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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4681 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 31 May 2022**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[TABLE OF CONTENTS i](#_Toc105166077)

[PRESENT: 1](#_Toc105166078)

[OPENING OF MEETING: 1](#_Toc105166079)

[APOLOGY: 1](#_Toc105166080)

[MINUTES: 2](#_Toc105166081)

[PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2](#_Toc105166082)

[QUESTION TIME: 4](#_Toc105166083)

[CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS: 18](#_Toc105166084)

[ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE 18](#_Toc105166085)

[A REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 MAY 2022 30](#_Toc105166086)

[B LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS 30](#_Toc105166087)

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE 32](#_Toc105166088)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – SUBURBAN BUSINESS HUB 34](#_Toc105166089)

[TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 35](#_Toc105166090)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE METRO ADELAIDE STREET TUNNEL – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION METHOD 40](#_Toc105166091)

[INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE 41](#_Toc105166092)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – INNER CITY NETWORK PERFORMANCE AND MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES 42](#_Toc105166093)

[CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE 43](#_Toc105166094)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 444 QUEEN STREET, BRISBANE CITY 45](#_Toc105166095)

[ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 47](#_Toc105166096)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE CARBON CHALLENGE CHAMPION HOUSEHOLDS 50](#_Toc105166097)

[CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE 51](#_Toc105166098)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ASBESTOS – PUBLIC HEALTH RISK INVESTIGATIONS 53](#_Toc105166099)

[COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE 53](#_Toc105166100)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CHILDREN’S EARLY LITERACY AND READING PROGRAMS UPDATE 56](#_Toc105166101)

[FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 57](#_Toc105166102)

[A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – COMMITMENT TO COUNCIL 58](#_Toc105166103)

[B COMMITTEE REPORT – FINANCIAL REPORTS (RECEIVABLE, RATES, INVENTORY, PAYABLE, PROVISIONS AND MALLS) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 2022 58](#_Toc105166104)

[PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS: 58](#_Toc105166105)

[GENERAL BUSINESS: 59](#_Toc105166106)

[QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN: 68](#_Toc105166107)

[ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN: 70](#_Toc105166108)

## PRESENT:

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

The Chair of Council, Councillor David McLACHLAN (Hamilton) – LNP

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| **LNP Councillors (and Wards)** | **ALP Councillors (and Wards)** |
| Krista ADAMS (Holland Park) (Deputy Mayor)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Fiona HAMMOND (Marchant)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge)  James MACKAY (Walter Taylor)  Peter MATIC (Paddington) (Deputy Chair of Council)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Angela OWEN (Calamvale)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Kara COOK (Morningside) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)  Peter CUMMING (Wynnum Manly)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillor (and Ward)**  Jonathan SRI (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

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

Chair: I declare the meeting open.

Are there any apologies? Are there any apologies?

Councillor LANDERS.

## APOLOGY:

**660/2021-22**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Kim MARX, and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

Chair: Confirmation of minutes, please—

Councillor CASSIDY: Chair?

Chair: Oh sorry, Councillor CASSIDY. My apologies, I didn’t see you standing.

**661/2021-22**

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

Chair: Confirmation of minutes, please.

## MINUTES:

**662/2021-22**

The Minutes of the 4680 meeting of Council held on 24 May 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair: Councillors, we have public participants this morning—this afternoon. I’d like to call on Dr Marianne Hanson and Ms Vikki Henry, who are coming into the Chamber now to address us on Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.

Thank you. Billy is showing you to your chairs. I think we’ll set you up with a mic each. Thank you. Dr Hanson, Ms Henry, you have five minutes to commence once the mics are on. When you’re ready, go.

**Dr Marianne Hanson and Ms Vikki Henry – The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom**

Dr Marianne Hanson: Thank you, thank you very much. Mayor SCHRINNER, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for the opportunity to talk to you today about our request for Council to sign the Cities Appeal. My name is Marianne, of course. I’m the Co-Chair of ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 by the way, and I’m also representing here today, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom with my colleague, Vikki Henry. I have met some of you already and I hope to meet more of you in due course, in order to provide any further context you might need. I’ve also left some leaflets which will provide more information for you.

Unfortunately, we have a pressing problem in our world. There are still over 13,000 nuclear weapons in existence, and many of these are hundreds of times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. We are closer now than we have ever been to a nuclear catastrophe. Numerous close calls and accidents have occurred where these weapons have very nearly been used. You may well ask, well, what does this have to do with Council, with local government? The problem is, these weapons are targeted at cities like Brisbane, and it is local councils which will have to address issues like burial, sanitation, hygiene, local sewerage infrastructure, *et cetera*, in the unthinkable event of a nuclear strike or accident.

Now, because of these responsibilities, Councillors around the world have signed the Cities Appeal, which calls on all nine nuclear weapons states to eliminate their nuclear weapons, not unilaterally, but as part of a mutual process in a phased, verified, and fully monitored way. Over 400 cities worldwide, including New York, Paris, London, Berlin, and 39 LGAs across Australia, Sydney, Brisbane—Sydney, Melbourne, soon to be Brisbane, we hope, have signed up to the Cities Appeal. They have recognised that, as with other weapons of mass destruction like chemical weapons, biological weapons, nuclear weapons can also be eliminated.

Now, we very much appreciate the fact that Council has an existing anti-nuclear policy dating back to the early 80s, but there are three reasons why we believe this policy should be updated. First of all, the threat of nuclear war has actually grown since the 1980s, and we only need to look at the war in Europe to understand the dangers here. Secondly, we now have much better scientific modelling than we had in the 1980s about the climate and social impacts of a nuclear strike, and it shows a pretty grim picture of devastation. Even a small nuclear war would result in millions of deaths and create a nuclear winter affecting the whole world where entire cities and ecosystems would be destroyed.

Third, we have a brand-new United Nations (UN) treaty which calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Let me stress that this is not a political or a partisan issue. It is a humanitarian issue. In Australia, thousands of healthcare workers, the Australian Medical Association, Rotarians, religious organisations, the Red Cross and, as I say, hundreds of Parliamentarians from all the major political parties have signed up to help eliminate these weapons of mass destruction.

So, it is a cross-party issue, and even conservative leaders like Henry Kissinger in the United States (US), for example, have argued that for the sake of humanity, we must eliminate these weapons. By the way, signing the Cities Appeal and the new UN treaty does not mean that we have to abandon the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and United States) Alliance. Many US allies have already signed the treaty. We can remain within the ANZUS Alliance if you wish on a conventional weapons basis.

So, in sum, Brisbane Council can demonstrate its commitment to protect the people of Brisbane by joining cities around the world which have already signed the Cities Appeal. Eliminating nuclear weapons helps us to build a better world to focus on things that matter, like our families, our communities, our environment. We saw, of course, in the recent election that these things matter very much to people.

Chair: Dr Henry, I’m sorry.

Dr Marianne Hanson: Thank you.

Chair: Your time has expired. Thank you for addressing Council.

Dr Marianne Hanson: Thank you very much for your attention.

Chair: There will be a response.

Councillor DAVIS.

**Response by Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee**

Councillor DAVIS: Well, thank you, Mr Chair, and good afternoon, Dr Hanson and Ms Henry. My name is Councillor Tracy DAVIS and I’m the Civic Cabinet Chair for the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee here in Council. Thank you very much for coming in today and addressing us about the work of your organisation, and can I acknowledge that it is the longest or the oldest women’s peace organisation that I understand was established in 1915.

Thank you very much for sharing your insights into the impacts of nuclear weaponry. We do recognise that concerted efforts are needed at all levels of government on the issue of nuclear weapons, and while the Federal Government has responsibility for finding—for signing the UN’s treaty, as you mentioned, there are many cities and organisations that have, and campaigns that have come on board around the world to encourage world leaders to sign up, much like the organisation, of course, that you are representing here today. While Council has previously backed our internal policy, which outlines Brisbane being a nuclear‑free zone, as an example of the matter, we understand the intent behind your campaign.

That’s why I’m very pleased today to advise that Brisbane City Council will join the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and endorse the Cities Appeal that you have presented to us. Between Council’s internal policy and your Cities Appeal, we trust that these acts of symbolism will help other local governments across the country to support in your campaign. Thank you very much for coming in today and speaking with us.

Dr Marianne Hanson: Thank you so much.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Thank you. Thanks for coming in today. Appreciate it, Dr. Hanson and Ms Henry. Thank you. Mics are off.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Councillors, Question Time.

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

Councillor LANDERS.

**Question 1**

Councillor LANDERS: My question is to the LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR, at the last election, you promised Ashgrove residents that the Gresham Street Bridge would be completely replaced and rebuilt. Could you please update the Chamber on the current status of this project, including how its delivery will service Ashgrove residents for decades to come?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, and through you, thank you to Councillor LANDERS for the question. It was good to be out there this morning with Councillor TOOMEY at the Gresham Street Bridge. This is an interesting one because what we saw with this project is the replacement of one of Brisbane’s last remaining wooden road bridges with a better, more resilient, longer lasting and more pedestrian-friendly structure. Now, the interesting thing about this is not just that it was replacing one of the older wooden bridges, but it illustrates that our business as usual is building things in a more resilient way.

Now, this project started well before the recent floods and, in fact, I think it was in April last year that we were out there, kicking off this project. Today—or yesterday, in fact—we saw the first use of the new bridge. There’s still a little bit of work to be done out there to finalise the project, but the bridge is being used, and the temporary bridge that was put in to facilitate the construction is now being dismantled. The new bridge provides the only access in and out of St Johns Wood, so there is no other way in and out for around the 300 residents that live in that precinct.

What they were facing with the old wooden bridge is, every couple of years, the bridge would be flooded and they would be trapped, either trapped inside the area or trapped out of the area, depending on whether they were at home or not at the time. So, this new bridge builds the flood resilience of the area, not just the flood resilience of the infrastructure, but the flood resilience of that entire community. It’s been a project that lifts the level of the bridge up over a meter higher than the previous bridge, builds it in a much stronger and more flood-resilient manner, but also provides much better accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and also buses, as well.

With the old bridge, buses could not turn left off of the major thoroughfare there into that precinct, whereas now, there is public transport access in all directions. It’s just one of many projects that we’re doing across the city, but it just does illustrate, Mr Chair, that whatever we do these days, we’re always bearing in mind resilience in our infrastructure, and also building things stronger and building things with the long term in mind. This project was supported by the previous Federal Government with a contribution. Council did put in the lion’s share of the funding, but we certainly welcome that Federal support for this project.

I want to thank the local Councillor, Steve TOOMEY, who moonlights as the project manager. He has been out there at all hours of the day and sometimes the night, keeping an eye on progress. Our Council’s project manager has done a great job, but Steve is just making sure that on behalf of residents, everything has been going well. So, congratulations to the project team. Congratulations to Councillor TOOMEY for championing this project.

As I said, this is one example of many where we’re building infrastructure with an eye to the future, building it to be not only more resilient infrastructure, but helping our community become more resilient, as well. So, I commend this project and it’s great to see that milestone reached yesterday where we saw the first use of the very new bridge.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 2**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR, over the last financial year, you allocated just $21.8 million to construct drainage infrastructure across 190 suburbs in Brisbane. Now, in comparison, you’re spending $1.7 billion on your overseas Metro bendy-bus project, so that’s 78 times the suburban drainage budget on a single inner city busway extension. LORD MAYOR, yes or no, do you think residents are getting value for money under your LNP Administration?

Chair: Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: You’d better believe it. You’d better believe it, because not only are we building the major infrastructure our city needs as it grows, we’re also investing in the suburbs, in things like drainage, in footpaths, in all of those suburban projects.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: In fact, over 80% of all our investment is in the suburbs. What we’re seeing here though, Mr Chair, is a very cynical attempt to confect a political campaign in the lead-up to the budget—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —which is very reactionary, because I didn’t hear Councillor CASSIDY talking about drainage last year. Did anyone?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I don’t remember him—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —running a campaign on drainage last year—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: —when we increased—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —the budget—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: —by 10% last year. I didn’t hear him saying anything about it then, or I don’t remember. Does anyone else?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: No, I don’t think so.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: He’s a newfound convert into drainage—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —in recent times. I don’t know why. I don’t know why, but this is what happens when you’ve got no agenda as a Labor Party leader. You just scratch around in the dirt for issues that, literally—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —you didn’t care about before, you didn’t care about before—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and suddenly—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

LORD MAYOR: —and suddenly, you’re a convert to drainage. Well, he wasn’t speaking up when we increased the budget by 10% last year.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I can say, Councillor CASSIDY—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I can say, Councillor CASSIDY, you are going to be very pleased when the next budget comes out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: In fact, I look forward to his celebration when the next budget comes out. Does anyone predict whether that will happen or—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —he’ll complain? I don’t know. I don’t know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Some would say that, no matter what we do in the budget, he’ll complain—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —but that’s a very cynical view. Look, I think he’ll be very happy. I think he will be very happy, because we will continue to invest in the suburbs. We will continue to invest in much needed infrastructure right across the city, and whether it’s drainage, whether it’s the flood recovery work that needs to be done, whether it is footpaths and road maintenance, whether it is all of those important things that need to be done as we recover as a city, we will be focusing on that, absolutely.

Drainage will be one part of that, but as I have said previously, that is not the silver bullet. There are so many other things that can contribute to a more flood-resilient city, other than drainage. It is important that we, as civic leaders, do not sell snake oil to people by making them think that some extra funding for drainage will solve every problem. It won’t. It won’t. It needs to be a multi-pronged response, and that is exactly what we are doing and exactly what we will continue to do.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor HUANG.

**Question 3**

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor MURPHY. Councillor MURPHY, the Schrinner Council’s award‑winning Brisbane Metro project continues to reach new milestones with the recent arrival of the Metro pilot vehicle in Brisbane. Could you please update the Chamber on the features of this vehicle, including an update on the wider Metro project?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you very much, Chair, and thanks to Councillor HUANG for the question. It’s great to have Councillor HUANG back, and he has been a tremendous supporter of Brisbane Metro over a very, very long time.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, I’ll continue. Chair, as part of the Brisbane Metro, residents in our city will be the first—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —in Australia to experience one of the most advanced electric vehicles in the world when services begin in 2024. In 2019, we started one of Brisbane Metro’s most important components, designing and delivering a vehicle that is truly world‑class—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor MURPHY: —for our customers. The end result is what we have here today, the HESS lighTram 25, a vehicle with the highest standards of passenger access, comfort, safety, and zero tailpipe emissions. This vehicle is in itself an Australian first. It’s capable of quietly and efficiently and cleanly moving large numbers of people in a type of comfort and accessibility that has not been seen before in our country.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: Across three passenger compartments, the Metro can hold 150 people or 170 in event mode. There are 64 seats, 10 of which are priority seating, as well as three large mobility bays complete with luggage storage. The low floor design and panoramic windows mean the vehicle feels light and spacious with powerful air conditioning. It will keep us cool, even in Brisbane’s humid summers, although you may not feel it today, Chair. The next stop announcements and passenger information screens will make sure you always know when your stop is coming up, and Wi-Fi and USB charging hubs will keep you connected while you travel.

Every compartment has audio and hearing loops, and there is an automated accessibility ramp at the first passenger door. I know the Labor Party love to laugh about the accessibility features on this vehicle, Chair, but the reality is, for those who live with a disability, these are really important features. It will make a difference in their ability to access—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —public transport around our city, and we do not have these type of features on the rest of our fleet at present. Our drivers also get an upgrade, Chair, a separated driver cabin with next generation driver assistive technologies to make sure our drivers can focus on the task at hand, getting our passengers from A to B. Mr Chair, these features have set the new standard for passenger safety, comfort and accessibility in Australia, but it’s not just pretty inside, it’s also powerful. There are two fully electric, 190-kilowatt traction motors, generating 2,500 nanometres of torque, delivering better performance than an equivalent diesel engine with just a fraction of the noise.

In fact, Chair, you will know as we had a conversation outside of Metro that was running the other day, with all of its air conditioning turned on. The top of the vehicle is fitted with a charging arm, what we call a pantograph, which allows for the flash charge of the vehicle in under six minutes at four key locations across the network. At the end of a shift, the Metros will be slow charged at the depot to maximise the lifespan of the battery and optimise energy consumption.

The vehicle has been in testing since it arrived last month, and we are putting it through its paces to ensure it meets all of our requirements before we then place the order for the rest of the fleet. As I mentioned, our Metros are based on a proven product, the HESS lighTram 25, but we want to make sure that it performs here in Brisbane conditions. There are no conditions more trying for a public transport vehicle than conditions here in Brisbane.

This vehicle has to pass just over 750 tests made up of over 1,300 individual technical requirements. Over half those tests were passed before the pilot vehicle even arrived in Brisbane, but we’ll be evaluating this vehicle’s manoeuvrability, functionality, accessibility, its energy consumption, and its onboard systems as we go. On the busway, we want to test the range of the vehicle’s charge, the speed, and compatibility with our station platforms.

We will also be visiting the RACQ’s (Royal Automobile Club of Queensland) mobility centre at Mt Cotton for performance and evaluation testing, and will be going up Mt Coot-tha for grading and testing, otherwise known as the hill climb. Residents may get a glimpse of the vehicle in testing mode when it travels on the Gateway Motorway, the Pacific Motorway, the South East and Northern Busways, as well as some local roads.

Mr Chair, another part of what makes Brisbane Metro such an exciting project is the way our vehicles will integrate into the city’s existing infrastructure. Thanks to the vehicle design, we’ve been able to deliver a fully electric, high-capacity vehicle without the need to install costly and intrusive overhead wires or tracks. It’s a system that has the capacity of light rail with the flexibility of a bus. The flexibility and manoeuvrability not being tied to track infrastructure means it can be easily adapted to different transport routes, making it a lot easier to expand the Metro network into the future.

It’s one of the most cost-effective solutions for improving public transport and reaching our sustainability goals. Our busway network in Brisbane means that we can seamlessly deliver a turn-up-and-go service from Eight Mile Plains in the south to Herston in the north.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you very much, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor COOK.

**Question 4**

Councillor COOK: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR, recently the Moreton Bay Mayor took—I’ll start again. Recently, the Moreton Bay Mayor took responsibility and informed his residents that rates will be going up in their upcoming Council budget. He wanted to give residents as much time as possible to prepare their own finances. Despite repeated questions from reporters, residents, and Councillors, you have refused to do the same for the people of Brisbane. LORD MAYOR, will you be increasing rates in the upcoming Council budget, and if so, by how much?

Chair: Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, Mr Chair, Councillor COOK obviously comes to this place and doesn’t listen one bit—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —because this question has been asked before and been answered. Look, I don’t know what she does in these meetings, but it’s certainly not listening to answers that are given, because as I pointed out the last time this question was asked, the budget has not been completed yet and that process is ongoing. When it is completed, it will be released publicly in the ordinary way. Now, I’m sure Councillor COOK would love to assist me in preparing the budget, but that is not the role that she has. So, Councillor COOK will find out the same way that all Councillors will find out once the budget is complete.

What I can say is, when Labor Councillors criticise us for putting projects on pause so that we can focus on the flood recovery, what does that do? If we actually took their advice, it would mean more upward pressure on rates. If we continue to do projects that they have criticised us for pausing, that would put upward pressure on rates. What I can promise, Mr Chair, to Councillor COOK is we will never raise rates as much as the Labor Party did when they were in office in City Hall. We will never raise rates as much as they did when they raised rates by six per cent on four different occasions.

Now, Councillor CUMMING mentions inflation. He interjected last week on inflation. We have seen the highest inflation that we’ve seen in decades now across Australia. We see the national inflation rate of 5.1, and I understand the Brisbane inflation rate is six per cent, six per cent, but I can tell all of you, we won’t be raising rates by six per cent like Labor did. Even if inflation is six per cent, we won’t be doing it. So, please rest assured, rates will be lower than the Brisbane inflation rate, and you will find out in a couple of weeks’ time what that outcome will be, but we will never raise rates by six per cent like Labor—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —did repeatedly.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD.

*Councillor interjecting.*

**Question 5**

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, Councillor CUNNINGHAM. Councillor CUNNINGHAM, with the dust of the Federal election now settling, can you please update the Chamber on election commitments that were promised by the incoming Government?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr Chair, and through you, thanks to Councillor ATWOOD for the question. As the LORD MAYOR said last week, the Schrinner Council congratulates Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his team on their election, and we look forward to continuing to have a positive relationship with the Federal Government. The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program introduced by the former Government was hugely successful, with over $75 million in funding provided to 74 projects in Brisbane across three phases.

These projects have supported our economic recovery during the pandemic, and they continue to support us as we recover from the floods. The coalition announced a two-year, $500 million extension in the budget, which will take the total size of this program to $3 billion. We were pleased to receive confirmation during the campaign that Labor will also honour this commitment and allow for a further $250 million extension. Local government is the level of government which is closest to the people, so we appreciate this commitment from Canberra to working with councils right across Australia, but especially here in Queensland, to deliver projects which create better communities.

We will ensure that Brisbane continues to get its fair share from the LRCI program, Mr Chair. Prior to the election, the former Federal Government also confirmed funding towards two flood-affected clubs. As Councillor ATWOOD, you would be aware, Ross Vasta secured $4 million for clubs at Carmichael Park in Tingalpa, and also in my ward, $900,000 was secured for East Football Club at Heath Park in East Brisbane. We trust that these commitments, which the Federal Government wrote to Council to confirm prior to caretaker period, will be honoured by the Albanese Government.

There were a number of other commitments made right across Brisbane by Labor MPs (Members of Parliament) and Labor candidates during the election campaign to support clubs on Council land, including flood-affected clubs. We look forward to these projects being funded and rolled out in the coming years to support community clubs in suburbs across Brisbane. For example, $2 million was committed for Souths at Davies Park in West End to work with Council to plan the future for this valued greenspace.

