAGES 1 AND 2**  ***Package 1***  **Paterson Demolition & Recycling Pty Ltd as trustee for Paterson Demolition & Recycling Trust**  **$175,995**  Achieved the highest VFM of 42.33  ***Package 2***  **Paterson Demolition & Recycling Pty Ltd as trustee for Paterson Demolition & Recycling Trust**  **$247,961**  Achieved VFM of 30.05 | Lump sum  **$423,956** | ***Package 1***  W J & M Allendorf trading as WMA Demolition  Achieved VFM of 32.25  Logan City Demolitions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 17.04  ***Package 2***  W J & M Allendorf trading as WMA Demolition  Achieved the highest VFM of 31.11  Logan City Demolitions Pty Ltd  Achieved VFM of 25.49 | $227,481  $433,000  $287,660  $289,500 | **Delegate**  Chief Procurement Officer  **Approved**  28.01.2025  **Start**  29.01.2025  **Term**  8 weeks |
| **2. Contract No. CW16263**  **KEITH PAYNE PARK TOILET BLOCK REPLACEMENT (STAFFORD)**  **Probuild Industries Australia Pty Ltd $205,860**  Achieved the highest VFM of 45.18 | Lump sum  **$205,860** | Dart Holdings Pty. Ltd.  Achieved VFM of 39.68 | $235,200 | **Delegate**  Executive General Manager (EGM), City Standards (CS)  **Approved**  13.12.2024  **Start**  13.12.2024  **Term**  6 months |
| **3. Contract No. CW16187**  **COMMUNITY STREET TREE PLANTING 2024-25**  **Treescape Australasia Pty Ltd**  **$79,023**  Achieved the highest VFM of 110.73 | Schedule of rates  **$292,000** | Heritage Tree Services Pty Ltd trading as Heritage Tree Care  Achieved VFM of 67.16 | $109,443 | **Delegate**  EGM CS  **Approved**  19.12.2024  **Start**  06.01.2025  **Term**  6 months |
| **CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |
| **CITY PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY** | | | | |
| **4. Contract No. CW15426**  **ARTFORCE BRISBANE 2024-26**  **Elizabeth Constance Jackson trading as Artfully**  **$328,640**  VFM not applicable (N/A) | Lump sum  **$328,640** | One offer received | N/A | **Delegate**  Divisional Manager (DM), City Planning and Sustainability (CPAS)  **Approved**  20.12.2024  **Start**  21.12.2024  **Term**  2 years |
| **5. Contract No. CW14326**  **2025 ASIA PACIFIC CITIES SUMMIT CONFERENCE ORGANISER**  **Carillon Conference Management Pty Ltd $443,900**  Achieved VFM of 18.4 | Lump sum  **$443,900** | *Non-conforming tender*  Kerrie Taylor trading as Pollen Communications | N/A | **Delegate**  DM, CPAS  **Approved**  20.12.2024  **Start**  21.12.2024  **Term**  2 years |
| **LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** | | | | |
| **6. Contract No. 510902**  **BOOKING, TICKETING AND ONLINE PAYMENT SOLUTION**  **Ungerboeck Systems International Pty Ltd trading as Momentus Technologies $374,000** | CPA (Preferred Supplier Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$374,000** | Arrangement entered into under Exemption 11 of Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2024-25* which allows extensions of ICT support and maintenance arrangements beyond the original term where they continue to meet business requirements. | N/A | **Delegate**  Chief Procurement Officer  **Approved**  25.10.2024  **Start**  16.02.2025  **Term**  Initial term of one year with a maximum term of 4 years |
| **ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES** | | | | |
| **7. Contract No. 510517**  **GREEN WASTE PROCESSING SERVICES**  **Candy Soil Holdings Pty Ltd\***  **Earthborn Australia Pty. Ltd.\***  **Remondis Australia Pty Ltd\***  **WestRex Organics Pty Ltd\***  *\*Comparative price and VFM N/A as the volume of garden organic material to be issued to each supplier is unknown. Material will be issued to the most cost-effective supplier.* | CPA (Panel Arrangement)  Schedule of rates  **$16,000,000** | 4 offers received | N/A | **Delegate**  Chief Procurement Officer  **Approved**  06.12.2024  **Start**  01.01.2025  **Term**  18 months |
| **8. Contract No. CW17096**  **VERINT CLOUD FORMS SOFTWARE‑AS‑A‑SERVICE SOLUTION**  **Verint Systems (Australia) Pty Ltd $1,987,690** | Lump sum  **$1,987,690** | Contract entered into under Exemption 15 of Council’s *SP103 Procurement Policy and Plan 2024‑25* which allows for exemption from tendering for procurement if the marketplace is restricted by statement of licence or third-party ownership of an asset. | N/A | **Delegate**  Chief Procurement Officer  **Approved**  06.12.2024  **Start**  03.01.2025  **Term**  Initial term of 3 years with a maximum term of 6 years |
| **TRANSPORT FOR BRISBANE** | | | | |
| Nil |  |  |  |  |

**ADOPTED**

#### C AMENDMENTS TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014* – MT GRAVATT CENTRE – SUBURBAN RENEWAL PRECINCT

**152/160/1218/591**

**390/2024-25**

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

16. Council is committed to facilitating housing, providing for a strong economy and creating vibrant, mixed‑use communities. Precinct planning involves working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to create a vision, strategies and actions, for the renewal of an area. The purpose of the proposed Mt Gravatt Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct Plan is to revitalise the precinct through the introduction of additional mixed-use outcomes, housing and employment opportunities, while maximising connections to public and active transport networks and open space, including Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve.

17. Council proposes to amend *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (the planning scheme) to include a new suburban renewal precinct plan for the Mt Gravatt Centre (refer Attachment B, submitted on file). The proposed amendments will include changes to the Holland Park—Tarragindi district and Mt Gravatt corridor neighbourhood plans (including new areas currently outside a neighbourhood plan area), to make supporting and consequential amendments as required (e.g. changes to zones, overlays and tables of assessment) and changes to planning scheme policies (the proposed amendments).

18. The proposed amendments will provide greater detail and certainty about the following key outcomes for the Mt Gravatt Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct Plan:

- Provide opportunities for additional housing supply and choice aligned with *Brisbane’s Sustainable Growth Strategy, Brisbane’s Housing Supply Action Plan* and *ShapingSEQ South East Queensland Regional Plan 2023* (ShapingSEQ 2023).

- Revitalise the precinct as a vibrant, mixed-use destination with distinctive high streets and a wide range of shops and services.

- Unlock opportunities for additional employment, education and services.

- Increase utilisation of existing and planned infrastructure within, and in proximity to, the precinct through increased densities.

- Ensure infrastructure capacity meets potential increases in demand.

- Improve connectivity within and adjacent to the precinct including connections to open space and public and active transport networks.

- Achieve exemplar subtropical and sustainable design outcomes.

19. ShapingSEQ 2023 identifies a streamlined planning scheme amendment process as an action to be delivered by local governments and the Queensland Government. Accordingly, it is proposed to request early confirmation of State interests and to seek approval from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (the Department) for a tailored amendment process under section 18 of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Act). Under section 18 of the Act, Council must give notice of the proposed amendments to the planning scheme to the Chief Executive of the Department (the Chief Executive).

20. Upon receipt of the Chief Executive’s response and approval, Council intends to prepare the proposed amendments to the planning scheme and planning scheme policies, following the tailored amendment process notified by the Chief Executive. Public consultation on the proposed amendments and the proposed planning scheme policy amendments will then be undertaken pursuant to the Chief Executive notice given under section 18 of the Act and in accordance with the *Minister’s Guidelines and Rules*.

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

22. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO DECIDE TO PREPARE AMENDMENTS TO *BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014 –* MT GRAVATT CENTRE – SUBURBAN RENEWAL PRECINCT**

As Council:

1. decides, pursuant to section 18(1) of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Act) and section 16.1 of Part 4 of Chapter 2 of the *Minister’s Guidelines and Rules* (the Guidelines) to amend *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (the planning scheme) to include precinct planning and the precinct plan for the Mt Gravatt Centre *–*Suburban Renewal Precinct (refer proposed precinct plan area in Attachment B, submitted on file), and to make supporting and consequential amendments, including changes to the Holland Park—Tarragindi district and Mt Gravatt corridor neighbourhood plans and to include areas currently outside of these neighbourhood plan areas (the proposed amendments)
2. decides, pursuant to section 22 of the Act and section 2.1 of Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the Guidelines made under the Act, to amend planning scheme policies associated with the proposed amendments (the proposed planning scheme policy amendments)

then Council:

1. directs, pursuant to section 18 of the Act and section 16.2 of Part 4 of Chapter 2 of the Guidelines, that the relevant notice of the proposed amendments be given to the Chief Executive of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
2. directs that the proposed amendments and the proposed planning scheme policy amendments be prepared.

**ADOPTED**

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee report.

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Danita PARRY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 11 February 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. I want to just reflect briefly on the industrial dispute that will take place on Thursday. As I said in the Question Time, Council is and remains committed to good faith negotiations with bus drivers and we have made a fair offer of an above-inflation wage increase. We are very hopeful now that the RTBU will reconsider their opposition to what is a very reasonable offer, but I want to point out that our relationship with our bus drivers is bigger than with one union. Our relationship is with those drivers directly, many of whom have worked for us, for the Council for many, many years, some of them many decades.

We are always looking for ways to support our drivers, whether it’s on the road or off the road or at home, particularly when they can’t work and they need to return to work, all of those issues. We very much see our drivers in Transport for Brisbane as family, and sometimes families have disagreements and that’s okay, but we do want our drivers to get a pay rise. We recognise the essential work that they do and whatever happens with this dispute, I think we can all agree that we hope for it to be resolved as quickly as possible so that we can get that additional pay into the hands of those drivers who very much deserve it, whether they are a member of the union or not.

Chair, I’ve talked a great deal about bridges lately, and I definitely don’t want to talk about it again during my Committee report now, but I would like to update the Chamber on some happenings with a number of other bikeways in Brisbane. Of course, firstly, since 2018, we’ve been working with the State Government to deliver a project called the North Brisbane Bikeway, the NBB. In 2022, Brisbane was devastated by floods and we halted work on the NBB for a short time to rebuild the existing Kedron Brook Bikeway. We promised to revisit that project when we were through the flood recovery process and that’s exactly what we did. The final stage, Stage 5, will connect the existing bikeway on Dixon Street with the very popular Kedron Brook Bikeway.

As this Chamber knows, finalising an alignment for Stage 5 has been a complex issue for the local community. There were several options to complete this connection and each route had its own strengths and weaknesses. Following extensive consultation with the community, we found that the community wanted us to finalise and complete Stage 5. However, the community wanted the Kent Road alignment that connects to Kedron State High School. We should remember the importance of listening to the community and making adjustments where required, and for this reason, we are moving ahead with changes to Stage 5 of the North Brisbane Bikeway, and we will be using now the Kent Road alignment.

In particular, I want to thank Councillor DIXON for her advocacy on this issue and the sometimes difficult constituent work that she has done on this. It would be hard for any Councillor in this place to do what she has done with this bikeway, and she has done it as a new Councillor and I commend her on that. She has listened to her residents and she has found an outcome that will work for her constituents and cyclists alike. We now have a clear pathway forward and are committed to delivering this crucial missing link in our active transport network with the Kent Road alignment.

Likewise, we are making progress on a number of other bikeways in Brisbane. We will deliver one of the last remaining links on the Moreton Bay Cycleway, the shared path from Pritchard Street to Wynnum North Road, in the coming months. Councillor GIVNEY has been briefed recently on this or is about to receive a briefing, but the works on this one will commence in the coming months, as I said, Deputy Chair. This one is a partnership between Council and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). This work will actually be delivered by TMR, but Council has done a lot of the heavy lifting to get us to this point, so I’m very pleased that that one will go to construction this year.

I’m also pleased to report progress on the Viola Place Bikeway in Councillor ALLAN’s ward. We have now finalised the resumption process for that very long in the tooth bikeway. I think that one’s been on the cards for almost a decade. That too will proceed to construction this year.

Then, finally, we will be commencing consultation soon on the design work for the missing link between the Western Freeway Bikeway and the River Loop at the University of Queensland, a very important link for all cyclists in the western suburbs and something that this Council and Councillor WOLFF, I know, are very much looking forward to delivering. With these key investments in bikeway infrastructure, Deputy Chair, we’ll keep Brisbane moving. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I note that Councillor MURPHY said he didn’t want to talk about bridges, but that is of course the report that he brought to the Transport Committee last week and what I will be talking about today. The Committee received a report about the Kangaroo Point green bridge opening and it’s great that the LNP did finally get onboard with Labor’s plan. I note that Labor originally proposed the Kangaroo Point green bridge in 2016, actually. It took a few years, but the LNP did catch up in 2020 and, of course, typical LNP in any major project, the hallmarks of it is that it did blow out its budget by $100 million, which is a legacy of pretty much anything, any major project the LNP touches these days, but look, either way, I digress.

This is an important link for active transport users and pedestrians, not only just from Kangaroo Point and into the CBD and back and forth, but also from beyond, and I think that some of the key people who will be the main beneficiaries of this project do in fact come from the eastern suburbs, suburbs in Morningside Ward, Doboy Ward, and even Wynnum Manly, as well. What the presentation didn’t really address is this is a big missing link, but what hasn’t been addressed by this LNP Council chronically over the past 20 years are those missing suburban bike links. That’s a real shame, because to have this incredible piece of infrastructure for so many people who have taken up the opportunity to use it is great, but when there is no way that you can safely get from a suburb like Morningside riding along Wynnum Road, even into Shafston Avenue, et cetera, that is a challenging ride. That is really not for the fainthearted.

That is, of course, the LNP’s approach, is they sink money into a couple of things that they think are really great, but then the suburbs miss out. Unfortunately, that’s the reality of what a ride or an active transport journey might look like if you’re coming from Morningside or Tingalpa or Wynnum or wherever, so that is disappointing. What I want to know and what I think the people want to know—through you, Chair—is Councillor MURPHY, tell us how much was the party bill in the end?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, Councillor MURPHY said it was going to be huge and it kept on getting bigger, and the budget kept on getting more and more exorbitant. So, I would love to know, and I know the people of Brisbane would love to know, how much did you spend on the party? I reckon we could take some bets, but maybe half a million. I don’t know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: The last party Councillor MURPHY threw was, what, 100—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: $150,000, something like that, which is just absolutely obscene, especially when you think about—we’ve been having conversations about just those basic things that Council can’t even seem to get right. On one hand, you’ve got $150,000 parties and hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent on overseas travel for politicians, but we can’t get the basics right. It’s very frustrating.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, can’t get Balmoral Cemetery mown, although I do note that after an appearance on the nightly news, there are a couple of people in there doing it today.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Straight away. That’s all it takes, apparently, is you get a couple of angry, irate residents who have only been raising the issue for I think a year, I think a year it’s been ignored by the LNP, but when you turn up on the news, they shall act. That’s business as usual for this LNP Council. Well, yes, we can do so much better than that.

