



**Merri-bek**  
City Council

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting**

Held in Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre,  
90 Bell Street, Coburg  
on Wednesday 14 May 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.

*In accordance with Governance Rule 3.5.7(5), the meeting was adjourned at 10.29 pm on Wednesday 14 May 2025 and resumed at 6.00 pm on Thursday 15 May 2025.*

	<b>Wednesday 14 May</b>		<b>Thursday 15 May</b>	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Time In</b>	<b>Time Out</b>	<b>Time In</b>	<b>Time Out</b>
Cr Helen Davidson, Mayor	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Helen Politis, Deputy Mayor	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Nat Abboud	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Liz Irvin	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Chris Miles	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Adam Pulford	6.33 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Ella Svensson	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Katerine Theodosis	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 pm
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	6.31 pm	10.29 pm	6.00 pm	6.18 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  
 Unit Manager Governance – Troy Delia

## **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

## **DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

## **MINUTE CONFIRMATION**

### **Resolution**

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

**The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 April 2025 and the Special Council Meeting held on 16 April 2025 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cr Politis acknowledged the work and effort Council put towards Vikki Cleary day, a day that's held in memory of Vikki Cleary who was murdered by her former partner 37 years ago. It is really important that community comes together for these events and Cr Politis was proud that she was able to announce that Council has put \$50,000 towards making sure that our community know Council is working together towards the elimination of violence against women and families.

Cr Politis also acknowledged the presence of fellow councillors on the day, Cr Irvin and Cr Yildiz, who is a white ribbon ambassador and has done much work in this space over a long period of time. Cr Politis thanked them for their presence and looks forward to good work being done in this space.

Cr Svensson acknowledged the terrible crash that occurred last week just outside the Town Hall on Bell Street where a motorcyclist was tragically killed. Cr Svensson's thoughts with the friends and family of everybody who is affected by the tragedy. Although the details of what contributed to the crash are still unknown, it does serve as an important reminder of the tireless advocacy from many members of our community calling for safer local streets here in the Coburg school precinct. Council knows a lot of people in the area don't feel safe walking and riding on the streets. Particularly kids and families attending local schools, childcare centres and maternal child health services and that's why Council continues to advocate to the State Government to take action with Bell Street being a State managed road. Council officers will be meeting with the staff from the Department of Transport and Planning on Thursday 15 May and will highlight Council's concerns about safety on Bell Street and surrounding streets. Officers are also working on a bigger advocacy project to the State Government highlighting state-managed roads all around Merri-bek that are in dire need of traffic safety improvements.

Cr Svensson has also spoken with other Councillors, including the local ward Councillor, Cr Abboud, and a traffic safety town hall meeting is being planned to ensure Council doesn't miss any important areas in need of this key advocacy work. Cr Svensson asked the community to stay tuned for further details. Cr Svensson also encouraged residents to check out the Coburg Kids petition to the State Government calling for a comprehensive safety review of the area around the central Coburg school precinct and encourage people to add their name to the growing list of residents calling for safer streets around here in Coburg. (<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/pedestrian-safety-review-of-the-coburg-school-precinct/>)

Cr Abboud acknowledged her word of the last month as 'consultation. Cr Abboud was astounded and delighted by the number of people who contacted her in her role as a councillor to let her me know what's going on out there and reiterated Council really values consultation and that Council is trying to get better at consulting with residents in the city all the time. Approximately 1500 people talked to Council about dogs and that's just a tip of the iceberg. There's been lots of people talking to Councillors about the Coburg Sports Hub master plan. Cr Abboud encouraged everyone, even if it feels awful, to talk to one or all Councillors about the things that matter to them in the community otherwise Councillors are worth nothing to the community they have been elected to represent so Cr Abboud is really grateful to everybody that's got in touch and encouraged everyone to keep doing it.

Cr Bolton acknowledged that the Council Budget is out for community consultation and encouraged anyone wondering about a particular community project and if Council is supporting and funding it, to participate in the community consultation process and make a submission ahead of the 22 May submission deadline. Submitters will then have the opportunity to speak to their submission. Cr Bolton reiterated the budget consultation process is open to everyone to participate in.

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of Darebin City Councillor Gaetano Grecco – and sent heartfelt condolences.

## PETITIONS

### 5.1 PETITION - INSTALL A MODAL FILTER IN ALBERT STREET, BRUNSWICK WEST

A petition (D25/207302) has been received containing 65 signatories requesting Council install a modal filter in Albert Street, Brunswick West, between Pearson and Daly Streets, preventing vehicle thoroughfare, whilst maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists and creating additional green space.

#### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the petition, requesting Council install a modal filter in Albert Street, Brunswick West, between Pearson and Daly Streets, preventing vehicle thoroughfare, whilst maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists and creating additional green space.
2. Refers the petition requesting Council install a modal filter in Albert Street, Brunswick West, between Pearson and Daly Streets, preventing vehicle thoroughfare, whilst maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists and creating additional green space.to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.

#### Resolution

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

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition, requesting Council install a modal filter in Albert Street, Brunswick West, between Pearson and Daly Streets, preventing vehicle thoroughfare, whilst maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists and creating additional green space.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council install a modal filter in Albert Street, Brunswick West, between Pearson and Daly Streets, preventing vehicle thoroughfare, whilst maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists and creating additional green space to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

### 5.2 PETITION - OPPOSING PROPOSED DOG PARK DEVELOPMENT AT THE END OF JUKES ROAD, FAWKNER

A petition (D25/219513) has been received containing 18 signatories requesting Council abandon the proposal for a fenced dog park at the end of Jukes Road, Fawkner.

#### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the petition requesting Council abandon the proposal for a fenced dog park at the end of Jukes Road, Fawkner.
2. Refers the petition to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.

## **Resolution**

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives the petition requesting Council abandon the proposal for a fenced dog park at the end of Jukes Road, Fawkner.**
- 2. Refers the petition to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

## **5.3 PETITION - RECOGNISE COMMUNITY VOICES AND PROTECT SHARED ACCESS TO FLEMING PARK**

A petition (D25/226730) has been received containing 183 signatories requesting Council:

- Recognise Fleming Park Dog Owners Association as a stakeholder and representative voice for shared park users.
- Facilitate the transparent publication of training and game schedules for organised sport use, following the example of Yarra Council (Victoria Park and Citizens Park).
- Improve perimeter fencing and safety for all park users, including pets.
- Provide a larger or additional fenced dog-friendly area that meets the needs of the local pet-owning population.
- Install lighting to improve safety for park users, especially in early mornings and evenings.
- Commit to genuine, inclusive consultation and better communication with all park users.
- Maintain access to shared green space for informal, recreational, and non-sport users-including dog owners, families, walkers, and renters.