Councillor CASSIDY would, I’m sure, welcome the $5 million commitment made to upgrade the Brighton Foreshore. The LORD MAYOR has committed to delivering consultation and the concept plan this term, and the funding from the Federal Government will ensure that upgrades can be delivered after that. In Sunnybank, $2 million was committed to accessibility upgrades for the Mains Road pedestrian overpass. At Toohey Forest, 400,000 was committed to continue Council’s investments in wildlife movement solutions across the city, with funding for a fauna crossing.

As Shadow Environment Minister, Terry Butler, developed an Urban Rivers and Catchments policy, I’d like to think she was inspired by the work done by the Schrinner Council in delivering the Oxley Creek and Norman Creek masterplans and, in particular, the transformation that has occurred at Hanlon Park in Stones Corner. The $200 million program will see funding provided to community groups, local and state governments to restore local waterways and habitats, and create valuable recreational space in the process. There were funding commitments made across Brisbane for a number of Council-supported creek catchment groups. There was also $2.5 million commitment to a project to re‑naturalise Downfall Creek.

On major transport projects, we look forward to continuing work with the Federal Government on the delivery of the Brisbane Metro, and also on our City Deal projects. So, Mr Chair, there are a number of projects that have been committed to in Brisbane, and we look forward to continuing our strong relations with the Federal Government, because we know that when different levels of government work together, we can achieve much for the community, and that is the approach of the Schrinner Council.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor SRI.

**Question 6**

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. My question is to the Mayor. Following on from that last discussion about rate rises, I wonder if the Mayor could express an opinion or comment on the value of potentially increase in rates for other categories of properties, such as commercial properties or industrial properties, so that we don’t have to increase rates for owner-occupier homes by as much or at all. Do you think there is a good argument for increasing rates on those other investment style of properties, so that rates for residents can be kept lower?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you for the question—through you, Mr Chair, to Councillor SRI, look, that is something that has happened from time to time. We know that our residential rates in Brisbane are actually amongst the lowest in South East Queensland (SEQ) already, and the reason is because we have this economic hub right here, the CBD, those booming inner city areas which are commercial, and they’re contributing to help keep residential rates down, so that is already the case at the moment.

If you go to the surrounding Council areas and you ask for their average residential rate bill, you will find it is already significantly higher than the Brisbane rate bill. So, this factor that Councillor SRI refers to is a real one, and the fact that we are the economic and jobs hub of the South East Queensland region means that our rates for residents are lower. So that is something that is a consideration in any budget and you’ve pointed out something that is quite legitimate.

It’s a good reminder that the economic activity and the boom that is happening here in Brisbane does have benefits for residents out in the suburbs, because when economic activity does well in those inner city areas, it means that residents pay less than their comparative Council areas in other parts of Brisbane, in other parts of South East Queensland, that is. So yes, it would be an interesting comparison to do, to have a look at those average rate bills in other surrounding SEQ Councils, because without—maybe we should do that, Councillor MURPHY, but you have raised a good point, Councillor SRI. Thank you again for coming to this—

Councillor SRI: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Sorry, just to the nub of the question, you’ve talked around it, but will you actually consider raising rates for those other classes of properties to offset the cost of resident rates?

LORD MAYOR: Well, rates for those other categories are already significantly higher. The categories are bringing significantly more revenue. The rating categories are significantly higher for other types of uses in the city. We have always consistently tried to keep those residential rates as low as possible, and the way that that happens is by capturing some of that economic activity that happens around the city to help keep rates down for everyone else. Thank you, Councillor SRI.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor HUTTON.

**Question 7**

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is the Chair of Community, Arts, and Nighttime Economy Committee, Councillor HOWARD. Councillor HOWARD, this week is National Reconciliation Week. Right across the country, communities are celebrating and remembering this week to learn about our shared stories, cultures, and achievements. Could you please update the Chamber on how the Schrinner Council is celebrating National Reconciliation Week here in Brisbane?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor HUTTON for her interest in how Council supports and enables the events across the city as they promote and acknowledge National Reconciliation Week. Every year, National Reconciliation Week runs from the 27 May to 3 June, both of which being significant milestones in the reconciliation journey. The date of the successful 1967 referendum and the 1992 High Court Mabo decision respectively.

In between these two significant dates, National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Each year, the theme of every Reconciliation Week is different, with this year’s theme being ‘Be Brave. Make Change’. This year’s theme is a challenge to us all to be brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can continue to make change for all, as we reflect on our past and strive for a better future for all Australians.

This year, a number of activations have been scheduled, not only throughout National Reconciliation Week, but also for National Sorry Day, which takes place every year on 26 May. On Thursday last week, I accompanied the LORD MAYOR to Council’s ceremony to observe National Sorry Day in King George Square, followed by a candle lighting ceremony in recognition of the children, families, and communities affected by the forced separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Across the city, Council’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team also work with community organisations to support a number of ceremonies across Brisbane, giving residents the opportunity to reflect upon and commemorate National Sorry Day. The Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, and Reddacliff Place sculptures were also lit red, black and yellow to commemorate National Sorry Day on 26 May, and again, on 29 May, assets across the city were lit up in the colours of red, black, yellow, blue and green in recognition of National Reconciliation Week.

At our libraries, Council has continued to deliver programs such as our First 5 Forever Jarjum storytime programs and our Reading for Reconciliation program. Having first commenced in October 2021, our First 5 Forever Jarjum stories are held monthly at the Bracken Ridge, Brisbane Square, Sunnybank Hills, and Wynnum libraries. These sessions recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as our first Australian cultures and work to build awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, perspectives, stories, authors and illustrators.

Through our Reading for Reconciliation program, we encourage our residents to improve their knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and histories. The Reading for Reconciliation group seeks to assist members of the community to start a reconciliation journey, through reading and discussing selected texts in an informal and friendly setting. In addition, I’d like to take this opportunity to update the Chamber on this year’s Indigenous art program, OUTstanding, which will be displayed throughout Brisbane’s outdoor art gallery until 7 August.

OUTstanding is shining a spotlight on promising, emerging, and early career First Nations artists through artworks, artists’ talks, open studios, workshops, and guided talks taking place across the city. To learn more about the art and artists on display across Brisbane, we are encouraging residents to join one of the many walking tours taking place to learn about the artworks on display across the city. Council’s Indigenous Art program has run annually since 2016 and has exhibited more than 80 First Nations artists and their unique stories and is a program that we are very proud to support.

Council recognises that reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds, and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As part of this process, members of our Inclusive Communities team recently met with 40 residents, Elders, and custodians who provided comprehensive feedback to Council and our Reconciliation Action Plan.

I’m happy to update the Chamber here today to say that we have incorporated that valued feedback Council received as part of this process and our Reconciliation Action Plan has been provided to Reconciliation Australia for review and endorsement. It is through awareness events and practices like these, including the continued work on our Reconciliation Action Plan, that we can walk together on this continued journey towards reconciliation. We have so much to be proud of as a city and as Australians and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage is something that the Schrinner Council will continue to celebrate, strengthen and support for years to come.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD. Your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 8**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. LORD MAYOR, just days before the Federal election, you took out the trash, using the floods as an excuse to cut a number of suburban projects that you once championed, including the Enoggera Creek Sport and Recreation Precinct and the North Brisbane Bikeway. Before you announced this publicly, the former LNP Member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans, was sending letters to residents claiming these projects being cut as a win, saying his influence over your LNP Administration forced you to reconsider these projects. LORD MAYOR, did you cut these projects to give your LNP mate a helping hand in the dying moments of his campaign?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: If Councillor CASSIDY thinks that a bikeway had anything to do with the Federal election result, he’s barking up the wrong tree there. I don’t think the North Brisbane Bikeway had any influence whatsoever on the Federal election result. It was definitely other issues at play there, but I’ll tell you what did have an influence on the bikeway and that is the fact that we have to spend $50 million fixing existing bikeways before we can build new bikeways, and that’s exactly what we’ll be doing because making sure that that existing connectivity can be re‑established is absolutely critical.

The $50 million investment that’s estimated at this point in time is a big one. That’s a significant one, and it’s one that we want to get on with, and so that is right now our priority, but when it comes to bikeways, we have an absolutely proud record right across the city of investing in bikeways, investing in shared infrastructure, separated infrastructure and a whole range of other facilities that make our city more sustainable and easier to get around, and we will continue to do so in the future.

In fact, you will not find another Administration in the history of Brisbane City Council that has invested more in public and active transport than this one and even with some temporary pauses on various projects, we’ll still be investing more than anyone has ever done in the past. Now, there are some people who would like to make this about, oh, you support motorists and you don’t support cyclists. That is just a rubbish argument. That is an argument of people who would prefer to divide then unite, and that is an argument of people who quite clearly hate motorists. That is not a productive way to look at a debate like this.

We’ve been consistent the whole time investing in all the different modes of travel. Not just one, all of them. We know that there are some that would have us stop investing in roads altogether and, in fact, even some Councillors that think that if we have a road that floods from time to time, it should be closed down. We’re not going to do that. We’re not going to do that because roads are an important way to get around the city, just as active travel and pedestrian and cyclist facilities are.

We will continue to invest right across the spectrum. We, unfortunately, unlike the Greens, I can tell you, we do not hate motorists. We don’t hate cyclists. We don’t hate pedestrians. We love everyone. We love everyone. The only policy agenda that has hatred in it, is the Greens’ agenda, where they hate motorists with a passion, they want to punish motorists.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I can say with—

Councillor SRI: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: I was just wondering if the Mayor could take a question about his mobile phone ringtone.

Chair: That’s not an appropriate point of order, but LORD MAYOR, you heard the question.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yes, that wasn’t my ringtone. We will continue to invest right across the different modes of travel because we believe that making sure people have options is the critical thing. We know, for example, that all of those people on the weekend that has just gone past that voted Green, they didn’t vote Green because they hated motorists, in fact, a large percentage of them are motorists. They voted Green for other reasons, and they—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, please.

LORD MAYOR: —and they, I think, would object strongly—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —if they discovered that the Greens wanted to punish motorists and hated motorists.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Look, we are simply saying that you need a sensible, balanced approach here and not one based on hatred of a particular group of travellers because of the mode of travel that they use. We will continue to invest in bikeways and active travel. We will fix roads that have been damaged, rather than closing them down. Look, the Labor Party are snickering here and I’m not sure why they’re snickering, because I remember that—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —you lost a seat on the weekend, as well and so I wouldn’t be so smug if I was you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I wouldn’t be so smug, particularly Councillor COOK, because the Greens are coming after you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They’ve got you in their sights. They’ve got you in their sights.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Councillor SRI, mate, it’s coming after you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, can we have order, please?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Order.

LORD MAYOR: Look, the weekend result is not a reason for anyone to be smug, but to make sure that we’re investing in sensible policies that support a balanced approach right across the city and that balance needs to be across all areas, whether it’s active travel and transport modes, or whether it’s practical support for environmental initiatives, as we have continued to do.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor MACKAY.

**Question 9**

Councillor MACKAY: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor DAVIS. Councillor DAVIS, on Sunday, the ever-popular Green Heart Fair was held in Victoria Park, which is also known as Barrambin. Could you please update the Chamber on how this event went, including how events like this are keeping Brisbane clean, green, and sustainable?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor MACKAY for the question. It was great to see you, Councillor MACKAY, with your family on what was a glorious day in Brisbane at Victoria Park/Barrambin for residents to come together and learn more about sustainable living. Mr Chair, the Green Heart Fair was officially opened by our LORD MAYOR, and it was wonderful to have Auntie Theresa Williams give the Welcome to Country. Auntie Theresa has a very special connection to Victoria Park/Barrambin and shared her story of when, 60 years ago as a child, she and her mother actually lived on the site.

Auntie Theresa also spoke about our future generations, so it was fantastic to see so many families and young children at the event. 2022 actually marks the 14th year since the start of Green Heart Fairs and this year’s event was our biggest yet, featuring 120 of Brisbane’s leading sustainability experts who were ready to share with their tips and tricks on how to live a more sustainable and eco-friendly life. Over at the Green Home Living Zone, workshops were held on how to stop using plastics and how to renovate a Queenslander for energy efficiency.

There were sessions on making sugar-free jam and DIY furniture using reclaimed timber. There were also workshops about setting up community gardens, helping bees thrive in your backyard and so much more. There was also a session at the Green Home Living Zone where I had the opportunity to meet some of the champion households who had participated in the Carbon Challenge and to hand out their certificates of completion.

It was fantastic to see so many people engaged in reducing their carbon footprint at home and I look forward to seeing more people undertake those opportunities to reduce their footprint, starting by taking the carbon calculator to see where their start point is. There was also a whole zone dedicated to resilient homes. This area included our own flood hub, which is a mini resilient home, as you know, Chair, that showcases flood-resilient design, as well as stalls from our Talk to a Planner team, the SES (State Emergency Service), Rural Fire Service and Evolved Construction.

Next door at the Eco Kids Zone, where there were a range of activities for the children to enjoy, that focused on sustainability, including a workshop on nature play weaving, Little Green Thumbs, Colourful Minds painting program and kite making. It was wonderful to see all the kids once they’d made their kites, running up and down the hills there at Vic Park. Of course, the main acts for the kids were performances by dirtgirl and scrapboy, which got them all dancing and learning about sustainable living.

At the event, we also had our first Junior Ranger Quest, which was inspired by the Junior Ranger program at Warril Parklands and more than 300 youngsters undertook the quest and, on completion, received their Junior Ranger pack, complete with badge and either a beeswax wrap or reusable sandwich wrap. There was also mini putt-putt, giant games and mini soccer run by the Little Kickers, so plenty of things to keep the kids active and engaged.

Mr Chair, the Green Heart Fair is committed to being zero waste and has adopted a number of sustainable initiatives to reduce waste and contribute to a clean and green Brisbane, including a mug library where visitors at the fair could borrow a reusable coffee mug. Visitors who brought along their own reusable coffee mug received discounts for coffee at the fair. The Green Heart Fair was also free of single-use plastics, with no plastic bags, straws, or balloons, as well as no sale of single-use plastic bottles, with visitors encouraged to bring their own bottles and fill up using the various refill stations on the site.

As the Chamber is aware, Council is transforming Victoria Park/Barrambin into a world-class destination, to become a natural retreat and an urban park for adventure, discovery, and reconnection. At the beginning of this transformation—the beginning of this transformation, should I say, was definitely on show this weekend. It was great to be able to see so many people wandering through the parklands, enjoying the views and the space that is on offer and seeing so many people stand under the Victoria Park/Barrambin Arch with the city skyline in the background, doing their Instagram moments, was fantastic to see.

We predict that there will be between 15,000 and 20,000 people that attended on Sunday, so that’s exciting and the Victoria Park/Barrambin team were also onsite to talk about the early projects that we will be having at the park, including the urban pump track and Spring Hill Common.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you.

Chair: Your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point—oh, sorry. Point of order.

Chair: Your point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just procedural matter with respect to the agenda, with respect to the answers to the Question on Notice. The answer at Question five says that there’s material provided to Councillors due to Commercial-in-Confidence, but we don’t have a separate piece of paper with those answers, which is normally how that info is provided. Could you please provide that to us?

Chair: Okay, I’ll follow through on that question. Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor CASSIDY, your question.

**Question 10**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. Recently, in contracts coming to Council, we saw more than $63 million being spent on recruitment for temporary labour hire. That $63 million promoting insecure work here in Council, that $63 million could be used to create secure, permanent, in-house Council jobs, and even bolster Council’s own HR (Human Resource) team to ensure that works. Brisbane workers have families to feed, but you’d rather keep them wondering where their next pay cheque is coming from. LORD MAYOR, why do you continue to do this?

Chair: Thank you.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor CASSIDY’s so red hot on this issue that he still has to read his question out. It’s just—this is the same rubbish that he has raised again and again and it is just misleading in the extreme. The only, I guess, people at the forefront of outsourcing in this place have been the Australian Labor Party when they outsourced the collection of rubbish and they outsourced the grass cutting and they outsourced the operation of CityCat ferries.

All of those things were outsourced under Labor, and now they would have you believe that they suddenly don’t support this approach. Of course they do—of course they do, but what we see here is that Labor seems to see workers in two classes. To Labor, the only important workers are the unionised permanent workers.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: They’re the only ones that Labor cares about. Why? Because unionised permanent workers pay their fees to the union, which then goes to the Labor Party campaign. That’s why they care about unionised workers, because that’s how they fund their campaigns. That’s where they get all their support from. They don’t care about other kinds of workers. They don’t care about workers in local businesses that get contracts with Council. They do not care about social enterprises like Multhana, who clean our buses for us—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and do a fantastic job. They don’t. They only care about unionised workers. Now, we care about all workers, which is why we ensure that there are ample opportunities for local businesses to do work for Council, because we don’t see those workers in two classes. We see them all as equal and they all deserve a go when it comes to supporting local business.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order. Point of order, Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, the LORD MAYOR has been ranting and raving for the last minute or two now about contracts and small businesses and social enterprises. My question was about $63 million worth of temporary labour hire contracts, which is a very different issue, and he clearly doesn’t understand what his LNP Administration is doing in creating two classes of workers here in Council. Can he answer that question?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: You can’t debate the question, Councillor CASSIDY, but the LORD MAYOR—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Order, please. All sides.

LORD MAYOR: As I was saying, we don’t believe there are two classes of workers.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We don’t believe that people—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please.

LORD MAYOR: We don’t believe that people that do some short-term work for Council are any less important than those permanent employees.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Councillor CASSIDY does, and he’s made it very clear that he sees them as less than.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: He sees them as lesser workers. He sees those jobs as less important. We do not.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We see them as just as important because they contribute just as much to the city as—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —other kinds of workers, and so—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: What we’re seeing here—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —is we—we diversify the amount of work that has to be done across the city between those short-term projects, work that is done on a short-term basis, and then other kinds of work, but we also look at value for money, as well. If it is providing good value for money to go with a local business or a local recruitment company to engage services, then we should absolutely consider that. I was talking to one of my other Mayoral colleagues from South East Queensland who was saying, oh yes, I heard your Leader of the Opposition, what’s his name, banging on about outsourcing the work.

He’s like, that’s the only way we do it. Why? Because when you outsource it, you get what you pay for and you can monitor it, and if you don’t like it, you can go with someone else.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: That was not my quote here, that was another Mayor of South East Queensland who was actually saying it was a good thing to do for—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, the question was about temporary labour hire workers, not about contracting out. The LORD MAYOR is either confused or deliberately not answering the question. Can you draw him back to that?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: What was the question? I mean, was there a question? I heard a speech.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I heard some commentary, but I didn’t actually hear a question.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: The question was, why do you continue to create two classes of workers in Brisbane City Council in continuing—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —in continuing this trend of putting labour hire workers alongside permanent employees?

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

The time for Question Time has expired. Thank you.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report, please, 23 May.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 23 May 2022, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor CASSIDY, following on from that question, he was asking why we do that? Because it’s the best outcome for the ratepayers of Brisbane. That’s why. That’s why we do it, because we can provide better services to the ratepayers of Brisbane. That’s why we do it, because there is no Administration that is invested more in boosting and improving services that the residents of Brisbane get than we have, and so that’s why we do it. That’s why we do it this way.

This week, we’ll see once again our assets lit up to support some important causes. Last night, we had the Sandgate Town Hall, Reddacliff Place, Brisbane City Hall lit up in red for World MS (multiple sclerosis) Day. For more than 60 years, MS Queensland has provided care and support to Queenslanders living with MS and other neurological conditions. Every year on 30 May, MS Day is celebrated globally. Tonight, Reddacliff Place, the Tropical Dome, Victoria Bridge and Story Bridge will be lit up in purple to support Darkness to Daylight. Darkness to Daylight is a 110‑kilometre overnight event that will help raise awareness of domestic and family violence as DV (domestic violence) Prevention Month comes to an end.

On Wednesday, we’ll be lighting up our assets again for National Reconciliation Week. Our bridges will be lit up in black, red and yellow, blue, green and white to commemorate this week, which is something that we’ve previously lit up, as well, on other days. On Thursday night, we’ll be lighting up the Story Bridge in green and white and red to celebrate Italy’s National Day. Every year on 2 June, Italy celebrates its National Day, and we’re supporting our local Italian community in their festivities for this important day.

On Thursday night, we’ll also be lighting up the Reddacliff Place, Victoria Bridge and the Tropical Dome in purple to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. This year, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth will become the first Australian monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service, a truly remarkable length of service. If you just consider all of the things that have happened in the last 70 years, it’s been a time of incredible change. To be in that role for 70 years is a truly remarkable thing and I do think her majesty is a truly remarkable lady.

This Friday is Mabo Day and we’ll be lighting up our assets blue, green and white to celebrate the occasion. The decision of the High Court, the famous Mabo decision, was on 3 June 1992, and this decision, as we all know, paved the way for native title to make its way into Australian law. On Saturday night, we’ll be lighting up the Story Bridge red to support World Haemochromatosis Week. This disease is a result of an overload of iron and is purely genetic. It’s the most common genetic disorder in Australia and affects one in 200 Australians.

On Sunday, the Story Bridge will be lit up blue to celebrate the Brisbane Marathon Festival. This is the 30th anniversary of the festival and the organisers expect around 8,000 runners to sign up to this event. It is something that we are supporting through the Brisbane Economic Development Agency and all funds raised go to Ronald McDonald House.

It was great to be out at Victoria Park/Barrambin on the weekend for the Green Heart Fair, and it was a wonderful event, but what was even more wonderful were those people who came out and said, oh, you’ve suddenly turned green after the Federal election. Well, hello. We’ve been doing this for 14 years, 14 years and, in fact, before the first Green Councillor was ever elected to Brisbane City Council, we were green. We’ve been running this wonderful Green Heart Fair across the suburbs of Brisbane for well over a decade. Why? Because we believe in it. We believe in practical environmental action and the community believes in it, too.

