



# Merri-bek City Council

## Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held at the Council Chamber, Merri-bek Civic Centre,  
90 Bell Street, Coburg  
on Wednesday 13 March 2024

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.05 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 Adam Pulford, Mayor	7.05 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Lambros Tapinos, Deputy Mayor	9.08 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Angelica Panopoulos	7.05 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan	9.09 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Helen Davidson	7.06 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Helen Pavlidis	Leave of absence	
Cr James Conlan	7.05 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Mark Riley	7.05 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Monica Harte	Leave of absence	
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	7.05 pm	10.59 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	7.05 pm	10.59 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**

Leaves of absence has been granted to:

- Cr Pavlidis - 8 March 2024 to 15 March 2024 inclusive.
- Cr Harte - 8 February 2024 to 31 March 2024 inclusive.

A request for a leave of absence was received from Cr Carli Hannan for the period 1 April to 31 April 2024 inclusive.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Bolton seconded -**

**That Cr Carli Hannan be granted a leave of absence from 1 April to 30 April 2024 inclusive.**

**Carried**

## **DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr Riley declared a material conflict of interest in 7.13 Governance Report - March 2024 - Cyclical Report – Item 8 in that report, due to seeking approval to enrol in development and training.

Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson declared a conflict of interest item 12.1 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review as it considers her performance review.

## **MINUTE CONFIRMATION**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Riley moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded –**

**The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 February 2024 be confirmed with an amendment to reflect that Cr Pavlidis left during the debate and prior to the vote being taken on Item 7.10 Governance Report - February 2024 – Cyclical Report as follows:**

- a) **9.25pm Cr Pavlidis left the meeting during the debate and prior to the vote being taken.**

**Carried**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Cr Bolton acknowledged the passing of Rocca Salcedo, a disability advocate, well known for her involvement in many disability activism and other rights issues, including founding the 'Dance & Roll' wheelchair dancing project and Ability Para Badminton, as well as being a stalwart of the campaign for accessible trams on Sydney Road.

## PETITIONS

### 5.1 PETITION REQUESTING COUNCIL RECONSTRUCT GLENGYLE STREET, COBURG BETWEEN BARROW STREET AND NICHOLSON STREET

A petition (D24/101360) has been received containing 21 signatures requesting Council reconstruct Glengyle Street, Coburg between Barrow Street and Nicholson Street.

#### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the petition, requesting Council reconstruct Glengyle Street, Coburg between Barrow Street and Nicholson Street.
2. Refers the petition requesting Council reconstruct Glengyle Street, Coburg between Barrow Street and Nicholson Street to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.

#### Resolution

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Conlan seconded -**

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition, requesting Council reconstruct Glengyle Street, Coburg between Barrow Street and Nicholson Street.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council reconstruct Glengyle Street, Coburg between Barrow Street and Nicholson Street to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

7.18 pm *Cr Bolton left the meeting after the vote on item 5.1.*

7.18 pm *Cr Bolton returned to the meeting prior to the vote on item 5.2.*

### 5.2 PETITION, REQUESTING COUNCIL LOWERS THE SPEED LIMIT ON STOCKADE AVENUE BETWEEN MURRAY ROAD AND PENTRIDGE BOULEVARD

A petition (D24/114840) has been received containing 28 signatures requesting Council to protect the safety and wellbeing of residents in Stockade Avenue between Murray Road and Pentridge Boulevard by lowering the speed limit to 40 kilometres per hour and redesignating the narrow, tree-lined residential street, used by pedestrians and cyclists, to be part of the local road network requiring safer speed limits. Petitioners urgently seek measures to deter large construction vehicles such as concrete mixers from regularly using the narrow street when there are clear alternatives.

#### Resolution

**Cr Riley moved, Cr Bolton seconded –**

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition, requesting Council lowers the speed limit on Stockade Avenue between Murray Road and Pentridge Boulevard, to 40 km/h and implement measures to deter large construction vehicles from using the street.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council lowers the speed limit on Stockade Avenue between Murray Road and Pentridge Boulevard, to 40 km/h and**

**implement measures to deter large construction vehicles from using the street to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

### **5.3 PETITION REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL SUNSHADES AT LOCAL PLAYGROUNDS IN THE MERRI-BEK AREA.**

A petition (D24/115699) has been received containing 1,533 signatures requesting Council install sunshades at local playgrounds in the Merri-bek area

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Bolton seconded –**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives the petition, requesting Council install sunshades at local playgrounds around Merri-bek.**
- 2. Refers the petition requesting Council install sunshades at local playgrounds around Merri-bek to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Public Question Time commenced at 7.29 pm.*

*A summary of questions and the response provided, and items for which community statements were made is provided below.*

### **REPORT 7.1 MOVING AROUND MERRI-BEK - FINAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR ADOPTION**

Council received 5 statements and 5 questions. The following 2 statements and 3 questions were presented to Council:

#### **Statement 1**

Nicholas Zull made the following statement:

I'm from Glenroy, and here to talk on behalf of the Merri-bek Bicycle User Group with regard to agenda item 7.1 Moving Around Merri-bek.

Firstly, it is great to read about Council's engagement with the north of Merri-bek and our community's keen interest in shaping our transport strategy. There are many good things about this Transport Strategy and I'd like to thank officers for their hard work. For example, we are happy to see the Streets for People framework and the use of Movement and Place and the Healthy Streets framework providing a more nuanced approach to issues facing people moving around Merri-bek as well as alignment to the state government's framework.

There is, however, one thing that we don't understand. The Draft Transport Strategy uses the language "need to drive", "need to use their car" etc on three separate occasions. This is despite the 2022 decision at Planning Panels (with respect to C212 and incorporating the MITS into the Planning Scheme ) to remove this phrase and replace it with more neutral language in both Amendment C212 and Strategic Direction 02-03-07 Transport.

This decision saw the phrase "need to drive" removed, recognising that for 40% or more of Merri-bek residents driving is not a choice, and that for many people, particularly the elderly, disabled, teenagers and those impacted by the growing transport affordability

crisis, modes such as walking, riding or public transport are more often the necessity. The neutral wording implemented by Planning Panels better describes the diversity of how people in Merri-bek move around and recognises the necessity of different modes to different people.

An example of this is seen in the following:

Replacing 'Planning for a transport network that:

- Caters for all ages, is accessible and equitable, including recognition that some people need to drive" With : Planning for a transport network that: Caters for all ages, is accessible and equitable for all road users. However, despite our submission to the Draft Transport Strategy process highlighting this, the Draft Transport Strategy has re-introduced these phrases, contradicting Amendment C212 and Strategic Direction 02-03-07 Transport.

We urge Council to remove the problematic wording and replace it with phrases in line with those preferenced in Amendment C212 and Strategic Direction 02-03-07 Transport, and, more importantly, better reflect the reality of transport choices for people in Merri-bek.

### **Question 1**

Claire Slattery commended Council's commitment to advocate for a safer Murray Road in the Merri-bek Transport Strategy and highlighted the very poor public transport in the Newlands area, in particular bus services including around Newlands Primary School and asked will the Council commit to advocating for improved transport services in the Newlands neighbourhood to the relevant authorities?

### **At the invitation of the Mayor, Cr Bolton responded:**

You are not the first person who has talked to me about the lack of bus services in Newland and I noticed reading through the transport strategy that is being presented to Council tonight, it mentions the lack of buses in Falkner, so I am proposing an amendment to include Newlands in there.

There are probably other areas that should be there as well, not just Newlands and Fawkner but certainly those two areas are public transport deserts, especially Newlands.

### **Statement 2**

Krista Heath made the following statement:

I am here representing the parents from Barry Beckett Children's Centre. Late last year, the management committee of the centre conducted an independent survey of parents from the centre and the key concern to come from the group was the traffic management along Murray Road. Many of our families walk and ride to the centre and find that crossing Murray Road with their young children is dangerous, regardless of where you cross.

The management committee has reviewed the state Victorian Road Safety Strategy and the Department of Transport Speed Zoning Technical Guidelines and will be writing to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Mellissa Horne and Minister for Public and Active Transport, Gabrielle Williams, requesting that the speed limit along Murray Road is reduced to 40km/h between Newlands Road and Elizabeth Street, due to the activities that take place along this stretch of road, including Barry Beckett Children's Centre, Newlands Pre-school, Newlands Senior Citizen's Centre, NECCHi Neighbourhood House, Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool, Coburg Table Tennis Club, Northern Region Sports Complex, Coburg Basketball Stadium, Coburg Harriers Athletic Club, Merri-Bek Maternal Child Health Nurses and Coburg High School. All of these services support vulnerable and unsupported road users.

### **Question 2**

Krista Heath asked: Will the Council formally support this proposal and endorse the letter?

### **At the request of the Mayor, Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow responded:**

We agree that current conditions along Murray Road pose safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. While speed limits are one way of helping to create a safer environment, Council believes a review of the road design, cross section, allocation of road space and use of the area behind the kerbs is required for Murray Road.

We have proposed an action in the transport strategy Action Plan, being considered tonight by Council, that includes:

Advocacy to the State Government to improve safety along Murray Road and around the Pentridge and Coburg High School areas for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly children travelling to school.

### **Question 3**

Andrea Bunting asked: What are the obstacles to getting a reduced speed limit on collector roads, and what can Council do to overcome these obstacles? If there is an issue with the state government, then what is Council's advocacy around this?

7.40 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting

7.41 pm Cr Davidson returned to the meeting

### **At the request of the Mayor, Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow responded:**

Thank you for your question about reducing speed limits on collector roads.

As you may be aware, the process to reducing the posted speed limit on a given street involves an application to, and approval from, the Department of Transport and Planning. This process, and implementation works for successful applications is resource intensive for Council.

We are currently in the process of rolling out 40km/h across all local roads in Merri-bek. We expect this work to be completed by mid-year.

We also have actions in the transport strategy Action Plan to advocate to the state government to include 30km/h in the Victorian Government's Speed Zoning Technical Guidelines, Achievement of speed zoning on arterial and sub-arterial roads in Merri-bek and to request funding to conduct a 30km/h trial. These actions will be our primary focus for speed limits following completion of the 40km/h roll-out.

Following completion of these actions related to speed limits, we will then consider any new actions to ameliorate speed limits on other streets in the transport strategy's next action plan, to be developed later this year and presented to Council in the first half of 2025.

