

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4760 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 18 March 2025**

**at 8.28pm**

**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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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)Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)Emily KIM (Calamvale)Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillors (and Wards)**Seal CHONG WAH (Paddington)Trina MASSEY (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

*At 1.15pm on 11 March 2025, the Chair advised that as quorum has not been present for 15 minutes, as per section 31 of Meetings Local Law 2001, the meeting stands adjourned until the next ordinary meeting of Council on 18 March 2025.*

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

### SECOND DAY – Tuesday 18 March 2025

## OPENING OF MEETING:

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

Deputy Chair: I declare the meeting open.

 Are there any apologies?

## MINUTES:

Deputy Chair: There’s no confirmation of minutes—oh, sorry. Confirmation of minutes, please.

**455/2024-25**

The Minutes of the 4759 (Ordinary) meeting of Council held on 4 March 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.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’ve just had a phone call from Councillor MASSEY who says she’s locked out of the building, so I want to make sure that the doors to City Hall (1) are open for Councillors to come, and (2) for the public to attend the meeting. So, can we check with security that she is able to enter the building? She’s not at the Councillor’s entrance, so I’m not sure where she is.

Deputy Chair: Yes, look, we’ll arrange for Councillor MASSEY to enter the building.

## QUESTION TIME:

Deputy Chair: Question Time.

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

 Councillor ADERMANN.

**Question 1**

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

 Councillor HUTTON, the Schrinner Council is committed to making sure Brisbane’s parks and public spaces are clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. Can you please update the Chamber on the decisive action we have taken to keep it that way?

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor ADERMANN for the question. Chair, at the heart of our approach is a simple but vital belief that everyone deserves a roof over their head. Homelessness is a serious and complex issue, and one that requires more than just rhetoric. It requires action. That is why the Schrinner Council is committed to connecting vulnerable people with real housing solutions, while also ensuring our parks and public spaces remain safe for the broader community. The reality is, Chair, that the Department of Housing has services available to assist rough sleepers, whether it’s hotel accommodation, temporary shelters, transitional housing or permanent accommodation, but for this assistance to be effective, people will have to accept it.

In the lead-up to Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Department of Housing engaged with 30 individuals sleeping rough in one of our parks. Of those, 13 refused all support. Chair, we will not sit and allow our parks to become entrenched with encampments while crime and drug use take hold, making our public spaces unsafe for local families and residents. We’ve already seen the devastating impact of unregulated encampments in other cities. It is unsafe, not just for local residents, but for the very vulnerable people who need support. Here in Brisbane, we are determined to prevent our parks from becoming places where people at risk are struggling and where violence goes unchecked.

We have heard firsthand from members of the community who feel unsafe during the increase in rough sleeping and camping in parks. One of the most concerning examples has been in Musgrave Park, where local Yuggera woman, Marissa Sandy, has spoken out about the dangers posed by ongoing encampments. She has said, “every time I come down here, I see nothing but violence. I see nothing but people doing alcohol and drugs.” Chair, where the local community is saying a public space has become unsafe, we need to listen. This is why the Schrinner Council has acted decisively to protect both the community and those experiencing homelessness.

Our policy is clear. Those sleeping rough will be connected with services, given every possible opportunity to access health, but if they refuse, they will be moved on within 24 hours. This is about setting expectations, about ensuring that we are a city that extends a hand to those in need but also does not allow lawlessness to take hold. It is also about respecting the Brisbane residents who pay their rates and expect our parks and public spaces to be safe, clean and family friendly. Chair, despite what the opposite may claim, the reality is that allowing rough sleeping to remain in parks is not an act of compassion, it’s an act of neglect. It is not compassionate to allow people to live in unsanitary, unsafe conditions without access to proper hygiene, medical care or secure accommodation.

The true measure of compassion is ensuring that people have stable roofs over their heads and the support they need to rebuild their lives. That is why the Schrinner Council continues to work with the Department of Housing, police and Queensland Health to ensure real pathways out of homelessness. It is why we support organisations that provide essential services, such as emergency shelters, addiction treatment and mental health support, but Chair, let me be clear, we are doing everything possible to connect people with assistance. We will not allow our parks to become permanent shelters.

For nearly a century, local laws in Brisbane have prohibited camping in public spaces. These laws exist for a reason, to protect public spaces for all residents and to prevent formation of unsafe encampments. Our enforcement approach is about ensuring these laws are upheld while also giving people every opportunity to find more suitable and stable living arrangements. Now, Chair, I have no doubt that those opposite will attempt to misrepresent this approach. The Labor-Green coalition of chaos has already tried to claim that our efforts to keep Brisbane’s parks safe are cruel and lacking compassion but let me remind the Chamber of their hypocrisies. These are the same people who claim to care about homelessness while simultaneously opposing new housing developments at every turn.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUTTON, your time has expired.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Any further questions?

 Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 2**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Mr Chairman. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

 LORD MAYOR, sadly, I’m again raising a question about the clearing of Stable Swamp Creek in Rocklea. Just in the last week, I’ve had Council officers confirm that there is 450 tonnes of silt clogging this creek. I have residents visit my office who are visibly traumatised every time there is a predicted rain event, asking why this work has still not occurred. LORD MAYOR, put yourself in the residents’ shoes. Could you imagine packing up your family, not knowing where you’re going to return to? This is soul-destroying for these families.

I ask you to look into the camera tonight, LORD MAYOR, because I have residents from Rocklea watching, and could you tell them why you’ve done nothing over the last 3 years in relation to Stable Swamp Creek? LORD MAYOR, you have the ability here to do something, you are the leader of this city. When are you going to do something to alleviate the fear and anxiety that residents in Rocklea suffer every time there’s a significant rain event, and actually clear Stable Swamp Creek?

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: One of the key reasons that residents have fear and anxiety is the way that you’ve approached this, Councillor GRIFFITHS, the false claims that you’ve made, the false hopes that you’ve given—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m sure, Mr Deputy Chair, you will want to stop the LORD MAYOR from directly addressing Councillor GRIFFITHS, as that is inappropriate under the Meetings Local Law.

Deputy Chair: Yes, LORD MAYOR—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Plus, Mr Deputy Chair, it’s also inappropriate to debate the question rather than answer it.

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR, please address through the Chair.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Councillor GRIFFITHS has continued to peddle false information and false hope. The idea that doing some work in a creek will suddenly eliminate flooding is false, and it’s false hope. That’s what he’s continued to do.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

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

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

LORD MAYOR: We’ve seen Councillor GRIFFITHS, who is the longest serving Councillor in this place, achieve very little for his community over that time, but he’s very good at playing politics. He’s very good at whipping people up, making them upset and angry at someone else other than himself, giving them false hope, and that’s exactly what’s happened with this situation. Now, let’s remember that it was the Labor State government, his colleagues in the Labor Party, that refused to do anything about Stable Swamp Creek. When we put our funding on the table and we committed to doing work on our section, the Labor State government did nothing, wasn’t interested, played politics—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

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

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The question clearly is, LORD MAYOR, what are you going to do now? Not history, not histrionics, it’s what are you actually going to do now? You’re the leader of the city.

Deputy Chair: Thank you. The LORD MAYOR is providing the answer.

LORD MAYOR: He doesn’t want the residents who are watching to know about the history because he’s been called out. He’s been called out for playing politics on this issue. So, fundamentally, in the short period of time that this new government has been in, we’ve got a commitment from them to hold up their end of the bargain and to do work on their section. That’s something that Councillor GRIFFITHS was never able to achieve, despite having a decade of Labor State governments, of people that he knew and supposedly had relationships with, of people that he could lobby and advocate to, but no, he just played the politics.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Can the LORD MAYOR give us a timeframe for when this work will be done? Residents want to know.

Deputy Chair: I don’t uphold that point of order.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, what I would simply say is that we’re determined to see work happen as soon as it can. We’re determined that if that work can improve the situation, then by all means, that’s a great thing, but please, Councillor GRIFFITHS, stop trying to pretend that this will eliminate flooding in Stable Swamp Creek. It will not. It will not. It will simply not. It’s actually really irresponsible to suggest that it will, because we know it won’t.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of—

LORD MAYOR: We know it could improve the situation—

Deputy Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR, there is a point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —but it certainly won’t eliminate flooding.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Well, point of order is, what does the LORD MAYOR say with the officer’s report of 450 tonnes of silt to be removed?

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, if you want to ask another question, please do that next time.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor GRIFFITHS actually knows that the work was scheduled to occur and was interrupted, actually, by the cyclone itself, so he knows this. He’s been briefed on this, so this question is nothing but politics. It’s shameful that, once again, he’s playing with residents when it comes to this issue, when he should be working on their behalf. He did nothing for years and years. He achieved nothing, and now he’s playing politics again. This side, we’ll actually get things done. We’ll make sure this program happens. We’ve got the support of the State Government and we’ll get on with it as soon as we can.

Deputy Chair: Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Councillor ATWOOD.

 Sorry, sorry, Councillor GRIFFITHS, your misrepresentation.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, the LORD MAYOR repeated, again, a claim that I have been telling residents this will stop flooding. I have never done that, never, never. The only person who’s ever said that is the LORD MAYOR, and he’s never attended a meeting with residents out there and he has never, never been prepared to face residents to talk about the 450 tonnes of silt that’s clogging that creek.

Deputy Chair: Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 3**

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

 Councillor HOWARD, we have just heard from Councillor HUTTON about the action we have taken to protect public health and safety in our parks and open spaces. Can you please update the Chamber on the many services and opportunities that are available to vulnerable people to protect their health and safety?

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Deputy Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor ATWOOD for the question. Even though the State Government is responsible for homelessness and social housing, we are doing everything possible as a local government to help the most vulnerable people in our community because no one should have to experience what it’s like to be homeless. That is why this Schrinner Council has delivered record investment for homelessness support. One of the very first initiatives that Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER delivered on becoming LORD MAYOR in 2019, was to establish a new grant program to help address homelessness in Brisbane, the Pathways out of Homelessness program.

We have invested $6 million in 14 projects since the program was launched in 2019, which has provided help to more than 5,700 residents through more than 8,100 cases of support. We’ve helped 614 people transition into long-term housing. One of those projects is Brisbane Housing Company’s Home & Health project, a new mobile health service that was launched in 2023 to provide healthcare for those who need it most. We know that approximately 40% of failed tenancies are due to poor health management. With funding from the Schrinner Council, the Home & Health project addressed the hidden health needs of Brisbane’s most vulnerable living in community housing by delivering bespoke and place-based health services to support people with complex health needs.

Our funding enabled them to deliver 173 health clinics and to help 236 people. Forty per cent of the people they helped said that they were able to avoid an emergency department admission, and 99% of those clients have successfully maintained their tenancy. The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health also received funding from the Schrinner Council to deliver an early intervention model to support 65 First Nations people and families to prepare, establish and maintain their tenancies. Another project funded by Pathways out of Homelessness was Beyond DV’s Pathways to HOPE project, which enabled Beyond DV to deliver more than 2,500 occasions to support 135 women, and 114 of those women were able to gain stable housing, thanks to the Pathways to HOPE.

Now, whilst I can’t go into the detail of individual cases, I can tell you that these projects have made such an incredible difference to so many of our most vulnerable residents. Thanks to funding from the Schrinner Council’s Pathways out of Homelessness program, heartbreaking situations have turned into heartwarming stories of resilience, opportunity and success. These are just a few examples of projects the Schrinner Council’s Pathways out of Homelessness program is delivering outcomes for our most vulnerable residents. It’s why we will continue to deliver the Pathways out of Homelessness program, because it is delivering a real, on-the-ground difference.

