



## **Minutes of the Council Meeting**

Held in Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre,  
90 Bell Street, Coburg  
on Wednesday 13 August 2025

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The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.31 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 Helen Davidson, Mayor	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Helen Politis, Deputy Mayor	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Nat Abboud	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	6.33 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Liz Irvin	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Chris Miles	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Adam Pulford	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Ella Svensson	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Katherine Theodosis	6.31 pm	9.43 pm
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	6.31 pm	9.43 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 – Pene Winslade  
 Manager Governance and Strategy – Yvonne Callanan  
 Acting Unit Manager Governance – Sophie Barison  
 Executive Officer Civic and CEO Office – Sarah Lionakis

## **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr Pulford sought a leave of absence from 24 August to 20 September 2025 (inclusive).

### **Resolution**

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council grants Cr Pulford a leave of absence from 24 August to 20 September 2025 (inclusive).**

**Carried**

## **DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr Iwasaki disclosed a general conflict of interest in 7.12 *Governance Report – August 2025 – Cyclical Report* due to his proposed attendance at the Ecological Society of Australia conference.

## MINUTE CONFIRMATION

### Resolution

**Cr Svensson moved, Cr Politis seconded -**

**The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 July 2025 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Mayor Helen Davidson acknowledged the recent passing of John Englart and his extensive work in the community, noting a Notice of Motion to recognise John was on the agenda for consideration and Councillor's will have an opportunity to speak to the Notice of Motion when that arises.

The Mayor sought to pause to remember John's extensive work in community, noting he was a champion of environmental and social justice. For a very long time, John was very often at Council meetings, he had a great depth of knowledge, empowering the community to act on Council, world and environmental matters. In particular, he campaigned strongly for the Upfield bike path. Many in the community, including MP's and Councillors have expressed how deeply his absence is felt. Council will continue his legacy and work on projects he was passionate about and advocated strongly on.

Cr Theodosis acknowledged Pascoe Vale Food Collective and her recent visit, highlighting the way they support the community by providing low cost locally sourced food and reducing single use plastic; they offer fresh food and food swap options, and their team of volunteers do an incredible job and encouraged people to check them out.

Cr Politis acknowledged the efforts of the Coburg Art Library Collective which will be opened up on site of former Coburg Railway Station. The Art Space will provide an excellent resource for local artists and will be open to the community. The space will create links with the community, libraries and traders and is a fantastic initiative that will open in September or October.

Cr Politis acknowledged the Wintringham Social Housing in the Harmony Park Ward, who celebrated their first birthday last Friday and noted her privilege to celebrate with residents.

Cr Bolton thanked the Mayor for her comments about John Englart and further acknowledged John as a local resident with a strong commitment to the area, noting his role as one of the founding members of the Upfield Transport Alliance Alliance — a campaign focused on the duplication of the Upfield line, extending the Upfield bike path and addressing other community issues in Fawkner. He was very respected as he was so knowledgeable and respectful in regard to his contributions to community discussions.

Cr Bolton acknowledged a recent meeting with the Future of Fawkner, a group of young people who have been meeting fortnightly since March, and who are campaigning for a youth space in Fawkner.

Cr Bolton acknowledged the public consultation around banning e-bikes from trains and noted Council may do a submission around this issue. Cr Bolton acknowledged that some e-bikes have been illegally imported or modified to make them faster, however many residents in the community still rely on use of e-bikes to move around.

Cr Adam Pulford reported his attendance at an event where Council's Friends of Aileu Group (which partners with the City of Hume) were presented with a Friendship Medal from the Order of Timor Leste to thank Council for 25 years of friendship. Mayor Bell from City of Hume accepted the award from the President with many others from the Committee in attendance. The medal will be on display in both Merri-bek and Hume Councils.

Cr Miles congratulated the under-10 footballers from Glenroy Football Club for making it through to the grand final on Sunday and acknowledged they are playing really well and have a good shot in the final.

Cr Svensson acknowledged that 31 August 2025 will be International Overdose Awareness Day which is a day that marks the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, to reduce stigma and remember people (without shame) who have been lost to overdose.

6.45 pm *Cr Miles left the meeting.*

6.46 pm *Cr Miles returned to the meeting.*

Cr Abboud acknowledged the opening of the Cox Reserve playground.

Cr Abboud acknowledged the community in Pentridge are saying goodbye to the Harding Street Milk Bar and have asked Council to support a farewell party to say thank you to the owners for 17 years of service.

Cr Abboud acknowledged the Merri-bek Community Food Alliance have won VicHealth funding for the next three years.

## PETITIONS

### 5.1 PETITION REQUESTING COUNCIL TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF CARS ON SHAFTSBURY STREET, COBURG

A petition was presented containing 60 signatories requesting Council take action to reduce the volume of cars on Shaftsbury Street, Coburg.

#### Resolution

Cr Politis moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded –

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition, requesting Council take action to reduce the volume of cars on Shaftsbury Street, Coburg, particularly between Reynard Street and Munro Street.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council take action to reduce the volume of cars on Shaftsbury Street, Coburg, particularly between Reynard Street and Munro Street, to the Director Place and Environment for consideration and response.**

Carried

6.51 pm *Cr Politis left the meeting.*

### 5.2 PETITION REQUESTING IMPROVED TRAFFIC SAFETY ON HACKETT STREET, PASCOE VALE

Cr Yildiz presented a petition on behalf of the 50 signatories requesting Council improve traffic safety on Hackett Street, Pascoe Vale.

#### Resolution

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Theodosios seconded –

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition requesting Council improve traffic safety on Hackett Street, Pascoe Vale.**

2. Refers the petition requesting Council improve traffic safety on Hackett Street, Pascoe Vale, to the Director Place and Environment for consideration and response.

Carried

6.52 pm Cr Politis returned to the meeting.

6.52 pm Cr Miles left the meeting.

6.53 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

*Public Question Time commenced at 6.53 pm.*

### Report 7.1 Streets for People Plan

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council.

**Asanka Epa** made the following statement:

Hi, I'm Asanka and I'm speaking on behalf of the Merri-bek Bicycle Users Group.

The Streets for People plan is something we're delighted to see; a plan for a bike network covering all of Merri-bek is important for people all over the municipality, and the consultation report shows overwhelming support for more safe routes, with the final version before council containing updated and additional routes in response to feedback.

We believe the Streets For People plan strikes the right balance in providing opportunities for consultation with residents on larger projects while also avoiding consultation fatigue. Residents have frequently spoken out for safer streets in Merri-bek in consultation on the Merri-bek Transport Strategy and now the Streets for People Plan, plus earlier consultations, so we know changes that make our roads safer are supported by the community.

A particular route we'd like to mention is Glenroy Road: at the Glenroy Festival earlier this year, we got feedback from locals about how pleased they were that it was included. This route forms a key east-west connection and access to the Glenroy Activity Centre, West Street shops, schools and parks.

From our experience supporting the Wheel Sisters program with volunteers we have heard how popular improved safety on this road would be for women wanting to cycle east-west, or feel confident their children will be able to as they get older. Some of our Wheel Sisters rides have had to return to Glenroy on Glenroy Road and it has not been a comfortable experience.

Often the northern suburbs can feel like they're not meant for cyclists and a network of routes like the one outlined in the Streets for People plan is critical for giving the north more choice in how we get around.

The proposed north-south route through Fawcner and down to Shorts Road would actually be the first council active transport project that I can remember that's actually close to my house and of course, those of many others. An implemented Streets for People Plan allows those quite understandably wary of the risks of cycling in traffic both greater safety and greater freedom of choice.

I urge council to adopt the Streets for People Plan and support building a cohesive network across Merri-bek, particularly in the more under-served areas.

## **Report 7.2 Shared e-Bike Scheme for Merri-bek (Update)**

Council received 3 statements and 2 questions. They were presented to Council.

### **Statement 1**

**Jen Hargrave** made the following statement:

Jen Hargrave from Brunswick. Thank you for the time to speak with you about footpath accessibility in relation to the e-bike hire scheme. I have seen e-bike hire reduce footpath accessibility around Melbourne and in other cities.

E-bikes are less of a problem to pedestrians if they are parked on the road. It might be seen as a cheaper option to paint squares on the footpath and expect hire company customers to park there. But this comes at a cost to pedestrians.

I support increasing sustainable transport options for able bodied people who ride e-bikes. But I would ask Council to remember that many of us have very few transport options. For us, an accessible footpath is a precious thing. Many of us cannot drive. Many of us cannot access public transport. I understand that Council is choosing footpaths where a 3 metre clearance has been measured for parking. Many disabled people will hear this and imagine what has been measured is not what they should expect to encounter. We expect bins to be dumped on those footpaths. We expect hedges to have grown over the space. We expect construction fencing to be blocking some of that space from time to time. And we expect many uneven surfaces. But we particularly expect that E-bikes will be hanging out over their parking spaces. Even if they park out a little bit from where they are supposed to be, it could be enough to injure a vision impaired person or absolutely block someone using a mobility device.

We also need to remember that footpath barriers impact people with a wide range of other issues related to aging, pain, cognition and balance. Footpaths on Merri-bek's smaller streets are often avoided due to bluestones, uneven utility pits, uneven driveways, signage posts in the middle of the footpath and bins and so on. As Council officers know the consultation map of E-bike hire parking was inaccessible to me but I imagine the e-bikes will mostly be parked on footpaths of roads like Dawson Street and Albion Street.

Many disabled people choose those particular footpaths over smaller back streets to avoid those obstacles I mentioned earlier. If we have to travel the narrower streets we're often pushed onto the road itself. If parking is on the footpath it makes a clear statement that Merri-bek's transport and infrastructure budget is a much higher priority than Merri-bek's social development and human rights priorities.

Ideally, the multinational businesses running e-bike hire companies should be paying for parking and infrastructure which is off our footpaths.

### **Question 1**

**Jen Hargrave** asked Council how it will support community to quickly, easily and accessibly report access barriers?

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

In terms of accessibility please be assured that Council is absolutely committed to ensuring footpaths remain accessible with the e-bikes trial. Council will ensure that all shared e-bike parking that's proposed to be alongside footpaths provides for sufficient space for people with disability to safely use the footpath, in line with Disability Discrimination Act requirements. So to be even clearer the proposed sites that are called footpath parking sites are in locations where there's a much wider area alongside the footpath and so the markings of the bike parking bays are well clear of the footpath access area. So there's that significant clearance to give you confidence.



Any shared e-bike parking proposed for footpaths will be reviewed by Council's disability planner and transport planners prior to installation to really give us that reassurance. We will also be reviewing operations should it go ahead post-installation to ensure footpath access is maintained and that we're onto any issues really quickly.

## **Statement 2**

**Andrea Sharam** made the following statement:

I'm from Brunswick. I'm a researcher by profession and I have been looking at the academic literature around geofencing. So that literature seems to suggest that the precision of geofencing is not very great that there's at least a 2 metre error. So if you are going to paint on the footpath of a bay which is 2 metres by 3 metres you will have e-bikes parked in a 6 by 8 metre area because it will not lock those bikes out of that and I would suggest that would create a struggle to put a bay anywhere on our footpaths in Merri-bek. It may be suitable in some other areas, in parks and some curb out stands but definitely not on the footpaths which are already very crowded and very problematic for people with accessibility issues.

## **Question 2**

**Andrea Sharam** asked Council what is the nature of the independent expert advice you might have received about geofencing rather than relying entirely on commercial operators?