## **REPORT 7.7 DRAFT HOMELESS STRATEGY**

2 Questions were received from Pia Herbert.

1. Does Council have an official move-on policy for people experiencing homelessness, and can you detail how it is enforced.
2. What is Council's current policy on ensuring affordable and social housing in Merri-bek? Is Council working with neighbouring municipalities and state government through any formal mechanism?

### **At the request of the Mayor, Director Community, Eamonn Fennessy responded:**

Council doesn't have a 'move-on' policy. Council acknowledges that homelessness is a complex issue, at the core of what we do is people's dignity and human rights particularly those who are homeless or who are rough sleeping.

Our Draft Homelessness Strategy outlines the approach that we take and really that is about homelessness including intervention, advocacy, education and prevention. Very practically where someone is sleeping rough, we will engage with specialist support services like Vincent Care or Merri Outreach Support Service.

In December 2022, Council endorsed its 4-year Affordable Housing Action Plan, which includes actions that Council will take to increase the supply of social and affordable housing in Merri-bek. In addition, in 2018, Council established its own independent company, now known as Merri-bek Affordable Housing to deliver affordable housing outcomes. In 2021 Council resolved to gift a piece of land to Merri-bek Affordable Housing for a social housing development and Council are awaiting news from the State Government about a grant application to help fund the development, which will see 39 new social housing units built in Brunswick.

Council works closely with Homes Victoria and other state government agencies to increase social and affordable housing and we have seen investment from the State Government of \$210 million - a pipeline of more than 500 new social housing homes. We also work across local government through the M9 group of councils and the Inter Council Affordable Housing Forum.

## **REPORT 7.12 2023/24 MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT**

Council received 5 questions. The following question was presented to Council.

Peter Fisher asked: I would like to better understand the decisions and costs associated with deviation from the endorsed Hosken Reserve Precinct Masterplan which underwent a costly and extensive community consultation process.

These includes 3 points of decision and costs regarding:

1. Excess topsoil removed from the soccer field and repurposed within the precinct: Two large mounds have been created using the excess topsoil removed from the soccer field. These serve spectators. They are not featured on the endorsed masterplan. They impose a substantial soccer field footprint increase within limited public space and impact specifically on space designated as community open space in the endorsed masterplan.
2. Duplicative function of mounds and fence: Council approved the construction of fences around the soccer field in accordance with Football Victoria's NPL pitch specifications; however, the soil mounds provide a natural barrier enclosing the pitch and this duplicates the functional purpose of the fence. Functional duplication will have a cost impact associated with materials, labour and construction.
3. Impact on community open space including loss of shared space and safety and privacy issues: The masterplan indicates the provision of community open space and the mound to the east encroaches on this designated space significantly. This is not in line with the endorsed plan and outcome of the costly community consultation. Safety within the precinct is diminished with less visibility across the precinct. In addition, the mounds hinder precinct access for elderly or people who require mobility aides and raise privacy issues for residents adjacent Hosken Reserve.

Could the Council via the CEO please respond to the three points regarding:

(a) the lack of transparency of decisions where a deviation from the endorsed masterplan has occurred?

(b) the costs associated with these decisions, including the functional purpose of the mound within designated community space?

Finally, is the CEO and Council satisfied with the consultation, planning, construction and public value of the costs associated with deviations from the endorsed masterplan in light of increased access, safety and privacy issues?

7.57 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting.

**At the request of the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson responded:**

Council has been implementing the plan in accordance with the Hosken Reserve Masterplan plan. We have had to value manage the project, the mounds have been part of a way that we have saved ratepayer money on the project.

My understanding is that the project manager has been keeping residents in good touch with what's been happening, I apologise if that's not the case.

We have been transparent in terms of reports to Council with where the costs are at, including in the financial report tonight.

**Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow responded:**

The topsoil removed from the north soccer field was in accordance with the plan, there has been no change. The mounded area where the soil has been deposited has been a cost saving of \$250,000, that would have to be paid to dispose of the soil elsewhere.

The mound provides a viewing function in the direction of the soccer field and also in the direction of the passive recreation area on the other side. It is not intended to be a barrier to stop balls for example or to stop players coming onto the ground, the fence is still required.

To address your second point the NPL pitch specifications do require a fence with mesh or a chain to the ground, having a mound nearby is not intended to play that role.

**Question Time Extension**

**Resolution**

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Riley seconded:**

**That public question time be extended by 30 minutes at 7.28 pm.**

**Carried**

The height of the mound on the eastern side of the pitch is about 1.5 metres high and is contained in the area between the path and the pitch. There is still quite a large passive recreation area that has been created and that path was always part of the plan.

The mound on the western side of the pitch is between 1.8 metres to 2 metres high and is contained between the path leading to the car park and the soccer pitch. Those areas would likely contain spectators if there were no mounds there anyway, in some ways it's just a different location.

You reference privacy concerns for residents adjacent to Hosken Reserve, and I want to assure you that our project manager has been talking with residents who have raised those concerns and are able to think through some solutions such as additional fencing, if that's required.

I am confident that Council has been briefed on this implementation of this master plan. Along the way we have been briefing Council and public value has been driving all of our decisions about the master plan implementation.

*8.02 pm Cr Davidson returned to the meeting.*

**REPORT 7.13 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MARCH 2024 - CYCLICAL REPORT**

A question was received relating to this item which was taken on notice.

**REPORT 7.14 REVIEW OF INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION COUNCIL TO COUNCIL STAFF**

1 question was received by Marion Attwater.

The question relates to the review of the Instrument of Delegation to members of council staff. Why isn't the S5 delegation to the CEO being reviewed regularly, as per the recommendations in the Maddocks biennial subscription service?



**At the request of the Mayor, Director Business Transformation, Sue Vujcevic responded:**

The Instrument of Delegation which relates to the delegation of power from Council to the Chief Executive Officer, is known in the Maddocks Delegation Subscription Service as the S5. This Instrument of Delegation is normally reviewed when there are amendments to section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, or within the 12 months following a general election. Further to this Council can determine to amend its delegation to the Chief Executive Officer at any time, should the need arise.

**REPORT 7.15 PROCUREMENT POLICY, COMMUNITY FLAG SCHEDULE AND NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS**

Council received 1 question and 1 statement.

**Question**

Halima Bayahow asked: That in light of the recent ICJ opening investigations into Israel committing plausible genocide, will Merri-bek Council boycott and divest from entities that are contributing to genocide?

**At the request of the Mayor, Director Business Transformation, Sue Vujcevic responded:**

Council will determine an option in relation to its procurement policy and the Community Flag Schedule and other matters associated with the war in Gaza during tonight's meeting.

**Statement**

Halima Bayahow read their statement.

Thank you respected Councillors for allowing me to speak today make this statement and it is still regarding the passing of the Pro-Palestine motion, continuing to raise the Palestinian flag.

As you are aware, the Muslim community is observing Ramadan. The month of Ramadan has started, and Muslim communities throughout Merri-bek, as well as throughout the whole of Australia and the diaspora are deeply pained by what the residents of Gaza are being made to face.

Ramadan this year, focussing on prayers and sharing meals and sending a lot of charity and stems from a deep grief and pain, seeing the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza in particular.

Also as a black person, and as coming from people who have been the most prosecuted in humanities history, we feel very connected to the Palestinian struggle we know genocides we know discrimination, and we know slavery. This is why I have come here to urge Councillors to stand with Palestine, because it is the human thing to do.

It was a civil society and individuals that ultimately led to apartheid practices from being stopped. It was a civil society and council support that allowed Ukraine to be helped, it was also the civil society and council's that ended slavery. Even the example of the financial slavery of black people ending in 2015 in UK being the most prominent yes in 2015, just eight years ago. Whilst slavery was abolished in the 1800s, in 1833 Britain used 40% of its national budget to buy freed and full slaves in the Empire. The amount of money borrowed for the Slavery Abolishing Act was so large that it wasn't paid off until 2015. Which means that living British citizens helped pay to end the slave trade. Plus it's like collective responsibility to ensure we stand for the oppressed, and do what we can.

Raising the Palestinian flag does not only show solidarity, but it also stops systematic oppressions, and suppressions. Residents can raise their concerns about the continuing death toll, they can speak about the humanitarian crisis, and, as an extension of their humanity can play a part in stopping these injustices, occupation, apartheid and genocide have no place in our world. Humanity has paid a very, very high price with a continuation

of subjugation, even after oppressive systems have been abolished. As Malcolm X said, “a threat to injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere.” We have seen enough desecration of residential blocks, we have seen enough cruelty in Gaza. Communities just like us are suffering, who have no weapons, who pose no threats.

It's essential that we stand for them in listening to concerned residents and passing this motion Merri-bek Council is standing up for fundamental rights, it is standing up for the values it represents, end the cruelty and the genocide, free Palestine.

8.20 pm Cr Conlan left the meeting.

## **QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT THE MEETING**

2 questions were received.

1. Colin Consiglio asked: How does Council accommodate people who cannot write, when they want to contest a parking fine?

8.20 pm Cr Conlan returned to the meeting.

### **At the request of the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson responded:**

In relation to how Council supports people with varying degrees of literacy or who may be illiterate, I am very happy to meet with you at some point in relation to that broader matter about how do we support people that need that help.

2. Stephen Schembri asked: Has any decision been made on developing the carpark at the Safeway/Coles carpark and if yes, what is the decision?

### **The Mayor, Cr Pulford, responded:**

Council owns a whole bunch of land in central Coburg, including the carpark you talked about. Recently we went out to the community and asked them, what do they want to see in that area.

Council has broadly set a vision of more housing given we are in a housing crisis, and particularly more social and affordable housing as more and more people are in housing stress or homeless.

At our April meeting, we will officially accept the report about what we heard from the community, and we will set some broad objectives for the bits of land that Council owns in Coburg.

It's the start of a long process, so there haven't been decisions made on that. This will be the first decision and then there will be a lot more work that needs to happen over the next couple of years. Particularly the next year, before what we have heard from the community is instilled into a bit of a plan about actually what will this plan look like, and what could this be host to and what could this site look like. There are various sites we need to think about, so at this point there are no clear plans, we are still just kind of digesting what we heard.

At the April meeting, there will be more information about what we heard and some kind of broad objectives over the course of the year, and coming years there will be more steps and more chance for community consultation.