It was great to see so many people out there, not only enjoying the Green Heart Fair, but also exploring Victoria Park/Barrambin. For many people who don’t play golf, this is the first time that they’ve had a chance to go in and walk the grounds of Victoria Park/Barrambin and it is a truly special place. It is an amazing place. The golfers obviously had run of it for a period of years, but now everyone in the community has access to this wonderful greenspace and we’re looking forward to working with the community to roll out the masterplan later on this year and then start the initial upgrades as we head towards the 2032 Olympics.

I also just wanted to mention the significance of the unveiling of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial in ANZAC Square. This is something that was long overdue and it is, in fact, going to be, I understand, the last memorial of its kind in ANZAC Square. I think it is fitting that it is the last because, when you think about all those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders that served our nation, a nation that for a large period of time didn’t give them basic rights, yet they volunteered and sometimes they actually volunteered by really not fessing up about their cultural background to serve this nation and potentially die for this nation, it’s incredible. It is an incredible thing.

As I said during the week, the service of Indigenous or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our military, I believe, was the start of a national conversation about Aboriginal and Strait Islander rights. People rightly asked, if they can fight and die for our country, why don’t they have basic rights? So that started a long process, but I think, how can you argue with that question? How can you argue with it?

So it is right that there is now a permanent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial in ANZAC Square and that will be there for the generations, and just adds even more significance to what is an amazing sacred place in our city. I want to thank everyone that’s been involved in putting that memorial together over a long period of time. We’re obviously one of the contributors financially to that memorial, along with the State Government and others and it is just a wonderful thing.

The items in front of us, the report of the Audit Committee from 12 May, this is presented in line with the City of Brisbane Regulation. The Audit Committee reviews Council’s internal audit processes and they monitor operational risks, as well as the control measures for those operational risks. Throughout the year, Council works with the Audit Committee and the Queensland Audit Office to ensure we meet all of our audit requirements.

Now, it’s important to understand that there are three layers of accountability when it comes to audit. There is our own internal Council audit processes, so the internal auditors in Council. Then, there’s the independent committee, which is the one that we’re getting the report from. Then, the third layer is the Queensland Audit Office. So, three layers of accountability auditing potential risks and control measures and responses and so we have an ongoing, very rigorous process.

That is something that continues day-in, day-out, month-in, month-out and will continue. That doesn’t mean that Council is not without risks. There are always risks when we come to an organisation like this, that delivers services over such a wide area, has so many employees, has so many different locations, offers so many different services. Of course there are risks and it’s all about making sure we have the processes in place to manage those risks. That report is at item A.

Item B is the lease of Council land to community organisations. Item B is seeking to renew—or approval to renew leases with 42 different clubs and organisations. The *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* outlines that Council cannot enter into a valuable, non-current asset contract unless it first invites written tenders for the contract or offers the valuable non-current asset for sale by auction. We know that the City of Brisbane Regulation provides a number of exemptions that Council may apply and essentially what we’re doing here is, these organisations have existing leases, they are existing tenants in our facilities or on our land and we are renewing those.

This is the process of approving those lease renewals. So, 42 different incredible organisations across the city and I trust that all Councillors will be supportive of this item.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair.

**Seriatim - Clauses A and B**

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| Councillor Jared CASSIDY requested that Clause A, REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 MAY 2022, and Clause B, LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes. As we just heard quite extraordinarily from this LNP LORD MAYOR, but something we have suspected for a long time, that he doesn’t value Council workers and doesn’t think the people of Brisbane—

LORD MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor CASSIDY: He doesn’t think the people of Brisbane get good value for money from Council workers. That’s what he just said before. He said that by contracting out—

LORD MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor CASSIDY: —by contracting out and getting labour hire workers—

LORD MAYOR: Claim to be again misrepresented.

Chair: Thank you. Noted.

Councillor CASSIDY: He said by contracting work out and getting labour hire workers instead of giving permanent, secure jobs to people that the people of Brisbane get better value for money. So, to all those Council employees listening and watching along, we value you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: We value you and the LNP don’t.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor CASSIDY: The LNP don’t.

Chair: —to the items before us, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Like usual, Chair, Clause A, the Audit Committee report, there is very little information contained in what Councillors are being provided in the papers before us today. This LNP Administration avoids transparency like the plague. The Committee was given an entire presentation on the 2022 Brisbane City Council Flood Review, yet as elected representatives, elected Councillors, we weren’t privy to any details about this presentation. In fact, when we asked questions about the number of submissions that were made to this review, we were told that that couldn’t be provided because it was somehow external to Council—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —that Council, this LNP Administration, has no idea how many submissions were provided to the Flood Review, what was in those submissions, even though an email address was set up which was floodreview2022—or something like that—@brisbane.qld.gov.au. So, all of those submissions for the Flood Review which were discussed at this Audit Committee meeting—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes, there is no public record whatsoever—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —about these, about submissions or about the briefing that the Audit Committee received on the Flood Review. So you’ve got to ask yourself the question, why is this being kept so secret? Why is the LNP hiding the number of flood submissions that were made to the Flood Review and hiding details about what was discussed about that Flood Review at this Audit Committee? We also see, in the Audit Committee, there was an update on Council’s high-risk rating audit findings.

So under the LNP, Council’s net financial liabilities ratio is 203% and rated as higher risk, while the SEQ Council’s average was just 17.06%. What we’ve known for a very long time is that this LNP Administration, through their focus on themselves and on these inner city projects that see cost blowout and delay after delay and cost blowout, that they are becoming a serious financial risk to the people of Brisbane. The net financial liabilities ratio again is 203%. Other South East Queensland councils are running at 17% currently.

There’s a footnote blaming changes on the accounting standards. Of course, they’ve been rolling that chestnut out for about the last three or four years now, but even when you take that into—that explanation into it, it would be 127%, twice the maximum level. Sure, these things are being audited, and what they’re finding is that this LNP LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER and his LNP Administration are a massive financial risk to the people of Brisbane, hence why we’re going to see rates continue to climb and people are gonna see less and less delivered and less and less services out in the suburb for them.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You also see Council’s—we’re seeing it now. People can’t even get their trees trimmed and their grass cut and their footpaths fixed or their busted and broken drains repaired. We also see the Council’s asset sustainability ratio is over 80% and is rated at a moderate risk. That’s probably a good one for this LNP Administration when you look at it. The most concerning thing is that these ratios are showing a deteriorating trend. Things are getting worse and worse under the LNP Administration, which means the rates will be driven higher and higher and less and less will be delivered out in the suburbs.

We know from looking at any budget papers, any budget review, any annual plan and budget that this LNP Administration has left the people of Brisbane a huge amount of debt, a huge amount of debt and people are starting to ask the question, is it all good value for money? Out in the suburbs, do they see a good return on their rates? When they saw the $650 million spent on Kingsford Smith Drive, which is today a much more congested and slower road than it was before the upgrade, they see a Metro project that was promised to be $944 million, and today that price tag is at $1.7 billion—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —and half a billion dollars committed to these inner city green bridges, and people can’t even get broken tidal valves fixed by this LNP LORD MAYOR. They have to wait three months and maybe six months to get a tree trimmed down in the suburbs. Parks aren’t being mowed, and when they are being mowed, it’s a terrible job in some places and we’ve seen that. We’ve seen that right across the city.

We’ve seen that right across the city, and footpaths languish, broken and busted and inaccessible to so many people around the city. So, residents are more and more often asking that question, are they getting good value for money out of the rates that this LNP Administration is charging them? When you see the debt levels rise to this level for a Council, to eye-watering levels and a diminishing return out in the suburbs, I think come 2024, people will cast that judgment very harshly on this LNP Administration.

Clause B is the lease of land to Council and community organisations. This is for around 40 community leases around Brisbane. These groups are all existing lessees, as we’ve heard, and many of them have called these facilities home for many years. The clause allows the valued organisations to renew their leases without having to go through the expressions of interest process every single time. We support this clause, of course. I think from memory, I’m not sure if I’ve got this wrong and Councillor JOHNSTON will be able to correct me, but I think this issue is something that you have raised in the past, around the process following the changes to the regulation.

I do remember the LNP rubbishing those concerns that you raised at the time and saying you were wrong, and they said you were wrong, you were wrong. Then all of a sudden, all of a sudden, a few months later they had to say, oh yes, she was right actually after all, and they had to bring these items through to Council. It’s a step supporting these organisations, so congratulations, Councillor JOHNSTON—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —supporting these organisations to having these leases, and I’ve seen a few come through my ward, as well, for a longer period after advocating for that recently in my ward. It’s a step in the right direction, of course, but what we have seen, what we have seen throughout the pandemic and at the peak of the pandemic is this LNP LORD MAYOR cutting grants for community clubs and rolling—getting rid of a whole lot of support, rolling up a few different previous programs into one and allocating less money to it, and then claiming that the LNP was supporting community clubs. We are getting used to seeing that.

Last week, we saw this LNP LORD MAYOR stand up and crying about support for eight—eight out of 331 clubs that were devastated by the recent floods. We’ve got the strange situation now of the former East Brisbane Bowls Club site, that process, unlike some of the other ones in former LNP Federal seats that were cancelled, like the Enoggera Creek one, it’s just been paused, and so the bulldozers are still sitting ready to come in and demolish that community facility over there.

So, while we of course support the lease of community facilities to not-for-profit and community groups, this LNP Administration has proven that they do the bare minimum—the bare minimum when it comes to supporting these groups out in the community, and we should be doing so much more.

Chair: Thank you. LORD MAYOR, your misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR: Yes. Councillor CASSIDY incorrectly claimed that I didn’t support Council workers. I didn’t say anything of the kind.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: In fact, I said I don’t see workers as two classes of workers depending on whether they’re permanent or not, and that I see all workers as equal. He repeated that misrepresent—he made that inaccurate claim twice.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair, and I rise to speak to the lease of Council land to community organisations at item B.

Chair: Item B.

Councillor HOWARD: I’d like to just put on the record that the eight organisations that were passed through this Council Chamber last week are just the beginning. It’s a shame that those on the opposite side don’t actually read the paperwork, don’t actually understand the enormous work that has been done by our Council officers in assessing what has been going on since our flood event. It’s amazing, the work that they’ve done, and for them to so quickly get to the point where we can help those eight organisations is nothing short of amazing, and I want to congratulate those Council officers for the work that they have done.

The Schrinner Council is proud to support more than 600 community organisations across Brisbane through the provision of Council land, including clubhouses, sports and recreation facilities, fields, and halls. I’m proud to speak in support of item B, which seeks to provide ongoing security of tenure for 42 of our dedicated community organisations across Brisbane. These 42 lessees include community organisations from right across the city, including Guides clubs at Geebung, Tarragindi, and Carindale, our dedicated Scout branches in Coorparoo and Alderley, the harmonious Voices of Birralee in Bardon, the Al-Seraj Iraqi Association in Kuraby, St Vincent de Paul Society in Brighton, the Wolston Park Centenary Cricket Club in Richlands, and the Graceville Croquet Club, just to name a few, Chair.

Each of the 42 organisations before us today provide invaluable contributions to our local communities, and I ask today that all Councillors join me in supporting item B to make sure that they continue to do so with the full support of this Chamber. I just, once again, want to put on record my appreciation to the hard work that all of our Council officers right across Council have done, particularly after the flood event, but always, they are out there working with those community organisations to make sure that we are supporting them, and this is just one way that we are doing that. So I commend item B to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on item A and item B. I, too, like Councillor CASSIDY, find it quite sad really that unelected people on the secret Audit Committee can get briefings on budget-related financial issues out of the recent floods, but it’s very hard for Councillors to get that information. We saw last week, massive cuts come through, no briefing for Councillors, no discussion. This LNP just used their massive majority to run really substantial cuts to everyday and critical operations within Brisbane, including things like mowing and tree trimming, and $13 million out of a $30 million stormwater budget.

The LORD MAYOR might stand up in here and criticise the Labor Party for not talking about stormwater, but I can tell you, for 11 years, I’ve annoyed everybody in here about it. It is a shameful decision of this Council that spends barely anything on stormwater management in this city to then cut almost half of the recurrent annual budget. That is actually a bigger problem because of the rollovers from previous years and previous years and previous years. So, actually, a lot less is spent every year because of the financial mismanagement of this Council Administration. It is a real worry when people who aren’t elected and who aren’t actually responsible to the people of Brisbane can get briefings, but Councillors in this place can’t.

Now, I just want to talk about item B, the leases—community leases. Firstly, Councillor HOWARD seems to take everything as an attack upon the officers. Councillor CASSIDY got up and made some remarks about the Council leasing process and how we’ve supported clubs during the floods, and Councillor HOWARD has taken that as some attack upon the officers, which it’s not.

I would just like to put on the record the following things, that firstly, there are three clubs in here that are getting leases in my ward, and that’s the Graceville Croquet Club, they’re 102. They’re a model organisation for how you should run your association. They find it extremely difficult and get very little support from Council. They had to manage their own structural repairs. This is a group of 50 elderly people. They had to do it. Council didn’t do it for them. Council told them, here’s $100,000, you go and manage a huge project, but that’s fine. We’re so pleased you’re giving them another four years on their lease.

The Oxley Soccer Club, we’ve asked for some bins for the Oxley Soccer Club and they’ve not actually turned up yet. The Oxley—Annerley/Yeronga Country Women’s Association (CWA), again, another extraordinary—I’ve got two CWA groups—another extraordinary group. There’s only about 15 members there. They run a hall. They manage their budget. Every now and then, they ask Council to trim the heritage-listed tree in their front yard, because it’s a huge tree in Yeronga Memorial Park, and it’s such a difficult issue. Council says, no, it’s your tree. You have to manage it.

I want to put on the record the following, this Council, from a policy point of view and a leadership point of view, is not supporting our community sporting clubs—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —in the way that they should. No community sporting clubs should be left to do major structural repairs on their own. No community sporting club should have to manage heritage-listed trees or, like the poor Scouts at Yeronga Memorial Park have to do, 18 trees on the edge of their lease boundary. Their toilet block is not in their lease boundary, but apparently all these trees are. It is a massive mess what is going on. I do not think that is the officer’s fault. I believe that is the fault of the people who are running the Council and that is the LNP Administration, who for nearly 20 years have had control of this Council and have not done anything to make it easier for these small community groups to carry out their activities.

That’s what they’re here to do. They’re not here to rebuild the substructure of the floor at the 103-year-old Graceville Croquet Club. They’re here to play croquet. This Administration has got it wrong for such a long time that they cannot see where the problem is.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Then, Councillor HOWARD stands up and says, oh, but we’re only—helping eight clubs is just the beginning. Well, I can tell you one of the hardest-hit clubs in my ward was Souths Cricket. Souths Cricket came forward and asked this Council for $17,000 to help them replace their electricals, and you know what this Council said? No. This is a club flooded to the roof, all their grounds, all their lights, all their fences, all their equipment, the clubhouse, all the internals, all the cold rooms, all the kitchens, senior club, junior club. Do you know what Council’s given them to date? $5,000 to clean up. That’s it.

Now, if this Council was genuine about helping community groups, they would’ve started with the $17,000 one of our oldest sporting clubs in Brisbane needed, and they could have done that, but did they? No. They even put a proposal forward. They had the costings, they had exactly what they needed, and this Council said no. Guess who else this Council is saying no to or just being incompetent? For over two years, I’ve been calling for a lease for the Carrington Boat Club to come forward. Over two years, and again, many weeks ago now I signed off on—for the third or fourth time, a lease renewal for them, this time for 10 years rather than four.

They don’t actually have a club anymore, because it’s completely gone. There were three walls left standing, boats gone, pontoons gone, the roof of the clubhouse gone, just completely gone. Now, Council’s announced money for them, but they don’t have a lease. Over and over again, I’ve supported it and it’s still not come forward in the package today. Where is the lease for the Carrington Boat Club? I’ve signed off on it two years ago, again last year, again twice this year, where is the lease for the Carrington Boat Club? Why does this tiny little sporting club in Brisbane, on the banks of the Brisbane River, keep getting ignored by Council?

Over and over again it’s been raised, every time this comes in here, and the Carrington Boat Club still don’t have a lease. I know when I’ve signed off on it. I’ve signed off on it multiple times over two years, and it’s still not coming up. So, Councillor HOWARD and the LORD MAYOR, now he’s wandered back into the Chamber, where’s the lease for the Carrington Boat Club? How much longer does a tiny little flood-affected club have to wait for a lease? It’s been more than two years that we’ve been asking, more than two years. Not having a lease affects what grants they can apply for. They’ve got to get a letter from Council saying, well, yes, we’ll let them have a grant application.

Do you know how much that complicates it for these poor groups trying to apply for funding? Do your work, get the Carrington Boat Club lease up here and support our local clubs. Secondly, put more in place to support these clubs, they should not be doing major structural works themselves. They should not be applying for grants to do the structural work. In any kind of lease arrangement, it is the owner that is responsible for managing these buildings—that is us, Brisbane City Council—and the groups are responsible for maintenance, not fixing structural problems, not trying to cut down heritage trees that they can’t afford to do. This Council does do things like this.

In my view, Councillor HOWARD, when you stand up and say, Labor’s attacking the officers, no, be clear. We’re attacking you, and I’m attacking you and the other LNP Chairs and the LORD MAYOR and all of the majority in here for failing to put the money where it is needed to support flooded clubs, and failing to put the policies in place to support these groups, to carry out their activities without the stress of having to manage major repairs.

It is wrong the way this Administration treats clubs. If there’s a change coming in this Council at some point, any other, any other administration at some point in the future, looking at how to better support community clubs has got to be one of the number one issues on the list, because I know, and everybody else here knows, that volunteers are finding it harder and harder to do this work, whereas this Council has the power and the resources to do it properly, and isn’t.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on item B today, and I do actually rise to speak on item B and what is actually in the report, compared to some other people. I would like to thank the officers and the work that they have done over the last several years, which have been difficult times during COVID, difficult times because the clubs have had difficulties with COVID and the weather, but also some of those clubs have been very difficult to contact during the COVID times, as well. I am very proud to say that there are five clubs within my local ward that are on this list today, and they are five amazingly coordinated and dedicated clubs that do wonderful work right across the community.

First of all, I’ll put the first two together, the Brisbane Visual Arts Community and the Girl Guides. They’re both in Weller Road Park. Fantastic, small but effective clubs that have benefitted from some fantastic access and inclusion upgrades over the last several years from Council that have made them even more accessible to people of all abilities, whether they are artistic and want to go out and show their inner creative, or the young girls who pop down after Wellers Road State School has finished and join in their Girl Guides activities for their afternoon. Again, small groups, but dedicated groups that do an absolutely amazing job.

The Tarragindi Tigers are a very large soccer club that are definitely bursting at the seams since COVID and work across several schools, as well, for their fields. They have a brand-new clubhouse that was built with the support of the State and the Federal Government, and then us through leasing, as well. I can assure you that the Tarragindi Tigers would not at any time consider that they have any issues with Council and the support they get for the maintenance, the upgrading, and the work that they need around their fields. The team down there of Tarragindi Tigers do an amazing job. They’ve got their irrigation in there, as well, and with the new clubhouse, they’re going from strength to strength. They will definitely appreciate the extension—the continuation of this lease.

Blue Care, again, are slightly different, not a community club, but definitely a community group that does amazing work within the community, looking after those people whose carers need some respite. I’ve had some fantastic morning teas and birthday parties. Pre-COVID, we had the 107th birthday of a beloved local resident, we’re hoping to hit the 109th or 110th this year now that we’ve gotten out of COVID lockdown, as well, but Blue Care do some amazing work. They’ve been for over 20 years at this site on Logan Road, supporting those carers who need a little bit of time out, and recently have also worked with Council on that site to establish their own Men’s Shed. They’re across the road from my very large Mt Gravatt Men’s Shed, and they have a secondary campus over there to help those with special needs and high care needs, as well, to be able to be active in the Men’s Shed.

Last, but by no means least, the Holland Park Sport and Rec, formally known as Holland Park Bowls Club. They benefit out of the amalgamation with the Lynndon Bowls Club, which was sold to the Ukrainian community, which is down in Holland Park. They established themselves as the Holland Park Sport and Rec Club, and here is an example of a club going from strength to strength during COVID as a sport and rec club. They obviously still have bowls, that is very, very important. They obviously still have a bar that sells beers at 1990s prices. They also have an air-conditioned hall, which they are generating revenue by hiring that out, as well.

They have a coffee shop that is open in the morning now, which caters for the neighbouring school’s parents when they come in. They are looking for—other co-located surfaces on their site, as well. They last year celebrated their 80th birthday, and it was wonderful to be there with Bronwyn, Graham, and the team, as well. These five clubs will genuinely appreciate the extension of their lease, some of them looking for a bit of a longer lease in the coming years, which I know we can start working through now that this has been sorted, but I thank the officers for the work that they’ve done with my clubs in this area, and I recommend the report to the Chambers.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks. Just on item B with the club list, really quickly, there’s one club venue that’s not listed there, unfortunately, which is the East Brisbane Bowls Club. I don’t want to reopen a long debate about that, but I did just want to highlight that the building itself has been closed for quite a while now, and I’m worried that it’s going to get a bit musty in there and mouldy, and I hope Councillor HOWARD could look at sending down some Council officers to at least open the windows and ventilate the space, so whatever we decide to do with it, just don’t let it get mouldy in the meantime. Thanks.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on item B, the lease of land to community organisations. As has been previously raised in this Chamber, item B is seeking Council’s approval to renewed leases with 42 community organisations. Item B is seeking Council’s approval to apply this extension so that we can continue with lease negotiations with these 42 valued community organisations, including the wonderful and much-valued Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club (FTPEC), based in that special part of Brisbane that is Fig Tree Pocket.

The FTPEC is based on about 40 acres, nestled between the river to the west and Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary across the road to the east. The club offers a wide range of events for a variety of equestrian sport disciplines, including international events. Unless I’m very much mistaken, my memory is that this is the only internationally accredited equestrian park within Brisbane. It’s very interesting, Chair, to remember that former Labor Lord Mayor, Clem Jones, was going to turn this little area into a housing estate, and I’m led to believe that Sallyanne Atkinson saved it.