Of course, Deputy Chair, our Pathways out of Homelessness program is just one of the many initiatives delivered by the Schrinner Council. Council also employs Public Space Liaison Officers (PSLOs) within our Safe Communities team to engage with people who are experiencing homelessness and are in public spaces. Can I say thank you to our most amazing PSLOs, who work tirelessly to deliver that support? We’ve seen that just over the last couple of weeks. They’re just amazing human beings. We also deliver Homeless Connect, a full-day event which provides food, clothes, shoes, haircuts and medical services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We have helped more than 22,000 people since our first Homeless Connect in 2006.

When Council needs to resume or purchase properties for future infrastructure works, we make these houses available as temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness through our Community Housing Partnership program, which has helped more than 1,500 since its launch. Just recently, we took the lead to establish an interagency working group together with the Queensland Police Service, Department of Housing and Public Works and Queensland Health, which has successfully helped numerous vulnerable residents out of homelessness and into accommodation. Thank goodness we now have a new government at 1 William Street that is truly committed to delivering—

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, your time has expired.

 Further questions?

 Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 4**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR, in 2011, the public pontoon at the Taylor Bridge park in Chelmer was severely damaged, and then Council refused to replace it. After the 2022 floods, the public pontoon at Paragon Street Park in Yeronga was severely damaged, and Council refused to replace it. Now, after the 2025 floods, again in my ward, the public pontoon at Graceville Riverside Parklands has been catastrophically damaged and is closed, meaning Sailability cannot deliver their essential services to provide disabled people with inclusive sailing and recreational opportunities. Will you promise today to urgently fix the public pontoon so that it can be reopened for use by Sailability, the Pamphlett Sea Scouts, and members of the public, and provide a public timeframe for its repair?

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Any repairs are subject to negotiation, discussion and funding support from other levels of government, just as they always have been. We’ll obviously go through that process, just like we have in the past. Ultimately, if we get the funding support to do the rebuilds, well, we’d love to be able to do those rebuilds. Ultimately, Council doesn’t have an unlimited bucket of money. Last flood, the budget of Council was out of pocket by $330 million and that is something that had a significant impact financially, $330 million of things that couldn’t be done as a result of a natural disaster. That was a significant impact that the ratepayers had to wear, and we obviously worked hard to keep down those costs for ratepayers, but the more funding and support we get from other levels of government, the more we can do when it comes to repair and recovery. Also—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We also know—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you asked a question—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you are on a warning now. Do not speak while the other Councillor is having the floor.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, we’re happy to have a look at any project that needs to be done and negotiate with the other levels of government seek funding to support the rebuilding process, but this is a joint responsibility between all 3 levels of government, as it always has been. So, Councillor JOHNSTON repeatedly puts out information that can be misleading and is not verified. We’ve seen it again and again and again, claims that she makes which then, when you actually have a look at the reality, it’s a completely different situation. We heard that earlier in the meeting, in the last meeting when she was accusing LNP Councillors of getting priority access to information with the opening of the Riverlife evacuation centre. Well, do you know why Councillor HUTTON knew about that first? Because she organised it. She organised it. It was not a Council evacuation centre—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —it was a community evacuation centre.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —and she organised it.

Deputy Chair: Excuse me, LORD MAYOR.

 Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

 LORD MAYOR?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Yes, Councillor JOHNSTON, your misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, the LORD MAYOR has made deliberately false comments about my statements earlier today. He actually announced the opening of 2 Council-led evacuation centres and only told the LNP Councillors. Councillor Sarah HUTTON published that information on her Facebook page, and that information was not available through the LDCC (Local Disaster Coordination Centre) or publicly otherwise. So, Council evacuation centres were provided only to the LNP Councillors and not to other Councillors.

Deputy Chair: Any further questions?

 Councillor TOOMEY.

**Question 5**

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

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you. Councillor WINES, we’re delivering on our commitment to keep Brisbane moving. Can you please update the Chamber on the latest initiatives this Council is rolling out to unblocking congestions on our suburban roads?

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Mr Chair. Can I thank Councillor TOOMEY for his question and his keen and ongoing interest? As many Councillors should recall, there’s a program in The Gap Ward right now that is our Brisbane Clearway Action Plan. It is part of our ongoing commitment to keeping this city moving. We have to tackle congestion in a range of ways, and sometimes one of those ways we can do that is by taking the existing roadway and adjusting the signs and lines to make it more efficient and more safe in its operation. We have begun a review process across the city, with Musgrave Road and Waterworks Road being the first of this program, the Brisbane Clearway Action Plan.

As we know, congestion doesn’t just impact on motorists but impacts public transport users. In particular, Councillor TOOMEY has a very popular bus service that interacts through Waterworks Road, and opportunities to get that more reliable and more consistent would also improve its appeal and make that corridor work even better. The initiative is about making real and measurable improvements to how people move across our city by ensuring that our road network is being used efficiently during the times it’s needed most. Right now, as I say, the corridor under consideration, Red Hill to The Gap, there is a 6-week community consultation open. We’re engaging with road users, residents and businesses along the corridor. It is a principal corridor for many people and it carries nearly 130,000 vehicles on a weekday and 39,000 vehicles over the weekend.

We are considering—it is an amazing piece of transport infrastructure. That’s a massive volume and we need to ensure the road is operating as efficiently as possible. One consideration we are also taking as we work with this is that we are finding that increasingly, traffic doesn’t necessarily flow toward and back from the city on weekends, and congestion changes its direction and its timeframe on weekends. That’s also part of this study, to work out what is the best way to keep Ashgrove and The Gap and Red Hill moving on all 7 days. The current clearway times were set more than 15 years ago. However, Brisbane’s population has increased, and demand for this and all corridors has grown.

This review will consider extending weekday clearway times and introducing clearway times on the weekends. Extending the clearway operating times would open additional traffic lanes for use when that clearway is active. Once the feedback is collected and reviewed, we hope to implement later this year. The example project where we tested out whether this concept would work was in the very nearby Kelvin Grove Road-Enoggera Road corridor. This is where we did—I suppose we’d call it a trial or a pilot, to see if the mere adjusting of signs and time zones in that corridor, by extending them a mere one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening, delivered travel time savings of almost 6,500 travel hours per year. That’s thousands of hours saved for commuters who would be on their ordinary commute to and from work.

This benefit was gathered simply by ensuring that the road space was used efficiently at the times when people sought to use it. We know that Sydney’s Clearways Strategy and similar changes in that jurisdiction led to travel time reductions from up to 46% on weekdays and 40% on weekends. We know that using our existing assets is a much more cost-effective way of reaching our goals, not just in one particular intersection or one particular corridor, but right across the city. That’s why, once we complete the Musgrave Road-Waterworks Road corridor, we will then consider Bowen Bridge Road, Lutwyche Road, Abbotsford Road, Wynnum Road, Vulture Street, Wellington Road, Moggill Road, Webster Road, Wickham Terrace, Leichhardt Street, St Pauls Terrace and Klumpp Road as part of our ongoing program to ensure that we get the best use of our existing road asset.

One interesting feature that we find with road use management and why you will find some of these roads will be near each other in the order they’re presented is that when efficiencies are gained in a road network, it actually draws other motorists to it. So, we want the benefit to be balanced and not see one corridor, the efficient corridor, carry vastly more than a nearby corridor that hasn’t had this treatment, so we’ll be doing these in an order that ensures the most benefit to most people.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, your time has expired.

 Further questions?

 Councillor CHONG WAH.

**Question 6**

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. Many Brisbane residents and body corporates in Flood Planning Areas 1 and 2 are either finding it impossible to get insurance cover for flooding or the insurance premiums are so high as to be unaffordable. It is actually legal requirement for body corporates to obtain insurance for the common property. This means body corporates may also be forced to pay extremely high premiums, which adds even more financial pressure to our residents who have been encouraged to build, buy and live in high‑risk flood zones. My question is, what will this LNP Council Administration do to ensure Brisbane residents can afford flood insurance or even have the option to obtain flood insurance?

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, in terms of insurance, I’m not sure why the Councillor is asking me about insurance. That is certainly a matter beyond the Council remit, and insurance is something that there is a market for, there are multiple providers for, and people should absolutely, as they do, shop around for the best insurance options. Not all insurance options are the same, and we know from experience that where one insurer is extremely expensive or refuses to insure a particular location, there are often other insurers that will provide options, but fundamentally, what we’re talking about here is buildings that should have been designed with flood resilience in mind.

So, if the building has been designed according to our requirements—particularly, the newer the building, the better those requirements will be—then the costs associated with flood events will be dramatically reduced because those building requirements ensure that if there is flood inundation in certain areas, first of all, that that doesn’t go into habitable areas of new buildings. We’ve seen plenty of examples of where maybe a basement area or a downstairs area is inundated, but not people’s habitable areas, and that’s because buildings are being built in a much more resilient way.

So, if the building has been designed according to the modern standards, then this will not be the devastating kind of cost for insurance that you’re suggesting, Councillor CHONG WAH, because the costs of recovery should be dramatically reduced if it is designed the right way. That will allow buildings and body corporates to be able to bounce back quicker and to recover quicker because of those resilient standards. We’ve seen examples of this all around Brisbane, where buildings and homes that have been built in a resilient way, yes, they may still experience some flooding, but the clean-up and the cost is dramatically reduced. So, our focus has been on making sure that building standards are constantly updated to make sure that those buildings are resilient and people in those newer buildings are certainly not getting flooded into their habitable areas.

As I said, it might be some basement areas that might experience some inundation, but also there are ways to make those recoveries faster and less costly if they’re designed according to our recommendations and standards.

Deputy Chair: Any further questions?

 Councillor WOLFF.

**Question 7**

Councillor WOLFF: Thank you very much, Deputy Chair, and my question is to the Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, Councillor ALLAN.

 Councillor ALLAN, the Schrinner Council is making Brisbane’s lifestyle even better by supporting our vibrant local business community. Can you please update the Chamber on how our Better Access, More Customers strategy will help businesses across our city to thrive?

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair, and thank you to Councillor WOLFF for the question. As a Council dedicated to supporting access and inclusion, we are acutely aware of the struggles that those with disabilities can face, particularly when it comes to enjoying the services and products of our businesses. Whether these are physical disabilities affecting mobility or disabilities that affect speech, communication, hearing, sight or learning, there is a large segment of the community that can be left behind when it comes to enjoying the offerings of our businesses. About 18% of Australians live with a disability of some kind and 16% of the population consists of those aged 65 years and over.

Now, we know that many businesses want to improve access to their products and services for precisely these people but are unsure where to start. This is what the Better Access, More Customers guide is intended to address. Some of the following questions will be answered via this guide. How can businesses become more accessible and inclusive, so that people of any age, background or ability can enjoy what they are providing? How can businesses ensure that their products and services are reaching as many people as possible? Where do businesses start when it comes to accommodating for those with different kinds of disabilities?

Having been developed with the help of Spinal Life Australia, a more than 60‑year‑old organisation that’s dedicated its efforts to supporting those with disabilities, the guide highlights simple, achievable and no or low-cost ways for businesses to enhance access to products or services. It covers matters like creating a barrier-free environment, so this ensures items are in reach of people with, say, disabilities or in wheelchairs, adapting the customer experience—so this means having clear language and visuals, so that people can see what’s available—updating a digital presence and training and supporting staff so that they are aware of people with disabilities. These all help provide more customers with the best experience possible.

It’s important to note that the guide does not function as a regulatory burden on businesses. It’s not a mandatory measure, it’s not about red tape and it’s not about additional compliance requirements. It’s about creating a win-win for both the broader community and businesses. While the broader community benefits from greater access and experiences, the businesses benefit from—and as the name suggests—more customers. This is because an estimated 5 million Australian seniors and others with a disability, have a collective disposable income of more than $40 billion, but cannot access products and services due to poor design.