## **Non-agenda items: Questions**

### **• Public Questions Taken on Notice**

Council received 5 further questions that were taken on notice as follows relating to:

- The November 2023 Notice of Motion 8.2 Gaza.
- Reduce speed limit on Stockade Avenue.
- Apologies/Leave of Absence

*Public Question Time concluded at 8.21 pm.*

## **ALTER THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That the order of business be altered, and Council considers the following items first, before returning to the order of items as printed in the agenda:**

- 1. 7.15 Procurement Policy, Community Flag Schedule and National General Assembly of Local Government matters.**
- 2. 8.1 Signing of Statement on Palestine.**
- 3. 8.5 Illiteracy, human rights and Council processes.**

**Carried**

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

*8.24 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting.*

### **7.15 PROCUREMENT POLICY, COMMUNITY FLAG SCHEDULE AND NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS**

#### **Executive Summary**

This report responds to the resolution at the Council Meeting on 8 November 2023 which related to matters associated with the war in Gaza.

This report has been prepared by Council staff in order to provide options for Councillor consideration. The report does not itself make a recommendation. This report:

1. Sets out a possible amendment for Council's procurement policy, which would include prohibition of entering into future purchasing or contracts with suppliers who manufacture or benefit from the production of military weapons used in war or to harm civilians. The draft wording does not identify specific conflicts or nations.
2. Sets out options for application of the Community Flag Schedule after May 2024.
3. Sets out a proposed motion for submission to the National General Assembly of Local Governments, as proposed by a Councillor.
4. Includes a confidential attachment setting out information for Councillors in relation to existing contract/s.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Determines an option in relation to Procurement Policy.
2. Determines an option in relation to the Community Flag Schedule for application after May 2024.
3. Considers whether the motion provided in Attachment 3 should be submitted to the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government meeting.
4. Notes the confidential information in response to the 8 November 2023 Council resolution in relation to specific contract/s.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. Amends the Procurement Policy in relation to future contracts and purchases by adopting Option A: "Council is committed to ensuring Council purchases goods and services from suppliers not engaged in manufacturing, supplying, distribution, benefitting and/or associated with nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons, landmines, cluster munitions and other weapons used in war and to harm civilians."**
- 2. Adopts Option B for the Community Flag Schedule after May 2024 to continue the current flag arrangements for flying the Palestinian flag at Coburg Civic Centre until a permanent ceasefire is declared, at which point revert to usual Community Flag Schedule and fly the Palestinian flag on key dates including 15 November (Independence Day) and 29 November (International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People). In addition, fly the Pride flag from a temporary flagpole in the foyer of the Coburg Civic Centre on key dates including 31 March (Transgender Day of Visibility) and 17 May (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia)".**
- 3. Requests the Australian Local Government Association invite a speaker from either Australian Palestine Advocacy Network or the Palestinian Delegation to Australia and New Zealand to address the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Governments.**
- 4. Endorses a proposed motion for submission to the National General Assembly of Local Governments, as proposed by a Councillor. The motion to read:**

**ALGA Mourns the tragic and horrific loss of civilian lives in the conflict in Gaza and condemns all attacks that target civilians. This pain resonates deeply worldwide and within our communities across Australia.**

**ALGA calls on the Australian government to help stop the starvation of people in Gaza by immediately restoring funding to UNRWA and doubling the funding**

**ALGA also calls on the Australian government to advance the cause of peace by calling for:**

  - an immediate and permanent ceasefire**
  - the immediate lifting of the siege to allow an unlimited supply of all of the essentials of life to be delivered to people in Gaza**
  - ending any weapons sales to Israel and ending any deals with weapons companies that supply weapons to the Israeli military.**
  - Urge all parties to uphold international law, including decisions of the International Court of Justice.**
- 5. Provide immediate support of up to \$10,000 to faith, cultural and asylum seeker organisations to assist in their support of recently arrived families from Palestine in Merri-bek.**
- 6. Continues to investigate existing contracts that may be linked to the war in Gaza and provide a further briefing to Councillors regarding options and recommended next steps.**
- 7. Liaise and further consult with the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network on matters related to the war in Gaza.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 8.1 SIGNING OF STATEMENT ON PALESTINE

### Motion

That Council signs on to the Statement by Current and former Australian Elected Representatives on the Situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in support of an immediate, permanent ceasefire and a just and lasting peace:

[Link to the Statement and full list of signatories](#)

### Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Conlan seconded -

**That Council signs on to the Statement by Current and former Australian Elected Representatives on the Situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in support of an immediate, permanent ceasefire and a just and lasting peace:**

[Link to the Statement and full list of signatories](#)

Carried unanimously

## 8.5 ILLITERACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COUNCIL PROCESSES

### Motion

That Council:

1. Reviews its processes and practices to ensure that the rights of people who have learning or cognitive disabilities and who may not be able to read and write, are not discriminated against in their interactions with Council.
2. Requests officers investigate measures which can be taken to ensure that people who have learning or cognitive disabilities and who may not be able to read and write are able to exercise their rights to make a complaint or ask for a review of a council decision or have input into a Council consultation process.
3. Reviews any complaints where an issue of discrimination on the basis of a learning or cognitive disabilities, including illiteracy, may apply.

### Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -

That Council:

1. **Reviews its processes and practices to ensure that the rights of people who have learning or cognitive disabilities and who may not be able to read and write, are not discriminated against in their interactions with Council.**
2. **Requests officers investigate measures which can be taken to ensure that people who have learning or cognitive disabilities and who may not be able to read and write are able to exercise their rights to make a complaint or ask for a review of a council decision or have input into a Council consultation process.**
3. **Reviews any complaints where an issue of discrimination on the basis of a learning or cognitive disabilities, including illiteracy, may apply.**

Carried unanimously

## 7.1 MOVING AROUND MERRI-BEK - FINAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR ADOPTION

### Executive Summary

The Draft Transport Strategy, *Moving Around Merri-bek* was endorsed to be released for consultation at Council's November 2023 meeting, and feedback was invited for six weeks from 13 November. This was the final stage of consultation after extensive engagement with the community earlier in 2023.

A total of 255 people completed a survey asking for feedback on the draft documents, including 47 surveys completed in a language other than English. Another 12 people provided direct submissions via email. Council held a Hearing of Submissions at the Coburg Civic Centre on Tuesday 30 January at 6:30pm, where 12 people presented.

Following this round of feedback, we included up-to-date data on road safety in Merri-bek, included an overall Movement and Place classification map in the strategy, and developed a map to highlight actions in the Action Plan that have a specific location. Additional actions were included in the Action Plan, including:

- A Revitalising Sydney Road advocacy campaign
- A Reconnecting Sydney Road project to improve walking, cycling, and place outcomes along streets that connect to Sydney Road
- Better integrating capital works improvements with our Ride and Stride program.

The final Transport Strategy, *Moving Around Merri-bek*, is laid out in three sections. The first section sets out the proposed vision and six values. These values guide the way Council manages and make changes to our transport system. The values are: safe, accessible, sustainable, liveable, healthy, and inclusive. Each value includes a description of that value and translates it to more detailed strategic objectives.

The second section is the Transport System. This is an adaptation from the framework outlined in the *Transport Integration Act 2010*. It has been adapted to better fit the local government context. The Transport System consists of distinct transport network layers that integrate to enable people to move around the city and to meet their daily transport needs. The objectives and actions related to this section will be informed and guided by the vision and values of the strategy.

The transport network layers include: pedestrian, cycling, public transport (trains, trams, and buses), driving (including parking and freight), and land-use. Each section details the planned approach for supporting the functions of that mode as well as the actions proposed to achieve the relevant objectives.

The third section is titled 'Streets for People'. It outlines a new approach for selecting, analysing, designing, and delivering streetscape improvements across the transport system. The intention is to approach transport capital works projects in a more holistic way that considers improvements to all modes of transport, urban design, and the natural environment. Council will develop and refine our Streets for People design approach using the existing street improvement projects that are confirmed in the 2024/2025 Capital Works Program, such as Victoria Street, Harding and Munro Streets and Albert Street that were referred to the 2024/2025 Budget process at the Council Meeting on 18 October 2023, for Making it Safer and Easier to Walk and Ride in Merri-bek.

An Action Plan accompanies *Moving Around Merri-bek* as a separate but linked document. The Action Plan outlines practical actions in the immediate term (2024/2025) and foreshadows actions beyond that year (2025+) to apply the values and achieve objectives outlined in the strategy. The Action Plan follows the same heading structure as the strategy. It has been designed this way so the community can easily read and compare the two documents.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses as final the Transport Strategy *Moving Around Merri-bek* (Attachment 1) and associated Action Plan (Attachment 2)
2. Refers to the 2024/25 Budget Process funding requests for the following two Action Plan items:
  - a) \$50,000 for expert advice to prepare a business case for pedestrian operated signals;
  - b) \$130,000 for development of a Streets for People plan.
3. Authorises the Director City Infrastructure to make minor editorial changes in finalising the documents for publication that do not change the meaning of the Strategy or Action Plan.
4. Notes the Community Engagement Report (Attachment 3) detailing the methodology and findings of community engagement, including from the Hearing of Submissions, on the *Moving Around Merri-bek* transport strategy and Action Plan.

## Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Conlan seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorses as final the Transport Strategy Moving Around Merri-bek (Attachment 1) and associated Action Plan (Attachment 2) with the following changes:**
  - a) **Attachment 1 on page 5 delete the following sentence “We will continue to make sure those who need to drive are able to reach their destinations” and replace it with “We will make sure that trips not suited to walking, riding or public transport can still be made.”**
  - b) **Attachment 1 on page 39, amend “It is a key local door to door transport service that support people who are unable to drive or use public transport.” To read “It is a key local door to door transport service that support people who are unable to travel to local destinations independently.”**
  - c) **Attachment 1 on page 40 truncate the sentence “We need to make sure our driving network is safe for all road users and ensure that those who need to use a car, for personal use or freight delivery, are able to.” So that it reads “We need to make sure our driving network is safe and accessible for all road users.”**
  - d) **Attachment 1 on page 42, delete the dot point “People who need to use their car are supported” and replace with “The transport needs of businesses for freight consignment and deliveries are met” and add a new point “The access needs of people who experience transport disadvantage are met.”**
  - e) **Attachment 1 on page 39, add to “Improve bus services in Fawkner” the extra words “and the Newlands area of Coburg North”**
2. **Refers to the 2024/25 Budget Process funding requests for the following two Action Plan items:**
  - a) **\$50,000 for expert advice to prepare a business case for pedestrian operated signals;**
  - b) **\$130,000 for development of a Streets for People plan.**
3. **Authorises the Director City Infrastructure to make minor editorial changes in finalising the documents for publication that do not change the meaning of the Strategy or Action Plan.**
4. **Notes the Community Engagement Report (Attachment 3) detailing the methodology and findings of community engagement, including from the Hearing of Submissions, on the Moving Around Merri-bek transport strategy and Action Plan**
5. **Notes that Council is collecting traffic volume and speed data on Stockade Avenue and Pentridge Boulevard in Coburg, which will inform Council’s submission to the Department of Transport and Planning to advocate for reconsideration of speed limits, and that Council will also investigate the travel patterns of concrete trucks using the route and then work with consigners and receivers of the material in the vicinity on ways to minimise their impact on residential amenity.**

8.56 pm *Cr Davidson returned to the meeting prior to the vote.*

**Carried unanimously**



## 7.2 TRIAL ROAD CLOSURES - PEARSON STREET, BRUNSWICK WEST AND BARROW STREET, COBURG

### Executive Summary

The Draft Moving Around Merri-bek Strategy (2023) identifies key values and actions for making streets and in Merri-bek Safe, Accessible, Sustainable, Healthy, Liveable, and Inclusive. To meet the objectives tied to the values of Safe, Healthy, Sustainable and Liveable, Council officers identified opportunities for restricting private vehicle movement on streets that meet the following criteria:

- Streets with strong year-on-year growth due to rat-running.
- Local streets on strategic cycling corridors or which will complete 'missing links' in the cycling network.
- Areas where we want to encourage people to linger and spend time.

While there are several streets that would meet this criteria, Council Officers are restricted by the rigorous process required for trialling, consulting, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on these treatments in line with the Road Management Act 2004. Therefore, opportunities to undertake these treatments are carefully considered against the criteria above. To address key community safety concerns and the new objectives detailed in the Draft Moving Around Merri-bek Strategy, Council Officers have identified two local roads to proceed with a trial road closure treatment which also support safe access to local schools. These sites are Pearson Street, Brunswick West at the intersection of Albion Street, and Barrow Street at the intersection of Harding Street, Coburg.

Pearson Street, Brunswick West is classified as a local road between Albion Street and Hope Street and as a collector road between Hope Street and Dawson Street. It is adjacent to Brunswick North Primary School and is a known rat-run for drivers providing an alternative north-south connection for drivers travelling between Dawson Street and Bell Street, allowing drivers to avoid Melville Road and Sydney Road. Pearson Street is also a recommended on-road bicycle route for cyclists with line-marked bicycle sharrows. Council is proposing a road closure on Pearson Street, Brunswick West, at the intersection with Albion Street, from Albion Street to a point up to 8 metres further south.

Barrow Street, Coburg, is classified as a local road and runs north-south between Bell Street and Moreland Road. Similar to Pearson Street it provides an alternative north-south route for drivers avoiding Sydney Road and is a known rat-run. Barrow Street forms part of the East Brunswick Shimmy bicycle route with line-marked bicycle sharrows. Barrow Street provides access to the gates of St Bernards Primary School and is an important bicycle and pedestrian link for students attending Coburg High School. Council is proposing a road closure on Barrow Street, Coburg, at the intersection with Harding Street, from Harding Street to a point up to 8 metres further south.

The trial road closures will reduce rat-running through these local roads, support school active travel and improve existing bicycle routes while maintaining local access for residents within the sections of road closures. The closures will create a safer road environment for the most vulnerable road users including pedestrians and cyclists by reducing vehicle volumes and speeds.

In order to proceed with the road closures at these location, Clause 10, Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) grants the power to Council to place barriers on a road temporarily for a genuine traffic diversion experiment. Section 207A of that Act requires that the Section 223 public consultation procedure be followed enabling public submissions to be considered prior to any Council decision.

The Act also requires Council to consider a report from the Department of Transport and Planning on the proposal.

If the trial is successful, a further Section 223 process would be required prior to any permanent road closure. This will enable the community to consider the impacts of the temporary road closure with a further opportunity provided for submissions before a final decision on any permanent road closure.

Council officers are recommending that Council commences the trial road closures at Pearson Street south of Albion Street and Barrow Street south of Harding Street.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the commencement of the process under Section 207, Schedule 11, Clause 10(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989* to erect temporary barriers at the following locations:
  - a) Pearson Street, Brunswick West, at the intersection with Albion Street, from Albion Street to a point up to 8 metres further south,
  - b) Barrow Street, Coburg, at the intersection with Harding Street, from Harding Street to a point up to 8 metres further southto block the passage of vehicles other than bicycles, for the purpose of a genuine traffic diversion experiment.
2. Gives public notice of the traffic diversion experiment proposals and calls for submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* as required by Section 207A of the *Act*, in *The Age*, on Council's website and to owners and occupiers of all properties in the following areas:
  - a) For the Pearson Street trial closure, the area as shown in Attachment 1.
  - b) For the Barrow Street trial closure, the area as shown in Attachment 2.
3. Appoints the Mayor as Chair, and Councillors \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to a Committee to hear any submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to set the date and time and location for the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting following consultation with the appointed Councillors and submitters requesting to be heard.
5. Following the consultation process, receives a report outlining any submissions received, including a summary of any Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held, in relation to the proposed traffic diversion experiment and the report from the Department of Transport and Planning on the proposal, with a recommendation on whether to proceed.

## Motion

Cr Riley moved, Cr Conlan seconded -

That Council:

1. Approves the commencement of the process under Section 207, Schedule 11, Clause 10(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989* to erect temporary barriers at the following locations:
  - a) Pearson Street, Brunswick West, at the intersection with Albion Street, from Albion Street to a point up to 8 metres further south,
  - b) Barrow Street, Coburg, at the intersection with Harding Street, from Harding Street to a point up to 8 metres further southto block the passage of vehicles other than bicycles, for the purpose of a genuine traffic diversion experiment.

2. Gives public notice of the traffic diversion experiment proposals and calls for submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 as required by Section 207A of the Act, in The Age, on Council's website and to owners and occupiers of all properties in the following areas:
  - a) For the Pearson Street trial closure, the area as shown in Attachment 1.
  - b) For the Barrow Street trial closure, the area as shown in Attachment 2.
3. Appoints the Mayor as Chair, and Councillors Bolton, Conlan and Riley to a Committee to hear any submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to set the date and time and location for the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting following consultation with the appointed Councillors and submitters requesting to be heard.
5. Following the consultation process, receives a report outlining any submissions received, including a summary of any Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held, in relation to the proposed traffic diversion experiment and the report from the Department of Transport and Planning on the proposal, with a recommendation on whether to proceed.

9.07 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting during the debate.

9.08 pm Cr Tapinos entered the meeting during the debate.

9.09 pm Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan entered the meeting during the debate.

### Amendment

Cr Tapinos moved -

That Pearson Street be removed from the Motion.

**Lapsed for want of seconder**

9.12 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting prior to the vote.

The Motion was put to the vote.

**Lost**

**Cr Panopoulos called for a division.**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Cr Pulford	Cr Davidson	Cr Bolton
Cr Panopoulos	Cr Yildiz	
Cr Conlan	Cr Carli Hannan	
Cr Riley	Cr Tapinos	
<b>Total For (4)</b>	<b>Total Against (4)</b>	<b>Total Abstain (1)</b>

## 7.3 NAMING A PLACE AT 33 SAXON STREET, BRUNSWICK - PROPOSED SHORTLIST

### Executive Summary

Council is the owner of the land at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick (shortly to have its address updated to 15 Phoenix Street Brunswick). A locality map is shown in Attachment 1.

The site is currently undergoing a revitalisation process which will deliver a purpose built cultural and community space for creative individuals, artists, organisations and for the Brunswick community. It is anticipated that works will be completed late 2024, at which time it will re-open with a new name. This report proposes a shortlist of names for the community to vote upon.

A separate, formal registered name for the new park areas that are being created is not being proposed, because the open space is not one contiguous space. Rather it is being created in several distinct sections, in an integrated way with the buildings in the precinct, in a campus-style configuration. This makes formal registration challenging. Informal names can however be used for each of these open space areas.

At a Council meeting held on 10 November 2021, Council resolved to commence the naming process for the cultural and community space at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick.

A public consultation seeking naming suggestions was listed on Council's website, Conversations Merri-bek, and letters were sent to surrounding properties for a period of over 30 days until 11 October 2023 and further extended to 31 October 2023. The consultation period was extended to allow additional time to collect more submissions.

Indigenous names were also sought from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for inclusion.

From the consultation, twenty-eight submissions were received. The names collected from the community consultation processes can be viewed in Attachment 2.

Six names have been selected as meeting mandatory Naming Rules and Council's preference criteria for this new precinct. More names were put forward that met the criteria: the shortlist of six represents the names that have the strongest connection to the future use of the site. Suffixes of 'arts precinct', 'arts centre' or 'arts hub' have been selected according to which scans best with the proposed name.

Council will next consult with the community to understand their preferences via a voting poll. The names proposed to be included in the voting poll are:

- Brunswick Arts Precinct
- Brunswick Arts Hub
- Doleen Arts Hub, which means 'pride' in Woi Wurrung language
- Balam Balam Arts Centre, which means 'butterfly' in Woi Wurrung language
- Dorrong Arts Precinct, which means 'heart' in Woi Wurrung language
- Leonard French Arts Hub, commemorating a celebrated Brunswick-born artist

The proposed process for carrying out the poll is in accordance with the State Government Naming Rules.

Access to the poll will be via Council's Conversations website and written responses via email or letter will also be accepted.

Once voting is complete, a further report will be presented to Council with the results and a recommendation for a new name to be proposed.

Any names proposed through the process that meet Council's preference criteria for naming, but that are not selected as the final registered name, can be referred on for consideration in naming features within the precinct, such as areas of open space, rooms, galleries or buildings.

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Having invited the community to put forward suggestions for a name for the new development at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick, establishes a voting poll on Council's Conversations Merri-bek website, and notifies submitters, and the owners and occupiers of surrounding properties.

