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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 25 August 2025

Released to the public on 29 August 2025

**LIVE STREAMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON
COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείσθε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی روداد کے نقاط ہیں۔ روداد کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 AUGUST 2025

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.02PM

The Chairperson, Mayor Kristine Olaris OAM advised that the meeting was being streamed live and that audio and video would be made available on Council's website.

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster (online)
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos (online)
Cr. Angela Villella

Council Officers

Anne Howard - Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager, Governance, Risk, Communications & Engage
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance
Meagan Merritt - Manager City Futures
Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Kristine Olaris OAM, opened the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land. I recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-131

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 July 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Kristine Olaris (OAM), made the following statement:

Council has an occupational health and safety responsibility to ensure anyone attending tonight's meeting, in person or online, feels safe both physical and emotionally.

It's great to see everyone here this evening. I would like to remind everyone in attendance to be respectful of each other and to maintain a courteous and respectful tone when addressing the meeting.

If anyone engages in conduct that is improper or disorderly, the Chairperson may direct that person to cease their conduct and the person must comply with that direction.

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at an Ordinary Council meeting must register to do so by submitting their questions before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

Questions that are not lodged by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting will not be accepted, and no questions will be taken from the floor the night of the Meeting.

Responses were provided to the following questions as submitted for Public Question Time:

The following questions were submitted and addressed.

Emma Thomson

1. Under Darebin's own Local Laws and parking restriction framework, what is the benchmark or target ratio of parking enforcement officers to parking bays required to ensure compliance is enforced effectively across the municipality, and how is this benchmark determined?

2. How many parking enforcement officers are currently employed or contracted by Darebin Council, and how many full-time equivalent (FTE) positions does this represent?
3. If the current staffing levels are below the benchmark required for effective enforcement, how long has Darebin Council been operating below capacity, and what steps have been taken to address this gap?

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank-you for you for taking the time to discuss this matter with the Manager today, and I understand you met with the General Manager of Community last week. As explained, no formal framework of this nature is currently in operation. Darebin operates a predominately reactive parking enforcement program. Officers are deployed in defined precincts to allow the entirety of the municipality to have the necessary coverage.

Council is actively reviewing its parking enforcement service, as a part of continuously strengthening our services and ensuring we plan for future change and growth.
2. Regarding your questions 2 and 3. Darebin employs seven full time officers who undertake parking enforcement.

The number of Traffic Officers is determined on several factors, including the number of customer requests received, the geographic size of the municipality and the population density of an area.

Greg Snelders

1. Given the current construction activity within the Preston Activity Centre (including developments approved under the Victorian Government's) what specific measures has Council put in place to prioritise parking enforcement in areas where trader parking turnover is critical to business survival?
2. Under Darebin's Local Laws and the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Council has the power to enforce compliance with Construction Management Plans and Traffic Management Plans as conditions of planning permits. How many inspections have been conducted at Hight Street / Oakover developments in the past 6 months, and how many breaches have been issued to developers or contractors?
3. Darebin's Activity Centre Strategy commits to supporting local business viability during periods of significant development. What formal consultation process has been undertaken with High Street traders in the past 12 months to mitigate construction disruption, and where is this documented?

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Council acknowledges the role of traffic enforcement officers play in supporting local business and encouraging the sufficient turnover of vehicles. Officers operate in a precinct model, which allows them to routinely attend activity zones and areas of high parking demand. I can confirm officers have issued a number of infringements in the High St precinct, based on specific customer requests, as well as other factors, over the last month.
2. Construction Management Plans are not required by the Darebin City Council under the local law at this time. This is something that has been identified as a possible amendment that could be considered through the 12 month review of the new Local Law.

3. No formal consultation is required for Council's Asset Protection and Planning Enforcement service.

Council does consult for its major projects. A proposal is before Council tonight to consult with the community for a second time regarding a proposed streetscape upgrade for High Street. The initial consultation process was conducted from 13 March to 6 April 2025 and all traders within the development area on High Street were notified by a postcard and was visited by an officer. Consultation included social media posts and content on our website where people from outside the development area were also able provide their input. The same process will apply to the second round of consultation.

Future stages of work will consider the construction management process and measures to minimise impact upon businesses and customers in High Street, including a business support plan

More generally, we recognise that construction activity will increase in activity centres as housing grows. Council will continue to review its approach to construction management, to ensure it is managed well.

Christiana Lattouf

1. Why do we need to call to register for a hard rubbish collection when it used to be an annual collection?
2. Why is there a limit of 2 cubic meters for collection?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Thank you for your question. Council is trialling a booked hard rubbish collection for 2 years, which commenced on 1 July 2025. The aim is to see which approach is best for our community and we are actively collecting feedback from residents so that we can review the results and consider the best approach for the long run. A report will come to Council for consideration in late 2026 after the trial has been running for 12 months.

We have options to book by email, or online if they are better for residents than making a phone call.

2. Darebin has always provided a 2 cubic meter limit per household for hard rubbish, and the new trial keeps that same entitlement. The limit is set to meet the needs of most households and is provided free and funded by everyone's waste charges. Households that need to have additional rubbish removed can book additional collections for a fee. This approach aims to be fair and also give households with higher needs access to services on a user pays basis.

Angela Denton

1. Representatives from the City of Darebin Building department recently inspected a boundary fence for compliance. An addition was made to the fence which increased its height from 1.8 metres to 2.35 metres without neighbouring owner's consent. The building department stated in correspondence that they were ill equipped to take any action in relation to the fence. Can Council elaborate on which statutory regulations they can enforce and which regulations they are ill equipped to enforce?
2. Can Council provide an update on a review into parking compliance as stated in answers to questions at last month's council meeting and in particular advise when they might commence regular patrols around the residential streets nearby the popular Ruckers Hill entertainment precinct?

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Hello Angela and thank you for your question. As you've highlighted, members of Council's Building team inspected the property and discussed the matter with you on-site.

This matter can be pursued with the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (DSCV), which specialises in fencing disputes between neighbours.

Because the fence does not pose a danger to life and/or risk to the occupants or public, Council will wait for the outcome from the DSCV process and consider options for enforcement, if required, following the mediation.

2. Council is undertaking a review of its parking services. Parking enforcement is an important service that supports community safety and accessibility, and the review will help ensure Council continuously improves this service.

Council regularly enforces parking in the vicinity of the Ruckers Hill precinct in response to parking complaints received by the community.

Max Sargent

1. How would tendering out management of Darebin and Merri Creek not lead to the loss of:
 - site specific expertise
 - long term knowledge of the restoration works
 - effective and supportive relationships with communities
 - cooperative coordination efforts along the creek. MCMC and DCMC are able to
 - attraction of significant external grant funding
2. Why was no public consultation done on the proposal in regard to MCMC management of Merri Creek?

Council also received questions on this same topic from Rod McLellan.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Thank you for your questions, Max. I know there is a lot of interest in this topic. We have received several questions about this item, and I know there are a number of submissions tonight too.

In regard to your specific question, it relates to an item on the agenda, and I'll take it as a comment.

Without indicating anything in regard to the specific decision tonight, it may be helpful to understand that any tender process run by Council is designed to identify the most suitable organisation for the job. These processes are open to both community organisations and businesses. Council has a strong history of working with not-for-profit community organisations that have successfully demonstrated they are the best candidates.

I would like to provide some broader information relating to the decision on the agenda tonight. Council is committed to achieving the best outcomes for the Darebin Parklands and the creek corridors, which is why this matter is being considered tonight—well ahead of the expiry of the current agreements. If Council were to take no action, those agreements would simply lapse.

This is a significant decision—it involves a substantial allocation of community funding and must be considered carefully. If Council did not undertake this process, it would not be meeting community expectations around fairness and transparency, nor fulfilling its governance obligations.

I empathise with community members worried about the decision. We also hear from community about how important transparency is. This is an example of transparency in action and it is absolutely better that these decisions are made publicly in our democracy rather than behind closed doors - it gives people a chance to have their say, but it also means that it can feel uncertain in the lead up to a decision.

Everyone is welcome to stay to hear the submissions, debate and decision.

2. In this case, Council has balanced the need to make a timely decision—before the current agreement expires—with the importance of understanding community views.

We know how highly the community values the work of MCMC, and Council's public meeting process includes opportunities for community input, such as submissions – and we'll hear from a number of submitters later tonight.

While we have not undertaken a specific public consultation relating to MCMC, there is no doubt about the strong community support for MCMC. That sentiment has been clearly heard and acknowledged.