## **Officer Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives the petition relating to various matters concerning shared access to Fleming Park; and**
- 2. Refers the petition to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

## **Resolution**

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives the petition relating to various matters concerning shared access to Fleming Park; and**
- 2. Refers the petition to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

## 5.4 PETITION – SUPPORT OF OFF-LEASH DOG ACCESS AT TATE RESERVE

A Petition has been received containing 862 signatures requesting Council to amend the current dog-walking policy at Tate Reserve from on-leash only to a designated off-leash space except the fenced off area that will become a dog-free zone.

### Resolution

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Theodosis seconded –**

- 1. Receives the petition supporting off-leash dog access at Tate Reserve; and**
- 2. Refers the petition to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

**Carried**

6.53 pm *Cr Theodosis left 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.*

6.54 pm *Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

6.54 pm *Cr Theodosis returned to the meeting.*

6.55 pm *Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.*

*Public Question Time commenced at 6.55 pm.*

#### **Report 7.1 Safer Speeds for Local Streets in Merri-bek – Trials of 30 km/h**

Council received 4 statements and 3 questions. They were presented to Council.

**Andrea Bunting, on behalf of Elizabeth Bryer and Percy Cáceres Manrique** made the following statement:

We live in Loyola Avenue Brunswick, near the middle of Brunswick's proposed 30 km/h speed area. We strongly support the speed limit reduction. It is even more important now that the speed limit is being reduced on Lygon Street, as we do not want more traffic diverting to local streets.

In particular, we want less traffic and lower speeds on Ewing Street and the intersecting streets. Many cars use Ewing Street to avoid Lygon Street and Sydney Road. We have a five-year old son who has just started prep at Princes Hill Primary School. He rides his bike down Ewing Street while one of us walks alongside. Several times already we have been halfway across the pedestrian crossing and have had to pull him back onto the median strip as a car has exited the roundabout at full speed. It is not safe for young children, yet Ewing Street has been designated a Ride and Walk to School route by Princes Hill Primary School.

Please help make Ewing Street and other local streets safe for our kids.

**Andrea Bunting, on behalf of Matthew Wright and Xuan Vi Nguyen** made the following statement:

We have a two-year-old child who attends Brunswick Occasional Care, and we walk him there regularly. He will attend Princes Hill Primary in the future. Several neighbours also have young children.



Ewing Street has speed humps, but they're not enough to keep children safe. Drivers speed between them, and we live with the constant fear that a child will be hit. The speed limit on nearby Lygon Street is to be reduced to 30 km/h. This will make Ewing Street a preferred north-south route for drivers looking to move faster than on any alternative. This will increase traffic and danger for our families.

We strongly support reducing the speed limit on Ewing Street to 30 km/h. While not a complete solution, it would reduce risk and reflect the needs of this residential area. We also support future turn bans and traffic-calming measures to further improve safety.

6.59 pm      *Cr Miles left the meeting.*

**Andrew Rhodes, on behalf of community group Safer Streets, Coburg Kids** asked if Council will prioritise the Coburg education precinct for inclusion in any future 30 km/h speed limit trials; and support their stakeholder letter to DTP and relevant Ministers advocating for reduced speed limits and urgent safety upgrades in this area by providing a co-signature from the Mayor?

7.01 pm      *Cr Miles returned to the meeting.*

**The Mayor, Cr Davidson responded:**

That Council would support the stakeholder letter to the relevant Ministers and potentially write a letter itself.

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

Our proposed 30km/h trial being considered tonight includes a section of Coburg centred on Coburg North Primary School. While this area does not cover the area that includes Coburg Primary or Coburg High School, students living within the Coburg trial area will benefit from safer speed limits.

Following 12 months of 30km/h speed limits in the trial areas, we will undertake a review and present the findings to Council to consider. This review will consider retaining the 30km/h in those areas or to revert to the previous speed limit. As part of this report, assuming that the trial is deemed successful, we will consider future areas that may also benefit from 30km/h speed limits.

**Luke Poland** asked, if the trial is found to be successful, when will Council expand the 30km/h limit to other areas?

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

Areas of Brunswick West north of Dawson Street were part of the recent 40 km/h speed limit reduction initiative. We avoided recommending areas in the 30 km/h trial that only recently had reductions to 40 km/h.

**Nic Maclellan** made the following statement:

Speaking on behalf of the Brunswick Residents Network, like all the previous speakers, we welcome the proposal for the two trials in Brunswick and Coburg around 30 km, but I want to push it a bit further I want all Councillors to vote for it in the unanimous vote to send a signal both of the community and a council staff that this is a priority.

In 2010 we started a campaign to reduce residential streets in Brunswick from 50 km to 40 km because Lygon St. and Sydney Road 40 km and the residential streets had a faster speed limit. We were told it would never happen, well we were wrong and after four years, we got it for a few streets, but it's taking a decade to roll out across the municipality where everyone has 40 km. So your unanimous vote on this tonight would send a signal that this has to be for all areas. I think it's really important because the MITs the Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy in 2019 proposed that there be three trials and nothing happened. Nothing has happened for six years to set those trials in place, I know Council staff been working on it and there have been complexities and things like that, but how many years do we have to wait before this is rolled out across the municipality?

The report tonight summarises the science about safety and the lack of significant impact on travel times in quiet residential streets. This is not going to slow people getting from where they need to go and I'm happy to send Councillors a lot more information if you have any doubts about that. We really endorse this initiative and we think it's really important that northern ward Councillors vote for it as well, not just Coburg and Brunswick and start lobbying for trials in their areas, because traffic moves differently in Glenroy and Faulkner and other parts of the municipality. That's why there is a need for more trials rather than less, because traffic movements in Brunswick may not be replicated in other parts of the municipality. If it is going to take six years before anyone gets round to doing it, with respect to staff, you know we fought in 2010 to get 40 km and here we are more than a decade later where it has happened.

We should be moving on this much faster and I would urge you all the vote in favour of this tonight.

7.13 pm      *Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

## **Report 7.2 General (Amendment) Local Law 2025**

Council received 2 questions. They were presented to Council.