2. Endorses, for inclusion in a voting poll, the following Place names for 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick (now known as 15 Phoenix Street Brunswick):
  - a) *Brunswick Arts Precinct*
  - b) *Brunswick Arts Hub*
  - c) *Doleen Arts Hub*
  - d) *Balam Balam Arts Centre*
  - e) *Dorrong Arts Precinct*
  - f) *Leonard French Arts Hub*
3. Receives a further report with the results of the voting poll, with a recommendation for Council to adopt a Place name for 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick.
4. Refers all compliant names proposed through the process, which are not selected as the adopted name, to the precinct manager of 33 Saxon Street for consideration for naming of spaces, galleries, rooms or buildings throughout the precinct.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Riley moved, Cr Tapinos seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Having invited the community to put forward suggestions for a name for the new development at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick, establishes a voting poll on Council's Conversations Merri-bek website, and notifies submitters, and the owners and occupiers of surrounding properties.**
2. **Endorses, for inclusion in a voting poll, the following Place names for 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick (now known as 15 Phoenix Street Brunswick):**
  - a) **Brunswick Arts Precinct**
  - b) **Brunswick Arts Hub**
  - c) **Doleen Arts Hub**
  - d) **Balam Balam Arts Centre**
  - e) **Dorrong Arts Precinct**
  - f) **Leonard French Arts Hub**
3. **Receives a further report with the results of the voting poll, with a recommendation for Council to adopt a Place name for 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick.**
4. **Refers all compliant names proposed through the process, which are not selected as the adopted name, to the precinct manager of 33 Saxon Street for consideration for naming of spaces, galleries, rooms or buildings throughout the precinct.**

**Carried**

## **7.4 NAMING THE PARK AT 14 FRITH STREET, BRUNSWICK - PROPOSED SHORTLIST**

### **Executive Summary**

A new park is being created at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick as part of Council's 'Park Close to Home' project. A locality plan is shown in Attachment 1. This report proposes a shortlist of names for the community to vote upon.

An initial consultation commenced on 5 June 2023 until 30 June 2023 seeking naming suggestions for the new park. A further consultation was undertaken 18 August 2023 until 14 September 2023 to seek additional names. The consultation was listed on Council's website, Conversations Merri-bek, and letters were sent to surrounding properties.

From the consultations, nineteen (19) submissions were received. The names collected from the community consultation processes can be viewed in Attachment 2.

Council officers re-consulted with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for the proposed use of an indigenous name from previous naming projects for this park and permission has been granted.

Five (5) names have been selected that meet the mandatory Naming Rules and Council's preference criteria for this park.

Council will next consult with the community to understand their preferences via a voting poll. The names proposed to be included in the voting poll are:

- Yubup Park
- Foundry Park
- Fletcher Jones Park
- Franco Cozzo Park
- Fabbrica Park

The proposed process for carrying out the poll is in accordance with the Naming Rules.

Access to the poll will be via Council's Conversations website and written responses via email or letter will also be accepted.

Once voting is complete, a further report will be presented to Council with the results and a recommendation for a new name to be proposed.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Having invited the community to put forward suggestions for names for a new park at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick, establishes a voting poll on Council's Conversations Merri-bek website and notifies submitters and the owners and occupiers of the surrounding properties.
2. Endorses, for inclusion in a voting poll the following names for the new park at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick:
  - a) Yubup Park
  - b) Foundry Park
  - c) Fletcher Jones Park
  - d) Franco Cozzo Park
  - e) Fabbrica Park
3. Receives a further report with the results of the voting poll and a recommendation for Council to adopt a name for the park at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick.

## Resolution

Cr Riley moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -

That Council:

1. Having invited the community to put forward suggestions for names for a new park at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick, establishes a voting poll on Council's Conversations Merri-bek website and notifies submitters and the owners and occupiers of the surrounding properties.
2. Endorses, for inclusion in a voting poll the following names for the new park at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick:
  - a) Yubup Park
  - b) Foundry Park
  - c) Fletcher Jones Park
  - d) Franco Cozzo Park
  - e) Fabbrica Park
3. Receives a further report with the results of the voting poll and a recommendation for Council to adopt a name for the park at 14 Frith Street, Brunswick.

9.34 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting during the debate.

9.34 pm Cr Davidson returned to the meeting prior to the vote.

Carried unanimously

## 7.5 LAND ADJACENT TO BRUNSWICK BATHS - OPTIONS FOR FUTURE USE

### Executive Summary

Council purchased a former school site at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick in 2010. In 2012, 800sqm of the site was annexed and subdivided to become part of the redeveloped Brunswick Baths. The building in this area, the North-West Building, has not been considered in the scope of the 33 Saxon Street project.

The Saxon Street concept plan endorsed by Council at its November 2021 meeting, notates the space that the North-West Building occupies as 'potential future Baths extension'. The building is adjacent to the existing Brunswick Baths gym facility.

The potential for future use of the North-West Building is being investigated as a separate opportunity. This scoping has been accelerated due to recent interest in the Saxon Street site by arts organisations who have approached Council seeking space.

There is a need to understand the municipal needs, community benefits and costs of establishing the North-West Building for recreational use (expansion of Brunswick Baths) or arts and culture use.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes that the endorsed concept plan for the 33 Saxon Street hub identified the footprint of the North-West building (fronting onto Phoenix Street) as being for potential use for future expansion of Brunswick Baths.

2. Acknowledges that if the North-West building is not retained for future aquatics and leisure purposes, the likely best use of the site would be an arts related usage which preferably also increases activation of the site.
3. Commissions cost estimates for repurposing the building for arts use, and for Brunswick Baths Health Club (gym) use.
4. Undertakes a targeted market sounding during April 2024 to investigate if there are destination arts tenancies who can provide capital investment to repurpose and activate the building.
5. Receives a report in June 2024 that outlines the comparative benefits, risks, costs and community impact of Aquatics and Leisure or arts and culture usage including the options of:
  - a) Expansion of Brunswick Baths Health Club extension
  - b) Destination arts venue
  - c) Making space (affordable arts).

## **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes that the endorsed concept plan for the 33 Saxon Street hub identified the footprint of the North-West building (fronting onto Phoenix Street) as being for potential use for future expansion of Brunswick Baths.**
2. **Acknowledges that if the North-West building is not retained for future aquatics and leisure purposes, the likely best use of the site would be an arts related usage which preferably also increases activation of the site.**
3. **Commissions cost estimates for repurposing the building for arts use, and for Brunswick Baths Health Club (gym) use.**
4. **Undertakes a targeted market sounding during April 2024 to investigate if there are destination arts tenancies who can provide capital investment to repurpose and activate the building.**
5. **Receives a report in June 2024 that outlines the comparative benefits, risks, costs and community impact of Aquatics and Leisure or arts and culture usage including the options of:**
  - a) **Expansion of Brunswick Baths Health Club extension**
  - b) **Destination arts venue**
  - c) **Making space (affordable arts).**

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.6 33 SAXON STREET, BRUNSWICK - USER AND TENANCY FRAMEWORK**

### **Executive Summary**

In 2010, Council acquired the former school site at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick. Whilst long term plans were considered for the future of the buildings, a temporary use was implemented called Siteworks, which provided affordable space for local creatives, community organisations, and events.



In 2017, a Strategic Framework was endorsed to guide the site's future development, underpinned by a Needs Assessment which highlighted the critical need for affordable arts spaces within the area. The vision, objectives, and development principles within the Strategic Framework set the groundwork for subsequent milestones, including concept designs, construction plans, procurement of a precinct manager and measures for facility performance.

On 14 February 2024, Council resolved to make a formal offer to *These Are the Projects We Do Together* (TPT) via a Precinct Management Services Agreement (PMSA) for property management, tenancy management and community curation services, in alignment with Council's strategic intent for the precinct.

The redeveloped precinct will have a range of available spaces, including maker spaces for local creatives, a new gallery for leading contemporary First Nations arts organisation Blak Dot, bookable rooms for community groups, Maternal Child Health consulting suites, office space for local creative industries, a new café, and indoor and outdoor event space. TPT's role will be to maximise vibrancy and build a strong sense of community amongst all users, as well as manage and maintain all spaces to a high standard.

The financial model has been developed to allow this intensity of use without incurring large operational costs for Council, and enabling those organisations in the creative industries who can afford higher rents to cross-subsidise local creatives and community groups, maximising the affordability to those who need it most. Balancing the affordability and financial viability of the project is a core part of TPT's responsibilities.

The Precinct Management Services Agreement sets out a number of requirements for TPT to develop guiding documents for their management of the precinct, including a User and Tenancy Framework which describes the process by which they will select and manage tenancies within the precinct.

The purpose of this report is to present TPT's User and Tenancy Framework.

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Endorses the User and Tenancy Framework (Attachment 1) as the foundation document for guiding tenant arrangements and user interactions within the redeveloped 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick precinct.
2. Notes the objectives against which tenants will be selected: alignment with Council's strategic intent for the site; ability to enhance the reputation of the precinct locally, nationally, and internationally; ability to reach diverse participants; capacity to contribute to the activation of the precinct; ability to manage the financial and maintenance responsibilities of the tenancy.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Riley moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the User and Tenancy Framework (Attachment 1) as the foundation document for guiding tenant arrangements and user interactions within the redeveloped 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick precinct.**
2. **Notes the objectives against which tenants will be selected: alignment with Council's strategic intent for the site; ability to enhance the reputation of the precinct locally, nationally, and internationally; ability to reach diverse participants; capacity to contribute to the activation of the precinct; ability to manage the financial and maintenance responsibilities of the tenancy.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.7 DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

### Executive Summary

The strategy aims to address the multi-faceted issue of homelessness in Merri-bek, encompassing identifying needs and gaps, direct Council responses, and early intervention and prevention measures. It aligns with critical Council plans and policies, including the Council Plan 2021-2025, and draws upon lived experiences and community organisations for a rounded approach.

Homelessness in Merri-bek is increasing due to financial instability and cost of living pressures, family violence, and housing crises. Current data likely underrepresents the extent of the issue, and the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have further exacerbated the situation. Given these complexities, the strategy underscores the need for a multi-faceted approach that includes response, long-term intervention, and prevention efforts. It emphasises community engagement, partnerships, and advocacy to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

A four-year action plan has been developed and will be reviewed annually. This report also recommends an additional budget consideration to support implementation of the associated action plan.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the Homelessness Strategy (Attachment 1) and Action Plan (Attachment 2).
2. Refers additional funding recommendations of \$155,530 over four years for consideration in the 2024/25 Budget Process.

