



**Merri-bek**  
City Council

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting**

Held in Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre,  
90 Bell Street, Coburg  
on Wednesday 11 February 2026

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The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.30 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.

<b>Present</b>	<b>Time In</b>	<b>Time Out</b>
Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki, Deputy Mayor	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	6.33 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Helen Davidson	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Liz Irvin	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Chris Miles	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Helen Politis	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Adam Pulford	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Ella Svensson	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Katerine Theodosis	6.30 pm	10.01 pm
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	6.30 pm	10.01 pm

## **OFFICERS**

Acting Chief Executive Officer – Sue Vujcevic  
 Acting Director Business Transformation – Anita Curnow  
 Acting Director City Infrastructure – Greg Rodwell  
 Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade  
 Director Community – Eamonn Fennessy  
 Manager Governance and Strategy – Yvonne Callanan  
 Unit Manager Governance and Risk – Sophie Barison  
 Team Leader Governance – Naomi Ellis

## **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

## **DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

## **MINUTE CONFIRMATION**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Theodosis moved, Cr Irvin seconded -**

**The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2025 and the Special Meeting held 17 December 2025 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cr Politis highlighted the importance of social cohesion, calling for renewed trust, unity and inclusion so that all residents feel a sense of belonging. Cr Politis highlighted the value of cultural festivals in building community connections, noting the recent successes such as St Vasilios Festival, the Presentation of Our Lord festival, and the Brunswick Beethoven and Brunswick Music Festivals.

Cr Iwasaki acknowledged local State Member for Brunswick, Tim Reid and his current health issues, commending his positive attitude, commitment to the community, and their collaboration on long-standing Brunswick issues such as Brunswick Brickworks. Cr Iwasaki described Tim Reid as a widely respected representative and offered well-wishes for his recovery. He also reflected on cancer's widespread impact, including on his own family, and highlighted the importance of prevention, early detection and equitable access to treatment - issues that Tim Reid has long advocated.

Cr Bolton:

- Highlighted the upcoming on Thursday, 12 February at the Fawkner Senior Citizens Centre to discuss support for public schools in Fawkner, encouraging all interested in public education to attend
- Advised of her attendance at the Sydney Road Accessible Tram Stops Now action outside Jewell Train Station, where disability advocates raised concerns that accessible buses and taxis would not adequately meet mobility needs during the Upfield Line closure. Cr Bolton noted issues such as limited wheelchairs access, driver training and high taxi costs.
- Acknowledged her attendance at two Greek festivals in Brunswick and Coburg, commending them as significant cultural and religious events that continue to draw large community participation.

Mayor, Cr Abboud, acknowledged that the Sydney Road Street Party will take place in two and a half weeks, marking the start of the Brunswick Music Festival. The Mayor encouraged attendance and acknowledged the strong work of Council's festivals team and the vibrancy of the local music community.

6.33 pm Cr Bolton entered the meeting.

## PETITIONS

### 5.1 PETITION REQUESTING COUNCIL DELAY THE WEST STREET SHOPPING STRIP IMPROVEMENT WORKS

A Petition has been received containing 398 signatures requesting Council to delay the West Street shopping strip improvement works.

#### Resolution

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition, requesting Council delay the West Street shopping strip improvement works.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council delay the West Street shopping strip improvement works to the Director Place and Environment for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*A summary of questions and the responses provided, and items for which community statements were made is provided below. Questions submitted in writing and not asked are taken On Notice.*

*Public Question Time commenced at 6.45 pm.*

### **Report 7.2 Moving Around Merri-bek Action Plan 2025-2029: Adoption of Final Plan**

Council received 2 questions. The 2 questions were presented to Council.

#### **Question 1**

**Li Zheng** asked Council:

How will Merri-bek City Council help promote the petition requesting improvements to the 526 Bus service?

**Mayor, Cr Abboud**, responded advising that as Mayor, she has been attending numerous meetings with groups such as the Municipal Association of Victoria, the M9 metro councils, and the Northern Council Alliance. Across all discussions — including the Metropolitan Transport Forum — there's a strong focus on bus services, and encourage continued engagement on this topic.

**At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment, Pene Winslade, responded:**

Council would love to see the outcomes that you are advocating for to improve bus services in Merri-bek, and the improvements that your petition is proposing on the 526 bus route, and outlined that Council can help promote the campaign through social media channels and Advisory Committees, and Council staff will also raise it in regular discussions with the state government and the Department of Transport and Planning.

#### **Question 2**

**Andrea Bunting** asked Council:

Could Council also publish quarterly reports of road trauma for fatalities and serious injuries in a similar manner to Yarra Council?

**At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment, Pene Winslade responded:**

The Action Plan includes a commitment to report back to Council annually. An annual reporting cycle is recommended because state RCIS road crash data is often delayed and incomplete on a quarterly basis. Annual reporting ensures accuracy and aligns with Council's yearly budget and priority-setting process.

### **Report 7.8 Contract Award: RFT-2025-56 - Road Reconstruction - Northumberland Road Pascoe Vale (Arndt Road to Rhodes Parade)**

Council received 3 statements. They were presented to Council.

#### **Statement 1**

**Pauline Carmichael** made the following statement:

This is a statement in regard to Item 7.8 which includes constructing concrete barriers as the permanent bike lane infrastructure on Northumberland Road and other design changes that have been made post the decision to make the bike lanes permanent.

I understand the decision to make the bike lanes permanent was in August 2022 (3.5 years ago). That decision was made despite the external community engagement report feedback, and I quote from that report "Overall there was little support for this separated bike lane."

Tonight's report says further engagement took place in 2024. This statement is misleading.

The Item in the June 2024 agenda was named Glenroy to Coburg Route Survey outcome. Two of the trusted Council community groups, Climate Action Merri-bek and Merri bek BUG, provided formal submissions and both did not support the Pascoe Vale shimmy route which includes Northumberland Road. Both preferred Pascoe Street and Boundary Road and asked Council to advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning to make this happen. The engagement was based on some very generalised survey questions.

Despite being a low level of engagement 85 per cent of people preferred off-road paths and 62 per cent preferred shared user paths like Cardinal Road. 61 per cent felt the current route was unsafe. So this leads me to believe that Council's recommendation to not make any change to Northumberland Road infrastructure in 2024 was based on no one supporting it and the majority of people not feeling safe.

So here we are in 2026. Residents received a plan back in June 2025 and it stated it was subject to community consultation. Local residents I know have not been advised of an opportunity to consult on the design and the letter they received does not invite feedback or a consultation process. A copy of this letter can be provided as evidence.

So in summary:

Based on there being

1. no transparency if the design is the same as to what was sent to residents mid last year and
2. no transparency on what community engagement has taken place over the past year and
3. no transparency of the road safety audit recommendations and how Council addressed those recommendations and
4. at the time of the decision of making it permanent many of the previous term of councillors voted for the infrastructure refused to meet with residents and voted based on their own personal ideology and
5. there should be learnings from the poor community engagement, poor governance over the road safety audits and the financial blow out of the Kent Road trial because Council did not 'hear' the community and finally
6. there is no published road usage data since June 2022 to assess if there are more vulnerable community members using the bike lane or if the number of vehicles has decreased

I urge Councillors to separate the general road reconstruction works in this tender from the bike lane infrastructure until such time as the community is properly consulted on the design amendments and the outcome is a positive and safe one for people moving around the northern end of Northumberland road, including to visit businesses, walk dogs and students getting to Pascoe Vale Girls where it was reported by RISE North that 66% of students are from outside of the zone.