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

Geo-fencing uses GPS technology to ensure that e-bike parking only occurs in certain areas and it's not the only measure there's markings that also help with behaviour and signalling to people where the parking bays are. Council has been learning from geo-fencing models in place in other e-mobility programs in Melbourne and around the country to try and learn what the best practices are and how to get the best possible outcomes.

At the present time, GPS reliability is accurate to within a few metres, it won't be precise to the exact location all of the time, which is a current limitation of the GPS satellite technology. It is changing rapidly. Bluetooth beacons can significantly improve that accuracy if you install Bluetooth beacons onsite.

## **Statement 3**

**Andrea Bunting** made the following statement:

Andrea Bunting from Brunswick, convenor of Walk on Merri-bek and member of the Shared Mobility Stakeholder Panel which has been meeting every two months to discuss these issues.

I have some suggestions to improve the motion for this item, particularly regarding parking arrangements for shared e-bikes. I think it is vital that Merri-bek does not repeat the mistakes that were made in other council areas, which has led to a backlash. Indeed, Yarra Council has been taken to VCAT by a disability advocate, due to footpaths being blocked by shared e-scooters and e-bikes.

Information provided by one of the operators, which I have sent to Councillors, shows that about 12 to 16% of these shared devices are still being badly parked, and there is little difference between e-bikes and e-scooter riders in terms of this bad parking behaviour.

Firstly, please note that the community engagement included an open-ended question, where participants could share their thoughts. The biggest feedback item from the community was "Footpath Access". This was the biggest concern from the community. The diagram indicating this was omitted from the Council agenda, but I have emailed it to Councillors and I would like that to be acknowledged in the motion. Note that the Shared Mobility Stakeholder Panel are also adamant that footpath access must not be compromised by e-bike parking. We want designated parking places for e-bikes on the road. By repurposing car parking spaces and other vacant spaces on the road.

It is particularly concerning that the report proposes Virtual Parking Pins and suggests that these are a form of designated parking. These Pins can be seen only on the e-bike app, and they have an accuracy of several meters because they rely on GPS. Virtual Parking Pins are being used in other Council areas and they are leading to footpaths being blocked. Please Merri-bek Council, rule out Virtual Parking Pins. Designated parking bays for shared e-bikes must be clearly and physically delineated.

It would be great to have Merri-bek set the tone for all other Councils and get this right because in other council areas they have not. Let's do it properly.

#### **Report 7.4 Amendment C196MORE - Introduction of Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 - Decision Gateway 3 - Consideration of Panel Report and decision on the Amendment**

Council received 2 statements and 2 questions. They were presented to Council.

##### **Statement 1**

**Noel Allenby** made the following statement:

My name is Noel Allenby from Glenroy.

I have been engaged with this process from the first meeting with Council early in 2021, all the way through to the Planning Panels Victoria meeting on the 12 and 13 June this year. Throughout this process the information I requested was never provided by council, that is until literally the 11th hour (11.20am) on the 11 June, the Experts Part B submission delivered via Council's lawyers inside a 262 page document, leaving me with barely enough time to review the information before the meeting and no ability to ascertain the accuracy of the data used to determine the flood mapping at our property.

Assuming that the council officers were not being deliberately obstructive, this appears to indicate that council officers either did not have the data available to support the flood mapping or, more concernedly, did not understand the data sufficiently to be able to respond to queries directly.

From my engagement with the process I now understand that the flood levels outlined in SBO2 are a risk-based assessment that the Experts prepared based on LIDAR mapping of the area and are a worst-case scenario of a 1 in 100 year flood with an additional 18.5% increase in rainfall intensity added to address climate change.

Warrnambool City Council recently went through the same process and the council abandoned the Expert study in June this year after councillors decided that they did not trust the data. Councillors claimed that the science was "difficult to comprehend", based on "assumptions", lacked details and was unable to be validated.

If Merri-bek council approves this, affected ratepayers will face increased compliance costs and regulation that will add to the already high impediments to the provision of much needed new housing.

##### **Question 1**

**Noel Allenby** asked Council if its staff have an adequate knowledge of what the Council is proposing to implement to be able respond to the inevitable enquiries, and if so, what is council doing to address the lack of timely responses in these matters?

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

Council is implementing this amendment to introduce the Special Building Overlay 2, based on modelling undertaken by an expert engineering consultancy in accordance with accepted flood-modelling guidelines.

Council won't always have every skillset in house and that's where we will look to bring skills in from experts. That includes an expert engineering consultancy, it was also reviewed by an independent Planning Panel, which also reviewed community submissions to amendment process, and which recommended that the mapping, including the climate change allowance, be incorporated into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.

Information about climate change was communicated throughout the consultation process in several ways. Before the amendment was formally exhibited, letters and brochures were sent to affected landowners, and information was published on Council's website. A detailed technical report was also available during the consultation process, explaining how the mapping was prepared and how climate change was factored in. Council also responded to questions from submitters throughout the process.

## **Question 2**

**Noel Allenby** asked Council for what reason is it implementing a requirement for a further 745% increase above the worst-case scenario of a 1 in 100 year flood and where was this communicated in the consultation process?

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

All of the information supporting the amendment was shared with the community through the consultation process. I understand our staff have had a number of conversations with you over the course of this amendment. I understand from your statement that you have experienced difficulty reaching Council staff recently, and I do apologise, I can commit I'll have someone call you tomorrow to talk through the specifics with you.

## **Statement 2**

**Peter Farrah** made the following statement:

I provided a statement to all members of Council yesterday and want to request an adjournment of this decision today until further review. I sat through the Panel Hearing. I've spend tens of thousands of dollars on lawyers. We didn't get a fair hearing. The live data is deficient. Mr Allenby and I sat there for 2 days and we proved it was deficient but they wouldn't accept further information and we were stuck with time and they pushed it through. Had we had a bit more time and presented our case forward and had an expert consultant there as well, we could have achieved a better result for our property in particular.

## **Report 7.12 Governance Report - August 2025 - Cyclical Report**

Council received 2 questions. They were presented to Council.

## **Question 1**

**Lauren Styles** asked Council to explain what specific, measurable benefits Merri-bek ratepayers will receive from spending \$3,000 on interstate travel, conference attendance and membership for the Ecological Society of Australia?

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

Council's Councillor Support Expenses and Resources Policy outlines that Councillors can request to participate in professional development opportunities including conferences, and membership programs that contribute to the development of skills of councillors and support the duties of councillors.

The request is presented for Council's consideration tonight. The proposed conference focuses on biodiversity which, is aligned to Council's objectives and strategies including our Nature Plan, Open Space, Climate and Integrated Water Management strategies and also included within the report that the proposed participation of the Councillor also directly relates to their climate responsibility portfolio as referenced in the report.

## Question 2

**Lauren Styles** asked Council how will those outcomes be reported back to the community in a way that allows residents to clearly assess whether this expenditure delivered value for money?

### **Sue Vujcevic Director Business Transformation responded**

In line with Council policy, any Councillor attending an approved event must provide a verbal or written report of their attendance at a Council meeting.

### **Report 7.23 Waste Collection Update: Southern Collection Area Contract Matters 529T and Fortnightly Rubbish Timing**

Council received 1 statement and 1 question. They were presented to Council.

**Enfys Edrich** made the following statement:

Agenda item 7.23 Point 3.b seeks out further community engagement prior to a decision regarding fortnightly collections of waste. I respect the desire to manage community waste to reduce climate impacts. However, I am profoundly concerned about the current plan.

As a support worker through the NDIS, I am concerned the current plan is hostile to disabled residents. Medical waste such as continence product waste is not suitable for green bins, but leaving it for over a week in uncollected garbage bins would be a public health concern for disabled residents, their supports, and garbage collection workers.

In addition, in phase two of consultation, the weight of garbage bins for residents with mobility issues was a concern raised, which will only be exacerbated by containing a fortnight's worth of potentially now hazardous waste.

A related issue is, of course, families with young children. Nappies represent a similar waste concern and indeed stage three consultation saw many families viewing the proposed changes as punitive. A full 50% of respondents to stage three felt proposed changes were unreasonable with a further 18% unsure.

The web page on the council site regarding fortnightly garbage collections puts forward the idea that people can reduce their garbage waste by a third by putting suitable waste in the organics bin. Even if this holds true for every household, and even if everyone is able to change their behaviour and if everyone understands what goes where - several big if-s - two thirds of the waste being met with half the collections presents a clear logistical issue.

Garbage production decreasing has not been assured to the degree that I feel this is resolvable by next year. If the bin service is reduced without enabling a reduction in the generation of waste, the discrepancy could become problematic quickly. Whether on private or public property the excess uncollected trash will smell, be unsightly, and be a public health hazard.

I am concerned that if people feel they can dispose of waste no other way, dumping will increase. We already have an issue in this area with pests such that amending local laws to discourage pest birds was considered as recently as May. I worry increased loose trash would worsen this dramatically.

A previous decision from 8/12/2021 referenced in the agenda made a point that public awareness campaigns would be vital, but nobody I have spoken to was able to remember seeing or hearing about any campaigns or resources which would meaningfully allow them to reduce and manage household waste.

In conclusion I am concerned that not enough has been done to facilitate better waste sorting or reduction in waste production. I am concerned that this change will simply represent a loss of access to support and services, which will disproportionately hurt vulnerable and less well-off residents.

## Question Time Extension

### Resolution

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

**That question time be extended by 30 minutes.**

**Carried**

*Public question time was extended for 30 minutes 7.24 pm.*

**Tash Wark** asked Council if it had genuinely explored the option of bringing the waste and leisure contracts in house, and, if so, what consultation has happened with workers and/or their representatives.

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

Yes, Council has genuinely explored options of bringing the waste and leisure contracts in house.

We consider a careful and balanced approach when exploring options to ensure the best possible outcomes for the community.

In relation to the second part of your question, Council is committed to consulting with staff on proposed changes that might affect them, as outlined in the Enterprise Agreement. What is being proposed is not a change. No roles are affected by these proposed contract extensions.

*7.24 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

*7.25 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.*

### **Notice of Motion 8.1 John Englart Recognition**

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council.

**Andrea Bunting** made the following statement:

Andrea Bunting from Brunswick. I have worked closely with John Englart for the past twelve years in Climate Action Merri-bek.

I have been asked by John's daughter Tarryn to say a few words about the motion to recognise John Englart. John passed away at home unexpectedly a month ago. Many Councillors and some Council staff attended the memorial for John on July 28, along with hundreds of community members, who have valued John's amazing contributions over many decades.

Unfortunately the family could not be here tonight for the discussion on this motion. As you can imagine, this is a very difficult time for them. They have been very moved by the many tributes that have poured in for John – including from many community groups, and representatives from federal, state and local government. And the family have been very moved by proposals to commemorate his work.

Kathleen Matthews-Ward has spoken in Parliament suggesting that when the ring-road link of the Upfield bike path is completed, it should be named after John. It would be a wonderful gesture to give his name to a piece of infrastructure that John fought so hard for.

In fact John campaigned for many things in our community – for safe walking and cycling infrastructure, for better public transport (particularly the Upfield line), for strong action to slash carbon emissions and to make our community more resilient to climate impacts, and to stop plastic pollution. John was also a prolific writer on these subjects, and his well-researched articles have been invaluable for the community.

I think I speak for the many community members who have worked with John on various campaigns over the years in saying this. Yes, we would like some infrastructure named after John, but the best way we can honour John's legacy is to carry on with his great work.