In early 2020, Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club was awarded a grant through Brisbane City Council’s Building Stronger Communities program to improve club governance and long-term sustainability. Council has further been able to support the club through managing the impact and recovery from this year’s flood event, with the club gaining access to both a sport and rec officer support and by receiving funding under Council’s Community Facility Disaster Relief program.

Just last week, I went down and enjoyed a late afternoon meeting with the new exec at the club. Sally, the new President, and Heidi, the new Secretary, took me on a tour of the property and showed me around the facilities. The new exec is planning big things between now and the Olympics. They would love to position themselves as a contender for training and preparation location for the Brisbane Olympics. Considering it’s only 14 kilometres from the city centre, the FTPEC is ideally positioned to offer facilities not only for riders, but the wider community. The club regularly hosts community social nights, engagements, and entertainment.

Sally has a vision to engage the community with options, possibly such as social memberships and using the facilities as local meeting spaces. Approval of this item will allow us to provide continued security for the club and the community. This will provide a positive outcome, and I know the community is much loved—correction, the facility is much loved by the community and valued by neighbours near and wide. I commend item B to the Chamber.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MACKAY.

Further speakers?

Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Thank you, Chair. I also rise to speak on item B and to support the lease with Bracken Ridge Cricket. The Bracken Ridge Cricket Club was established in 1983 and hold the lease at McPherson Park in the heart of Bracken Ridge. The clubhouse was actually built by the club members themselves, and there are some great photos within the clubhouse on the walls that show some progressive shots of that being built. Some of the members in the photos are still actually there and are now life members, such as Mark Genninges and Keane White, who work hard to maintain the field and keep the club running, and invariably, if I’m at McPherson Park, I will always run into one of them.

The membership is currently made up of 70 juniors and 40 seniors, and the club plays in summer under the QSDCA or the Queensland Sub Districts Cricket Association, and in winter under the WCA or Warehouse Cricket Association. So, Chair, I am very happy to support this lease being renewed, and I know the club will welcome new players at any time.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers? Any further speakers? No?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Just briefly, in relation to a couple of items that came up in discussion, it’s interesting because I would recommend—through you, Mr Chair—that Councillor CASSIDY familiarises himself with the story of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, because I think it’s very relevant here because for years and years, he’s been saying these outrageously untrue things to the point where now no one believes him.

If there was actually ever a legitimate issue that he were to raise, he might find himself in a spot of bother, because for years and years, he’s been making untrue claims about the investment in basic services, the state of the Council budget, which is incredibly strong given the sheer volume of infrastructure that we’re investing in, plus the financial shocks that we’ve had with the COVID pandemic and floods. There is no other level of government that has a better and stronger budget than we do. There’s just not, yet Councillor CASSIDY continues to say these patently untrue things about the state of our budget and what we invest in.

So, just a word of warning or maybe a word of wisdom. Boy who cried wolf, Councillor CASSIDY, brush up on that story. It’s funny because as a former Finance Chair in this place, I remember even 15 years ago, Labor Councillors were saying, oh, the debt’s out of control, it’s going to send the city broke. Oh, we’re all doomed. Remember that? Kim Flesser. Kim Flesser used to say those things and we referred to him as *Chicken Little* at the time, but the sky did not fall in. In fact, what happened since then—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —is we invested in record infrastructure—billions of dollars’ worth of infrastructure were built, and guess what? The budget remains strong—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and we invested record amounts into the suburbs of Brisbane.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, we will continue to make sure that we’re investing for the growth of the city and we continue to—because the State Government continues to fob off their own responsibilities. They can’t even deal with basic things that they are responsible for, like the health system, the education system, or public housing. They can’t do that well, but they still continue to put other responsibilities onto councils, and in particular, Brisbane City Council, the biggest one being public transport, where they are responsible for public transport, yet they have vacated the field when it comes to any investment in the bus network, any investment in the busway network.

That leaves the only people that are willing to do anything is us. It would be wonderful if we had $1.7 billion free to invest in other things.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It would be wonderful, wouldn’t it?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We could do amazing things with that, but guess what? We can’t, because the city will grind to a halt if we don’t invest in our public transport system, and so we have to, and it’s not just that we have to, it’s the right thing to do, and so we’re doing it. Now, other councils don’t have anywhere near those responsibilities. Other councils don’t build major roads or public transport projects, other councils aren’t expected to do those things. So, we have a very different role and we accept that role. We’d like to see more support from the State Government and other levels of government, but we’ve always been willing to step forward and to cater for the needs of our growing city, and we will continue to do so.

In relation to the issues that Councillor JOHNSTON raised, I will say that I think in some respects, some of the issues that she raised are very legitimate and some that have been of concern to us and as an Administration. Our clubs and community and sporting groups across the city have varying capacities to, I guess, reinvest in facilities and raise money. Some are absolute professional machines that, you know, they have a plan to upgrade facilities, they raise the money, they make it happen. They do amazing things, but not all clubs have those same capabilities.

So, as we go through the rebuilding and recovery process from the floods, one of the things that we are looking at is how we can make lease arrangements work better for our community and our clubs, and so that would mean looking at changes where clubs just do not have the capability to take on maintenance responsibilities that other clubs might, that we look at a process that sees them on a different arrangement. We are very focused on improving this situation, and by all means, the clubs that our city has range from the very smallest organisations with very few members and very little ability to raise money, up to these major organisations that are just so professional.

Kedron-Wavell Services Club would be one example, Easts down in Stones Corner, another example, these are big organisations, professionally run, that can pump money back into facilities in the community, and they do and it’s a great outcome, but not all organisations are the same. What I can assure Councillor JOHNSTON of is that our modified approach going forward will be taking that into mind very carefully. We’ll be looking at how we can support those smaller organisations that have less capacity to do the fundraising and invest in their facilities, and so—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —we will very much be focused on that, Councillor JOHNSTON, and I think it’ll be a very—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —positive thing for the City of Brisbane.

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

We now move to the vote on the E&C report in two parts. Item A.

**Clause A put**

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

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

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 19 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Kara COOK, Peter CUMMING, Charles STRUNK, Jonathan SRI and Nicole JOHNSTON.

Chair: We now move to the vote on item B.

**Clause B put**

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Krista Adams) (Deputy Chair) and Councillor Kim Marx.

#### A REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 MAY 2022

**109/695/586/6-02**

**663/2021-22**

1. The Chief Executive Officer provided the information below.

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

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

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

5. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 MAY 2022, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A** (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

#### B LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

**112/445/439/204**

**664/2021-22**

6. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the information below.

7. In accordance with section 217 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation), Council cannot enter into a valuable non-current asset contract (relevantly, a lease in respect of land or contract for the disposal of land) unless it first:

(a) invites written tenders for the contract; or

(b) offers the valuable non-current asset for sale by auction.

8. Section 226(1) of the Regulation provides a number of exceptions that Council may apply to the disposal of an interest in land other than by way of tender or auction, including, but not limited to, land that is to be leased to a government agency or a community organisation.

9. Council currently leases properties to the community organisations listed in Attachment B (submitted in file) for community, sport, recreation and cultural purposes.

10. To ensure the continued effective management of Council’s community, sport, recreation and cultural facilities, it is proposed that Council resolve to apply the exception provided by section 226(1)(b)(ii) of the Regulation to the properties identified in Attachment B.

11. Local Councillors have been informed of Council’s intention to apply the exception and continue lease negotiations with the relevant organisations within their ward.

12. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Attachment A  
Draft Resolution**

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

As:

(i) Council is the owner of the land (freehold), or the trustee of the land, as set out in Attachment B, which is used, or is proposed to be used, for community, sport, recreation and cultural purposes

(ii) Council proposes to renew existing leases in respect of land which is used, or is proposed to be used, for community, sport, recreation and cultural purposes

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

then Council:

(i) resolves that the exception set out in section 226(1)(b)(ii) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* applies to the disposal of the properties by way of lease, as described in Attachment B.

**ADOPTED**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

**665/2021-22**

At that juncture, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Kara COOK, that the Standing Rules be suspended to allow the moving of the following motion⎯

*Calling on Brisbane City Council to introduce a new rating category for residential owner-occupiers, creating a new class of natural disaster-affected, uninhabitable homes, and that rates are set at 25% of the amount usually levied under the resolutions of rates and charges for a period of up to 12 months.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, you’re moving a suspension of standing rules under 12(3). You must establish why you weren’t able to include this motion for—

LORD MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: —debate on the agenda.

LORD MAYOR: I can actually clarify that we already do this and we have the capability to do this.

Chair: Well, the motion is for the suspension of standing rules. That’s the first vote. There’s a motion for the suspension of standing rules. All in favour of the suspension of standing rules? You can have three minutes to establish why you want to suspend standing rules.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I’d be very interested in a debate, if the LORD MAYOR is going to allow such a debate, but the reason I’m raising this motion today is, in Question Time, the LORD MAYOR indicated that the budget has not yet been finalised for 2022-23. We’ve had another major natural disaster in the city with the big floods, but there could be other natural disasters in the city. It’s come to my attention that this Council will not offer substantive rates relief for homeowners whose homes are uninhabitable.

I have made a request for residents in my area where there has been a major landslip and their homes have been rendered uninhabitable, and Council has said no. They’ve said the only money available to these people is the $250 rebate. So, if what the LORD MAYOR is saying is true in his interjection earlier, that there already is provision to make rates relief for uninhabitable homes, there is a very serious problem with why I’m being told that it’s not available to residents with uninhabitable homes.

So, I think we need to have a debate. The LORD MAYOR can hop up and tell me why I’m wrong, but I want to make sure that those residents whose homes are uninhabitable get true rates relief, and it is quite urgent because there’s still an opportunity to set up a provision of this kind in the 2022-23 budget. As the LORD MAYOR has said, it’s not finalised.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillors, the motion before us is for the suspension of standing rules.

The Chair submitted the motion for the suspension of the Standing Rules to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your motion please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thanks. I’ll be quick. Wasn’t really expecting that, but anyway—

Chair: Have you—are you circulating that? It’s all—is this it?

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s it.

Chair: That’s it?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

Chair: Okay. I’ve got a handwritten motion here. I can—

**666/2021-22**

At that juncture, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Kara COOK ⎯

*That Brisbane City Council introduces a new rates category for Residential owner occupiers creating a new class of: ‘natural disaster affected uninhabitable homes’ and that rates are set at 25% of the amount usually levied under the Resolution of Rates and charges for a period of up to 12 months.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Okay, all right. I’ve got my copy. All right, sorry, so—

Councillor LANDERS: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor LANDERS.

**667/2021-22**

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

At that juncture, it was moved by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that debate on the motion now before the meeting be adjourned until the conclusion of today’s business on today’s agenda.

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

Chair: Councillors, we move on with the rest of the agenda, which is the Economic Development and Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Game Committee report.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair, and as is required and as I want to share about the World Union of Olympic Cities meeting that I did last week—it does relate, obviously, to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and I want to share with the Chambers the wonderful opportunity there was to work with other Olympic Cities, to get to know other coordinators of OCOGs (Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) past, present, and ones that are coming up like us, as well, and share so many ideas around Olympic Legacy and Legacy Activation over the three days that we had in Athens.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: The World Union of Olympic Cities is founded by the City of Athens and the City of Lausanne, so therefore represented by the Mayors of both those cities, but strongly supported by the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and that was clearly seen in their presence there at all the functions, as well. It was wonderful, as I said, to socially meet the representatives, particularly the Vice Mayors and Mayors of those cities that have hosted Olympics in the recent past, as well, but also to have a look at some of the working sessions that we went through, as well.

In particular, a standout of one of the working sessions was from Olympic Legacy to Legacy Activation. This was an IOC presentation on the report of the use of Olympic venues. The International Olympic Committee has tracked the post‑Games use of over 900 Olympic venues at 51 summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games, from Athens 1896 right through to Pyeongchang in 2018. It was very interesting to hear about what happens to Olympic venues when Games come to end, obviously changes from the 20th century to the 21st century, as well, and how that they can best be used to serve their local communities going forward.

Now, this report came out of, obviously, the decision by the IOC to have a new norm, and you can see the distinct difference when in the early 20th century, there’s only 21% of the Olympic sites still in use, but that’s to be expected with their end of life. Some of them damaged by war and a lot of them damaged by weather, and too expensive to replace, but from the 21st century, 92% of the permanent sites are still used for the communities across the cities that have held the Olympics. The existing and temporary venues going forward in Paris, Milan, LA (Los Angeles), and Brisbane have got well over 83% of those venues being used now for sport and planning to be used for the future, as well.

So there’s a lot of learnings out of that and conclusions on how we can make sure that any new venues that will be delivered through the Olympics are definitely something that’s going to fit in to Brisbane and what we need, as well, in particular making sure that they’re multiple-use, they’re not something that’s just for a single sport, that we work with all stakeholders, and that’s just not government stakeholders, but private partnerships or community and sporting groups, as well, and make sure that they are adapting to the time, as well.

Obviously, venues that are new—and we’re thinking here of the Albion precinct—are ones that will definitely be what we need for 2032 to 2042, but how that they will get regularly updated to meet the needs of our growing city and their healthy and active choices going forward, as well. In saying that, we also then had the Mayor’s Round Table discussion which was based on exactly that, the Active Cities, the Olympic Cities’ health and physical activity commitment.

That was a wonderful opportunity to join with many of the Mayors that were there in person and online, as well. As I said, Athens and Lausanne, obviously, but also Barcelona’s Vice Mayor, Chamonix, Mont Blanc, Lake Placid, Saint Moritz, several IOC members and the Vice Mayors from Los Angeles and Paris. This was a Round Table commitment that we all signed to make sure that, since COVID has led to such a sedentary lifestyle, that we really were prioritising physical activity as a solution and embedding it in our city’s social fabric.

I was very proud to present five minutes on what Brisbane does in this space, and I can assure you, even at a LA level and a Paris level, we are streaks ahead when it comes to the level of healthy and active programs that we provide for free or very low cost to our residents, how many venues we have, and how much activity our residents actually do. I think our climate, obviously, is a large part of that, but everybody was very impressed, to say the least, of how much we already work with our stakeholders. We utilise our existing resources and, more than anything, we promote physical activity through commuting with providing safe footpaths, green bridges, bikeways, and everything else we do in-between, as well.

So it was wonderful to hear what the other cities are doing, what they’re planning to do out of their legacy from the Olympics, particularly from Paris and LA, and take away some tips on how we can move forward with that, as well. We do have representatives from Barcelona coming over later in the year, and representatives from the City Host Office, talking with all of those cities over the next 12 months to make sure we can get that legacy right.

As far as back in Brisbane, though, the Business Hub is humming as always. There is just one event that is actually on in the next week, and that is on tomorrow at 9.30am, Build Your Business Despite the Chaos, a women’s guide to success and sanity. We’ve had a recent few great events, actually, in the Business Hub. One of them was the evening with the LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER on the Lord Mayor’s Women in Business Grants celebration.

It was wonderful, as the LORD MAYOR will attest, to see so many successful grant applicants really talking about the valuable support that we provided to them, and specifically to those ones that were small and micro-businesses, as well. So there is a lot of inspiration that’s coming out of the business hub through our support and through our grants programs and our ongoing mentoring through that hub, as well.

As it comes to the report last week, I wasn’t there last week, but we were talking about the Suburban Business Hub and, of course, another great success of the Schrinner Council to make sure that we had feet on the ground in the northern suburbs, to make sure that we have support for all of those businesses that need it, whether it’s a Talk to the Planner, food licensing, business liaison officers, networking in the suburbs, monthly local business morning teas, and a series of other activities.

We’ve had over 1,600 people that have come through the hub to date since it’s been set up, and I’m sure there’ll be many more. It’s a great opportunity to have a set place that we can set up for workshops and events in the northern suburbs. It’s been officially opened in May last year, so it’s just had its 12-month anniversary. We look forward to seeing far more free events, workshops, and master classes, not just for businesses on the southside. People can come from all over Brisbane. If they don’t come into the Business Hub in town, Nundah is there for them, as well, and of course we continue with our programs right across the city, as well. I will leave the report to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers? Any further speakers?

Councillor LANDERS. Afternoon tea? Oh no, are we going to move to the—no further speakers?

Okay, I’ll move to the vote on the report. As there are no other speakers, I’ll now move to the vote on this report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Sarah Hutton (A/Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Jared Cassidy and Kara Cook.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair) and Councillor Steven Huang.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – SUBURBAN BUSINESS HUB

**668/2021-22**

1. The Economic Development Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Suburban Business Hub in Nundah (the Hub). He provided the information below.

2. The Hub is a 102 square metre space leased by Council for all Brisbane businesses to network, conduct meetings and receive support. The Hub was officially opened on 4 May 2021 by the Lord Mayor and has received strong engagement from the Brisbane business community in its first year of operation. The Hub hosts a range of free events, workshops and masterclasses for local businesses and business groups throughout the year. Free in-person business support is available to local business owners from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Businesses wishing to use the space outside of these hours are able to access the Hub with a swipe card to allow further flexibility for local businesses and their activities.

3. The Hub support programs include:

- Talk to a Planner

- Guide to Food Licensing

- Talk to a Business Liaison Officer

- Talk to Procurement

- Networking in the Suburbs

- Monthly Local Business Morning Tea

- Maker Series.

4. Showcasing Brisbane is a pop-up display opportunity for local artists and creatives to share their artwork with the community. A dedicated artist wall and three window cabinets located at the shopfront are rotated every six weeks to showcase new artworks and creative wares from local, independent and artisan businesses across Brisbane. Businesses wanting to take part in the initiative can submit an expression of interest via the Council website. Since commencing, 36 local artists and creatives have participated in the initiative and the Committee was shown a number of artworks that have been displayed at the Hub over the last 12 months.

5. The Committee was shown an overview of the June 2022 events calendar for the Hub, including workshops on social media and email marketing for business growth and mental health and wellbeing in the retail environment.

6. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the A/Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Economic Development Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, for his informative presentation.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Now, Councillor LANDERS.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **669/2021-22**  At that time, 3.02pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor, Sarah HUTTON, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors locked.  Council stood adjourned at 3.05pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Councillor Murphy, Transport Committee report please.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Mr Chair, last week the Transport Committee received an update on one of the centrepieces of the Metro project which is the Adelaide Street tunnel. The Schrinner Council’s vision to deliver a world-class transport system for our city very much hinges on the critical infrastructure in the heart of the CBD, which is the Adelaide Street tunnel. Our terribly congested bus network has been crying out for some relief for a very long time. As the LORD MAYOR said, the State Government has essentially vacated the field when it comes to funding infrastructure on our busway network.

Currently Adelaide Street is one of our major public transport thoroughfares but congestion on the Victoria Bridge and our inner city stations are choking our busway network. This tunnel will provide a dedicated public transport corridor between the city’s south and north, alleviating surface congestion and allowing us to revitalise Adelaide Street. Construction on the tunnel has been underway since last September and later this week we will reach another milestone in the construction of the tunnel. With the second half of the piling works to commence.

With 50% of piling now complete, it is time for construction to switch to the other side of Adelaide Street to allow works to be completed on the other half of the tunnel portal. If any Councillors or Chairs have been up to the top of Adelaide Street in the last few days, near where it meets with North Quay, they will see already a lot of the scaffolding and falsework has been removed from that side of Adelaide Street. You can see part of what will be the completed roof of the dive structure there. It looks like quite an impressive piece of engineering.

The traffic changes that are currently in place at Adelaide Street and North Quay will remain in place. However, through traffic will be relocated to the Brisbane Quarter side of Adelaide Street to allow for works to be completed outside Brisbane Square from 6 June. Following the completion of piling, work will turn to the tunnelling phase, where canopy tubes and sprayed concrete will be used to create the tunnel profile. The tunnel will then be excavated in one-metre sections using a mined-tunnelling solution. Which was chosen in order to minimise disruption to businesses, pedestrians and commuters.

While I’m on the topic of construction, Mr Chair. I also wanted to just briefly talk about some of the works that are upcoming in the city’s south. Metro includes a number of upgrades to key stations along the busway, including Buranda, the Cultural Centre station and UQ (University of Queensland) Lakes. We know, Chair, that the Cultural Centre station is one of the most important stations in our bus network. Currently that’s where most connections between the northside and southside services take place—or where northside and southside interchanges take place, I should say.

But this station is also at capacity and everybody who catches a bus in Brisbane will know the Cultural Centre station can get heavily congested, especially during peak times. So we will be transforming the Cultural Centre station and the surrounding area to improve the efficiency and the throughput for our customers there. We’ll also be revitalising the streetscape and providing upgraded walkways and cycling pathways.

Last year we completed our early works program in South Brisbane by relocating sewer infrastructure and completing our upgrade of four different intersections within the South Brisbane precinct. While we always do our best to minimise construction impacts, to support these works there will be some changes to traffic in and around the station itself. Residents will have already noticed an increased project presence in the area with some site facilities having already been established.

The first stage of major construction will start next month, meaning some traffic changes will be implemented from Thursday this week. These works will form Stage 1 of the major works at South Brisbane and will involve service relocation, some intersection upgrade works, as well as construction of the lift shaft near QPAC (Queensland Performing Arts Centre). To facilitate these works on Grey Street and Melbourne Street, a number of changes will be required during construction.

Grey Street will be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction between Russell Street and Peel Street. Melbourne Street will also be closed to general traffic between Hope Street and Grey Street. This means that general traffic travelling towards Grey Street will need to detour via Hope Street northbound, or Merivale Street southbound. For cyclists a shared pedestrian and cyclist route will be maintained via Fish Lane, through the Cultural Centre precinct.

Stage 2 will commence later this year and involve some additional changes to the Cultural Centre bus station that I will share with the Chamber at a later date and encourage residents and commuters that frequent the CBD to continue to monitor Council’s website, to ensure they are aware of the changes coming into effect. I want to thank residents and visitors in advance for their patience during these traffic changes which are necessary for us to construct what is the most transformative public transport infrastructure project in Queensland. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate?