**Peter Jeffs** asked, considering the feeding of wild birds has been an issue for over 3 years, why didn't senior managers take oversight of the issue and inform Councillors of it; and why didn't Council seek to amend the existing local law to introduce new provisions in May 2023?

7.14 pm      *Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.*

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

I just want to acknowledge that council officers are aware of just how significant this particular situation is. It has been extremely complex it has had a big impact for residents and it has been a situation that has been very complex to manage from an enforcement perspective.

It is important to note that senior staff from two parts of Council have had oversight of these proceedings over a number of years and they have kept Councillors informed, however, with legal and enforcement proceedings not all of those conversations and activities will be public, so things will have been happening behind the scenes that are not always reported publicly.

To step you through the context and the options that are available for council officers to enforce in it in a tricky situation like this one, when we seek to achieve a compliance in the community we follow a fairly normal pathway. We might start with trying to resolve a situation through discussion, through education and encouragement to advice and in that instance this was unsuccessful.

Then we might move to compliance mechanisms, to issuing notices, issuing infringements and then we move to legal action and prosecution in the courts. In this instance, staff did progress formal action on the general local law to the Magistrates Court, and unfortunately this was unsuccessful.

Following that, staff moved to another lever which is currently in play and before the courts to prosecute under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act*. Obviously working with the courts takes considerable time and Council doesn't always control those timeframes.

In terms of amending a local law, this is generally a last resort for staff to resolve a specific enforcement issue, but given the complexity, the longevity and the significance of this experience, that is why this change is being presented to Council to take to the community. That will proceed in parallel with the current court proceedings as well.

### **Report 7.3 Accommodation needs of Food Relief Organisation**

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council.

**Afshan Mantoo** made the following statement:

The Muslim Women's Council of Victoria request Merri-beck Council to provide a space to continue our grass roots work, including food relief and establishment financially sustainable social enterprise café.

7.22 pm      *Cr Miles left the meeting.*

**Mayor, Cr Davidson responded:**

The question would be answered by the report later in the meeting.

### **Report 7.1 Safer Speeds for Local Streets in Merri-bek – Trials of 30 km/h**

**Jason Clarke** made the following statement:

I came along tonight to get some more information and knowledge around the proposed 30 km trial and just through doing a bit of a quick research I have some good news to share with everyone here who wants to see a trial that would encourage safer streets.

I feel tonight that I'm here representing the Merri-bek community who are not part of the small groups that have already spoken tonight and the traffic activists that want to see bikes going quicker than cars on our roads, I'm not sure how that's safe.

A vast majority of residents in Merri-bek the wider community have no problems with safer streets around our local primary schools, however despite the activism people have already undertaken here, the good news is actually already achieved their goals of having safer streets. In fact a quick Google search shows that since 2020 when a lot of the streets would become 40 km/h, there's just been 29 pedestrian incidents with cars over the last five and a half years. Most of these crashes have occurred on roads run by the Department of Transport and Planning, Bell Street, Sydney Road and Lygon Street. In fact, only two pedestrian crashes or casualties since 2020 have occurred not on the arterial roads.

If we are talking about safer streets, I'd say two incidents since 2020 that is four and a half years, means that we've got a pretty low incident rate already on our roads, thanks to 40 km hour zones.

I'd like to see a lot more transparency from Council in this debate around exactly what are the traffic instances that have occurred and what led to them, given it is only two of them over the last four and a half years in 40 km areas.

I would also like the Council undertake tonight after the trial when the 30 km zone trial finishes in 12 months, not to excessively extend the 30 km/hour trial.

I ran in the election last year and I didn't see anyone here who is proposing this 30 km hour trial mention it in the election paraphernalia in their advertising. No one was saying we demand 30 km streets for Merri-bek.

I think that should all be considered when in 12 months time when the trial is completed, that the community has not been asked to engage in supporting 30 km hour streets.

7.24 pm      *Cr Miles returned to the meeting.*

### **Question Time Extension**

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -**

**That the question time be extended by 30 minutes at 7.26 pm.**

**Carried**

## NON-AGENDA ITEMS - QUESTIONS

Council received 2 questions. They were presented to Council.

### **Dog Walking in Merri-bek and Merri Creek flora and fauna**

**Verity Campbell** asked, as part of the next stage of the Dog Walking Merri-bek consultation, how will Council measure the value of the flora and fauna of Merri Creek to ensure the decision is equitable, regenerative and responds to climate and biodiversity crises?

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

Council acknowledges and deeply values the decades-long collaboration between community volunteers, the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC), and Council that has led to the restoration and care of Merri Creek and its parklands. This includes the ongoing efforts at Egan and Tate Reserves and elsewhere across the municipality.

Council shares your commitment to protecting the unique environmental assets of the Merri Creek corridor, which provide vital habitat and biodiversity as well as passive recreation opportunities for the community. We also recognise the growing pressures on our open spaces, including the significant increase in dog ownership in recent years and the corresponding use of our parks and reserves by dog walkers.

Your question regarding how Council will measure the ecological value of the Merri Creek environment as part of the Dog Walking in Merri-bek program is timely and important.

As we amend the Stage 1 pilot plans in response to the feedback received during consultation—including from dog owners, Friends of Merri Creek, MCMC, and local residents, Council is actively working to balance the needs of dog owners with the need to protect sensitive habitat areas. We acknowledge the clear and consistent concerns raised about the ecological impacts of off-leash dogs, particularly in areas like Tate Reserve.

### **Dog exercise areas in the Merri Creek parklands**

**Ann McGregor** asked if upholding Council's commitment and investment into the long-established vision for Merri Creek going to be prioritised in decision-making relating to dog exercise areas in the Merri Creek parklands?

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

Council agrees that protecting and enhancing the ecological health of the Merri Creek must be a guiding principle of this work. The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy, to which we remain committed, will continue to shape our priorities. Decisions about dog exercise areas will take into account both social use and environmental protection—especially in creek-adjacent reserves where space is shared and impacts are most keenly felt. We will work closely with the Friends of Merri Creek East Coburg, MCMC, and other stakeholders to evaluate these impacts and inform longer-term decisions.

*Public Question Time concluded at 7.35 pm.*

7.36 pm      *Cr Theodosis left the meeting.*

7.36 pm      *Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **7.1 SAFER SPEEDS FOR LOCAL STREETS IN MERRI-BEK - TRIALS OF 30 KM/H**

#### **Executive Summary**

Merri-bek City Council is committed to making streets safer for everyone in our community, whether they choose to walk, ride, wheel, drive or catch public transport.