Every Council meeting has one or more issues that John would have had something to say about. Indeed we have several items tonight related to safer walking and cycling. Let's honour John's legacy by making Merri-bek a leading Council in all areas of environmental sustainability that John worked so hard for.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS – QUESTIONS**

Council received 3 questions. They were presented to Council.

#### **Tate Reserve**

**Emily Connors** asked if Council, given the changes at Tate Reserve to off-leash dog areas, considered potential conflict of duties between itself and Merri Creek Management Committee and Friends of Merri Creek; and how will Council ensure all voices in the community are heard equally?

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

These questions will be taken on notice and responded to in writing.

**Claire Weekley** asked Council how it plans to ensure all park users understand the objectives of and permitted activities within the fenced nature conservation area.

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

People in the local area who are a part of experiencing the pilot, which will be running in about 3 months' time, it will be commencing and then running for 6 months. Once the fence is in place, there will be a need for ongoing engagement with the community. We will be having an open, ongoing communications through Conversations Merri-bek, where people can provide feedback and we can respond in real time to make sure we are understanding what the experiences are of the community in the pilot site and if necessary, make adjustments along the way. That will be an ongoing interaction with the community and we will be making sure we are promoting the availability of that communication to the community.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS - QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Council received a further 7 questions that were taken on notice relating to:

- Dumped waste
- Suggested amendment to Council's Governance Rules
- Montfort Park
- Unstaffed libraries
- Tate Reserve

*Public Question Time concluded at 7.41 pm.*

### **Order of Business Altered**

With the agreement of Council, the order of business was altered, and Council considered Notice of Motion 8.1 John Englart Recognition first, before returning to the order of business as printed in the agenda.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### 8.1 JOHN ENGLART RECOGNITION

#### Motion

That Council:

1. Recognises the significant contribution that John Englart made to the Merri-bek community over many years.
2. Initiates a discussion with John Englart's family and the community groups that John was most associated with, to plan a suitable way of commemorating his work.

#### Resolution

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

**That Council:**

1. **Recognises the significant contribution that John Englart made to the Merri-bek community over many years.**
2. **Initiates a discussion with John Englart's family and the community groups that John was most associated with, to plan a suitable way of commemorating his work.**

*7.41 pm Cr Abboud left the meeting during debate.*

*7.43 pm Cr Abboud returned to the meeting during debate.*

**Carried unanimously**

*7.49 pm Cr Bolton left the meeting.*

*7.50 pm Cr Bolton returned to the meeting.*

## COUNCIL REPORTS

### 7.1 STREETS FOR PEOPLE PLAN

#### Executive summary

The Moving Around Merri-bek Transport Strategy introduced the Streets for People Framework as a new way for designing improvements to streets in Merri-bek. The Framework ensures a more holistic design in transport projects. The Streets for People Plan is the way to implement the framework, where a network of streets across the municipality have been identified for future improvements, and a process for designing and delivering improvements has been set out.

The draft Streets for People Plan was exhibited for community consultation from 28 March until 18 May 2025. Respondents were asked to provide feedback on the proposed network of streets, a list of high-priority projects that had been identified, and the proposed Streets for People process for design and delivery of projects.

Feedback from this community engagement period has been considered and incorporated into the Streets for People plan where suitable. Updates to the Plan include new streets added to the network, additional projects added to the high priority projects list, and some changes to the design considerations.

The high priority projects are:

- Barrow Street, Coburg – Bell Street to Stewart Street
- Stewart Street, Brunswick – Sydney Road to Merri Creek
- Clovelly Avenue, Glenroy West – Glenroy Station to Moonee Ponds Creek
- Union Street, Brunswick – Moonee Ponds Creek to Sydney Road
- John Street, Brunswick East – Albert Street to Capital City Trail
- Ewing Street, Brunswick – Glenlyon Road to Brunswick Road
- Glenroy Road, Glenroy – Glenroy Station to West Street
- Shaftsbury Street, Coburg – O’Hea Street to Tinning Street
- Roma Street, Fawkner – Sydney Road to Merri Creek

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the findings of the community engagement on the draft Streets for People Plan, and thanks the community for their feedback.
2. Adopts the Streets for People Plan (Attachment 1), including the Streets for People network, the high priority projects list, and the Streets for People process for design, community engagement, and delivery.
3. Advocates to the State Government to:
  - a) Make improvements to Elm Grove and Urquhart Street in the Coburg Civic and Pentridge area or negotiate changes in the responsible authority for roads in this area, with a goal of moving the state road designation from Elm and Urquhart Streets to Pentridge Boulevard.
  - b) Make improvements for people walking and riding along the length of Boundary Road, Pascoe Street, and Rhodes Parade, in Pascoe Vale.
  - c) Design and deliver the Craigieburn Line shared path project in collaboration with Council.
4. Notes the findings of the investigation into turning roads into parks.
5. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to the policy document for publication, as required.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Theodosis moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the findings of the community engagement on the draft Streets for People Plan, and thanks the community for their feedback.**
2. **Adopts the Streets for People Plan (Attachment 1), including the Streets for People network, the high priority projects list, and the Streets for People process for design, community engagement, and delivery.**
3. **Advocates to the State Government to:**
  - a) **Make improvements to Elm Grove and Urquhart Street in the Coburg Civic and Pentridge area or negotiate changes in the responsible authority for roads in this area, with a goal of moving the state road designation from Elm and Urquhart Streets to Pentridge Boulevard.**
  - b) **Make improvements for people walking and riding along the length of Boundary Road, Pascoe Street, and Rhodes Parade, in Pascoe Vale.**
  - c) **Design and deliver the Craigieburn Line shared path project in collaboration with Council.**



4. **Notes the findings of the investigation into turning roads into parks.**
5. **Conducts a review into the operation of Northumberland Road, between Rhodes Parade and Arndt Street, 12 months following reconstruction of the road. The review shall consider feedback from Pascoe Vale Girls College, Pascoe Street businesses, local residents, and users of Northumberland Road.**
6. **Adds the following text to the 'Proposed Network - Corridor and Targeted network' section of the Streets for People Plan (as a new paragraph 2 on Page 17 of the plan – page 41 of the Council Agenda): “Targeted projects focus on smaller improvements that can be made to the street. This includes elements such as street trees, wayfinding, street benches, and other amenities. Targeted projects typically will not consider significant changes to the way the street operates, such as road closures or protected bike lanes.”**
7. **Changes the title in Table 3 of the Streets for People Plan from “Aspirations Community Engagement” to “Engagement on the community’s aspirations and lived experiences” (page 20 of the Streets for People Plan, and page 44 of the Council Agenda).**
8. **Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to the policy document for publication, as required.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.2 SHARED E-BIKE SCHEME FOR MERRI-BEK (UPDATE)**

### **Executive summary**

Shared mobility schemes in Melbourne have continued to develop since commencing in December 2020. Recent developments have seen e-scooter operations exit the City of Yarra. Since the removal of scooters in City of Melbourne, and now Yarra, the City of Port Phillip is the only Melbourne council with e-scooters remaining in their municipality. Shared e-bikes continue to operate in the Cities of Melbourne, Yarra, Port Phillip, and Stonnington.

Officers undertook five weeks of community consultation (including six weekends) on the proposed approach to bringing shared e-bikes to Merri-bek. Community engagement included a Conversations Merri-bek webpage, an online survey and pin point map, social media campaign, stakeholder discussions, and two face-to-face sessions. The page received 3,382 views and there were 135 survey responses received during the engagement period. Overall, respondents supported the introduction of a shared e-bike scheme and were overwhelmingly supportive of a designated parking zone approach.

In June 2024, a Shared Mobility Stakeholder Panel was established with members made up from community groups, Trader’s Associations, Council’s existing reference groups and advisory committees. The panel has met monthly or bi-monthly to provide officers feedback on the proposed approach and design for shared mobility in Merri-bek.

Officers have continued to participate in a joint council working group with representatives from Cities of Port Phillip, Melbourne, Yarra, Darebin, Stonnington, and Merri-bek. This will continue through the remainder of the year, led by Port Phillip staff who will draft the joint procurement and contract documents.

The joint procurement process will need to broadly align each council's governance and procurement timelines. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being developed that will seek to align procurement processes without binding Council to enter into any contractual agreement with the selected operator(s). It is hoped that a new agreement between one or more of the prospective councils and a selected operator(s) will be in place before the end of 2025. Once this is in place, officers will return to Council with a recommended proposal for endorsement.

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the results of community engagement related to a shared e-bike scheme.
2. Delegates authority to the CEO to finalise and sign a multi-council Memorandum of Understanding for selecting shared e-bike operator(s).
3. Receives a report for a decision to allow a shared scheme in Merri-bek once the outcome of the joint procurement proceedings is known.

## **Motion**

Cr Bolton moved -

That Council defers consideration of 7.2 -Shared E-Bike Scheme for Merri-bek until there is financial clarity about cost estimates of parking bays, and the financial arrangements for paying for the installation of the parking bays.

**Lapsed for want of seconder**

## **Motion**

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

1. Notes the results of community engagement related to a shared e-bike scheme, including that the biggest issue of concern was about footpath access.
2. Delegates authority to the CEO to finalise and sign a multi-council Memorandum of Understanding for selecting shared e-bike operator(s).
3. Notes that virtual parking pins have a low accuracy and should not be considered for Merri-bek. All shared e-bike parking bays to be installed on the road and none on footpaths.
4. Receives a report for a decision to allow a shared scheme in Merri-bek once the outcome of the joint procurement proceedings is known.
5. Notes that any agreement with shared e-bike operators be predicated on the private e-bike operator agreeing to fully fund the installation of parking bays.

*8.00 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting during debate.*

*8.04 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting during debate.*

## **Amendment**

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

That point 3 of the Motion be amended as follows:

3. **Notes that virtual parking pins have a low accuracy and should not be considered for Merri-bek, except for temporary or short-term parking uses. All shared e-bike parking bays to be installed on the road and none on footpaths.**

**Carried**

## Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the results of community engagement related to a shared e-bike scheme, including that the biggest issue of concern was about footpath access.**
2. **Delegates authority to the CEO to finalise and sign a multi-council Memorandum of Understanding for selecting shared e-bike operator(s).**
3. **Notes that virtual parking pins have a low accuracy and should not be considered for Merri-bek, except for temporary or short-term parking uses. All shared e-bike parking bays to be installed on the road and none on footpaths.**
4. **Receives a report for a decision to allow a shared scheme in Merri-bek once the outcome of the joint procurement proceedings is known.**
5. **Notes that any agreement with shared e-bike operators be predicated on the private e-bike operator agreeing to fully fund the installation of parking bays.**

8.18 pm Cr Pulford left the meeting during debate.

8.21 pm Cr Pulford returned to the meeting during debate.

Carried

## 7.3 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

### Executive Summary

The Road Management Plan 2021 was reviewed in accordance with the provisions of the *Road Management Act 2004* and *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*. This involved stakeholder engagement supported by consultation on specific user group needs.

A summary report on the findings and proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan has been prepared (Attachment 1) for public notice and provided for Council consideration.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan as outlined in Attachment 1, in accordance with Section 41 of the *Road Management Act 2004*.
2. Publishes a notice of the proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan in the Victoria Government Gazette and a local newspaper in accordance with the provisions of the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016* stating
  - a) The purpose and general purport of the proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan.
  - b) What road infrastructure or road related infrastructure or classes of roads or pathways will be affected by the proposed amendments.
  - c) Where the written report can be obtained or inspected that summaries the proposed amendment.
  - d) That any person can make a submission in respect of the proposed amendments within 28 days of the public notice being published.