Helping our businesses tap into additional market can boost their success, and the practical examples and cases that the guide offers include something like this one here, where a local bar called Beyond the Pale puts it, “we have continued to improve our revenue with lower tables and more circulation space to enable people with mobility devices to have more enjoyable visits.” As I said, a win-win for everybody.

Mr Deputy Chair, the Better Access, More Customers guide adds to the long list of resources that the Schrinner Council offers to support our valued businesses, building on the Precinct Playbook that helps promote, support, refresh and activate businesses and local precincts. As the most small-business-friendly Council in Australia, we will always ensure that our businesses have the tools and resources necessary to not only survive, but to thrive. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Further questions?

 Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 8**

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

 LORD MAYOR, in the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, many residents across Brisbane missed a weekly bin collection. For 15,000 people, they never came a second time. Tens of thousands of people also missed out on a recycling or green bin collection, as well. Will you commit to providing a rates rebate to residents who didn’t get a service that they paid for?

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Wowie, that’s a fascinating question from someone who wanted to cut the red-top bin collection from weekly to fortnightly as part of his failed FOGO (food organics and garden organics) proposal. This is exactly what they were talking about. A fortnightly red-top bin collection was their plan. How do you think that would go down with the residents of Brisbane after recent experiences? It was a toxic plan.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It was a rubbish plan—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order. I would ask the LORD MAYOR to come back to the question, which was will he pay a rebate to residents who didn’t get their bin collected, and save us from the Trumpian speech he’s doing?

Deputy Chair: The LORD MAYOR has 5 minutes to answer.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: What a tremendous comment there, tremendous comment from Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, nice try. So, what we saw going into the election was Labor proposing to cut—the only way they could possibly fund their ridiculous FOGO proposal—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —was to cut the red-top bin from weekly to fortnightly.

Deputy Chair: Sorry. Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

 Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Do you think this is relevant to a question about a rebate for a Council service, the last election? Do you think this is relevant, Chair?

Deputy Chair: The LORD MAYOR has 5 minutes to answer.

Councillor CASSIDY: Chair, do you think this is relevant?

Deputy Chair: The LORD MAYOR has 5 minutes to answer.

Councillor CASSIDY: Chair—

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: —do you think this is relevant?

Deputy Chair: I already answered that, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: No, you didn’t.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: I’m chairing the—

Councillor CASSIDY: Do you think this is relevant, the LORD MAYOR talking about the last Council election?

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, the LORD MAYOR has 5 minutes to answer.

Councillor CASSIDY: Tens of thousands of people—

Deputy Chair: Please sit down.

Councillor CASSIDY: So, you think this is relevant?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You’re a walking—

Deputy Chair: I believe the LORD MAYOR is providing the answer in his 5 minutes and it is relevant.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: We know something that is definitely not relevant, Mr Chair, and that is the Leader of the Opposition. No relevance whatsoever, but in terms of—he was asking a question about bin collections. It’s absolutely relevant to talk about his record and what he proposed and what his team tried to do to cut the weekly red-top bin to fortnightly. We know how that would have been received by residents. We know it would have been a disaster, but in relation to a rebate, the reality is this. Council and its contractor did everything possible in a natural disaster situation to collect as many bins as possible and to keep the community and the drivers safe. So, if people think that that was unreasonable and they’re asking for a rebate, well, the rebate of collection, Councillor HUTTON, what would that amount to?

Councillor HUTTON: Ninety-one cents, Chair.

LORD MAYOR: Ninety-one cents. Ninety-one cents. So, we won’t be providing a 91 cents rebate for a missed collection. We won’t be doing that, but what we will be doing is making sure that we support the recovery of the city and that we continue to deliver the services that people would expect, but in a natural disaster situation, of course there are going to be disruptions, of course. We apologise that there were disruptions. Those disruptions were caused by a natural disaster situation which included concerns about the safety of the drivers, recommendations from State authorities, also flooded roads outside waste collection depots, flooded roads across the city which prevented us from collecting bins in certain locations. If any reasonable person looks at this situation, they would understand that our waste collection drivers did their best in challenging circumstances and they’re continuing to do their best to catch up. We appreciate them for the work that they’ve done.

Yes, it is disappointing that there were missed bin collections, but in a situation like this, I think it’s understandable, and knowing what we know about the impacts right across the city with various waste collection depots and closed roads, I actually think they did a fantastic job of delivering as many services as possible and then, afterwards, catching up with as many of those missed collections as possible. That included working on the Sunday, the day that we received the most rain in 50 years in a single day. They were out there, collecting bins. I know that not everyone was happy with that situation, but I think our drivers and the team in Council did a fantastic job despite the circumstances. No, we won’t be providing a 91 cents rebate.

Deputy Chair: That ends Question Time.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 3 March 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 3 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Before I move to the item, I just wanted to draw attention to 2 of the questions that were asked and the way in which those questions were framed, and the misleading and deceptive way that those questions were framed, and actually provide accurate information in response. First of all, Councillor JOHNSTON, the way that her question was framed about pontoons, there were a couple of examples mentioned. First was Paragon Street, and then the Taylor Bridge Reserve, saying that these pontoons weren’t replaced and saying it was outrageous.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Repeating that claim, okay. Paragon Street, the pontoon there actually had no public access. There was no way to get to the pontoon. Are we going to replace a pontoon with no public access? Would that be a good use of taxpayer or ratepayer money? No public access.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, stop calling out.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: The truth comes out, and time and time again—

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR, sorry.

 Councillors.

 Councillor JOHNSTON, stop calling out.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillors, the LORD MAYOR has the floor.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Yes, point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: You just named Councillor JOHNSTON for calling out, and fair enough, but you didn’t name Councillor MURPHY for calling out at Councillor JOHNSTON that she was being like Trump now, and you heard it. You smirked.

Deputy Chair: There was too much audible noise on the floor.

Councillor CASSIDY: You should pull him up for inappropriate behaviour during the meeting.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair. I’m happy to be reprimanded or ordered out of the Chamber or go home tonight. I’m happy to take—

Deputy Chair: That is not point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: No? Are you sure?

Deputy Chair: I don’t upload your point of order.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, the truth comes out. Let’s go back. Councillor JOHNSTON claimed that it was somehow outrageous that this pontoon hadn’t been replaced, suggesting that there was a disadvantage to the community. The way in which she asked the question, you would indicate that this was a critical public asset that had a lot of use and needed to be replaced. The devil is always in the detail when Councillor JOHNSTON speaks in this place. The pontoon in Paragon Street in Yeronga was landlocked and only accessible to a unit complex that has direct access to the river, a gated complex with no public access.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, this is what happened. Councillor JOHNSTON is outraged that we didn’t spend taxpayer money to benefit a single unit complex. So, that’s number one.

Number 2, the Taylor Reserve pontoon. The Taylor Reserve pontoon was connected to the Taylor Reserve. In fact, much of the Taylor Reserve was washed into the river in the flood and no longer exists. There was actually no land to connect the pontoon. So, once again, the devil is in the detail. There was nothing to connect it to.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So,once again—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: —you look at the detail, you look at the reality, and it is highly misleading, highly misleading. The questions, the claims that Councillor JOHNSTON made are highly misleading. You can’t connect a pontoon to land that doesn’t exist anymore.

Now, I move to Councillor GRIFFITHS. Councillor GRIFFITHS has continued to pursue this idea that somehow removing silt will improve flooding.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: He just said ‘yes’, okay. Well, the work has, sorry to say, Councillor GRIFFITHS, never been about flood mitigation. It never was. The only person that’s claimed that is you. The only person that has given that impression is you, Councillor GRIFFITHS. The project involved the proposed removal of 300 to 350 tonnes of material. Now, that sounds like a lot, doesn’t it? Well, this equates to approximately 150 to 200 cubic metres of material, so translating tonnes into cubic metres, and this is 150 to 200 cubic metres in a waterway with millions of cubic metres of waterway storage and capacity, millions. So, do you think—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —150 to 200 cubic metres—

Deputy Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

 Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Just to help the LORD MAYOR with that figure, it’s 33 garbage trucks full of silt, 33 garbage trucks full of silt.

LORD MAYOR: The hydrologists who have looked at this have said it is not materially significant and will not reduce flooding. So, he continues to give residents the false hope that this is somehow a silver-bullet project that will make flooding go away. It is really quite irresponsible to make such claims and to give people those impressions. What the work is for is to remove weeds, to remove weed trees in particular, to replace them with native trees and shrubs, and this is for erosion protection. This is effectively creek rehabilitation, removal of weeds, sediment and stabilising the creek banks. That’s what it’s for. It’s not a flood-mitigation project and never has been, yet we continue to see these claims being made by Councillor GRIFFITHS. So, there we go, 2 pals in the Council, same approach, misleading residents, twisting the facts around to mean something else entirely, but when the truth is revealed, the devil is in the detail.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Claim to be misrepresented by the LORD MAYOR.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: It is really quite disappointing. It’s a disappointing approach, but in the end, they always get found out, Mr Chair. They always get found out. So, keep asking those deceptive and misleading questions, and we’ll keep giving you the facts and the answers. In this case, 2 examples just in a short period of time from each other by 2 collaborators, 2 pals. I see Councillor JOHNSTON has taken on a new role as the honorary legal adviser to the Green activists, directing traffic there and, do this. She knows a few things about getting removed by the police. So, it’s extraordinary that Councillor JOHNSTON is so shameless in supporting the Green activists—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —who are trying to disrupt a meeting of Council.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – SUSPENSION OF STANDING RULES**

**456/2024-25**

Councillor Jared CASSIDY moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy COLLIER, that the Standing Rules be suspended.

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

NOES: 19 - 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, 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.

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION – SUSPENSION OF STANDING RULES**

**457/2024-25**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Seal CHONG WAH, that the Standing Rules be suspended.

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

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

The voting was as follows:

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

NOES: 19 - 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, 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.

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, in relation to the question about missed bins and what the rebate would be if people were given a rebate for a missed collection, and we heard from Councillor HUTTON it was approximately 91 cents—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well, I think she would know more than you, Councillor CASSIDY. It’s funny because there’s this view that, oh, I paid $554 on my latest rates bill, I want the whole thing back because one time I didn’t get my bin collected. A ludicrous claim, but we did ask, actually, for interest’s sake, what would it cost to give people a 91 cents rebate? Processing costs of $15 per account would be there, and that’s what it would cost to process a rebate for the people who missed the bin—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —plus the stamp as well, yes, plus the stamp. This is the kind of financial mismanagement we would see from the Labor Party if they were in office, giving people a 91 cents rebate and paying $15 to actually give the 91 cents rebate, plus the stamp, plus the stamp, as well. So, it’s a ludicrous suggestion. Anyone in this Chamber to suggest such a ridiculous thing has no understanding whatsoever about either waste collection or budget management, and that is sadly not surprising.

Item A is the Stores Board submission for the significant contracting plan for maintenance services for bus air conditioning systems. This is one that, if Labor were in office, wouldn’t exist because we remember that, under Labor, buses didn’t have air conditioning, but instead they caught fire on a regular basis. We saw right across the city in the past, under Labor’s stewardship, no air conditioning in the majority of buses, very poor investment in the fleet, continued underinvestment where each budget, they would promise to buy a certain number of new buses, and then they would fail to actually deliver on those buses. Many of those buses ended up being in such poor condition that they caught fire on the road and people had to be evacuated.