Crashes in Merri-bek have increased since 2020. In 2023, the number of crashes were the highest they've been since 2015. Similar trends exist for serious injury crashes and crashes involving pedestrians and bike riders. Without interventions to reduce the crash risk of our streets, crash rates are unlikely to change.

Council is proposing to trial 30 km/h speed limits across two Merri-bek sites – Brunswick/Brunswick East and Coburg – to assess the safer speed limit's impact on road safety, active travel, and community safety perceptions. It is estimated that the reduced speed limit will eliminate 6.5 death or serious injury crashes within the trial areas for each year that the 30 km/h speed limit is in operation.

During community engagement for our 2024 Moving Around Merri-bek Strategy, our community told us that 'Safety' was the highest priority theme for them, particularly prioritising pedestrian safety. The Strategy adopts a Safe Systems approach, including managing speed on our road network and keeping our residents safe on their streets. The Moving Around Merri-bek Action Plan adopted with the Strategy includes pursuing 30 km/h trials in 2024-2025.

Speed limit reductions are one of the most cost-effective measures available to Councils to reduce the consequences of a mistake, the risk of a crash and the risk of fatal or serious injury if a crash does occur. At 30 km/h, a person walking or riding has a 90 per cent chance of surviving being hit by car – this drops to 60 per cent survival rate at 40 km/h, and only 10 per cent survival rate at 50 km/h. Impacts are greater for children and the elderly.

In neighbouring Yarra City Council, 30 km/h trials resulted in a 51 per cent reduction in all crashes, and a 70 per cent reduction in serious crashes in areas with the 30 km/h speed limits. 68 per cent of residents living in the trial areas supported 30 km/h speeds after the trials were implemented.

Subject to Council's decision, Officers will undertake community engagement on the proposal and seek approval from Department of Transport and Planning to implement the trials and will apply for funding to deliver the trials through Transport Accident Commission Safe Local Roads and Streets Program.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Approves officers submitting a grant application to the State Government to approve and cover all costs associated with a 30 km/h speed limit trial on local roads in select areas of Coburg, Brunswick and Brunswick East outlined in Figures 3 and 4 of this report.
2. Endorses Council officers to undertake community engagement for residents, schools, businesses and key stakeholders regarding the trial within the proposed trial areas
3. Receives a report on the evaluation of the 30 km/h speed limit trial areas following a 12-month evaluation of the trial.

## Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Politis seconded -

That Council:

1. Approves officers submitting a grant application to the State Government to approve and cover all costs associated with a 30 km/h speed limit trial on local roads in select areas of Coburg, Brunswick and Brunswick East outlined in Figures 3 and 4 of this report.
2. Endorses Council officers to undertake community engagement for residents, schools, businesses and key stakeholders regarding the trial within the proposed trial areas
3. Receives a report on the evaluation of the 30 km/h speed limit trial areas following a 12-month evaluation of the trial.

7.37 pm Cr Theodosius returned to the meeting during the debate.

7.38 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting during the debate.

Cr Pulford called for a division.

### For

Cr Bolton  
Cr Davidson  
Cr Pulford  
Cr Miles  
Cr Svensson  
Cr Iwasaki  
Cr Politis  
Cr Abboud  
Cr Irvin  
Cr Theodosius  
**Total For (10)**

### Against

Cr Yildiz

**Total Against (1)**

**Carried**

7.55 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.

## 7.2 GENERAL (AMENDMENT) LOCAL LAW 2025

### Executive Summary

The General Local Law 2018 was adopted at the 6 December 2017 Council meeting and came into effect on 1 February 2018. The Local Law aims to ensure a safe, healthy environment, protect public spaces, regulate premises, vehicles, and animals, manage nuisances, and maintain peace and good governance in the municipality.

Council has received numerous reports from community members about a current issue involving the feeding of wild birds which has the potential to lead to health concerns, property and infrastructure damage, a decline in community aesthetics and impact the enjoyment of people's place of residence. The current Local Law does not include adequate provisions to address the issue, and therefore this report seeks to amend the existing local law to introduce new provisions that will enable enforcement action to be taken against those that breach the local law.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of community consultation on the General (Amendment) Local Law in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

A summary of the proposed amendments is attached to this report, outlining the purpose, specific clauses and suggested wording (Attachment 1). The proposed amending Local Law (Attachment 2) outlines the changes as reviewed by Russell Kennedy Lawyers.

Specifically, the following items have been included as proposed amendments for consideration of Council:

#### Part 5 – Animals

- Inclusion of feeding of birds on private property
- Inclusion of Power of Authorised Officers - feeding of birds on public land
- Inclusion of definition of private property
- Amendment to Schedule 1 Penalties fixed for infringements

On Council's endorsement, a community engagement process will commence. The results of the community engagement process will be presented to Council for consideration to make the Local Law. The proposed amending local law will be certified from a qualified lawyer (Russell Kennedy Lawyers) in accordance with section 74(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Pursuant to section 73(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, publishes a notice that states
  - (a) the objectives of the proposed local law, and
  - (b) the intended effect of the proposed local law; and
  - (c) that a copy of the proposed local law is available for inspection –
    - (i) at the Council's office; and
    - (ii) on the Council's internet site; and
  - (d) the community engagement process that applies in respect of the making of the local law (as outlined in section 4 of this report). The community engagement period will be from 15 May 2025 to 4 June 2025.
2. Receives a further report following the community consultation to consider the making of the local law.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the proposed local law before community engagement commences, where changes are required for correctness, clarity, formatting or the like.

### Resolution

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

**That Council:**

1. **Pursuant to section 73(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, publishes a notice that states**
  - (a) the objectives of the proposed local law, and**
  - (b) the intended effect of the proposed local law; and**
  - (c) that a copy of the proposed local law is available for inspection –**
    - (i) at the Council's office; and**
    - (ii) on the Council's internet site; and**
  - (d) the community engagement process that applies in respect of the making of the local law (as outlined in section 4 of this report). The community engagement period will be from 15 May 2025 to 4 June 2025.**

2. **Receives a further report following the community consultation to consider the making of the local law.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the proposed local law before community engagement commences, where changes are required for correctness, clarity, formatting or the like.**

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

**Carried**

## **Order of Business Altered**

With the agreement of Council, the order of business was altered, and Council considered Notice of Motion 8.3 - Honouring the Life and Legacy of Joe Sam Luppino, before returning to the order of items as printed in the agenda.