- e) Those submissions can be made through Conversations Merri-bek webpage or in hard copy.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Abboud seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan as outlined in Attachment 1, in accordance with Section 41 of the Road Management Act 2004.**
- 2. Publishes a notice of the proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan in the Victoria Government Gazette and a local newspaper in accordance with the provisions of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 stating**
  - a) The purpose and general purport of the proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan.**
  - b) What road infrastructure or road related infrastructure or classes of roads or pathways will be affected by the proposed amendments.**
  - c) Where the written report can be obtained or inspected that summaries the proposed amendment.**
  - d) That any person can make a submission in respect of the proposed amendments within 28 days of the public notice being published.**
  - e) Those submissions can be made through Conversations Merri-bek webpage or in hard copy.**

**Carried**

## **7.4 AMENDMENT C196MORE - INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL BUILDING OVERLAY SCHEDULE 2 - DECISION GATEWAY 3 - CONSIDERATION OF PANEL REPORT AND DECISION ON THE AMENDMENT**

### **Executive Summary**

Amendment C196more (Amendment) proposes to apply a Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (SBO2) to properties identified within areas where Council is the local drainage authority. This is separate from the existing Special Building Overlay Schedule 1 (SBO1) map in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, which applies to areas where Melbourne Water is the main drainage authority.

The Amendment will support more informed decision-making by identifying land in Merri-bek subject to overland flows and guiding the assessment of planning permit applications. It will also assist licensed building surveyors, who must consider the mapped area when assessing building permit applications.

In December 2023, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare the Amendment, following detailed technical work by specialist engineering firm Engeny (now part of the Egis group). Authorisation was granted in March 2024. The Amendment was publicly exhibited in May and June 2024, with information sent to approximately 10,000 landowners. A follow-up letter was mailed to affected properties in October 2024.

A proactive and comprehensive approach was taken during the exhibition of the Amendment, including direct engagement with submitters to resolve concerns where possible. A total of 94 submissions were received, with six later withdrawn, and three expressing support.

An independent Planning Panel Hearing was held over two days on 12 and 13 June 2025, with only two submitters requesting to be heard. A copy of the Panel report is provided at Attachment 1. The report has also been shared with all submitters and is available on Council's website under [Amendment C196](#).

The Panel concluded in their report that *"the Amendment has strong policy support, will deliver a net community benefit, and should be progressed."* It also supported the recommended changes to the SBO2 map, as proposed by Engeny's expert witness. These recommendations align with those outlined in the Council Report dated 12 February 2025.

In line with the Panel's report, officers recommend that Council adopt the Amendment as exhibited, subject to the changes outlined in the Panel's report. Further details on these changes are provided in Section 3 of this report. Once adopted, the Amendment will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Considers the publicly released Planning Panel Report for Merri-bek Planning Scheme Amendment C196more – Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (Amendment) under section 26 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic) (Act).
2. Adopts the Amendment in accordance with section 29(1) of the Act, as exhibited with the changes recommended by the Planning Panel and discussed at Section 3 of this report and shown in Attachments 4 to 7.
3. Authorises the Director Place and Environment, following adoption of the Amendment, to finalise the Amendment documentation in accordance with Council's resolution, including any administrative or formatting changes to the amendment documentation and mapping required to give effect to Council's resolution.
4. Submit the adopted Amendment together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning for approval, in accordance with section 31(1) of the Act.
5. Write to all submitters to the Amendment, the Building and Plumbing Commission, local building surveyors and Melbourne Water, to advise of this Council resolution.
6. Designates the Amendment Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (SBO2) map in Attachment 5, under Regulation 5(2) of the *Building Regulations 2018*, to replace the previously designated map.

## Resolution

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Svensson seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Considers the publicly released Planning Panel Report for Merri-bek Planning Scheme Amendment C196more – Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (Amendment) under section 26 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic) (Act).**
2. **Adopts the Amendment in accordance with section 29(1) of the Act, as exhibited with the changes recommended by the Planning Panel and discussed at Section 3 of this report and shown in Attachments 4 to 7.**

3. **Authorises the Director Place and Environment, following adoption of the Amendment, to finalise the Amendment documentation in accordance with Council's resolution, including any administrative or formatting changes to the amendment documentation and mapping required to give effect to Council's resolution.**
4. **Submits the adopted Amendment together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning for approval, in accordance with section 31(1) of the Act.**
5. **Writes to all submitters to the Amendment, the Building and Plumbing Commission, local building surveyors and Melbourne Water, to advise of this Council resolution.**
6. **Designates the Amendment Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (SBO2) map in Attachment 5, under Regulation 5(2) of the Building Regulations 2018, to replace the previously designated map.**

**Carried**

## **7.5 NORTH WEST BUILDING PHOENIX STREET AND BRUNSWICK BATHS GYM EXPANSION OPTIONS**

### **Executive Summary**

This report outlines future use options for the North West building at 33 Saxon Street and the expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym, in response to growing community demand, operational pressures, and the current state of the existing buildings.

Following further detailed assessment and scoping of a number of options, it is recommended that Council proceed with works to the ground floor of the North West building in 2026/2027 in order to enable affordable arts use. These works are achievable within existing budget allocations for the North West building. It is also recommended that Council proceed to undertake a concept design for a future expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym, factoring in a proposed future relocation of the outdoor activity zone into the 'hard yard' next door in Balam Balam Place.

The current adopted budget includes \$150,000 in the current year (2025/2026) and \$2,350,000 in 2026/2027. This report is proposing to utilise the current year funding to complete a concept design of the expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym as well as partially utilising 2026/2027 funding for the North West building works. The remaining budget implications of this report, including future construction costs of a future expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym, is being recommended for consideration as a part of 2026-2030 budget process for consideration.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Endorses the implementation of works (\$900,000) to the ground floor of the North West building in 2026/2027 to enable affordable arts use, within existing budget;
2. Endorses the re-allocation of current year funding (\$150,000) to the concept design of an expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym;
3. Refers the budget implications of this report, including the future construction costs of the expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym (currently unfunded), to the 2026-2030 budget process for consideration.

## Resolution

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the implementation of works (\$900,000) to the ground floor of the North West building in 2026/2027 to enable affordable arts use, within existing budget;**
- 2. Endorses the re-allocation of current year funding (\$150,000) to the concept design of an expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym;**
- 3. Refers the budget implications of this report, including the future construction costs of the expansion of the Brunswick Baths gym (currently unfunded), to the 2026-2030 budget process for consideration.**
- 4. Requests an investigation, in consultation with the operators of the Brunswick Baths, of opportunities to utilise other Council facilities in the precinct to host suitable group fitness classes such as Pilates, balance and yoga, to help accommodate current demand and growth at the Brunswick Baths gym.**

*8.26 pm Cr Miles left the meeting during debate.*

*8.28 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting during debate.*

**Carried**

## **7.6 BRUNSWICK LXP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **Executive Summary**

The Victorian Government's Brunswick Level Crossing Removal Project plans to elevate the Upfield Rail Line, removing eight level crossings between Park Street, Parkville, and Albion Street, Brunswick. Initially set for completion in 2027, the project timeline was revised in mid-2024, with level crossings now expected to be removed in 2030.

The State Government funds, designs, and delivers level crossing projects. Council's role is to advocate for the community and ensure the project delivers long-term community benefits.

To support this, LXP has provided Council with a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is a standard process for level crossing removal projects in Victoria. A similar MOU was completed to support the successful Coburg and Glenroy level crossing projects. The MOU has a number of purposes. From Council's perspective, a completed MOU would:

- Facilitate collaboration, allowing Council officers to provide feedback on plans, and advocate for Council's priorities for the community.
- Set out a process for the government to estimate and fund Council resources required to undertake work required during LXP delivery.
- Ensure a structured handover and ongoing maintenance of public spaces beneath the elevated rail. This helps to ensure good design and maintenance of public spaces.

The MOU does not limit Council's ability to advocate for the best outcomes for the community. Officers engaged by Council, even if funded through the MOU, remain fully independent in representing Council and community interests.

If approved, the CEO will execute the MOU, which will enable Council to engage with project implementation more quickly when the government confirms it is ready to progress.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in accordance with the draft MOU at Attachment 1, including:
  - a) Negotiating future funding for Council to engage resources to support the work that will be required in responding to the design and delivery of the Brunswick LXP, should the project proceed.
  - b) Negotiating future handover of any newly created assets for Council operation and maintenance, should the project proceed.

## Resolution

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

That Council:

1. **Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in accordance with the draft MOU at Attachment 1, including:**
  - a) Negotiating future funding for Council to engage resources to support the work that will be required in responding to the design and delivery of the Brunswick LXP, should the project proceed.**
  - b) Negotiating future handover of any newly created assets for Council operation and maintenance, should the project proceed.**

**Carried**

## 7.7 MAIN STREET AND O'HEA STREET INTERSECTION RECENT CRASH HISTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

### Executive Summary

The intersection of Main Street and O'Hea Street in Coburg has been a source of road safety concern for over ten years, particularly for people walking and riding. The intersection is adjacent to the Upfield Line level crossing and has the O'Hea Street two-way bike path on its south side.

Concerns were raised about the intersection recently by community members through consultation on a proposed extension to the O'Hea Street bike path in April 2024. Following this consultation, Council resolved to receive a report investigating the recent crash history at the intersection and identifying opportunities for improvement.

An assessment of the available crash data from the site shows that Main Street has been a 'hot spot' for crashes along O'Hea Street, with seven crashes recorded at the intersection over the past ten years. Six out of seven of those crashes involved a person walking or riding.

Officers have considered a number of options to make improvements to the intersection, noting significant constraints in the proximity to the rail crossing, as well as the presence of a bus route on Main Street. Officers recommend improving line-marking and signage to give unambiguous priority to people walking at the site, which are the changes that Council can make to improve safety. Officers also recommend further advocacy to relevant State government stakeholders to make improvements to the level crossing to address core safety issues for people riding bikes.



## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the findings of the recorded crash review at the Main Street and O’Hea Street intersection, where there have been seven crashes recorded since July 2015, six of which involve a person walking or riding.
2. Endorses minor infrastructure upgrades to the intersection including road narrowing, and ‘zebra’ line-marking and associated signage, subject to approval from the Department of Transport and Planning.
3. Advocates to the relevant State Government agencies for improvements to the O’Hea Street level crossing for people riding bikes.

## Resolution

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

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the findings of the recorded crash review at the Main Street and O’Hea Street intersection, where there have been seven crashes recorded since July 2015, six of which involve a person walking or riding.**
2. **Endorses minor infrastructure upgrades to the intersection including road narrowing, and ‘zebra’ line-marking and associated signage, subject to approval from the Department of Transport and Planning.**
3. **Advocates to the relevant State Government agencies for improvements to the O’Hea Street level crossing for people riding bikes.**

**Carried**

## 7.8 COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW

### Executive Summary

Council is committed to putting the community and its customers first.

The Community Engagement Policy was adopted by Council on the 9 December 2020, superseding Council’s Community Engagement and Public Participation Policy 2018. It supports Council’s integrated strategic planning and reporting framework required under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and meets Council’s legislative requirements for community engagement which is a key focus for local government.