Thank you for listening but I hope you also hear.

*7.01 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting.*

*7.02 pm Cr Davidson returned to the meeting.*

## **Statement 2**

**Sandra Taylor** made the following statement:

When the bike lanes on Northumberland Road were installed in 2020, I attended the first Council meeting afterwards and made a statement about the safety of these lanes. During a long drawn out process which Pauline mentioned I took many photos and videos over the years of the dangerous actions on this section of road of things that have occurred over the years since day one. Some of these incidents, issues are still happening on a regular basis.

Children under 15 ride zigzag in and out of the bollards, some of them on one wheel. All age groups of cyclists continue to ride on the footpath. Parents picking up girls after school parking inside the lanes so they can get close to the gate. Cars speeding down the lanes driving over the top of the bollards, which happens once, twice, sometimes three times weekly of a nighttime, so you hear it, bang bang bang. It has been reported to the police, but the police have more important things to do than monitor the bike lines.

A number of the original bollards were chopped off, assuming by vandals to at least half the original height. Council decided they would cut off the bollard to make it look more pleasant. I ask if the appearance of the bollard, is more important than safety? At the same time some bollards were partially chopped down, leaving the stumps. This left plenty of room for cars and bikes to zigzag through onto the road and back onto the lanes. It happens all hours of the day.

The lanes have never been maintained. The only time there has been a sweep near them was after the original installation.

People parking and residents drives and refusing to move, so the resident could leave or enter their property. In one incident while a parent was parked across a drive they verbally threatened a man, an elderly gentleman. He retreated to his house and watched a boy about 13 years get out of the car, go to the boot take out an iron bar, and got back in the car. All because they were illegally parked, this was a 90-year-old man. No, I don't know if the police were advised.

Cyclists turning right from Crowley Street into Northumberland Road cannot access the bike line immediately because the barriers go too far up, so they continue to ride on the outside of the lanes.

Cyclists traveling from the southern end and travel to the left side of the road then cut across to enter the lanes that is usually only need to go through the park, but the lanes don't start until after the entrance of the park. Many cyclists don't use the bike lanes if turning left into Rhodes Parade, delivery trucks and tradies have trouble getting their vehicles in and out residents drive, mainly due to the barriers which reduced to turning space. It happened to my Plumber.

Two way traffic is a nightmare, some travel in the middle of the road to avoid the lanes, no matter the size of the vehicle. Only one of these issues has been addressed by Council, poles were installed to stop cars driving up the lane, but that didn't work.

I am not against bike lines at all, provided they are where needed and wanted. If not maintained like the lanes on Northumberland Road, all we have is installations that are overgrown with weeds growing up through the road, rubbish caught in the lanes carried by the wind, broken or fallen tree branches, which are all hazards to cyclists.

### **Notice of Motion 8.2 Council support for community during extreme heat**

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council.

**Valerie Kay** made the following statement:

I'm talking in relation to the agenda item 8.2 Council support for community during extreme heat, which proposes some measures like cool places and other facilities. I just want to say that I support the proposal and I just wish to add some comments on factors that could be considered as well as the provision of cool places, and facilities.

My background is a hold of PhD in Sustainability Equity and Health and I'm happy to provide further information or detailed evidence for the statements in this in this statement request.

I note that several of the Council documents and plans as mentioned in relation to the proposal are quite old and when I was looking at them they don't appear to have been updated or evaluated recently, so I just wanted to mention that. As is mentioned in the proposal, we experienced severe heat in Victoria this January so it's very timely.

Research on climate change suggests such heat can now be expected in Victoria every five years on average. And later in the century we may expect it as often as every two years on average, so a very serious health issue.

Additional points to be considered in relation to the pro proposal can be grouped under the following three questions. How will people get to form the centres, how is their health to be monitored there and what happens when they go home?

The first question some people, especially low income and vulnerable groups will travel by public transport, walking to the bus and tram stops. Air temperatures in the sun can reach over 50 degrees centigrade and surface temperatures can reach near 70. For heat safety, shelter and seating needs to be provided at the bus and tram stops. That is an additional measure that Council needs to think about with the increasing heat.

The second point, how can their health be monitored if vulnerable groups are using the centres, how can their health be monitored? I am sure that people in Council would already be thinking about this, but I just thought I'd mention a few points to consider about reminding people to bring their medications with them. A qualified person not necessarily a nurse, I can understand the difficulties there but a qualified person who has an understanding of what heat illness looks like, and who might be suffering from heat illness. Registering their contact details for their health providers in case of any such thing.

The third question, what happens when people go home, as a key question trying to cover all the area, especially in an extended heat wave. In an extended heat wave, as you will know houses heat up and it becomes difficult to sleep. Sleep is particularly important for recovery in extended heat.

Air-conditioning, preferably efficient reverse cycle air-conditioning can heat and cool pretty much becoming a public health necessity, especially for vulnerable groups. The state government will start cooling in properties from 2027, for people on low income to afford air-conditioning, it is important also they could have access to solar.

I want to encourage Council to continue the low income subsidy for both upgrading facilities and for solar access.

External shading and screens for windows are really important for being able to cool your house down. They are not covered by subsidy schemes at the moment. I just want to recommend that they could be

### **Report 7.8 Contract Award: RFT-2025-56 - Road Reconstruction - Northumberland Road Pascoe Vale (Arndt Road to Rhodes Parade)**

#### **Statement 3**

**Billy Ayoubi** read the following statement:

Ever since those bike lines have gone in there, it has become a real hazard in the sense of turning left into Northumberland Road and for pedestrians as well walking across Northumberland to Pascoe Street. Rhodes Street, crossing that section there has always been a bit of confusion on who goes and who doesn't go first, especially when motorists want to usher people through when going that way.

There is some parking on that side of the road on Northumberland Road, which creates a bit of chaos when people turning left from Pascoe Street have to give way and then traffic ends up banking up down the road. Then obviously again it becomes a bit of a confusion of who goes first and who doesn't go first.

There has been some accidents in that area, so just to give you a bit of an insight of what goes on in the area. As a person that works in the area, we do you get a lot of people banking up and parking illegally in front of where we are. We are very close to the Northland Road area, they park illegally, no one can get through. It just creates a lot of chaos in that area.

I think that road has to have some kind of road management done to it and speaking to the local people that live in the area, especially on that road it needs to be addressed.

Hopefully that gives you a bit of an insight of what it is like working in the area and what goes on.

### **Notice of Motion 8.3 Sydney Road**

Council received 2 statements. They were presented to Council.

#### **Statement 1**

**Nicholas Tyrrell** made the following statement:

I am involved in a community group advocating for changes to Sydney Road, we want to improve conditions, allocate more space for people walking, shopping, eating, riding and getting in the tram.