### **8.3 HONOURING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOE SAM LUPPINO**

#### **Motion**

That Council:

1. **Formally recognises and honors the outstanding contribution of Joe Sam Luppino by naming the grandstand at Coburg City Oval the “Joe Sam Luppino Stand”.**
2. **Should this not be deemed suitable, identifies and considers an alternative location or facility within Merri-bek to appropriately commemorate Joe’s legacy and service to the community.**

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Abboud seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Formally recognises and honors the outstanding contribution of Joe Sam Luppino by naming the grandstand at Coburg City Oval the “Joe Sam Luppino Stand”.**
2. **Should this not be deemed suitable, identifies and considers an alternative location or facility within Merri-bek to appropriately commemorate Joe’s legacy and service to the community.**

**Carried unanimously**

8.06 pm *Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

### **7.3 ACCOMMODATION NEEDS OF FOOD RELIEF ORGANISATIONS**

#### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the outcomes of a feasibility assessment into the accommodation needs of food relief organisations within Merri-bek.

Merri-bek is home to 22 food relief organisations delivering essential services including food parcels, prepared meals, vouchers, culturally appropriate food, personal care items, and referral support. These organisations have varied operational needs, requiring spaces that support storage, distribution, client access, and service coordination.

Council continues to play a key role in supporting the food relief sector by:

- prioritising use of existing community assets



- co-locating services where feasible
- recognising food relief organisations in community venue hire policies
- providing access to local government grants and operational support.

Council reviewed available Council-owned buildings, considering location, existing uses, building condition, and operational requirements. The assessment identified that no current assets are fit-for-purpose without significant, unbudgeted investment. In addition to this, Council has no clear policy driver to provide or acquire purpose-built accommodation for food security organisations.

However, given the high and growing demand for accommodation across community sectors and the importance of these organisations, Council will continue to work within its existing asset base and advocate to state and federal governments for ongoing investment and support to meet local food security needs.

Future planning of projects and buildings will ensure the specific needs of food relief providers are considered when purchasing, refurbishing, or leasing Council-owned buildings.

However, long-term infrastructure solutions such as building new facilities, retrofitting existing ones, or acquiring land are not financially sustainable within Council's current resources.

8.08 pm      *Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting.*

## **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the findings of the feasibility assessment for accommodating food relief organisations, as outlined in Attachment 1.
2. Considers the needs of community organisations addressing food security in the review and allocation of Council-owned community venues.
3. Advises organisations seeking to provide food security services of any upcoming Expressions of Interest processes for use of Council-owned buildings.
4. Consider opportunities to utilise Council-owned community venues to support food security initiatives as part of future planning and service delivery.
5. Supports efforts to strengthen the capacity of community organisations addressing food security through advocacy and strategic partnerships.

## **Resolution**

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

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the findings of the feasibility assessment for accommodating food relief organisations, as outlined in Attachment 1.**
2. **Considers the needs of community organisations addressing food security in the review and allocation of Council-owned community venues.**
3. **Advises organisations seeking to provide food security services of any upcoming Expressions of Interest processes for use of Council-owned buildings.**
4. **Consider opportunities to utilise Council-owned community venues to support food security initiatives as part of future planning and service delivery.**

5. Invest in a process of identification of partners, venues, and funders to establish a location or a group of locations, including outside of the city, that will support organisations with complementary functions addressing food security (including emergency relief organisations) to co-locate over the next 5 – 8 years. This would be the Community Food Hub Referred to in Merri-bek's Food System Strategy
6. Includes in its advocacy priorities, advocacy to Federal and State Governments to extend the funding to food relief organisations and organisations addressing food security.
7. Supports efforts to strengthen the capacity of community organisations addressing food security through advocacy and strategic partnerships.

**Carried**

## **Order of Business Altered**

With the agreement of Council, the order of business was altered, and Council considered Notice of Motion 8.1 - Sister City with Bharatpur Metropolitan City of Nepal, before returning to the order of items as printed in the agenda.

### **8.1 SISTER CITY WITH BHARATPUR METROPOLITAN CITY OF NEPAL**

#### **Motion**

That Council:

1. Writes to Ms Renu Dahal, Mayor Bharatpur Metropolitan City Bagmati Province Nepal extending an invitation to meet with the Mayor, Cr Helen Davidson and Councillors in June to explore a potential sister city relationship between the two councils, including opportunities to foster cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and opportunities for collaboration.
2. Receives a report at the July meeting, which investigates the possible establishment of a Sister City Relationship with Bharatpur Metropolitan City in Nepal, which includes the identification of a potential governance structure for the relationship and potential areas of collaboration between Bharatpur Metropolitan City and Merri-bek City Council.

#### **Resolution**

**Cr Miles moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Writes to Ms Renu Dahal, Mayor Bharatpur Metropolitan City Bagmati Province Nepal extending an invitation to meet with the Mayor, Cr Helen Davidson and Councillors in June to explore a potential sister city relationship between the two councils, including opportunities to foster cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and opportunities for collaboration.**
2. **Receives a report at the July meeting, which investigates the possible establishment of a Sister City Relationship with Bharatpur Metropolitan City in Nepal, which includes the identification of a potential governance structure for the relationship and potential areas of collaboration between Bharatpur Metropolitan City and Merri-bek City Council.**

**Carried unanimously**

8.24 pm *Cr Miles left the meeting.*

8.24 pm *Cr Theodosis left the meeting.*

## **7.4 USE OF HERBICIDES AT SHORE RESERVE - RESPONSE TO PETITION**

### **Executive Summary**

Council received a petition with 58 signatures from lead petitioner (Irene Georgakakis) at the 11 December 2024 Council meeting “requesting Council stop using herbicides or any other chemicals and poisons at Shore's Reserve and all other open spaces”.

Upon receiving the petition, Council resolved that a report be received by Council on the matters raised in the petition.

The matters raised in the petition are summarised as:

- Concern that the herbicides Council is using are not safe for people (including children), dogs and the environment
- Requesting that Council use alternatives to these herbicides for weed management
- There is an underlying problem with the playing surface at Shore Reserve and managing its use and maintaining the surface may be all that is needed (rather than application of herbicides).