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. Yes, just on the Metro report as well. Obviously excited to see this project progressing. There are two issues I wanted to flag though. One is just that the combination of all the different areas that are being used as layover for the Metro is actually starting to add up to quite a big chunk of parkland that’s being taken away from the community.

So between Kurilpa Point Park, where’s there’s a layover area. Then around South Bank Parklands, there’s another big layover area. Then meanwhile the Queen’s Wharf casino bridge has fenced off another chunk of South Bank for a layover area. Then just back one street on Melbourne Street, that whole corner has been fenced off.

So it’s interesting to reflect on the fact that for the next kind of two, two and a half years, multiple different greenspaces around that area have been fenced off from public access. That maybe would be okay if this was a one-off thing, but this is part of a broader pattern where we continue to use public parkland for construction site storage and layover facilities, *et cetera*.

It would be nice if, as part of a project budget, the Council just arranged with some other developers who have vacant sites, said look, let’s just turf this block of land and turn it into a temporary park for the next two years. Because the developer’s just waiting to develop it anyway and it doesn’t have anything else to do with the land. Council could rent those blocks and a nominal rent and maintain them and keep them secure.

This is something that happens in a lot of other cities around the world. Where you say, look, we’re going to work with the industry so that these sites, rather than sitting derelict and vacant, we’ll turn them into temporary parks. That helps offset the negative impacts of so much parkland being closed off to the public.

I’m pretty frustrated about Kurilpa Point Park in particular, because it was fenced off for quite a while for some other construction work projects. Then just when it reopened and the fences came down and they put in new turf, then Metro comes along and says oh, we’re fencing this off again. So I think in the last kind of four or five years, we’ve only had about six months where that park has been open to the community. Yes, anyway, I’ll leave that point there.

The other issue I wanted to flag is just in terms of the road closures. I’m concerned that the alternative cycling route for the—alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists via Fish Lane is not safe and not practical. The volume of cars that are currently using Fish Lane, particularly to service some of the hotels and restaurants along there but also as an access to their driveways—that volume of cars is quite high now and I think the—I worry that the Metro team has underestimated just how many pedestrian and vehicle conflicts there could be along that little laneway.

There’s a few points along the laneway, for example, where there are construction sites at the moment, so there’s a lot of hoarding and fencing up and not much visibility around the corners as well. So I hope that the team has kind of done their homework and made sure that this is actually a safe alternative route for cyclists and pedestrians.

The volumes that currently use Melbourne Street and that will be diverted to these areas aren’t huge. It’s not sort of massive volumes, but there are enough cyclists and pedestrians that currently use those main routes that are being closed off and that will be enough to cause a bit of—a few issues on Fish Lane.

As always, my preference is that we take away a few bays of parking and create some dedicated bike lanes on some of the other corridors, even if only temporarily. Personally I’d be quite supportive of closing Fish Lane to cars during the peak hours, because there are alternative routes available and you could quite easily say look, during peak hours, this is a pedestrian and bike route. Outside of those peak hours, then cars can come in and the loading vehicles can come and service the restaurants and all that sort of stuff.

I’m talking specifically about the stretch of Fish Lane closest to Melbourne Street and not the other end of Fish Lane, which is also driveway access for residential apartments. Please don’t misquote me on that later, Councillor WINES. I’m just trying to give good faith suggestions here and it’s a bit disappointing sometimes when I make reasonable suggestions and they’re taken out of context then *(Comments removed at the request of the CEO, in accordance with the AP068 Production of Council Minutes Policy approved by Council on 8 August 2012)* off giving press releases to the media as a way to try and score cheap points.

So I’m just raising a genuine, legitimate issue here and offering practical solutions. There is a lot of disruption happening around that side of the Victoria Bridge and I hope the Council officers are thinking really carefully about how best to mitigate and manage that.

As stated previously I would strongly support closing off and cul-de-sacing the Grey Street intersection where it meets Melbourne Street. I don’t think that needs to remain open to cars long term and I think it’s really disappointing that big institutions like QPAC, and South Bank Corporation to some extent, have prioritised profits from their underground car parks ahead of the general public interest. It would be better for the entire South Bank precinct if Grey Street did not function as a through corridor for cars and instead was a local access route for local traffic.

It would in fact save the Metro project a lot of cost and a lot of hassle, if the Metro project didn’t have to keep Grey Street open through the Melbourne Street intersection, for the duration of construction at the very least. So I’m just wanting to restate that I am supportive of closing off that section of Grey Street, either temporarily or permanently, in order to facilitate the Metro project.

I think Council should go back to organisations like QPAC and Queensland Museum and just say look, are you sure we can’t close this off for a couple of months? Just to make it that little bit easier to undertake this work. Looking at the sort of construction schedule and some of the plans of how this thing’s going to be staged. It just seems quite obvious to me that if the Council was willing to close off Grey Street at least temporarily during the construction period, you’d save a lot of time and a lot of hassle for your own contractors and your own project team.

It seems like the arguments in favour of keeping it open are pretty emotional. They’re not based on a robust analysis of the transport network or the needs of the area. So maybe there’s a case there to be—yes looking a bit more closely at that opportunity.

Also still hoping to see the free bus loop that was announced to come sooner—come through a little bit sooner. Originally the proposal from Council was that the bus loop would start to help mitigate some of these disruptions and road closure and impacts to businesses, *et cetera*. So if all this work is starting now and we’re going to see all these disruptions to the precinct, why isn’t that free bus loop being introduced now? Why is that being delayed until the end of the year?

Maybe Councillor MURPHY can shed a little bit more light on the timing of that free bus route. Because that’s being funded out of the Metro project and I think is a fairly important piece of the puzzle to ensure that disruptions from the construction are minimised. Thanks.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Chair. At significant risk of sometimes the Transport Committee report being a conversation had between Councillor SRI and myself, I will just cover off on a few of those questions. Just in respect of the Kurilpa Point laydown facility, the Metro team appreciate that these site facilities may cause an inconvenience, but they are very necessary for construction of the project at this location.

In terms of Councillor SRI’s suggestion that we use car parks and vacant land and other facilities, well I can say we’re already doing that. So in this area we have placed necessary site facilities in car parks, in unused utility service areas and indeed on top of a disused sewer main station. So it’s not just parkland that we use when it comes to using vacant land for the purposes of laydown areas.

But I want to make the point that the Brisbane Metro project as a whole includes very significant public realm improvements for the South Brisbane area, which includes wider footpaths and additional vegetation. Of course there is pocket park as well—125 Grey Street. So that will be—a new pocket park will be created after construction of Brisbane Metro is completed that will add greenspace to the area. Now in terms of how long we will be in the Kurilpa Point area, at the moment we expect to be in there from 1 May this year until December 2023. So some significant time, but we will be out of there, of course, earlier if we can.

In terms of the suggestion for pop up parks. Chair, look it’s not something that we have done here in this city historically. Obviously it’s something that our Major Projects area can have a look at and I’m more than happy to consider, but that would be, I think, part of a wider public policy change. We have to remind Councillor SRI that any cost that is added to these projects is inevitably borne by all ratepayers.

So if we want to do pop up parks for residents in South Brisbane, that have some access to significant parklands, then that will be borne by all residents within the city, but we’re happy to have a look at that. I know it happens in other jurisdictions where the parkland is treated essentially as an asset that needs to be relocated somewhere else. So we will have a look at that and come back to you.

In terms of the Fish Lane detour, well, we’ve had a really good look at this, Chair. We’ve had our engineers working on this for some time. There is simply no better place to relocate the bikeway. We have interactions with the portal and the busway on Melbourne Street. We also have to remember that Fish Lane is not—it is a pedestrianised environment. It is quite friendly to cyclists and pedestrians at the moment.

The delivery vehicles that do go in there are generally at quite a slow speed and are necessary to service those restaurants that are in there. Keep in mind, Councillor SRI, how hard those restaurants have been hit by years of COVID lockdowns and other issues that have impacted them. So the last thing we really want to be doing is changing the times that they are able to table deliveries and make it harder for them.

So this is a balance. We will see how it works in operation in the first few weeks and months. If there are changes that need to be made, I’m more than happy to have a further conversation—

Councillor SRI: Point of order.

Councillor MURPHY: —with you at that time.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Will Councillor MURPHY take one more quick clarificatory question?

Councillor MURPHY: Sure.

Councillor SRI: Thanks.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor SRI: Sorry, it’s not on my side of the river so I’m a little less familiar with it, but I understand as part of this work around the bridge, you’re also closing off that access ramp from the Bicentennial Bikeway up to Victoria Bridge and up to North Quay. So how then—how will cyclists who are coming along the Bicentennial Bikeway get up to the city or get over to the southside?

Councillor MURPHY: I do have the answer to that question, but I will just take it on notice and maybe get back to Councillor SRI later, offline. Yes thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thanks Councillor MURPHY.

We now move to the vote on the Transport Committee report.

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 Angela Owen (A/Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, David McLachlan and Jonathan Sri.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillor Steven Huang.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE METRO ADELAIDE STREET TUNNEL – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION METHOD

**670/2021-22**

1. The Program Director, Major Projects, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane Metro Adelaide Street Tunnel – Design and Construction Method. He provided the information below.

2. The Adelaide Street tunnel will unlock the city’s bus network and provide a dedicated connection from the South-East Busway to the Inner Northern Busway for the new Metro services and bus services. Major construction commenced in September 2021 and piling works commenced in November 2021. Tunnel mining is scheduled to commence in mid-2022 and will be undertaken 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The tunnel will be:

- approximately 200 metres in length

- between eight and 10 metres high in different sections

- between 16 and 20 metres wide in different sections

- constructed using a mined tunnelling solution to minimise disruption to businesses, pedestrians and commuters.

3. The Committee was shown an animation of the construction process, which was developed on a specialised software system used for 3D modelling.

4. The main geological units are Neranleigh-Fernvale Beds (soft soil) and Quaternary alluvium (alluvial and residual nature and weathered soft rock). Geological features include the Normanby Fault Zone along North Quay and the historical Wheat Creek alignment near City Hall. Geotechnical investigations include historical investigation including Cross River Rail and other previous projects, and three project-specific campaigns. Hydrogeological conditions include a lower aquifer (within rock formation) and a transient upper aquifer.

5. The geotechnical design includes a dive structure and a mined tunnel. The dive structure is in proximity to existing basements and buildings and comprises of a contiguous pile wall with struts and ground anchors from previous developments. The mined tunnel comprises of:

- single and double cell profiles

- limited cover (alignment modification)

- a dipping rock profile towards King George Square

- groundwater aquifers

- drained tunnel elements

- a Longitudinal Egress Passage

- a staged construction sequence.

6. The Adelaide Street tunnel is a challenging tunnel to construct involving:

- complex ground conditions (soft soils of alluvial and residual nature and weathered soft rock)

- very shallow cover (approximately 3.5 metres below George Street)

- relatively large spans for a soft ground tunnel considering the required clearance envelopes and fire and life safety requirements

- adjacent to critical and heritage structures along Adelaide Street, including City Hall

- reasonably large traffic loading from above the tunnel crown and from other building loads adjacent to the tunnel

- a demanding construction program

- very little support site area.

7. The Committee was shown a diagram of the design of the overlapping canopy tubes, which are the primary support feature of the tunnel and constructed in intervals.

8. For each metre section of excavated spoil, a primary lining of sprayed concrete (shotcrete) will be applied. Due to the prevailing soft ground conditions, the primary lining requires two layers of overlapping steel reinforcing mesh. This primary lining supports the excavation and reduces the impacts of ground induced settlement as the tunnel excavation progresses. A secondary lining is also required, which will provide the final, permanent, load-bearing support along the length of the tunnel.

9. The Committee was shown a diagram of the construction methodology, which included photos of examples of mined tunnels. The Adelaide Street tunnel will comprise a single cell, which splits into a binocular tunnel.

10. The Committee was shown a second video, which demonstrated the construction method. The construction method involves a repeatable process which provides improved productivity.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee report please.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Peter MATIC, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. The report before us and the report before the Committee last week was one we had seen before. Where we give a regular update to Committee members about the operation of the inner city transport network and an update on major projects, which has a wide scope.

So I trust that the Councillors present found it informative. The presenter provided a great deal of information on a whole range of things, both public and private transport, as well as State and Council projects. Interestingly some Councillors and some residents may believe that inner city traffic is getting up to where it was, but it’s still up to 5,000 vehicles a day, on George Street for example, less than it was before the pandemic hit.

So I think that some behaviours, whether some behaviour change has happened, because as we know, public transport is still a little bit down. Private motor vehicles are still a little bit down. So there’s still a little way to go before we have full activation of people back into the city for work and enjoyment.

Can I also take a moment as well on a portfolio matter? Can I also give a special recognition to a Mr Graham Nell, who has retired.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Graham worked with this Council for 13 years. He retired as the Manager of Civil and Transport, one of the senior managers inside the City Projects office. He was of fundamental importance to delivery of large projects in this city.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Which includes Gresham Street Bridge and—excuse me, it took me a second to hear where the voice was from.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Our Indooroopilly Riverwalk. The last major project that he and I were working on together was of course the Moggill Road upgrade.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: So that was the last major project that he—the last major contract that he worked on before he retired. He was with us for 13 years, starting out in bikeways that is also where I first met him. Can I thank him for his service to our organisation and wish him all the best as he sets sail across Lake Eyre, he tells me was the objective. So I hope that he and his wife enjoy the retirement that’s well earned. I recommend the report to the Chamber, thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate? Further debate on the Infrastructure Committee report?

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 Peter Matic (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Fiona Hammond, Sarah Hutton and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – INNER CITY NETWORK PERFORMANCE AND MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES

**671/2021-22**

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

2. The Committee were shown a table reflecting the projected timelines of several inner city projects.

- Queen’s Wharf Brisbane

- Neville Bonner Bridge

- Cross River Rail

- utility service upgrades

- new performing arts venue

- Waterfront Brisbane – Dexus

- Brisbane Metro

- Kangaroo Point Green Bridge

- South Bank Ferry Terminal upgrade

- Howard Smith Ferry Terminal

- Gabba Stadium Early Works

- Gabba Stadium Redevelopment

- Woolloongabba Inline Station

- Brisbane Arena.

3. Construction of the Neville Bonner Bridge (NBB) has been delayed by three months due to flood impacts. Overnight southbound Riverside Expressway closure is required to install steel portal frames and intermediate posts, aluminium fascia, mesh panels, stainless wires and canopy louvres, and are scheduled for late July 2022. Overnight closures of the Margaret Street exit ramp are estimated to continue until the end of September 2022. This will provide a safety exclusion zone for structural steel works. The demolition and excavation contract for Precinct 3 has been awarded.

4. The Brisbane Metro Inner City North Stage 1 piling and sewer works are continuing on North Quay and Stage 1A of Inner City North will commence on 6 June 2022, subject to approvals. Brisbane Move will be implementing the traffic switch from the east-side of Adelaide Street to the west, and George Street will be reduced to three lanes for three months to facilitate service relocations and piling activities. The Committee were then shown three graphs of traffic volumes for North Quay.

5. Works are required to facilitate the Adelaide Street tunnel break-through into King George Square (KGS). These works started on 30 March 2022, with the piling activities now commencing after Adelaide Street bus stop 43 is relocated, tentatively scheduled for mid‑July 2022. The KGS station entrance nearest to City Hall is expected to be closed for up to two years. Bus users will continue to be able to access both KGS station platforms from the north-eastern station entrance, which is about 50 m away, and the Ann Street station entrance. Adelaide Street Vision surface works will commence from late 2022 and progress through to 2024.

6. The Inner City South site for the Brisbane Metro was established at the corner of Melbourne Street and Grey Street near South Brisbane rail station. Sewer rising main construction has commenced in Melbourne Street between Grey Street and the Victoria Bridge. Construction of temporary Cultural Centre bus station platforms are to commence 2 June 2022 with the permanent closure of Melbourne Street to general traffic between Hope Street and Grey Street. Strengthening works have commenced on Victoria Bridge.

7. Yeronga rail station reopened on 28 March 2022 and Fairfield rail station closed on the same day. It will remain closed until late 2022. Fairfield rail station track lowering was completed during Easter, and controlled blasting at Roma Street construction site has finished. Blasting was required to excavate the passenger access tunnels between the station entry building and the new underground station. The Mary Street work zone has been reinstated in front of Albert Street Lot 1.

8. The Committee were then shown several graphs highlighting traffic volumes for six peak city roads and the impact of works on the Cross River Rail project. Traffic trends were discussed, with an overall trend of less traffic compared to pre-Covid‑19 numbers noted, especially on Mondays.

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

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

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

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Fiona HAMMOND that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. In last week’s Committee meeting we had a really interesting presentation on a DA (development application) that’s been approved recently for an adaptive reuse of a commercial building at 444 Queen Street. This building in particular was an interesting project in that the old building, which was a pretty horrible building I might say, in terms of its visual appeal.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor ALLAN: Sorry?

*Councillors interjecting.*

*At that time, 3.45pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Peter MATIC, assumed the Chair.*

Councillor ALLAN: It was ugly Councillor STRUNK, absolutely. Rather than demolish the whole building and rebuild again, they actually stripped away the old shell and used a lot of the existing structure of the building to bring about the new building. Which is a very, very significant improvement on what’s currently on the site. So what they’ll end up with, once the building is completed, is a 24-storey tower. The tower will have 21 storeys of leasable office space. There’ll be, at ground level, food and drink outlets and a lobby. There’s two levels of podium parking and there’s also a rooftop garden.

Now the building itself is certainly more modern in appeal and appearance than the previous building and it encompasses quite a significant amount of greenery. One of the key considerations for the building was to ensure that it recognised and was sympathetic to our sub-tropical climate.

Accordingly, the design is very much focused on light, the movement of air, the greenery in the building, the streetscape. Making sure that that’s appealing and has utility to the community and also ensuring that pedestrians on that section of Queen Street had protection from the weather. Accordingly there’s quite a large awning there.

The other key consideration is this building is actually adjoining a heritage site. They’ve done a terrific job in terms of developing a podium that is very sympathetic to the adjoining heritage site. While it is designed in a different way to the heritage building, the colours and the materials used are consistent. So it doesn’t—it’s very complementary to the heritage site. It doesn’t impose over the heritage site and I think they’ve achieved a very good outcome there.

The other key assessment matters were around the refuse and transport and they’ve done a great job with ensuring that they’ve got adequate parking, particularly for active transport and end-of-trip facilities. One of the complexities, I guess, in the approval was there is a nearby residential tower. They wanted to ensure that this particular tower didn’t impact on the amenity of that residential tower. Certainly all of the reports and engineering reports that have been done there have ensured that there is little or no impact to that adjoining residential tower.

The key benefits from this building is that it is a five-star Green Star rating. There’s a 44% reduction in carbon emissions from the building, which his equivalent to 3,700 cars removed from the road annually. The reuse of the structure has saved a very significant amount of potential carbon usage just by reusing the existing structure of the building. The building has achieved a number of other significant environmental standards.

The reason that the Development Services team approved this particular development was that it delivered something that was reflective of our sub-tropical climate. It was a great reuse of the existing building. The architectural outcomes are first class and the building itself obviously provides for a level of commercial accommodation in the city, which will be sought by those in need of A-Class commercial premises. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Any other debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes just briefly on item A. I’m still a little bit confused about what this actually is. It doesn’t strike me that this is an approval that’s been undertaken by the Committee. There’s no DA number listed in here, there’s no detail about whether or not the Committee and/or this Council is approving anything. I suspect it might be a minor change. In paragraph 3, sorry in paragraph 2, it talks about the height of the building increasing from 21 storeys to 24 storeys.

But all in all I’m a little bit confused about why this has come up to Council. There’s all these controversial DAs in the city where we’re having material change of use outcomes, radically impacting on residential communities, for example. Those aren’t worthy of a mention in this Council for debate, but as far as I know this is not an approval for a DA. We’re just getting a briefing on a building that’s already approved and that’s as far as it goes.

I guess, here’s a few questions for the Chair. Can you tell us, is this building doing to be solar powered? Are there solar panels on the roof? Two, is this building going to harvest and reuse or reticulate rainwater and stormwater to contribute to water efficiency in the building? Is there any on-site composting or any other waste management going on? I note that there’s a whole—several paragraphs, I think—about how wonderfully five-star green rated it is, but I’d like to know whether any of these practical measures are included in the design.

I’d also like to know is this is minor change, is this just an update? Is this approval of a DA? Because it’s very unclear on the papers before us.

Deputy Chair: Any other debate?

Councillor ALLAN, right to reply.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. In response to Councillor JOHNSTON’s questions, it’s not unusual for the Committee to have a presentation on a DA that’s been approved, as is the case with this one. We definitely bring to the Chamber Committee—well to the Committee—DAs that are unique in nature. This one in particular was unique because of the adaptive reuse. A couple of weeks ago I think we had the Rivergate Marina approval come to Committee and the Chamber, once again an interesting tourism‑related approval.

The other points you made, I’m happy to take those on notice and get back to you. But it is an approval, it’s a DA that’s been approved. I can give you the DA number if you want that. The application itself was really just a material change of use application, as I said, I’ll leave it at that.

Deputy Chair: I now put the Committee report.

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 Fiona Hammond (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Kara Cook, Peter Matic and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 444 QUEEN STREET, BRISBANE CITY

**672/2021-22**

1. The Manager, Planning Services, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on 444 Queen Street, Brisbane City (the site). He provided the information below.

2. The Committee was shown a series of images of the site, including an aerial view, locality map and zone map. The site is 1,708 square metres and is located within the City centre zone, situated between the residential Aurora Tower and State Heritage Country Place. Development of the site will include the refurbishment of current infrastructure by modernising the internal and external façade of the building and implementing green improvements to enhance natural light and ventilation through the building. The height of the current building will also be increased from 21 storeys to 24 as part of the development, which will provide 21,412 square metres of leasable office space and two levels of podium parking.