Anyways, back to the Kangaroo Point green bridge. Like I said, the hallmark really is, it is an important project. Clearly, people of Brisbane have wanted it. They are voting with their patronage. You know, there are heaps and heaps of people who are using this important piece of infrastructure, but we will be critical of the $100 million cost blowout, especially when you think about the thing that really changed was the fact that the LNP Council made the very clear decision to put 2 fancy restaurants on the bridge at the cost of ratepayers’ dollars. That’s what improved, apparently, according to the LNP. So yes, good piece of infrastructure, but could have been done a bit better.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on the presentation on the green bridge. The numbers that we are seeing today are a testament to what the Greens have been advocating for, for over a decade, investment—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: It’s true. It’s funny, but we’ve been harping on for it, but investment in pedestrian and active transport infrastructure will result in a healthier, more connected, and more sustainable Brisbane. While it’s true that excluding the outliers of the launch on New Year’s Eve does slightly lower the daily figures, I think we all know—through you, Chair—Councillor MURPHY isn’t shy about selectively interpreting data to make a political point. Nonetheless, we’re still seeing a 51% increase in the daily usage to the estimates and that’s a fantastic outcome, so I think it’s safe to raise a glass to another successful Greens initiative, but seriously—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Oh, come on. We should all be able to have a laugh. You’re welcome. Nevertheless, the bridge’s success underscores the importance of continuing and expanding pedestrian and active transport infrastructure projects. Earlier—through you, Chair—Councillor MURPHY talked about some projects, but what were missing? The riverwalk from Kangaroo Point to Mowbray Park, the Vulture Street bikeway, and of course, the West End to Toowong green bridge. While I’m at it, I’m going to share a couple of other things—through you, Chair—that Councillor MURPHY would be welcome to copy and paste.

Let’s close down the rest of Riverside Drive for pedestrians and active transport users. Let’s explore turning Boundary Street into a pedestrian mall like Queen Street or a mall with public transport like George Street in Sydney, with more public spaces for people to connect and hang out with in the heart of West End. This would be a positive for residents and increase foot traffic for local businesses. What about Russell Street? Let’s boulevard it and ensure that the jewel of our city’s South Bank has a safe entry for active transport and is surrounded by sustainable urban forest as its western entrance, creating a fitting entrance for South Bank.

Infrastructure like green bridges have the potential to be transformative, but they are not the silver bullet that will solve the numerous failures of the current LNP Administration when it comes to public transport, and the ongoing, incoming challenges that inner-city density will deliver. They are not the silver bullet. We must still address significant gaps in our public transport network. Kangaroo Point, with the 234 and the lack of CityCats. In West End, that despite the population’s growth has been waiting for a second ferry terminal for 14 years. However, as the Greens have been saying for years—through you, Chair—sorry, Councillor COLLIER, this is the first time that I’ve heard that the green bridge was an ALP idea, but we have been supporting green bridges for years and we are seeing that proven here, that green bridges do work.

So, here’s to more successful Greens’ initiatives and to Councillor MURPHY. I hope that my list is sufficient enough for you to copy in the next couple of years.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on the Kangaroo Point Bridge, a good example, as we heard from Councillor COLLIER, of residents paying more and getting less under this LNP regime, of course. The Kangaroo Point Bridge is a great case in point, a flash party, lots of announcements and reannouncements about the design and redesign to include restaurants and cafés, all that sort of stuff. So, lots of spin, but in the end, particularly on the southern side of the bridge, a somewhat isolated piece of infrastructure, that didn’t over all the years that—since 2019 that the LORD MAYOR came onboard with the Kangaroo Point Bridge as part of his 5-bridge program should have been planning.

We’re going on 6 years now of time that that infrastructure south of the Kangaroo Point Bridge could have been delivered in conjunction with opening this piece of infrastructure to have even better use and more connected use and safer use, but unfortunately, a missed opportunity there under the LNP. We hear lots of excuses from the LNP about why they can and can’t do things. We know that the LORD MAYOR promised 5 green bridges for $550 million, of course. Scrapped the Bellbowrie to Wacol one, indefinitely postponed the St Lucia to West End one, now says the Toowong to West End one is too expensive to do, so they can’t do that, but when you add up the costs of the $300 million for the Kangaroo Point Bridge and I think the $70 million odd or so for the Breakfast Creek Bikeway extension, despite the eyewatering blowouts on the Kangaroo Point Bridge, there’s still $180 million in that bridge budget, so where did that money go?

The LORD MAYOR says there’s no money to be building the Toowong to West End bridge, has delayed indefinitely the St Lucia to West End bridge, and scrapped the fifth one altogether, but according to the LORD MAYOR, there was $180 million left in the bridge budget. Well, there certainly should be, even after all those blowouts. I guess they spent on the Metro, probably. I imagine it would have had to go into the Metro black hole. So, more broken promises, but on the café that’s a part of the Kangaroo Point Bridge, Mulga Bill’s, interesting choice of name, the Kangaroo Point Bridge finally opened, as we know, after $100 million cost blowout. We don’t know how much that party cost. I unfortunately was unable to attend the opening party. I went to the cricket that day instead at the Gabba, a perfectly fine stadium to be hosting the Olympics in. Ratepayer-funded parties—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: I never supported QEII. We never supported QEII.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Here? Never, never, never. We always supported the Gabba. We joined you in the motion to support the Gabba. Of course we support the Gabba.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: We did. We did. You’ve got to remember these things, see. You’ve got to remember these things, but ratepayer-funded parties are of course one of the LNP’s favourite things, Councillor MURPHY’s favourite things. $100,000 here, $150,000 there, a couple of hundred thousand, we presume, on the Kangaroo Point one, they love that sort of stuff. They love the spin around all of this, whether it’s on their Paris trips and all the overseas travel, lots of spin on it. So, obviously, there’s a big team of spin doctors in the LORD MAYOR’s office, but I’m surprised that they didn’t raise alarm bells over the name Mulga Bill’s for the Kangaroo Point Bridge café. It’s named after Mulga Bill, as Councillor MURPHY said, who’s a character made famous in Banjo Paterson’s poem.

If you’ve read the poem, you know that Mulga Bill thought very highly of himself and he claimed to be the best cyclist ever. He also loved to spend money and look the part. Sounds just like Councillor MURPHY and the LORD MAYOR, and much like Mulga Bill, those 2 politicians are all talk. Of course, once in control of the bike, Mulga Bill veered offtrack and frightened locals and let out a despairing shriek before he crashed. I guess Adrian SCHRINNER really is Brisbane’s very own Mulga Bill. Now, we know the LNP Mayor loves to splash money and tell everyone how good he is, but Brisbane residents, Chair, really are being taken for a ride.

Congestion is getting worse. The so-called Metro is a multibillion-dollar bendy bus. Our suburbs are being neglected at the expense of overseas travel for LNP politicians and fancy opening parties for gold-plated infrastructure. The LNP have been in power for 21 years and residents are tired of the big-noting Mulga Bill character on that side of the Chamber, the prince of PR (Public Relations), Adrian SCHRINNER. Brisbane deserves much better than him.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you. I don’t know how to follow that last part of the debate. I don’t think I can do mine justice to Mulga Bill and all that. Anyways, I’ll just go local.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, I’m going to go loco. Well, I think that’s what Councillor MURPHY thinks I am, loco or something. I don’t know. He mentioned me a number of times earlier in the meeting and I was—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: It really struck a nerve in me, and I was just flabbergasted that he actually mentioned my name. God. Keep doing it. Keep doing it. Sorry, Chair. Back to the green bridge. It wouldn’t be surprising that I talk to my residents in the western suburbs in my ward, and I tell them about the green bridge or they tell me about what they think of the green bridge. A few of them have come to me and said, ‘yes, we’ve walked across it. It’s a nice walk, a beautiful view of the river, and it will be great when the restaurant has opened up’ and everything, but they said ‘there’s one missing thing on this bridge’. I said, ‘yes?’ He says, ‘well, there’s no public transport on it. There’s no bus service or anything like that’. He says, ‘if you want to reduce congestion really over in the Morningside Ward or over that side of the river, you probably need to have maybe thought about putting a bus service across, at least a bus service across’.

So, they’re quite surprised when they actually see it, but even before it opened up, I had residents that would talk about the bridges across Brisbane in general, and they think that it’s a good idea to put a few more bridges across Brisbane to try to get the traffic moving and for less congestion. Yes, we always need those walkways and cycleways across these bridges, but at least they’re thinking about bringing cars across, of course. That’s their general impression of what they’d like to see. It was just interesting to get that feedback from a few of my residents that have actually gone across the bridge and walked across the bridge.

Now, in regards to the party, of course, I know Councillor MURPHY was—I think he’s made the comment that the more we keep mentioning it, the bigger the parties will get. So, I’m with Councillor CASSIDY. I think it’s going to be around about—we will spend about, I don’t know, $30 to $35 a head or more. Geez, you can get a really nice restaurant meal for that, even in the city, even in the city. I tell you what, that was a big nosh-up. I’m sure it was. I don’t know what you gave them at the party, what you gave in the form of giveaways, in those little bags and things like that.

That may have mounted up a bit of money, but it’ll be really interesting to find out what the costing of the party was, just to put down those comments of spending too much, or maybe you won’t. Maybe they’ll say, that’s just a ridiculous amount of money. Anyways, maybe Councillor MURPHY could get up when he sums up and let us know how much that was and put us out of our collective misery, because we really want to know.

Anyways, the green bridge, again, was just one of 5 that were part of an election promise. I forgot about that extra $180 million that is still in the fund. Where has it gone? Anyways, it’ll be interesting to find out where that went or who knows where it went. As I say, it could have gone into Metro. It could have gone into Metro. It needed it. There was a big black hole in Metro. Anyways, I’ll just finalise my comments there. Thank you, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate? No further debate.

Councillor MURPHY, your right of reply.

Councillor MURPHY: I’ve got to, Deputy Chair. There was too much in that. There was too much in that. Look, firstly, to Councillor COLLIER, that was quite an extraordinary Janus-faced contribution on the Kangaroo Point green bridge because she tried to tell us, congratulations for getting onboard, but then she also said the reason that we haven’t built any missing links in the city is because we’ve been building this Kangaroo Point green bridge. That’s been the criticism that we have received from the Labor Party for the last 5 years while we’ve been building this bridge, is that we were obsessed with inner-city vanity projects, to the extent that we were actually not prioritising links across the city. We heard the criticism levelled at us time and time and time and time again, but now that it’s popular, that it’s open, oh well, you took Labor’s idea. You stole it.

So I thought, well, there’ll be evidence of this. There should be some evidence online or something where they announced it, but I went and found 5 years ago when we did make the announcement that we were going to build this bridge, a headline from the *Brisbane Times*—and you can look this up—"Kangaroo Point pedestrian bridge just ‘a line on a map’, Labor says. Labor candidate for lord mayor, Rod Harding, has decried Brisbane City Council’s preliminary plans for a pedestrian bridge between Kangaroo Point and the City Botanic Gardens as light on detail.” Does that sound like it was their idea, that they announced it at that election? Now, forgetting the fact they didn’t get elected and they couldn’t deliver on their commitment—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Oh, 2016? Sorry, I take the interjection from Councillor COLLIER. They made the commitment in 2016. So, what you have to do to believe Councillor COLLIER is you have to suspend disbelief. The commitment that they made in 2016, they automatically remake at every election they lose thereafter, even when their Lord Mayoral candidate doesn’t make it. That means it was their idea. Why don’t we forget the fact that, actually, the real people who should be rolling in their graves at the fact that both the Greens and the Labor Party have tried to steal this idea is John Petrie and Owen Jones, who came up with the idea in 1860? They did. They did.

I must admit, whilst the LORD MAYOR, he announced this plan to build this bridge on his first day in office, it’s likely that he was inspired by someone that came before him to build this bridge, but it certainly was not Rod Harding or the Labor Party or any one of the Mayoral candidates or the Green Political Party. You know what, Deputy Chair? As they say, success has many fathers and failure is an orphan. We are happy that there are so many people out there trying to claim this bridge as theirs, but what I do know is that the name on the plaque is the LORD MAYOR’s. I think that also counts for something, as well.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Well, there are a couple of other names. I’ve never been and I haven’t had a look. You know, Councillor CASSIDY talked about the $180 million. Well, it’s true. We do have $180 million within the program, but we have said and we have been consistent about this, that the next bridge will cost significantly more than that, more like $280 million. So, we’re seeking significant contributions from the Federal and State Government before we embark on that project, and so that project will remain on the drawing board until we have made the appropriate business case to our partners to be able to release that funding. Now, Councillor CASSIDY also—I think this is the first time that Councillor CASSIDY has ever mentioned to the Chamber that he never supported QSAC or QEII. Did everybody hear that one?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: He said, I never supported QSAC. Well, I never heard—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —Councillor CASSIDY never support QSAC in the whole time—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

Councillor MURPHY: I think he must have got a text from the now-Leader of the Opposition saying, ‘mate, are you saying that you didn’t support QSAC, because I think that was a really good idea?’ Because we never, when they announced QSAC, ever heard them criticise that project while Labor were in office. They were quiet as a church mouse, but now, oh, I never supported QSAC. It is a shame, Councillor CASSIDY, that you were at the cricket on the day that the Kangaroo Point green bridge opened, because with a performance like that, we could have had you as the clown and we could have had you as the entertainment there because that was truly one of the funniest things I have ever seen.

It is a shame that you went to the cricket because we had a tremendous opening. We had tens of thousands of people come down. It was such a great event. We had a spot for you. We had a spot for you, and I will say, I wanted to spend more money on the opening, but the LORD MAYOR didn’t let me. The budget came in under $96,000, so there you go, I’ve given you the figure and you can do that.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your misrepresentation.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I in fact rose on my feet in a point of order in early 2024, when challenged by the then-Deputy Mayor, Councillor ADAMS, as to whether we supported QSAC and I made it very clear that we didn’t. So, it’s on the Council record. It’s in the Council minutes. Councillor MURPHY just needs to do a little more homework.

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

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Julia Dixon.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – KANGAROO POINT BRIDGE OPENING

**391/2024-25**

1. The Project Director, Major Projects, City Project Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Kangaroo Point Bridge (the Bridge) opening. He provided the information below.

2. The Bridge opened on 15 December 2024 after all major construction works were completed. The final stages of the project involved testing and commissioning works, finishing the landing areas and finalising the remaining documentation. The Committee was shown several images of the completed Bridge.

3. In October 2024, the CBD landing plaza was opened to the public, with the site compound demobilised later in the month following the conclusion of construction works. The site fencing around the landing area was removed on 15 December, in preparation for the opening event.

4. The Kangaroo Point landing and C.T. White Park plazas and connecting pathways opened to the public in November 2024. However, the lift from C.T. White Park to the bridge deck remained closed until the Bridge opened.

5. More than 8,000 people attended the opening event, which included a Welcome to Country and Smoking ceremony, roving entertainment and live music by local musicians. Positive feedback was received from attendees about the opening event and the Bridge itself.

6. Within the first month of its opening, more than 315,000 people crossed the Bridge, with an average of 10,800 people per day. More than 21,500 people crossed the Bridge on opening day, and over 15,400 crossed on New Year’s Day. The predicted number of 6,100 users per day was expected to be reached by 2036, however the results have exceeded forecasts by more than 75%.

7. Applications can now be made to light up the Bridge via Council’s Light Up Brisbane program to promote major events or awareness campaigns.

8. As part of the project, ongoing fit-out works are currently being carried out at the Stilts and Mulga Bill’s venues, which are anticipated to be completed in February 2025.

9. Mulga Bill’s is located at the CBD landing, with access to the City Botanic Gardens. The venue is approximately 70 square metres and will feature indoor and outdoor dining areas, with a range of menu options, including wood‑fired pizza, steak and seafood. To encourage visitors to utilise the surrounding parklands and public areas, takeaway options will also be offered, including beverages, pastries and picnic boxes.