The report addresses the above matters, advising:

- The herbicide used by Council (glyphosate) is considered safe by Australian authorities when used according to the instructions for application.
- Council has previously undertaken trials of alternatives to using this herbicide and no suitable alternative has been found to cover all the different scenarios for its use. However, Council has several alternative weed management approaches where it is practical and beneficial to adopt these, and new approaches continue to be adopted such as goats.
- The Shore Reserve oval is used for Australian Rules Football and cricket. For the level of use it receives, it is a substandard sized-ground and ultimately not suited to the usage it receives. Strategies Council is adopting to address this include finding alternative venues for some of the West Coburg Football Club senior games to be played. A ground renewal and sportsfield lighting upgrade are currently included in the draft 5-year Capital Works Program for planning in 2027/28 and implementation in 2028/29.
- Council adopts weed management practices that minimise the opportunity for weeds to take hold on sportsground surfaces and applies herbicides sparingly and in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and regulator requirements.
- Notwithstanding this, Council will minimise its use of herbicides to manage weeds at Shore Reserve in informal recreation areas, while maintaining safe use of herbicides to manage weeds on the playing surface. This approach will result in more weeds being visible throughout the reserve between weeding events. The community will be invited to participate in weeding events at the Reserve alongside Council officers.

A response to the lead petitioner has been prepared and dispatched and is at Attachment 1.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council receives this report regarding a petition containing 58 signatures presented at the 11 December 2024 Council meeting.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council receives this report regarding a petition containing 58 signatures presented at the 11 December 2024 Council meeting.**

8.24 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.  
 8.25 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting during the debate.  
 8.25 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting during the debate.  
 8.25 pm Cr Theodosius returned to the meeting during the debate.

Cr Davidson called for a division.

**For**

Cr Davidson  
 Cr Yildiz  
 Cr Pulford  
 Cr Miles  
 Cr Svensson  
 Cr Iwasaki  
 Cr Politis  
 Cr Abboud  
 Cr Irvin  
 Cr Theodosius  
**Total For (10)**

**Against**

Bolton

**Total Against (1)**

**Carried**

## 7.5 C236MBEK - DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN 2.0 - GATEWAY 1 - AUTHORISATION & EXHIBITION

### Executive Summary

In 2015 Council adopted the *Moreland Development Contributions Plan 2015* (DCP 1.0) as a formal, lawful, and equitable way to collect contributions from new development toward the necessary infrastructure for a growing population.

DCP 1.0 established an obligation on Council to collect levies in line with specified rates in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, deliver the infrastructure projects listed in the DCP's incorporated document, and spend the collected levies on these projects.

The collection period for levies under DCP 1.0 has expired, and a new DCP, the *Merri-bek Development Contributions Plan, April 2025* (DCP 2.0) has been prepared to support new and upgraded infrastructure to meet the needs of the community over the next 15 years.

Amendment C236mbek proposes to introduce DCP 2.0 into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme by applying Schedule 2 to the Development Contributions Overlay to all land within the municipality. Schedule 2 to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay imposes a development infrastructure levy and/or a community infrastructure levy on new residential, commercial, and industrial development.

The DCP 2.0 is based on Council's Capital Works Program (CWP) and includes infrastructure projects such as roads, drainage, footpath, streetscape works as well as community infrastructure projects (early years centres, libraries and aquatic facilities). The infrastructure is required to cope with the growing population of the municipality and the consequential increased demand on infrastructure.

The DCP 2.0 will provide certainty for Council, developers and the broader community on the application and extent of levies for new residential, commercial and industrial developments. The DCP 2.0 will also reduce uncertainty and resource demands associated with case-by-case voluntary negotiations and agreements between Council and developers.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the report *Merri-bek Development Contributions Plan (April 2025)* as shown in Attachment 1 as part of Amendment C236mbek.
2. Seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Merri-bek Planning Scheme Amendment C236mbek in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
3. Subject to the Minister's authorisation, prepares Amendment C236mbek, generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachments 1 and 2.
4. Exhibits Amendment C236mbek in accordance with section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and as outlined in the Consultation section of this report.
5. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make changes to the Amendment prior to exhibition based on any conditions imposed in the authorisation granted by the Minister for Planning and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

## Resolution

**Cr Pulford moved, Cr Theodosis seconded -**

That Council:

1. **Endorses the report Merri-bek Development Contributions Plan (April 2025) as shown in Attachment 1 as part of Amendment C236mbek.**
2. **Seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Merri-bek Planning Scheme Amendment C236mbek in accordance with section 8A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.**
3. **Subject to the Minister's authorisation, prepares Amendment C236mbek, generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachments 1 and 2.**
4. **Exhibits Amendment C236mbek in accordance with section 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and as outlined in the Consultation section of this report.**
5. **Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make changes to the Amendment prior to exhibition based on any conditions imposed in the authorisation granted by the Minister for Planning and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.**

8.31 pm Cr Abboud left the meeting during the debate.

8.32 pm Cr Abboud returned to the meeting during the debate.

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.6 YEAR 4 COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2024-25 - THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

### Executive Summary

The Third 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:

- 11% (7 action) closed (achieved)
- 85% (54 actions) in progress (on track)
- 1% (1 action) is off-track (behind target)
- 3% (2 actions) withdrawn (on hold or remove).

The Year 4 Council Action Plan in the third quarter shows that 96 per cent are either achieved or on track for completion in the delivering the final year action plan for the overarching 2021-25 Council Plan, with some notable achievements as highlighted in the report.

Endorsement is sought to place the following actions on hold, due to external partnerships delays that are impacting the delivery of these actions.

- 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 – Third Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) and the achievements to date in delivering against the Council Plan 2021-25.
2. Endorse the following actions to be placed on hold from Council Action Plan 2024-25 as outlined in section three of this report.
  - a) Place on hold Action 215: *Commence construction on the West Street streetscape renewal project*
  - b) Place on hold Action 216: *Progress construction of the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.*

## Resolution

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

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25 – Third Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) and the achievements to date in delivering against the Council Plan 2021-25.**
2. **Endorse the following actions to be placed on hold from Council Action Plan 2024-25 as outlined in section three of this report.**
  - a) **Place on hold Action 215: Commence construction on the West Street streetscape renewal project**
  - b) **Place on hold Action 216: Progress construction of the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project.**

**Carried**

## **7.7 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE RULES - 2025**

### **Executive Summary**

Council at its meeting of 9 April 2025, endorsed the amended Governance Rules for community consultation and invited feedback from the community on the proposed amendments for a period of 15 days from 14 April 2025 until 28 April 2025.

At the close of the submission period, 7 submissions were received from 7 submitters. A summary including the submissions received (in full), together with the Council Officer responses is provided in Attachment 2.