Rod McLellan

1. Why is this matter being dealt with under procurement policy when Council is perfectly able to make funding contributions directly to the Incorporated Association (MCMC) of which it is a founding member, set up specifically for these purposes?
2. Given the amazing outcomes achieved by MCMC for Council, residents and the environment over nearly 50 years, will Council commit to ongoing membership of MCMC and direct ongoing sustainable levels of funding for management, community programs and environmental restoration?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. We realise it seems odd that Council would not be able to make contributions to an organisation that it helped found, however that is exactly the legal advice Council received, and we understand that's because MCMC and DCMC are both legally separate organisations. It seemed odd to Council too and that's why Council asked for further work to be done to identify if there are other options. The options in the report in tonight's agenda explain this in detail and include an option to adjust the procurement policy by adding an exemption. Council will make a decision tonight about the way forward.
2. Council will consider this matter tonight and we'll take this question as a comment. You are welcome to stay and hear the debate and decision.

Tim Laurence

A Darebin Councillor and Darebin Officers have advised that a restrictive covenant prevents the Petrol Station operator on Hughes Parade from upgrading his price sign to an electric one. The owner has supplied legal and town planning advice with a contrary view. Can the CEO and Mayor clarify the intent of the covenant to assist the operator with his application.

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for the question, Tim. The operator of the petrol station has been in conversation with Council's Statutory Planning team and has received written advice about the interpretation of the covenant and about how to progress this matter. I refer you to that correspondence and would recommend that the operator seek advice from a suitably qualified professional.

Margaret Flierman

1. An arborist report paid by locals found that the sugargums at 148 Ballantyne St are in good health are at least 100 years old and have high landscape significance. With pruning they are suitable for longterm retention. Given Council's commitment to only approve removal of significant trees as a last resort will Council consider this report when deciding the future of these trees?
2. The sugargums are being considered for the National Trust significant tree register in September. Can Council ensure that it won't finalise this removal application before the National Trust determination?
3. In July 2019 Council meeting a report was presented on strengthening tree protection on private property. Recommendations and a resolution were passed committing Council to monitor effectiveness of the Local Laws Tree Protection Policy and to taking steps to improve tree canopy cover as part of planning scheme changes. What is the evidence that Council has undertaken this work and delivered on this resolution?

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thanks for your question Margaret. Thank you sharing your concerns regarding the proposed removal of the two sugargum trees located at 148 Ballantyne Street. Council has commissioned an independent arborist assessment of the sugargum trees at 148 Ballantyne Street. This assessment is currently being reviewed against the criteria outlined in Darebin's Tree Protection Local Law 2019.

The decision regarding the removal application will be based on this formal assessment and the requirements of the Local Law, which prioritises the retention of significant trees wherever possible. Permits for tree removal are issued only when justified under the policy framework.

2. Council has a 12-week timeframe to process a permit for tree removal that is protected under the Darebin Tree Protection Local Law and therefore we don't have discretion to hold off a decision beyond that period. Depending on when in September the National Trust are considering this, the 12 week timeframe may or may not be after their determination.
3. Council is continuing to work on ways to strengthen tree protection. Council has steadily increased tree canopy on public land. Approximately 13,500 trees were planted in parks and streets over the last 6 years. Canopy cover on public land increased from 13.8% in 2018 and by end 2023-24 to 18.5% and is continuing to grow. Council used new methodology to calculate this in 2023-24, which is it is suitable for the job but better value for money. What we don't have is an update of the canopy cover on private property. We understand overall canopy cover is decreasing as the density of housing is increasing.

Marie Geary

1. Has the proposed changes to the planning scheme taken into account the flood prone areas that exist half way down between Harold Street and Normandy Avenue in the West of Thornbury?
2. Being in an 'Incremental change area' will increase the footprint of housing and increase risks associated with floods and in some instances increase the flood level (I have documentation relating to this problem in my area) therefore considering this will impact residents safety, impact their homes and belongings during a flood and create insurance issues; why has there been no consultation regarding flood impacts due to higher density housing prior to the finalising of the Housing planning scheme documents?
3. And although flood modelling from Melb water will be released at a later date why was this not considered at all as part of the Planning scheme in the first place?

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions. Regarding questions 1, 2 and 3:

The housing strategy has considered areas with existing flooding related overlays, and acknowledges these maps are in the process of being updated by Melbourne Water. Action 33 of the Draft Housing Strategy relates to the update of the flood maps to manage this risk.

The update to the flood maps will take into account changes in our city resulting in increased building footprints and reduced permeability as a result of incremental development over time.

In most cases, the flood overlays themselves will be the most appropriate planning tool to manage flood risk in Darebin, by ensuring new development does not exacerbate flooding and is designed to minimise flood damage. If the new maps identify some areas of high hazard, this will be considered by officers in the implementation phase of the housing strategy in time for the planning scheme amendment.

Further community consultation will occur through a future planning scheme amendment to implement the Housing Strategy and a separate planning scheme amendment, led by Melbourne Water, to implement new flood controls.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

7.34pm - That Public Question Time be extended for up to 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Serena O'Meley

1. It has been seven years since Darebin Council resolved to purchase three parcels of land within Clements Reserve from VicRoads. Can Darebin Council account for the continued delays in choosing and implementing a remediation option, and purchasing the land within Clements Reserve?

2. Will the peer reviewed investigation report into the contamination in Clements Reserve, which was scheduled to be submitted to the EPA in early 2025 be made publicly available?
3. Can Darebin Council explain what, if any, impact the new Councillor Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure will have on the Community Complaints about a Councillor Policy?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Hi Serena, the stage we have just finished is a detailed site investigation, which was an EPA requirement, and we worked with the Victorian Government's Department of Transport and Planning to complete this. As both Council and the DTP currently own part of the land we are each responsible for remediation of the parts which we own.

The investigation was accepted by the EPA and the next step is assessment of remediation options and a detailed remediation action plan. When this is prepared it will be submitted to the EPA and would be implemented after that. This is taking some time however it is important that we work through each stage step by step.

Council remains committed to ensuring that any actions taken are in the best long-term interest of the community and the environment. Through its adopted 2025/26 Budget, Council has committed funds for remediation works at Clements Reserve. It is possible that it may take longer than the current financial year before works start.

2. There aren't plans to release the detailed investigation report, it has been submitted to the EPA. We do plan to keep community up to date when Council determines the remediation actions it will take.

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

3. Thanks for the question about the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure, Serena. This policy was a requirement of the Local Government Act reforms and prescribes a process for managing complaints between Councillors.

The Community Complaints about a Councillor policy that you are referring to, is a policy that supports the process for the community to complain about a Councillor, there is potentially an overlap, but that assessment still needs to be done, the policy has been in operation for about two years now. It is being reviewed at the moment, and there is a revised policy that will be brought to Council in the coming months.

Kashma Pillay

1. What projects are currently being funded by Darebin Council to beautify Reservoir e.g. planting more trees and flowers around our local shopping areas in Broadway and Edwardes Street?
2. Where does one find more information regarding such projects?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Thanks for your questions Kashma. The main improvements in the shopping areas planned for the current financial year are planting of canopy trees at three sites on Edwards St (between Olive St and Spring St) and 1 on Spring St (between Edwards St and Ralph St). Garden bed maintenance is done all year-round, including along Edwards and Broadway shopping areas.

There has been significant investment in the last five years by Council and State working together through the Revitalising Reservoir program.

Improvements over this time included around \$100k for new plantings, and over \$500k for upgrades at the intersection of Olive & Edwardes St including a crossing, footpath and kerbs. Updates to signage and bins and trees and seating in the Cheddar Road area. In Reservoir more broadly, over 180 Trees were planted last financial year. The new station and new areas underneath the viaduct which was completed in 2020 was also a major uplift to the area.

We hope these improvements benefit the community for many years to come and our teams are now maintaining the community spaces regularly.

2. There is some information on Council's website, but it doesn't provide much information on each project. I have asked a Council officer to contact you to discuss further.

Predrag Basic

1. Why weren't all affected Darebin residents made aware of the Strategy and its proposed changes?
2. Does Council genuinely consider that a consultation outcome involving only 69 participating residents (as mentioned on page 179), out of the entire Darebin population, represents sufficient community engagement for a document of this importance?

Response From Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions. Community participation in Phase 2 of the Housing Strategy engagement was supported through a dedicated communications campaign using Council's digital channels and distribution of material among community spaces.

A range of place-based pop-ups, housing forums and an online information session were offered and Council-led discussions were held with key stakeholder groups, including 11 organisations represented at the Affordable Housing Forum.