3. Key assessment matters for the site included a subtropical design, containerised landscaping, 715 square metres of outdoor and recreational space and a pedestrian awning. The development also incorporates design elements that complement and protect neighbouring buildings, including a setback of five metres from the shared boundary line and a podium inward curve to protect building views. The development will also feature a façade that complements the traditional materials and expression of surrounding heritage buildings in a modern manner.

4. Transport and refuse were key considerations for the site’s development. The existing two levels within the podium will provide parking for up to 52 cars and five motorcycles, with an additional eight visitor car spaces provided. Building amenities will encourage employees to include active transport in their daily commute with end of trip facilities installed at the front and basement access points to the site. Workers in the building will have access to 157 secure bicycle spaces, 224 lockers and 12 showers. A loading bay in the basement will enable refuse collection by a large-ridged vehicle or van.

5. A detailed analysis of impacts on the adjoining residential building was undertaken prior to development of the site. Council received no submissions and the findings of the analysis indicated development of the site would have no negative impact on the appropriate level of privacy expected to be achieved in the City Centre including compliant side boundary setbacks.

6. The development has targeted a 5-star Green Star rating. The development will achieve environmental benefits, including:

- 44% building carbon emission reduction, equal to a reduction in 3,700 cars from the road annually

- re-use of the existing structure results in a saving of 70% of upfront carbon emissions

- aligns with the future projects of the Green Building Council Australia and its requirements that all Green Star buildings achieved a 40% saving in upfront carbon emissions from 2030.

7. The development application was approved for the following reasons:

- the design supports Brisbane's subtropical climate and delivers high-quality subtropical architecture of outstanding merit through the reutilisation and upgrading of an existing building

- contribution to the city’s distinctive skyline and provides elevated outdoor and pedestrian-level outdoor spaces

- unique and innovative contextual design that is tailored to the site’s characteristics and context, including cityscape and streetscape

- provisions of awnings, deep planting, landscaping and public realm improvements provide shaded spaces and opportunities to interact with the street

- respect the adjoining heritage place through design and by maintaining views and vistas from the public realm to the heritage building

- involvement of a high-density development to make the most of public transport infrastructure and promote active transport

- improved services to the building through the provision of improved refuse collection

- supports a variety of uses within the City Centre

- contributes towards Council’s vision as a clean, green, sustainable and design-led city.

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**

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

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor James MACKAY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Acting Chair. Tuesday’s Committee presentation was on the Brisbane Carbon Challenge and the work that has been undertaken with our Champion Households. The Brisbane Carbon Challenge was initiated to encourage and support Brisbane residents to reduce their emissions. Council and Brisbane Sustainability Agency worked with 18 Champion Households over 12 months to reduce their carbon emissions by 50%.

In Question Time today I spoke about the Green Heart Fair and how it was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet a number of the Champion Households who participated in the challenge and present completion certificates to them. It was fantastic to hear about the actions that they are now undertaking and how they found the challenge to be very rewarding on so many different levels.

Mr Deputy Chair, I’m delighted to report that over the year that the average reduction in household emissions was 55%, which was a wonderful result and more than our original target of 50%. The key outcome was that all households became significantly more conscious about their impact on the environment and how they could reduce that impact.

As part of the carbon challenge, Brisbane Sustainability Agency also launched a carbon calculator. The calculator enables all members of the public to calculate their household carbon emissions and receive general advice on the actions that can be taken to reduce their emissions and also save bills. A feature of the online calculator is the ability for residents to log back in at any time to retake the calculator and to measure progress in reducing emissions.

I look forward to hearing more of the things that come out of the Carbon Challenge and how the program can encourage even more Brisbane residents to reduce their household emissions. Every small action really does make a difference. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Any debate?

Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak on item A. Now it would come as no surprise to anyone in this place that I am excited to talk about the Brisbane Carbon Challenge. This is an important element of the Schrinner Council commitment to pollution minimisation and carbon reduction. For the record, I’m going to remind the Chamber about why this Carbon Challenge is so important.

Brisbane City Council is carbon-neutral and we continue to advocate for carbon minimisation through different programs. As you would know, Acting Chair, Brisbane City Council became carbon-neutral in 2017. I remember Lord Mayor Newman being passionate about carbon reduction. I remember Lord Mayor Quirk being proud of attaining the distinction of becoming carbon-neutral. I know how proud LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER is of continuing this and keeping us as the gold standard in the country.

Brisbane City Council is, of course Australia’s largest carbon-neutral government organisation. It is critical to note that your Council is the only certified organisation in the entire country with an operating landfill and a large public transport service. That is important, because Brisbane City Council is Australia’s largest local government authority in terms of both population and budget.

We know that Council achieved carbon-neutral certification against the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations in February 2018. That’s when the paperwork was done but the work started many years before that. Because we’re getting it done. We’re not waving banners, we’re not gluing ourselves to the road, we’re getting it done.

The Carbon Challenge is another piece of the carbon reduction jigsaw puzzle. Let’s talk about how this is getting done, because activities such as the Carbon Challenge demonstrates Council’s leadership in energy and carbon management in Australia. The Schrinner Council will continue to deliver cost-effective carbon reductions across business operations and encourage a reduction in the emissions from households.

Not only will we work towards maintaining our carbon-neutral commitment. The Schrinner Council is working towards reducing our community emissions. Our consumption and emissions start from the little things and stretch to world-class game changing initiatives.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: The Brisbane Carbon Challenge involved highlighting some Champion Households and attempting to reduce their carbon emissions. Just as Council has upgraded 25,000 old fashioned lightbulbs into low-energy LED lights, some of the Carbon Challenge homes also replaced old fashioned globes and replaced them with efficient lighting. Seventy-eight per cent of the Schrinner Council vehicles are low emission. We’ve heard at great length, one of the Schrinner Council’s greatest initiatives, the Metro, will have vehicles that are 100% electric, that means 100% zero tailpipe emissions.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: That means cleaner air, less pollution, better liveability. While it was unlikely to expect any of the households participating in the Carbon Challenge to upgrade their vehicles to electric or low emission, we did see residents taking fewer rideshare trips, driving less, bussing more and cycling when they could. It’s initiatives like that that have put Brisbane on the list as the 10th most liveable city in the world.

I’m sure you know that this Council has installed 2,200 kilowatts of solar panels on Council assets, that includes libraries, facilities and bus depots. Again, while households participating in the Challenge—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: —wouldn’t have been expected to install solar panels—

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUMMING.

Councillor MACKAY: —many opted to switch to the use of clean, green, renewable energy. Further we’re reducing our emissions by reducing green waste going into landfill. In fact, this Council has reduced such landfill by 40% which helps reduce emissions.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: We’re also diverting organic waste with—

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUMMING, please stop interrupting.

Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: Just sounds like a mosquito. We’re also diverting organic waste with composting hubs at 23 locations across the city, including St Lucia. Don’t forget the Food Waste Recycling pilot program too, because the households participating in the Brisbane Carbon Challenge, also rose to the challenge of food waste reduction and reduced their carbon emissions by not sending food to—food waste to landfill.

I’m sure you know, Acting Chair, that Sherwood bus depot in Tennyson was awarded five Green Star ratings—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MACKAY: —for the environmentally friendly, sustainable design.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Please continue Councillor MACKAY.

Councillor MACKAY: I’m so thrilled to be able to be corrected all the time, it’s great. Elements include—I shouldn’t use sarcasm, it doesn’t read well in *Hansard*, does it? I don’t appreciate the snide comments is what I should say. Elements including solar panels, rainwater storage, stormwater harvesting and bioretention basins were installed to achieve five-star green ratings.

Some of the Champion Households in the Carbon Challenge used energy monitors to try to reduce their energy on a domestic scale, the way Council does on an industrial scale. Chair—Acting Chair, we cannot, of course realistically make our emissions a flat zero in the near future. I suggest that as long as we have landfills and without significant changes to the scientific processes, this would not be possible, that is why other action is required.

That is why the Schrinner Council rolls out different programs, including the Brisbane Carbon Challenge, to help reduce emissions across the city. If memory services me correctly the average Brisbane household emits about 12 tonnes of carbon every year. The Carbon Challenge aims to reduce that to six tonnes, per household, per year. Residents of Brisbane should be proud of the Schrinner Council’s effort and its direct action on carbon emissions. Maybe everyone else can try to catch up.

Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just through you, Mr Deputy Chair. Just a quick question. I note that there are 18 households that participated in this glorious program that we’re discussing here today.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Eighteen—18. So you know I think there’s sort of 800,000 households in Brisbane. So I’m glad there were 18.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Well I think clearly somebody Councillor MACKAY knows but that’s great. I’m glad he knows, because he’s obviously got some sort of information that the rest of us don’t have. So I’d, through you, Mr Deputy Chair, just like to know which suburbs have the 18 participants in this program? I’d just like to know what the suburbs are please. If there’s more than one per suburb then that would also be useful to know. Thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Councillor DAVIS, right to reply.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Acting Chair. I don’t have that information here with me but I’m happy to get that information for you, Councillor JOHNSTON. What I would say is that this was quite an intensive program where officers were working very, very closely with the Champion Households to assist them through the program. We called for nominations for people to participate in the program. What the team looked for were different types of households, so families, young families, renters, share house residents.

So it was trying to get a range of different people to participate. So it wasn’t based on where they lived, it was the type of household in which they lived. So to suggest for one moment that somehow these were predetermined locations for households to participate, is frankly offensive. It is untrue, but I will, Councillor JOHNSTON as you requested, provide those suburbs for you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Deputy Chair: The Chair has given her report. So Councillor JOHNSTON, your claim.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes thank you. At no time did I imply that somehow there’d been some wrongdoing or misrepresentation here. I asked for a list of the suburbs. I appreciate that Councillor DAVIS will supply that.

Deputy Chair: I now put the Committee report.

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 James Mackay (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steve Griffiths, Sandy Landers and David McLachlan.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE CARBON CHALLENGE CHAMPION HOUSEHOLDS

**673/2021-22**

1. The A/Manager, Water, Energy and Environmental Systems, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Brisbane Carbon Challenge champion households. She provided the information below.

2. Council is committed to reducing Brisbane’s carbon emissions and delivering a low carbon and climate resilient city for current and future residents. *Brisbane Vision 2031* and *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* outline these commitments.

3. Council is supporting residents to reduce their household carbon emissions and save on bills through the Brisbane Carbon Challenge (the Challenge). The Challenge is a Council initiative delivered in partnership with the Brisbane Sustainability Agency. It includes:

- an online calculator for residents to estimate their household carbon footprint and identify actions they can take to reduce their emissions and save on bills

- support for 18 champion households to demonstrate cost-effective ways to reduce household carbon emissions

- information and resources to help residents take action to reduce their emissions and realise the benefits, including cost savings.

4. The online calculator is accessible via Council’s website by searching ‘Brisbane Carbon Challenge’. Users can start the Challenge by selecting the ‘take the Brisbane Carbon Challenge’ button and entering their email address. Users then answer questions to find their household carbon emissions, such as how their household travels, disposes waste and how much energy is used in the home. Data can be entered from household bills and fuel receipts, or the calculator can provide an estimate based on postcode data. The results are then compared with the current household average and citywide target, and broken down by source, to show where emissions are coming from.

5. With these results, users will receive tips on how to reduce carbon emissions and save on household bills. Easy to implement actions are highlighted with the ‘simple’ icon while actions that also deliver cost savings are highlighted with the ‘$avings’ icon. Users are then invited to set up an account to save and track results over time. Users are encouraged to retake the challenge after implementing actions to track the change in their emissions.

6. As part of the Challenge, Brisbane Sustainability Agency has worked with the 18 champion households to demonstrate ways to reduce household emissions by 50% and provide solutions to common challenges to help facilitate wider action. Recruitment of the 18 champion households allowed for a representative sample of Brisbane residents with the group including families, couples, singles and sharers, owner‑occupiers and renters. Some of the support the champion households received during the challenge included:

- installation of a PhiSaver Home Energy Monitoring System

- a household footprint assessment and tailored action plan

- monthly information webinars

- quarterly coaching sessions

- monthly reporting of household progress.

7. Over the course of the Challenge, the champion households reduced their emissions by an average of 55%. All but five households achieved a reduction of more than 50%, with the greatest emissions savings achieved by reducing home energy use. Examples of actions taken during the Challenge to reduce home energy use include:

- using fans instead of air conditioners

- installing energy efficient lights and appliances

- turning off lights and appliances when not in use

- washing clothes in cold water and air drying

- installing solar power systems

- switching to GreenPower.

8. Actions taken during the Challenge to reduce transport emissions include:

- reducing driving and use of taxis and ride-sharing

- using public and active transport

- switching to E10 instead of petrol

- eco-driving.

9. While waste is the smallest contributor to household carbon emissions, the champion households were keen to engage in actions in this area, such as:

- reducing food waste

- composting food and garden waste

- recycling paper and cardboard

- switching to reusable nappies.

10. The Boyds are a family of four located in Chermside West who achieved an overall emissions reduction of 52%. They reduced their initial footprint of 11.6 tonnes down to 5.4 tonnes by installing a solar power system, using smart devices to switch off appliances, and composting food and garden waste.

11. The Grugeon household are a couple located in Hawthorne who reduced their overall emissions by 76%. By reducing ride-share use, switching to 100% GreenPower and using cold water to wash clothes they were able to reduce their initial footprint of 9.3 tonnes to 2.2 tonnes.

12. The Ferris household are flatmates living in Graceville who achieved an overall emissions reduction of 68%. They achieved this by using active transport, fans instead of air conditioning and composting food waste. Their initial footprint was reduced from 8.9 tonnes to 4.1 tonnes.

13. The Hawken household achieved the biggest emissions reduction of 83%, bringing her overall footprint to 0.61 tonnes. The single householder achieved this by reducing ride-sharing and public transport use, switching to 100% GreenPower and composting food waste.

14. Next steps for the Challenge include building an online resource portal, partnering with local businesses and continuing to extend the program, with the goal of achieving Council’s six tonne households emissions target by 2031.

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

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor TOOMEY, City Standards Committee.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Steven TOOMEY, A/Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Before I move into last week’s Committee report, I did attend the Brisbane Pool, Spa and Lifestyle Expo where we actually had—Built Environment had a stall there. Officers were maintaining that stall during that expo.

I particularly want to give a shout out to Andrew and Natalie who were the officers that I joined on Sunday. They took me through a wide range of compliance issues around pool fencing and gates and the like. It was interesting to know. There was a lot of things that I didn’t actually know about pool fencing and I’m quite sure that there’d be a lot of residents in Brisbane that don’t know about pool fencing as well.

What pleased me to no end was both Natalie and Andrew were all over their stuff. They just knew it end to end. I really want to thank them for the work that Natalie, Andrew and the other officers did over the weekend at the Pool & Spa Expo, they fielded some 120 enquiries, Mr Deputy Chair. A lot of them, from what I gathered, were around spas and whether fencing was required for a spa.

All of this information is quite critical to our residents when it comes to keeping young children safe around open bodies of water and I really wanted to pass my appreciation on to Andrew, Natalie and the rest of the officers that maintained the stall over the weekend.

We had a couple of questions in today’s Committee, Mr Deputy Chair, from Councillor CUMMING and I’m quite happy to provide answer here in the report. Councillor CUMMING asked which schools and childcares within his area are part of the Lord Mayor’s Environmental Leadership Network. That is Iona College, Councillor CUMMING and also Wynnum State High School.

He also asked the question around the Waste Smart Kindies, I’m pleased to say that children at the Bay Terrace are part of that scheme. We also learnt today in the Committee report that Councillor JOHNSTON has a very, very good kindy in her area that’s also worth noting, that’s doing really, really good stuff. For other Councillors who want to know the schools and kindies that are—sorry, forgive me—the schools and kindies that are participating in the program, that information is available on Council’s website.

Mr Chair, last year’s Committee presentation was on asbestos. Paula, our Compliance and Regulatory Services presenter gave us the information that Council has attended—or investigated, I should say, over 1,800 investigations since 2015 and 2016 relating to asbestos. Some 890 were followed through by our compliance team and then obviously there was a number that were issued monetary PINs (penalty infringement notices).

The information presented by Paula—I got the impression from the Committee, was quite good. There were plenty of questions being fielded from the Committee towards the presenter. With that I’ll leave the rest of debate to the Chamber. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Is there any debate? No debate.

I’ll put the Committee report.

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 Steven Toomey (A/Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Peter Cumming, Sarah Hutton and Nicole Johnston.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Kim Marx (Civic Cabinet Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ASBESTOS – PUBLIC HEALTH RISK INVESTIGATIONS

**674/2021-22**

1. The Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on asbestos – public health risk investigations. She provided the information below.

2. Compliance and Regulatory Services’ Community Value Statement is to ‘Enable and protect Brisbane’s people, community and environment through minimising the public health risks from the release of asbestos fibres.’

3. Asbestos is a natural occurring fibrous substance that was commercially mined. It is estimated that 90% of asbestos disbursed in Australia went into domestic and commercial buildings. Exposure to asbestos fibres is a public health risk, as inhalation can increase the risk of developing asbestosis and mesothelioma. In Brisbane, the current and future risks of asbestos exposure arise from renovations, demolitions and repairs to asbestos containing materials.

4. Australian work health and safety (WHS) laws categorise asbestos into two types based on the level of risk to health. Non-friable, also referred to as bonded, includes asbestos cement pipes, flat or corrugated asbestos cement sheets consisting of sand and cement reinforced with asbestos fibres. Friable includes debris from roof cleaning, backing of floor tiles or sprayed on asbestos insulation. The Committee was shown examples of various types of asbestos.

5. In 2015-16, local government was devolved the responsibility of asbestos. The *Public Health Regulation 2018* prescribes requirements in relation to local government public health risks, including asbestos restrictions such as:

- restrictions on what can be removed (bonded vs friable) and with a certificate

- prevention of cleaning or cutting asbestos with power tools (e.g. water blasting)

- sealing broken asbestos

- asbestos disposal.

6. Environmental Health Officers (EHO) from Compliance and Regulatory Services have received specialised asbestos training from WHS and Queensland Health. Since 2015-16, Council have resolved an estimated 1,800 asbestos-related complaints. Complaints are allocated to an EHO for onsite investigation as soon possible.

7. All assessments are undertaken following a strict WHS process and each EHO is provided with the required personal protective equipment for their own safety. The EHO may collect samples and send to a National Association of Testing Authorities accredited laboratory for confirmation of asbestos fibres. The EHO may assist in determining the extent of contamination to assist in developing a scope of remediation.

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

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee.

### COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Just before moving to the report, as usual I want to update the Chamber on all of the fantastic things that have been happening around Brisbane in the last week. We’ve talked about the Green Heart Fair and it truly was magnificent, in your ward, Mr Deputy Chair. I took great delight in taking my granddaughter along and she had a fantastic time. I know that there were a lot of families there, as Councillor DAVIS said, but I really want to say a big thank you to all of those involved in making it such a fantastic event.

Of course the weather was magnificent and it was equally magnificent the day before when we had the Teneriffe Festival. Again, this is one of the best suburban festivals in Brisbane. I know I’m slightly biased but it was just fantastic to see so many people there. This year we had a street dedicated to the children’s area and we had the New Farm State School children performing a number of times during the day. It was really fantastic, again, to see all of the families coming along to that wonderful Teneriffe Festival.

Of course for the nighttime economy—and I know that Councillor CUMMING is always interested in knowing what’s happening in at the nighttime economy. The nighttime economy at the Teneriffe Festival was stupendous. Wonderful acts, lots of people who were coming into the festival and really enjoying that early evening at the Teneriffe Festival.

Also last week I attended on behalf of the LORD MAYOR, The Big Reach which was a mental health workshop where there was discussion around how creative activities can support those with mental health issues. Again, really want to thank the organisers for taking the time to involve so many of our local artists and our local organisations, to come together so that they could talk about some of the latest things that are happening within that particular sector.

I also want to give a big shout out to Ben Bjarnesen for Light up the Night. It was a charity gala, it’s for a fight against LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex and queer/questioning) domestic violence. It was the first time that this has been held. The Lady Mayoress and the LORD MAYOR were there supporting Ben and his team. We had Dame Quentin Bryce, it was again a wonderful inaugural event. It was something that I think that—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: —all of those who were there really enjoyed. For such a good cause and to hear Dame Quentin talk about the great steps forward that have been taken in all forms of domestic violence, but the LGBTQI community particularly has faced some of those in the past. So really want to thank Ben and his team for taking that big step of having their very first gala and really congratulate them on Light Up the Night.

Moving to the Committee. We had a Committee presentation on Children’s Early Literacy and Reading programs update. It was wonderful to hear about the many, many programs that we have. From babies all the way through toddler time—storytime. We talked about some of our Indigenous programs. It really was a special presentation.

I’d just like to—I think it’s important that the Chamber knows that one of the questions that was asked was what was our earliest memory of a book. So I’d like to share with you that Councillor TOOMEY’s was *Biggles*, that Councillor GRIFFITHS’ was *Storm Boy*, Councillor CUMMING’S Billy Bunting. Then *The* *Famous Five* was the overall winner with Councillor LANDERS, Councillor MACKAY and myself having those strong memories.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: *Billy Bunter*. Sorry, I will take that interjection and please make sure clerks that we get the right name in the thing. It was a really great presentation. I really want to let the Chamber know that our Committee really does sort of look at some of the wonderful things that Council does right across Brisbane. Our libraries, I think are just so special. To have that contribution from all of our Committee members that day was really extra special. I’ll leave debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Any debate?

Councillor ATWOOD.

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on item A also. Children’s Early Literacy and Reading programs. As a young mum, I can’t thank Council enough for the lengths they go to so support our youngest residents. As Councillor HOWARD mentioned, some of these programs include First 5 Forever, Little Stars Reading program and the mobile library, which visits our local events.