About seven or eight years ago there was some research into how Sydney Road was being used. The majority about 70 per cent of shoppers on Sydney Road arrive by walking, public transport or bike. Less than 30 per cent by car and of those only about 10 per cent of shoppers had actually parked on Sydney Road. This is clearly not reflected in the way we allocate space on the road.

Sydney Road is also used as a thoroughfare for vehicles which makes it dirty, noisy and dangerous. At the same time making it at one of the slowest tram routes in Melbourne.

Despite that, Sydney Road is amazing and we love it and it's a really important part of our community, so we need to be careful how we consider all users when we're making priorities to improve it. We need up-to-date information about how Sydney Road is being used and how the community want it to evolve in the future.

The motion to collect the analyse the data will hopefully inform the Council on how to advocate for the community's needs, and ensure Sydney Road continues to grow and becomes a place where people want to be.

### **Question Time Extension**

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Irvin moved, Cr Miles seconded –**

**That question time be extended by 30 minutes at 7.15 pm.**

**Carried**

#### **Statement 2**

**Christian Astourian** (read by the Mayor):

I would like to express my strong support to your motion in regard to Merri-bek Council looking at getting community feedback on improving Sydney Road and a report explaining the outcomes.

This is fundamentally a great way to consult with the community which generally is also very supportive of our Sydney Road Accessible Tram Stop Campaign because they understand it's a universal issue.

The Victorian government is currently going through developing an environmental analysis on the Skyrail for the Upfield train line and I believe Council needs to advocate the State Government to look at the impact on traffic and community safety on Sydney Road once the Upfield train line is closed.

One last thing, I would like to suggest how making Sydney Road more accessible for everyone (including accessible tram stops) will have an economic impact on Sydney Road and therefore create a research project to show that, and the failure of not doing anything is having economically on Sydney Road.

## **NON-AGENDA ITEM - QUESTION**

### **Road gutters outside aged care at 41 Hudson Street, Coburg**

**Bernie Hickie** representing residents of 41 Hudson Street, Coburg, a not-for-profit organisation supporting vulnerable people and addressing homelessness informed Council that the site has 49 single units, many occupied by residents using walking aids. Concerns have been raised about a damaged driveway gutter causing safety risks and vehicle damage, affecting residents, visitors, taxis, and emergency services. Despite a referral from MP Anthony Cianflone, Council has not yet responded. Residents request urgent attention, with quotes and repairs prioritised to prevent potential injury.

**At the request of the Mayor, Acting Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell, responded:**

Council Officers can arrange for civil engineers to inspect the site.

*7.24 pm Cr Miles left the meeting.*

*Public Question Time concluded at 7.25 pm.*

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **7.1 PRIDE CIVIC ARTWORK**

#### **Executive summary**

In April 2025, Council resolved to consult the community on their preferences for the painting of Intersex inclusive progress pride flags at potential locations in both the north and south of the municipality.

Formal community engagement ran in June and July 2025. This included a survey asking respondents for their preferences for two locations. Targeted stakeholder engagement was undertaken with community service providers and user groups in and around the proposed locations.

From the survey responses and stakeholder feedback, a location in the Brunswick Town Hall precinct is recommended. Balancing site requirements with technical constraints and sensitivity to the heritage precinct, the ideal site is recommended on the footpath adjacent to Michelle Guglielmo park. In the north, the Glenroy Community Hub precinct is recommended as the preferred location for a potential future pride artwork installation. This would be determined over time working collaboratively with local communities towards a place-based outcome.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement regarding the painting of intersex inclusive pride flag.
2. Endorses the painting of an intersex inclusive pride flag on the footpath adjacent to Michelle Guglielmo Park at 260 Sydney Road Brunswick.
3. Refers to the next Quarterly Budget Review the installation cost of up to \$20,000 for the installation of the intersex inclusive pride flag as per point 2 above.
4. Endorses further exploration of Glenroy Community Hub as the potential location for a second future pride artwork, for potential incorporation in Council's public art program.

## Resolution

Cr Svensson moved, Cr Pulford seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement regarding the painting of intersex inclusive pride flag.**
2. **Endorses the painting of an intersex inclusive pride flag on the footpath adjacent to Michelle Guglielmo Park at 260 Sydney Road Brunswick.**
3. **Refers to the next Quarterly Budget Review the installation cost of up to \$20,000 for the installation of the intersex inclusive pride flag as per point 2 above.**
4. **Endorses further exploration of Glenroy Community Hub as the potential location for a second future pride artwork, for potential incorporation in Council's public art program.**

7.26 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting.

7.31 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.

7.32 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.2 MOVING AROUND MERRI-BEK ACTION PLAN 2025-2029: ADOPTION OF FINAL PLAN

### Executive summary

This report seeks Council's adoption of the Moving Around Merri-bek Action Plan 2025-2029, following completion of community engagement on the draft Action Plan.

The Action Plan is the four-year implementation program for Council's Moving Around Merri-bek Transport Strategy (2024). It sets out the actions Council will take to improve our community's ability to move around and experience life in Merri-bek, aligned with the Strategy's six values: Safe, Accessible, Sustainable, Healthy, Liveable and Inclusive.

Actions are grouped into three categories: infrastructure, plans and programs, and policy and advocacy, with flagship and supporting actions. Core programs are intended to be delivered continuously over the life of the plan.

There was strong overall support for Council's proposed direction, particularly for safer streets, improved access to schools and local destinations, and continued investment in walking, cycling and place-based street improvements. Feedback has informed refinements to the final Action Plan.

There are no new budget implications arising from adoption of the Action Plan. All actions will be delivered through existing Capital Works Program allocations, operational budgets, and external funding opportunities, with priorities considered through annual budget processes.

Adoption of the Action Plan provides Council with a clear, transparent and flexible framework to guide transport investment and advocacy through to 2029.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the Moving Around Merri-bek Action Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 1) as Council's four-year implementation program for transport.
2. Notes the outcomes of community engagement undertaken during October, November and December 2025, as detailed in the Community Engagement Report (Attachment 2).
3. Notes that implementation of the Action Plan will be staged across the 2025-2029 period and delivered through Council's annual Capital Works Program, operational budgets, and advocacy to other levels of government.
4. Notes that progress on the Action Plan will be reported to Council on an annual basis.

## Resolution

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Irvin seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Adopts the Moving Around Merri-bek Action Plan 2025-2029 (Attachment 1) as Council's four-year implementation program for transport.**
  - a) **Insert the words "and the removal of tripping hazards" into the first sentence in Action 1.4 (on Page 13 of the Action Plan and page 29 of the Council Agenda).**
  - b) **Insert the words "and publish quarterly reports of road trauma for fatalities and serious injuries based on RCIS data including similar scope to the recent City of Yarra's quarterly reporting model" in the first bullet point in the table (relating to trends in road trauma and crash data), on page 20 of the Action Plan and page 36 of the report.**
2. **Notes the outcomes of community engagement undertaken during October, November and December 2025, as detailed in the Community Engagement Report (Attachment 2).**
3. **Notes that implementation of the Action Plan will be staged across the 2025-2029 period and delivered through Council's annual Capital Works Program, operational budgets, and advocacy to other levels of government.**
4. **Notes that progress on the Action Plan will be reported to Council on an annual basis.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.3 PUBLIC ART POLICY

### Executive Summary

Through the development of the 2023-2030 Arts and Culture Strategy, community shared their desire for increased support of the arts in Merri-bek, including an increase in public art. This interest was reiterated through the recent Council Plan process.