Phase 2 built on the successful implementation of Phase 1, Housing Conversation engagement in 2022, in which 464 participants helped set the direction for the draft Housing Strategy by sharing their values and aspirations for housing and neighbourhoods.

There will be a further Phase 3 consultation, where the community and stakeholders can have their say before the Housing Strategy is implemented in the Darebin Planning Scheme.

Melanie Del Monaco

1. My question relates to proposed planning changes in Darebin's Housing Strategy being considered tonight, particularly the large section of central Thornbury—from St Georges Rd to High St, north of Normanby Road—now earmarked for 'significant change' of up to 6 storeys. What detailed analysis has been done to assess whether different parts of this stretch can realistically support that level of density—particularly in terms of physical capacity, infrastructure, and street network constraints?
2. Why hasn't a more nuanced approach—like the tiered zoning south of Normanby around Croxton Station—been considered, given similar access to public transport & services?
3. Given the State Government has identified St Georges Rd and High St as activity centre corridors, why has Council pre-emptively filled in the expanse between them with 'significant change' the highest development category—well ahead of the State's draft that would outline core and inner activity centre zones in Thornbury?

Response from Meagan Merritt, Manager City Futures

Thank you for your questions.

The three questions relate to both the State Government's Activity Centre Program for the centres, with Council's Draft Housing Strategy. These are separate projects that are underway that are considering the level of change appropriate for the municipality. The Draft Strategy notes that Thornbury's High Street and St Georges Road Activity Centres are subject to a state planning process.

The methodology for the proposed Residential Development Framework that has been applied is consistent with the Housing Change Area Criteria. This Criteria is based on directing change to the most walkable areas close to transport, shops and services. This shows that the Croxton train station surrounds is further from the designated activity centres (of Thornbury Neighbourhood Activity Centre and Northcote Major Activity Centre) which is why there's more nuanced zoning.

The State will be responsible for finalising the zoning of the Thornbury catchment areas through their Activity Centre Program. Council's housing strategy will apply to areas outside of the State's activity centres only. This means that ultimately, the State will be the ones responsible for the planning for the area in concern, and the Housing Strategy's Residential Development Framework will be updated to be consistent with state planning.

Leon Zembekis

(In relation to fishing in Darebin waterways)

Can Darebin Council management, Councillors and their supporters inform themselves by attending Preston Northcote Angling Club's hosting of the VFA community forum at their club house at 4th September, 2025 at 270 Murray Rd, Preston at 7-9pm?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

Hi Leon, thank you for your question.

Your request for Councillors and a Council officer(s) to attend the Preston Northcote Angling Clubs meeting on 4 September has been shared with the Manager for Natural and Civic Spaces. They will circulate it and contact you directly in relation to this request.

I do want to reiterate that fishing is prohibited in Edwardes Lake, Edgars Creek and the Merri Creek most significantly because of the health risks associated with the water quality.

The lake was created in part to help treat stormwater from the nearby network of roads and properties. This stormwater runs-off from roads, roofs, gardens, construction sites and industrial areas and it carries pet faeces and pollutants that could have an industrial or sewerage origin. Neither Primary nor Secondary contact recreational activities are allowed – that means fishing, swimming and boating are all prohibited.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION: HONOURING A CHAMPION OF MULTICULTURALISM: NAME THE DAREBIN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE AFTER COUNCILLOR GAETANO GRECO

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-132

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That the petition: “Honouring a Champion of Multiculturalism: Name the Darebin Intercultural Centre after Councillor Gaetano Greco” which reads as follows:

“We the undersigned, respectfully submit this petition to Darebin Council, urging the Council to name the intercultural Centre in honour of the late Councillor Gaetano Greco. Councillor Greco's unwavering commitment to public service and this lifelong advocacy for multiculturalism was instrumental in shaping the inclusive, diverse, and vibrant community we cherish today.

We request that this recognition be considered following appropriate consultation with Councillor Greco's family and the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC), to ensure the naming is respectful and aligned with the values he championed.

Councillor Greco served with distinction on the Council for 16 consecutive years as an independent representative. Throughout his tenure, he championed the voices of everyday residents and worked tirelessly to promote unity, cultural understanding, and community development. His dedication to inclusive policy-making and grassroots engagement was instrumental in fostering a municipality where diversity is not only respected but celebrated.

We believe naming the Intercultural Centre in Councillor Greco's honour is a meaningful and appropriate tribute to his lasting impact. It would stand as a permanent reminder of the values he upheld and the inclusive vision he brought to life through years of committed service.”

be tabled and referred to the CEO for consideration and response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agapi Pashos, as the submitter of the petition, made a 2-minute submission to Item 8.1.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien

SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council amend the order of business to consider Agenda Item 9.5 - Management of Darebin Parklands and Provision of Creek Corridor Services Beyond July 2026, before the remaining agenda items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.57pm – The meeting adjourned for a break.

7.09pm – The meeting resumed.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.5 MANAGEMENT OF DAREBIN PARKLANDS AND PROVISION OF CREEK CORRIDOR SERVICES BEYOND JULY 2026

The following members of the public made verbal submissions to Item 9.5:

1. *Annette Salkeld*
2. *Graeme Hamilton*
3. *Bernadette Thomas*
4. *Ray Radford*
5. *Linda Bradburn*
6. *David Taylor*
7. *Serena O'Meley*
8. *Carolyn Lunt*
9. *Catherine Rose*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To manage the Darebin Creek Corridor and the Merri Creek Corridor, Council has long standing management arrangements in place with Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) and Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) respectively. Council was a founding member of these not-for-profit organisations and they were established with purposes aligned to Council's goals including to coordinate works in the creek corridors, improve biodiversity and engage communities.

Both the current agreements sunset on 30 June 2026 and if Council does nothing they would run out. Council is considering what to do now, well ahead of the sunsetting date.

Since the current agreements were first established, Council received advice that under its current procurement policy, it would need to tender because both organisations are legally separate to Council. This advice seems inconsistent with the original intent of establishing DCMC and MCMC and therefore Council sought other options.

Council can consider adding an exemption clause to its Procurement Policy and to then process with direct engagement. The two options discussed in this paper are both recommended as suitable for Council consideration:

- **Option 1** - involves an open tender process, consistent with Council's current procurement policy and normal practice for services of this overall value.
- **Option 2** - establishes a policy exemption to allow direct engagement with DCMC and MCMC, which are both Council-founded not-for-profit organisations that have provided services in the respective creek corridors for many years.

The key consideration between these options is the trade-off between the risk of excluding other organisations that may have an interest in delivering these services, and the unique value DCMC and MCMC provide in their respective creek corridors. Both options can help achieve Council priorities such as community engagement, partnerships with traditional owners, meeting safety and environmental standards, and long-term biodiversity outcomes. It is recommended Council take a consistent approach in both creek corridors given their similarities.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee and the Merri Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in improving biodiversity and coordinating the education and volunteer programs across the creek catchments.
- (2) Thanks community members who provided feedback about the Future Management of Darebin Parklands during community consultation.
- (3) Resolves to proceed with establishing new management agreements for services in the creek corridors for the period beyond 1 July 2026, as follows:

[Councillor that moves the motion to select option 1 or 2 by inserting clause (3)a or clause (3)a) to (3)c) as applicable (see detailed wording in the discussion section of this report)]

- (4) Resolves to coordinate the procurement process (to the extent possible) with other local government members of DCMC and MCMC, acknowledging that each Council must independently determine its preferred approach.
- (5) Notes the feedback from the Narrap Unit of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation during community consultation relating to the future Management of Darebin Parklands which included feedback relevant more broadly than the particular site, and therefore requests that this feedback also be considered in the upcoming review of the Darebin Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee and the Merri Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in improving biodiversity and coordinating the education and volunteer programs across the creek catchments.
- (2) Thanks community members who provided feedback about the Future Management of Darebin Parklands during community consultation.
- (3) Resolves to proceed with establishing new management agreements for services in the creek corridors for the period beyond 1 July 2026, as follows:
 - a) **Amend its Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to add an exemption to the Council Specific Exemptions section from the requirement to tender, worded as follows: "engagement of the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to deliver services for which they were established,**