I remember in my very first campaign running for Council, there was a flyer that I’ll never forget. It had a photo of Campbell Newman and I on the front, and we talked about some of the things that we were going to do if we were elected. One of them was buses that don’t catch fire. We’re going to deliver buses that don’t catch fire, and at the time, that was a thing. So, fast forward—

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**458/2024-25**

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

Deputy Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. So, fast forward to today where we’ve got a fleet that is not only fully air-conditioned, but also fully disability accessible and accessible to people with prams, as well, and other devices. We’ve come a long way. So, this obviously is just about the ongoing maintenance of air conditioning systems on our buses, and being in a subtropical climate, obviously that’s an important thing. This contract helps Council take a proactive maintenance approach. It enables us to reduce the risk of unexpected vehicle issues and any potential fleet disruptions that that may cause, and also, of course, helps us to reduce our overall costs and ensures that our buses are ready to service customers. By taking a preventative maintenance approach, we can improve the overall reliability of our bus fleet, extend the operational lifespan of vehicles, and obviously create a more comfortable environment for both the passengers and the driver, as well. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

 Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on these items before us today and follow along from the LORD MAYOR’s entirely unserious, childish, and mean-spirited contribution that we’ve heard during this part of the day, in this E&C of the day. LORD MAYOR’s calculations, of course, Deputy Chair, are entirely wrong about the cost to ratepayers for services not delivered. It is in fact $8.90 for the waste utility charge. Councillor HUTTON is wrong. I’m not talking about the green bins. I know you are, but the waste utility charge is $463.44 a year. Divided by 52 weeks that general waste bins are collected, that’s $8.90.

We know there were 15,000 people that, not only did they not get their scheduled general waste collection, but they also didn’t get a catch-up service, either. We know those people missed out on either a recycling service or a green waste. So, if you pay on your rates, say an extra $5 accidentally, your finger slips when you’re paying on BPAY, that appears as a credit on the next rates bill. So, all we’re asking for is $8.90 plus the 91 cents or whatever that Councillor HUTTON—as a credit on the next bill. Now, Council knows exactly where these people are located that missed those services because contractors record all of that data.

So, the LORD MAYOR is wrong again, entirely disingenuous, and these people have paid for a service. They are not getting that service. I suspect that’s not legal. I mean, the competition rules in which Council operates under dictate that if you pay for a service, you need to get that service. I guess maybe residents need to take it up with the ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) or something like that, because the LORD MAYOR has not made a serious attempt to compensate people for services not delivered. Contractors made a very serious attempt to get to as many bins as they possibly could, and I commend them for it. I appreciate Councillor HUTTON’s communication over the last week about that. I genuinely appreciate that, the open dialogue we had. What I’m saying is there are still people, after all that hard work, that missed out on those services and they deserve to have that rebated.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: Is this about the bus aircon still?

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, can you come back to the report?

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, I just—

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Deputy Chair. The LORD MAYOR in one breath just a minute ago claimed that no buses were air-conditioned when Labor, Jim Soorley was Lord Mayor, and then in the next breath said that there were buses that were air‑conditioned, made some other claims, claims to sort of suggest if someone was listening along, would think that every single bus was exploding on the streets of Brisbane. What did explode through the 1990s and early 2000s was patronage on Council’s buses. In the year 2000, there were 152 million passengers conveyed on Council’s buses and ferries and CityCats, as well.

What’s Councillor SCHRINNER’s envious record on public transport patronage over the last couple of years? Was it 70 million? Maybe ticking over 80, maybe now just ticking over 80 million passengers on Council’s bus network, and largely that increased thanks to 50 cents fares that have been introduced, as well. So, the LORD MAYOR is very selective with his history when it comes to bus services in Brisbane. Not only was it a higher per capita population catching buses in Brisbane back in the 1990s and early 2000s, the raw numbers were much greater, which is why we weren’t such a congested city. On Councillor SCHRINNER’s watch now, Brisbane is the most congested city in Australia and one of the most congested cities in the world. That wasn’t the case in the 1990s, was it, LORD MAYOR—through you, Deputy Chair? No, but he won’t talk about that. So, we will be supporting—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please continue.

Councillor CASSIDY: I didn’t quite catch his mumbling.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Mr Deputy Chair, the LORD MAYOR just stood up, interjected on the record, and you’ve taken no action against him for interrupting the meeting. Why have you taken no action against him for interjecting in the middle of Councillor CASSIDY’s speech?

Deputy Chair: Yes, well, LORD MAYOR, that was not a point of order.

 Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Deputy Chair. We will be supporting the item at item A, because we, on this side of the Chamber, have a great track record in supporting public transport, not only through delivering 150 million services when in administration, but also delivering 50 cent fares.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, maybe they had a few at dinner. On Clause B, Deputy Chair—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You’re acting like it, yes. You’re acting like it. You’re acting like a bunch of drunks, yes.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX, please do not call out.

Councillor CASSIDY: You are. If anyone watches this, they will understand that. The puerile behaviour that’s going on that side of the Chamber during this meeting tonight, this section of the Council meeting, is really quite disgusting and disturbing.

On Clause B, Chair, the temporary changes to Council’s Standing Committee membership, refers to Councillor COLLIER’s impending leave as she welcomes her second child into the world. The changes before us detail that I’ll step into her shoes on the Finance and City Governance Committee from 26 March. There’s no temporary appointment required for the Transport Committee.

I’d like to just take this opportunity to shine a spotlight on the wonderful Deputy Leader and my friend, Councillor COLLIER, for not only all she does in her community, in Council, and more broadly. Councillor COLLIER is an energetic and passionate advocate for her community and all of Brisbane on a vast range of issues. We’ve recently seen her advocate for local park upgrades, ferry services, community safety and traffic upgrades, as well as meet with organisations just this week surrounding homelessness, and even fill sandbags in her third trimester, as well. She is certainly a powerhouse, but on top of all that, Councillor COLLIER is a great mum and does an incredible job balancing the work, community, and family needs.

Now, she’s obviously going to be taking a well-deserved break to focus on her growing family, and we couldn’t be happier for her, her husband, Matt, and their daughter, Maisy, as they welcome their newest family member very soon. We wish her all the best for this new and exciting chapter and look forward to continuing to work alongside her for the rest of 2025 and beyond but enjoy the short break.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

 Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I just rise to speak briefly on item B. I echo Councillor CASSIDY’s comments about Councillor COLLIER’s contribution to the Chamber, her family, her community, and all of those things. I wish her very well with the birth of her second child. I’m sure it’s going to be exciting and wonderful. I do want to put on the record my concern about one thing, however, that the changes to these Committees that have been made have not been made in consultation with me, and I presume—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: That was Councillor HOWARD, in case anybody’s wondering, cackling. Again, I don’t know why. Perhaps, Councillor CASSIDY, you hit the nail on the head about what they were doing in the dinner break, but I just want to say that I’m happy that Councillor COLLIER is being replaced. I’m wondering why, though, there’s been no replacement on the Transport Committee. If it is because the Labor Councillors are fully committed, then perhaps somebody else should have been given the opportunity to do that. So, all I’m just saying is that some transparency around the arrangements would have been useful. It’s not a criticism of the arrangements being made for Councillor COLLIER, who I fully support. She deserves to take time with her new baby and her family, but there should be some transparency around this, and we can all fill in and help if necessary.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

 Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, and I just want to make some brief remarks on item B. When I was reflecting on what I might say tonight, I think it’s important to note that last weekend, amongst a few other things going on, it was actually International Women’s Day. At the moment, for me, it does feel like things for women in politics feel like they’re getting harder, not easier, certainly. I’m standing here today making these remarks at 35 weeks pregnant. I am really, genuinely appreciative of the opportunity to have someone to do the important work on the Finance Committee in my stead, and I thank Councillor CASSIDY for taking up that opportunity. I know he’ll do a really good job.

There have been some gains, I think, to support women in politics, but there is a heck of a way to go. Technically, there is no maternity leave for female politicians or politicians wanting to take parental leave to be with their family. We operate in this system—you know, we heard earlier about 100 years of Brisbane City Council. This is a system that was designed by men for men. You know, I’m pretty sure, I think it was 1949, the first female Councillor was elected in the Brisbane City Council. That’s 24 years after the establishment of Brisbane City Council, and the books before us today, the first Council meeting 100 years ago, was all men. There isn’t even—and we reflect towards today. There wasn’t even a change table for people who are changing their babies in this place, for the working political mums, until 2021. That’s not that long ago. The LNP Council, of course, changed the rules to make these meetings ‘family friendly’.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: Yes, what is the time?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor COLLIER: It’s 9.48 at night that we’re standing here, and I note that I’m not the only working mum, I’m certainly not the only woman in this place, but we are all not with our families. We had these changes pushed upon us because this was going to make this place more family—

Councillor ADAMS: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order.

Councillor ADAMS: Would Councillor COLLIER take a question?

Councillor COLLIER: Absolutely not.

Councillor ADAMS: I wonder who asked for the changes, who pushed it?

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

 Councillor COLLIER, please continue.

Councillor COLLIER: I don’t know what Councillor ADAMS mumbled or shouted across the Chamber at me, but when I do talk about things getting harder in politics, yes, the contribution of Councillor ADAMS, certainly towards me in this place, yes, that’s not been very nice at all. I genuinely hope—

Councillor ADAMS: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor ADAMS.

Councillor ADAMS: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: Noted.

Councillor ADAMS: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: I’m sorry, Councillor ADAMS, you haven’t spoken in this meeting yet, so you can’t do that.

 Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Genuinely, I do hope that for every woman that comes after me that things do get a little easier, and certainly, having a child is a transformative time of your life. It certainly is incredibly daunting even the second time around, definitely the first time around. I do just want to pay tribute to every single Councillor for Morningside Ward. Since the ward was created, every single Councillor for Morningside Ward has been a woman. Every single Councillor for Morningside Ward has either had small children—the first Councillor for Morningside Ward, Councillor Sharon Humphreys, her child was 6 months old when she started. Her follow-on was Councillor Shayne Sutton, who had 2 children in office, one of which when she was the Leader of the Opposition.

I do just want to pay tribute to former Councillor Sutton. Sarah was born—this is how the story goes, but apparently Sarah, her first daughter, was born hours after a heated Council debate, and I have got to say, I think Sarah will be my boss one day. She’s an incredible young woman who has so much to go in her life. Then, of course, Riley, Councillor Sutton’s second child, was born on the side of the road, which was quite an event. Councillor Kara Cook, of course, had 2 very young children when she started and welcomed her son in 2021. These are trailblazing women in the Council, and there’s so much more to do.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate? No further debate.

 LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Thank you for those that contributed to the debate on both of those items. I, on behalf of all of us, want to wish Councillor COLLIER all the best for the next chapter. I do just have one point to make, Councillor COLLIER was saying it’s pretty hard for women. It’s no wonder when you get the Leader of the Opposition saying that Councillor COLLIER is about to go on a break and have a nice break. It’s not a break. It is not a break, and so that says it all. That says it all. The idea that the Leader of the Opposition thinks it’s a break to go and have a baby, that says it all about why it’s hard for women on that side of the Chamber. We heard all kinds of opinions—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We heard all kinds of opinions from Councillor COLLIER, but she didn’t call out her own colleague who said she was going on a break. We wish you all the best, Councillor COLLIER. We know it’s not a break. We know that it is a challenging time, but also a rewarding time, and we absolutely, genuinely wish you the best, and we look forward to seeing you again and, certainly, we’re more than happy to put forward these changes as discussed with yourself and the Leader of the Opposition.

Deputy Chair: Now I put the E&C report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A STORES BOARD SUBMISSION – SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTING PLAN FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR BUS AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

 **165/830/179/1024**

**459/2024-25**

1. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

2. The Chief Executive Officer and the Stores Board considered the submission, as set out in Attachment A (submitted on file), on 17 February 2025.

3. The submission is recommended to Council as it is considered the most advantageous outcome for the provision of the required goods/services.