The creation of Merri-bek's first Public Art Policy will enable investment in public art across the municipality, creating increased opportunities for artists, engaging residents and visitors, and enhancing public space. The Policy will also ensure best practice in the commissioning and maintenance of Council's public art collection.

Community engagement has now been completed on the Draft Public Art Policy and no changes have been made.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the Public Art Policy.
2. Refers the funds required (\$895,250 over five years) to implement this policy, to the 2026-2027 budget process for consideration.

### Resolution

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the Public Art Policy.**
2. **Refers the funds required (\$895,250 over five years) to implement this policy, to the 2026-2027 budget process for consideration.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.4 2025-26 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

The Second Quarter Financial Report outlines Council's progress in delivering the adopted/approved budget. It compares actual revenue and expenditure against year-to-date (YTD) budget figures and evaluates first-quarter financial performance to project the expected result for 30 June 2026.

At the end of December 2025, a comprehensive financial review was completed across the organisation to produce the 2025–26 Second Quarter Financial Review (Q2 Forecast). This process allows Council to assess its YTD performance and redirect available financial resources to better support its strategic priorities. The outcomes of this review are presented in this report as the Q2 Forecast.

For the six months ended 31 December 2025 and operating surplus of \$119.4 million was achieved, which is \$3.2 million higher than the YTD budget of \$116.2 million. It is important to note that the operating surplus does not convert to immediately available cash to Council. Surplus funds are used to fund important community infrastructure projects as well being restricted by legislation for future infrastructure investment.

Council's forecast adjusted underlying surplus of \$16.6 million is \$0.4 million less than the Q1 forecast of \$17.0 million. This result is important as it measures Council's ability to generate a surplus in the ordinary course of business – excluding non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions, and other contributions to fund capital expenditure from net results.

As set out in the issues section of this report, operating surplus funds do not convert to immediately available cash to Council. The accounting surplus includes items such as non-cash contributions, capital grants and is used to fund items such as loan repayments, the rates funded capital works program and transfers (savings) via reserves.

Council has spent \$24.0 million on capital expenditure, which is tracking below the year-to-date (YTD) budget of \$32.2 million, with \$69.9 million budget remaining.

After a detailed review of the capital works program, there is a forecast decrease of \$22.8 million from the Q1 forecast of \$103.0 million to \$80.1 million. This is due to \$20.9 million of additional carry forwards into 2026-27 and \$4.6 million of savings, offset by 18 projects requiring additional funding of \$1.5 million and \$1.2 million of new projects requiring funding.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the 2025-26 Second Quarter Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2025, including operating performance and capital performance at Attachment 1.
2. Notes the status of the capital works program for 2025-26.
3. Notes the full-year forecast for operating income of \$286.9 million, operating expenditure of \$249.8 million and an accounting surplus of \$37.0 million arising from the Second Quarter Financial Review.
4. Endorses the full-year capital expenditure forecast of \$80.1 million, arising from the 2025-26 Second Quarter Financial Review.
5. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2026-27 Capital Works Program (\$20.8 million):
  - a) Fully or partially grant (or external) funded projects to be carried forward if the funding is secured and received this financial year:
    - Fawkner Netball Club Roof – \$4,483,220
    - Kendall/Harding Footbridge over Merri Creek – \$2,000,000
    - Victoria St - Streets for People – \$2,000,000
    - Coburg North Sports Hub Upgrades – \$813,421
    - 40 km/h Rollout - Traffic Calming – \$400,000
    - Sportsfield Lighting - Dunstan Reserve (N&S) – \$400,000
    - Coburg Bluestone Cottage Complex Redevelopment – \$64,338
  - b) Reserve funded projects:
    - Park Renewal, Loyola Ave Pitt St (Design, Construct and Road Closure – \$300,000
    - Park Renewal, Calder Reserve (Design and Construct) – \$282,600
    - Parks and Reserve Flooding Rectification – \$200,000
    - Central Coburg Roads and Drainage – \$150,000
  - c) Rates funded projects:
    - McDonald Reserve Hockey Pitch - \$3,422,218
    - Glenroy Activity Centre Upgrade - Wheatsheaf Rd – \$1,351,912
    - Heavy Vehicles Replacement Program – \$1,000,000
    - Road Reconstruction, Northumberland Rd from Arndt to Crowley – \$800,000
    - West Street Neighbourhood Streetscape – \$721,000
    - DeChene Reserve - Gender Inclusive Facilities – \$702,775
    - Sylvester St Oak Park Land Slide – \$550,000
    - O'Hea St Bike Path Extension - Sussex to Derby St – \$400,000

- Road Reconstruction, Tinning Street from Walter to Patterson – \$300,000
  - Fawkner Transport Study Projects- \$236,486
  - Hadfield Depot Masterplan Development & Drainage - \$200,000
  - Coburg Town Hall Upgrade – \$80,000
  - Carelink Go+ Device Purchases – \$59,584
  - Accommodation Changes to Meet Service Demand – \$50,000
  - Fawkner Library Upgrade Works - \$50,000
  - Balfe Park Sportsfield Redevelopment - \$20,000
  - Holbrook Reserve Pavilion and Gender Inclusive Change Rooms - \$10,000
- d) Adjustment to rates funded projects previously approved
- Coburg Outdoor Pool - 8 X 15 Toddlers Pool – (\$175,000)
6. Approves funding for the following new projects in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program (\$1.2 million):
- Wheeler Street – Retaining Wall - \$920,000
  - Brunswick Baths Changeroom Works - \$175,905
  - Union Street – Sinkhole/Cavity Remediation Works - \$100,510
  - Raeburn Lighting Pole Rectification - \$36,000
7. Approves additional funding for the following existing projects in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program (\$1.5 million):
- Park Renewal – Sewell Reserve - \$278,852
  - Reactive Drainage Program - \$266,570
  - Wombat Crossings – Barrow St & Blair St, Coburg - \$200,000
  - Light Plant and Equipment Replacement Program - \$200,000
  - Brunswick City Baths Repainting & Renewal - \$160,000
  - Raised Intersection – Landells Rd & Essex St, Pascoe Vale - \$116,000
  - Narre Narre Stadium Floor Renewal - \$109,264
  - 115 Nicholson Street Footpath Upgrade - \$60,000
  - Gowanbrae Dog Park - \$19,051
  - Municipal Art Collection - \$13,115
  - Edgars Creek Corridor Connection Project - \$6,617
  - Road Reconstruction, Herbert Street from Pascoe Vale to Dead End - \$6,356
  - Road Reconstruction, Fowler Street from Walsh to Dead End - \$4,817
  - Brunswick Early Years Hub - \$4,500
  - Pedestrian Access & Priority Treatments - \$4,024
  - Public Art Program Across Merri-bek - \$1,385
  - Richards Reserve Natural Turf Renewal - \$1,182
  - Park Renewal – Soudan St - \$312
8. Notes savings realised from the following existing projects in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program (\$ 4.5 million):
- Drainage, Union St from Millward St to Brunswick Rd - \$1,450,000
  - Road Reconstruction, Northumberland Rd from Fawkner to Longview - \$353,393
  - Brunswick Activity Centre Upgrade Works – Wilson Ave - \$350,061
  - Road Reconstruction, Jersey St from Ohea to Gaffney – Both Carriageways - \$306,920
  - Sim Cr & Victoria St – Engeny Hot Spot No 8 - \$212,027
  - Road Reconstruction, Tinning Street from Patterson to Garnet - \$202,044
  - Light Vehicles Replacement Program - \$200,000
  - School Active Travel and Safety Infrastructure - \$200,000