Council’s Advisory Committees are an important network of stakeholders who are regularly engaged to provide detailed feedback on Council’s operations and decisions that may affect specific communities. Council’s Advisory Committees play a key role in providing early advice to Council about significant strategies and policies that impact the community.

The outcome of the Advisory Committee Review seeks to establish five Advisory Committees, each aligned to a Strategic Direction in the Council Plan 2025–2029, to ensure:

- advice is aligned with Council’s key priorities;
- governance is streamlined and efficient;
- engagement compliments the requirements of the Act; and
- committees reflect good governance and responsible resource management.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the proposal to establish the following Advisory Committees and reference groups to support the delivery of its strategic directions and objectives, together with relevant Terms of References as provided in Attachment 1:
  - a) Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Advisory Committee.
  - b) Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Advisory Committee; supported by the following Reference Groups:
    - i) Gender Equality Reference Group
    - ii) LGBTIQA+ Reference Group (established as part of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan)
    - iii) Disability Reference Group
    - iv) Older Persons Reference Group.
  - c) Liveability Advisory Committee; supported by a Strategic Transport Reference Group.
  - d) Merri-bek Arts Advisory Committee
  - e) First Peoples Advisory Committee.
2. Initiates a public engagement process to invite applications for membership for the newly established Council Advisory Committees.
3. Receives a report at its October 2025 Council meeting detailing the outcomes of the application process and appoint members and Councillors accordingly.

## Resolution

**Cr Iwasaki moved, Cr Politis seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the proposal to establish the following Advisory Committees and reference groups to support the delivery of its strategic directions and objectives, together with relevant Terms of References as provided in Attachment 1:**
  - a) **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Advisory Committee.**
  - b) **Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Advisory Committee; supported by the following Reference Groups:**
    - i) **Gender Equality Reference Group**
    - ii) **LGBTIQA+ Reference Group (established as part of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan)**
    - iii) **Disability Reference Group**
    - iv) **Older Persons Reference Group.**
  - c) **Liveability Advisory Committee; supported by a Strategic Transport Reference Group.**
  - d) **Merri-bek Arts Advisory Committee**
  - e) **First Peoples Advisory Committee.**

2. **Initiates a public engagement process to invite applications for membership for the newly established Council Advisory Committees.**
3. **Receives a report at its October 2025 Council meeting detailing the outcomes of the application process and appoint members and Councillors accordingly.**

**Carried**

## **7.9 DRAFT ASSET PLAN FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

### **Executive Summary**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to develop, adopt and maintain a 10-year Asset Plan for maintenance, acquisition, disposal and management of Council-managed assets. A review of the Asset Plan must be completed by 31 October in the year following a General Council election.

Council's \$1.9 billion portfolio of assets has been built up progressively over many decades. Assets such as roads and drainage provide the building blocks of our way of life, while others add to the quality of life by facilitating recreation, arts, culture, health and educational activities. Our assets are also integral to us achieving our zero carbon, water management and social inclusion goals, and support local business and economic development.

The Act requires the Asset Plan to be developed and reviewed through deliberative engagement process in accordance with Council's engagement policy. The draft Asset Plan has been developed in line with Council's deliberative engagement practices and have drawn from the engagement outputs from the deliberative panel formed as a part of the Council Plan and Community Vision review.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. **Endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035, provided as Attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of community exhibition.**
2. **Invites feedback on the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 for the public exhibition period, from 15 August 2025 until 12 September 2025.**
3. **Makes the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Miles seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035, provided as Attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of community exhibition.**
2. **Invites feedback on the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 for the public exhibition period, from 15 August 2025 until 12 September 2025.**
3. **Makes the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.**

**Carried**

## **7.10 DRAFT MERRI-BEK CITY COUNCIL 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2025-2035**

### **Executive Summary**

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to prepare a Financial Plan covering a minimum period of 10-years following each Council election. The draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035 (the draft Financial Plan) covers the periods 2025-26 to 2034-35.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the draft Financial Plan (shown at Attachment 1) for public exhibition to receive community feedback.

The draft Financial Plan is one of a number of integrated documents that have been developed to provide a robust and transparent system of financial management aligned to the longer-term aspirations for Merri-bek and as expressed in the newly refreshed Community Vision and Council Plan.

The draft Financial Plan is an important document as it sets out broadly how Council can fund essential services and projects in coming years. The draft Financial Plan is a decision-making tool to identify Council's current and projected financial capacity to meet Council's future needs in providing services and facilities to the community based on the goals and aspirations of the draft Council Plan. The long-term outlook for Council displays prudent financial management.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035, at Attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of community exhibition.
2. Invites feedback on the draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035 for the public exhibition period, from 15 August 2025 until 12 September 2025.
3. Makes the draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035 available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Svensson seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035, at Attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of community exhibition.**
2. **Invites feedback on the draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035 for the public exhibition period, from 15 August 2025 until 12 September 2025.**
3. **Makes the draft 10-year Financial Plan 2025-2035 available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.**

**Carried**

## 7.11 YEAR 4 COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2024-25 - FOURTH QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

### Executive Summary

The Fourth Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) provides an overview of Council's performance through the delivery of the Council Plan 2021-25, specifically the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25.

The status of the 64 actions is as follows:

- 95% (61 action) closed (achieved)
- 5% (3 actions) withdrawn (on hold or remove).

The Year 4 Council Action Plan in the fourth quarter shows that 95% of actions were completed in delivering the final year action plan for the overarching 2021-25 Council Plan.

With the completion of this Council Action Plan, this report provides the final update on the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-25. Over the past four years, Council has successfully delivered 357 individual actions that have all significantly contributed to achieving the strategic objectives of the plan through the delivery of the strategies, initiatives and priorities as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Some of the key initiatives have included the development of new Open Space and Transport strategies, the opening of major capital projects such as Glenroy Hub, Fawknor Leisure Centre, and Balam Balam Place in Brunswick.

Overall, through the Council Plan 2021-25 and across the five strategic themes, Council has:

- delivered on improvements to our shopping strips;
- supported a vibrant arts and culture scene, and a popular festival program;
- implemented numerous economic development activities to support local businesses;
- strengthened community engagement and improved customer service; and
- consistently advocated for enhanced community outcomes, ensuring Merri-bek remains a great place to live, work and play.

Endorsement is sought to withdraw the following actions, due to external partnerships delays that are impacting the delivery of these actions, and these actions will be considered for future Council Action Plans.

- Action 209: *Commence construction of Brunswick Early Years Centre*
- Action 215: *Commence construction on the West Street streetscape renewal project.*
- Action 216: *Progress construction of the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.*

This report also highlights the overall progress of delivering initiatives as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25 – Fourth Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) and the achievements to date in delivering against the Council Plan 2021-25.

2. Endorses the following action to be withdrawn from the Council Action Plan 2024-25 as outlined in the issues section of this report; these actions will be considered as actions for the 2025/26 Council Action Plan.
  - a) Action 209: *Commence construction of Brunswick Early Years Centre*
  - b) Action 215: *Commence construction on the West Street streetscape renewal project*
  - a) Action 216: *Progress construction of the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.*

## Resolution

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Bolton seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25 – Fourth Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) and the achievements to date in delivering against the Council Plan 2021-25.**
2. **Endorses the following action to be withdrawn from the Council Action Plan 2024-25 as outlined in the issues section of this report; these actions will be considered as actions for the 2025/26 Council Action Plan.**
  - a) **Action 209: Commence construction of Brunswick Early Years Centre**
  - b) **Action 215: Commence construction on the West Street streetscape renewal project**
  - a) **Action 216: Progress construction of the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.**

**Carried**

8.44 pm *Cr Iwasaki declared a general conflict of interest in 7.12 Governance Report – August 2025 – Cyclical Report due to his proposed attendance at the Ecological Society of Australia conference and left the meeting.*

## **7.12 GOVERNANCE REPORT - AUGUST 2025 - CYCLICAL REPORT**

### **Executive Summary**

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

This Governance report includes:

- A summary of the minutes of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee held 17 June 2025.
- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- A summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 3 June 2025.
- Councillor initiated proposed motions for Council's consideration and endorsement to the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting, on the following topics:
  - Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund
  - Keep in-home aged care services in Council hands
  - Protect the future of our public pools.

- Proposed attendance of the Mayor, Cr Davidson at the Northern Councils Alliance advocacy delegation to Parliament in Canberra in August 2025.
- Proposed attendance of the Mayor, Cr Davidson at the Mayoral Taskforce supporting Asylum Seekers Delegation in Canberra in September 2025.
- Proposed attendance of Cr Iwasaki at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Adelaide in November 2025 (including membership).

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the summary of minutes from the Friends of Aileu Community Committee held 17 June 2025, at Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.
3. Notes the summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 3 June 2025, at Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Endorses the following motions (provided as Attachment 4) for submission to the next Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting:
  - a) Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund
  - b) Keep in-home aged care services in Council hands
  - c) Protect the future of our public pools.
5. Approves attendance of the Mayor, Cr Davidson to attend the Northern Councils Alliance Mayor and CEO advocacy visit to Parliament in Canberra, 26-28 August 2025, at a cost of approximately \$1,500 (including GST), and notes the Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson will also be attending.
6. Notes the attendance of the Mayor, Cr Davidson at the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting Asylum Seekers Delegation in Canberra from 2 to 3 September 2025, with all associated costs covered by the Mayoral Taskforce.
7. Approves membership for Cr Iwasaki to the Ecological Society of Australia at a cost of \$120.
8. Approves interstate travel and registration for Cr Iwasaki to attend the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Adelaide from 23 to 28 November 2025, at an estimated total cost of \$3,000 (inclusive of GST, travel, accommodation, and registration). Noting that expenses will be covered by the Mayor and Councillor Support budget, and that membership fee reduces the conference registration from \$1,045 (non-member rate) to \$845.

## **Separating the Motion**

At the request of Cr Miles, and with the agreement of Council, the Motion was separated to consider Points 7 and 8 separately.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Abboud seconded -**

That Council:

1. **Notes the summary of minutes from the Friends of Aileu Community Committee held 17 June 2025, at Attachment 1 to this report.**
2. **Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.**
3. **Notes the summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 3 June 2025, at Attachment 3 to this report.**

4. Endorses the following motions (provided as Attachment 4) for submission to the next Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting:
  - a) Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund
  - b) Keep in-home aged care services in Council hands
  - c) Protect the future of our public pools.
5. Approves attendance of the Mayor, Cr Davidson to attend the Northern Councils Alliance Mayor and CEO advocacy visit to Parliament in Canberra, 26-28 August 2025, at a cost of approximately \$1,500 (including GST), and notes the Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson will also be attending.
6. Notes the attendance of the Mayor, Cr Davidson at the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting Asylum Seekers Delegation in Canberra from 2 to 3 September 2025, with all associated costs covered by the Mayoral Taskforce.

**Carried**

## Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

That Council:

7. Approves membership for Cr Iwasaki to the Ecological Society of Australia at a cost of \$120.
8. Approves interstate travel and registration for Cr Iwasaki to attend the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Adelaide from 23 to 28 November 2025, at an estimated total cost of \$3,000 (inclusive of GST, travel, accommodation, and registration). Noting that expenses will be covered by the Mayor and Councillor Support budget, and that membership fee reduces the conference registration from \$1,045 (non-member rate) to \$845.