10. Stilts is the larger of the 2 venues and is elevated above the bridge deck on the approach to the CBD landing. The venue offers panoramic views of the CBD, Brisbane River, Story Bridge, Kangaroo Point Cliffs and City Botanic Gardens. The venue is approximately 390 square metres and will feature indoor and outdoor dining areas and locally‑sourced menu options.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee report, please.

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 11 February 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair, and thanks to Councillor TOOMEY for his ongoing support. Can I just talk about some of the projects and programs that were discussed within the presentation viewed by the Committee members last week? It was a presentation about Local Network Priority Improvement programs and Congestion Busting programs.

*At that time, 4.54pm, the Chair resumed the Chair.*

Councillor WINES: They are all part of our plan to keep Brisbane moving. These are largely smaller scale, local community projects that seek to get—in particular, Congestion Busting projects seek to get a higher value of improvement with very small cost, oftentimes preferential for merely signs and line changes, sometimes as work with concrete buildouts and things LANIP (Local Area Network Improvements programs) covers a whole range of things which includes local area network improvements, local area traffic management, these types of projects.

So, we heard about these from our officers. They spoke about a number of key projects, including Eagle Terrace at Milton Road in Auchenflower, which was about improving operational access to Milton Road from the southbound. It improves operational—there was an operational uplift without any meaningful infrastructure upgrade. It was merely a change to signs and lines, got meaningful uplift. Ashgrove Avenue at Waterworks Road, while it’s in Councillor TOOMEY’s ward, it is not far from my place and I can assure you that this operational change has improved the operation of the Ashgrove Avenue at Waterworks Road intersection. I can see that it’s improved the operations for motor vehicles and pedestrians, I’ve also heard—but I’ve also received feedback, I think from Councillor TOOMEY, speaking to improve safety around bus stop access, if that’s right?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Excuse me, yes. Better and safer access by students, using the correct access points for that area. Wynnum Road at Bognor Street, Tingalpa, improved traffic flow, visibility and improved bike lane safety. On the smaller size, Heather Street and Vale Street, Wilston, which was a LANI or local area network improvement, which was about improving the sight lines in particularly hilly and older roads in our community. Now, I know that a lot of our communities tend to fall in a range of categories, but one of them is those older communities that were cut into the hill in ways that predate motor vehicles. Sometimes, it’s very difficult to retrofit them for motor vehicles. This is one way we can do that to make those intersections safer.

There was, of course, Colebrook Avenue at Beaudesert Road in Moorooka, which included new pedestrian crossings, improved visibility, and safer vehicle movements. Hemmant-Tingalpa Road, Hemmant with dedicated right-turn lanes, improved crossings and enhanced pedestrian and cyclist safety. They’re just a handful of projects we deliver through that program area. There are more to come this year. It’s a program area that, as I say, is about delivering meaningful operational and safety upgrades for relatively small costs and I think it’s been a really successful program that, as you’ve heard, has been available to all parts of the city.

The Committee also considered 4 petitions, 2 of which were in Forest Lake Ward, 2 of which were in MacGregor Ward. The 2 in Forest Lake Ward were supported unanimously. The 2 in MacGregor Ward, Councillor STRUNK was a holdout from unanimity, but I’m sure he’ll explain why today. To speak to the—one of those was the request that Council install traffic signals at the intersection of School and Miles Platting Road. That, of course, will be part of our long-term upgrade to that community, with particular provision of pedestrian and cycle facilities. It is included in the local government infrastructure plan. That will depend on a range of issues, including the development of that community over time.

The second petition that was not unanimous, requesting Council widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road and the Brisbane Technology Park, Eight Mile Plains, I want to assure all Councillors that we have already secured 70% of the required land to do this project. We will continue to acquire the land as it becomes available in preparation of this expansion. In particular, as development applications are made, we will acquire the required land using, once again, the local government infrastructure plan provisions to be able to acquire that land. It is very much part of our plan to deliver that. As I say, we are acquiring the land, preparations are being made, and I look forward to further comments, if there are any, on all of those reports, all those petitions, and any items within the report.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

**SERIATIM - CLAUSES B, C, D AND E**

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| Councillor Charles STRUNK requested that Clause B, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REPLACE THE EXISTING ROUNDABOUT AT THE INTERSECTION OF GOVERNMENT ROAD, GARDEN ROAD AND FOREST LAKE BOULEVARD, FOREST LAKE, WITH TRAFFIC LIGHTS; Clause C, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION OF SCHOOL AND MILES PLATTING ROADS, ROCHEDALE; Clause D, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL WIDEN MILES PLATTING ROAD TO 4 LANES BETWEEN ROCHEDALE ROAD, ROCHEDALE, AND BRISBANE TECHNOLOGY PARK, EIGHT MILE PLAINS; and Clause E, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A FORMAL PARKING AREA WITHIN THE VERGE ON BLACKWOOD CLOSE, FOREST LAKE, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. Listen, I rise to briefly speak in regards to the presentation, but the majority of my time, I’m going to speak about the 2 petitions in my ward. The presentation was quite an interesting one in regards to the congestion busting presentation. A couple of the items that were mentioned in that presentation, I had one of those items which was a refuge—pedestrian refuge just on the corner of College Avenue and Joseph Banks. I did mention that we had a few problems with that refuge that was built a couple of years ago. There have been at least 3 or 4 occasions where that refuge has been taken out by a vehicle.

I ask the presenters, through the Chair, if they can have a look and see if there is some remedial work that can be done to try to improve the fact that it keeps getting hit by vehicles. Anyways, they took that onboard and I’m just glad to announce that we had a call from that team and they’re going to come out and have a look and see if they can do something to ameliorate that problem. Also, turning lanes, of course, was part of that presentation, as well. I’ve had a number of turning lanes extended, probably about 5 or 6, since I’ve been Councillor and they really have improved the congestion issues within those intersections.

Now, moving on to the petitions, the first one that I want to talk about is the one asking for lights to be installed at Forest Lake Boulevard and Garden Road roundabout. This is really the main entrance into the Forest Lake suburb itself. There has been a lot of development along Gordon Road leading up to it over the last 5 or 6 years, so much so that really all that Garden Road area will be commercialised or is being commercialised as we speak. So, there is a lot of traffic on either side of Garden Road that will be using this roundabout, right, to get in and out of their business areas.

So, many years ago, Delfin, I know, planned on putting a set of lights here but never got around to it when they had decamped from the Forest Lake development. So, nothing has really been done to try to ameliorate that congestion issue there. Consequently, I’m in support of the fact that it needs to be upgraded. I understand that Council is on the LGIP (Local government infrastructure plan) from 26 to 31. I think it probably needs to be done in the next few years, especially when that commercial development on the west side comes onstream. Half of it’s open now, but there’s a lot more to come, so it’s really going to be needed to try to control that traffic in that intersection.

The other petition was asking for more parking in a particular street in Forest Lake, Blackwood Street, Forest Lake. Yes, they’re asking for actually a greenspace area to be reengineered into a car park area for 4 cars, so that the street that they live in, which is a cul-de-sac, that it sort of relieves that pressure of cars parking on one side and then them not being able to get out of their properties from the opposite side. Unfortunately, I sort of agree with Council that we can’t really reengineer all these streets within the Forest Lake suburb because to do so would cost quite a lot of money and we’d lose a lot of greenspace, as well, because this area that they want to turn into a car parking area, they would lose about half the greenspace in that greenspace area just across from some of the houses. So, I think, again, I’m in support of petition one and 4. We’re not in support of petitions 2 and 3, for various reasons. I’ll leave debate to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the presentation about local road projects in Brisbane infrastructure. I note with interest Councillor WINES’ deceptive statements that these programs are open to all parts of the city. Clearly, that’s an untrue statement. These projects are not delivered out at Tennyson Ward and certainly, it’s not for lack of asking over many, many years, both directly in meetings with Council officers and also through the budget process and also through petitions and other sources. So, I think that it should go on the record just how inequitable the funding is that the LORD MAYOR, Councillor WINES and the Civic Cabinet LNP members are, how inequitable they are when looking at where to fund critical local road projects around the city. There are dozens and dozens of them waiting to be done in my ward.

Now, in the presentation itself of course, there are a number of projects that are mentioned. Eagle Terrace, Milton Road, Auchenflower, LNP Project. Ashgrove Avenue, Ashgrove, LNP project. Wynnum Road, Tingalpa, LNP project. Vale Street, Wilston, LNP project. Tingalpa Road, Tingalpa, LNP project. There is one project in an ALP ward in Colebrook Avenue in Moorooka. Overwhelmingly, the funding that Councillor WINES is talking about is in LNP parts of the city, and certainly, there’s no funding in my ward and there hasn’t been for many years.

The last time that there was a project in one of these programs that was discussed was on Fairfield Road at Yeerongpilly, where a turning lane was to be extended. Council not only started the consultation, then rolled the funding over from one year to the next, but then cancelled it at the last minute because the road—there was a small traffic island, and apparently that made the road too narrow to extend the turning lane. It’s a highly congested intersection at the corner of Sherwood Road, Muriel Avenue, and Fairfield Road. Years later, Council has still done nothing about it despite knowing it was a problem, acknowledging it was a problem, funding it, not delivering it in the year they originally promised it, and then saying they’d do it the next year and then not doing it in that year, either.

It just shows that you can’t believe a single word the LNP say. They certainly do not fund projects in all parts of the city. They overwhelmingly fund projects in their own wards. Just another example of that, particularly, the Safe School Infrastructure program. That’s a new program, of course. The way the budget works, we are asked to make budget submissions, of course, but the LORD MAYOR introduces new projects or programs every year but doesn’t tell us. Surprisingly, LNP projects are predominantly or exclusively funded when these new types of programs are started.

A great example of that is, as Councillor WINES has listed here, the Safe School Travel Infrastructure program. So, if you have a little look at what’s funded this year, it would be the Kedron Safer School Precinct. So that’s Mount A (Alvernia), Padua, St Anthony’s, LNP ward. Mansfield Safer School project, LNP ward. Wynnum Manly Safer School Precinct, LNP ward. Indooroopilly Safer School Precinct, LNP ward. There’s no attempt to even throw one bone to the ALP, nothing like that at all. Of course, you know, there are problems around most major schools and school precincts right around the city including, as Council would know, in Corinda, which is one of the schools with the highest problems when the enforcement project around schools is undertaken. Council continues to do nothing around Corinda State High School or Corinda State School.

So, I just would like everybody listening to know that when the LNP Chair stands up and says that the funding is allocated to all parts of the city, that’s a false statement. Funds are either 100% allocated to LNP wards, as is the case with the Safer Schools Travel Infrastructure program, or in the case of the presentation—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —where they’re overwhelmingly in LNP wards.

Chair: —your time has expired. Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on the presentation about Local Network Priority Improvements and Congestion Busting programs. My experience is very similar to the one that Councillor JOHNSTON has had in her time here. My recollection is that, in my ward, there are quite a lot of intersections that require minor upgrades, not major 4-way intersections with 2 lanes on each road and that sort of thing. Certainly not to that extent, but ones that have been identified by Council officers that have been sitting on a list, which they say in response all the time, this project is listed and is awaiting funding in the budget from the LORD MAYOR and is competing against other citywide priorities, but the priorities are never put onto those projects, despite some of those intersections, like on Brighton Terrace, Wakefield Street, Ninth Avenue—which is on the old highway to the Sunshine Coast.

That was the highway, essentially, over the bridge to Redcliffe and beyond. It’s still a very busy intersection with a lot of traffic coming from Redcliffe and making that turn at that intersection to avoid the middle of Sandgate. To take the route that is recommended by Council in its road hierarchy is a very dangerous intersection. It’s dangerous for pedestrians, dangerous to cyclists, and dangerous for people driving through there with cars. The crash data corroborates this and verifies this, and the investigations by Council officers verifies this, as well, but year after year after year, it doesn’t receive funding for an intersection upgrade to include signalisation. Same thing down in the intersection of Zillmere Road and Groth Road. The list can go on and on and on. I don’t believe in my almost 10 years here that there’s been a single intersection upgrade with lights in my ward.

The Murphy Road project, inherited when the redistribution happened—and that was a very, very major project that really needed to be happening with the widening of Murphy Road to 2 lanes almost the whole way through, except Zillmere, but again, another intersection near Pretoria Street that needs upgrading to include a 2nd lane through there on Murphy Road and Handford Road, which is a major route through the northside, which continues to languish under this LNP regime. So, what Councillor WINES described in those handful of projects, that he would probably use to describe his rhetoric of saying keeping Brisbane moving—that’s what they say, isn’t it—despite these intersections that I’ve talked about, and Councillor JOHNSTON’s talked about, being terribly congested, terribly unsafe.

He would use them as examples, but when you think about it, the $4 billion that the LORD MAYOR says is expending each and every year, we are talking about now a shrinking infrastructure budget in the suburbs of Brisbane, which just funds a couple of intersection upgrades each year. Quite often, those projects are carried over or can’t be completed on a Council road, a Council intersection with Council problems, can’t be completed without the intervention of other levels of government. So, we’ve got this situation where the LNP crow about building State Government infrastructure in the city, busways, they say that’s a good thing that they’re building State Government infrastructure, but then when it comes to building Council intersections out in the suburbs of Brisbane, the LNP say they can’t do it without other levels of government funding it, because it’s too hard for the LNP to manage the budget.

The LNP just simply can’t manage the Council budget to allocate enough resources to deliver a value-for-money proposition to people living in those suburbs. Some of these intersections don’t require signalisation. That can be tricky. I’ve had to pay for designs out of the Suburban Enhancement Fund at intersections that will never get lights on them, but increasing pedestrian safety infrastructure around zebra crossings, around small suburban streets that intersect large neighbourhood streets, because there’s never any money to progress those projects through the capital budget. So then, Council officers say maybe you’d like to fund it out of the Suburban Enhancement Fund, and you spend $50,000 on a design there and $80,000 on a design there. Then they come and brief you and say, would you like to do it? It’s just going to cost $500,000 to put the splitter islands in and the buildouts and the turf.

So then, next year, you’ve got to make the decision whether you allocate the entirety of your Suburban Enhancement Fund on one intersection upgrade when we know there’s a $4 billion budget and, according to Councillor WINES, $1 billion in the infrastructure budget, most of which is depreciating assets, as we know. The situation is untenable. To make Brisbane safer and, according to the LNP, moving—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, your time has expired.

Councillor CASSIDY: —we need more investment in the capital budget.

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

At that point, 5.16pm, the Chair advised that under the provisions of section 35(13) of *Meetings Local Law 2001*, the period allowed for debate of Committee reports had expired.

Chair: In the current report, we are taking all items separately.

Item A.

**CLAUSE A PUT**

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

Chair: Item B.

**CLAUSE B PUT**

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

Chair: Item C.

**CLAUSE C PUT**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

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

Chair: We’ll now vote on item D.

**CLAUSE D PUT**

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| Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for 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 the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

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

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

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

**CLAUSE E PUT**

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – LOCAL NETWORK PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT AND CONGESTION BUSTING PROGRAMS – COMPLETED PROJECTS

**392/2024-25**

1. The A/Program Director, Civil and Transport, Project Management, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on completed Local Network Priority Improvement program and Congestion Reduction program projects (the programs) in the 2024-25 financial year. He provided the information below.

2. The programs deliver targeted, value-for-money projects to maximise efficiencies and safety across the existing road network. Projects delivered through the programs are:

- Congestion Busting Projects (CBP)

- Local Access Network Improvements (LANI)

- Suburban Corridor Modernisation (SCM)

- Safe School Travel Infrastructure.

3. The intersection of Eagle Terrace at Milton Road, Auchenflower, was a CBP which improved the local network performance by:

- reducing travel times

- improving trip reliability and enhancing safety and the overall road user experience.