- Jukes Rd & William St, Fawkner – Priority Crossing - \$150,000
  - Climate Vulnerability Implementation – Buildings - \$120,000
  - Brunswick Baths – Modifications for Improvements to AV, IT & Lighting Systems - \$120,000
  - Raeburn Reserve – Cricket Training Nets - \$114,013
  - Parker Reserve – Baseball – Change Room & Refurbishment - \$109,264
  - Rehabilitation, Moonee Pde from Jewel to Union - \$100,000
  - Bain Avenue from Plaisted to Boundary, Road Reconstruction - \$97,746
  - Balfe Parks Sports Field Lights - \$83,113
  - Fawkner Transport Study Projects - \$64,000
  - Footpath & Bikepath Renewals - \$60,000
  - Road Safety and Amenity Improvements Program - \$52,000
  - Large Scale WSUD (Sportsfield Stormwater Reuse) - \$43,799
  - Brunswick City Baths Community Meeting Space - \$40,000
  - Park Renewal – Esslemont Reserve - \$30,000
  - Additional Seating on Walking Routes to Shops - \$2,250
9. Notes, as at the end of the second quarter, as per Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that a revised budget is not required, however impacts to the full year forecast will continue to be closely monitored.

## Resolution

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the 2025-26 Second Quarter Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2025, including operating performance and capital performance at Attachment 1.**
2. **Notes the status of the capital works program for 2025-26.**
3. **Notes the full-year forecast for operating income of \$286.9 million, operating expenditure of \$249.8 million and an accounting surplus of \$37.0 million arising from the Second Quarter Financial Review.**
4. **Endorses the full-year capital expenditure forecast of \$80.1 million, arising from the 2025-26 Second Quarter Financial Review.**
5. **Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2026-27 Capital Works Program (\$20.8 million):**
  - a) **Fully or partially grant (or external) funded projects to be carried forward if the funding is secured and received this financial year:**
    - **Fawkner Netball Club Roof – \$4,483,220**
    - **Kendall/Harding Footbridge over Merri Creek – \$2,000,000**
    - **Victoria St - Streets for People – \$2,000,000**
    - **Coburg North Sports Hub Upgrades – \$813,421**
    - **40 km/h Rollout - Traffic Calming – \$400,000**
    - **Sportsfield Lighting - Dunstan Reserve (N&S) – \$400,000**
    - **Coburg Bluestone Cottage Complex Redevelopment – \$64,338**
  - b) **Reserve funded projects:**
    - **Park Renewal, Loyola Ave Pitt St (Design, Construct and Road Closure – \$300,000**
    - **Park Renewal, Calder Reserve (Design and Construct) – \$282,600**
    - **Parks and Reserve Flooding Rectification – \$200,000**
    - **Central Coburg Roads and Drainage – \$150,000**

**c) Rates funded projects:**

- **McDonald Reserve Hockey Pitch - \$3,422,218**
- **Glenroy Activity Centre Upgrade - Wheatsheaf Rd – \$1,351,912**
- **Heavy Vehicles Replacement Program – \$1,000,000**
- **Road Reconstruction, Northumberland Rd from Arndt to Crowley – \$800,000**
- **West Street Neighbourhood Streetscape – \$721,000**
- **DeChene Reserve - Gender Inclusive Facilities – \$702,775**
- **Sylvester St Oak Park Land Slide – \$550,000**
- **O’Hea St Bike Path Extension - Sussex to Derby St – \$400,000**
- **Road Reconstruction, Tinning Street from Walter to Patterson – \$300,000**
- **Fawkner Transport Study Projects- \$236,486**
- **Hadfield Depot Masterplan Development & Drainage - \$200,000**
- **Coburg Town Hall Upgrade – \$80,000**
- **Carelink Go+ Device Purchases – \$59,584**
- **Accommodation Changes to Meet Service Demand – \$50,000**
- **Fawkner Library Upgrade Works - \$50,000**
- **Balfe Park Sportsfield Redevelopment - \$20,000**
- **Holbrook Reserve Pavilion and Gender Inclusive Change Rooms - \$10,000**

**d) Adjustment to rates funded projects previously approved**

- **Coburg Outdoor Pool - 8 X 15 Toddlers Pool – (\$175,000)**

**6. Approves funding for the following new projects in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program (\$1.2 million):**

- **Wheeler Street – Retaining Wall - \$920,000**
- **Brunswick Baths Changeroom Works - \$175,905**
- **Union Street – Sinkhole/Cavity Remediation Works - \$100,510**
- **Raeburn Lighting Pole Rectification - \$36,000**

**7. Approves additional funding for the following existing projects in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program (\$1.5 million):**

- **Park Renewal – Sewell Reserve - \$278,852**
- **Reactive Drainage Program - \$266,570**
- **Wombat Crossings – Barrow St & Blair St, Coburg - \$200,000**
- **Light Plant and Equipment Replacement Program - \$200,000**
- **Brunswick City Baths Repainting & Renewal - \$160,000**
- **Raised Intersection – Landells Rd & Essex St, Pascoe Vale - \$116,000**
- **Narre Narre Stadium Floor Renewal - \$109,264**
- **115 Nicholson Street Footpath Upgrade - \$60,000**
- **Gowanbrae Dog Park - \$19,051**
- **Municipal Art Collection - \$13,115**
- **Edgars Creek Corridor Connection Project - \$6,617**
- **Road Reconstruction, Herbert Street from Pascoe Vale to Dead End - \$6,356**
- **Road Reconstruction, Fowler Street from Walsh to Dead End - \$4,817**
- **Brunswick Early Years Hub - \$4,500**
- **Pedestrian Access & Priority Treatments - \$4,024**
- **Public Art Program Across Merri-bek - \$1,385**
- **Richards Reserve Natural Turf Renewal - \$1,182**
- **Park Renewal – Soudan St - \$312**

