



# Merri-bek City Council

## PROPOSED Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held at the Council Chamber, Merri-bek Civic Centre,  
90 Bell Street, Coburg  
on Wednesday 7 December 2022

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.07 pm and stated the Council meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and acknowledged them as Traditional Owners. The Mayor paid respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Present	Time In	Time Out
Cr Angelica Panopoulos, Mayor	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Adam Pulford	Apology	
Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan	7.33 pm	9.51 pm
Cr Helen Pavlidis	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr James Conlan	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Lambros Tapinos	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Mark Riley	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Monica Harte	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	7.07 pm	10.48 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	7.07 pm	10.48 pm

### OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer – Cathy Henderson  
Director Business Transformation – Sue Vujcevic  
Director City Infrastructure – Anita Curnow  
Director Community – Eamonn Fennessy  
Director Place and Environment – Joseph Tabacco  
Manager Governance and Strategy – Yvonne Callanan  
Unit Manager Governance – Troy Delia

## **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr Pulford was an apology to the meeting.

### **Leave of absence**

Cr Pavlidis requested a leave of absence for the period 19 December 2022 to 29 January 2023 inclusive.

### **Motion**

**Cr Davidson moved, Cr Tapinos seconded –**

**That Council approve a leave of absence for Cr Pavlidis for the period 19 December 2022 to 29 January 2023 inclusive.**

**Carried**

## **DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr Harte disclosed a conflict of interest in item 7.10, Naming the Park at Cardinal Road - Voting poll results, due to her employment.

## **MINUTE CONFIRMATION**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Davidson moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 November 2022 and the Council Meeting held on 29 November 2022 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Nil

## **PETITIONS**

Nil

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Public Question Time commenced at 7.15 pm.*

### **NIC MACLELLAN - QUESTION - ELEVATED RAIL THROUGH BRUNSWICK - COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO STATE GOVERNMENT PROJECT**

On Monday, more than 50 Merri-bek residents joined a Zoom meeting hosted by the Brunswick Residents Network, to discuss concerns about the proposed level-crossing removal project in Brunswick. Given there are no disabled tram stops on Sydney Road, how will Council assist disabled, vulnerable and elderly citizens who can't use the Upfield train during construction of the elevated rail line?

**At the request of the Mayor, Joseph Tabacco, Director Place and Environment responded:**

Council is considering a report later tonight to determine its process for establishing and developing a community vision which incorporates a comprehensive amount of consultation. That consultation will be far reaching both in terms of developing the community vision but also provide an opportunity for Council to engage with the community about specific items of concern which you have raised tonight.

## 7.6 AMENDMENT C219MORE - 42 ST PHILLIP STREET, BRUNSWICK EAST - REMOVAL OF SPECIFIC CONTROL OVERLAY - DECISION GATEWAY 2

### Executive Summary

Amendment C219more proposes to remove the Specific Controls Overlay – Schedule 4 from 42 St Phillip Street, Brunswick East. The overlay was placed on the land in 2003 to restrict development and use of the land to one dwelling.

Council exhibited Amendment C219more from 8 September to 14 October 2022. The Amendment received four submissions during the formal exhibition period.

Key themes raised in the submissions relate to:

- Keeping the restrictions on the land
- Strategic justification of the Amendment
- Notification process
- Amendment costs.

This report recommends that Council requests the Minister for Planning appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider the Amendment and submissions.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Using its powers as a planning authority under section 23(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, requests that the Minister for Planning appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider submissions to Planning Scheme Amendment C219more.
2. Endorses the responses to submissions set out in Attachment 1 of this report to form the basis of Council's submission to an Independent Planning Panel.
3. Refers any late submissions to the Independent Planning Panel.
4. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to Planning Scheme Amendment C219more and to give direction on issues which arise in the course of the Panel hearing in response to expert evidence and submissions if required.

### Procedural Motion

Cr Yildiz moved –

That the motion now be put.

LOST

### Resolution

Cr Davidson moved, Cr Riley seconded -

That Council:

1. **Using its powers as a planning authority under section 23(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, requests that the Minister for Planning appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider submissions to Planning Scheme Amendment C219more.**
2. **Endorses the responses to submissions set out in Attachment 1 of this report to form the basis of Council's submission to an Independent Planning Panel.**

3. Refers any late submissions to the Independent Planning Panel.
4. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to Planning Scheme Amendment C219more and to give direction on issues which arise in the course of the Panel hearing in response to expert evidence and submissions if required.
5. Notes that submission 3 has been formally withdrawn from Amendment C219more.

Carried

9.01 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.

9.02 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.

## 7.8 CAT CONTAINMENT STRATEGY

### Executive Summary

At the November 2021 Council meeting, Council adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2021-2025 which outlines how Council will manage cats and dogs in the local community. The DAMP addresses training of authorised officers; programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation; overpopulation and euthanasia rates; registration and identification; nuisance; dog attacks; dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and domestic animal businesses.

Section 4 of the DAMP identifies programs to address cat overpopulation and high euthanasia rates. An objective listed to address this issue is the promotion of cat containment with an action to explore the introduction of cat curfew. This action was developed in response to feedback obtained during the engagement program that cat confinement is important for the environment, the community, wildlife and cats; that the community is seeking stronger cat management and the promotion of responsible pet ownership more broadly, and that cat containment should be a part of being a responsible pet owner.

The purpose of this report is to consider the issues identified by the community and industry stakeholders during the DAMP engagement project and to recommend the implementation of cat containment as a means of addressing these issues.

9.04 pm Cr Carli Hannan left the meeting.

9.07 pm Cr Carli Hannan returned to the meeting.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council endorse the implementation of a cat containment strategy to enhance the welfare and safety of cats, to respond to reports of nuisance created by cats and to reduce environmental impacts of cats and attacks on wildlife.

### Motion

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Harte seconded -

That Council:

1. Considers a multi-pronged approach to dealing with the issue of over-population of cats which particularly focuses on un-owned and semi-owned cats as well as an education program for pet cat owners.
2. Receive a report in 2023 which includes information on:
  - a) The number of cats coming into the Epping Animal Welfare Facility which are un-owned and owned.
  - b) The number of cats coming into the Epping Animal Welfare Facility which have been born within the previous 12 months.