Cr Pulford called for a division.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Cr Bolton	Cr Yildiz	Cr Davidson
Cr Pulford	Cr Miles	
Cr Svensson		
Cr Politis		
Cr Abboud		
Cr Irvin		
Cr Theodosis		
<b>Total For (7)</b>	<b>Total Against (2)</b>	<b>Total Abstained (1)</b>

**Carried**

8.51 pm      *Cr Iwasaki returned to the meeting.*

## 7.13 CONTRACT AWARD: MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) MAV-MS8014-25 MAILING SERVICES

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommending opting into contract no MAV-MS8014-25 for mailing services. The current Municipal Association of Victoria (DM8014) contract is due to expire on 31 July 2025.

The scope of the tender for mailing services included the following services:

- Category One – Direct Mail Services
- Category Two – Unaddressed Mail/Mail Delivery



Direct Mail Services involve the physical delivery of promotional or transactional materials, like letters, brochures, or catalogues, directly to a recipient's mailbox.

Unaddressed mail, also known as letterbox drops or unaddressed advertising, refer to the delivery of materials to residential and business addresses without specific recipient names or addresses.

Council is seeking Category One - Direct Mail Services only. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) conducts the tender on behalf of councils. The tender was advertised on 7 April 2025, closing on 1 May 2025. The proposed contract term is three (3) years from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028 with an option to extend for two (2) additional periods of three (3) years.

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

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves opting into a Collaborative Procurement Arrangement with Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) contract MAV-MS8014-25 for the Provision of Digital Mail Services **(Contract)**:
  - a) For an amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 excluding GST; and
  - b) For an initial contract term of three (3) years with a further two (2) by three (3) year extension options commencing 1 August 2025.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract; and
4. Advises Municipal Association of Victoria of its decision on this matter.

## Resolution

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

**That Council:**

1. **Approves opting into a Collaborative Procurement Arrangement with Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) contract MAV-MS8014-25 for the Provision of Digital Mail Services (Contract):**
  - a) **For an amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 excluding GST; and**
  - b) **For an initial contract term of three (3) years with a further two (2) by three (3) year extension options commencing 1 August 2025.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract; and**
4. **Advises Municipal Association of Victoria of its decision on this matter.**

**Carried**

8.53 pm      *Cr Abboud left the meeting.*

## 7.14 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-P-2024-6 PROVISION OF DRAINAGE, CCTV SURVEYS, DRAIN CLEANING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS/SERVICES

### Executive Summary

The purpose of the report is to award a tender to a panel of providers for the provision of Drainage, CCTV Surveys, Drain Cleaning and Associated works/services. Council owns 495.8 km of pipes, 20,842 pits and 23 Gross Pollutant traps (GPT's) within its boundaries, of these approximately 410 km of pipes and 14,572 Pits are within road reserves.

The contracts provide street drainage, CCTV surveys, drain cleaning and associated works/services to the entire municipality as required. The current contract expired on the 30 June 2024, currently services have been provided on a quote basis.

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

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

a) Make a formal offer to:

Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	ABN 20 051 316 584
Total Drain Cleaning Services Pty Ltd	ABN 17 130 467 346
ASG Industrial Pty Ltd	ABN 70 628 475 052
Patriot Tankers Pty Ltd	ABN 58 133 136 400

to award to the Contractors contract RFT-P-2024-6 for the Provision of Drainage, CCTV Surveys, Drain Cleaning and Associated Works/Services (**Contract**) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:

- i. for a supply contract – for the servicing and maintenance of the Stormwater Drain Cleaning, CCTV and other associated works within the municipality to complement and assist council current drainage maintenance program which is operated by the Street Cleansing Unit; and
  - ii. for an estimate contract value of \$837,000 (excluding GST) for the 3-year fixed term, the total contract value including options to extend (1 x 2 years) is \$1,395,000 (excluding GST).
- b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
- i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
  - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.

2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:

- a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;
- b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;

- c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a); and
- d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Bolton moved, Cr Svensson seconded -**

**That Council:**

**1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**

**a) Make a formal offer to:**

<b>Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd</b>	<b>ABN 20 051 316 584</b>
<b>Total Drain Cleaning Services Pty Ltd</b>	<b>ABN 17 130 467 346</b>
<b>ASG Industrial Pty Ltd</b>	<b>ABN 70 628 475 052</b>
<b>Patriot Tankers Pty Ltd</b>	<b>ABN 58 133 136 400</b>

**to award to the Contractors contract RFT-P-2024-6 for the Provision of Drainage, CCTV Surveys, Drain Cleaning and Associated Works/Services (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**

- i. **for a supply contract – for the servicing and maintenance of the Stormwater Drain Cleaning, CCTV and other associated works within the municipality to complement and assist council current drainage maintenance program which is operated by the Street Cleansing Unit; and**
  - ii. **for an estimate contract value of \$837,000 (excluding GST) for the 3-year fixed term, the total contract value including options to extend (1 x 2 years) is \$1,395,000 (excluding GST).**
- b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
- i. **the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
  - ii. **other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.**

**2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:**

- a) **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;**
- b) **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;**

- c) **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a); and**
- d) **Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**

**Carried**

## **7.15 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2025-1 DUNSTAN RESERVE CHILDCARE CENTRE EXPANSION**

### **Executive Summary**

The Dunstan Reserve Childcare Centre Expansion project aims to expand the existing kindergarten and upgrade the existing amenity to accommodate increasing population needs including the State's expansion of 3-year-old kindergarten programs.

The proposed kindergarten will provide additional 22 student places and will be compliant with current standards. The design has been finalised and approved by key stakeholders.

A public tender was released on 1 February 2025 and closed on 28 February. Seven tender submissions were received.

Tender evaluation was undertaken by Tender Evaluation Team. Interviews were conducted with shortlisted tenderers, and Best and Final Offer (BAFO) requested. Notion Partners has been identified as the preferred service provider based on a set of predefined evaluation criteria, which considered a balance of cost, capacity, capability, and risk.

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

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to Notion Partners - ABN 30 328 629 266 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-1 Dunstan Reserve Childcare Centre Expansion (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution for the lump sum of \$2,467,079.00 (excluding GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## Resolution

Cr Svensson moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to Notion Partners - ABN 30 328 629 266 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-1 Dunstan Reserve Childcare Centre Expansion (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution for the lump sum of \$2,467,079.00 (excluding GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

8.54 pm Cr Abboud returned to the meeting during debate.

8.54 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting during debate.

Carried

## 7.16 CONTRACT AWARD RFT-P-2025-1 - PROVISION OF BLUESTONE, PAVING AND RETAINING WALL MAINTENANCE SERVICES

### Executive Summary

The report seeks Council endorsement to award Contract RFT-P-2025-1 - Provision of Bluestone, Paving and Retaining Wall Maintenance Services.

The contract is required for Council officers to coordinate maintenance works for bluestone laneways, bluestone kerb, retaining walls and paving. A single supplier will be appointed to provide the following services:

- Part A – Bluestone Pitcher Repair
- Part B – Retaining Wall Repair
- Part C – Pavement Repair

The overall goal is to ensure our bluestone assets are maintained and safe for the community.

The initial contract period of 1 year with three additional extension options each of 1 year at the discretion of Council.

The total contract term including options is 4 years.

There is no specific nominated budget under this contract; it will be dependent upon workload generated by projects. However, the overall combined contract expenditure is limited to \$1,400,000 (excluding GST) over the life of the contract (up to 4 years).

Expenditure under this contract will be determined by available annual budget allocations and works required during the contract term.

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

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer and award Contract RFT-P-2025-1 - Provision of Bluestone, Paving and Retaining Wall Maintenance Services to GP Bluestone Pty Ltd ABN 21 664 700 435 as the preferred contractor, accepting the tendered Schedule of Rates
    - i. For a period of one (1) year commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further three (3), one (1) year extensions at the discretion of Council
    - ii. For a maximum amount of \$1,400,000 (excluding GST) over the term of the contract, including extension options.
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;
  - b) Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
  - c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a); and
  - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## **Resolution**

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

**That Council:**

1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) **Make a formal offer and award Contract RFT-P-2025-1 - Provision of Bluestone, Paving and Retaining Wall Maintenance Services to GP Bluestone Pty Ltd ABN 21 664 700 435 as the preferred contractor, accepting the tendered Schedule of Rates:**

- i. For a period of one (1) year commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further three (3), one (1) year extensions at the discretion of Council; and
    - ii. For a maximum amount of \$1,400,000 (excluding GST) over the term of the contract, including extension options.
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;
  - b) Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
  - c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a); and
  - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

**Carried**

## **7.17 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-P-2025-3 PANEL OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE SERVICES PROVIDERS**

### **Executive Summary**

The report seeks Council endorsement to award Contract RFT-P-2025-3 Panel of Building Maintenance Service Providers. This contract is to select and appoint a panel of licensed and qualified vendors to provide a variety maintenance services for Council owned assets across multiple sites within the Merri-bek City Council municipality.

This contract provides a range of contractors who are suitable for trade works in Council buildings, based on their cost, experience and expertise.

Tenderers were called for a panel of appropriate experienced and qualified vendors to provide a variety maintenance services for Council owned assets across multiple sites within the Merri-bek City Council municipality for an initial contract period of 2 years with two additional extension options each of 2 years at the discretion of Council.

The total contract term including options is 6 years.

The following suppliers are proposed to be awarded Contract RFT-P2025-3;

- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Prestige Painting Group Pty Ltd   | ABN 17 711 734 627 |
| • Argyle Maintenance Unit Trust     | ABN 86 057 016 273 |
| • Blended Services Group Pty Ltd    | ABN 45 634 713 554 |
| • New Plumbing Solutions            | ABN 54 672 685 228 |
| • Burstons Plumbing and Gas Fitting | ABN 35 668 579 717 |
| • Evans Plumbing                    | ABN 64 648 307 939 |

- The Reed Group Australia ABN 37 617 148 295
- Shield Plumbing and Drainage Pty Ltd ABN 82 169 750 289
- Nesty's Floor ABN 71 477 041 134
- Fraietta Nominees Pty Ltd ABN 53 920 898 858
- Keast Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd ABN 87 230 958 723
- M & R Glass Pty Ltd ABN 12 249 685 699
- Programmed Property Services Pty Ltd ABN 66 106 015 632
- Harris HMC Maintenance ABN 56 006 262 979
- Oasis Tension Structures ABN 58 074 918 120

There is no specific nominated budget under this contract; it will be dependent upon workload generated by projects, and reactive and planned maintenance works. However, the overall combined contract expenditure is limited to \$8,800,000 (excluding GST) over the life of the contract (up to 6 years).

Expenditure under this contract will be determined by available annual budget allocations and works required during the contract term.