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

Purpose

5. That the Stores Board recommends approval of the procurement strategy for:

Contract title: Maintenance Services for Bus Air Conditioning Systems

Type of procurement: Establishing a Corporate Procurement Arrangement (CPA) in the form of a Panel Arrangement (PA)

Categories/portions: Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Providers

Singular Depot Servicing

Multiple Depots Servicing

Market engagement strategy: Seek offers publicly

Contract duration: An initial term of 3 years with options to extend for additional periods of up to 2 years, for a maximum term of 5 years.

Price basis: Fixed cost and/or labour and parts (to be determined during the tender negotiation process).

Background/business case

6.On 7 December 2020, the Chief Executive Officer (through the Stores Board) approved entering into a CPA for the preventative and reactive maintenance of bus air conditioning systems. The initial term of the contract was for 3 years with options to extend for additional periods of up to 2 years, for a maximum term of 5 years, which will expire on 31 October 2025. The current CPA is a PA with 3 suppliers: QTK Group Pty. Ltd. (QTK), Coachair Pty Ltd (Coachair), and Cannon and Chapman Pty. Ltd. trading as Mobile Air Conditioning Services (Mobile Air Conditioning Services).

7. Transport for Brisbane (TfB) delivers Council’s public transport bus service of more than 1,200 buses and 30 Metro vehicles. These vehicles are equipped with air conditioning systems provided by 5 different OEM brands: Thermo King, Carrier, Cooltek, Coachair and Spheros.

8. Council has an ongoing requirement for bus air conditioning maintenance, including the necessary tools, parts and consumables for repairing and servicing the air conditioning units in accordance with the OEM’s and Council’s specifications across all 8 bus depots.

9. The purpose of implementing a preventative maintenance services model is to minimise vehicle downtime and service interruptions caused by bus air conditioning system failures, thereby reducing overall costs.

10. One of the primary objectives of this procurement activity is to sustain TfB public transport service delivery by ensuring proactive maintenance measures are maintained to minimise the risk of asset failure and reduce unexpected breakdowns that can disrupt services. By adopting a preventative maintenance approach, the overall reliability of the bus fleet can be improved, which can extend the operational lifespan of the vehicles.

Policy and other considerations

11. Is there an existing arrangement for these goods/services/works?

Yes. CPA 511272 for Maintenance Services for Bus Air Conditioning Systems, which expires on 31 October 2025.

12. Could Council businesses provide the services/works?

No. TfB does not currently have the in-house capability to provide these services.

13. What policy, or other issues, should the delegate be aware of?

Nil

14. Does this procurement exercise need to be managed under the PM2 Governance and Assurance Framework?

No

15. Does the proposed contract involve leasing?

No

Market analysis

16. A desktop market review demonstrates that there is a number of companies offering maintenance services for bus air conditioning systems in the Brisbane area and South East Queensland region. The following companies have expressed interest in the Request for Proposal (RFP) and may submit offers:

* Mobile Air Conditioning Services (incumbent supplier)
* Coachair (incumbent supplier)
* QTK (incumbent supplier)
* TRS Transit
* Spheros Australia Pty Ltd.

The current incumbents and potential known tenders will be advised of the upcoming RFP.

Procurement strategy

17.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Procurement objective: | To procure the goods/services/works in a way which complies with the Sound Contracting Principles set out in section 103(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and provides the most advantageous outcome for Council.The achievement of the above procurement objective will be measured in the post-market submission.  |
| Title of contract: | Maintenance Services for Bus Air Conditioning Systems |
| Type of procurement: | Establishing a CPA in the form of a PA.  |
| Categories/portions: | Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) ProvidersSingular Depot Servicing Multiple Depots Servicing  |
| Process to be used: | RFP |
| Tendering standards to be used and any amendments: | Council’s corporate standards with no amendments. |
| Contract standard to be used including any amendments: | Good/services – high risk – panel arrangementsNo changes have been made to the standard. |
| Market engagement: | Offers are to be sought publicly via Council's supplier portal. |
| How tender documents are to be distributed: | Via Council’s supplier portal  |
| How tenders/proposals are to be lodged: | Via Council’s supplier portal  |
| Part offers: | Part offers may be considered for one or more depot locations and one or more equipment type.  |
| Contract duration: | An initial term of 3 years with options to extend for additional periods of up to 2 years, for a maximum term of 5 years. |
| Insurance requirements: | Public and Product Liability of $20 million and Workers Compensation Insurance as per legislated requirements. |
| Price basis: | Fixed cost and/or labour and parts (to be determined during the tender negotiation process). |
| Price adjustment: | To be established as a result of negotiations and advised in the post-market submission. |
| Liquidated damages: | No liquidated damages apply but Council’s right to claim general law damages is preserved.  |
| Security for the contract: | Not applicable |
| Defects liability/warranty period: | A minimum warranty period of 12 months will be sought on both repair work and parts.  |
| Other strategy elements: | Council will consider proposals with respect to nominated depot locations and OEM systems. Council may consider awarding multiple contracts for one or more depot locations and one or more air conditioning system type. |
| Alternative strategies considered: | An alternative strategy for achieving this objective would be to bring bus air conditioning servicing in-house. However, this approach would require a substantial financial investment and prolonged timeframe to complete the necessary start-up activities, including recruitment, training, accreditation and procurement of servicing equipment before the current expiry date. Therefore, it was determined that the strategy to tender via the open market for an initial term of 3 years with options to extend up to 5 years would be more suitable at the current stage. Relevant LocalBuy, Queensland Government Standing Offer Arrangements (SOAs) and whole-of-government arrangements were investigated. However, there are currently no LocalBuy, SOA’s or whole-of government arrangements that meet the requirements of this CPA.  |

Anticipated schedule

18. Pre-market approval: 11 March 2025

Date of release to market: 24 March 2025

Tender closing: 5 May 2025

Evaluation completion (including formalised contract offer(s)): 21 July 2025

Post-market approval: 18 August 2025

Contract commencement: 1 November 2025

Funding and budget considerations

19. Estimated expenditure:

Based on historical levels, estimated expenditure is anticipated to be in the order of $22.5 million over the potential maximum 5-year term.

20. Sufficient approved budget to meet the anticipated expenditure under this CPA?

Establishing the CPA will not commit Council to any purchases. Funding is only required when an appropriately delegated Council officer approves placing orders under the CPA, subject to approved funding availability.

21. Indicative program and supporting information:

Not applicable

22. Anticipated procurement benefits (if any):

To be established and reported in the post-market submission.

Procurement risk

23. Is this contract listed as a ‘critical contract’ requiring the contractor to have in place a Business Continuity Plan approved by Council?

No

24. Summary of key risks associated with this procurement:

| **Procurement risk** | **Risk rating** | **Risk mitigation strategy** | **Risk allocation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Price volatility  | Medium | The RFP shall request a fixed‑term price offer and price adjustments to be negotiated based on established indices (Consumer Price Index and Labour).  | Council |
| Poor quality tender responses received  | Medium | The RFP will ask specific questions to ensure adequate information and responses are provided and used in the assessment of tenders. Clarifications will be undertaken where necessary.  | Council |
| Service quality and/or poor performance  | Medium | Initial evaluations will review the capability, experience and quality certifications and systems of tenderers. Establishing a panel of suppliers will enhance competition and avoid supply issues during peak demand. TfB may periodically review the allocation of work and depots throughout the duration of the contract to optimise efficiency and service delivery. The performance of contractors will be monitored and measured using key performance indicators (KPIs) outlined in the contract. Regular quarterly contract review meetings will be held to ensure that performance is effectively managed and addressed.  | Contractor and Council |
| Limited suppliers  | Low | Market research indicates a concentrated but strong competitive market. An open market tender process will encourage suppliers to apply. Incumbent and potential suppliers will be contacted directly and encouraged to register via Council’s supplier portal.  | Council |
| Defective spare parts supplied to Council  | Low | Spare parts will be supplied under a negotiated warranty arrangement.  | Council |

Tender evaluation

25. Evaluation criteria:

1. Mandatory/essential criteria:
	* Has a valid ABN.
	* Has minimum insurances or has committed to obtaining such insurances.
2. Non-price weighted evaluation criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Weighted Evaluation Criteria** | **Weighting (%)** |
| Local benefit | 30 |
| Capacity to deliver and commercial  | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Track record and expertise  | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Value-added expertise and services | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Workplace health and safety, quality and environmental management and sustainability | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| Warranty, parts and customer satisfaction  | [Commercial-in-Confidence] |
| **Total:** | **100** |

1. Price model (to establish a comparative price):

Fixed cost and/or labour and parts (to be determined during the tender negotiation process).

26. Evaluation methodology:

1. Evaluation plan and shortlisting:

Council’s standard evaluation plan including the standard shortlisting methodology will be used.

1. Negotiations:

Council’s structured negotiation process is anticipated to be undertaken.

1. Value for Money (VFM):

Council’s standard VFM method. This is non-price score divided by price.

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

28. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Stores Board recommends approval of the procurement strategy for:

Title of contract: Maintenance Services for Bus Air Conditioning Systems.

Type of procurement: Establishing a Corporate Procurement Arrangement in the form of a Panel Arrangement.

Contract duration: An initial term of 3 years with options to extend for additional periods of up to 2 years, for a maximum term of 5 years.

Price basis: Fixed cost and/or labour and parts (to be determined during the tender negotiation process).

**ADOPTED**

#### B TEMPORARY CHANGES TO COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

 **137/520/148/83**

**460/2024-25**

29. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

30. By exchange of correspondence between the Lord Mayor, Councillor Adrian Schrinner, and Councillor Lucy Collier, Councillor for Morningside Ward, it is proposed to temporarily replace Councillor Collier’s membership on one of Council’s Standing Committees from the end of this session of Council.

31. Councillor Collier is currently a member of the Transport Committee and Finance and City Governance Committee.

32. It is proposed that Councillor Jared Cassidy, Leader of the Opposition and Councillor for Deagon Ward, be appointed to the Finance and City Governance Committee temporarily from 26 March 2025, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file).

33. No temporary appointment will be required for the Transport Committee.

34. A further submission will be prepared to reappoint Councillor Collier’s membership to Council’s Standing Committees at a date to be determined.

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

36. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEMPORARY CHANGES TO COUNCIL’S STANDING COMMITTEES**

As:

(i) Councillor Lucy Collier, Councillor for Morningside Ward, will temporarily be replaced on the Finance and City Governance Committee from 26 March 2025

(ii) Council has the power to alter the constitution of a committee by removing, adding or substituting members

then Council:

(i) pursuant to section 58(b) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, resolves, with temporary effect from 26 March 2025, alter the constitution of the Finance and City Governance Committee by substituting Councillor Lucy Collier with Councillor Jared Cassidy as a member as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee.

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Danita PARRY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY, any debate? No?

 Any further debate?

 I now put the report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Lucy Collier.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – NETWORK LEGIBILITY

**461/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Strategy and Network Services, Transport for Brisbane, and the Network Planning Manager, Strategy and Network Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of network legibility projects in Brisbane. They provided the information below.

2. Brisbane’s public transport network consists of multiple transport modes, each with unique operating characteristics, including:

- boarding procedures

- door operations

- timetable designs

- naming conventions for services and locations.

3. Translink have initiated a rail and transit legibility review forum consisting of various stakeholder groups, including Council’s Transport for Brisbane division and Queensland Rail, as well as several advocacy and industry groups. Members of the forum have explored ways to improve passenger legibility of Brisbane’s public transport system, including various upgrades to network maps and service timetables.

4. Translink’s previous network maps were primarily focussed on infrastructure rather than services, with information appearing inconsistent and cluttered. The Committee was shown network maps from other cities which were used to inform the design of Translink’s new network map. This map is now displayed at Central station, and includes:

 - information about Cross River Rail

 - service referencing

 - an improved appearance and legibility

 - a grayscale version.