- noting that this exemption applies to the requirement to tender, and that the other aspects of this Policy apply”, and
- b) **Amend its Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to add an exemption to the Council Specific Exemptions section from the requirement to tender, worded as follows: “engagement of the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) to deliver services for which they were established, noting that this exemption applies to the requirement to tender, and that the other aspects of this Policy apply”, and**
 - c) **Authorises the exemption (in clause 3.a and 3.b respectively) be applied and the CEO to engage directly with DCMC and MCMC on the following basis:**
 - i. **To establish an agreement with DCMC for land management at Darebin Parklands and Services in the Darebin Creek Catchment including coordination and community engagement.**
 - ii. **To establish an agreement with MCMC for Services in the Merri Creek Catchment including coordination, ecological restoration, and community engagement,**
 - iii. **For a term of 10 years in 2 stages of 5 years each,**
 - iv. **As otherwise outlined in this report and in line with Council’s Procurement Policy.**
 - d) **Delegates to the CEO to finalise the agreement under delegation.**
- (4) Notes that the new management agreements will provide a secure contract and funding for important community work over the next 10 years between Council and each of the Council-founded, not-for-profit organisations (DCMC and MCMC). Partnership principles will be incorporated into the contract to embed a spirit of partnership into how the organisations work together.**
- (5) Ensures that the new management agreement with DCMC will reflect the shared strategic goals between DCMC and Darebin Council including, but not limited to:**
- a) **management of the Darebin Parklands;**
 - b) **biodiversity and environmental management in the Darebin Creek catchment;**
 - c) **coordinating education and volunteer programs;**
 - d) **good working relationship with Traditional Owners;**
 - e) **coordinating stakeholders and building partnerships;**
 - f) **community engagement; and**
 - g) **other services**
- (6) Collaborates with DCMC in developing their new management agreement.**
- (7) Takes a collaborative approach with MCMC in developing a new management agreement which includes consultation with the MCMC Executive Officer and Management Committee prior to Council seeking a formal proposal.**
- (8) Resolves to coordinate the procurement process (to the extent possible) with other local government members of DCMC and MCMC, acknowledging that each Council must independently determine its preferred approach.**
- (9) Notes that MCMC is a member of Darebin Council’s Parks and Open Space Procurement Panel, following their successful application as part of the last open tender process, and that when the tender for the Panel is next advertised in 2027, both DCMC and MCMC will be able to apply.**
-

- (10) Notes the feedback from the Narrap Unit of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation during community consultation relating to the future Management of Darebin Parklands which included feedback relevant more broadly than the particular site, and therefore requests that this feedback also be considered in the upcoming review of the Darebin Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Cr. Villella proposed an amendment to include a new point (2) and point (3) in the motion as follows:

- (2) Acknowledges the valuable contribution that the community and DCMC and MCMC have made to the Darebin Creek corridors for many years.
- (3) Acknowledges that the process to get this decision has taken some time and has caused distress through uncertainty to the DCMC and the community.

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder, and became the substantive motion:

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee and the Merri Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in improving biodiversity and coordinating the education and volunteer programs across the creek catchments.
- (2) **Acknowledges the valuable contribution that the community and DCMC and MCMC have made to the Darebin Creek corridors for many years.**
- (3) **Acknowledges that the process to get this decision has taken some time and has caused distress through uncertainty to the DCMC and the community.**
- (4) Thanks community members who provided feedback about the Future Management of Darebin Parklands during community consultation.
- (5) Resolves to proceed with establishing new management agreements for services in the creek corridors for the period beyond 1 July 2026, as follows:
- a) Amend its Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to add an exemption to the Council Specific Exemptions section from the requirement to tender, worded as follows: "engagement of the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to deliver services for which they were established, noting that this exemption applies to the requirement to tender, and that the other aspects of this Policy apply", and
 - b) Amend its Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to add an exemption to the Council Specific Exemptions section from the requirement to tender, worded as follows: "engagement of the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) to deliver services for which they were established, noting that this exemption applies to the requirement to tender, and that the other aspects of this Policy apply", and
 - c) Authorises the exemption (in clause 3.a and 3.b respectively) be applied and the CEO to engage directly with DCMC and MCMC on the following basis:
 - i. To establish an agreement with DCMC for land management at Darebin Parklands and Services in the Darebin Creek Catchment including

- coordination and community engagement.
- ii. To establish an agreement with MCMC for Services in the Merri Creek Catchment including coordination, ecological restoration, and community engagement,
 - iii. For a term of 10 years in 2 stages of 5 years each,
 - iv. As otherwise outlined in this report and in line with Council's Procurement Policy.
- d) Delegates to the CEO to finalise the agreement under delegation.
- (6) Notes that the new management agreements will provide a secure contract and funding for important community work over the next 10 years between Council and each of the Council-founded, not-for-profit organisations (DCMC and MCMC). Partnership principles will be incorporated into the contract to embed a spirit of partnership into how the organisations work together.
- (7) Ensures that the new management agreement with DCMC will reflect the shared strategic goals between DCMC and Darebin Council including, but not limited to:
- a) management of the Darebin Parklands;
 - b) biodiversity and environmental management in the Darebin Creek catchment;
 - c) coordinating education and volunteer programs;
 - d) good working relationship with Traditional Owners;
 - e) coordinating stakeholders and building partnerships;
 - f) community engagement; and
 - g) other services
- (8) Collaborates with DCMC in developing their new management agreement.
- (9) Takes a collaborative approach with MCMC in developing a new management agreement which includes consultation with the MCMC Executive Officer and Management Committee prior to Council seeking a formal proposal.
- (10) Resolves to coordinate the procurement process (to the extent possible) with other local government members of DCMC and MCMC, acknowledging that each Council must independently determine its preferred approach.
- (11) Notes that MCMC is a member of Darebin Council's Parks and Open Space Procurement Panel, following their successful application as part of the last open tender process, and that when the tender for the Panel is next advertised in 2027, both DCMC and MCMC will be able to apply.
- (12) Notes the feedback from the Narrap Unit of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation during community consultation relating to the future Management of Darebin Parklands which included feedback relevant more broadly than the particular site, and therefore requests that this feedback also be considered in the upcoming review of the Darebin Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-133

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee and the Merri Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in improving biodiversity and coordinating the education and volunteer programs across the creek catchments.
- (2) Acknowledges the valuable contribution that the community and DCMC and MCMC have made to the Darebin Creek corridors for many years.
- (3) Acknowledges that the process to get this decision has taken some time and has caused distress through uncertainty to the DCMC and the community.
- (4) Thanks community members who provided feedback about the Future Management of Darebin Parklands during community consultation.
- (5) Resolves to proceed with establishing new management agreements for services in the creek corridors for the period beyond 1 July 2026, as follows:
 - a) Amend its Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to add an exemption to the Council Specific Exemptions section from the requirement to tender, worded as follows: “engagement of the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to deliver services for which they were established, noting that this exemption applies to the requirement to tender, and that the other aspects of this Policy apply”, and
 - b) Amend its Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to add an exemption to the Council Specific Exemptions section from the requirement to tender, worded as follows: “engagement of the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) to deliver services for which they were established, noting that this exemption applies to the requirement to tender, and that the other aspects of this Policy apply”, and
 - c) Authorises the exemption (in clause 3.a and 3.b respectively) be applied and the CEO to engage directly with DCMC and MCMC on the following basis:
 - i. To establish an agreement with DCMC for land management at Darebin Parklands and Services in the Darebin Creek Catchment including coordination and community engagement.
 - ii. To establish an agreement with MCMC for Services in the Merri Creek Catchment including coordination, ecological restoration, and community engagement,
 - iii. For a term of 10 years in 2 stages of 5 years each,
 - iv. As otherwise outlined in this report and in line with Council’s Procurement Policy.
 - d) Delegates to the CEO to finalise the agreement under delegation.
- (6) Notes that the new management agreements will provide a secure contract and funding for important community work over the next 10 years between Council and each of the Council-founded, not-for-profit organisations (DCMC and MCMC). Partnership principles will be incorporated into the contract to embed a spirit of partnership into how the organisations work together.
- (7) Ensures that the new management agreement with DCMC will reflect the shared strategic goals between DCMC and Darebin Council including, but not limited to:
 - a) management of the Darebin Parklands;
 - b) biodiversity and environmental management in the Darebin Creek catchment;
 - c) coordinating education and volunteer programs;

- d) good working relationship with Traditional Owners;
 - e) coordinating stakeholders and building partnerships;
 - f) community engagement; and
 - g) other services
- (8) Collaborates with DCMC in developing their new management agreement.
- (9) Takes a collaborative approach with MCMC in developing a new management agreement which includes consultation with the MCMC Executive Officer and Management Committee prior to Council seeking a formal proposal.
- (10) Resolves to coordinate the procurement process (to the extent possible) with other local government members of DCMC and MCMC, acknowledging that each Council must independently determine its preferred approach.
- (11) Notes that MCMC is a member of Darebin Council's Parks and Open Space Procurement Panel, following their successful application as part of the last open tender process, and that when the tender for the Panel is next advertised in 2027, both DCMC and MCMC will be able to apply.
- (12) Notes the feedback from the Narrap Unit of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation during community consultation relating to the future Management of Darebin Parklands which included feedback relevant more broadly than the particular site, and therefore requests that this feedback also be considered in the upcoming review of the Darebin Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR A BREAK

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That the meeting adjourns for a 5-minute break.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.43pm – The meeting adjourned for a break.
7.49pm – The meeting resumed.