### Resolution

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Conlan seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the Homelessness Strategy (Attachment 1) and Action Plan (Attachment 2).**
2. **Refers additional funding recommendations of \$155,530 over four years for consideration in the 2024/25 Budget Process.**
3. **In addition:**
  - **Note that Council opposes hostile architecture or other measures that are aimed to deter homeless people such as blaring of loud music after hours.**
  - **Continue having a social worker at the Coburg Library at certain times**
  - **Improve amenities for people in precarious housing situations around the Coburg Mall such as:**
    - **providing mobile phone charging that is accessible after hours**
    - **including an increase in and improvement in the maintenance of public toilets in the Coburg Mall**
  - **Consider including improved amenities for people in precarious housing as part of the Coburg Revitalisation project. Such amenities would include access to showers, a kitchen and lockers.**

## Conflict of Interest

Cr Yildiz declared a general conflict of interest in Item 7.8 as a family member lives in close proximity to this property, and left the meeting at 9.48pm, prior to the consideration of this Item.

## 7.8 UNIT 1, 6 SUTHERLAND STREET, COBURG - UPDATE ON PROPOSED SALE

### Executive Summary

At its meeting on 18 October 2023, Council resolved to sell Unit 1, 6 Sutherland Street, Coburg to Aboriginal Housing Victoria. This decision followed a request for Expressions of Interest from community housing providers and community organisations.

Aboriginal Housing Victoria's Expression of Interest proposed to purchase the property at 90% of market price and to use it as social housing for a minimum of 20 years, subject to a successful bid for State Government funding to finance the purchase.

Aboriginal Housing Victoria's bid for State Government funding was not successful.

Subsection 3 of the Council report on 18 October 2023, noted that Council;

*Having fulfilled its obligations under Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and the Community Engagement Policy, supports the proposal to sell the property to Aboriginal Housing Victoria and if Aboriginal Housing Victoria is not able to obtain funding within the required timeframe, that a further report is presented to Council with options for achieving an affordable housing outcome from this site. If an affordable housing option does not materialise, any proposal to sell the property will come to Council for a decision.*

No other affordable housing options have materialised. In accordance with the Council decision on 18 October 2023, it is now proposed to sell the property by public auction.

If the property is sold, this report recommends the proceeds of the proposed sale to be allocated into Council's Social and Affordable Housing Strategy Reserve. This will provide a community benefit in the form of support for future social and affordable housing projects in Merri-bek.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to do all things necessary to effect the sale of Unit 1, 6 Sutherland Street, Coburg.
2. Allocates the proceeds of the sale to the Social and Affordable Housing Strategy Reserve to support social and affordable housing projects.

### Resolution

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Authorises the Director Place and Environment to do all things necessary to effect the sale of Unit 1, 6 Sutherland Street, Coburg.**
2. **Allocates the proceeds of the sale to the Social and Affordable Housing Strategy Reserve to support social and affordable housing projects.**

**Carried**

Cr Conlan called for a division.

**For**

Cr Bolton  
Cr Davidson  
Cr Pulford  
Cr Panopoulos  
Cr Riley  
Cr Tapinos

**Total For (6)**

**Against**

Cr Conlan

**Total Against (1)**

## Time Extension

### Resolution

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That the Council meeting be extended by 30 minutes at 10.00 pm.**

**Carried**

10.07 pm Cr Bolton left the meeting.

10.07 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.

## 7.9 WINTER SPORTING ALLOCATIONS

### Executive Summary

Council is committed to providing a diverse range of active sport and recreation opportunities and associated facilities to support participation and a healthy and active community.

In the past year, the Merri-bek sporting community has experienced significant growth in participation, with greater numbers than in pre-pandemic years. This has been particularly evident within Football.

Council's revised Allocation and Use of Sporting Facilities, Grounds and Pavilions Policy 2023 guides the annual and seasonal allocation of sporting grounds and pavilions to clubs through a tenancy agreement. In line with the Policy, facilities are allocated to clubs with sound governance structures, open membership for men, women and juniors, and a demonstrated commitment to social responsibility, including participation in club development programs.

This year, officers will begin working with winter clubs on championing gender equity and fair access pathways by assisting clubs implementing equitable scheduling of training for all participants and obtaining 50 per cent or above representation of women, girls, or gender diverse people on Committee/Board and/or Leadership roles (*to be implemented for Summer Season allocations - September 2024*).

There were 32 annual and seasonal tenancy applications received from clubs.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Allocates sports grounds and pavilions for the 2024 annual and winter season to the clubs shown in Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Authorises the Director Community to make any necessary changes to the allocation of facilities for the 2024 annual and winter season if required and to inform Council of any changes.
3. Notes any club owing ground and pavilion fees from previous seasons, or owing any other debt to Council, will be informed that no ground allocation will be granted until

payment is made, or a payment plan has been agreed to.

4. Notes current junior and female participation levels at sports clubs contained within this 2024 Annual and Winter Sports Ground Tenancy Allocations Report.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Allocates sports grounds and pavilions for the 2024 annual and winter season to the clubs shown in Attachment 1 to this report.**
2. **Authorises the Director Community to make any necessary changes to the allocation of facilities for the 2024 annual and winter season if required and to inform Council of any changes.**
3. **Notes any club owing ground and pavilion fees from previous seasons, or owing any other debt to Council, will be informed that no ground allocation will be granted until payment is made, or a payment plan has been agreed to.**
4. **Notes current junior and female participation levels at sports clubs contained within this 2024 Annual and Winter Sports Ground Tenancy Allocations Report.**

10.09 pm Cr Bolton returned to the meeting prior to the vote.

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.10 FUTURE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS PROGRAM**

### **Executive Summary**

The current 7-year Christmas Decorations contract with *Dovecote Design P/L* will expire on 30 June 2025. Christmas 2024 will be the last Christmas Decoration Program delivered under the current contract. Council will need to secure a vendor(s) for a new contract prior to dismantling the decorations in January 2025, ensuring a way forward for the new Christmas Decoration Program, including storage options.

Council engaged with the business community from November 2023 until January 2024 to seek insights on the current Program prior to developing the new contract specifications and to seek businesses' views and explore opportunities for more impactful displays in each of the three Activity Centres.

This report provides Council with an overview of the engagement undertaken, insights gathered and explores potential program changes aimed at both improving the visual impact in each of the Activity Centres and optimising value for money through the future Christmas Decorations Program.

It is recommended that a tender process commences for a new contract and this report seeks Council's resolution on the contract's inclusions.

### **Officer Recommendation**

**That Council:**

1. Notes that the Christmas Decoration Program for 2024 will be delivered under the current contract and that the current Program contract will expire on 30 June 2025 with no further extensions allowable.
2. Commences the procurement process via public tender to engage a vendor(s) for a new contract that will come into effect from 1 July 2025.

3. Resolves that the new Christmas Decorations 2025 contract will amongst other things:
  - a) Apply for a 2-year period, with further extension options of 2 x 2 years at Council's absolute discretion.
  - b) Continue to operate in line with annual budget allocations.
  - c) Consider the insights obtained from the recent consultation with Merri-bek's business community.
  - d) Continue to focus the Christmas Decorations Program on the three major Activity Centres in Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy.
  - e) Seek to enhance the visual presentation of the new Christmas Decorations Program, aiming for more impactful displays that continue to offer the greatest possible value for money.
  - f) Continue to include illuminated displays at Brunswick and Coburg Town Halls.
  - g) Include an illuminated display in a new and prominent location within the Glenroy Activity Centre.
  - h) Explore options to concentrate decorations in a more focused and visually impactful manner at key sites such as gateways and public gathering spaces within the three Activity Centres.
  - i) Include a requirement for the successful vendor to develop an annual Project Implementation Plans in consultation with the Economic Development Unit by 31 May each year. This plan must include an annual audit of the condition of existing decorations, which reviews surplus decorations be identified for sale, donation, recycling, or repurposing for alternative decorative uses to ensure that sustainability considerations are taken into account.
  - j) Continue to engage an external vendor(s) to manage the annual Project Implementation Plan, to align with indexed annual budget allocations.
  - k) Explore rental options for new decorations to optimise return on investment and value for money, reduce storage costs, and maximise both environmental sustainability considerations and visual impact.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Davidson moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes that the Christmas Decoration Program for 2024 will be delivered under the current contract and that the current Program contract will expire on 30 June 2025 with no further extensions allowable.**
2. **Commences the procurement process via public tender to engage a vendor(s) for a new contract that will come into effect from 1 July 2025.**
3. **Resolves that the new Christmas Decorations 2025 contract will amongst other things:**
  - a) **Apply for a 2-year period, with further extension options of 2 x 2 years at Council's absolute discretion.**
  - b) **Continue to operate in line with annual budget allocations.**
  - c) **Consider the insights obtained from the recent consultation with Merri-bek's business community.**
  - d) **Continue to focus the Christmas Decorations Program on the three major Activity Centres in Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy.**

- e) **Seek to enhance the visual presentation of the new Christmas Decorations Program, aiming for more impactful displays that continue to offer the greatest possible value for money.**
- f) **Continue to include illuminated displays at Brunswick and Coburg Town Halls.**
- g) **Include an illuminated display in a new and prominent location within the Glenroy Activity Centre.**
- h) **Explore options to concentrate decorations in a more focused and visually impactful manner at key sites such as gateways and public gathering spaces within the three Activity Centres.**
- i) **Include a requirement for the successful vendor to develop an annual Project Implementation Plans in consultation with the Economic Development Unit by 31 May each year. This plan must include an annual audit of the condition of existing decorations, which reviews surplus decorations be identified for sale, donation, recycling, or repurposing for alternative decorative uses to ensure that sustainability considerations are taken into account.**
- j) **Continue to engage an external vendor(s) to manage the annual Project Implementation Plan, to align with indexed annual budget allocations.**
- k) **Explore rental options for new decorations to optimise return on investment and value for money, reduce storage costs, and maximise both environmental sustainability considerations and visual impact.**

10.11 pm *Cr Riley left the meeting during the debate.*

10.12 pm *Cr Riley returned to the meeting prior to the vote.*

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.11 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the Financial Management Report for the financial year to date period ending 31 January 2024.

A detailed financial review was undertaken across the organisation at the end of December 2023. The results of this review are included in this report as the Full Year Revised Forecast. The detailed mid-year financial review is being presented separately to the March Council meeting.