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

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by tenderers and make a formal offer and award Contract RFT-P-2025-3 Panel of Building Maintenance Service Providers (Contract) to the following contractors under each service category:

### Painting

- Prestige Painting Group Pty Ltd ABN 17 711 734 627
- Argyle Maintenance Unit Trust ABN 86 057 016 273
- Programmed Property Services Pty Ltd ABN 66 106 015 632

### Plumbing

- New Plumbing Solutions ABN 54 672 685 228
- Burstons Plumbing and Gas Fitting ABN 35 668 579 717
- Evans Plumbing ABN 64 648 307 939
- The Reed Group Australia ABN 37 617 148 295
- Shield Plumbing and Drainage Pty Ltd ABN 82 169 750 289

### Carpet and Vinyl

- Nesty's Floor, ABN 71 477 041 134
- Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554

### Carpentry and Building

- Fraietta Nominees Pty Ltd ABN 53 920 898 858
- Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554
- Keast Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd ABN 87 230 958 723
- Harris HMC Maintenance ABN 56 006 262 979

### Glazing

- M & R Glass Pty Ltd ABN 12 249 685 699
- Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554

### Paling & Chainwire

- Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554
- Keast Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd ABN 87 230 958 723



### **Safety Access**

- Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554
- Harris HMC Maintenance ABN 56 006 262 979

### **Concreting and Bricklaying**

- Fraietta Nominees Pty Ltd ABN 53 920 898 858
- Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554

### **Shade sails**

- Oasis Tension Structures ABN 58 074 918 120
  - Blended Services Group Pty Ltd ABN 45 634 713 554
- For a period of two (2) years commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further two (2), two (2) year extensions at the discretion of Council
  - For a maximum amount of \$8,800,000.00 (excluding GST) across all suppliers over the term of the contract, including extension options.
- Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
- Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
    - Do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;
    - Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
    - Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a); and
    - Advise all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Bolton seconded -**

**That Council:**

### **1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**

- Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by tenderers and make a formal offer and award Contract RFT-P-2025-3 Panel of Building Maintenance Service Providers (Contract) to the following contractors under each service category:**

#### **Painting**

- **Prestige Painting Group Pty Ltd** ABN 17 711 734 627
- **Argyle Maintenance Unit Trust** ABN 86 057 016 273
- **Programmed Property Services Pty Ltd** ABN 66 106 015 632

#### **Plumbing**

- **New Plumbing Solutions** ABN 54 672 685 228
- **Burstons Plumbing and Gas Fitting** ABN 35 668 579 717
- **Evans Plumbing** ABN 64 648 307 939
- **The Reed Group Australia** ABN 37 617 148 295
- **Shield Plumbing and Drainage Pty Ltd** ABN 82 169 750 289

#### **Carpet and Vinyl**

- **Nesty's Floor,** ABN 71 477 041 134
- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554

#### **Carpentry and Building**

- **Fraietta Nominees Pty Ltd** ABN 53 920 898 858
- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554
- **Keast Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd** ABN 87 230 958 723
- **Harris HMC Maintenance** ABN 56 006 262 979

#### **Glazing**

- **M & R Glass Pty Ltd** ABN 12 249 685 699
- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554

#### **Paling & Chainwire**

- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554
- **Keast Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd** ABN 87 230 958 723

#### **Safety Access**

- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554
- **Harris HMC Maintenance** ABN 56 006 262 979

#### **Concreting and Bricklaying**

- **Fraietta Nominees Pty Ltd** ABN 53 920 898 858
- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554

#### **Shade sails**

- **Oasis Tension Structures** ABN 58 074 918 120
- **Blended Services Group Pty Ltd** ABN 45 634 713 554

- i. For a period of two (2) years commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further two (2), two (2) year extensions at the discretion of Council
- ii. For a maximum amount of \$8,800,000.00 (excluding GST) across all suppliers over the term of the contract, including extension options.

**b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**

- i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
- ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.

**2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:**

- a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;

- b) Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
- c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a); and
- d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

Carried

8.56 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.

## 7.18 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-P-2025-4 SUPPLY OF MEAT AND/OR FISH

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend the award of a panel contract for the supply of meat and fish products to Council.

The aim of the tender process is to establish a panel of meat and fish suppliers to support the operations of Merri-bek's Meals Production Kitchen. This kitchen functions as a Class 1 Food Production Business and is responsible for preparing and delivering meals to eligible recipients under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), the Home and Community Care Program (HACC), and individuals with Home Care Packages who have supply agreements in place. In addition to servicing Merri-bek residents, the meals service fulfills contractual obligations with Banyule, Yarra, and Darebin Councils.

To facilitate procurement of these services and in the light of the expiry of the previous contract through which Council used to procure these services, Merri-bek City Council is establishing a new panel of contractors with competitively sourced schedules of rates to provide the following Panel of Meat and/or Fish Services.

Council sought tenders from suitably qualified contractors for each of these categories and assessed the tenders in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and with the Procurement Evaluation and Probity Plan. Contracts are recommended to be awarded as outlined in the Officer Recommendation above. The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by Tenderers and make a formal offer to each of the individual panel contractors listed in Table 1 below according to the service categories, for the **Contract RFT-P-2025-4 Supply of Meat and/or Fish (Contract)** on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For a period of two (2) years commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further two (2), two (2) year extension at the discretion of Council.
    - ii. For a maximum contract expenditure of \$3,022,000 (excluding GST) across all suppliers for the term of the contract including extension options.

<b>Preferred Tenderers Fully Legal Name</b>	<b>ABN</b>
<b>Meat Suppliers</b>	
Australian Meat Company Pty Ltd	41 114 584 100
PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	29 006 972 381
Poultry N More (Aust) Pty Ltd	42 142 888 015
The Trustee for the Tip Top Butchers Trust T/as Tip Top Meats	38 204 135 272
<b>Fish Suppliers</b>	
PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	29 006 972 381
The Trustee for the C&G Goulas Family Trust T/as Conway Fish Trading (Aust) Pty Ltd	58 636 278 084

- b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and each Contractor provided that:
  - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
  - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by each Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract;
  - b) Exercise the option to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
  - c) Accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a).
  - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Politis moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) **Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by Tenderers and make a formal offer to each of the individual panel contractors listed in Table 1 below according to the service categories, for the Contract RFT-P-2025-4 Supply of Meat and/or Fish (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
    - i. **For a period of two (2) years commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further two (2), two (2) year extension at the discretion of Council.**
    - ii. **For a maximum contract expenditure of \$3,022,000 (excluding GST) across all suppliers for the term of the contract including extension options.**

Preferred Tenderers Fully Legal Name	ABN
<b>Meat Suppliers</b>	
Australian Meat Company Pty Ltd	41 114 584 100
PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	29 006 972 381
Poultry N More (Aust) Pty Ltd	42 142 888 015
The Trustee for the Tip Top Butchers Trust T/as Tip Top Meats	38 204 135 272
<b>Fish Suppliers</b>	
PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	29 006 972 381
The Trustee for the C&G Goulas Family Trust T/as Conway Fish Trading (Aust) Pty Ltd	58 636 278 084

- b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and each Contractor provided that:
  - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
  - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by each Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract;
  - b) Exercise the option to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
  - c) Accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a).
  - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

**Carried**

## **7.19 CONTRACT AWARD:RFT-P-2025-5 SUPPLY OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the award of a panel contract for the supply of fruit and vegetables to Council.

The aim of the tender process is to establish a panel of fruit and vegetable suppliers to support the operations of Merri-bek's Meals Production Kitchen. This kitchen functions as a Class 1 Food Production Business and is responsible for preparing and delivering meals to eligible recipients under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), the Home and Community Care Program (HACC), and individuals with Home Care Packages who have supply agreements in place. In addition to servicing Merri-bek residents, the meals service fulfills contractual obligations with Banyule, Yarra, and Darebin Councils.

To facilitate procurement of these services and in the light of the expiry of the previous contract through which Council used to procure these services, Council is establishing a new panel of contractors with competitively sourced schedules of rates to provide the following Panel of Fruit and Vegetables Services.

The potential term for the successful tenderers is six years, consisting of the initial contract term of 2 years with two 2-year extension options.

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

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
    - a) Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by Tenderers and make a formal offer to the individual panel contractors listed below:
      - The Trustee for City Fresh Wholesalers Unit Trust T/as City Fresh Wholesalers Pty Ltd (55 133 089 762)
      - The Trustee for Dimasi Family Trust T/as Northern Mobile Fresh Produce (66 541 820 451)
      - PFD Food Services Pty Ltd (29 006 972 381)
      - The Trustee for the M Santalucia Trust T/as Tasty One (52 453 980 316)for the **Contract RFT-P-2025-5 Supply of Fruit and Vegetables (Contract)** on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For a period of two (2) years commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further two (2), two (2) year extension at the discretion of Council
    - ii. For a maximum amount of \$1,390,000 (excluding GST) across all suppliers over the term of the contract including extension options.
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and each Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by each Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract;
  - b) Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
  - c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a).
  - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Svensson seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by Tenderers and make a formal offer to the individual panel contractors listed below:**
    - The Trustee for City Fresh Wholesalers Unit Trust T/as City Fresh Wholesalers Pty Ltd (55 133 089 762)**
    - The Trustee for Dimasi Family Trust T/as Northern Mobile Fresh Produce (66 541 820 451)**
    - PFD Food Services Pty Ltd (29 006 972 381)**
    - The Trustee for the M Santalucia Trust T/as Tasty One (52 453 980 316)**

**for the Contract RFT-P-2025-5 Supply of Fruit and Vegetables (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**

    - i. For a period of two (2) years commencing 1 September 2025, with an option for a further two (2), two (2) year extension at the discretion of Council**
    - ii. For a maximum amount of \$1,390,000 (excluding GST) across all suppliers over the term of the contract including extension options.**
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and each Contractor provided that:**
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.**
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by each Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract;**
  - b) Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;**
  - c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure we can maintain a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council's needs, providing the total contract amount to remain as paragraph 1 (a).**
  - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**

**Carried**

## **7.20 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2025-9 ALLARD PARK SPORTS FIELD UPGRADE**

### **Executive Summary**

After a competitive tender process this report seeks to award contract RFT-2025-9 for the Allard Park Sports Field Upgrade Works to the preferred contractor, The Green Turf Trust. The focus of this project is to improve ground playing conditions increasing the availability of the ground used by North Brunswick Football Club, the Brunswick Cricket Club and the Brunswick Ultimate Disc Society.

The existing playing surface is currently compromised by poor drainage and inadequate grass coverage, particularly during the winter months, which adversely affects both sporting activities and broader community use.

Improvements to the sport field include reorientation of the football goals and goal squares, upgrading the drainage and irrigation and replacing the existing synthetic cricket wicket with a new natural turf cricket wicket. In addition, a warm-season grass surface will be installed, offering improved durability during summer, reduced water consumption, and greater year-round usability for passive recreation, including dog walking.

The tenders were evaluated, and The Green Turf Trust was identified as the preferred tenderer, achieving the highest score through the evaluation process by the evaluation panel. The project scope was assessed including the provisional sum items.

The Green Turf Trust has previously delivered similar type of sports field upgrade projects successfully to a very good standard and demonstrated in their tender submission that they have undertaken similar upgrade works that have included drainage, irrigation and re-shaping of the ground for other local government authorities.

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

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to The Trustee for The Green Turf Trust to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-9 for the Allard Park Sports Field Upgrade Works (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For the total Contract value of \$1,911,695 (excluding GST), comprising of fixed lump sum of \$1,868,326.75 (excluding GST) plus provisional sum(s) of \$43,368.25 (excluding GST),
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.