5. The Committee was shown images of previous Metro service timetables, as well as the newly developed version with an improved layout and legibility.

6. A number of wayfinding signs across the network have been updated, including 15 sites across the Metro route and 90 sites across the bus network.

7. Various actions to improve network legibility in other cities have been observed, including:

 - usage of route numbering

- regular walk throughs and continuous improvements to signage

- implementation of static signage to cover service disruptions

- incorporation of user-centred designs

- collaboration with industry groups.

8. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the General Manager and the Network Planning Manager for their informative presentation.

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee.

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

 Any further debate? There is no further debate.

 I now put the report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE CLEARWAY ACTION PLAN – KEEPING BRISBANE MOVING

**462/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Brisbane Clearway Action Plan – Keeping Brisbane Moving initiative (the program). She provided the information below.

2. Clearways are restrictions on parking along kerbside lanes with the purpose of improving traffic flow by removing on-street parking during peak traffic hours. Brisbane’s clearways are informed by Austroads’ *Guide to Traffic Management Part 5: Link Management*,which provides guidance on when clearways are appropriate.

3. Some of Brisbane’s existing clearway corridors include:

- Waterworks Road and Musgrave Road from Red Hill to The Gap

- Lutwyche Road, Windsor

- Moggill Road from Toowong to Indooroopilly

- Kingsford Smith Drive and Breakfast Creek Road from Newstead to Eagle Farm

- Wynnum Road from Norman Park to Morningside

- Abbotsford Road and Sandgate Road from Bowen Hills to Clayfield

- Vulture Street from South Brisbane to Kangaroo Point

- Klumpp Road, Upper Mt Gravatt

- St Pauls Terrace and Markwell Street from Spring Hill to Bowen Hills

- Wickham Terrace and Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill

- Wellington Road, East Brisbane

- Milton Road in Petrie Terrace, Milton and Toowong

- Kelvin Grove Road and Enoggera Road in Kelvin Grove, Newmarket and Alderley.

4. The program aims to enhance the safety and capacity of some of Brisbane’s major transport corridors by reviewing clearway operating times. The program is of similar nature to the New South Wales Government’s *Sydney Clearways Strategy,* which reviewed more than 1,000 kilometres of roads and considered if a new or extended clearway could reduce congestion and delays. As a result, clearways were installed across 66 different segments of road with a length of approximately 743 kilometres, which led to a 46% reduction in weekday travel times.

5. Council undertook a clearway review of Kelvin Grove Road and Enoggera Road in 2022. This led to an additional hour being added to the clearway in both the morning and afternoon peak times, delivering total travel time savings of 6,500 hours per year.

6. In the 2024-25 financial year, Council aims to deliver the Waterworks Road and Musgrave Road clearway review. An extension of clearway times is proposed for the corridor between Countess Street, Red Hill, and Settlement Road, The Gap. Council is currently undertaking community engagement and will rely upon this feedback to inform its review of the clearway times.

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

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

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

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

 Any further debate? No further debate.

 I now put the report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Jared Cassidy.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BETTER ACCESS, MORE CUSTOMERS

**463/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Economic Development, 2032 Host City, Global Relations and Economic Partnerships, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the latest addition to Council’s Precinct Playbook (the playbook). He provided the information below.

2. The playbook forms part of Council’s Growing Precincts Together program and provides a framework to promote, support, refresh and activate businesses and local precincts. ‘Better Access, More Customers’ is the latest addition to the playbook, which focuses on accessibility and inclusivity.

3. Council received feedback indicating that various obstacles make it challenging for customers with disabilities, such as those that impact mobility, to access local businesses and their products and services, and that no specific resources were available for businesses to address this. Council is dedicated to supporting access and inclusion and helping businesses be prepared in the leadup to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Businesses, customers and the wider community all benefit from enhanced accessibility and inclusivity. These efforts also allow those with a disability to feel a greater sense of belonging.

4. Despite a collective disposable income of more than $40 billion, many products and services are inaccessible to approximately 5 million Australian seniors and people with a disability due to poor design. Data indicates that 19% of people with a disability aged from 15 to 64 experience social isolation, compared to 9.5% of people without a disability. Social inclusion can grow business audiences by 400% and increase revenue. Approximately one in 6 Australians (18%) live with a disability and more than half use aids or equipment to improve their independence and participation in the community. Similarly, people aged 65 years and over account for nearly 16% of the population and may also rely on these aids and equipment.

5. Council engaged Spinal Life Australia for research, content and case studies to inform ‘Better Access, More Customers’. By drawing upon the lived experience of people with disability, Council has been able to add depth and authenticity to this addition to the playbook. The Committee was shown first-hand accounts of these lived experiences and case studies.

6. Council’s top tips for businesses looking to enhance accessibility and inclusivity include:

- create barrier-free environments by removing obstacles and trip hazards, providing clear wayfinding and entrance signage and providing chairs at counters for customers who need to sit

- foster positive interactions by speaking directly to the person with disability, using clear language and respecting a person’s independence by asking permission before trying to assist them.

A printable checklist will be provided as part of ‘Better Access, More Customers’ which will provide a starting point for businesses looking to improve their accessibility and inclusivity.

7. The ‘Better Access, More Customers’ guide will be available on Council’s website shortly.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

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

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

 Any further debate? No further debate.

 I now put the Committee report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Steve Griffiths and Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS

**464/2024-25**

1. The General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on Red imported fire ants (fire ants). He provided the information below.

2. Fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta)* are an invasive pest originating from South America. They were first reported in South East Queensland in 2001 and have since been carefully tracked and monitored. Fire ants vary in size, ranging from 2 to 6 millimetres, with coppery-brown colourings and a darker abdomen. Their nests are often visible during cooler months and they can be recognised by their aggressive behaviour if disturbed.

3. Fire ants are a highly adaptive species who tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions, travelling under or above ground, through waterways and flying up to 5 kilometres. Fire ants may spread naturally or may be inadvertently spread by humans through the movement of machinery, agricultural products and in mulch, soil and turf. The Committee was shown maps detailing the spread of fire ants in Australia and the United States of America (USA).

4. Fire ants have devastating effects on the environment including:

 - predation of small animals and wildlife

 - altered plant distribution due to seed damage

 - the reduction of other insect populations and endangered species.

 The Committee was provided with a case study of fire ants attacking a plovers’ nest at Ashgrove.

5. The economic impact of fire ants are projected to be approximately $1.25 billion annually and include the potential to:

 - make land unsuitable for agriculture

 - reduce tourism and recreational values of land

 - prevent development with treatment delays of up to 3 months.

6. In the USA, approximately 14 million people are stung annually, with more than 100 reported deaths from anaphylactic shock and associated issues.

7. The National Fire Ant Eradication Program (the program) is jointly funded by the Australian Government and all State and Territory Governments. To date, more than $300 million has been invested in activities such as sharing resources including hoppers, blowers and other tools, public communications and the distribution of bait. The Queensland Government’s Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce focuses on equipping all levels of government, industry and communities with the skills, knowledge and equipment to self-manage fire ants on land they own or manage. Council will be provided with bait for 2 years with shaker bait to be allocated to officers from Council stores, and reactive and direct nest injection baits to be deployed by Mosquito and Pest Operations, Public Space Operations, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure.

8. Council is meeting its general biosecurity obligation (as outlined in the *Biosecurity Act 2014)* to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the biosecurity risk posed by fire ants by:

 - reporting fire ants

 - ensuring compliance with corporate rules for high-risk materials

 - ensuring protocols and permits are in place for activities involving high-risk materials

 - undertaking responsive treatments across Council land

- ensuring contracts, leases and procurement processes have provisions to manage fire ant risk, spread, mitigation and responses.

Biosecurity instrument permits are required for all activities involving high-risk materials.

9. The Queensland Government’s Department of Primary Industries provides Council with reports of fire ant activity on Council land. However, Council employees, residents and businesses in South East Queensland will be responsible for the identification, reporting and suppression treatment of fire ants. The safety of officers treating fire ants is ensured by personal protective equipment, first aid supplies and field‑based training on situational awareness, responding to bites and what to do in an emergency.

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

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUTTON, City Standards Committee.

Councillor Sarah HUTTON, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Chair, I just want to say how immensely proud I am of our City Standards Committee. The leadership team have done a phenomenal job over the past 2 weeks and I, too, want to say a huge thank you to each and every Council officer out there who’s dedicated their time and effort to not only protecting our city, but in the recovery efforts. Thank you so much.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

 Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I know many Councillors are packing up to go home late tonight, but I just wanted to take a moment to also thank the Council workers who have been working very hard patching up all the potholes throughout the weather period. In fact, when we logged a pothole on a program that we’ve locally started called Pothole Patrol—we’ve actively been driving around and literally logging coordinates in a notes app, and then sending that through to our office. Occasionally, residents will ask, why are you doing that? Isn’t there a faster way to do that? It’s because the biggest form of feedback I’ve got from 8 months of door knocking was residents asking me, why do we have to see all these potholes around and they’re not getting repaired quickly enough?

So, that’s why my officers have taken a very proactive approach. I also drive around. I literally get out of the car. I take a photo of the pothole. I also door knock the residents around there, as well. It was working very well because within 2 days, it was repaired quite quickly, as well. So, we love this progress. We hope that it’s kept up by this Brisbane City Council here.

While I have the LORD MAYOR here tonight, as well, I wanted to flag one of the petitions that we also moved just at the previous meeting, in relation to resurfacing and improving Benhiam and Ormskirk Streets. I would also love for him to consider Van Dieren Road at this next budget submission, as well. The problem that we have in Pallara is where I constantly hit a wall in relation to Van Dieren Road, because of the Pallara District Sports Park plans to upgrade there, but anytime we ask for anything, we’re told to look for further funding, which is subject to the LORD MAYOR, and so I’m not able to get any timelines for any kind of improvement.

Just to say, from speaking in General Business, I wanted to add that I was going to mention Pallara shopping centre that recently opened this last week, which was very exciting for local residents. Also, I did note that around 1 or 2 March, 15 days before the election, the LORD MAYOR was out in Pallara, mentioning the need for basic services in the area. In fact, he actually said, quote, unquote—

Deputy Chair: Councillor KIM, sorry—

Councillor KIM: —one of the key issues here is—

Deputy Chair: Councillor KIM—

Councillor KIM: —obviously local facilities, having access to local facilities—

Deputy Chair: Yes, Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: —whether that’s childcare or future retail facilities.

Deputy Chair: Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: People need these facilities in this part of Brisbane and there’s huge—

Deputy Chair: Councillors, please speak to the Committee report. It is not General Business.

 Any further debate? No further debate.

 Councillor HUTTON?

 I now put the Committee report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ROAD PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

**465/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Road Resurfacing, Asphalt and Aggregates (A&A), City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on road pavement maintenance. He provided the information below.

2. Roads are designed for use by motorised and non-motorised vehicles and provide safe and efficient transportation of goods and people. There are different classifications of roads depending on how it is used, such as a motorways and suburban streets. Council’s A&A branch delivers the maintenance and rehabilitation of Council’s road network.

3. The construction of a road is dependent on several factors including:

- traffic loads (percentage of heavy vehicles)

- performance of pavement materials

- strength of the supporting earth

- resistance to water ingress.

 A road can fail when its structural integrity is weakened.

4. Water ingress can cause road failure when water seeps into the pavement structure, softening the underlying base material (subgrade) which weakens its structural integrity, leading to cracks, potholes and other forms of pavement failure. This can be caused by trenches and poorly constructed kerb and channelling joints.