4. The intersection of Ashgrove Avenue at Waterworks Road, Ashgrove, was a CBP which reduced congestion and improved safety by:

- relocating the bus stop closer to the signalised crossing for better pedestrian connectivity and reducing traffic obstructions and queuing at the Harry Street intersection

- increasing lane capacity on Ashgrove Avenue

- improving visibility and sightline distance for all road users.

5. The intersection of Wynnum Road at Bognor Street, Tingalpa, was a CBP which reduced congestion and improved safety by:

- increasing merging capacity on Wynnum Road to improve traffic flow during peak demand

- improving visibility and sightline distance for all road users

- clarifying bike lanes to encourage safer movements for all road users.

6. The intersection of Heather Street at Vale Street, Wilston, was a LANI project which improved safety and accessibility for road users by:

- increasing visibility for vehicles and pedestrians travelling through the intersection

- providing a dedicated pedestrian crossing point across Vale Street

- upgrading footpath connections

- encouraging slower and safer vehicle movements.

7. The intersection of Colebrook Avenue at Beaudesert Road, Moorooka, was a LANI project which improved safety and accessibility for all road users by:

- providing a dedicated pedestrian crossing point on Colebrook Avenue

- improving sightlines at the pedestrian crossing point

- encouraging slower and safer vehicle movements.

8. Hemmant Tingalpa Road, Tingalpa, was a SCM project which improved safety and accessibility for all road users by:

- improving crossing points and sightlines for pedestrians and cyclists

- providing a dedicated right-turn lane at Oswald Street

- formalising driving paths and reduce corner cutting

- improving footpath and kerb accessibility.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REPLACE THE EXISTING ROUNDABOUT AT THE INTERSECTION OF GOVERNMENT ROAD, GARDEN ROAD AND FOREST LAKE BOULEVARD, FOREST LAKE, WITH TRAFFIC LIGHTS

**137/220/594/269**

**393/2024-25**

11. A petition requesting Council replace the existing roundabout (the roundabout) at the intersection of Government Road, Garden Road and Forest Lake Boulevard, Forest Lake, with traffic lights, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 28 November 2023, by Councillor Penny Wolff, and received.

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

13. The petition contains 14 signatures. Of the petitioners, 13 live within Forest Lake Ward and one lives within Jamboree Ward.

14. Garden Road and Forest Lake Boulevard are classified as arterial roads under Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy and Government Road is classified as a neighbourhood road. Arterial roads connect major centres of the city and provide an important link in Brisbane’s public transport and freight network and neighbourhood roads typically provide access to local residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

15. Council is aware of the congestion that occurs at the roundabout during peak travel periods. While it is anticipated that an upgrade of this intersection to traffic signals will be required to support ongoing development in the local area, a detailed planning study will be required to identify options to manage future transport demand. Council will continue to review the roundabout in conjunction with current and future developments in the area to guide informed decisions.

16. Council’s consideration to fund a future upgrade of the roundabout is subject to an assessment of its priority relative to other similar citywide projects. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget for the upgrade at this time.

Consultation

17. Councillor Charles Strunk, Councillor for Forest Lake Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

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

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

20. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/269

Thank you for your petition requesting Council replace the existing roundabout (the roundabout) at the intersection of Government Road, Garden Road and Forest Lake Boulevard, Forest Lake, with traffic lights.

Council is aware of the congestion that occurs at the roundabout during peak travel periods and acknowledges the potential for increased traffic and pedestrian activity from current and future developments in the area. While an upgrade to traffic signals is anticipated in the long term, a detailed planning study will be required to identify options to manage future transport demand.

Council’s consideration of funding of any upgrade will depend on its priority relative to other citywide projects. At this stage, there is no budget or timeframe allocated for this work. Council will continue to monitor the roundabout and its surrounding developments to inform future decisions.

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

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION OF SCHOOL AND MILES PLATTING ROADS, ROCHEDALE

**137/220/594/313**

**394/2024-25**

21. A petition requesting Council install traffic signals at the intersection of School and Miles Platting Roads, Rochedale, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 21 May 2024, by Councillor Steven Huang, and received.

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

23. The petition contains 149 signatures. Of the petitioners, 56 live in MacGregor Ward, 9 live in other wards in the City of Brisbane and 84 live outside the City of Brisbane.

24. Miles Platting Road is classified as a suburban road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) road hierarchy. Suburban roads connect to arterial routes in and around suburbs forming an important link in the public transport and inter‑suburban freight network. School Road is classified as a district road in City Plan. District roads facilitate the movement of people and goods to and through suburbs, including buses and heavy vehicles. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows locality maps.

25. The petitioners’ request for Council to install traffic signals at the intersection of School and Miles Platting Roads is noted. Council has a long-term plan to upgrade major roads in Rochedale including Gardner, Miles Platting, Priestdale, Underwood and Rochedale Roads to provide 4 traffic lanes with pedestrian and cycle facilities. Council also has a long-term plan to upgrade School Road to incorporate pedestrian and cycle facilities.

26. Approved adjoining developments adjacent to these roads are being conditioned to provide building setbacks and/or road dedications as they occur. Where practicable, developments are also being conditioned to construct road sections on their frontage to the ultimate planned road alignment.

27. The planned upgrades for these roads are included in the Local government infrastructure plan (LGIP) in City Plan. The LGIP project dates are based on the estimated earliest need for the project. For the Miles Platting Road and School Road intersection, the current LGIP Amendment 1B proposes a timeframe of 2021-26. Consideration for funding to undertake the subsequent detailed design and construction of projects is subject to a future assessment of their priority, relative to other similar citywide proposals. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget for the planned upgrades at this time.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

29. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

30. The General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor 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:** 137/220/594/313

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install traffic signals at the intersection of School and Miles Platting Roads, Rochedale.

Your request for Council to install traffic signals at the intersection of School and Miles Platting Roads is noted. Council has a long-term plan to upgrade major roads including Gardner, Miles Platting, Priestdale, Underwood and Rochedale Roads in Rochedale to provide 4 traffic lanes with pedestrian and cycle facilities. Council also has a long-term plan to upgrade School Road to incorporate pedestrian and cycle facilities.

Approved adjoining developments adjacent to these roads are being conditioned to provide building setbacks and/or road dedications as they occur. Where practicable, developments are also being conditioned to construct road sections on their frontage to the ultimate planned road alignment.

The planned upgrades for these roads are included in the Local government infrastructure plan (LGIP) in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. The LGIP project dates are based on the estimated earliest need for the project. For the Miles Platting Road and School Road intersection, the current LGIP Amendment 1B proposes a timeframe of 2021-26. Consideration for funding to undertake the subsequent detailed design and construction of projects is subject to a future assessment of their priority, relative to other similar citywide proposals. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget for the planned upgrades at this time.

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

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

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL WIDEN MILES PLATTING ROAD TO 4 LANES BETWEEN ROCHEDALE ROAD, ROCHEDALE, AND BRISBANE TECHNOLOGY PARK, EIGHT MILE PLAINS

**137/220/594/326**

**395/2024-25**

32. A petition requesting Council widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road, Rochedale, and Brisbane Technology Park, Eight Mile Plains, was received during the Autumn Recess 2024.

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

34. The petition contains 172 signatures. Of the petitioners, 126 live in MacGregor Ward, 14 live in other wards in the City of Brisbane and 32 live outside the City of Brisbane.

35. Miles Platting Road is classified as a suburban road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) road hierarchy. Suburban roads connect to arterial routes in and around suburbs forming an important link in the public transport and inter‑suburban freight network. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

36. The petitioners’ request for Council to widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road and Brisbane Technology Park is noted.

37. Council has a long-term plan to upgrade Miles Platting Road to provide 4 traffic lanes with pedestrian and cycling facilities. Approved adjoining developments are being conditioned to provide building setbacks and/or road dedications as they occur. Currently, approximately 70% of the required land has been secured, with additional land expected to be dedicated as remaining properties are redeveloped. Where practicable, developments are also being conditioned to construct road sections on their frontage to the ultimate planned road alignment.

38. The future upgrade of Miles Platting Road is listed in Council’s draft Local government infrastructure plan amendment 1B, for potential delivery between 2026 and 2031. Consideration for funding to undertake the subsequent detailed design and construction of this project is subject to a future assessment of its priority, relative to other similar citywide proposals. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget at this time.

39. It should be noted that Miles Platting Road includes 2 overpasses that cross the Gateway Motorway which is under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). As such, future collaboration with TMR will be required to discuss their plans to widen these overpasses for the ultimate delivery to widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road and Brisbane Technology Park.

Consultation

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

Customer impact

41. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

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

43. **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:** 137/220/594/326

Thank you for your petition requesting Council widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road, Rochedale, and Brisbane Technology Park, Eight Mile Plains.

Your request for Council to widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road and Brisbane Technology Park has been considered.

Council has a long-term plan to upgrade Miles Platting Road to provide 4 traffic lanes with pedestrian and cycling facilities. Approved adjoining developments are being conditioned to provide building setbacks and/or road dedications as they occur. Currently, approximately 70% of the required land has been secured, with additional land expected to be dedicated as remaining properties are redeveloped. Where practicable, developments are also being conditioned to construct road sections on their frontages to the ultimate planned road alignment.

The future upgrade of Miles Platting Road is listed in Council’s draft Local government infrastructure plan amendment 1B, for potential delivery between 2026 and 2031. Consideration for funding to undertake the subsequent detailed design and construction of this project is subject to a future assessment of its priority, relative to other similar citywide proposals. As such, there is no timeframe and/or budget at this time.

It should be noted that Miles Platting Road includes 2 overpasses that cross the Gateway Motorway which is under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). As such, future collaboration with TMR will be required to discuss their plans to widen these overpasses for the ultimate delivery to widen Miles Platting Road to 4 lanes between Rochedale Road and Brisbane Technology Park.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr John Winkler, Network Information Officer, Transport Network Planning, Policy Strategy and Planning, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3178 0985.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### E PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A FORMAL PARKING AREA WITHIN THE VERGE ON BLACKWOOD CLOSE, FOREST LAKE

**137/220/594/341**

**396/2024-25**

44. A petition requesting Council construct a formal parking area within the verge on Blackwood Close, Forest Lake, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 27 August 2024, by Councillor Charles Strunk, and received.

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

46. The petition contains 9 signatures and all the petitioners live on Blackwood Close.

47. Blackwood Close is a no through road and is classified as a neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to 5 local residential properties as well as Glorious Way Park (the park). Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

48. The petitioners’ request for Council to construct a formal parking area within the verge on Blackwood Close is noted. Blackwood Close is between 5 to 5.5 metres wide and 100 metres long. All of the residential properties have off-street parking. It is acknowledged some visitors to the park may choose to park on Blackwood Close and walk through to the main area of the park, 100 metres to the north.

49. A review of the area using aerial imagery over the previous 5 years, including weekdays and weekends, shows adequate on‑street parking availability on Blackwood Close, with park patrons regularly utilising parking spaces provided on Glorious Way. There were no observed instances of parking unavailability on Blackwood Close.

50. Under the Queensland road rules, motorists can park on a 5-metre-wide street as long as they maintain 3 metres of clear roadway between their vehicle and other parked vehicles, dividing strips, traffic islands or unbroken dividing lines. This will allow large vehicles, such as waste collection vehicles or emergency services, to access local streets.

51. It is not considered a feasible solution to modify the verge and relocate underground services and drainage infrastructure to accommodate parking. Additionally, the verge is kerbed and grassed with mature shade trees. Council is committed to retaining and increasing greenspace throughout all of Brisbane as part of Council’s sustainability and environmental plan, *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable*.

52. Accordingly, Council has no plans to construct a formal parking area within the verge on Blackwood Close, Forest Lake.

Consultation

53. Councillor Charles Strunk, Councillor for Forest Lake Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

54. The submission responds to the petitioners’ concerns.

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

56. **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:** 137/220/594/341

Thank you for your petition requesting Council construct a formal parking area within the verge on Blackwood Close, Forest Lake.

Your request for Council to construct a formal parking area within the verge on Blackwood Close is noted. Blackwood Close is a no through road with 5 residential properties and is between 5 to 5.5 metres wide and 100 metres long. All of the residential properties have off‑street parking. It is acknowledged some visitors to the park may choose to park on Blackwood Close and walk through to the main area of the park, 100 metres to the north.

A review of the area using aerial imagery over the previous 5 years, including weekdays and weekends, shows adequate on‑street parking availability on Blackwood Close, with park patrons regularly utilising parking spaces provided on Glorious Way. There were no observed instances of parking unavailability on Blackwood Close.

Under the Queensland road rules, motorists can park on a 5-metre-wide street as long as they leave 3 metres of clear roadway between their vehicle and other parked vehicles, dividing strips, traffic islands or unbroken dividing lines. This will allow large vehicles, such as waste collection vehicles or emergency services, to access local streets.

It is not considered a feasible solution to modify the verge and relocate underground services and drainage infrastructure to accommodate parking. Additionally, the verge is fully kerbed and grassed with mature shade trees. Council is committed to retaining and increasing greenspace throughout all of Brisbane as part of Council’s sustainability and environmental plan, *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable*.

Accordingly, Council has no plans to construct a formal parking area within the verge on Blackwood Close, Forest Lake.

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

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Kiran Sreedharan, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Performance, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3178 1178.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Moving now to the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 37 ROSS STREET, NEWSTEAD (A006534875)

**397/2024-25**

1. The A/Manager, Planning Services, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on 37 Ross Street, Newstead (the site). He provided the information below.

2. The development application for the site was Impact assessable and included Material change of use and Building Work for a Multiple dwelling, Office, Shop, Health Care Service, Food and Drink Outlet and Indoor Sport and Recreation in the Flood overlay. The total site area is 6,780 m2 and has been reconfigured from 14 to 2 lots.

3. An aerial view and context map were shown to the Committee, displaying the proximity of the site to surrounding locations, including Kingsford Smith Drive, Newstead Park, the Bowen Hills Priority Development Area and Perry Park. The site also neighbours the Mercedes-Benz building (which has a range of commercial uses), Bunnings Warehouse and Morgan & Wacker Motorcycles. The site is located in the Mixed use (Corridor) zone and also within the Breakfast Creek precinct of the Newstead north neighbourhood plan as part of *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan).

4. The site is well connected to public and active transport with the recently completed Breakfast Creek / Yowoggera Bridge and Lores Bonney Riverwalk adjacent the site. High-frequency bus services on Breakfast Creek Road and Bowen Hills train station are also within walking distance to the site.

5. The proposed development will be 3 towers and a podium completed in 2 stages with Stage 1 units as build-to-sell and Stage 2 units as build-to-rent. Each stage can be built and operated independently of the other, meaning they can be constructed separately or simultaneously. The north and west-facing towers will be 29 storeys and the east-facing tower will be 24 storeys. The site is bounded by 3 road frontages and adjoined by well-established commercial properties and as a result, the development will not produce undue shadowing impacts to any nearby residential properties.

6. Build-to-rent is a new administrative term and is not a formally defined land use under the *Planning Regulation 2017* or City Plan and is therefore assessed as a multiple dwelling. Build‑to-rent developments typically include a management service as part of the development to manage car parking, the use of communal facilities and rental tenancy agreements. Build‑to‑rent provides long-term rental supply and greater certainty and flexibility for renters in the housing market.