Of the 7 submissions received, 2 were in support of the amendments and 3 objected to the amendments for reasons which included: We don't elect the CEO, they should not get the only say in what is urgent business; Too secretive; and in relation to Urgent Business, the intention of this rule change is to remove the power to make a decision on from elected Councillors, and give it to the CEO. Two further submissions received related to not being able to identify the proposed amendments.

In response to the feedback received regarding the amendment of Governance Rule 3.5.6 Urgent Business, it should be noted that the intention of this rule is to enable the Chief Executive Officer to advise Council of potential matters of urgent business and to determine if any matters raised as potential urgent business items, can be addressed through the existing operational service request process, without requiring a Council resolution.

Any items referred to a Council meeting as urgent business, will still be required to be admitted as Urgent Business by a resolution of Council, before the item can be considered.

In response to the feedback that the proposed amendments are too secretive, it should be noted that the amendments as proposed, do not impact on Council's commitment to act in an open and transparent manner.

Following the review and consideration of the feedback received, this recommends adoption of amendments to the Governance Rules, as shown in Attachment 1.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Adopts the revised Governance Rules, provided as Attachment 1.
2. Writes to the submitters, thanking them for their contribution and providing a copy of the outcome of Council's decision.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Adopts the revised Governance Rules, provided as Attachment 1.**
2. **Writes to the submitters, thanking them for their contribution and providing a copy of the outcome of Council's decision.**

**Carried**

## **7.8 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### **Executive Summary**

This report presents the Financial Management Report for the financial year to date period ending 31 March 2025. A detailed financial review was undertaken across the organisation at the end of February 2025. The results of this review are included in this report as the Full Year Revised Forecast.

The 31 March 2025 Income Statement shows that Council has recorded a surplus of \$86.3 million, \$14.0 million higher than the year-to-date budget of \$72.2 million, as a result of higher overall revenue and lower overall expenditure. These differences are considered largely timing in nature. As set out in the Issues section of this report, operating surplus funds do not convert to immediately available cash to Council; they are used to fund important community infrastructure projects like the Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment or Balam Balam Place, Brunswick.

Council has spent \$68.1 million on capital expenditure, which is tracking below the year-to-date (YTD) budget of \$72.7 million, with \$24.6 million budget remaining.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ended 31 March 2025, at Attachment 1 to this report.

### **Resolution**

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

**That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ended 31 March 2025, at Attachment 1 to this report.**

**Carried**

## **7.9 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MAY 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 First Nations Advisory Committee held 31 March 2025 and the associated recommendations from the committee.
- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- Responses to Public Question Time items taken on notice at 12 February and 9 April 2025 Council meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the responses.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the summary of minutes from the First Nations Advisory Committee to Council, at Attachment 1 to this report.



2. Endorses the recommendation of the First Nations Advisory Committee meeting held 31 March 2025, to consider the development of a Merri-bek Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy.
3. Notes the recommendation of the First Nations Advisory Committee meeting held 31 March 2025, to allocate \$500,000 in the 2025/26 Council budget for the Ballerri Mooroop gathering place, to match the \$500,000 being sought from the State Government.
4. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.
5. Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 12 February and 9 April 2025 Council meetings, provided at Attachment 3.

## **Resolution**

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

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the summary of minutes from the First Nations Advisory Committee to Council, at Attachment 1 to this report.**
2. **Endorses the recommendation of the First Nations Advisory Committee meeting held 31 March 2025, to consider the development of a Merri-bek Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy.**
3. **Notes the recommendation of the First Nations Advisory Committee meeting held 31 March 2025, to allocate \$500,000 in the 2025/26 Council budget for the Ballerri Mooroop gathering place, to match the \$500,000 being sought from the State Government.**
4. **Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.**
5. **Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 12 February and 9 April 2025 Council meetings, provided at Attachment 3.**

**Carried**

## **7.10 PROCUREMENT AUSTRALIA CONTRACT 2703/0110 BULK FUELS AND FUEL CARDS**

### **Executive Summary**

This report is seeking to opt into a Collaborative Procurement Arrangement with Procurement Australia Panel (Contact No. 2703/0110) for Bulk Fuels and Fuel Cards

The current contract for Bulk Fuels and Fuel Cards expired on 31 March 2025.

Council's Procurement Policy allows opting into existing collaborative engagements with other government entities, local governments, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) or Procurement Australia. Procurement Australia's Bulk Fuels and Fuel Cards contract was established through a tender process.

It is recommended that Council approve the opting into the Procurement Australia panel for the provision of bulk fuels and fuel card services. In utilising the panel, it ensures Council obtains the best value from members of the panel by requesting quotes from members that best meet requirements including accounting for variation in prices over time to secure the most favourable price.

This 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 Procurement Australia Panel Contract No. 2703/0110 for Bulk Fuels and Fuel Cards (Contract) and accept the Schedule of Rates Tender for:
  - a) A contract term commencing 1 April 2025 for a period of two (2) years, with two (2) times one (1) year option to extend.
  - b) Category 1.1 – Bulk Fuel from:
    - i. Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd
    - ii. Pacific Fuel Solutions Pty Ltd
  - c) Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Delivery from:
    - i. Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd
    - ii. Pacific Fuel Solutions Pty Ltd
  - d) Category 2.2 – Fuel Cards from:
    - i. Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd
  - e) An amount that is not exceeding \$5.8 million over the life of the contract.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a) Do all the things necessary to formalise the arrangement under Contract 2703/0110 including executing any required documentation for the Contract.
  - b) Exercise contract extension options subject to contractor performance and vary the Contract (as required) in accordance with the terms of the Contract and Council's procurement policies.
3. Notes that Council has committed through the Zero Carbon Merri-bek Climate Emergency Action Plan to continue its transition towards zero emission vehicles. There are no minimum purchases of fuel required under this contract and so as the fleet transitions, there will be no penalty for consumption under this Contract reducing.