These events are not only a tonne of fun, a great social outing for parents and bubs, but also have a lasting impact for our children. A few years ago, I visited a book tour by Mem Fox. Many of us know her as the author of *Possum Magic* or *Where is the Green Sheep?* However, I went and listened to her speak about her book for parents, *Reading Magic*. She spoke about a number of lifelong benefits about reading out loud to children has, but a few points that stuck with me are bonding, brain development and the benefits of reading for their future.

She spoke about the importance of getting down on the ground and laughing with your child. Playing with them, reading with them, showing them how much you love them. I remember her saying who cares if they rip the pages? That’s what they’re for, just tape it up or get them a cardboard book.

She also spoke about children’s brains’ development and expressed how important the first five years of your child’s life is and the most important for their brain development. Our brains are a massive muscle full of motor neurons. By reading aloud to them, it helps children’s brains build and form these neuron connections.

On the First 5 Forever website it says in the first five years of your child’s life, their brain forms over a million new connections every second. It’s incredible. Research shows the first five years last a lifetime. That simple, everyday activity of reading with our child makes these connections strong.

Mem’s last point that I remember her speaking about a lot was reading out aloud. As a result of hearing different words, they will have learnt so many different words themselves and how to use them. I know we all have those moments as parents when our children start to say big words. Recently my Georgia, four‑year‑old, said ‘that’s extraordinary mum’ and it melted my heart and gave me a little giggle.

But there are so many statistics and case studies from a number of Australian universities showing how important it is to develop our child’s brain. Some of the cool ones I learnt today was if your child cannot rhyme by the time they are four, they’re going to find it really hard to read later in life. The other one was if a child can recite six rhymes by the time they’re four, they always are at the top of their reading group by the time they’re eight.

So reading and singing to our children have lifelong benefits. I cannot thank Council enough for their efforts in giving our youngest residents the best possible start with their amazing programs, thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Councillor HOWARD?

I will now put the Committee report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Peter Cumming, Steve Griffiths, James Mackay and Steven Toomey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CHILDREN’S EARLY LITERACY AND READING PROGRAMS UPDATE

**675/2021-22**

1. The Manager, Library Services, Lifestyle and Community Services attended the meeting to provide an update on children’s early literacy and reading programs. She provided the information below.

2. Council’s early literacy programs include:

- Babies, Books and Rhymes

- Toddler Time

- Storytime

- First 5 Forever stories and signs

- Chatterplay and other special events.

3. Early literacy programs establish the foundations for reading in the first five years of life, with parents and carers as first teachers. They provide opportunities for social connection and develop emergent literacy skills such as:

- oral language

- conventions of print

- basic alphabet knowledge

- phonological awareness

- pre-writing skills.

4. Council’s reading programs develop reading skills which are essential building blocks for learning, and foster positive connections with reading and libraries for life. Council’s reading programs include:

- Gold Star

- Little Stars Reading Club

- Summer Reading program

- school holiday programs

- special events celebrating reading, such as *Harry Potter* night.

5. Council has welcomed more than 80,000 attendees across its early literacy programs in 2021‑22 and has had almost 18,000 participants in core reading programs, with ongoing program development underway.

6. First 5 Forever Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Storytime is a new program delivered by Council which provides fun, play-based learning exploring STEM themes. The sessions are introduced by a STEM-themed picture book and contain themed songs, discussions and play-based activities and modelling of exploratory discussion and activity by parents and caregivers. Items from the Queensland Museum are also used in the program as learning and discussion artefacts.

7. First 5 Forever Jarjum Stories is a new program that commenced in October 2021, with monthly sessions at Bracken Ridge, Brisbane Square, Sunnybank Hills and Wynnum Libraries. Jarjum means ‘children’ or ‘young people’ in Wiradjuri and Bundjalung language. The program recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as our first Australian cultures and introduces Aboriginal language through songs, music and First Nations authors and illustrators. The program builds awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, perspectives and stories and builds respect, trust, understanding and positive relationships. The Committee was shown various props used in the sessions.

8. First 5 Forever Queensland Ballet Storytime is a new program that commenced in February 2022 and is a one-year partnership with Queensland Ballet. The program is adapted from Queensland Ballet’s *Kindy Moves* program and is delivered monthly across seven libraries. It is designed to stimulate imagination, musicality and creative movement while incorporating First 5 Forever literacy principles using curated books. Due to its popularity, the sessions have been doubled from May 2022. The Committee was shown examples of positive feedback for the First 5 Forever Queensland Ballet Storytime.

9. Council’s Gold Star and Little Stars are long-standing core reading programs that have welcomed more than 100,000 participants since 2004. In 2021 there were more than 9,500 participants, the second highest participation in the history of the program. The programs promote literacy and encourage reading among children aged 0-12 years, and engage children in library membership and borrowing, fostering a sense of belonging.

10. The 2022 Gold Star and Little Stars programs will run between 1 June and 31 July 2022. It will involve a reading treasure map, encouraging 10 minutes of reading per day. Award ceremonies will be held between 15 August and 16 September 2022, where medallions will be presented to celebrate reading achievements. Liaison has already commenced with local ward offices to confirm the ceremony dates.

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

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, Finance and City Governance Committee.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 24 May 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Mr Deputy Chair. Our Committee presentation last week was on the Commitment to Council program. This is a Human Resources initiative which recognises the service and dedication of our Council staff. As Councillors would know from their interactions, we are blessed to have to many staff who dedicate their professional careers to the service of the people—to the people of Brisbane. I’d like to take this opportunity to once again acknowledge and thank them.

Long-term staff retention is important to Council and we want to recognise those long serving staff for their commitment. The Lord Mayor’s Commitment to Council program acknowledges and celebrates the careers of employees who have dedicated 10 or more years to Council. The program recognises staff through celebratory events and recognition on internal comms channels was well.

Staff who have worked at Council for more than 35 years are also recognised at a special ceremony. Last year we recognised 347 employees for 10 years of service, 276 employees for 15 years of service, 117 employees for 20 years of service, 75 employees for 25 years, 53 employees for 30 years and 75 employees for more than 35 years’ worth of service to Council. So we thank them and we thank them especially for their service to the people of Brisbane.

Mr Chair, Mr Deputy Chair, we also had our usual financial report for receivables, rates, inventory, payables, provisions and malls for the period ended March 2022. I’ll leave the rest to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Any debate? No debate.

I’ll put the Committee report.

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

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Angela Owen, Jonathan Sri and Charles Strunk.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair).

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – COMMITMENT TO COUNCIL

**676/2021-22**

1. The Divisional Manager, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on Commitment to Council. She provided the information below.

2. The Lord Mayor’s Commitment to Council program acknowledges and celebrates the careers of Council employees who have dedicated 10 or more years to Council.

3. Council’s recognition to celebrate an employee’s dedicated commitment to Council demonstrates the valued contribution and appreciation of employees’ dedication. Service milestones are based on the number of years an employee has worked in Council. Council appreciates that some recognised employees may prefer not to attend the ceremony and offers alternative local events such as a morning tea.

4. The 2021 Commitment to Council program recognised 943 employees for their service, which included:

- 347 employees for 10 years of service

- 276 employees for 15 years of service

- 117 employees for 20 years of service

- 75 employees for 25 years of service

- 53 employees for 30 years of service

- 75 employees for 35+ years of service.

5. Three Lord Mayor’s Commitment to Council ceremonies are held each year to recognise employees with 35+ years of service.

6. Following a question from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Divisional Manager for her informative presentation.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**ADOPTED**

#### B COMMITTEE REPORT – FINANCIAL REPORTS (RECEIVABLE, RATES, INVENTORY, PAYABLE, PROVISIONS AND MALLS) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 2022

**134/695/317/1235**

**677/2021-22**

8. The Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, provided a detailed report, submitted on file, on Council’s position relating to accounts receivable, rates, inventory, accounts payable, provisions and malls for the period ended March 2022.

9. The Civic Cabinet Chair and the Committee noted the report. The financial report on Council’s position relating to accounts receivable, rates, inventory, accounts payable, provisions and malls for the period ended March 2022 is now presented for noting by Council.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT**,as submitted on file, **BE NOTED.**

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Deputy Chair: Petitions. Councillors are there any petitions?

Councillor McLACHLAN.

Councillor McLACHLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I have a petition that’s been received, requesting Council implement traffic calming measures on Kent and Lodge Roads in Kalinga.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I have a petition from residents of Chelmer calling on Council to rehabilitate and resurface Gordon Thomson Park.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

No other petitions?

Councillor LANDERS may I have a motion for receipt of the petitions?

**678/2021-22**

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

The petitions were summarised as follows:

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| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/105 | David McLachlan | Requesting Council install traffic chicanes on Kent Road and Lodge Road, Kalinga. |
| 137/220/594/106 | Nicole Johnston | Requesting Council fund the rehabilitation and resurfacing of the oval at Gordon Thomson Park, Chelmer. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of an Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee order? No.

Are there any matters of General Business?

Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I rise to speak tonight in regards to some local community events right across the City of Brisbane. Mr Deputy Chair, I’d like to make a reflection on the unveiling of the Indigenous Memorial to acknowledge those who have served and continue to service in our defence forces. Friday was a very important event and as the LORD MAYOR said, it was a once in a lifetime event. It was held on sacred ground and it was made even more scared by the unveiling of that memorial on Friday.

One very important component of that gathering—and there were quite a number of people who were there—was that it was the largest gathering of current and former Indigenous serving officers of the defence services ever. To bring them all together and to see them sharing their pride in their culture and their background but also their pride in serving our nation, was very, very significant.

I also had the privilege of representing the LORD MAYOR the following day at the first formal wreath laying service. Which has been a long time in coming, in the sense there has been wreath laying in the past but never before with a memorial in Anzac Square. So going forward, this will have even more significance for particularly those serving officers and whether they are current or former. It was great to see that people had come from far and wide to be there for that unveiling.

I’d also like to mention, Mr Deputy Chair, the Korean Taekwondo Association of Queensland. On Saturday morning they had their championships at Nissan Arena. To see many of these young people and the way that they are focused and disciplined on going through their different stages and their different belts for Taekwondo. There is a lot of commitment and these are very, very young children many of them.

I was speaking to one young lady, she said, this is my first tournament championships and I’m really, really nervous, but she said, I’m really, really proud to be here. To hear that sense of pride and that level of achievement was really great to know that those young people are really grasping the opportunity to take that next step.

Mr Deputy Chair, I would also like to acknowledge the 75 years of our UN Peacekeepers from our Australian forces. On Saturday morning I had the privilege as well of attending the wreath laying ceremony. Now I haven’t missed one since they’ve been held since I was first elected. It was really interesting to see how it’s evolving. I do acknowledge the presence of Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Dr Jeanette Young, at that ceremony as well, because her presence made a major statement for all of the Peacekeepers. It really, on the 75th year anniversary of them being formed it really spoke volumes.

It is interesting to see the support that is garnered at these Peacekeeping wreath laying ceremonies because we have everybody from the Consular Corps to the Cypriot Patriot Societies to the Rwandans who were holding up photos saying we thank Australia for looking after us. Also to two of my constituents, Teresa and Augnes, two young ladies who sang the national anthem who actually hold the world record for singing the most national anthems—195 national anthems in 100 languages, they sang them all back to back in September 2021. They are young ladies who live in Calamvale who have grown up in my area.

They originally came from Kerala in India. So they weren’t content to just sing a national anthem and convert it to Malayalam or Hindi. They went through every single one of the 195 anthems and learned them in 100 languages. Their presence there—because they have always been focused on promoting peace and that was their aim by learning all of those national anthems in all of those natural languages, to promote the concept of peace across the world by bringing all of those anthems together.

Can I say to all of those who have served and continue to serve as Peacekeepers right across the world, thank you for your service, because your job is a difficult one. It is something that is ongoing and very vital.

I would also just like to make mention of the Australian Institute of Architects Brisbane awards that were held on Saturday night. It was a pleasure to be able to present the Brisbane City Council sponsored award for the Buildings That Breathe to Fender Katsalidis. They are a Brisbane-based architecture firm. They were extremely proud and can I say that from the judging of that award, there were so many contenders but this particular one really exemplified the criteria that we as a Council endeavour to promote. So they’ve done a fantastic job. I say congratulations not only to them but to all businesses that were nominated and to all of those who received commendation on the evening.

This weekend and this week are going to see some significant milestones as well. On 2 June we will have the 10-year anniversary of the opening of Wisdom College in my area. This is a major milestone for this very young school. They are going ahead in leaps and bounds providing important opportunities for our local youth. On 4 June we’ll also see the celebration of the Eid Mela hosted by ISQ (Islamic society of Queensland) and also the Party in the Park with Belong. So they are regular events that in the past we’ve managed to celebrate.

It’s been a long time with all the COVID interruptions, but it’s great to have these festivals back and happening again. Of course I would be remiss if I didn’t focus on Sunday morning, 5 June, the Dragon Boat Festival which I assisted the Hakka Association to establish, that will be held once again. It is a proud event that Council sponsors. I know many Councillors do attend that event. The Hakka Association year-on-year-on-year continues to work extremely hard to put on this wonderful event to bring people in the community together to celebrate the cultural diversity and also to promote an active and healthy lifestyle in our city.

So there’s certainly lots of events that are hitting the ground at the moment. It’s wonderful to make sure that we can be out there to support them. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor OWEN.

Further General Business?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak about a number of events that happened over the weekend but want to start off by—I was sad that Councillor HOWARD has just left the Chamber—because I would have liked to have put my earliest memory of my favourite book in my earliest memory was *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper in kindy. I still remember a lot of the words out of that which is really interesting, but anyway I just wanted to put that on record. Now, in regards to events, we had an opening of a new childcare and kindy called Happy Hearts on Saturday.

I just wanted to compliment Hayley and her team—the manager and her team, who have opened up a centre that actually is really quite spectacular actually in a suburban street behind the Richlands East State School. It’s just amazing what the state of these childcare centres are now and how inviting they are for the kids and for the parents. This particular centre has a good drop-off area within the precinct. Because it was a good-sized block and they made great use of the space, having a good drop-off area which is safe. Because again it’s in a suburban street that runs behind the Richlands East State School.

It was an interesting background as well. The family who built the childcare centre, this is their fifth. They have one up at Caboolture and a number of others around South East Queensland as well. They only started doing this when they immigrated from South Africa in 2017. So they’ve really done a great job in establishing some wonderful centres right here in Brisbane and in other jurisdictions as well. So I just wanted to compliment them on that. Of course with the promise of more childcare money for families from the new Albanese Government we are certainly going to need more childcare centres to help those families who need to put their child in care while they go out to work to pay for their homes and living.

We had the Vietnamese Chapter again—I’ve raised—I’ve talked about the Chapter in regards to the fundraising they’re doing. Well they continue that on. This last Saturday they were raising more money for the flood victims—Brisbane flood victims as well—not just Brisbane but Ipswich as well—flood victims and also the Ukrainian refugees as well. They have raised currently—this didn’t include this last Saturday—they have raised $51,000 for the flood victims and $26,000 for the Ukrainian refugees. So Senator Scarr and Milton Dick, the Member for Oxley, were there in attendance as well.

It was—again it’s something that they have been doing now—this is now the third fundraiser and they are preparing to do a fourth as well. So I just want to—Dr Bui and the Chapter does an amazing job in this area. Now on Saturday as well we had the Bangladeshi Association’s Bengali New Year. It was supposed to take place up at the domain up in Ipswich but unfortunately with all the rain that we’ve had over the last week or so that wasn’t able to be accommodated and they had to relocate within two days of the decision being made and get everything to another venue.

Well the Islamic College at Durack put their hand up and the Imam said yes, we’re up for it. Within two days they had everything rearranged. That would not have been an easy thing because this was a big festival. They had multiple, multiple stalls out on the commons area, plus of course all the entertainment inside in the auditorium. I just want to compliment of course Dr Jaydee who was there—he was the MC (master of ceremonies) actually on the night, but he is one of the spokespeople for the association. They do terrific work on a number of other programs as well.

But this was something that they could just not put off because COVID of course had disrupted their festivals or their New Years’ in the past. They weren’t going to let some rain this time disrupt it any longer. So they found the new venue, within two days they moved everything over there. It was just quite amazing that they were able to do that. Fantastic food, pop-up stalls as I said, and a lot of dancing. It was really a great night enjoyed by everyone. Of course as Councillor OWEN said the dragon boats are this Sunday 5 June and Council officers are preparing the site.

Now we had a lot of rain of course which disrupted some of the harvesting of some of the weeds, whether it be the Salvinia or the cutting of the existing plant life that sort of grows up to the surface that has to be trimmed, down to around about 18 inches or about 450 millimetres every so often as it grows up. So to make up for the fact that we didn’t—we weren’t able to get in there as quickly and as long as we possibly could, we’ve got two harvesters in at the moment. We’ve got a medium-sized—we’ve got a small one, the small one is doing the Salvinia and the medium-sized is doing the plant material that grows to the surface.

I don’t want to call it weed because I don’t think it’s a weed. It’s really just the plant life that grows up that needs to absorb the nutrients of the lake, but all that is happening. As I say the site is being prepared with the litter clean-up as well. So it should be a really—providing we have good weather and it looks like BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) is predicting that—we should have a really good day there on Sunday with many, many thousands of people that attend that event. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor STRUNK.

Further General Business?

Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr Acting Chair. I rise briefly to speak about the Lanham Fair which is happening this Saturday at Lanham Park. It is traditionally called the Lanham May Fair but unfortunately everyone would appreciate why we dropped the May, because it was a little damp on that day. I have to acknowledge Inner North Rotary because without Inner North Rotary this fair would not happen. They do get the Council festival funding and also it is topped up by the Marchant Ward Office to give the residents of the Marchant Ward, Enoggera Ward and McDowall Ward a free family fun day.

So what can you expect this Saturday? Well, you will be disappointed that the Little Movers, one of our local dance schools, have cancelled due to all the Little Movers having a birthday celebration. They’ve gone off to celebrate the Little Movers birthday, but we do have the Franciscans On The Hill rock band. That is Padua and Mount Alvernia rock band. These kids are so talented. They are equal to the paid performers that we have on the day.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HAMMOND: It gives these children—or young adults I should say—the opportunity to actually perform in a professional environment in front of large crowds. All the food around the event is all done by our local community group. Because the reason why we hold this event is to build our communities and build them we do. It’s lovely to walk around and see everyone going, ‘what street do you live in?’, ‘oh nice to see you’, ‘I haven’t seen you for a while’. Comment on someone’s dog. All the community groups just getting together and raising money for their different organisations.

So what is free? The rock-climbing wall, the pony rides, the petting zoo, the face painting, the jumping castle, and of course the professional entertainment on the stage. Again, I would like to thank my staff, Elizabeth, who looks after that in the Marchant Ward Office and the one that Councillor WINES just stole from me, Monica, thank you for all your hard work too, Monica, because you really started it off before you were poached by Councillor WINES. Not that I’m a little bit upset by that at all, but I will catch up with Monica again on Monday.

So please feel free to come down to see the professional entertainment, have your face painted or just a little bit of glitter put on your face. Do the rock-climbing wall and eat a snag or two. Lanham Park, Grange. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor HAMMOND.

Further General Business?

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak about Gresham Street Bridge. Deputy Chair, we have heard a little bit from the LORD MAYOR and Councillor WINES today about the Gresham Street Bridge, but just to put a bit of background behind this bridge, this was as far as we know, Brisbane’s last timber bridge that serviced vehicle traffic. The bridge also carried a gas main and a water main into St Johns Wood. Now to put that into context with the recent events that happened in February, should the old bridge have been in place it would have been almost two metres under water—two metres—that is a little bit taller than me.

The bridge itself—the old bridge—is protecting a sewer main. We have had commitment from UU (Urban Utilities) that they will be upgrading that sewer main and armouring that sewer main in its current position. Because it is gravity fed the location of the sewer main cannot be changed. But to say that this has been a long project, it has. This project technically started two years ago with the removal of the gas main off Gresham Street Bridge and then dug underneath Enoggera Creek. Then we took the water main off the bridge and we also put that underneath Enoggera Creek.

Now the wonderful thing about putting a gas main under a creek and a water main under a creek is that they can no longer be broken by tree strikes or that kind of event. So that secures the services going into St Johns Wood for gas and water. Another part of the project, Mr Deputy Chair, was relocating the 33-kilovolt power line that goes through from Waterworks Road into the Woods. That was primarily initially done for the removal of the old bridge. As the Chamber would probably appreciate, cranes—swinging cranes with large arms—and power lines really don’t mix.

So the whole power line was moved away from the demolition area for the bridge. This has actually had the added benefit of creating more space to revegetate on either side of the bridge. So once the landscaping works kick off we’re going to have a beautiful landscaped area on either side of the new bridge. The other thing that was done as part of this project, Mr Deputy Chair, was we actually lifted the bridge. So the decking of the bridge is now 1.5 metres above the old decking. Now this has a couple of advantages.

It increases the flood immunity for the bridge. So people of St Johns Wood and also Bennetts Road can get out in an event, because Bennetts Road crossing generally goes under well before Gresham Street Bridge does. They can access and get out in an event. The other thing is, there is some localised flooding that we generally see through Royal Parade. By widening the creek underneath Gresham Street Bridge we are allowing that water from Royal Parade to escape away a lot more quickly because we’re actually lifting the height that the pipe egresses into the creek. So that’s another advantage.

Another great part of this project, Mr Deputy Chair, and one that I am really very proud of and as Councillor WINES said, Graham Nell is retiring. Graham does need to take credit for this. This was something that he did on very short notice. That was to enable the redesign of the bridge for busses to turn left off Waterworks Road to access the terminus in St Johns Wood. Now the terminus, Mr Deputy Chair, has capacity for three buses, but there is only one bus service that actually services St Johns Wood, that’s the 379.

But this allows the terminus to be used for buses that would service west of St Johns Wood, so through to The Gap and in some cases, Keperra and—what is the shopping centre out your way Councillor WINES—Brookside, thank you—to service that area as well. So this is a fantastic outcome for my community and also Councillor WINES’ community which connects it back into The Gap village. The bridge itself is concrete and steel. When you look at it, it’s going to take a nuclear strike to get rid of it now because she’s a solid bridge. She’s not going anywhere.