9.1DAREBIN HOUSING STRATEGY: PART 1 AND 2

7.50pm Cr. Dimitriadis left the meeting.

7.51pm Cr. Dimitriadis returned to the meeting.

7.51pm Melanie Del Monaco made a verbal submission to Item 9.1.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) and the Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines (**the Housing Strategy**).

The second and final round of community consultation for the Draft Housing Strategy took place from August to September 2024. Community feedback ranged from: general support for more housing in well-serviced places, better quality and greener development, to concerns about the impacts of increased densities upon infrastructure, in particular traffic congestion. Officers have considered the feedback and amended the Draft Housing Strategy for Council's consideration and adoption.

This Housing Strategy will position Council to effectively respond to the housing crisis and State planning reforms, including local government housing targets. The strategy outlines a vision and framework for managing residential growth and development up to 2041 by increasing the supply and diversity of quality housing in the most accessible parts of the municipality.

Adopting the Housing Strategy will allow Council to commence an amendment to the Darebin Planning Scheme to implement the strategy - as identified in the Council Plan and 2025-26 budget.

Part 3 of the Housing Strategy is proposed to be prepared in accordance with the Council Plan 2025-2029, which includes the action of finalising and implementing a roadmap for increasing social and affordable housing in Darebin.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valued feedback as part of the consultation processes.
- (2) Adopts the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) (**Appendix A**) and Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines (**Appendix B**).
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the draft Housing Strategy prior to publishing to correct any anomalies, reflect any potential new planning reform implications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution.
- (4) Writes to the Minister for Planning and local State Members of Parliament to share Council's adopted strategy and housing priorities.
- (5) Notes Council Officers will commence preparing a planning scheme amendment to implement the Darebin Housing Strategy and respond to the State Government housing targets, and that officers will report back to Council prior to seeking

authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the amendment.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley

SECONDED: -

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valued feedback as part of the consultation processes,
- (2) Adopts the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) (**Appendix A**) and Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines (**Appendix B**) **with the following amendments:**
 - a. **Adds the following words to the end of Strategic Direction 6.1:**
especially in areas of Darebin that experience higher heat island vulnerability
 - b. **Updates the wording of Strategic Direction 8.3 to:**
Ensure better integration of climate change adaptation considerations into decision-making about the design and location of new residential development to support the resilience of the community.
- (3) **As part of implementing strategic direction 2.4 of the Housing Strategy, continues to advocate for improved public transport services and greater investment in active transport, including for improved public transport services for areas currently poorly served by public transport in Darebin.**
- (4) **When implementing strategic direction 2.4 of the Housing Strategy, consider the following during in the Planning Scheme review process:**
 - a. **Exploring the development of bicycle parking standards that accommodate a variety of bicycle types, such as cargo bikes.**
- (5) **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the draft Housing Strategy prior to publishing to correct any anomalies, reflect any potential new planning reform implications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution.**
- (6) **Writes to the Minister for Planning and local State Members of Parliament to share Council's adopted strategy and housing priorities and express Darebin Council's support for an increase in public housing stock and the adoption of minimum targets for affordable housing.**
- (7) **Advocates to the State Government for improved amenity for apartment residents, noting that the Housing Strategy projects an increase in medium and high-density dwellings in Darebin under strategic direction 3.1 (see figure 16 on page 37 of the strategy).**
- (8) Notes Council Officers will commence preparing a planning scheme amendment to implement the Darebin Housing Strategy and respond to the State Government housing targets, and that officers will report back to Council prior to seeking authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the amendment.

Prior to the motion being seconded, Cr. Dimitriadis questioned whether the inclusion of points (6) & (7) complied with the Governance Rules, and requested the text shown in bold with strikethrough (below) to be removed from the motion:

- (6) Writes to the Minister for Planning and local State Members of Parliament to share Council's adopted strategy and housing priorities ~~and express Darebin Council's support for an increase in public housing stock and the adoption of minimum targets for affordable housing.~~
- (7) ~~Advocates to the State Government for improved amenity for apartment residents, noting that the Housing Strategy projects an increase in medium and high density dwellings in Darebin under strategic direction 3.1 (see figure 16 on page 37 of the strategy).~~

The Mayor, exercised her right as Chairperson and ruled for the nominated wording to be removed from the motion.

The motion then read as follows and was seconded by Cr Arturi:

Motion

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valued feedback as part of the consultation processes,
- (2) Adopts the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) (Appendix A) and Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines (Appendix B) with the following amendments:
 - a. Adds the following words to the end of Strategic Direction 6.1:
especially in areas of Darebin that experience higher heat island vulnerability
 - b. Updates the wording of Strategic Direction 8.3 to:
Ensure better integration of climate change adaptation considerations into decision-making about the design and location of new residential development to support the resilience of the community.
- (3) As part of implementing strategic direction 2.4 of the Housing Strategy, continues to advocate for improved public transport services and greater investment in active transport, including for improved public transport services for areas currently poorly served by public transport in Darebin.
- (4) When implementing strategic direction 2.4 of the Housing Strategy, consider the following during in the Planning Scheme review process:
 - a. Exploring the development of bicycle parking standards that accommodate a variety of bicycle types, such as cargo bikes.
- (5) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the draft Housing Strategy prior to publishing to correct any anomalies, reflect any potential new planning reform implications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution.
- (6) Writes to the Minister for Planning and local State Members of Parliament to share Council's adopted strategy and housing priorities.

- (7) Notes Council Officers will commence preparing a planning scheme amendment to implement the Darebin Housing Strategy and respond to the State Government housing targets, and that officers will report back to Council prior to seeking authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the amendment.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-134

MOVED: Cr. R Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valued feedback as part of the consultation processes,
- (2) Adopts the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) (Appendix A) and Preferred Neighbourhood Character Statements and Guidelines (Appendix B) with the following amendments:
 - a. Adds the following words to the end of Strategic Direction 6.1:
especially in areas of Darebin that experience higher heat island vulnerability
 - b. Updates the wording of Strategic Direction 8.3 to:
Ensure better integration of climate change adaptation considerations into decision-making about the design and location of new residential development to support the resilience of the community.
- (3) As part of implementing strategic direction 2.4 of the Housing Strategy, continues to advocate for improved public transport services and greater investment in active transport, including for improved public transport services for areas currently poorly served by public transport in Darebin.
- (4) When implementing strategic direction 2.4 of the Housing Strategy, consider the following during in the Planning Scheme review process:
 - a. Exploring the development of bicycle parking standards that accommodate a variety of bicycle types, such as cargo bikes.
- (5) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the draft Housing Strategy prior to publishing to correct any anomalies, reflect any potential new planning reform implications, or necessary updates in accordance with Council's resolution.
- (6) Writes to the Minister for Planning and local State Members of Parliament to share Council's adopted strategy and housing priorities.
- (7) Notes Council Officers will commence preparing a planning scheme amendment to implement the Darebin Housing Strategy and respond to the State Government housing targets, and that officers will report back to Council prior to seeking authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the amendment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2

**HIGH STREET STREETSCAPE UPGRADE - DESIGN
OPTION FOR STAGE 2 CONSULTATION****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks endorsement to proceed with the second stage of community engagement for the High Street Streetscape upgrade project.

High Street from Bell Street to Murray Road has been identified as a priority in Council's annual road rehabilitation program. A full road reconstruction is required, which includes replacing kerbs and digging out the old road base and stabilising or replacing it.

There are four options for Council to consider:

- A like-for-like rebuild which has been budgeted for in the capital works program, and
- 3 options to build-back-better which will require State and/or Federal partnership funding, or, revising Council's capital works program.

Building-back-better, and advocating for partnership funding, is recommended. Preston is a priority activity centre forecast to grow, and enhancing High Street supports the centre to grow, evolve, and meet the needs of a growing and diverse community.

This means that the timeline for works may need to be extended to advocate for and secure funding. Council could also decide to proceed with works on a reduced scale, or, Council could defer other improvement projects in its capital program to prioritise High Street.

It will be important for Council to explain to the community our funding approach, and the opportunities for partnership funding.