7. The proposed development will have 735 units in the following sizes over the 2 stages:

- 90 studio with a floor plan between 48 m2 to 55 m2

- 209 one-bedroom with a floor plan between 61 m2 to 67 m2

- 369 2-bedroom with a floor plan between 91 m2 to 130 m2

- 67 3 or more bedroom with a floor plan between 142 m2 to 144 m2.

8. The 4-storey podium will include retail and incorporate pedestrian-friendly facilities and shaded seating areas connecting the site to activate Breakfast Creek Road. The podium matches the established rooftop of the adjoining Bunnings Warehouse building and the awning of the Mercedes-Benz building. The façade is articulated throughout both the podium and tower levels to help with the overall perception of building bulk and allows for the towers to be seen as individual built forms. The building design includes a subtropical built form and integrated planting with appropriate levels of shading and operability of shade devices.

9. The activated ground floor will be a 24/7 publicly accessible arcade linking Breakfast Creek Road and Ross Street. The ground floor will also include 12 commercial tenancies ranging from 20 m² to 337 m² in size.

10. Communal open space of the proposed development exceeds 50% of the site area, noting that the minimum requirement is 5%. Each tower provides internal and external communal areas for residents and generous-sized balconies and courtyards provided for each unit.

11. The landscaping design includes a mix of vertical elements and podium planting. The site provides 2,000 m2 of soft landscaping, rainwater harvesting with an irrigation system and water storage tanks.

12. The development approval included the following flood mitigation requirements:

- all floor levels to achieve Brisbane River flood immunity

- essential building services conditioned to be flood-proof or with back-up power supply provided

- basement construction conditioned to be structurally adequate to resist flood loads up to the defined flood event.

13. Vehicle access to the north tower (Stage 1) will be from Durong Street and via Ross Street for the east and west tower (Stage 2). Pedestrian access is available from all street frontages and provisions have been made for on-site servicing and refuse collection. The building provides the following adequate on-site parking in the basement and podium levels:

- 564 resident spaces

- 48 visitor spaces

- 458 resident bicycle spaces

- 67 visitor bicycle spaces

- 10 non-residential bicycle spaces.

14. The proposed development will include the following streetscape improvements:

- upgrades to Breakfast Creek Road and Ross Street including an arcade

- a feature tree on corner of Durong Street and Breakfast Creek Road

- road widening on Breakfast Creek Road and Durong Street

- the provision of public artwork and creative lighting.

15. The proposed development provides the following community benefits.

- Provides a diverse mix of unit typologies including 2 build-to-rent towers to contribute to housing supply.

- Provides an arcade extension adjoining Bunnings Warehouse which will facilitate pedestrian movement through the site and surrounding locality.

- Provides significant communal areas for residents including co-working spaces, gyms, play spaces, communal kitchen, BBQ area and pools.

- Contributes to the provision and maintenance of public artwork and creative lighting.

16. The development was approved for the following reasons.

- Provides a diverse mix of residential accommodation and a mix of uses appropriate for the site to activate the ground plane.

- Revitalises an underutilised site in a key inner-city location.

- The towers have a height, bulk, scale, form and intensity that responds to the site area and context.

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

- Provides for future road widening of Breakfast Creek Road to accommodate the envisaged infrastructure requirements for future population growth in the area.

- Contributes to the transition of the northern Newstead area from a former industrial area to a compatible mix of residential, commercial and recreation activities.

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

18. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON THE KOALA CHLAMYDIA VACCINE

**398/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Koala Chlamydia Vaccine. He provided the information below.

2. Koala chlamydia is considered one of the most significant threats to koalas in Australia and has been identified as a key reason for the substantial decline of the koala population across many parts of the country. The *Chlamydia pecorum* bacteria is the cause of the infection and is primarily spread through physical contact, causing significant illness, infertility and death.

3. Symptoms can present in various ways and are not always obvious, but key indicators include:

- conjunctivitis in the eyes or other redness, and discharge or swelling around the eye area

- a dirty or wet bottom due to resulting urinary tract infections and incontinence

- infertility due to damage to the reproductive system of both males and females

- lethargy.

Veterinary staff diagnose the disease by taking swabs from the eyes and urogenital tract. Ultrasounds also help to identify cysts or growths on reproductive systems and other organs.

4. Council’s koala detection dog surveys of bushland and habitat areas provides insight into the prevalence of chlamydia in Brisbane’s koala population. These surveys detected chlamydiain 43% of individual koalas in the central cluster, 33% in the north cluster and 10% in the south‑west cluster. The greatest proportion of koalas that tested positive to the disease were found in the south-east, including at Bayside Parklands in Wynnum, Manly, Lota and Tingalpa; Belmont Hills, Carindale; and Brisbane Koala Bushlands, Burbank.

5. In 2021, researchers from the University of the Sunshine Coast found a link between certain sub-types of koala retrovirus and chlamydia. Koalas infected with these sub‑types are mostly located in Brisbane’s eastern suburbs.

6. Through the Koala Research Partnerships program, Council is partnering with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for the registration of a vaccine for koala chlamydia. The vaccine has been successfully trialled in both wild and captive koala populations in South East Queensland. When approved for use, the vaccine will be available to all vets and wildlife hospitals nationwide.

7. Council’s new Koala Recovery and Resilience Project (the project) in partnership with the University of Queensland (UQ) will build upon applied research work and undertake additional koala population recovery projects in parts of Brisbane. The project will involve the full health assessment of koalas, application of a vaccine for the prevention of koala chlamydia and the release and monitoring of koalas into target reserves. This will address known declines in populations in some parts of Brisbane while also managing risks associated with over‑population. UQ will be focusing the koala population recovery efforts on Bayside Parklands and the neighbouring Brisbane Koala Bushlands.

8. These reserves, while heavily impacted by chlamydia, support high-quality habitat for koalas and many other species of wildlife. These locations provide a significant opportunity for the project to reverse population decline and address the impacts of the disease.

9. The Committee was shown a case study of a male koala named Fudge, who was observed in Brisbane Koala Bushlands showing early signs of the infection. Fudge was taken to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital to be treated with antibiotics. Once he recovered, Fudge was given the QUT chlamydia vaccine.

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

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: City Standards Committee.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – INVASIVE SPECIES

**399/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on invasive species. She provided the information below.

2. Council manages invasive species to:

- preserve Brisbane’s biodiversity

- mitigate the social and economic impacts caused by invasive species

- meet its commitment to keep Brisbane clean, green and sustainable

- meet its statutory requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act).

3. The Actrequires all local governments to develop a biosecurity plan. Council’s *Biosecurity Plan for Brisbane* uses a risk-based methodology to prioritise the invasive plants and animals listed within the Act. This risk-based approach ranks species based on their potential to cause environmental, economic and social harm. The Act also enables Council to:

- undertake surveillance programs to determine the presence and/or extent of biosecurity risks in Brisbane

- carry out prevention and control programs for restricted and prohibited biosecurity risks through on-ground management.

4. The Invasive Species team operates multiple management programs. The team is responsible for:

- communicating general biosecurity obligations to landowners and ensuring landowners are compliant with the Act

- managing pest animal populations through surveillance, monitoring, trapping, fumigation, virus release and field shooting in accordance with animal welfare legislation

- developing and communicating best practice and innovative solutions to invasive species management

- engaging with and enabling community-led invasive species management solutions.

5. Examples of the impacts of pest animals include:

- foxes:

- common and widespread across Brisbane, constructing dens to give birth and raise their offspring

- prey on native wildlife

- breed once a year in winter with cubs born in spring, with litter sizes averaging 3 to 6 cubs

- feral deer:

- destroy vegetation by trampling and grazing, including community bushland rehabilitation work

- create public safety risk from collision with vehicles

- feral cats:

- prey on wildlife in suburbs and natural areas

- spread zoonotic diseases

- have contributed to Australia’s 34 mammal extinctions

- wild dogs:

- prey on wallabies, kangaroos, domestic animals and livestock

- feral pigs:

- degrade waterways, wetlands and adversely impact water quality

- carry diseases that may infect native animals, livestock and people

- rabbits:

- degrade native vegetation and ground cover by eating seedlings, which prevents the regeneration of this flora and competes with native wildlife for food and habitat.

6. The capture of a feral cat known as the ‘Corinda panther’ highlights the important role Council plays in addressing invasive species. Council received reports of a large black non‑domestic cat attacking pets from residents backing onto the Oxley Creek corridor. Some residents reported that their pets’ injuries required more than $4,000 in veterinary care. Council captured the feral cat as part of its trapping program which had been preserved and exhibited to the Committee.

7. Data for pest animal reports and captures in the 2023-24 financial year is as follows:

- foxes – 349 reports, 170 captures

- wild dogs – 51 reports, 12 captures

- rabbits – 27 reports, 29 captures

- feral cats – 615 reports, 737 captures

- feral pigs – 3 reports, zero captures

- feral deer – 40 reports, 170 captures.

8. The Invasive Species team has led various initiatives and innovations including:

- prioritising trapping locations for maximum biodiversity outcomes

- using a refined design for feral deer traps with an infrared trigger to avoid trapping unwanted animals

- feral pig trap design as they can be challenging to trap

- fox den fumigation and monitoring.

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.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY HALLS OVERVIEW

**400/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Community Facilities, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Council’s community hall portfolio. She provided the information below.

2. Council maintains 27 hireable community hall facilities across Brisbane, each of which are available for casual or regular hire for a variety of uses. The venues operate with a customer‑focused self‑service model which enables customers to take a virtual tour of each venue prior to booking online via Council’s website. Customers are then provided with a unique pin number which allows them to access the venue. Each location is visited at least once a week by a Community Halls officer, ensuring facilities are maintained to a high standard.

3. While a large portion of Council’s facilities are a standard, purpose-built community hall or heritage-style town hall, there are also several unique venues available. The Seven Hills Community Hub is a former TAFE site, now owned by Council, that offers a 162-seat theatre as well as an outdoor amphitheatre. The venue is popular for a variety of purposes including dance, drama and musical performances, as well as film viewings.

4. The Sunnybank Synthetic Sports Fields are another unique offering located beside the Sunnybank Community Centre. This venue, which features field lighting and canteen facilities, caters to customers seeking to host tournaments and social team games. The Committee was shown images of venues with historic significance including the Richard Randall Art Studio, Rochedale Community Hall and Sandgate Town Hall.

5. In 2023-24, there were 1,384 customers who hired Council’s community halls. The most popular hire type was the sport, fitness, health and wellbeing category, followed by dance, drama and music and then the community gathering category. Attendance data and trends have remained relatively consistent in recent years, with variances generally attributable to changes in the number of hireable facilities, or if a facility is required to be closed for a period of time due to upgrade or restoration works. The 2023-24 year ended in a slight dip in attendance figures just under 440,000, however, the current forecast shows an expected 500,000 attendees, which is a 14% increase from the previous year and will be the largest attendance total to date. The number of bookings show a fairly similar trend. Last financial year, Council had more than 22,000 bookings and in this year’s forecast, booking numbers are set to increase by 8%.

6. The heritage-listed Wynnum Municipal Hall is one of Council’s most popular hireable venues. Upgrade works were completed in 2024 by Council’s City Projects Office and included a full roof replacement in addition to:

- repairs to water-impacted areas within the main hall

- a full replacement of the entrance stairs

- electrical upgrades within the building.

7. In 2024, the community hall portfolio welcomed a new hall as part of the Archerfield Wetlands District Park project. The Archerfield Wetlands Community Hub was delivered in partnership with the Brisbane Sustainability Agency and is now a popular venue for children’s parties, art and environmental groups and corporate hirers.

8. Customers are invited to provide feedback about their experience through the Customer Satisfaction Survey. The survey askes hirers to rate the ease of the hiring process, responsiveness of Council, the hall facilities, the condition of the hall, as well as their overall satisfaction. In 2024, a 94% total hirer satisfaction rating was achieved in addition to a 97% responsiveness score. The Committee was shown a selection of comments taken from survey results, highlighting customer satisfaction.

9. Virtual tours continue to be a valuable tool enabling potential customers to view halls from their computer or mobile device. Since 2021, there have been 60,500 virtual tour visits with an average of almost 23,000 views per year. Each tour includes accessible features, audio and a transcript. The Committee was shown a virtual tour of Zillmere Hall which was recently upgraded following refurbishment works.

10. Customer experience improvements have recently focused on QR code signage, pin readers and cyber keys. QR codes allow customers, contractors and staff to view important hall information, provide feedback or report maintenance requests. Pin readers and cyber keys also contribute to a more positive and efficient customer experience and remove the need for swipe cards or keys to be personally issued.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Finally, Finance and City Governance Committee.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Acting Mayor, Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lucy Collier and Danita Parry.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Julia Dixon and Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 2025 LORD MAYOR’S AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

**401/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Lord Mayor’s Administration and Engagement, City Administration and Governance, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the 2025 Lord Mayor’s Australia Day Awards (the Awards). She provided the information below.

2. The Awards acknowledge individuals within Brisbane who have made significant contributions within the community. The Awards include the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year

- Senior Citizen of the Year

- Young Citizen of the Year

- Australia Day Cultural/Arts Award

- Australia Day Sports Award

- Corporate Citizen of the Year

- Community Event of the Year

- Green Heart Award

- Australia Day Achievement Awards.

3. The Awards date back to the mid-1980s and are held annually in City Hall, excluding ceremonies from 2010 to 2013, which were held offsite due to the restoration of City Hall.

4. Between June and September, initial arrangements are made to organise the Awards, which involves:

- booking the panel meeting

- finalising promotional material

- testing the nomination form

- seeking digital asset approvals

- providing promotional collateral

- opening nominations and monitoring submissions

- drafting the acceptance form

- closing nominations and compiling submissions to be reviewed by the panel

- finalising marketing material relating to nominations.

5. From October to December, arrangements continue to be made in preparation for the event, including:

- preparing nomination letters and booklets

- conducting reference checks

- writing shortlist summaries

- contacting winners for acceptance

- preparing, sending and framing certificates

- distributing guest invitations.

6. Each year, between 45 to 60 nominations are typically received, with 50 nominations received in 2025. There was an increase in nominations during 2021 and 2022, which can be attributed to a higher number of community members being recognised for their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. The Committee was shown photographs taken during this year’s Awards event. There were 23 recipients for various awards, including:

- Lynn Atkinson, who was named Citizen of the Year

- Michael Flanagan, who was named Senior Citizen of the Year

- Jessica Hernandez, who was named Young Citizen of the Year

- Ingrid James, who received the Australia Day Cultural/Arts Award

- Eastern Suburbs Football Club, who received the Australia Day Sports Award (accepted by Glen Brown, Dennis Da Rin and Trish Da Rin)

- Brook Monahan, who was named Corporate Citizen of the Year

- Brookfield Show, which was named Community Event of the Year (accepted by Dan Petrie)

- John Tennock, who received the Green Heart Award

- various Achievement Award recipients, including:

- Burt Beasley

- Melody Chen

- David Cope

- Garry Fenner

- Bobbie Foot

- Heather Irvine

- Neville Marsh

- Andrea Miller

- John Purcell

- Mark Smith

- David Smithson

- Karen Willis

- Tracey Wyatt.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Petitions.

Councillors—are there any petitions?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a petition requesting Council install a bidirectional bike lane on Herschel Street, Brisbane City.

Chair: Any further petitions?

Councillor DIXON.

**402/2024-25**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Julia DIXON, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK, that the petition as presented be received and referred to the Committee concerned for consideration and report.