The January Income Statement shows the Council surplus is \$3.0 million higher than the year-to-date revised forecast as a result of higher overall revenue and lower overall expenditure. These differences are considered largely timely in nature. As set out in the Issue section of this report, operating surplus funds do not convert to immediately available cash to Council; they are used to fund important community infrastructure projects like the Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment or the Cultural and Community Hub at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick.

Council has spent \$35.9 million on capital expenditure, which is tracking below the year-to-date (YTD) forecast of \$42.8 million, with \$80.7 million budget remaining.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ended 31 January 2024, at Attachment 1 to this report.

## Resolution

**Cr Riley moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ended 31 January 2024, at Attachment 1 to this report.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.12 2023/24 MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

### Executive Summary

The Mid-Year Financial Report gives an overview of Council's performance through delivery of the budget. It compares the actual revenue and expenditure with the budgeted revenue and expenditure year to date (YTD) and assesses the financial performance in the second quarter to determine a forecast outcome for 30 June 2024.

A detailed financial review was undertaken across the organisation at the end of December 2023 to form the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Review. This process provided Council the opportunity to review its YTD performance and reallocate available financial resources to maximise the delivery on its strategic objectives. The results of this review are included in this report as the Mid-Year Forecast.

For the six months ended 31 December 2023, Council has achieved an operating surplus result of \$111.2 million which is \$7.1 million (7%) more than the YTD budget of \$140.1 million. Significant amounts of the surplus are restricted by legislation, and it is used for to fund important community infrastructure projects like the Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment and the Cultural and Community Hub at 33 Saxon Street Brunswick. As set out in the Key Definitions, the operating surplus does not convert to immediately available cash for Council.

Council's forecast adjusted underlying surplus of \$19.3 million is \$3.4 million less than the First Quarter (Q1) Forecast of \$22.6 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.

After the recommendation to transfer \$2.8 million to the significant projects reserve to fund capital projects, a positive unrestricted result of \$37,000 has been forecast from the surplus.

Currently the Mid-Year Forecast is forecasting a decrease in the adjusted underlying surplus which suggests an improvement is required in the operating position.

Council has spent \$32.8 million on capital expenditure as at the end of December which is \$2.1 million (6%) less than the YTD budget of \$34.9 million, with \$90.4 million (73%) of the full year budget remaining.

After a detailed review of the capital works program, there is a forecast decrease of \$7.7 million from the Q1 forecast of \$124.3 million to \$116.6 million. This is primarily due to \$9.1 million of additional carry forwards into 2024/25 and \$3.6 million of savings. These decreases are partially offset by 33 projects requiring additional funding of \$5.0 million.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2023, including operating performance and capital performance.



2. Notes the status of the capital works program for 2023/24.
3. Notes the increase to the full-year forecast for operating income of \$1.5 million and the increase to operating expenditure of \$6.5 million arising from the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Review.
4. Notes an unrestricted surplus of \$2.8 million to be transferred to the Significant Projects Reserve, leaving an unrestricted forecast surplus of \$37,000.
5. Notes a forecast underspend of \$0.3 million against the adopted budget in the waste charge and \$0.7 million of unbudgeted grant funding (factored into the 2023/24 waste charge) to be transferred to the Waste Charge Reserve.
6. Endorses the full-year capital expenditure forecast of \$116.6 million, arising from the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Review.
7. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2024/25 Capital Works Program:
  - Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment - \$1,256,344
  - Glenroy Activity Centre Upgrade – Wheatsheaf Rd - \$968,096
  - Brunswick Activity Centre Upgrade Works - \$911,000
  - Shore Reserve – Football & Cricket - \$750,000
  - Replace Council Fleet – Walter St Depot - \$600,000
  - Sportsfield Stormwater Reuse – Municipal Wide - \$568,792
  - Park Close to Home – 260 Sydney Road - \$557,539
  - Brunswick City Baths Repainting & Renewal - \$550,000
  - Fallon St From Union to Collier Both Carriageways - \$526,000
  - Derby St Kindergarten Children’s Centre - \$500,000
  - Richards Reserve Natural Turf Renewal - \$430,000
  - Community Battery - \$290,000
  - City Oval Landscaping - \$265,897
  - De Carle Street – From The Grove to Rennie, Coburg - \$250,780
  - De Carle Street – From The Avenue to The Grove, Coburg - \$245,000
  - Hadfield Depot Rectification Works - \$200,000
  - Commercial Tenancy Maintenance Obligations - \$105,295
  - Implementation of Water Building Efficiency - \$53,000
  - Kerbside Waste Reform - \$32,000
  - Snell Grove Public Toilet – Snell Grove, Oak Park - \$31,959
  - Shore Reserve Public Toilets – Reynard Street, Pascoe Vale - \$9,348
  - Holbrook Reserve Female Friendly Change Rooms – Brunswick West - \$9,003
  - Fawkner Community Hall – CB Smith Reserve - \$8,565.
8. Brings forward the following capital project funding to the 2023/24 Capital Works Program:
  - Batman Avenue Shared Path – Upfield Shared Path Upgrade - \$30,000.

9. Approves the following additional capital project funding to be funded from the Public Resort and Recreation Land Reserve:
  - Hosken Reserve Stage 3 Football Pitches - \$1,385,603
  - Park Close to Home Frith Street - \$1,043,000
  - Fisher Reserve, Brunswick East - \$110,000
  - Hosken Reserve Stage 2 Tennis Club Pavilion & Courts, Lighting, Fencing - \$27,139
  - ATC Cook Reserve – Picnic Shelter - \$12,600
  - Dog Parks in the North – Glenroy - \$8,225.
10. 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 Riley moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2023, including operating performance and capital performance.**
2. **Notes the status of the capital works program for 2023/24.**
3. **Notes the increase to the full-year forecast for operating income of \$1.5 million and the increase to operating expenditure of \$6.5 million arising from the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Review.**
4. **Notes an unrestricted surplus of \$2.8 million to be transferred to the Significant Projects Reserve, leaving an unrestricted forecast surplus of \$37,000.**
5. **Notes a forecast underspend of \$0.3 million against the adopted budget in the waste charge and \$0.7 million of unbudgeted grant funding (factored into the 2023/24 waste charge) to be transferred to the Waste Charge Reserve.**
6. **Endorses the full-year capital expenditure forecast of \$116.6 million, arising from the 2023/24 Mid-Year Financial Review.**
7. **Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2024/25 Capital Works Program:**
  - **Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment - \$1,256,344**
  - **Glenroy Activity Centre Upgrade – Wheatsheaf Rd - \$968,096**
  - **Brunswick Activity Centre Upgrade Works - \$911,000**
  - **Shore Reserve – Football & Cricket - \$750,000**
  - **Replace Council Fleet – Walter St Deport - \$600,000**
  - **Sportsfield Stormwater Reuse – Municipal Wide - \$568,792**
  - **Park Close to Home – 260 Sydney Road - \$557,539**
  - **Brunswick City Baths Repainting & Renewal - \$550,000**
  - **Fallon St From Union to Collier Both Carriageways - \$526,000**
  - **Derby St Kindergarten Children’s Centre - \$500,000**

- Richards Reserve Natural Turf Renewal - \$430,000
  - Community Battery - \$290,000
  - City Oval Landscaping - \$265,897
  - De Carle Street – From The Grove to Rennie, Coburg - \$250,780
  - De Carle Street – From The Avenue to The Grove, Coburg - \$245,000
  - Hadfield Depot Rectification Works - \$200,000
  - Commercial Tenancy Maintenance Obligations - \$105,295
  - Implementation of Water Building Efficiency - \$53,000
  - Kerbside Waste Reform - \$32,000
  - Snell Grove Public Toilet – Snell Grove, Oak Park - \$31,959
  - Shore Reserve Public Toilets – Reynard Street, Pascoe Vale - \$9,348
  - Holbrook Reserve Female Friendly Change Rooms – Brunswick West - \$9,003
  - Fawkner Community Hall – CB Smith Reserve - \$8,565.
8. Brings forward the following capital project funding to the 2023/24 Capital Works Program:
- Batman Avenue Shared Path – Upfield Shared Path Upgrade - \$30,000.
9. Approves the following additional capital project funding to be funded from the Public Resort and Recreation Land Reserve:
- Hosken Reserve Stage 3 Football Pitches - \$1,385,603
  - Park Close to Home Frith Street - \$1,043,000
  - Fisher Reserve, Brunswick East - \$110,000
  - Hosken Reserve Stage 2 Tennis Club Pavilion & Courts, Lighting, Fencing - \$27,139
  - ATC Cook Reserve – Picnic Shelter - \$12,600
  - Dog Parks in the North – Glenroy - \$8,225.
10. 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.

10.14 pm Cr Conlan left the meeting prior to the vote.

**Carried unanimously**

### **Conflict of Interest**

Cr Riley declared a material conflict of interest in Item 7.13 as he is seeking approval to enrol in development and training, and left the meeting at 10.14pm, prior to the consideration of this Item.