Background work that has been completed to date includes the first round of community engagement, background reports and the development of concept designs. The preferred design option will be the subject of the next round of consultation.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-135****MOVED: Cr. R Jelley****SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi****That Council:**

- (1) Endorses Option 4 as Council's preferred design option for upgrading High Street Preston (**Appendix F**).
- (2) Proceeds to the second round of Community Engagement to seek feedback on Option 4.
- (3) Releases the following documents to support the second round of community engagement:
 - a. Community Engagement Report (**Appendix A**)
 - b. Background Analysis (**Appendix B**)
 - c. Public Life Study (**Appendix C**)
 - d. Safety Audit (**Appendix D**)
 - e. Transport Analysis (**Appendix E**)

- f. DRAFT Concept Plan (**Appendix F**)
- (4) Directs the CEO to identify, advocate and apply for State and/or Federal partnership funding opportunities to deliver the High Street Streetscape upgrade project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 DECLARATION OF A SPECIAL CHARGE: SOLAR SAVER ROUND 4.2 (BATCH 8)

8.17pm – Cr. Boglis left the meeting.

8.19pm – Cr. Boglis returned to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council declare a Special Charge Scheme under Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the purposes of defraying expenses relating to the provision of The Goods on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver program. No objections were received in response to the public notification process.

There are 3 installations enabled through this special charge declaration batch. The value of this proposed Special Charge declaration is \$22,239.53 excluding GST. This price is calculated:

- Pre-rebate, and
- After Small-scale technology certificates (STC) and Victorian Energy efficiency certificates (VEECs) claim, and
- Excludes GST. (The gross amount, pre-rebate, pre-STC, pre-VEECs and incl. GST is \$28,201.06).

If all expected rebates are provided, the Special Charge amount will be \$19,299.75 excluding GST, but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee (after the Small Technology Certificate (STC) claim, Victoria Energy Efficiency Certificate VEEC and Solar Victoria rebate).

These three installations were overlooked for Round 4.2, batch 7, due to an administrative error. At the 23 June 2025 Council meeting, Council resolved to extend the Solar Saver program beyond 30 June 2025 by two months, to enable the creation of a new and final Batch 8, to only include these three participants.

If supported:

- Council will pay the upfront cost for installation and supply of The Goods at properties as listed in **Appendix A**.
- Council will be repaid these costs, as detailed in confidential **Appendix B**. Around 30-40% of the gross cost is returned to Council at the point that works are invoiced for the STCs and VEECs generated by The Goods.
- Most participants are eligible for State Government rebates, and this will reduce the upfront cost to Council and the amount charged to participants. The value of Solar Victoria rebates is estimated to be \$2,800.00 excluding GST.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-136

MOVED: Cr. J O'Brien
SECONDED: Cr. A Villella

That Council:

- (1) Having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act"), and otherwise according to law, declares a Special

Charge ("Special Charge") under section 163 of the Act as follows:

- a. A Special Charge is declared for the period commencing on the day on which Council issues a notice levying payment of the special rate and concluding on the tenth anniversary of that day.
 - b. The Special Charge is declared for the purpose of defraying any expense incurred by Council in relation to the provision of The Goods on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme, which:
 - i. Council considers there is or will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this resolution); and
 - ii. Arises out of Council's functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. The total:
 - i. Cost of performing the function described in paragraph 1(b) of this resolution is \$22,239.53 excl. GST; and
 - ii. Amount for the Special Charge to be levied is \$22,239.53 excl. GST, or such other amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
 - d. The Special Charge is declared in relation to all rateable land described in the table included as confidential **Appendix B** to this report, in the amount specified in the table as applying to each piece of rateable land.
 - e. The following list is specified as the criteria that form the basis of the Special Charge so declared:
 - Ownership of any land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution.
 - f. The following is specified as the manner in which the Special Charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. A Special Charge calculated by reference to the size of The Goods being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property participating in the Solar Saver scheme, in respect of which an Agreement has been executed, totalling \$22,239.53 (excluding GST but inclusive of a 5% Administration Fee) for the residential batch, being the total cost of the scheme to Council
 - ii. To be levied each year for a period of 10 years.
 - g. Having regard to the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and subject to section 166(1) of the Act, let it be recorded that the owners of the land described in paragraph 1(d) of this resolution will pay the Special Charge in the amount set out in paragraph 1(f) of this resolution in the following manner:
 - i. Payment annually by a lump sum on or before one month following the issue by Council of a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act; or
 - ii. Payment annually by four instalments to be paid by the dates which are fixed by Council in a notice levying payment under section 163(4) of the Act.
- (2) Considers that there will be a special benefit to those required to pay the Special Charge *because* there will be a benefit to them that is over and above, or greater than, the benefit that is available to those who are not subject to the proposed Special Charge, as a result of the expenditure proposed by the Special Charge, in that the properties will have the benefit of The Goods being installed.

- (3) For the *purposes* of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied:
- a. Considers and formally records that only those rateable properties included in the Solar Saver scheme as proposed will derive a special benefit from the imposition of the Special Charge, and there are no community benefits to be paid by Council; and
 - b. Formally determines for the purposes of section 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Special Charge to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to those who are liable to pay the Special Charge is 100%.
- (4) Directs that notice be given to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Charge, and the reasons for the decision. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Charge are that:
- a. There is no objection to the Scheme, and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Charge from all property owners and occupiers.
 - b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the Local Government Act 1989, having regard to its role, purposes and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to its functions of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.
 - c. All those who are liable or required to pay the Special Charge and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit of The Goods being installed at the property.
 - d. Where a participant wishes to withdraw from the Scheme, agrees to such withdrawal where the participant has given written notice of their desire to withdraw from the Scheme before Council has incurred any expenditure in relation to the participant's Goods.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4

DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN - FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends Council releases a draft Road Management Plan (RMP) for community consultation. Council's current Road Management Plan (RMP) is due for renewal in 2025. Council is empowered to establish a RMP through the Road Management Act 2004. The RMP establishes clear standards for the inspection, maintenance, and repair of Council's road network. Where Council has established a RMP, it is required to

The RMP outlines how Council will identify and repair hazards in the road network such as potholes or other defects, or vegetation blocking sightlines. It ensures Council meets its duty of care and risk management obligations. The scope of the RMP does not include the amenity elements such as the look of a street, nor non-road parts of the transport network (such paths through parks) which are dealt with through other procedures or policies.

The recommended draft RMP (Appendix A) outlines standards for inspection, maintenance and repair. The model Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) template has been used and the standards outlined are similar to other councils in the region.

The RMP plays an important role in protecting Council from risk as it demonstrates that Council is operating in line with legislation, has a clear management plan, and is maintaining roads in line with its plan. The draft RMP has been created following internal review, incorporating input from Council specialists, and considering recommendations from MAV.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-137

MOVED: Cr. M Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. R Jelley

That Council:

- (1) Approves the draft Road Management Plan 2025 to be released for community consultation.
- (2) Notes that if any submitters seek to speak to their submission, Council will hear submitters in a meeting of Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 13 October 2025 at 3.30pm.
- (3) Requests that a further report come to an Ordinary Council meeting for Council to consider community feedback received and consider adopting its final Road Management Plan 2025 for adoption.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.6 COUNCIL PREPAREDNESS AHEAD OF FUTURE UPDATE
OF MELBOURNE WATER FLOOD MODELLING ACROSS
ITS CATCHMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Melbourne Water is currently updating flood modelling across its catchment, including the Darebin City area, and is expected to release updated information and consult community during the 2025–26 financial year.

To help its community, Council has been preparing to help Melbourne Water reach Darebin community members, and has been preparing to incorporate updated information into the decisions that Council makes including for town planning and building permits. Council has allocated funding for this in the 2025–26 operating budget under the “Supporting Flood Implementation Rollout” program.