## **Resolution**

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -**

**That Council:**

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) Make a formal offer to The Trustee for The Green Turf Trust to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-9 for the Allard Park Sports Field Upgrade Works (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
    - i. For the total Contract value of \$1,911,695 (excluding GST), comprising of fixed lump sum of \$1,868,326.75 (excluding GST) plus provisional sum(s) of \$43,368.25 (excluding GST),**
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;**
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:**
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and**
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**

**Carried**

## **7.21 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2025-10 RETAINING WALL RECONSTRUCTION AT MITCHELL PARADE, PASCOE VALE SOUTH**

### **Executive Summary**

In September 2022, a section of retaining structure abutting private properties along Mitchell Parade, Pascoe Vale South collapsed. The structure is described as 300mm thick bluestone wall with no reinforcement, with unknown footing details. The structure comprises of a terraced wall, consisting of two rows of bluestone walls, with heights varying in accordance with the grade of Mitchell Parade. In the southern location of the wall, the two terraced walls merge into a single structure of approximately 7.0m high. It is at this section of the wall that the sudden failure occurred. Following the collapsed wall, temporary fencing and propping were installed to stabilise the structure and make it safe.

After much engineering investigation and analysis, it has been established that the existing failing structure requires replacement with a new retaining wall.

The scope of work includes the construction of a new concrete retaining wall, consisting of piles, shotcrete and a capping beam, backfilling restoration directly behind the retaining wall, drainage works, installation of a balustrade steel fence, demolition of the existing lower retaining wall and reinstatement of the footpath and driveway at 390 Reynard Street.

During the tender evaluation process, Multipro Civil Pty Ltd (Multipro) was identified as the preferred tenderer based on their previous experience and quality of their submission. Multipro confirmed their availability to undertake the works with a starting date early to mid-September 2025.

Multipro has previously undertaken projects of similar complexity with other councils and Merri-bek with good outcomes. Their construction program is a 27-week duration, starting in 2025/26, and aligns with Council's requirements to complete this project this financial year 2025/26.

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

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to Multipro Civil Pty Ltd, ACN 112 295 879 / ABN 15 872 800 386 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-10 for the Reconstruction of retaining wall at Mitchell Parade, Pascoe Vale South (**Contract**) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For the Total contract value is \$2,079,912.00 (excluding GST) comprising of Fixed Lump sum of \$1,979,912 (excluding GST) and provisional sum of \$100,000 (excluding GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; RFT-2025-10; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.
3. Allocates the budget shortfall of \$1,068,852 through the Roads to Recovery 2024-2029 allocation.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Theodosis seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) **Make a formal offer to Multipro Civil Pty Ltd, ACN 112 295 879 / ABN 15 872 800 386 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-10 for the Reconstruction of retaining wall at Mitchell Parade, Pascoe Vale South (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
    - i. **For the Total contract value is \$2,079,912.00 (excluding GST) comprising of Fixed Lump sum of \$1,979,912 (excluding GST) and provisional sum of \$100,000 (excluding GST).**

- b) **Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
  - i. **the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
  - ii. **other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.**
- 2. **Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:**
  - a) **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; RFT-2025-10; and**
  - b) **Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**
- 3. **Allocates the budget shortfall of \$1,068,852 through the Roads to Recovery 2024-2029 allocation.**

**Carried**

## **7.22 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2025-24 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION KATAWA GROVE, BRUNSWICK (COORAMINTA STREET TO DEAD END) AND DRAINAGE ALONG COORAMINTA STREET (BLYTH STREET TO KATAWA GROVE)**

### **Executive Summary**

The road reconstruction of Katawa Grove in Brunswick, from Cooraminta Street to the dead end, has been included in the 2025–2026 Capital Works Program under the Roads and Carparks Program. As part of this project, and to improve the drainage system along Katawa Grove, a new drainage network will also be installed along Cooraminta Street, extending up to Blyth Street. The project is part-funded through the Development Contributions Plan (DCP).

The scope of works includes the installation of underground drainage pipes and associated pits, reconstruction of the existing bluestone kerb and channel, bluestone and concrete vehicle crossings, asphalt footpaths, and garden bed installation.

Following the tender evaluation process, MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd (MJ) has been identified as the preferred tenderer based on the strength of their submission. Subject to contract award on 13 August 2025, the contractor has confirmed readiness to commence offsite preparatory works from 29 August 2025.

MJ Construction Group has successfully delivered projects of similar scale and complexity for Merri-bek and other councils, with strong performance outcomes. Onsite construction is scheduled to begin in the last week of August 2025 and is expected to be completed over a four-month period by December 2025 (weather permitting). The works will be delivered in up to two distinct sections to minimise disruption to residents and local traffic.

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

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Make a formal offer to MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd and ACN 092 432 730 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-24 Road Reconstruction Katawa Grove, Brunswick (Cooraminta Street to Dead End) and Drainage Along Cooraminta Street (Blyth Street to Katawa Grove) (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
    - i. For the total Contract value of \$826,958.00 (excluding GST), comprising of fixed lump sum of \$658,448.00 (excluding GST) and provisional amount of \$168,510.00 (excluding GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer,
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.
3. Refers the budget shortfall of \$168,197 to the quarterly budget review process.

## Resolution

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

That Council:

1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) **Make a formal offer to MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd and ACN 092 432 730 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-24 Road Reconstruction Katawa Grove, Brunswick (Cooraminta Street to Dead End) and Drainage Along Cooraminta Street (Blyth Street to Katawa Grove) (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
    - i. **For the total Contract value of \$826,958.00 (excluding GST), comprising of fixed lump sum of \$658,448.00 (excluding GST) and provisional amount of \$168,510.00 (excluding GST).**
  - b) **Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
    - i. **the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
    - ii. **other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer,**

2. **Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:**
  - a) **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and**
  - b) **Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**
3. **Refers the budget shortfall of \$168,197 to the quarterly budget review process.**

**Carried**

## **7.23 WASTE COLLECTION UPDATE: SOUTHERN COLLECTION AREA CONTRACT MATTERS 529T AND FORTNIGHTLY RUBBISH TIMING**

### **Executive Summary**

Council currently collects kerbside waste, south of Bell Street, through a contract. Contract 529T Waste Services Agreement was originally with Citywide Service Solutions. From 1 July 2025 the Contract was novated to Cleanaway Pty Ltd, which has recently acquired Citywide's waste business. The current contract expiry date is 30 June 2026, with one more 12-month extension option available.

Extending the contract will allow time for proper planning and preparation of tender documents to get the best market response. Negotiations are proposed to commence immediately to secure the extension.

In December 2021, Council endorsed the staged implementation of the Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy and resolved to trial fortnightly rubbish service in 2025 at two locations. The trial has been established with a 3-month period of data collection, time to analyse the outcomes and a report to Council in December 2025 for a decision on a municipal-wide fortnightly service.

Moving to a municipal-wide fortnightly service from 1 July 2026 (as originally envisaged) from a December 2025 decision date is no longer practicable due to constraints in procurement of bins and complexities relating to the Southern Collection Area contract. A date of 1 July 2027 is now proposed.

This date change allows for an extension of the formal trial period of fortnightly rubbish with more robust data collection and with time to see household behaviour changes bedded down. It also allows for an additional round of community engagement. The decision on proceeding with a municipal-wide fortnightly service is now proposed to occur in June 2026 and if resolved, would be delivered from 1 July 2027 in line with the new Southern Collection Area contract.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the final extension option with Cleanaway Pty Ltd ABN 79 000 164 938 (Contractor) for Contract 529T Waste Services Agreement for the provision of kerbside collection of general waste, recycling, food and garden organics and glass for the Southern Collection Area (Contract) subject to the terms outlined in Confidential Attachment 1.
2. Commences the procurement tender process for the Provision of Waste Services for the Southern Collection Area as further described in Confidential Attachment 1, noting that the contract award will be subject to a Council resolution.

3. Approves a delay in the decision on the ongoing municipal-wide frequency of fortnightly rubbish collections to no later than June 2026; enabling:
  - a) A longer period for active evaluation of the trial areas of parts of Hadfield, Brunswick West and Brunswick.
  - b) Further community engagement on fortnightly rubbish collection following the trial outcomes.
  - c) Adequate time for procurement of bins required for a municipal-wide fortnightly rubbish service.
4. Notes that:
  - a) Collection contract arrangements for the Southern Collection Area will allow for either fortnightly or weekly rubbish collections, pending the June 2026 decision.
  - b) If it is decided not to proceed with municipal-wide fortnightly rubbish in June 2026, arrangements will be made to discontinue the fortnightly services in the trial areas of parts of Hadfield, Brunswick West and Brunswick as soon as practicable.

## Motion

Cr Bolton moved

That Council:

1. Defers consideration of the Waste Collection Southern Collection Area Contract Matters 529T until the September council meeting to allow further time for consideration.
2. Approves a delay in the decision on the ongoing municipal-wide frequency of fortnightly rubbish collections to no later than June 2026; enabling:
  - a) A longer period for active evaluation of the trial areas of parts of Hadfield, Brunswick West and Brunswick.
  - b) Further community engagement on fortnightly rubbish collection following the trial outcomes.
  - c) Adequate time for procurement of bins required for a municipal-wide fortnightly rubbish service.
3. Notes that:
  - a) Collection arrangements for the Southern Collection Area will allow for either fortnightly or weekly rubbish collections, pending the June 2026 decision.
  - b) If it is decided not to proceed with municipal-wide fortnightly rubbish in June 2026, arrangements will be made to discontinue the fortnightly services in the trial areas of parts of Hadfield, Brunswick West and Brunswick as soon as practicable.

**Lapsed for want of a seconder**

## Resolution

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Svensson seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the final extension option with Cleanaway Pty Ltd ABN 79 000 164 938 (Contractor) for Contract 529T Waste Services Agreement for the provision of kerbside collection of general waste, recycling, food and garden organics and glass for the Southern Collection Area (Contract) subject to the terms outlined in Confidential Attachment 1.**

2. Commences the procurement tender process for the Provision of Waste Services for the Southern Collection Area as further described in Confidential Attachment 1, noting that the contract award will be subject to a Council resolution.
3. Approves a delay in the decision on the ongoing municipal-wide frequency of fortnightly rubbish collections to no later than June 2026; enabling:
  - a) A longer period for active evaluation of the trial areas of parts of Hadfield, Brunswick West and Brunswick.
  - b) Further community engagement on fortnightly rubbish collection following the trial outcomes including investigation for options to support nappy and continence disposal.
  - c) Adequate time for procurement of bins required for a municipal-wide fortnightly rubbish service.
4. Notes that:
  - a) Collection contract arrangements for the Southern Collection Area will allow for either fortnightly or weekly rubbish collections, pending the June 2026 decision.
  - b) If it is decided not to proceed with municipal-wide fortnightly rubbish in June 2026, arrangements will be made to discontinue the fortnightly services in the trial areas of parts of Hadfield, Brunswick West and Brunswick as soon as practicable.

9.12 pm Cr Miles left the meeting.

9.12 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting.

**Carried**

*Cr Bolton and Cr Yildiz voted against the motion.*

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

*The order of business was altered to bring forward Notice of Motion 8.1 John Englart Recognition to be the first item considered after Public Question Time.*

## **NOTICE OF RESCISSION**

Nil.

9.18 pm Cr Bolton left the meeting.

## **FORESHADOWED ITEMS**

Cr Abboud foreshadowed a Notice of Motion regarding Council assets, such as pools and leisure centres, and what opportunities exists for how to activate them further.

## **URGENT BUSINESS REPORTS**

Nil

## CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

### Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

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

- 12.1 Future Contract Extension for RFT 2021-203 Management of Council's Aquatic and Leisure Services 2026–2029 because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

**Carried**

The Council meeting closed to the public at 9.19 pm.

## OPENING THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That the Council meeting be open to the public.

**Carried**

The Council meeting opened to the public at 9.43 pm.

The Council meeting closed at 9.43 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Helen Davidson  
**MAYOR**