The petition was summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/405 | Vicki Howard | Requesting Council install a bidirectional bike lane on Herschel Street, Brisbane City. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order,

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chairman. I note that in my absence last week, Madam Chairman, that you, Councillor HUANG and Councillor ALLAN, I believe it was, moved a motion referring me to the OIA in what was described as under section 21(10)(b) of the Meetings Local Law. Madam Chairman, I draw to your attention that section 21(10)(b) of the Meetings Local Law states that if the 3rd or more order has occurred within 12 months that, and I quote, the matters are dealt with at the next meeting of Council. I note that the wording of the motion that you sent to me and that was moved in the Chamber does not meet the rules of the Meetings Local Law. There were, in fact, 4 meetings on 26 November, 4 December, 10 December, and 4 February 2025 before this motion was moved.

Madam Chairman, in the first instance, I am seeking your advice on why you allowed an incompetent motion that did not meet the requirements of the Meetings Local Law to be moved last week.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON. It was once I was made aware and we—that motion was carried last week, so in the last meeting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, my procedural point of order is why did you, as the Chair of Council, knowingly send through an incompetent motion which does not meet the requirements of the Meetings Local Law when there were 4 meetings after the last, and I would say incorrect ruling that you made, anyway, but why did you allow an incompetent motion that does not comply with section 21(10)(b) of the Meetings Local Law to be moved in the Chamber last week?

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, it was a valid motion from the floor, but if you want to write further or comment further, you can do so yourself after the meeting.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, the appropriate thing to do was—

Chair: No, Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m not going to debate. I’ve given you—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —as you and Councillor HUANG and Councillor ALLAN did last week is to raise this matter in the Chamber. Now, I have raised it elsewhere but, Madam Chairman, I am seeking your ruling about why an incompetent motion was allowed to proceed, one that specifically did not meet the rules of section 21(10)(b).

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I allowed it because it was a competent motion, and so I do not uphold your point of order. We are now moving to General Business. Are there any speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**403/2024-25**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Trina MASSEY, that the Chair is engaging in unsuitable meeting conduct.

Chair: I’ll now vacate the Chair and leave the Chamber.

*The Chair retired from the meeting room and associated public places for the duration of the debate.*

*At that time, 5.26pm, the Deputy Chair assumed the Chair.*

Deputy Chair: Any debate on this motion? Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr Deputy Chair. I also think, Mr Deputy Chair, in the interests of propriety, that given you moved this motion last week, you have a conflict of interest with respect to this matter and perhaps you are not the appropriate person to be acting in the role, given that you moved the inappropriate motion. So, there’s a pretty clear conflict of interest here, I think.

Deputy Chair: I don’t believe I have a conflict of interest.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Right.

Deputy Chair: Please continue with your debate.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Fine. Well, I guess that just shows pretty much the problem we’ve got here, isn’t it? What most people won’t know is after hours last Monday night, Councillor Sandy LANDERS sent me a notice saying that, after 3 notices of inappropriate conduct, she had reviewed the minutes and she accordingly, to meet the requirements of section 21(10), which she said must be addressed. She therefore notified me that she intended to deal with the requirements of section 21(10), and I quote, I am therefore writing to you to advise you I intend to deal with the requirements of section 21(10) of the Meetings Local Law by seeking a motion at the Council meeting tomorrow that the matter be referred to the Office of the Independent Assessor.

Now, as I’ve outlined in my point of order, seeking some explanation, section 21(10)(b) of the Meetings Local Law is very specific. It states that if there are the requisite breaches of the Meetings Local Law, that the matters are dealt with at the next meeting of Council. Now, as I’ve outlined, there were in fact 4 meetings of Council before Councillor LANDERS dealt with this matter, I presume by getting Councillor HUANG to move the motion and Councillor ALLAN, as well, but there were 4 meetings, as I said, 26 November, 4 December, 10 December, and 4 February 2025. It wasn’t until the 5th meeting that Councillor LANDERS sent this email and then the motion was moved.

Now, it seems rather perverse to me that the LNP can deliberately breach the Meetings Local Law to take action against me for what they allege are breaches of the Meetings Local Law. That is both unethical, that is improper, and the motion was not validly moved last week. Now, unfortunately, I couldn’t be at the meeting last week and I know that many Councillors spoke on this, and I want to thank those that that did speak up, but what is very clear is the LNP are prepared to deliberately breach the rules of the Meetings Local Law to take unethical and unauthorised action against me.

Now, the role of the Chair of Council is to act in accordance with the Meetings Local Law. It is her role to uphold the Meetings Local Law. In this case, she was both the prosecutor and the judge, as Councillor HUANG is being at this very time, which is in itself a conflict of interest. In doing this, she wrote a motion that did not comply with the Meetings Local Law under section 21(10)(b), and then allowed that motion to be debated, moved, and passed in the Council Chamber. It appears it was done knowingly because the language in the motion that was moved in the Chamber is very different to the language that is in section 21(10)(b).

Now, if the Chair does not follow the Meetings Local Law, then she is engaging in unsuitable meeting conduct. She is in a position of trust and respect in the Chamber, and has failed in her duty to fairly, honestly, and respectfully uphold the Council code of conduct and the Meetings Local Law. It is clear the action she has taken against me is a form of bullying and intimidation—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and I will not stand for—

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —what is an obvious breach of the Meetings Local Law.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, point of order, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —to deliberately take action against me.

Councillor MURPHY: Look—

Deputy Chair: —Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, this is a great speech. Look, Deputy Chair, Councillor JOHNSTON started this by asking you for a ruling on a past meeting. That’s incompetent. She has then disputed your ruling on that and then asked the Chair to leave so as to effectively have a motion debate on a motion that she didn’t put on the notice paper, which is what she’s just done. If she wants to do this, she needs to put a motion on the notice paper. This is an attempt to use the rules to debate a procedural motion and her own motion is incompetent. I mean, talk about hypocrisy. I just ask for you to get a legal ruling on whether that whole set of events that just occurred was allowed, because you can’t actually make a ruling on a past meeting, I believe, Mr Deputy Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: If only Councillor MURPHY listened. This is a motion of unsuitable meeting conduct—

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Yes.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —against the Chair of Council which has been properly moved and seconded.

Councillor WINES: Point of order. Point of order. You’ve got a—

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: —outstanding request and Councillor JOHNSTON is speaking over you while you’re trying to respond to a valid response to a Councillor’s question of you.

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

Councillor JOHNSTON has one more minute to speak.

Councillor WINES, look, I don’t uphold your point of order this time, but thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON, you have one more minute to speak.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. It just shows that the LNP are prepared clearly to abuse the Meetings Local Law procedures to try and stop me from speaking, as Councillor MURPHY just did. It is very clear under the new rules what has to happen, and that is if the chair of conduct has engaged in unsuitable meeting conduct, which she has done in this case by allowing an incompetent motion that takes punitive action against me, it has to be debated as unsuitable meeting conduct. That’s what the rules say. Now, in this case, it’s pretty straightforward. The LNP has abused its power here through Councillor LANDERS to allow an incompetent motion to come forward to take punitive action against me when its motion did not comply with section 21(10)(b) of the Meetings Local Law. Councillor LANDERS had a responsibility to make sure that that motion was ruled out of order—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —because it was not competently made.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you very much, Deputy Chair. We will support this motion of unsuitable meeting conduct in Councillor LANDERS, because what is really clear and been clearly articulated by Councillor JOHNSTON in moving this motion today is that Councillor LANDERS did allow an incompetent motion to proceed to debate and vote. Her explanation just earlier, before Councillor JOHNSTON moved this motion, was that she had previously, over those previous 4 meetings that Councillor JOHNSTON described, not been aware that there were 3 instances of Councillor JOHNSTON’s unsuitable meeting conduct recorded in the minutes.

Now, why don’t I believe that? Can any of you over there follow along why you’d also wouldn’t believe what Councillor LANDERS said, in that she wasn’t aware that a Chair of Council noted Councillor JOHNSTON’s unsuitable meeting conduct in the Council minutes? I wonder who the Chair was on those 3 occasions. I’m just—I wonder. I can’t quite figure that out. Can anyone help me? Who was it?

*Councillor interjecting*

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh, it was Councillor LANDERS. So, when Councillor LANDERS said she was not aware that 3 orders had been made against Councillor JOHNSTON, and her unsuitable meeting conduct had been noted in the minutes 3 times, she was not telling the truth. So, we can only assume she knew that that was the case, that those orders had been made, and that she failed in her duty as the Chair of Council to progress this matter in a timely fashion, according to section 21(10)(b). I think, therefore, it’s pretty clear that Councillor LANDERS has engaged in unsuitable meeting conduct, and that should be noted in the minutes, and we’ll be voting for that.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Councillor HUANG. Thanks, Mr Chair. Look, I just have to speak to this. The idea that Councillor LANDERS has engaged in unsuitable meeting conduct is ludicrous. The idea that Councillor LANDERS is singularly responsible for the conduct of Councillor JOHNSTON and monitors her conduct to the level described by Councillor CASSIDY is ludicrous. That Councillor JOHNSTON would engage in behaviour that requires that many is actually unsuitable meeting conduct, which we, as a Council, determined should be referred to an external body, which was the nature of the motion.

I accept Councillor LANDERS’ statement today that once she was made aware of it, she brought it to us, as required by the law. We then considered it within the scope of the City of Brisbane Act, and we referred it to an external investigation, as is an option provided within that Act. I do not accept that the Chair behaved in an unsuitable manner. I think that in the circumstances with which she exists, I think she did a perfectly good and responsible thing in the circumstances. I think that Councillor LANDERS, considering the gratuitous and constant attacks on her by Councillor JOHNSTON, has behaved remarkably well, and I think that the proposal that she has behaved poorly is wrong.

I wholly reject it, I expect most Councillors here wholly reject it, and will be supporting the proposition that the motion we considered last week is within the confines of the City of Brisbane Act, that it is appropriate to consider these referrals in this manner within the law. Now, saying that, I would also call on the State Government to change the law so that it can be done privately, as it was done in the past, before the Miles Government changed it, requiring it to be public. When I was Chair of Council and such referrals were required to be made by me, it was done privately.

The former Labor Government changed it to make it public. I do not know why. I do not know why the law was changed to require a Councillor to be presented to other Councillors in this manner. I don’t agree with it. I think this matter should have been a private matter. That being said, the law does not allow that. It must be considered publicly. It was put to this meeting. We referred it to a third-party investigation. That is what’s happening. I accept the circumstances presented by Councillor LANDERS. I accept the course of action this Council has considered. I accept that it is within the expectations and confines of the City of Brisbane Act.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – MOTION BE NOW PUT**

**404/2024-25**

It was moved by Councillor Andrew WINES, seconded by Councillor Ryan MURPHY, that the motion be now put.

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

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Division.

*The division lapsed for want of a seconder.*

Deputy Chair: Well, too late, and there’s no seconder.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well, I didn’t hear you. Did you actually declare the outcome of the motion, Mr Deputy Chairman?

Deputy Chair: Yes, ayes got it. Right of reply.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay. Well, I certainly didn’t hear you say that but, anyway, perhaps that’s just an issue with the delay on the online meeting. Look, it’s not a surprise to me that Councillor WINES has got up. He has done this to me before. This is not the first time that this has happened. I will not sit back and allow the LNP to abuse their power under the Meetings Local Law. The issue before us today is the motion Councillor LANDERS moved last week does not meet the requirements of the Meetings Local Law. She, absolutely, Councillor LANDERS is absolutely aware of what is happening in the Chamber. The 3 occasions on which she has undertaken those inappropriate notice motions about me in the minutes—the reason I raised the one I did this morning is both, last week, Councillor COLLIER used the word lies, and, again today, Councillor MURPHY used the word lies.

One of the 3 issues for which I was noted in the minutes for inappropriate conduct was for using the word lies. Now, I was not allowed to or given the opportunity to withdraw. I was simply noted in the minutes. At that stage, we had been told specifically that we could use the word lies; we just could not call another Councillor a liar. It wasn’t until after I raised this again with the Chair of Council that she had to issue a clarifying statement. So, it’s very clear to me that the Chair of Council, Councillor SANDY LANDERS, in carrying out her responsibilities under the Meetings Local Law, treats me differently to other Councillors. That was the case as completely clear as it was today with Councillor MURPHY and as it was with Councillor COLLIER last week. Another one of those motions, ah, minute recordings, I was ejected for interjecting, with no warning—no warnings, no cautions, no general Councillors, nothing like this.

I was simply noted in the minutes as the first time when I interjected. Now, that hasn’t happened to any other Councillor in the Chamber either. So, it is very clear that Councillor LANDERS not only has engaged in a breach of the Meetings Local Law in taking this action against me last week, but has been breaching the Meetings Local Law by treating me differently to other Councillors over a significant period of time. It just shows me today that the LNP are prepared to defend obvious breaches of the Meetings Local Law on party political grounds. Now, the Chair of Council under both the City of Brisbane Act and the Meetings Local Law must uphold those laws and obey them herself. She has failed to do that by allowing an incompetent motion to proceed. Councillor LANDERS did that in fact by using general language to avoid it looking like she was breaching the Meetings Local Law.

Once you read the Meetings Local Law, it is very clear about what the preconditions are for this referral, and Councillor LANDERS knew that. She put in language that was inappropriate. When Councillor WINES says it wasn’t just Councillor LANDERS, she emailed me, and said, I, I, I all the way through it. So, I can only presume that it was Councillor LANDERS, unless she’s a puppet being controlled by somebody else in the LNP, like Councillor Quirk did to Councillor ADAMS when she was the Chair of Council, and he used to text message her. Perhaps that’s what’s going on there now with Councillor LANDERS.

Her written statements to me indicate that it was her decision to do this, that she was moving this motion, and she must comply with the Meetings Local Law. She is not exempt from it. So, where the Chair of Council deliberately allows the law to be breached, to take punitive action against another Councillor that is not supported in the Meetings Local Law, that is absolutely unsuitable meeting conduct. It doesn’t uphold the law as you are required to do. It is disrespectful. It is discourteous. It is unfair. It breaches every single standard in the Councillor Code of Conduct. Councillor LANDERS needs to take responsibility for her actions, which are to chair the meetings fairly and in accordance with the Meetings Local Law and she failed to do that last week. Today, when I gave her an opportunity to provide an explanation, she waffled, and avoided it. But—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —that’s not possible.

Deputy Chair: Now I put the motion.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you. Just before we vote, I just would seek your clarification on 2 important things, Chair. Councillor WINES said that an independent investigator has already been appointed. Could you clarify if that’s the case, because that would be illegal if that is the case. Secondly, we’ve been told the Chair was alerted by somebody. I think this is an important aspect. Could you tell us who alerted the Chair as to when this was noticed in the Council Minutes?

Deputy Chair: Look, I’m not aware of Councillor WINES—

Councillor WINES: I mean, I suppose, if you’re calling upon me, Mr Chair, I would say that what I said is that the law requires us to refer it to a third party, which is what we did. I did not say that a third-party investigator has been selected. All I said is that we are required under the Act to—we have a choice to deal with it ourselves or refer it externally, and we chose to refer it externally. I would expect, though, that being said, that the decision of this Council to refer it to a third-party investigator would lead to an investigator being appointed at some point, in line with the determination of this Council.

Deputy Chair: Look, it’s not the Chair’s role to explain, you know, to give you advice. But I believe Councillor WINES has made it very clear. So, now I’ll go to the vote.

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

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

Deputy Chair: Can someone advise Councillor LANDERS to return to the Chamber? Thank you.

Councillors, we’ll continue with General Business. Any matter of General Business?

Councillor DIXON.

Sorry.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Sorry. We have to—the procedure is I have to let Councillor LANDERS know the—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Oh sorry. Welcome back, Chair. Madam Chair, there’s no unsuitable meeting conduct, so please return to your seating.