Upon release of the new data by Melbourne Water, the Building Regulations 2018 require Council to designate affected land as flood prone. This will be done by Council’s Municipal Building Surveyor. This ensures that new development applications appropriately address identified flood risks, supporting Council’s duty of care to the community and strengthening flood risk management through both building and town planning processes. In recent years, Council has encouraged building and planning applicants to consider available draft flood information in the absence of formalised data, with voluntarily incorporating these considerations into their designs.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-138

MOVED: Cr. A Sangster
SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Notes that Melbourne Water, the designated floodplain management authority, is currently updating flood modelling for the Darebin City area and is anticipated to release updated information and consult with community during the 2025-26 year.
- (2) Supports the proposed communications approach outlined in this report which will help Darebin community members access Melbourne Water’s public information and participate in their consultation, and which also prepares to answer questions about related Council specific responsibilities.
- (3) Directs officers to draft a submission from Council to Melbourne Water for consideration at a Council meeting towards the end of Melbourne Water’s consultation period so that Council can consider making a submission to Melbourne Water.
- (4) Notes that when Melbourne Water releases updated data, Council has responsibility to use it in relevant Council functions including in the assessment of approval requests under town planning and building regulations and in its role as a local drainage authority.
- (5) Notes that Council has a specific statutory obligation under the Building Act to consider if any land needs to be designated as flood prone, and that Council’s Municipal Building Surveyor will designate any land relevant when Melbourne Water releases updated data.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7

GOVERNANCE REPORT - AUGUST 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**).
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held 28 July 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- Reporting of bi-annual CEO expense reimbursement claims and credit card transactions.
- Reporting of Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics (FY 2024/25).

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – August 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the Status of Petitions information shown in **Table A**, for the 2025/26 financial year to date.
- (6) Notes that for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, there were 3 expense reimbursements claims lodged by Michael Tudball, former Interim CEO for the following items:
 - a. 16 January 2025: payment for Councillor dinner - \$288.00.
 - b. 14 May 2025: Local Government Professionals Awards night - \$330.00.
 - c. 20 May 2025: Accommodation cost for MAV State Council Meeting - \$271.00.
- (7) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 January to 30 June 2025.
- (8) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table B**, for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (9) Appoints Cr Angela Villella to the following Committees:
 - a. Municipal Association of Victoria (Proxy)
 - b. Darebin Active and Healthy Aging Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - c. Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - d. Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group (Chair)
 - e. Edwards Lake Water Quality Task Force (Chair)
 - f. CEO Employment Matters Committee.

Revised Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – August 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the Status of Petitions information shown in **Table A**, for the 2025/26 financial year to date.
- (6) Notes that for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, there were 3 expense reimbursements claims lodged by Michael Tudball, former Interim CEO for the following items:
 - a. 16 January 2025: payment for Councillor dinner - \$288.00.
 - b. 14 May 2025: Local Government Professionals Awards night - \$330.00.
 - c. 20 May 2025: Accommodation cost for MAV State Council Meeting - \$271.00.
- (7) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 January to 30 June 2025.
- (8) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table B**, for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (9) Appoints Cr Angela Villella to the following Committees:
 - a. Municipal Association of Victoria (Proxy)
 - b. Darebin Active and Healthy Aging Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - c. Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - d. Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group (Chair)
 - e. Edwards Lake Water Quality Task Force (Chair)
 - f. CEO Employment Matters Committee.
- (10) **Endorses the following motion for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council to be held on 10 October 2025:**

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to reinstate funding for the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, including the Change Our Game initiative and the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program, recognising their significant role in promoting gender equity and inclusion, supporting women and girls in sport and leadership, and contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence in our communities.
- (11) **Notes that officers have tabled the proposed motion and supporting rationale at this meeting and these will be included in the minutes of this Meeting.**

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – August 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the Status of Petitions information shown in **Table A**, for the 2025/26 financial year to date.
- (6) Notes that for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, there were 3 expense reimbursements claims lodged by Michael Tudball, former Interim CEO for the following items:
 - a. 16 January 2025: payment for Councillor dinner - \$288.00.
 - b. 14 May 2025: Local Government Professionals Awards night - \$330.00.
 - c. 20 May 2025: Accommodation cost for MAV State Council Meeting - \$271.00.
- (7) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 January to 30 June 2025.
- (8) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table B**, for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (9) Appoints Cr Angela Villella to the following Committees:
 - a. Municipal Association of Victoria (Proxy)
 - b. Darebin Active and Healthy Aging Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - c. Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - d. Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group (Chair)
 - e. Edwards Lake Water Quality Task Force (Chair)
 - f. CEO Employment Matters Committee.
- (10) Endorses the following motion for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council to be held on 10 October 2025:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to reinstate funding for the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, including the Change Our Game initiative and the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program, recognising their significant role in promoting gender equity and inclusion, supporting women and girls in sport and leadership, and contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence in our communities.
- (11) Notes that officers have tabled the proposed motion and supporting rationale at this meeting and these will be included in the minutes of this Meeting.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 25-139****MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)****SECONDED: Cr. M Arturi****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – August 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 23 June 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the Status of Petitions information shown in **Table A**, for the 2025/26 financial year to date.
- (6) Notes that for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, there were 3 expense reimbursements claims lodged by Michael Tudball, former Interim CEO for the following items:
 - a. 16 January 2025: payment for Councillor dinner - \$288.00.
 - b. 14 May 2025: Local Government Professionals Awards night - \$330.00.
 - c. 20 May 2025: Accommodation cost for MAV State Council Meeting - \$271.00.
- (7) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 January to 30 June 2025.
- (8) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table B**, for the 2024/25 financial year.
- (9) Appoints Cr Angela Villella to the following Committees:
 - a. Municipal Association of Victoria (Proxy)
 - b. Darebin Active and Healthy Aging Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - c. Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee (Proxy)
 - d. Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group (Chair)
 - e. Edwards Lake Water Quality Task Force (Chair)
 - f. CEO Employment Matters Committee.
- (10) Endorses the following motion for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council to be held on 10 October 2025:

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to reinstate funding for the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, including the Change Our Game initiative and the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program, recognising their significant role in promoting gender equity and inclusion, supporting women and girls in sport and leadership, and contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence in our communities.
- (11) Notes that officers have tabled the proposed motion and supporting rationale at this meeting and these will be included in the minutes of this Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTIVITY REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS (MAYOR)**

Mayor Olaris reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Monday, 28 July
 - Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 29 July
 - Meeting with resident
 - Meeting with representatives of Alphington Commons
- Thursday, 31 July
 - John Hall Pavilion Redevelopment Opening
- Monday, 4 August
 - Meeting with Darebin Climate Action Now representatives
 - CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting
 - Councillor Briefing Session
- Tuesday, 5 August
 - Meeting with Kat Theophanous MP
 - Faith Gallery & Prophet Muhammad Exhibition Opening at Islamic Museum of Australia
 - Meeting with Cr Arturi
- Thursday, 7 August
 - TafeCreates25 Dinner Event
- Friday, 8 August
 - Pathway to Clean Indoor Air Sensor Installation at Darebin North East Community Hub (with Burnet Institute)
- Saturday, 9 August – Sunday 17 August
 - On annual leave
- Monday, 18 August
 - Swearing in of new Councillor Angela Villella
 - Councillor Briefing Session
- Tuesday, 19 August
 - Meeting with Lynda Ford from Mosaic: Intercultural Solutions
 - Monthly meeting with CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- Thursday, 21 August
 - Women Deliver 2026: Victorian Stakeholder Engagement Forum hosted by Office for Women
 - Meeting with Aborigines Advancement League on update on the Aboriginal Women's & Girls Sports & Wellness Centre
- Friday, 22 August
 - NCA Canberra delegation run through preparation meeting

- Sunday, 24 August
 - The Northcote Festival 2025 – attendance and speaking role
- Weekly meetings
 - CEO/Mayor Monday Review
 - CEO/Mayor Weekly Catch Up

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS (DEPUTY MAYOR)

Cr. Dimitriadis reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- 28 July 2025 - Ordinary Council Meeting
- Councillor briefings
- CEO Employment Matters Committee
- Meeting with CEO and Mayor
- Chaired Planning Committee Meeting 11 August 2025
- Meeting with Fairfield Traders and Village Greening
- Meeting with Alphington Commons
- Presented awards to Darebin Phoenix at the Youth League Men's Basketball Championship at Narrandjeri Stadium in Thornbury
- Official opening of the Australian Muslim Artists 2025 exhibition at the Islamic Museum of Australia
- Speech at Parkside Football Club season celebration at Pitcher Park in Alphington
- Northcote Festival

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

Cr. Arturi reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- 28 July 2025 - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 31 July 2025 - John Pavilion (Kingsbury) Redevelopment Opening
- 4 August 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 4 August 2025 - Bundoora May Day Awards Night with Hon Colin Brooks MP
- 11 August 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 11 August 2025 - Planning Committee Meeting
- 15 August 2025 - Attendance at NPL match at Northcote City FC
- 18 August 2025 - Councillor Briefing
- 21 August 2025 - Darebin Ethnic Communities Council Monthly Meeting
- 24 August 2025 - Northcote Festival

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

Not applicable due to leave.