## 7.13 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MARCH 2024 - 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 Merri-bek First Nations Advisory Committee held 19 February 2024.
- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- Responses to Public Question Time items taken on notice at 14 February 2024 Council meeting, with a recommendation that Council notes the responses.
- A recommendation for the appointment of community members to fill extraordinary vacancies on Council's First Nations Advisory Committee.
- A recommendation that Council appoints and authorises the Council officers referred to in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*).
- Proposed topic for the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in July 2024.
- A request seeking Council approval for Cr Riley to undertake the Australian Institute of Company Directors – Company Directors Course.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the summary of minutes from Advisory Committees to Council, at Attachment 1 to this report:
  - Merri-bek First Nations Advisory Committee Advisory Committee held 19 February 2024.
2. Notes the Merri-bek First Nations Advisory Committee's recommendations:
  - a) That Council commits to initial contribution of 10 per cent of the estimated value of the Ballerrt Mooroop project to leverage further external funding, upon land title handover or long-term lease agreement, as part of local Treaty discussions.
  - a) That Council writes to the co-Chairs of the First People's Assembly seeking their support for the Ballerrt Mooroop project.
3. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.
4. Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at 14 February 2024 Council meeting, at Attachment 3 to this report.
5. Appoints the following community members to the First Nations Advisory Committee to fill 3 extraordinary vacancies:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
6. 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 4 of 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 instruments and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
  - c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.
7. Endorses the motion about Accessible Public Transport in Attachment 6 for submission to the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government.
8. Approves the enrolment of Cr Riley in the Australian Institute of Company Directors – Company Directors Course at the cost of \$11,900 (excluding GST), noting that:
- the cost of \$11,900 for a non-member of the AICD is applicable; and
  - subject to an application for AICD membership (at a cost of \$880) the cost of the course may be reduced, resulting in a total cost of \$9,680 (excluding GST)

## **Resolution**

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Tapinos seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the summary of minutes from Advisory Committees to Council, at Attachment 1 to this report:**
  - **Merri-bek First Nations Advisory Committee Advisory Committee held 19 February 2024.**
2. **Notes the Merri-bek First Nations Advisory Committee's recommendations:**
  - a) **That Council commits to initial contribution of 10 per cent of the estimated value of the Ballerri Mooroop project to leverage further external funding, upon land title handover or long-term lease agreement, as part of local Treaty discussions.**
  - b) **That Council writes to the co-Chairs of the First People's Assembly seeking their support for the Ballerri Mooroop project.**
3. **Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.**
4. **Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at 14 February 2024 Council meeting, at Attachment 3 to this report.**
5. **Appoints the following community members to the First Nations Advisory Committee to fill 3 extraordinary vacancies:**
  - a) **Trevor Barker**
  - b) **Seth Nolan**
  - c) **Rob Patton**
6. **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 4 of 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 instruments and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.**
  - c) **Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.**

7. **Endorses the motion about Accessible Public Transport in Attachment 6 for submission to the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government.**
8. **Approves the enrolment of Cr Riley in the Australian Institute of Company Directors – Company Directors Course at the cost of \$11,900 (excluding GST), noting that:**
  - **the cost of \$11,900 for a non-member of the AICD is applicable; and**
  - **subject to an application for AICD membership (at a cost of \$880) the cost of the course may be reduced, resulting in a total cost of \$9,680 (excluding GST).**
9. **Resolves to receive a report by July 2024 which:**
  - a) **includes consideration of an exclusion to the Councillor Support Expenses and Resources Policy to access the AICD Company Directors Course during the final year of the Council term; and**
  - b) **provides an overview of the key benefits and learning of the AICD Company Directors Course and it's relevance to Council duties; and**
  - c) **outlines Councillor expenditure incurred, attendance and completion dates, and accreditations awarded of the AICD Company Directors Course during the current Council term.**
10. **Endorses the following motion for submission to the 2024 National General Assembly for Local Government: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce anti-vilification laws to protect the community from hate and ensure that every individual in Australia feels safe and protected under law irrespective of their age, disability, gender identity, intersex status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation'.**

10.16 pm Cr Conlan returned to the meeting prior to the vote.

**Carried unanimously**

10.21 pm Cr Riley returned to the meeting.

## **7.14 REVIEW OF INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION COUNCIL TO COUNCIL STAFF**

### **Executive Summary**

This report proposes the updated instrument of delegation to Council in accordance with section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Instruments of Delegation represent the formal and authorised delegation for powers of Council under the Act and enable the business of Council to be carried out efficiently and in line with Council approved policies. This instrument is essential to enable Council staff to effectively carry out operational duties, particularly in areas that involve enforcement, such as town planning, local laws, environmental health, building enforcement, asset protection, animal management and parking control.

Powers are delegated to a role or position title rather than to a person or name. Where there are changes to organisational titles, roles or responsibilities, or applicable legislation, the delegations require review, and are reviewed and updated biannually.

The proposed instrument at Attachment 1 reflects 2 minor changes to legislative provisions under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and one change to a position title.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 11 of the *Local*

*Government Act 2020* and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of Delegation:

1. Delegates to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in Attachment 1 to this report, the powers, duties and functions set out in that Instrument subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument and determines:
  - a) The instrument comes into force immediately on being signed by the Chief Executive Officer.
  - b) On the coming into force of the instrument, the previous delegation to members of Council staff adopted 18 October 2023 is revoked.
  - c) 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.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 11 of the Local Government Act 2020 and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of Delegation:**

1. **Delegates to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in Attachment 1 to this report, the powers, duties and functions set out in that Instrument subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument and determines:**
  - a) **The instrument comes into force immediately on being signed by the Chief Executive Officer.**
  - b) **On the coming into force of the instrument, the previous delegation to members of Council staff adopted 18 October 2023 is revoked.**
  - c) **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.**

**Carried**

*The order of business was altered to bring forward report 7.15 Procurement Policy, Community Flag Schedule and National General Assembly of Local Government matters as the first item considered at the meeting.*

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

*The order of business was altered to bring forward Notice of Motion 8.1 Signing of Statement on Palestine as the second item considered at the meeting.*

### **8.2 SUPPORT FOR DUCKETT STREET PARTY**

#### **Motion**

That Council:

1. Notes fees associated with the partial road closure for the Duckett Street Party have been waived.

2. Calls for a future report to the May Council Meeting that explores how Council can better support more street parties and road closures to achieve our broader community and active transport goals.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Conlan moved, Cr Bolton seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes fees associated with the partial road closure for the Duckett Street Party have been waived.**
2. **Calls for a future report to the May Council Meeting that explores how Council can better support more street parties and road closures to achieve our broader community and active transport goals.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **8.3 FUNDING THE ARTS IN MERRI-BEK**

### **Motion**

That Council requests a report by June 2024 on innovative ways Council could increase funding for the arts in Merri-bek, including public art, arts infrastructure, grants and other opportunities for artists and arts organisations. Options the report may examine could include:

- Partnerships with charitable trusts and/or other organisations.
- A percent cost contribution for public art from major Council capital projects, as per the 2023-2030 Arts and Culture Strategy.
- An Arts levy on developments.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That Council requests a report by June 2024 on innovative ways Council could increase funding for the arts in Merri-bek, including public art, arts infrastructure, grants and other opportunities for artists and arts organisations. Options the report may examine could include:**

- **Partnerships with charitable trusts and/or other organisations.**
- **A percent cost contribution for public art from major Council capital projects, as per the 2023-2030 Arts and Culture Strategy.**
- **An Arts levy on developments.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **8.4 LIBRARIES WITHOUT BOOKS**

### **Motion**

That Council:

1. Notes the important role the libraries play in local communities.



2. Notes with concern the international trend towards bookless and unstaffed libraries.
3. Receives a report on the current management of book collections and any policy or practice regarding book reductions that are occurring in Merri-bek libraries.

### **Time Extension**

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Panopoulos moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That the Council meeting be extended by 30 minutes at 10.29 pm.**

**Carried**

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Riley seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the important role the libraries play in local communities.**
2. **Notes with concern the international trend towards bookless and unstaffed libraries.**
3. **Receives a report on the current management of book collections and any policy or practice regarding book reductions that are occurring in Merri-bek libraries.**

*10.30 pm Cr Panopoulos left the meeting during the debate.*

*10.34 pm Cr Panopoulos returned to the meeting prior to the vote.*

**Carried unanimously**

*The order of business was altered to bring forward Notice of Motion 8.5 Illiteracy, human rights and Council processes as the third item to be considered at the meeting.*

## **8.6 DANGERS FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS AT HUDSON STREET AND VICTORIA STREET, COBURG INTERSECTION**

### **Motion**

**That Council:**

1. Receives a report on safety hazards and potential solutions for cyclists and pedestrians at the Hudson Street and Victoria Street, Coburg intersection.
2. Requests officers to take account of potential flow-on effects of additional traffic to Hudson Street and consider the need for potential safety improvements to Hudson Street as part of the Harding/Munro Streets for People project.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Pulford seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Receives a report on safety hazards and potential solutions for cyclists and pedestrians at the Hudson Street and Victoria Street, Coburg intersection.**
2. **Requests officers to take account of potential flow-on effects of additional traffic to Hudson Street and consider the need for potential safety improvements to Hudson Street as part of the Harding/Munro Streets for People project.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **8.7 ENGAGING WITH SMALL BUSINESSES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVITY CENTRES**

### **Motion**

That Council:

1. Receives a report outlining current business development support practices in neighbourhood activity centres situated in the North-West Ward including the consideration of providing further resources and assistance to facilitate the establishment and functioning of trader associations, including guidance on organisational structure, networking opportunities, and access to relevant information and support services.
2. Notes that the formation of trader associations will facilitate direct communication channels between small businesses and Council, enabling the exchange of ideas, feedback, and support mechanisms.
3. Continues to collaborate with formal and informal trader associations to identify and address common challenges faced by small businesses in neighbourhood activity centres, such as marketing, promotion, parking, and infrastructure improvements. This includes regular meetings and forums to facilitate ongoing dialogue between small businesses, trader associations, and relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for sharing best practices, discussing issues of concern, and exploring collaborative solutions.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Davidson moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Receives a report outlining current business development support practices in neighbourhood activity centres situated in the North-West Ward including the consideration of providing further resources and assistance to facilitate the establishment and functioning of trader associations, including guidance on organisational structure, networking opportunities, and access to relevant information and support services.**
2. **Notes that the formation of trader associations will facilitate direct communication channels between small businesses and Council, enabling the exchange of ideas, feedback, and support mechanisms.**
3. **Continues to collaborate with formal and informal trader associations to identify and address common challenges faced by small businesses in neighbourhood activity centres, such as marketing, promotion, parking, and infrastructure improvements. This includes regular meetings and forums to facilitate ongoing dialogue between small businesses, trader associations, and relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for sharing best practices, discussing issues of concern, and exploring collaborative solutions.**

**Carried unanimously**

### **NOTICE OF RESCISSION**

Nil.

### **FORESHADOWED ITEMS**

Nil.

## URGENT BUSINESS REPORTS

Nil.

## CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

### Conflict of Interest

Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson declared a conflict of interest in Item 12.1, as it concerns her performance review and left the meeting at 10.41pm, prior to the consideration of this Item.

### Resolution

**Cr Riley moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded –**

**That, in accordance with section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Council meeting be closed to the public to consider this report:**

- **12.1 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review (D24/103788) 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 unanimously**

*10.41 pm Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson left the meeting.*

The Council meeting closed to the public at 10.41 pm.

## OPENING THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### Resolution

**Cr Conlan moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -**

**That the Council meeting be open to the public.**

**Carried**

The Council meeting opened to the public at 10.59 pm.

The Council meeting closed at 10.59 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Adam Pulford  
**MAYOR**