8. **Notes savings realised from the following existing projects in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program (\$ 4.5 million):**
- Drainage, Union St from Millward St to Brunswick Rd - \$1,450,000
  - Road Reconstruction, Northumberland Rd from Fawkner to Longview - \$353,393
  - Brunswick Activity Centre Upgrade Works – Wilson Ave - \$350,061
  - Road Reconstruction, Jersey St from Ohea to Gaffney – Both Carriageways - \$306,920
  - Sim Cr & Victoria St – Engeny Hot Spot No 8 - \$212,027
  - Road Reconstruction, Tinning Street from Patterson to Garnet - \$202,044
  - Light Vehicles Replacement Program - \$200,000
  - School Active Travel and Safety Infrastructure - \$200,000
  - Jukes Rd & William St, Fawkner – Priority Crossing - \$150,000
  - Climate Vulnerability Implementation – Buildings - \$120,000
  - Brunswick Baths – Modifications for Improvements to AV, IT & Lighting Systems - \$120,000
  - Raeburn Reserve – Cricket Training Nets - \$114,013
  - Parker Reserve – Baseball – Change Room & Refurbishment - \$109,264
  - Rehabilitation, Moonee Pde from Jewel to Union - \$100,000
  - Bain Avenue from Plaisted to Boundary, Road Reconstruction - \$97,746
  - Balfe Parks Sports Field Lights - \$83,113
  - Fawkner Transport Study Projects - \$64,000
  - Footpath & Bikepath Renewals - \$60,000
  - Road Safety and Amenity Improvements Program - \$52,000
  - Large Scale WSUD (Sportsfield Stormwater Reuse) - \$43,799
  - Brunswick City Baths Community Meeting Space - \$40,000
  - Park Renewal – Esslemont Reserve - \$30,000
  - Additional Seating on Walking Routes to Shops - \$2,250
9. **Notes, as at the end of the second quarter, as per Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that a revised budget is not required, however impacts to the full year forecast will continue to be closely monitored.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.5 YEAR 1 COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2025-26 - SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **Executive Summary**

The Second Quarter Performance Report (Attachment 1) provides an overview of Council's performance in delivering the Council Plan 2025-2029, with a specific focus on implementation of the Year 1 Council Action Plan 2025–26.

The report highlights key achievements and progress across initiatives supporting Council's strategic objectives, and provides the status of the 79 actions, as follows:

- 3% (2 actions) achieved
- 95% (75 actions) in progress and on track
- 1% (1 action) not yet commenced
- 1% (1 action) on hold

Overall, 98% of actions are either achieved or on track, reflecting promising progress in delivering Council Plan 2025-2029 priorities.

Action 53: *Deliver the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project* has not yet commenced due to external partner-related delays. Council endorsement is sought to place this action on hold for future inclusion in the Year 2 Council Action Plan, 2026-27.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Year 1 Council Action Plan 2025-26 – Second Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1).
2. Endorses to place on hold Action 53 - Deliver the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Irvin moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Receives and notes the Year 1 Council Action Plan 2025-26 – Second Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1).**
2. **Endorses to place on hold Action 53 - Deliver the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.6 OPEN COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS REPORT**

### **Executive Summary**

The Open Council Resolutions Report provided as **Attachment 1**, has been prepared to inform Councillors and the community on the progress of Council resolutions that are currently open.

There are currently 40 open Council resolutions, with 1 of these relating to a Petition, 21 relating to Council officer reports and 18 relating to Notices of Motion.

The Open Council Resolutions Report is presented to Council on an ongoing basis, providing transparency on the progress and implementation of Council resolutions.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council receives and notes the Open Council Resolutions Report provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Svensson moved, Cr Theodosis seconded -**

**That Council receives and notes the Open Council Resolutions Report provided as Attachment 1 to this report.**

**Carried unanimously**

*7.57 pm Cr Miles left the meeting.*

## 7.7 GOVERNANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026 - CYCLICAL REPORT

### Executive Summary

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly standing report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

This Governance report includes:

- A summary of the minutes of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee held 9 December 2025.
- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- Responses to Public Question Time items taken on notice at the 10 December 2025 Council meeting, with a recommendation that Council notes the responses.
- A report from Cr Iwasaki on attendance at an approved activity, Ecological Society of Australia Conference.
- The summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 18 November 2025.
- The appointment of a Councillor representative to the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Council's current Chairperson (an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee) will complete their term on 15 May 2026, along with another Independent Member whose term concluded on 30 December 2025. As a result, Council is required to appoint a new Chairperson and an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Committee. Following a competitive recruitment process, it is recommended that John Watson be appointed as an Independent Member and Chairperson for the period 16 May 2026 to 16 May 2029, and that Lisa Tripodi be appointed as an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 12 February 2026 to 12 February 2029.
- Reviewed Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council staff.
- A recommendation that Council appoints and authorises the Council officers referred to in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*).

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the summary of minutes from the Friends of Aileu Community Committee held 9 December 2025, at Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.
3. Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 10 December 2025 Council meeting, provided as Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Notes Cr Iwasaki's report on attendance at an approved activity, Ecological Society of Australia Conference.
5. Notes the summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 18 November 2025 at Attachment 4 to this report.
6. Appoints Cr \_\_\_\_\_ as a representative to the Audit and Risk Committee for the 2025/26 Mayoral year.

7. Appoints Mr John Watson as Chairperson (Independent Member) to the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 16 May 2026 to 16 May 2029.
8. Appoints Ms Lisa Tripodi as an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 12 February 2026 to 12 February 2029.
9. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation (Attachment 5 to this report), resolves that:
  - a) There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
  - b) The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
  - c) On the coming into force of the instrument the previous instrument of delegation to members of Council staff executed 25 July 2025 is revoked.
  - d) The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
10. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:
  - a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 6 to this report, as set out in the instrument.
  - b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous Instrument executed on 18 December 2024.
  - c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Iwasaki moved, Cr Irvin seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the summary of minutes from the Friends of Aileu Community Committee held 9 December 2025, at Attachment 1 to this report.**
2. **Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.**
3. **Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 10 December 2025 Council meeting, provided as Attachment 3 to this report.**
4. **Notes Cr Iwasaki's report on attendance at an approved activity, Ecological Society of Australia Conference.**
5. **Notes the summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 18 November 2025 at Attachment 4 to this report.**
6. **Appoints Cr Theodosius as a representative to the Audit and Risk Committee for the 2025/26 Mayoral year.**
7. **Appoints Mr John Watson as Chairperson (Independent Member) to the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 16 May 2026 to 16 May 2029.**
8. **Appoints Ms Lisa Tripodi as an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 12 February 2026 to 12 February 2029.**

9. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation (Attachment 5 to this report), resolves that:
- a) There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
  - b) The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
  - c) On the coming into force of the instrument the previous instrument of delegation to members of Council staff executed 25 July 2025 is revoked.
  - d) The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
10. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and section 313 of the Local Government Act 2020:
- a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 6 to this report, as set out in the instrument.
  - b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous Instrument executed on 18 December 2024.
  - c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.

7.58 pm *Cr Miles returned to the meeting.*

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.8 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2025-56 - ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD PASCOE VALE (ARNDT ROAD TO RHODES PARADE)**

### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the award of the Road Reconstruction of Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (Arndt Road to Rhodes Parade). This project has been included in the 2025–2026 Capital Works Program under the Roads and Carparks Program. The project forms part of Council's current Development Contributions Plan (DCP).