5. Flooding and sustained heavy rainfall increases ground saturation causing surface pavement failures and potholes, leading to increased urgency for maintenance. There was a significant increase in road failures and potholes following the February 2022 rainfall and flood event. Fast‑moving thunderstorms have a limited impact due to limited ground saturation.

6. Over time, vehicle loads have become heavier and traffic volumes have increased. Continuous weight and traffic can impact a specific area of a road surface which may lead to failures over time.

7. Road surfaces are made up of various materials held together with bitumen adhesive. Over time, the bitumen can deteriorate due to environmental impacts such as heat, which can cause the road surface to break up.

8. Road failures may also occur when trenches are poorly excavated or backfilled, leading to issues such as subsidence, cracks, potholes and uneven pavement surfaces due to the disturbed soil around the trench. This can weaken the road base, making it vulnerable to further damage from traffic loads and weather conditions.

9. A&A complete interim road maintenance repairs such as potholing and patching, while awaiting resurfacing which would usually be delivered in Council’s annual maintenance programs. A&A also perform small-scale and isolated repairs when necessary.

10. Crack sealing is the process of placing an adhesive sealant into cracks on the road pavement surface and around trench reinstatements. It is an effective pavement preservation treatment that can slow a pavement’s deterioration and extend its life. A crack-sealed road can be opened to traffic almost immediately when a de-tacking agent is used.

11. A&A pothole repairs use the following method.

- Step 1: Clean the pothole by removing large loose rocks and other debris.

- Step 2: Pour and spread cold-patch or hot material into the pothole.

- Step 3: Compact material with a hand tamper or another suitable compaction method that provides a level surface.

Although often classed as a temporary repair, they can be effective and remain in place for several years. In the 2023-24 financial year, A&A repaired 59,651 potholes.

12. The patch repair method is similar to pothole repairs but usually involves profiling machines to excavate the existing area and replace it with new hot-mix asphalt. Patches range in size from 10 to 50 m2, however, larger patches can often be completed if necessary. Approximately 1,000 patch repairs are completed by A&A each year.

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

14. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Community and the Arts Committee.

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

 Any further debate?

 As there is no further debate, I now put the report to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community and 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 – ACTIVE AND HEALTHY CITY

**466/2024-25**

1. The A/Manager, Inclusive Communities, Connected Communities, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Council’s Active and Healthy program (the program). He provided the information below.

2. The program provides free and low-cost recreational events and activities that promote movement, wellbeing and social connectivity. In 2024-25, more than 100 providers have been engaged to deliver more than 4,260 health and fitness sessions across Council’s parks, halls, community centres, pools and waterways. Activities are tailored to ensure the program is suitable for all ages, abilities and fitness levels.

3. The program is a critical component in delivering the sport, health and lifestyle objectives outlined in Council’s *A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019-2029* and *Brisbane Vision 2031*, and the Queensland Government’s *Elevate 2042* strategy*.* The program features 4 sub-programs to cater for the diverse needs of the community, including:

 - Active Parks

 - Growing Older and Living Dangerously (GOLD)

 - GOLD ‘n’ Kids

 - Chillout.

4. In 2023-24, Council delivered 4,194 Active Park sessions to 58,221 participants across the following categories:

 - fitness and adventure

 - aqua activities

 - mind and body

 - strength and stability

 - adventure

 - fitness and dance

 - food and nutrition.

5. In 2023-24, the GOLD program delivered 4,039 sessions to 65,819 participants. Sessions provided seniors with opportunities to connect with others and learn new skills while engaging in the following activities:

 - adventure and water

 - fitness and strength

 - food and nutrition

 - mind and body.

 Chair classes for participants with limited mobility were also available.

6. The GOLD ‘n’ Kids sub-program fosters intergenerational bonding by providing opportunities for seniors and children to participate in active and healthy activities together. In 2023-24, the GOLD ‘n’ Kids sessions were delivered to 667 participants across 66 sessions. Scheduled during school holidays and on Grandparents Day, sessions focused on games, sports and adventure, mind and body and water activities.

7. In 2023-24, 511 Chillout sessions were delivered to 4,548 participants from 10 to 17 years old focussing on:

 - nature play

 - sports and fitness

 - adventure and water activities

 - yoga and pilates

 - nutritious cooking classes.

8. Of the 100 providers registered to deliver the program, approximately 25% are not-for-profit organisations. Council continues to build capacity and sustainability in the program by inviting interested providers to join a pre-qualified register, which allows Council to engage with them quickly in response to changing community needs and interests. The program has received a 98% satisfaction rate amongst participants who have praised the program for creating opportunities to feel healthier, socialise with others and learn new skills. The Committee was provided with examples of this positive feedback.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Deputy Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, Finance and City Governance Committee.

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Julia DIXON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 4 March 2025, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

 Any further debate?

 As there is no further debate, I now put a report to the vote.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Julia Dixon and Danita Parry.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Lucy Collier and Trina Massey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – LORD MAYOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

**467/2024-25**

1. The Divisional Manager, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Lord Mayor’s Awards for Excellence (the program). She provided the information below.

2. The program recognises and rewards individual employees and work groups for effort and initiative that is above what is necessary to achieve Council’s goals. The program was initiated in 1992 and is typically run twice annually.

3. Within the 2023-24 program, a total of 61 nominations were received, involving 499 employees. There were 2 ceremonies hosted by the Lord Mayor at City Hall where more than 250 employees were recognised as award winners or runners-up. All award winners are eligible to be named the Overall Winner, and in December 2024, the Walter Taylor Bridge Essential Maintenance Team was announced as that year’s Overall Winner.

4. During the first round held from July 2023 to April 2024, 28 nominations were received across 7 categories. The ceremony was held on 24 July 2024 with awards presented to:

 - the December 2023 Storms Response Team (Customer Service)

- the Garden Organics Mulch Replacement Trial (Environmental Achievement)

- Brendon Clark, Skilled Team Leader Services Locator (Health and Safety)

- Joshua Skinner, Program Officer Geographic Information System (Innovation)

- the Grey Gum All-Abilities Trail Project (Social Justice and Community Development)

- the Aluminium Cable Revolution Team (Value for Money)

- the Bus Operator Recruitment Team (Working Together).

5. During the second round held from April to September 2024, 33 nominations were received. The categories for this round were revised to align with Council’s corporate values. The ceremony was held on 6 November 2024 with awards presented to:

- the Koala Research Partnerships Program Team (Courage to Make a Difference)

- the Walter Taylor Bridge Essential Maintenance Team (Getting Things Done)

- the Environment Centres’ Bush Kindy Program Team (Passion for Brisbane)

- Brock Winter, Solution Centre Consultant (Respect for People)

- Public Space Liaison Officers (Responsive Customer Service)

- the Resilient Clubs Support Program Team (Value for Money)

- the $2 Summer Dips Team (Working Together).

6. The program is an impactful initiative for Council staff and has shown to help maintain employee engagement, support job satisfaction and encourage performance excellence. The program will continue in 2025, with nominations for the current round having closed on 28 February. Nominations are currently being reviewed and the ceremony has been scheduled for 14 May.

7. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Divisional Manager for her informative presentation.

8. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

**468/2024-25**

9. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided an overview of Council’s actions in preparation for Tropical Cyclone Alfred (the weather event). She provided the information below.

10. The Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) will be issuing reports twice a day, with City Resilience, City Administration and Governance, providing formal weather updates each morning. During the weather event, Councillors are requested to formally submit jobs to the LDCC to allow requests to be triaged and actioned appropriately.

11. Residents are encouraged to follow advice on Council’s Be Prepared webpage, and to register for Council’s free Brisbane Severe Weather Alert service. Additionally, Council’s emergency dashboard webpage includes various resources for residents, as well as live information about:

 - emergency and traffic incidents

 - power outages

 - weather warnings

 - evacuation centres

 - sandbag sites.

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, are there any petitions? No.

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, is there any General Business?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on the ex-Cyclone Alfred flooding and Council stormwater systems. This LNP Council, for the last 20 years, has not been honest with the residents about the true cost of building, buying, and living in high-risk flood zones. This is no surprise as the Liberal National Party has for decades actively undermined climate change awareness and action. At the same time, we have been hit with 3 major floods in less than 15 years. Many residents struggle to afford flood insurance premiums or can’t even get flood insurance. As the Chief Executive of the Insurance Council of Australia said, “if we keep repeating the mistakes of the past, building homes on areas well known to be flood-prone, those homes are going to be the hardest to insure.”

Repeating the mistakes of the past, it’s like a theme song for the LNP. Climate crisis, nothing to see here. Let’s keep building and flooding so the money keeps rolling in for our developer mates. Even better, let’s give them 75% discount on infrastructure levies if they keep building in flood-prone areas. Let’s be clear, infrastructure levy discounts to developers are undermining investment in stormwater upgrades. The lack of action and investment by this LNP Council over the last 20 years to make this city more resilient to the climate crisis is verging on criminal neglect.

I have a message for our LORD MAYOR—through the Chair—and this LNP Administration. We are in a climate crisis. In 2019, the Australian Government National Emergency Management Agency predicted an increased risk of tropical cyclones for Brisbane due to climate change. This is exactly what we saw with ex‑Cyclone Alfred. The LNP Administration must stop giving infrastructure levy discounts to developers and urgently spend those millions of dollars on stormwater infrastructure and advanced bioretention systems. Our city urgently needs to become more resilient.

Brisbane’s 2011 flood had about a 1% probability of happening in any given year. Brisbane’s February 2022 floods had a less than 2% probability of occurring. Now, in 2025, Brisbane had the wettest day in 50 years, higher than the previous 2 floods, with the heaviest March rainfall for 117 years. A recent Insurance Council of Australia’s report on climate change states that even the old approach of buildings in areas with a 1% probability that’s Flood Zone 1 is no longer sufficient, yet this LNP Council still encourages development even on Flood Zone 1. I repeat that, even on Flood Zone 1.

The Australian Insurance Council’s recommendation unsurprisingly aligns with the Greens’ policy of not building on Flood Zone 1 and 2. As the Insurance Council says, our current planning systems are not protecting our residents from flood risk. The 2019 Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan reports that the Brisbane River floodplain has the largest number of buildings on any floodplain in Australia. Geoscience Australia agency has stated that the Brisbane River floodplain is the most flood-impacted area in Australia, with almost $300 million in annualised damages, a figure expected to grow.

What is this LNP Council doing to make Brisbane more resilient? They encourage building on our highest risk flood zone, so surely they are investing in our stormwater infrastructure? Well, actually, they’re not. Each year, our budget barely covers basic maintenance with little investment in upgrading our stormwater system. This LNP Council has even created loopholes so their developer friends don’t have to pay for stormwater upgrades to meet contemporary standards. When a development is approved on land with pre-existing buildings, it only needs to meet an outdated one and 2-year stormwater standard, meaning the stormwater system is likely to be exceeded once every 2 years.

The new standard is a 1-in-10-year standard, but it is only applied to new developments on outlying greenfield sites. In their 20 years in power, this LNP Council has overseen most major developments in our highest risk flood zones without upgrading stormwater systems requiring private developers to meet contemporary standards. They have taken a huge gamble because the LNP—

Deputy Chair: Councillor CHONG WAH, your time has expired.

Councillors, before we go ahead, are there any statements required as a result of an Office of the Independent Assessor or Council Ethics Committee Order? No?

Further General Business?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on flood recovery from all floods. I just want to put on the record my concern today about the LORD MAYOR’s behaviour in response to the question I asked earlier today. The public pontoon at Graceville Riverside Parkland is a valuable community asset. It is used by Sailability, who are an extraordinary group of volunteers who provide sailing and recreational opportunities to severely disabled people. I’m a huge supporter of their work and I am extremely concerned at the glib nature and the lack of compassion that the LORD MAYOR showed towards what is a serious problem.