*At 5.49pm the Chair of Council resumed the Chair.*

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: General Business, any speakers?

Councillor DIXON.

Councillor DIXON: Thank you, Chair. Chair, I wish to rise on 2 items of business today, obviously, my obvious family update, and my local Australia Day citizenship ceremony. So, firstly, I just want to thank everyone for their well wishes, both here in the Chamber and the Hamilton Ward, regarding the birth of my baby, Sophie, who arrived just after New Year. Thankfully, she wasn’t in a rush for Christmas presents or to celebrate New Year and arrived on 2 January. So, big brother, James, and dad, Matthew, have been a big help, and very excited to have a new member of the family.

She’s a bit young to get on the phones just yet, but I have high hope she’ll be door‑knocking and letterbox-dropping in no time. After all, politics is a family business in our household and I think she enjoyed her first meeting today in the Chamber after tuning in online for the last 2 weeks. There was a bit of discontent in the house this morning, as James kept saying he wanted to go to Mummy’s work, like baby Soph. But I’m sure all was forgotten when Dad dropped him off at day care. In all seriousness, it’s always daunting adding another baby to your family, but I want to thank the LORD MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR, and my team for being very supportive. There’s been no shortage of hands to help today.

Also, thanks to those across the Chamber as well for checking in on me too. I’m excited for the City Hall baby boom to continue, with both Councillor COLLIER and Councillor ATWOOD in a few months. I was a bit nervous about how I would juggle this job with another child but, I have to say, all those nerves fell away when I got a message from a local the other day saying, thank you for being a leader that shows the world that we can be mothers and work too. I thought that was very lovely, and what an excellent message we’re sending all women, young and older, in this place, especially as we approach Queensland Women’s Week in the first week of March.

Now, enough about me and Sophie. Now, on to my local Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony that I co-host with the Rotary Club of Hamilton. It was a success, yet again. There were over 35 families receiving citizenship and it was expertly organised by Garry Fenner, who is clocking up over 15 years of being the coordinator for this annual event. It was my absolute delight that Garry was recognised this year in the Lord Mayor’s Australia Day Awards for his commitment to these ceremonies, as the preparations always start in September, and, every year, Garry forgoes his public holiday to make this day very special for the new citizens.

I want to put on my record my thanks to Garry, Stefan, who was an excellent master of ceremonies on the day and also the Rotary members who gave up their time to do the morning tea. While I love all aspects of the citizenship ceremony, I really enjoy it when the representative family speaks. This year, a gentleman from the UK got up to speak about how excited he was to become an Australian citizen, telling a story about how it had been a dream since he was a child, sharing with us that he’d inscribed Australia on his bedroom door as a young man, to keep reminding him of the dream to get to Australia, so that’s just beautiful. I can’t wait to be the officiating officer next year in 2026, so thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DIXON, and Sophie’s behaviour has been exemplary today in the Chamber.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak about flooding in my ward. Last week, on February 13, we had a quick storm in my area, which dumped about 30 mills of rain. This is what you’d describe as a good storm but not extraordinary. What shocked me though, was the amount of flooding that occurred for hours after this rainfall. The high tide for that day was about 3 hours after the rainfall. So, obviously, that did have some effect, but the level of flooding took me and many people by surprise. Contrary to what the LORD MAYOR believes, as well, we’re not below sea level. I know we are quite low lying in that area. So, I was a little surprised by his comments.

But I have been really shocked by the lack of maintenance lately, with gutters and drains completely covered in leaves and debris, with requests for maintenance of drains and gully traps left for weeks and, in some cases, for months before they are cleaned. I don’t, for one second, blame our hardworking staff. I know that when there aren’t enough of them out in the field anymore, with LNP staff cuts, things are very hard to get to, and that’s the feedback I’m getting from them as well. I’ve also been amazed at the admission now from Council that the drainage system with pipes in so many areas are undersized, and can’t cope with the ordinary rain events that we have now.

These projects are often, as I’ve said earlier, listed for funding but, alas, like most suburban drainage projects, are never funded by the LORD MAYOR. I received the following feedback from that small storm last week, and I think it is important for the LORD MAYOR and LNP Councillors to hear this experience of local residents. I’ll read some of their comments out now of where it flooded, and some of the issues on that day. Corner of Fourth Avenue and Flinders, as usual, if drainage worked as designed, this would not be an issue. Disappointing to see a consistent lack of appetite for fixing fundamental issues.

Another one, Kennedy Street, the 4 drains around 24, 26, and 21 Kennedy Street, the 2 drains on the west side of the road have 20-millimetre inlets. Council standard is now 37.5 millimetres. These 2 drains do not have the capacity to take water from a storm, so become a bottleneck and blocked. No water can enter these 2 drains. All stormwater then tries to get down the drain on the east side of the street, which quickly becomes blocked. The water in the road then breaches and enters properties and inside homes. A reply to that comment said, yes, and these then flood through to properties, into the back of those houses on Brighton Terrace in bad storms.

Corner of Perkins Street and Sixth Avenue, another one, the drain creek inlet between the Sandgate Golf Club and neighbouring properties, the floodgates get blocked with debris, added stormwater, and high tides cause flooding. At the Bournewood Street grass spoon drain, there was a problem there. The drain along Kempster Street flooded. Rainbow Street gutters were a foot deep near The Wired Owl coffee shop. The manhole on upper Palm Avenue popped out too from the current. Another one, Rainbow Street at a Curlew Park entrance down to Palm Avenue, drains were full of leaves and water couldn’t get away.

Signal Row had a torrent of water coming down the hill outside the Shorncliffe State School Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), and the kids had to wade through water to get to the OSHC. Scott Street always has drainage issues. You have to try and jump over a metre-length puddle to get from the road to the footpath always. Barclay Street, between Fenton and Scott Street, both sides of the road were completely under, the water gushing down. Again, Signal Row outside Shorncliffe State School was very dangerous. Another one on Perkins Street, this time the intersection of Seventh Avenue.

15 Ivor Street in Bracken Ridge, this person rang the Brisbane City Council for years. They say the guttering is broken and the road is now starting to lift, and that’s been neglected for years. Gutters around Stanley Park have been full of leaves since before Christmas. This person has previously called Brisbane City Council and been advised that the gutters will be swept on a 9-week cycle. It has been longer than 9 weeks since the gutters have been swept, and 9 weeks is too infrequent for gutters around parks with lots of trees. We agree. Now, this is just a smattering of the issues my community is facing from one single morning of rain because of a lack of maintenance and investment in drainage that is now impacting people when we have very normal rain events for a city like Brisbane. We deserve so much better out in the suburbs of Brisbane than this LORD MAYOR is giving us.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor PARRY.

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on the issue of copper theft, and how it’s impacting our Council assets. Late last year, during some routine maintenance, Council officers discovered that the electrical box at Bradbury Park in Kedron had been broken into. The lock was jimmied open, wires had been cut, and a substantial number of cables had been stolen. As a result, the path lights, the toilet lights, the car park lights, and the barbecues have stopped working. This award-winning park, a favourite destination for families from across Brisbane, has been plunged into darkness, all for scrap.

Even more concerning is that if it weren’t for the keen eye of our Council officers who spotted this theft, the exposed wires might have posed a real safety concern for the general public. Unfortunately, this issue is not exclusive to Marchant Ward, and nor is it a new problem. Indeed, in the last 12 months, Council alone has experienced 7 incidents that we know of, of copper theft, that have impacted our assets: the Deagon bikeway underpass, Bill Brown Sports Reserve at Fitzgibbon, Eucalypt tree park in Bracken Ridge—which you know well, Madam Chair. Lemke Road and Depot Road, Toombul bikeway, Macaranga Crescent Park and now Bradbury.

Bikeways, sporting facilities, and parks have all found themselves in the crosshairs of brazen thieves looking to make a quick buck. Who’s paying for it? The families, the commuters, and the residents of Brisbane who don’t get to fire up the barbecue on the weekend at their local park, don’t get to ride home safely from work, or don’t get to kick a footy after hours. The ratepayers are the ones left to pay for the damage. It’s estimated that since copper theft has ramped up in recent years, the cost to Council is around the $1 million mark. A million dollars, imagine what you could do for that.

To break it down, it costs about $84,000 to replace one kilometre of stolen copper wiring, and up to $2,500 per light pole. It’s not just Brisbane City Council impacted by this, either. Private construction, transport and main roads, telecommunication companies, and other utilities, it turns out, where there’s copper, there’s crims. It’s not all doom and gloom, however, and in a true example of the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Council’s own aluminium cable revolution team, we’re getting ahead of the thieves, one project at a time. For those perhaps unfamiliar with what this is all about, since 2023, we have been replacing copper cables with aluminium cabling where possible. This is because aluminium has a lower scrap value, which means less cash for loot.

Since February last year, we’ve also started placing signs at sites, saying there are no copper cables, in order to deter thieves from even trying. There are now 241 signs on pit lids across the city, in parks, and places where aluminium cables are installed. The only downside is that the replacement of copper with aluminium is complex and requires a lot of design work. So, in some instances, it may not even be technically possible to replace it, so the copper theft may continue. South Australia recently announced it would look to introduce legislation to make it harder for criminals to sell stolen scrap metal.

Some of these reforms include requiring proof of ID and accurate records for all scrap metal transactions and prohibiting cash or the use of cryptocurrency to buy or sell scrap metal. I know from my previous life that copper cable theft is a national issue, and no jurisdictional industry is immune. I, for one, would welcome strengthened laws to help reduce this copper and scrap metal theft, and I know that Councillor HUTTON will be writing to the relevant Minister about this issue to see what can be done. But, in the meantime, I’m very pleased to report that we’ve now completed the design work on Bradbury Park’s new aluminium cabling and works have started to replace the cables.

In fact, during this meeting earlier today, I had a call from a local resident, who saw the workers, and is very excited about what’s happening. I took the kids there myself on the weekend for a play, and I had a squiz inside the pit, and I could see what they’d done. They’d just cut the—it was a straight-up smash and grab. They cut the cables and took them out. It’s unbelievable. Weather permitting, we expect the cables to be laid by the end of next week. I know that the community is very eager to see those lights switch back on and the barbecues fired up, in this incredible lifestyle destination to be returned to its former glory. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Chair. It’s gone past 6. Are we continuing the GB or are we going to dinner?

Chair: Do you want to do General Business? Please go ahead, Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: So, the dinner break doesn’t really matter anymore? When it happens? Interesting, interesting. Another one of those rules that evaporates. Okay. I rise to speak on 3 items of General Business. One is procedural, and the other is on education. The procedural one, of course, the 3-hour guillotine has happened again, where only 2 Chairs were able to give their reports. Honestly, whoever came up with the 3-hour rule should rethink it, and maybe reapply to the State Government for an extension or something, or whatever has to happen because, clearly, what’s the point of having Chairs give public reports if they’re not able to do it? It’s just ridiculous.

Whoever changed the rule, whoever came up with this 3-hour rule didn’t think of the consequences of what could happen when it comes to Chairs’ reports. Really sad, really sad to see it. There’s a lot of petitions that don’t get debated either. Speaking of petitions, I know there’s like 27 outstanding in the Infrastructure Committee, we were told by the Chair the other day. I just wonder how many more are out there that have not been—and one of our Infrastructure ones goes back to 2023. Honestly, you’ve got to run it better than this. You’ve got to run it better than this. Okay, education, good news, there was a Suburban University Study Hub announced recently in my ward.

There was only 5 of these announced by the Albanese Government right across Australia, and there’s one now, which will be opening up soon in Inala, which is a real coup for Inala, I’ll tell you right now. I sat down with the team some months ago, who were exploring the idea of being able to do a hub in the area, but they were looking for premises. These premises, I think, were going to be leased for a couple of years or whatever. It’s really hard to find space big enough to house a hub, because these hubs are really a resource for students who don’t want to go off to the university to access those facilities for study.

They can do it close to where they live, which is a terrific idea. I know that, of course, the local Federal Member and the local State Member were very much in favour of it. I know it’s important that this type of study hub is available to students right across the country, not just in Inala. It’s going to be in the old Commonwealth building, where I used to work, where I cut my teeth, working for Henry Palaszczuk up on the first floor. There’s plenty of space up there, and we’re really looking forward for that to happen in the near future. Then, following on from that, of course, I think we’ve all been to those leadership assemblies for our schools at the beginning of every year.

I think we’re all probably quite impressed with those new leaders coming in, and their first speeches, in a lot of instances, their first speeches is at that assembly. I’ll tell you what, the quality is just getting better and better and better. I want to do a little bit of a shout out, of course, to Glenala High School. Their new captains that are coming in, one of them specifically was just outstanding. Honestly, he could stand up in this Chamber, and we’d all listen to him, I’ll tell you right now, he’s that good. He’s Year 12, and he’s just starting out in his leadership role for the school. Quite amazing.

They have also at Glenala, a GEMs (Glenala’s Enquiring Minds) academic program that was started by Corrine McMillan when she was the principal some years ago. It’s awards for academic excellence, and I was able to give out some of those certificates to the bronze, then we got silver, and then we got gold. Honestly, Year 8s coming in, honestly, the certificates were that thick. I stood there, and I just shook hand after hand after hand, and congratulated them. This cohort, Year 8s, are going to be spectacular by the time they get to Year 12, especially with ATAR, I’ll tell you right now. They’re kicking a lot of goals with ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) right now.

Chair: Councillor STRUNK, your time has expired.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor WOLFF.

Councillor WOLFF: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I rise to speak of a fantastic event that we held last Saturday in the Walter Taylor Ward, the Big Love: Bands in the Park event. Now, as you would all know, last week was Valentine’s Day, so we took the opportunity to celebrate Big Love. The reason that we chose this date is the Walter Taylor Bridge actually was celebrating its 89th birthday, and it officially opened on Valentine’s Day. So, what we planned to do was experience the event this year in preparation for what will be the 90th celebration for the Walter Taylor Bridge next year.

So, we had some amazing entertainment. The South Brisbane Federal Band, which is a 25-piece band, did a great job of all love songs. There were some hits there from *Grease*. The event was in the Witton Barracks playground park, which is right next door to the Walter Taylor Bridge. I also want to thank Sunrise Markets, David and all his team for all his hard work with the food trucks and the stalls that were put in. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the food and the entertainment, in particular, Fizz the Fairy, who was dressed up as a love cupid, and sharing her love potion everywhere. Face painting was also enjoyed by Happy Face Painting. I’d also like to thank my team in my office, Kylie and Melissa, and all of my volunteers, including my family, who were there at the event to support Big Love. It was absolutely fantastic, and we look forward to celebrating again next year. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to talk about 2 points. One, West End overland flooding small streets meeting that we had and also, secondly, the Hampstead Road workshop. About 2 weekends ago, we had a meeting with many residents representing Granville, Princhester, Corbett, Baynes, and other streets across West End that suffered severe flooding late last year. These residents, I thank those residents to coming to this meeting. This meeting was called and asked of me by these residents because of their frustration with Council and the lack of work to help them in relation to the stormwater drains related.

We know that Princhester flash-floods nearly every time it rains now. But the effects of this overland flood was pretty incredible, with residents still not being able to return to their properties. I really thank the residents for a wonderful, wonderful workshop and meeting, looking at potential solutions, trying to find information. We’ll be working together much further into the future. I want to thank Resilient Kurilpa for their work in flooding, not only in apartments but also for houses. It’s just something important to highlight, you know, there were residents at this meeting that had lived in their houses for over 30 years that flooded for the first time.