The scope of works includes the installation of underground drainage pipes and associated pits, reconstruction of the existing concrete kerb and channel, vehicle crossings, selected footpaths, construction of rain garden, raised pavement crossing, and the installation of concrete separators for the bike lane.

The proposed design has undergone extensive flood modelling to ensure a reduction in overall flood risk within the area and to address potential flooding issues. In addition, the design was subject to a Road Safety Audit (RSA) to identify potential safety risks for all road users. Items identified in the audit and community feedback have been incorporated and addressed in the final design to improve pedestrian safety and vehicle movements. This includes a raised crossing over Lake Avenue at Northumberland Road and moving concrete barriers for the bike lane farther back from the Pascoe Vale Girls' College driveway entrance on Northumberland Road to improve turning movements in and out of the driveway.

The operation of this road will be reviewed by the Transport Planning Unit 12 months post construction for road safety and access, including engagement with the local community.

Following the tender evaluation process, ADP Constructions Pty Ltd has been identified as the preferred tenderer based on the strength of their submission. Subject to contract award on 11 February 2026, the contractor has confirmed readiness to commence the construction on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026, following the completion of the road reconstruction of Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (Fawkner Road to Longview Street).

ADP Constructions Pty Ltd has successfully delivered projects of similar scale and complexity for Merri-bek and other councils, with strong performance outcomes. The construction is expected to be completed over a six-month period by October 2026 (weather permitting). The works will be delivered in two distinct sections to minimise disruption to residents and local traffic.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to **ADP Constructions Pty Ltd and ACN of 118 588 097 (Contractor)** to award to the Contractor contract **RFT-2025-56 Road Reconstruction Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (Arndt Road to Rhodes Parade) (Contract)** on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For total contract value is \$1,500,278.00 (excl. GST), with the fixed lump sum amount is \$1,298,000.00 (excl. GST) and provisional sum is \$202,278.00 (excl. GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.
  - c) Refers the budget savings of \$757,571 to the quarterly review process.

## Motion

Cr Theodosis moved, Cr Miles seconded –

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to ADP Constructions Pty Ltd and ACN of 118 588 097 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-56 Road Reconstruction Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (Arndt Road to Rhodes Parade) (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For a maximum total contract value is \$1,500,278.00 (excl. GST), with the maximum fixed lump sum amount of \$1,298,000.00 (excl. GST) and provisional sum is \$202,278.00 (excl. GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the scope of the contract is amended to remove the requirement for permanent bike lane infrastructure, and be replaced with upgrading existing temporary bike lane infrastructure;
    - ii. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - iii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.
  - c) Refers the budget savings to the quarterly review process.
3. Undertake a review of the bike lane infrastructure 12 months post construction, to include a Road Safety Audit (RSA) and community engagement with the results presented in a report to Council for decision on the future of bike lane infrastructure in Northumberland Road between Rhodes Parade and KW Joyce Reserve.

Cr Theodosis called for a division.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Cr Davidson	Cr Bolton
Cr Yildiz	Cr Pulford
Cr Miles	Cr Svensson
Cr Politis	Cr Iwasaki
Cr Theodosis	Cr Abboud
	Cr Irvin
<b>Total For (5)</b>	<b>Total Against (6)</b>

**Lost**

*8.26 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

*8.27 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.*

*8.29 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

*8.30 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.*

## **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Abboud seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) Make a formal offer to ADP Constructions Pty Ltd and ACN of 118 588 097 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-56 Road Reconstruction Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (Arndt Road to Rhodes Parade) (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
    - i. For total contract value is \$1,500,278.00 (excl. GST), with the fixed lump sum amount is \$1,298,000.00 (excl. GST) and provisional sum is \$202,278.00 (excl. GST).**
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;**
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:**
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and**
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**
  - c) Refers the budget savings of \$757,571 to the quarterly review process.**
- 3. In addition to the above points, Council immediately begin investigating solutions to outstanding safety issues on Northumberland Rd near Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College and at the intersection of Pascoe St and Northumberland Road to address the school's concerns and local residents' concerns, in relation to safety.**
- 4. Assist the Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College in advocating for a second school crossing supervisor.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

## 8.1 VENUES FOR COUNCILLOR WORKSHOPS

*At its meeting on 10 December 2025, Council deferred consideration of this Notice of Motion to allow further consideration.*

### **Motion**

That Council holds all Councillor workshops at locations in Melbourne, and preferably locations in Merri-bek.

### **Motion**

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council holds all Councillor workshops at locations in Merri-bek or the vicinity of Merri-bek, and preferably at council venues. This would make it easier for councillors to support community activities and spend less time travelling to council workshops outside the area, while also saving ratepayers' money by reducing external venue costs.

*8.38 pm Cr Theodosius left the meeting.*

*8.38 pm Cr Theodosius returned to the meeting.*

Cr Bolton called for a division.

#### **For**

Cr Bolton  
Cr Miles

#### **Against**

Cr Davidson  
Cr Yildiz  
Cr Pulford  
Cr Svensson  
Cr Iwasaki  
Cr Politis  
Cr Abboud  
Cr Irvin  
Cr Theodosius

**Total For (2)**

**Total Against (9)**

**Lost**

### **Resolution**

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Svensson seconded -

**That Council seeks to make Councillor workshops both cheaper and more accessible from 2027 onwards. To help achieve this, Council will only host them in locations that are accessible by public transport from Melbourne.**

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded

**That the meeting be adjourned at 9.04 pm for 5 minutes.**

**Carried**

### **Meeting Resumption**

The meeting resumed at 9.12 pm.

*The Motion was put to vote.*

**Carried**

## 8.2 COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY DURING EXTREME HEAT

### Motion

That Council:

1. Notes that Merri-bek's libraries and aquatic centres, outdoor pools and Maternal and Child Health Centres are relied on as public venues to provide cool spaces during extreme heat.
2. Notes that the increasing numbers of extreme heat events, means that there is a need for more community venues that provide cool centres that are open to all community members.
3. Recognises that lack of access to cool spaces is a human rights issues with higher death rates on extreme days meaning that this is a life and death issue for many people, especially people from a range of vulnerable communities such as seniors, people with disabilities, First Nations people, young parents with young children and migrant communities.
4. Receives a report which investigates:
  - a) potential additional community centres such as Neighbourhood Houses which could be cool centres to offer hot day activities in a cool environment. Such centres may need to be funded to install passive cooling such as a misting system and would be open to all community members.
  - b) how to make Merri-bek libraries and other Council venues more suitable to be cool spaces to promote to the community.
5. Undertakes some targeted community consultation about what the community needs in order to deal with extreme heat. Such consultation could target seniors groups, domestic violence services, people with disabilities, migrant communities, homeless people, young parents with small children and other community organisations as well as open community consultation.
6. Consider options for a cool space in Merri-bek such as CB Smith Reserve Fawkner where there are a number of Council facilities in close proximity to each other such as the Fawkner Leisure Centre, the Fawkner Library, the Fawkner Community Hall, Fawkner Community and CB Smith Sport Pavillion as well as a park.
7. Considers a budget allocation in the 2026-27 Council budget for community initiatives to assist community centres such as neighbourhood houses to provide cool spaces for the community during extreme heat as well as targeted upgrades to make Council facilities able to be used as cool spaces.
8. Approaches the State Government about the potential for joint council and state government funding for such initiatives.