Now, the reason I am concerned that the pontoon has been damaged is that it’s been fixed previously. It’s supposed to rise and fall with the tide and didn’t. The force of Oxley Creek ripped it off its moorings, and it was quite dangerous in how it actually finished up after the flood. Now, the issue today, of course, is the LORD MAYOR didn’t commit to actually fixing it. We know that Council has already spent probably tens of millions, if not more, in initial response to the cyclone and flooding event, including as a priority fixing the water feature in Rocks Riverside Park. Fixing the water feature in Rocks Riverside Park, that was more of a priority after the floods than repairing a public pontoon used by a volunteer group who provide sailing opportunities to disabled people.

Now, when the LORD MAYOR stands up and says I’m being dishonest or misleading, I do so knowing that in LNP wards, non-essential infrastructure has already been fixed, post the flood event. In my ward, we know that essential infrastructure wasn’t replaced after 2011. That was a public pontoon in a park that, despite the LORD MAYOR’s comments, still exists today. It had to be fixed again after 2022, but it’s the park where Council workers park their cars and use my side of the river to build infrastructure projects on the northside of the river. So, there’s a public park there. The LORD MAYOR obviously has no idea of where I’m talking about. Council just decided they weren’t going to replace that pontoon.

Then, in 2022, the pontoon at Paragon Street Park, which is a public park, Council decided after that pontoon was damaged, it wouldn’t be replaced. It still says on the Council website that there is a pontoon at that location. Now, it’s been gone for approximately 2 years. There is still one park in this city closed after the 2022 floods, and that is Cactoblastis Corner park in Sherwood. Not only is that park still closed 3 years on since the last flood, instead of fixing it after being offered, I think it was $11 million by the State Government, Council didn’t want to put in any of its own money, not a cent of its own money. The LORD MAYOR goes, no, we’re not doing it. It’s too hard. We’re going to abandon it. Council has just abandoned this parkland which is catastrophically damaged after 2022.

So, when I stand up in this place and express concern about whether a valuable public pontoon, not only for Sailability but for the Pamphlett Sea Scouts, for Council’s Active and Healthy program who run the canoeing tours off there and for members of the public, when I stand up and say, I am concerned and LORD MAYOR, will you commit to fixing the pontoon, I don’t expect to—well, we’ll only do it if the Federal Government gives us money. That is a rubbish response. It is disrespectful to volunteer groups, and it is seriously disrespectful when you go and fix a water feature in a park that didn’t flood and meanwhile, flood‑damaged public assets in a non-LNP ward aren’t going to get fixed.

Based on your track record, that’s what we can come to expect. Not only that, the Annerley Library’s closed because there’s mould. The South Regional Business Centre’s closed because of some unknown cyclone or flood damage. So when are you going to fix these things, LORD MAYOR—

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and not just the water features in LNP wards?

Deputy Chair: Any further General Business?

 Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. It’s been an interesting meeting, listening to all the Councillors for both meetings talk about what a wonderful job this Council’s done in relation to this event. Can I say, from being here 22 years and being here during the majority of time that the LNP have been in control, I’ve seen no change. We’ve had de Jersey reports before and I’ve given written feedback. I brought it in tonight and nothing has changed, nothing. The organisation runs in the same disorganised way it is. The Liberals say how great it is and we say how bad it is. My experience is, it’s shocking. It was really shocking what we delivered on the ground for these residents and I’m really disturbed, the way this whole story gets played out and then the way we do not deliver on the ground for residents.

Something is really amiss here. Something is really disturbing here. There’s going to be another review and it will find the same things, and nothing will change. We’ll have a million staff in the LDCC centre and we’ll have no one on the ground doing any work, or we’ll have staff on the Monday that they return to work actually doing training about how to claim back money from the State Government, because that was the Finance Chair’s priority for our staff when they returned to work on the Monday. How do you screw the State Government for as much money as you can from this event, this cyclone, this flood? That was the priority for this organisation. That is pathetic.

Staff are upset out there. People are upset out there. People are losing and leaving this organisation because they’re ashamed of what we do. They are ashamed of this Council. We’re not an organisation they want to work with. They just want to clear out of here. It’s disgusting. I was shocked with the LORD MAYOR’s response. Frankly, I was shocked with his lack of knowledge. Knowing it was in the paper on the weekend, knowing it’s been an issue, he had no response with regards to Stable Swamp Creek other than, oh well, Rocklea floods. It’s going to flood. This isn’t going to make any difference. We’re going to remove 450 tonnes of silt, but this ain’t going to make any difference to residents.

Then he goes, oh, and we’ve coordinated with the State LNP Government to deliver for residents. Well, actually, you haven’t. If you spoke to officers, you’d know it isn’t being coordinated. They can’t get it coordinated. You have no idea with what’s going on. You have no interest in the residents of Brisbane and you deliver poorly for the residents of Brisbane. I’m just shocked, LORD MAYOR—through you, Mr Chair—I’m shocked at your lack of any humanity for the residents at Rocklea who are suffering and who continue to suffer through all these events. I am shocked. You haven’t come out and met with them. You’ve had millions of opportunities. You won’t face them. You won’t talk to them. It’s like the homeless people who are here tonight. You won’t face them, you won’t talk to them, you dismiss them.

It’s a joke. Yes, I see you laughing. It’s actually not a joke. We need to be, as a city, doing so much better for these people, so much better for our residents than what we’re doing. It’s third-rate. This is a third-rate show. It’s nothing to be proud of. I’m really ashamed of your response in relation to Stable Swamp Creek, because removing all that silt, mud, and debris—and the officers tell me that. The reports tell me. We spent $100,000 on the reports. They say it. They say it will make a big difference. It’s just shocking. I’m really, really disappointed in you, LORD MAYOR—through you, Mr Chair—for the way you’ve delivered what you’ve done today.

Deputy Chair: Any further General Business?

 Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Deputy Chair, I rise to speak on how proud I am of the incredible work that our teams have done. Unfortunately, Councillor GRIFFITHS must have just completely missed what has happened in his community over the past 2 weeks. I can tell you that our officers have worked tirelessly. So, just to end on a positive note, I just want to run through some of the great work that our team have done and some of their achievements.

Now, I know we have spoken about 470,000 sandbags. We actually delivered 5,000—sorry, it’s getting late, my apologies—527,000 sandbags to our city. We established 7 temporary green waste sites, including one in Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward. We sent 73 arb crews out as soon as the winds ceased to remove tree debris. We opened our resource recovery centres for extended hours to support residents who couldn’t get there in their ordinary hours. We opened 193 waste hubs to support our locals. Our fleet of Rapid Damage Assessment crews were out and about, and they logged over 1,100 jobs in that week. We stood up the incident management team who did a phenomenal job. These are the working arm of City Standards, who work with our LDCC to deliver work.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: Yes, I will actually acknowledge the Councillors that are exiting because, unfortunately, we’re talking about the great work that our officers have done.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HUTTON: Yes, they’re clocking off, that’s fine. It won’t stop us actually talking about the great work that our teams have done. We have made safe 143 major trees that came down in the cyclone. We completed 1,137 street trees and we got them cleaned up. We swept all of our major bikeways to ensure that the network is safe for our cyclists. We swept all major road corridors for tree debris. We completed street sweeping at all of 18 flood-impacted suburbs. All 18 flood-impacted suburbs have been street swept. We filled 1,307 potholes in the last week. We activated 867 food bins to collect residential food waste from homes because of the electrical impacts.

Now, Madam Chair, I think that is a great track record. It’s disappointing to see Councillor JOHNSTON and Councillor GRIFFITHS again attacking our wonderful work our officers have done, and we should be super proud. I want to say thank you to Krysten, I want to say thank you to Pip and their leadership teams for what they have been able to deliver for this city, and thank you, thank you, thank you. We have a long way to go.

Deputy Chair: Any further General Business? No?

 I declare the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (received on 6 March 2025)**

**Q1.** With reference to Council’s ‘Rebuild & Recover: Flood Resilience Action Plan’ released in 2022, please list any outstanding actions.

**Q2.** With reference to Council’s ‘Rebuild & Recover: Flood Resilience Action Plan’ released in 2022, please list any actions that are still in progress.

**Q3.** With reference to Council’s ‘Rebuild & Recover: Flood Resilience Action Plan’ released in 2022, please advise when Council last shared an update with the Brisbane public (using the format DD/MM/YYYY).

**Q4.** With reference to the Brisbane City Council 2022 Flood Review prepared by Hon. Paul de Jersey, please advise the status of each of the 37 recommendations.

**Q5.** In the last five years (6/03/2020 to 6/03/2025), please list the instances when the Brisbane City Council Local Disaster Management Plan was reviewed or renewed.

**Q6.** With reference to the Brisbane City Council Local Disaster Management Plan, please advise when an updated version of this plan was last shared with the Brisbane public (using the format DD/MM/YYYY).

**Q7.** With reference to the Brisbane City Council Local Disaster Management Plan, please advise where Brisbane residents can read or inspect the most recent version of this plan (by sharing the related web link, in full).

**Q8.** In the last five years (6/03/2020 to 6/03/2025), please list the instances when the Brisbane Local Disaster Management Group met.

**Q9.** Please list the flood recovery and resilience projects Council has completed in the last five years (6/03/2020 to 6/03/2025), and the date of completion.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Jared Cassidy (from meeting of 4 March 2025)**

1. Provide a current list (as at today) of all vacant Brisbane City Council buildings
2. As at 25/02/2025, what is the cost estimate for the completion of all open footpath maintenance works (identified but not yet completed), and how many jobs are on this open footpath maintenance works list?
3. Please list all open footpath maintenance works (identified but not yet completed), including address and suburb, details of repair, cost to repair, and estimated completion date.
4. For the 2024/25 FYTD, please advise the total number of parking infringements issued, the total $ value of revenue, total number of appeals received, and the total number of appeals granted.
5. Please provide details of the total amount of fine and infringement revenue collected by Brisbane City Council in the 2023/24 FY and the 2024/25 FYTD, broken down by all infringement types (i.e. parking fines, animal infringements, illegal dumping, overgrown land, noise etc)
6. Please provide the total number of visitors broken down by month to the Brisbane Metro Visitors Centre from August 2024 until its closure.
7. What was the total number of visitors to the Brisbane Metro Visitors Centre during its entire lifetime, confirming the opening and closing dates of the facility.
8. What was the total expenditure from BCC in relation to the Brisbane Metro Visitor Centre, with a detailed breakdown including any closure costs such as make-good works, etc.
9. How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding e-mobility in any context since 10/09/2024 – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.
10. Please provide the number of incidents/accidents reported to Council under obligation by providers of e-mobility devices for thein the 2024/25 FYTD?
11. How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding broken or damaged footpaths in any context since 27/08/2024 – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.
12. How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding grass cutting in any context since 27/08/2024 – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.
13. How many contacts have been made to the contact centre regarding potholes in any context since 27/08/2024 – provide a breakdown into categories of contact reason eg. request for information, advice, or service.
14. Please advise the locations of any drainage infrastructure awaiting maintenance or repair in the ward of Deagon.
15. Please advise the total expenditure on collections for Brisbane City Council libraries in 2023-24.
16. Please advise how many new books were added to Brisbane City Council libraries in 2023-24.
17. Please advise the digital collections budget for Brisbane City Council libraries in 2023-24.
18. Please advise the total lending collection of Brisbane City Council libraries in 2023-24.
19. How long is the contract that Epicure has in city hall and what date does this contract expire?

***A1 to A19.***

*These questions cannot be answered within the timeframe provided by the Meetings Local Law 2001 due to the impact of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 10.18pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

 **CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

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)