There were residents at this meeting that literally said every time it rains a little bit, there is flash flooding in this area. What’s really concerning is there are no plans currently for this Council to help these residents. The stormwater drains are obviously not coping in this area. It affects a great amount of people. Their challenges are numerous. So, it’s really unfortunate that this Council has been slow on West End, and the drainage, stormwater draining upgrades that are needed to ensure the residents, ratepayers don’t lose anything. I’m talking about ratepayers and renters also.

Secondly, I’d like to thank everyone that attended our 2nd Hampstead Road workshop. In February last year, I held—was it last year? Yes, maybe, maybe before—a workshop for Hampstead Road for a greening project. This project actually began when a combination of Kurilpa Transitions, West End—WECA—West End Community Association and Kurilpa Futures came together in 2014 to do major consultation across Kurilpa, to release a greening strategy for the Kurilpa Peninsula. This was, of course, after the changes to zoning from the South riverside neighbourhood plan that happened in 2012 to 2014.

This greening strategy has kind of sat there. There’s various items related to it that are trying to make sure that this urban area that is taking on a lot of density is able to have the green space, boulevards, verge gardens, and plantings. From that first workshop, we did a lot of consultation, and from that came a project which I was able to provide funding to from my Suburban Enhancement Fund, to make concept designs. Hampstead Road is a very, very wide road. It’s very steep. It goes to a beautiful park in Highgate Hill, which is Highgate Hill Park, a heritage-listed park. Many people that not only lived on the streets, the streets surrounding small businesses, and people that use that street to transit from South Brisbane to Highgate Hill, or to Annerley and beyond, Dutton Park beyond, came to that meeting.

I was really pleased to have been able to present 2 of the concept designs to this group of about 50 people that attended this community workshop. We’ll be working towards this greening project because it’s an important connector between Vulture Street and Dornoch Terrace. So, thanks to the community for their participation in our community workshops, and I look forward to working more with you all. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, there’s nobody on there.

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I rise to congratulate young Ari. I’ve known Ari since we did some community consultations 7 years ago regarding some playground in Kings Park. At the time, Ari was an impressive young man, who articulated what he did like to see in a community park. I’ve watched Ari grow up over the past 7 years. You get those residents in our wards that you just really like, and you like hanging with them. Ari is one of those guys. I really enjoy hanging with Ari. Recently, Ari has received an apprenticeship as an electrician. One thing that I do know is that when you become a tradesperson, your master—which is what most apprentices have—bestows the skills that you need for the rest of your life within your trade.

Being, I believe, the only tradesman here in the Chamber left, after Councillor Bourke and Councillor Wyndham retired, it’s something that I do tell a lot of young people, that if you want to get ahead in life, get a trade. You can be earning in Grade 11, before you even hit school these days. These trades, especially electrician, carpenter, bricklayers, cementers, concreters, they’re needed today. I have to admit that I am immensely proud of Ari. I’ve been keeping up with his dad, and the journey that he’s taken to get his apprenticeship. It’s been one that he’s had some setbacks but, ultimately, he has succeeded.

He’s got a job with a family-owned business. I know I grew up in my trade in family-owned business. You don’t just become an employee; you become one of the family. I think, for Ari, this is going to be a great experience for him. The only piece of advice that I can give Ari, left, before he actually steps on site is, mate, get a haircut. You don’t want to go on a site with a hairnet, I’m telling you right now. But, congratulations, Ari, on a job well done, and I wish you all the success in your apprenticeship. Thank you.

Chair: Any further speakers?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: No, Councillor MASSEY, nobody is on the screen, which we need to have.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order.

Chair: No further speakers?

Councillor MASSEY: Sorry, just for clarification, someone has to be in the screen, even if their hand’s up? I’m asking the question.

Chair: That’s right.

No further speakers? I now call the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (received on 13 February 2025)**

**Q1.** Please advise of any and all workplace changes, realignments or organisation design changes expected across the Customer Services and Library Services branches in 2025.

**Q2.** Please advise of any and all workplace changes, realignments or organisation design changes that occurred across the Customer Services and Library Services branches in 2024-2025 FYTD.

**Q3.** Please advise how many FTE librarians were employed by Brisbane City Council as at 1 January 2025.

**Q4.** Please advise how many FTE library technicians were employed by Brisbane City Council as at 1 January 2025.

**Q5.** Please advise how many FTE library assistants were employed by Brisbane City Council as at 1 January 2025.

**Q6.** Please advise the locations of any drainage infrastructure awaiting maintenance or repair in the wards of Deagon, Moorooka, Morningside, Calamvale and Forest Lake.

**Q7.** In relation to Answer 16 provided by Brisbane City Council on Tuesday 11 February, please advise how many ‘pensioner rate accounts’ are currently recorded.

**Q8.** In relation to Answer 16 provided by Brisbane City Council on Tuesday 11 February, please advise the number (as a raw number, not a percentage) of ‘pensioner rate accounts’ that received their rates electronically in January 2025.

**Q9.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices issued by Brisbane City Council from 1 October 2024 to 31 October 2024.

**Q10.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices sent by post from 1 October 2024 to 31 October 2024.

**Q11.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices sent by email from 1 October 2024 to 31 October 2024.

**Q12.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices distributed electronically or by digital billing practices from 1 October 2024 to 31 October

**Q13.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices issued by Brisbane City Council from 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025.

**Q14.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices sent by post from 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025.

**Q15.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices sent by email from 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025.

**Q16.** Please advise the total number of commercial rate notices distributed electronically or by digital billing practices from 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025.

**Q17.** Please advise the total expenditure on collections for Brisbane City Council libraries in 2018-2019.

**Q18.** Please advise how many new books were added to Brisbane City Council libraries in 2018-19.

**Q19.** Please advise the digital collections budget for Brisbane City Council libraries in 2018-19.

**Q20.** Please advise the total lending collection of Brisbane City Council libraries in 2018-19.

**Q21.** Please advise how many times ‘Code 9923 – Set Down Only’ was activated on Council Network Buses since 2020, broken down by year and month.

**Q22.** Please advise how many times ‘Code 9933 – Sorry – Bus Full’ was activated on Council Network Buses since 2020, broken down by year and month.

**Q23.** Please advise how many reports were received by the Network Coordination Centre indicating Full Standing Load since 2020, broken down by year and month.

**Q24.** Please advise the total expenditure for Communication and Engagement Services in 2023-2024.

**Q25.** Please advise the total expenditure for professional communication services in 2023-2024.

**Q26.** Please advise of any and all suppliers used for professional communication services in 2023-2024.

**Q27.** Please advise the total expenditure for media placement and fulfilment in 2023-2024.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (from meeting on 11 February 2025)**

**Q1.** Please provide a list by name and suburb of the dog parks were fully returfed in:

a. 2024-25 to date;

b. 2023-24; and

c. 2022-23

***A1.*** *a.**2024-25 to date*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Description*** | ***Suburb*** |
| *Booker Place Park* | *Bellbowrie* |
| *Ekibin Park East* | *Greenslopes* |
| *Nathan Road Park* | *Runcorn* |
| *Paten Park* | *The Gap* |
| *Tuckeroo Park* | *Nudgee Beach* |

*b. 2023-24*

| ***Description*** | ***Suburb*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Wembley Park* | *Coorparoo* |
| *Shaftesbury St Park* | *Tarragindi* |
| *Perrin Park* | *Toowong* |
| *Grey Gum Park* | *Stafford Heights* |
| *Dorrington Park* | *Ashgrove* |
| *Crosby Park* | *Albion* |
| *C.J. Greenfield Complex Park* | *Richlands* |
| *Jim Wilding Reserve* | *Bridgeman Downs* |
| *Pask Family Park* | *Rochedale* |

*c. 2022-23*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Description*** | ***Suburb*** |
| *Beryl Roberts Park* | *Coopers Plains* |
| *C.J. Greenfield Complex Park* | *Richlands* |
| *Carindale Recreation Reserve* | *Carindale* |
| *Crosby Park* | *Albion* |
| *Dorrington Park* | *Ashgrove* |
| *Kookaburra Park – West* | *Karana Downs* |
| *Perrin Park* | *Toowong* |
| *Tigris Street Park* | *Riverhills* |
| *Wembley Park* | *Coorparoo* |
| *Fairfield Park* | *Fairfield* |

**Q2.** Please provide a list by name and suburb of new dog parks built and fully turfed in:

a. 2024-25 to date;

b. 2023-24; and

c. 2022-23.

***A2.*** *a. 2024-25 to date:*

*Nil.*

*b. 2023-24*

| ***Description*** | ***Suburb*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Carawa Street Park* | *St Lucia* |
| *Nudgee Recreation Reserve* | *Nudgee* |

*c. 2022-23*

| ***Description*** | ***Suburb*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Joe Bradfield Centre Park* | *Carina* |
| *Evans Road Park* | *Moorooka* |

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (from meeting on 11 February 2025)**

**Q1.** Please provide a breakdown of expenditure to date under the Brisbane Metro Stage 1 Work Package.

**Q2.** Please provide a breakdown of expenditure to date under the Operational Readiness work package for Brisbane Metro.

**Q3.** Please provide a breakdown of expenditure to date under the Brisbane Metro Stage 2 work package.

***A1 to A3.***

| ***Brisbane Metro (Stage 1)*** | ***Expenditure*** |
| --- | --- |
| *Business Case, Reference Design, Planning and Procurement* | *64,005,593* |
| *Metro Intersection Upgrades* | *3,680,963* |
| *Metro Vehicles* | *234,532,517* |
| *Metro Principal Costs* | *80,106,818* |
| *Metro Early Works* | *20,500,585* |
| *Metro Depot* | *146,129,727* |
| *Adelaide St Tunnel, Busway and Station Infrastructure* | *779,838,525* |
| ***Brisbane Metro Operational Readiness*** | ***Expenditure*** |
| *Brisbane Metro Operational Readiness TfB* | *16,514,434* |
| *Metro Systems* | *16,221,542* |
| *Metro Network & Commercial* | *6,565,580* |
| *Brisbane’s New Bus Network Enabling Works* | *3,171,701* |
| ***Brisbane Metro Stage 2*** | ***Expenditure*** |
| *Brisbane Metro Stage 2* | *39,038,466* |

**Q4.** Please provide a breakdown of expenditure (FYTD) of the $75 million committed by the State Government in 2024 for Brisbane’s bus network.

***A4.*** *Under the Funding Agreement between the State of Queensland acting through the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Brisbane City Council, executed on 6th July 2024, all funding received to date has been applied towards the operation of the scheduled passenger services, including the cost of labour and* operating *expenses.*

**Q5.** Please advise the total bus patronage figure for 2024.

***A5****.**77,609,037.*

**Q6.** Please advise the total amount spent on catering at meetings of the Establishment and Coordination Committee for the 2024-2025 FYTD

***A6.*** *$3,840.*

**Q7.** How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding rat running in any context, annually, from 2020 to 2025 YTD – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.

***A7.***

| ***YEAR*** | ***Request for Service*** |
| --- | --- |
| *2020* | *133* |
| *2021* | *140* |
| *2022* | *119* |
| *2023* | *150* |
| *2024* | *123* |
| *2025 YTD* | *11* |

*Note that these figures may overlap substantially with those provided in A9.*

**A8.** Of the 2024 “Requests for Service” regarding rat running, how many have been investigated and resolved?

***A8.*** *Council officers advise they are unable to provide this information within the timeframe provided by the Meetings Local Law 2001.*

**A9.** How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding traffic calming in any context, annually, from 2020 to 2025 YTD – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.

***A9.***

| ***YEAR*** | ***Request for Service*** |
| --- | --- |
| *2020* | *337* |
| *2021* | *377* |
| *2022* | *331* |
| *2023* | *361* |
| *2024* | *341* |
| *2025 YTD* | *35* |

*Note that these figures may overlap substantially with those provided in A7.*

**Q10.** Of the 2024 “Requests for Service” regarding traffic calming, how many have been investigated and resolved?

***A10.*** *Council officers advise they are unable to provide this information within the timeframe provided by the Meetings Local Law 2001.*

**Q11.** What is the total number of redundancies offered within BCC, and the total $ figure for these redundancies, in the 2024-2025 FYTD.

***A11.*** *Nil and $0.*

**Q12.** Please list the month-by-month number of downloads of the Brisbane App from September 2024 to current.

***A12.***

| ***Month*** | ***Number of downloads*** |
| --- | --- |
| *September 2024* | *2,397* |
| *October 2024* | *2,484* |
| *November 2024* | *2,248* |
| *December 2024* | *2,497* |
| *January 2025* | *2,559* |

**Q13.** Please list the month-by-month number of uninstalls or deletes of the Brisbane App from September 2024 to current.

***A13.***

| ***Month*** | ***Number of uninstalls or deletes*** |
| --- | --- |
| *September 2024* | *955* |
| *October 2024* | *950* |
| *November 2024* | *953* |
| *December 2024* | *978* |
| *January 2025* | *997* |

**Q14.** Please list the month-by-month average time spent on the Brisbane App per use/session from September 2024 to current.

***A14.***

| ***Month*** | ***Average time spent per use/session*** |
| --- | --- |
| *September 2024* | *1m 52s* |
| *October 2024* | *1m 45s* |
| *November 2024* | *1m 43s* |
| *December 2024* | *1m 51s* |
| *January 2025* | *1m 46s* |

**Q15.** How many Brisbane app sessions were recorded per month from January 2023, to current, listed separately by month.

***A15.***

| ***Month*** | ***Number of Brisbane app sessions*** |
| --- | --- |
| *January 2023* | *36,974* |
| *February 2023* | *32,477* |
| *March 2023* | *38,009* |
| *April 2023* | *42,388* |
| *May 2023* | *50,425* |
| *June 2023* | *40,732* |
| *July 2023* | *33,600* |
| *August 2023* | *32,228* |
| *September 2023* | *39,506* |
| *October 2023* | *35,884* |
| *November 2023* | *37,957* |
| *December 2023* | *35,738* |
| *January 2024* | *29,454* |
| *February 2024* | *24,470* |
| *March 2024* | *24,535* |
| *April 2024* | *20,997* |
| *May 2024* | *19,235* |
| *June 2024* | *19,173* |
| *July 2024* | *19,217* |
| *August 2024* | *18,693* |
| *September 2024* | *18,398* |
| *October 2024* | *17,716* |
| *November 2024* | *17,302* |
| *December 2024* | *18,061* |
| *January 2025* | *17,844* |

**Q16.** Please provide a breakdown of how much Brisbane City Council spent on advertising the Brisbane App as per the below table:

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

***A16.*** *$0.*

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (from meeting on 11 February 2025)**

**Q1.** How many trees have been removed from Hives Park Sherwood due to natural disaster/wet weather since November 2023?

***A1.*** *Nil (A volume of branch pick-ups have been completed as a result of the Christmas 2023 weather event).*

**Q2.** How many trees have been removed from Hives Park Sherwood by Council for other reasons?

***A2.*** *2.*

**Q3.** How many trees have been replanted in Hives Park Sherwood since the December 2023 storms?

***A3.*** *3 are due to be planted in March 2025.*

**Q4.** When was a request made by Sherwood Community Kindergarten to replace the tree cut down by Council in Hives Park in the playground Council?

***A4.*** *No request was made by the Sherwood Community Kindergarten to replace a tree in Hives Park. The Tennyson Ward Office requested a tree replacement on 9 August 2024.*

**Q5.** When was the replacement tree requested by the Sherwood Community Kindergarten replanted in Hives Park?

***A5.*** *March 2025.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 6.16pm.**

**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)