9.17 pm Cr Pulford left the meeting.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes that Merri-bek council recognised that we are in a state of climate emergency in 2018 which obligates council to help develop a climate resilient community through assisting the community to adapt to climate extremes such as extreme heat.**
- 2. Notes that climate change is causing an increase in the number of extreme heat events, which means that there is a need for more community venues that provide cool centres which are open to all community members**
- 3. Notes that Merri-bek's libraries and aquatic centres, outdoor pools and Maternal and Child Health Centres are relied on as public venues to provide cool spaces during extreme heat.**
- 4. Recognises that lack of access to cool spaces is a human rights and equity issue with higher death rates on extreme heat days. This makes extreme heat a life and death issue for many people, especially people from a range of vulnerable communities such as seniors, people with disabilities, First Nations people, young parents with young children and migrant communities.**
- 5. Receives a report which investigates:**
  - a) potential additional community centres such as Neighbourhood Houses which could be cool centres to offer hot day activities in a cool environment. Such centres may need to be funded to install passive cooling such as a misting system and would be open to all community members.**
  - b) how to make Merri-bek libraries and other Council venues more suitable to be cool spaces to promote to the community, using a holistic approach so that the spaces aren't just a bare air-conditioned room but have activities, programs and engagement.**
  - c) availability of a health worker in a cool centre to monitor people's temperature**
  - d) expanding the use of Merri-bek's community bus to transport elderly, isolated and vulnerable people to cool spaces**
  - e) options for a cool space in Merri-bek such as CB Smith Reserve Fawkner where there are a number of Council facilities in close proximity to each other such as the Fawkner Leisure Centre, the Fawkner Library, the Fawkner Community Hall, Fawkner Community and CB Smith Sport Pavillion as well as a park.**
  - f) extension of low-income subsidy scheme for energy efficiency and solar panels**
  - g) that councils air conditioning infrastructure is maintained and fit for purpose across all of its workplaces and facilities.**
- 6. Advocates to state government for a low income subsidy scheme for people to install external blinds and secure window screens to mitigate against extreme heat.**
- 7. Undertakes some targeted community consultation about what the community needs in order to deal with extreme heat. Such consultation could target seniors groups, domestic violence services, people with disabilities, migrant communities, homeless people, young parents with small children and other community organisations as well as open community consultation.**

8. **Considers a budget allocation in the 2026-27 Council budget for community initiatives to assist community centres such as neighbourhood houses to provide cool spaces for the community during extreme heat as well as targeted upgrades to make Council facilities able to be used as cool spaces.**
9. **Approaches the State Government about the potential for joint council and state government funding for such initiatives.**

9.20 pm Cr Pulford returned to the meeting.

### **Amendment**

Cr Politis moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That mention of Neighbourhood Houses be removed from point 4 a).

**Lost**

*Debate returned to the substantive motion.*

*The substantive motion was put to the vote.*

Cr Bolton called for a division.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Cr Bolton		Cr Abboud
Cr Yildiz		Cr Davidson
Cr Pulford		Cr Miles
Cr Svensson		
Cr Iwasaki		
Cr Politis		
Cr Irvin		
Cr Theodosis		
<b>Total For (8)</b>	<b>Total Against (0)</b>	<b>Total Abstained (3)</b>
		<b>Carried</b>

## **8.3 SYDNEY ROAD**

### **Motion**

That Council receives a report to its April 2026 Council Meeting exploring options for how Council can strengthen its advocacy on making Sydney Road safer, greener and more accessible for everyone, including options for:

1. Collecting data from local residents, patrons and traders on:
  - a) What changes people want to see along Sydney Road to make it safer, greener and a better experience;
  - b) Experiences of how accessible Sydney Road is for them;
  - c) Who is visiting local shops, cafes, bars and restaurants and the proportion of local residents and visitors from outside Merri-bek;
  - d) Who would visit Sydney Road more if it were safer, greener and more accessible;
  - e) How customers/patrons are getting to/from their destination on Sydney Road; and
  - f) Any other relevant questions as deemed by Council Officers.

2. Completing analysis on current availability and usage of car parks, including:
  - a) How much parking is currently along Sydney Road;
  - b) How much parking is currently within walking distance to Sydney Road; and
  - c) Any other relevant factors to consider on parking.
3. Resourcing options to ensure advocating for a safer, greener and more accessible Sydney Road remains a priority for Council.

## **Time Extension**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Theodosis seconded -**

**That the Council meeting be extended by 30 minutes at 9.41 pm**

**Carried**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council receives a report to its May 2026 Council Meeting exploring options for how Council can strengthen its advocacy on making Sydney Road safer, greener and more accessible for everyone, including options for:**

1. **Collecting data from local residents, patrons and traders on:**
  - a) **What changes people want to see along Sydney Road to make it safer, greener and a better experience;**
  - b) **Experiences of how accessible Sydney Road is for them;**
  - c) **Who is visiting local shops, cafes, bars and restaurants and the proportion of local residents and visitors from outside Merri-bek;**
  - d) **Who would visit Sydney Road more if it were safer, greener and more accessible;**
  - e) **How customers/patrons are getting to/from their destination on Sydney Road; and**
  - f) **Any other relevant questions as deemed by Council Officers.**
2. **Completing analysis on current availability and usage of car parks, including:**
  - a) **How much parking is currently along Sydney Road;**
  - b) **How much parking is currently within walking distance to Sydney Road;**
  - c) **Existing parking management arrangements for the above areas and whether these are appropriate for current and predicted future land uses; and**
  - d) **Any other relevant factors to consider on parking.**
3. **Resourcing options to ensure advocating for a safer, greener and more accessible Sydney Road remains a priority for Council.**

## **Amendment**

Cr Politis moved, Cr Miles seconded –

That Council receives a report back in August 2026 instead of April 2026 to ensure other priorities are not impacted and there is sufficient time to complete the report.

**Lost**

*Debate returned to the substantive motion.*

*The substantive motion was put to the vote.*

**Carried unanimously**

## **NOTICE OF RESCISSION**

Nil.

9.53pm Cr Miles left the meeting.

9.53 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting.

## **FORESHADOWED ITEMS**

Cr Irvin foreshadowed a motion relating to support VicHealth, highlighting its vital role in public health and concern over the state government's proposal to abolish it.

## **URGENT BUSINESS REPORTS**

Nil.

## **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

### **Resolution**

Cr Davidson moved, Cr Theodosia seconded –

In accordance with section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, this Council meeting be closed to the public to consider this/these report(s):

- **Contract Award: EOI-2025-2 - Design Consultant Services** because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
- **Contract Award: RFT-2025-25 - System Implementer** because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.
- **Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters** because it relates to personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

**Carried**

The Council meeting closed to the public at 9.55 pm.

## **OPENING THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Davidson moved, Cr Miles seconded –**

The Council meeting be open to the public.

The Council meeting opened to the public at 10.01 pm.

The Council meeting closed at 10.01 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Nat Abboud  
**MAYOR**