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

Cr. Jelley reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Approved leave of absence 8-14 August
- Council meetings:
 - Ordinary Council meeting, 28 July
 - Councillor briefings: 4 August, 18 August EO Employment Matters Committee: 4 August
 - Swearing in of Cr Angela Vilella 18 August
- Committee meetings as Darebin Council representative
 - Metropolitan Transport Forum, 6 August
 - Metropolitan Transport Forum Executive, 15 August
 - Metropolitan Transport Forum meeting with Minister for Public and Active Transport, 21 August
- Other meetings
 - Meeting with Economic Development Team and Northside Grocer, 21 August
 - Various meetings and correspondence with residents

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

Cr. O'Brien reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Council Meeting - 28-July
- Councillor Briefing Meetings x 3
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Meeting with the CEO
- Volunteering at Bridge Darebin Laneway Lunch
- Attending Friends of Baucau AGM
- Conversation with Merri Creek Management Committee CEO
- Reading and analysis of papers for all meetings, briefings, training etc.
- Contact (in person/online) with residents on various matters including:
 - MCMC and DCMC future agreements
 - Community concerns about McDonalds planning application
 - Animal Management – Draft Plan queries and neighbour issues
 - Dangerous Traffic Conditions - on Separation St and on Victoria Rd related to NARC
 - Local business dumping/illegally parking cars
 - Significant tree protection
 - Public EV charging points

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

Cr. Sangster reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Attended all briefings and meetings.
- Corresponded with residents online and via phone.
- Served lunch at Darebin Bridge Laneway Lunches.
- Attended VGA Conference to learn about Local Government's Role in Climate Emergency
- Attended Merri Merri Way Meeting and working on Merri Merri Way Day

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

Cr. Tsalkos did not submit an Activity Report for this month.

REPORT OF CR. ANGELA VILLELLA

- Elected Councillor as of 13 August 2025.
- Swearing in Ceremony 18 August 2025.

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

The Affirmation of Office signed as administered by the CEO and dated and signed by Cr Angela Villella on Monday 18 August 2025 was tabled at this meeting.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 ZERO WASTE FAIRFIELD VILLAGE EVENT

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 25 August 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes that the Fairfield Traders host an annual community family event every October and this year Village Greening has teamed up with the Traders to create Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival on Sunday 26 October 2025.*
- (2) *Notes that zero waste events minimize the environmental impact of social gatherings by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting waste, ultimately aiming to eliminate the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.*
- (3) *Supports the first ever Zero Waste Festival in Darebin by providing four recycling bins and four compost bins for the event to ensure that a Zero Waste to Landfill target is achieved.*
- (4) *Promotes Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival, on all its social media platforms.*

Notice Received: 5 August 2025

Notice Given to Councillors 5 August 2025

Date of Meeting: 25 August 2025

Rationale:

Large events usually generate a considerable amount of waste. Zero Waste events aim to minimize this by diverting materials from landfill through better waste management practices. These events also serve as educational opportunities to promote sustainable practices and raise awareness about the benefits of a circular economy. This is why the Fairfield Traders and Village Greening are hosting Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival on 26 October 2025.

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr Dimitriadis amended and moved her motion as follows:

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

- (1) Notes that the Fairfield Traders host an annual community family event every October and this year Village Greening has teamed up with the Traders to create Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival on Sunday 26 October 2025.
- (2) Notes that zero waste events minimize the environmental impact of social gatherings by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting waste, ultimately aiming to eliminate the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.
- (3) Supports the first ever Zero Waste Festival in Darebin by providing four recycling

bins and four compost bins for the event to ensure that a Zero Waste to Landfill target is achieved.

- (4) Promotes Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival, on all its social media platforms.
- (5) **Provides a briefing to Councillors ahead of 2026-27 Budget planning outlining a potential approach and cost estimate for the development of a 'Sustainable Events Kit' available for booking by small community events. The kit could include:**
 - a. **A guide with practical sustainable event tips;**
 - b. **Bin options to maximise recycling and food waste composting;**
 - c. **Portable bike racks to encourage active transport;**
 - d. **Partnership arrangements with water authorities for booking water refill stations;**
 - e. **Reusable and compostable packaging options to be considered; and**
 - f. **Other elements that support sustainable small-scale event management.**

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-140

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. J O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the Fairfield Traders host an annual community family event every October and this year Village Greening has teamed up with the Traders to create Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival on Sunday 26 October 2025.
- (2) Notes that zero waste events minimize the environmental impact of social gatherings by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting waste, ultimately aiming to eliminate the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.
- (3) Supports the first ever Zero Waste Festival in Darebin by providing four recycling bins and four compost bins for the event to ensure that a Zero Waste to Landfill target is achieved.
- (4) Promotes Darebin's first ever Zero Waste Festival, on all its social media platforms.
- (5) Provides a briefing to Councillors ahead of 2026-27 Budget planning outlining a potential approach and cost estimate for the development of a 'Sustainable Events Kit' available for booking by small community events. The kit could include:
 - a. A guide with practical sustainable event tips;
 - b. Bin options to maximise recycling and food waste composting;
 - c. Portable bike racks to encourage active transport;
 - d. Partnership arrangements with water authorities for booking water refill stations;
 - e. Reusable and compostable packaging options to be considered; and
 - f. Other elements that support sustainable small-scale event management.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.2

WEST PRESTON SOCCER CLUB

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 25 August 2025, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes that West Preston Soccer Club, a longstanding local club with over 90 registered players – with forecasting growth to 400 participants next year, calls HLT Oulton Reserve in Preston its home ground.*
- (2) Notes that HLT Oulton Reserve comprises two playing fields (Pitch 1 and Pitch 2), which are critical to the club's training and match-day operations.*
- (3) Notes that the club has encountered an incredibly difficult 2025 season, suffering three separate break-ins at the HLT Oulton Reserve pavilion within a fortnight in May 2025 — all of which were reported to Council and police. The club estimating damages and stolen items exceeding \$12,500.*
- (4) Notes that in July 2025, a vehicle drove through Pitch 1 (north oval – which contains an elevated cricket pitch in the centre of the soccer field), further damaging the playing surface and compounding the club's operational challenges.*
- (5) Recognises the impact that these incidents and facility issues have had on the club's ability to function, and the financial and emotional toll on players, families, and volunteers.*
- (6) Resolves to support West Preston Soccer Club on compassionate grounds, in recognition of the severe disruption and hardship they have faced this season.*
- (7) Requests a briefing in October 2025 outlining:*
 - a. Recommendations for ways Council can support West Preston Soccer Club;*
 - b. The current condition of Pitch 1 and Pitch 2;*
 - c. Any recommended safety works or upgrades;*
 - d. Estimated costs and timelines for these improvements.*

Notice Received: 6 August 2025

Notice Given to Councillors 6 August 2025

Date of Meeting: 25 August 2025

Rationale:

West Preston Soccer Club has faced an incredibly difficult 2025 season, with multiple break-ins, facility damage, and limited access to safe playing surfaces. These challenges have placed significant strain on the club and its members - through no fault of their own. This motion seeks to acknowledge those impacts with compassion, practical support, and a commitment to improved outcomes moving forward.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-141**MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)****SECONDED: Cr. V Tsalkos****That Council:**

- (1) Notes that West Preston Soccer Club, a longstanding local club with over 90 registered players – with forecasting growth to 400 participants next year, calls HLT Oulton Reserve in Preston its home ground.
- (2) Notes that HLT Oulton Reserve comprises two playing fields (Pitch 1 and Pitch 2), which are critical to the club's training and match-day operations.
- (3) Notes that the club has encountered an incredibly difficult 2025 season, suffering three separate break-ins at the HLT Oulton Reserve pavilion within a fortnight in May 2025 — all of which were reported to Council and police. The club estimating damages and stolen items exceeding \$12,500.
- (4) Notes that in July 2025, a vehicle drove through Pitch 1 (north oval – which contains an elevated cricket pitch in the centre of the soccer field), further damaging the playing surface and compounding the club's operational challenges.
- (5) Recognises the impact that these incidents and facility issues have had on the club's ability to function, and the financial and emotional toll on players, families, and volunteers.
- (6) Resolves to support West Preston Soccer Club on compassionate grounds, in recognition of the severe disruption and hardship they have faced this season.
- (7) Requests a briefing in October 2025 outlining:
 - a. Recommendations for ways Council can support West Preston Soccer Club;
 - b. The current condition of Pitch 1 and Pitch 2;
 - c. Any recommended safety works or upgrades;
 - d. Estimated costs and timelines for these improvements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

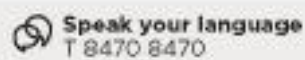
The meeting closed at 8.44pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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