In the recent flood events its proved hands down that the piers—there are only two piers in the creek now, there was—was it four or five previously Councillor WINES, it was four wasn’t it? It was quite a number. One of those piers, Mr Deputy Chair, was timber. So there was a composite between concrete piers and timber piers going into this creek. Putting it into context, this bridge was taking rubbish trucks and buses. It held up for 90 years with a timber pier. So it did really well for the life cycle of the bridge. It did fantastic. But it’s going to be a bridge that’s going to service the St Johns Wood area for a very, very long time to come.

I want to thank the LORD MAYOR for bringing the construction of the bridge forward. I want to thank Graham Nell for the work that he did in the design of the bridge and enabling us to have left turns and right turns from Waterworks Road with buses onto the bridge. I also want to thank Graham—this is one thing that I didn’t mention Councillor WINES—was the reinforcing of the pedestrian edges so if we do need to widen the bridge we’ve got extra capacity there to do that. The bridge has got improved pedestrian access. We have three childcares in the area, two schools and a small business district, so it’s highly—what’s the word I’m looking for—activated area. It’s a fantastic outcome.

But one thing I do—I really want to acknowledge the actual project manager. So I know the LORD MAYOR sort of threw the project manager job at me but I’d really like to acknowledge the work that Nab did on this project. He has been with the project for the full two years from beginning to end. During that time he did bring on a second child. So when you think about the work that Nab has done, he’s built a bridge and had a baby all in the last two years, and he survived. I should really get him the T-shirt. He’s done a fantastic job and I want to thank him for his interaction with the community.

Because the community were well aware of what was going on, the communications that came out about the project, the time frames and everything were just absolutely outstanding. Nab’s discussions with me about the progress of the bridge as well, I really want to compliment Nab on the work he has done. I wish him well on his next project. Hopefully it will be in The Gap Ward. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor TOOMEY.

Further General Business?

Councillor McLACHLAN.

Councillor McLACHLAN: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on matters relating to National Reconciliation Week and in particular the Noonga Reconciliation events which are held in Kalinga Park every year, unfortunately not this year due to the damage to Kalinga Park during the recent flood events. For Councillors, I know Councillor CASSIDY is well aware of the Noonga Reconciliation Group. We’ve been there together in the past.

But for others who may not be aware of them, they’re a volunteer organisation made up of dedicated community members from the whole North Brisbane area, committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through developing friendships, cultural understanding and shared experiences, working with local elders, schools in particular which is great to see as the schools have come to this event in increasing numbers over recent years, and the broader community to create opportunities for cultural learning and reconciliation.

So a wonderful group. The secretary is Colleen Kelly who I think a lot of people in this place would know. The president is a wonderful lady by the name of Moira Bligh. Unfortunately the event didn’t proceed this year in Reconciliation Week due to the park damage following the floods. Whilst there has been a clean-up of debris down in Kalinga Park the ground is still like a sponge. Access down to the area where the group have their special ceremonial place it was too damaged they said. They decided not to proceed with the commemoration.

But I wanted to draw to the attention of the Councillors an issue there. When I went down to see the damage there caused by the flood—a lot of people will understand that this was a significant flood event that cascaded down through Kedron Brook and caused a considerable amount of damage. That’s nature at work. But when I was down there inspecting the damage I was horrified to see a deliberate and malicious act of damage to the Journey Home sign there at the Noonga reconciliation place. It’s horrifying. You see mindless graffiti occasionally on signs where people scrawl bits and pieces all over a sign.

But this was a deliberate and malicious act to scratch out on the sign, Sorry Day—National Sorry Day—scratched out, the words stolen generation scratched out, throughout the whole—on the plaque. It was just a crying shame to see that. Councillor HOWARD talked earlier about in Reconciliation Week the need to get hearts, minds and action together. I would contend also we need soul. That there are grubs like this out in the community who are prepared to undertake an act of deliberate and malicious damage to a sign like this is hurtful and hurtful not just to me, but I’m sure to the whole community.

I am pleased to say and to see that the sign has been replaced. It was done quick smart when it was brought to the attention of the sign shop. So congratulations to Brisbane Sign Shop for quickly engineering the fix of the sign. So it is now in place. It was in place in time for the conduct of the ceremony if the group had decided to proceed with it, but unfortunately due to the conditions of the ground they decided not to proceed. But how dreadful it is that there are people out there who are prepared to undertake this sort of deliberate, malicious damage to a sign.

But I am pleased to see that we have a reconciliation plan. I know that we are on board with these actions and these sorts of locations in Kalinga Park recognising what was the hurt that was committed during those times that—the stolen generation times—are important for us all to recognise. I am pleased to say that we do work with groups like the Noonga Reconciliation Group to effect change in our community. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor McLACHLAN.

Any further General Business?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh yes, just on a quick matter of General Business related to the flood recovery effort in our parks, particularly our playgrounds. I want to put on the record my strongest possible concern about the failure of Brisbane City Council to properly clean up, remediate and to restore 12 playgrounds in Tennyson Ward. For some weeks now we have been receiving updates as Councillors from our parks officers about the status of our parks. There are 11 parks in Tennyson Ward that have been open and the playgrounds within those parks have been open, but no proper clean‑up of the softfall and the rubber matting has been undertaken.

One of the 12 parks has had softfall put in over the top of the existing flooded softfall and it’s been open the whole time since as well. The reason I am concerned is there are two waste water treatment plants in Tennyson Ward, one at Oxley and one at Fairfield. These waste water treatment plants unfortunately get flooded. When the waste water treatment plants flood, the sewerage spreads out all over Tennyson Ward. Unfortunately it causes really significant problems in our parks. As a result there have been 12 contaminated playgrounds, many of which will have had sewerage-infested flood waters through them.

This Council has not properly cleaned up these parks. They have been open for weeks. I have been raising this issue with Council officers for weeks and with Councillor MARX and more recently since he took over, Councillor TOOMEY. I am extremely concerned because last week in several of these parks, Council went and put a veneer of really fine—I’d have to describe it as sawdust—over the top of the existing softfall areas of the 11 playgrounds that I am talking about. This is absolutely unacceptable. Having gone through this before I know that Council had to dig out these areas.

Bacteria breeds in the under-fall areas. It’s a moist, hot environment. It has never properly dried out. We’ve had wet areas in these parks for months since the floods. I am extremely concerned that Council has not properly remediated these 12 playgrounds. The only thing that has happened in them is, they got hosed off. So this is what amounts to flood recovery in Tennyson Ward in children’s playgrounds. They get pressure washed. Now it is a matter of urgency that this Council properly remediates our playgrounds so that children using them can do so and families can be assured that they are clean and safe.

That’s clearly not the case. Now after 2011 very clearly we were told that they all had to be de-compacted, dug out, new base had to go in, new softfall had to go down. None of that has happened in 2022. It is clear from Councillor TOOMEY and from the Council officers involved that they don’t see any problem here. There is a fact sheet—I was told today—there is a fact sheet on the State Government’s website and I should have a look at the fact sheet. I know what the fact sheet says. It says that you shouldn’t play on wet, flood-contaminated fields—sporting fields. Fair enough. I agree completely with that.

But what Council doesn’t understand is these are not just wet, flood-affected fields. These are a really complex environment where bacteria breed. They are environments that have been impacted by sewerage and Council has done nothing to properly remediate them. So I’m just saying now that this is on the public record I will be advising all residents in my ward. I will be giving them the LORD MAYOR’s email and if he wants to tell all the parents in my ward that it’s fine for children to go and play in shit-infested playgrounds, that will be his responsibility.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor JOHNSTON.

Any further General Business?

No? Okay.

Councillors we now move onto the adjourned motion moved by Councillor JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor COOK, that Brisbane City Council introduces a new rates category for residential owner occupiers creating a new class of natural disaster-affected, uninhabitable homes and that rates are set at 25% of the amount usually levied under the resolution of rates and charges for a period of up to 12 months.

Before we get any further Councillor JOHNSTON and to the Chamber, I have received legal advice just now in regards to the motion. The advice from City Legal is that the urgency motion is not a valid motion. The reason for that being is that a decision cannot be made on the current motion to introduce a new rate category. This is because rates and charges can only be decided by resolution at the budget meeting under section 96 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Mr Chairman.

Deputy Chair: Point of order Councillor JOHNSTON.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO MOTION:**

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| It was moved by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON, seconded by Councillor Peter CUMMING that the motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *That Brisbane City Council considers a new rates category for Residential owner occupiers creating a new class of: ‘natural disaster-affected uninhabitable homes’ and that rates are set at 25% of the amount usually levied under the Resolution of Rates and charges for a period of up to 12 months.* |

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Sorry, point of order DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Just a question on that. Based on what your previous ruling was, that it can only be considered, debated, voted on during budget, does that change the consideration that we can actually even debate that motion today?

Deputy Chair: I’ll just get some advice.

The legal advice is that we are able to consider such a motion, but obviously not introduce. So the motion as amended can proceed.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: I’m not sure the motion is amended. I think it would have to have an amendment debate on a resolution that’s been deemed out of order. It is starting to get a little bit—it starts to get a little bit silly when we’re doing—so we’re going to have to have an amendment debate on a resolution that’s been deemed out of order, to bring it back into order after the conclusion of business. Could I ask that consideration be given to moving this to a later meeting so that the resolution can be dealt with properly rather than attempting to bring it back into compliance once it’s already been moved—once it’s already been deemed out of order.

So if you consider the order of progress, a resolution is proposed, it is deemed out of order, we now have to have an amendment debate on an out of order resolution.

Deputy Chair: Just give me one moment Councillor WINES.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Based on Councillor WINES’ question I just need to adjourn the meeting for five minutes in order to get some further advice. Could I—

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **679/2021-22**  At that time, 5pm, it was resolved on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the meeting adjourn until the Deputy Chair gets further advice, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 5.02pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Deputy Chair: Councillors I have received further advice from City Legal in regards to the amendment that Councillor JOHNSTON has put forward. The advice is that pursuant to section 37(1)(e) the motion is subject to an existing legal impediment in its drafting and accordingly I have no other option but to rule it out of order. There being no further business—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I have definitely got further General Business.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. I move suspension of standing orders.

Deputy Chair: Sorry, you have a point of order Councillor JOHNSTON?

Councillor JOHNSTON: You said is there any further business. I’ve definitely got further business.

Deputy Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

At that juncture, Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Jonathan SRI, that the Standing Rules be suspended to allow the moving of the following motion⎯

*That Brisbane City Council considers a new rates category providing provision for a new class of: ‘natural disaster-affected uninhabitable homes’ and that rates are set at 25% of the amount usually levied under the Resolution of Rates and charges for a period of up to 12 months.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Under the Meetings Local Law the end of General Business is the end of the General Business of the day therefore I don’t believe you can suspend standing orders if there are no standing orders because the meeting has concluded. You did announce that General Business was completed.

Deputy Chair: I do thank you DEPUTY MAYOR.

But also Councillor JOHNSTON to your point, the body of your motion is still the same as the other and pursuant to the section 37(1)(e) it remains the same. Therefore I rule it out of order.

That being the case, 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 Nicole Johnston (received on 24 May 2022)**

1. How much is Brisbane City Council paying either directly or for its membership of the World Union of Olympics Cities? Are there any non-membership costs?
2. What is the annual fee for membership to the World Union of Olympic Cities?
3. How many years has Brisbane City Council signed up for as part of its membership of the World Union of Olympic Cities?

**Submitted by Councillor Nicole Johnston (received on 25 May 2022)**

1. Please provide a list flood damaged streets, by street name and suburb, in Tennyson Ward identified by Council for resurfacing?
2. Of the more than 40 BBQs identified by Council as being in need of repair, how many are currently working and available for use?
3. Please provide a list of flood damaged playgrounds identified for replacement by park name and suburb?
4. Please provide a list of wombat crossings by street and suburb name built by Council in:

i. 2022 to date; and

ii. 2021.

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (received on 26 May 2022)**

1. How many Brisbane Livestock Control (BLC) staff are allocated for wandering animals?
2. How many wandering animals have been collected by BLC between the hours of 6pm to 9am in each of the last five financial years?
3. How many wandering animals have been collected by BLC between the hours of 9am to 6pm in each of the last five financial years?
4. Advise the total number of parking complaints and parking fines issued in the suburb of Pallara for the following dates:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **COMPLAINTS TO COUNCIL** | **FINES ISSUED** |
| **23/4/2022** |  |  |
| 30/4/2022 |  |  |
| 7/5/2022 |  |  |
| 14/5/2022 |  |  |
| 21/5/2022 |  |  |

1. Advise the total fine revenue from the complaints relating to matters in the suburb of Pallara for the 2019-2020 financial year, broken down by fine type (eg parking, dog barking):-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FINE TYPE** | **TOTAL REVENUE** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Advise the total fine revenue from the complaints relating to matters in the suburb of Pallara for the 2020-2021 financial year, broken down by fine type (eg parking, dog barking):-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FINE TYPE** | **TOTAL REVENUE** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Advise the total fine revenue from the complaints relating to matters in the suburb of Pallara for the 2021-2022 financial year to date, broken down by fine type (eg parking, dog barking):-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FINE TYPE** | **TOTAL REVENUE** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Provide a list of all polling booth locations for the 2022 Federal Election where complaints were lodged with Council on Saturday 21 May 2022.
2. Provide a list all Council community leases which also involve commercial activities onsite.
3. Provide a list of all community leases where organisations have had to vacate and been displaced due to the impacts of the 2022 Flood and Weather events.
4. How many groups are on the community lease facility waiting list, broken down by District:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PREFERRED REGION** | **NUMBER ON WAITLIST** |
| North |  |
| South |  |
| East |  |
| West |  |
| Central |  |
| No preferred region – any location |  |

1. Provide a list with details of all vacant Council buildings.
2. Provide a summary of the feedback from the latest community consultation on Options 1 and 2 for Stage 5 of the North Brisbane Bikeway (Price Street to Kedron Brook).
3. Provide a summary of the feedback from the latest community consultation on Options A and B for Stage 5 of the North Brisbane Bikeway (Price Street to Kedron Brook).
4. Provide the total number of submissions received by Council on Stage 5 of the Northern Bikeway.
5. Provide a breakdown of all advertising to promote the Brisbane Metro project (by financial year).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ADVERTISING** | **2015-2016** | **2016-2017** | **2017-2018** | **2018-2019** | **2019-2020** | **2020-2021** | **2021-2022** |
| Social media |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social Media Influencers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newspaper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brochures/ Flyers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Radio |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Television |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. What is the current number of Council officers by FTEs for the following job roles (excluding contractors):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JOB ROLE** | **FTEs** |
| Truck Driver |  |
| Quarry Worker |  |
| Engineering Trade |  |
| Architect |  |
| Contract Management |  |

1. Provide a list with the breakdown of what Council debt/ borrowing is being used for (what services or projects), including the amount allocated.
2. How much is expected to be paid in lease/rent payments for the following properties in the 2021-2022 Financial Year?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PROPERTY** | **LEASE/ RENT PAYMENTS** | **M2 LEASED/ RENTED** |
| 7 Rivergate Place, Murarrie |  |  |
| 20 TradeCoast Dr, Eagle Farm |  |  |
| 375 Hamilton Rd, Chermside |  |  |
| 145 Florence St, Wynnum |  |  |

1. Provide the following information concerning Brisbane City Council’s working cemeteries:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CEMETARY** | **TOTAL CAPACITY** | **AVAILABLE SPACE** | **ESTIMATED YEARS OF REMAINING SUPPLY** |
| Hemmant |  |  |  |
| Mount Gravatt |  |  |  |
| Pinnaroo |  |  |  |

1. What plans are in place to cater for this future demand for facilities once the current working Brisbane City Council cemeteries no longer have space available?
2. Have locations been identified for new Brisbane City Council cemetery space within the City of Brisbane, and if so where?
3. What are the projected costs of establishing a new cemetery within the Brisbane City Council area?

## 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 Steve Griffiths (from meeting on 24 May 2022)**

1. Can you please complete the following table and list all Council’s leased Community Facilities that have full accessibility.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Facility** | **Address** | **Lessee** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

***A1.*** *Council officers have advised they are unable to answer this question within the timeframe required by the Meetings Local Law 2001.*

*Note: All Council leased community facilities were compliant at the time they were built. Throughout time, upgrades and improvements are made to our community facilities to ensure they remain with compliant with disability standards legislation. Council has invested more than $230 million in access and inclusion projects and initiatives since 2012 and continues to do so.*

1. Can you please complete the following table and list all Council’s leased Community Facilities that are partially accessible.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Facility** | **Address** | **Lessee** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

***A2.*** *Council officers have advised that they are unable to answer this question within the timeframe required by the Meetings Local Law 2001.*

*Note: All Council leased community facilities were compliant at the time they were built. Throughout time, upgrades and improvements are made to our community facilities to ensure they remain with compliant with disability standards legislation. Council has invested more than $230 million in access and inclusion projects and initiatives since 2012 and continues to do so.*

1. Can you please complete the following table and list all Council’s leased Community Facilities that remain inaccessible.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Facility** | **Address** | **Lessee** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

***A3.*** *Council officers have advised that they are unable to answer this question within the timeframe required by the Meetings Local Law 2001.*

*Note: All Council leased community facilities were compliant at the time they were built. Throughout time, upgrades and improvements are made to our community facilities to ensure they remain with compliant with disability standards legislation. Council has invested more than $230 million in access and inclusion projects and initiatives since 2012 and continues to do so.*

1. Provide details regarding the ferry terminals damaged in the recent Brisbane floods, including:

* which terminals remain damaged
* anticipated cost of repairs of each terminal
* estimated re-opening date of each terminal.

***A4.*** *Note: While the below terminals sustained various levels of damage, make-safe works have been completed on several of the terminals and they are now back in service.*

* *Bulimba*
* *Teneriffe*
* *West End*
* *Guyatt Park*
* *New Farm Park*
* *Hawthorne*
* *Northshore Hamilton*
* *Bretts Wharf*
* *Apollo Road*
* *Mowbray Park*
* *Riverside*
* *Howard Smith Wharves*
* *South Bank*
* *UQ St Lucia*
* *Regatta*
* *Milton*
* *North Quay*
* *QUT Gardens Point*
* *Maritime Museum*
* *Holman Street*
* *Sydney Street*

*Anticipated cost of repairs to terminals: Approximately $21.2m.*

*Estimated re-opening date of each terminal:*

* *Bulimba – Open*
* *Teneriffe – Open*
* *West End – Open*
* *Guyatt Park – Open*
* *New Farm Park – Open*
* *Hawthorne – Open*
* *Northshore Hamilton – Open*
* *Bretts Wharf – Open*
* *Apollo Road – Open*
* *Mowbray Park – Open*
* *Riverside – Open*
* *Howard Smith Wharves – Open*
* *South Bank – Open*
* *UQ St Lucia – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *Regatta – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *Milton – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *North Quay – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *QUT Gardens Point – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *Maritime Museum – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *Holman Street – Closed – Q4 2022*
* *Sydney Street – Closed – Q4 2022.*

1. Provide a further breakdown of everything factored into the whole-of-life costs for the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, including:-

* cost of construction
* costs of ongoing connections
* Council costs
* operational costs
* costs of asset replacement
* commercial leasing revenue.

***A5.*** *The response has been provided to Councillors separately due to its Commercial-in-Confidence nature.*

1. What is the current number of Council officers for the following job roles (excluding contractors):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **JOB ROLE** | **FTEs** | **Full Time** | **Part Time** | **Casual** |
| Bridge Maintenance |  |  |  |  |
| Trades Assistant |  |  |  |  |
| Administration |  |  |  |  |
| Transport Worker |  |  |  |  |
| Change Manager |  |  |  |  |

***A6.***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***JOB ROLE*** | ***FTEs*** | ***Full Time*** | ***Part Time*** | ***Casual*** |
| *Bridge Maintenance* |  |  |  |  |
| *Trades Assistant* | *12* | *12* |  |  |
| *Administration* |  |  |  |  |
| *Transport Worker* |  |  |  |  |
| *Change Manager* |  |  |  |  |

*Note: Council officers are unable to provide an FTE number for ‘Bridge Maintenance’, ‘Administration’, ‘Transport Worker’, or ‘Change Manager’. These terms are widely applicable to many and varied role types across Council, the number of which would be very difficult to accurately identify within the timeframe required by the Meetings Local Law 2001.*

1. Provide the total number of flood resilience projects listed in the forward schedules (which have not yet been funded), as well as the estimated total value of capital and expense.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SERVICE** | **TOTAL NUMBER** | **TOTAL CAPITAL** | **TOTAL EXPENSE** |
| Drainage Construction and Resilience |  |  |  |
| Stormwater Infrastructure |  |  |  |
| Stormwater Drainage Rehabilitation |  |  |  |
| Citywide Gully Reconstruction |  |  |  |

***A7.*** *The forward schedule for these services is currently being decided on as part of the 2022-23 Council Budget released on 15 June 2022.*

1. Please advise the number of complaints made to Brisbane City Council regarding long grass in parks or on road verges since July 2021 to present (May 2022).

***A8.*** *As previously advised, Council does not specifically record data for complaints only.*

1. Please advise the number of complaints made to Brisbane City Council regarding damage to parks or sports fields from grass cutting since July 2021 to present (May 2022).

***A9.*** *As previously advised, Council does not specifically record data for complaints only.*

1. How many complaints have been made to Brisbane City Council in regards to grass cutting not being done in the last three months i.e. March, April and May 2022, broken down by suburb and Ward.

***A10.*** *As previously advised, Council does not specifically record data for complaints only.*

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 5:15pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Kristy Ramirez (A/Council and Committee Officer)

Ashley Bailey (A/Council and Committee Officer)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer to the Lord Mayor and Council Orderly)