## Resolution

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

That Council:

1. **Approves opting into a Collaborative Procurement Arrangement with Procurement Australia Panel Contract No. 2703/0110 for Bulk Fuels and Fuel Cards (Contract) and accept the Schedule of Rates Tender for:**
  - a) **A contract term commencing 1 April 2025 for a period of two (2) years, with two (2) times one (1) year option to extend.**
  - b) **Category 1.1 – Bulk Fuel from:**
    - i. **Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd**
    - ii. **Pacific Fuel Solutions Pty Ltd**
  - c) **Category 1.2 – Bulk Metered Delivery from:**
    - i. **Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd**
    - ii. **Pacific Fuel Solutions Pty Ltd**

- d) **Category 2.2 – Fuel Cards from:**
  - i. **Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd**
- e) **An amount that is not exceeding \$5.8 million over the life of the contract.**
- 2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) **Do all the things necessary to formalise the arrangement under Contract 2703/0110 including executing any required documentation for the Contract.**
  - b) **Exercise contract extension options subject to contractor performance and vary the Contract (as required) in accordance with the terms of the Contract and Council’s procurement policies.**
- 3. **Notes that Council has committed through the Zero Carbon Merri-bek Climate Emergency Action Plan to continue its transition towards zero emission vehicles. There are no minimum purchases of fuel required under this contract and so as the fleet transitions, there will be no penalty for consumption under this Contract reducing.**

**Carried**

## **7.11 CONTRACT EXTENSION: EXE-2023-546 PATHWAY AND EPATHWAY SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT**

### **Executive Summary**

Council has in place an existing contract EXEC-2023-546 which expires on 30 June 2025 for the Software maintenance and support for Infor Global Solutions, the provider of the Pathway and ePathway platforms (these platforms support core functions, including property management, regulatory management (i.e. planning and building), and revenue management).

On 12 March 2025, Council resolved to commence the procurement tender process for an Enterprise Resourcing Planning (ERP) System. The EDRMS will form part of this ERP procurement process which is currently underway.

This report is recommending that Council endorses a procurement exemption under section 6.1.4.2 (a) of the Procurement Policy which states:

*The following circumstances are exempt from the general publicly advertised tender, quotation and expression of interest requirements.*

*Extension of contracts while Council is at market – this allows Council to extend an existing contract where the procurement process to replace the contract has commenced... This exemption may be used when the establishment of an interim short-term arrangement with an alternative supplier is considered not to be in the public interest, as it may be cost prohibitive and/or present a risk in the delivery of the critical public services to the municipality.*

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval for a maximum allowable spend of \$960,021 (excluding GST) for Contract EXE-2023-546 for Software Application Maintenance and Support for Infor Global Solutions (ANZ) Pty Ltd, for a maximum contract term of three one-year extension options commencing 1 July 2025.

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves a procurement exemption under section 6.1.4.2 (a) of the procurement policy for EXE-2023-546 Info Software Maintenance and Support for:
  - a) Additional maximum spend of up to \$960,021 (excluding GST) under this extension;
  - b) For a term of three (3) one-year extension options commencing 1 July 2025 at the discretion of Council.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract exemption and related documentation as identified in point one above.

## Resolution

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

That Council:

1. **Approves a procurement exemption under section 6.1.4.2 (a) of the procurement policy for EXE-2023-546 Info Software Maintenance and Support for:**
  - a) Additional maximum spend of up to \$960,021 (excluding GST) under this extension;**
  - b) For a term of three (3) one-year extension options commencing 1 July 2025 at the discretion of Council.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract exemption and related documentation as identified in point one above.**

**Carried**

## 7.12 CONTRACT EXTENSION: EXE-2023-401 CONTENT MANAGER SOFTWARE APPLICATION MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT

### Executive Summary

Council has in place an existing contract EXE-2023-401 which expires on 30 June 2025 for the Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) that manages Council's corporate records and provides evidence of business activities.

On 12 March 2025, Council resolved to commence the procurement tender process for an Enterprise Resourcing Planning (ERP) System. The EDRMS will form part of this ERP procurement process which is currently underway.

This report is recommending that Council endorses a procurement exemption under section 6.1.4.2 (a) of the Procurement Policy which states:

*The following circumstances are exempt from the general publicly advertised tender, quotation and expression of interest requirements.*

*Extension of contracts while Council is at market – this allows Council to extend an existing contract where the procurement process to replace the contract has commenced... This exemption may be used when the establishment of an interim short-term arrangement with an alternative supplier is considered not to be in the public interest, as it may be cost prohibitive and/or present a risk in the delivery of the critical public services to the municipality.*

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval of a maximum allowable spend of \$793,868 (excluding GST) for Contract EXE-2023-401 for Software Application Maintenance and Support for Content Manager with the current supplier (Kapish Services Pty Ltd) for a maximum contract term of three one-year extension options commencing 1 July 2025 at the discretion of Council.

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Approves a procurement exemption under section 6.1.4.2 (a) of the procurement policy for EXE-2023-401 Software Application Maintenance and Support for Content Manager for:
  - a) additional maximum spend of up to \$793,868 (excluding GST) under this extension;
  - b) a term of three (3) one-year extension options commencing 1 July 2025 at the discretion of Council.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract extensions and related documentation as identified in paragraph 1.

### **Resolution**

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Approves a procurement exemption under section 6.1.4.2 (a) of the procurement policy for EXE-2023-401 Software Application Maintenance and Support for Content Manager for:**
  - a) **additional maximum spend of up to \$793,868 (excluding GST) under this extension;**
  - b) **a term of three (3) one-year extension options commencing 1 July 2025 at the discretion of Council.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract extensions and related documentation as identified in paragraph 1.**

**Carried**

## **7.13 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2025-13 PERMANENT SHARED ZONE INSTALLATION – ALBERT STREET AND VICTORIA STREET, BRUNSWICK EAST**

### **Executive Summary**

The Permanent Shared Zone installation at Albert Street and Victoria Street, Brunswick East has been identified in the 2024-2025 Capital Works Program. Some \$375,906 of grant funding from the State Government is allocated to the two shared zones through the Living Local Suburban Grants Program and must be used by October 2025.

The road works are required to install a new red asphalt road pavement, concrete and asphalt footpaths, long and wide pram ramps, kerb extensions, speed humps and cushions, new seating, tree pits, garden beds, drainage and public artwork on the road pavement. These works will deliver permanent infrastructure to replace temporary rubber traffic calming, signage and line marking as well as planter boxes that were used for the trial of the treatment.

During the tender evaluation process, Etheredge Mintern Pty Ltd was identified as the preferred tenderer based on their submission. The contractor has confirmed its ability to undertake the onsite works with a starting date being 26 May 2025.

Etheredge Mintern Pty Ltd has previously undertaken projects of similar complexity for other councils with very good results. The construction program is for an 11-week duration with completion by late August, which is in accordance with our aim to complete this project by October 2025.

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 **Etheredge Mintern Pty Ltd ACN 006 521 151 (Contractor)** to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-13 for the Permanent Shared Zone Installation alongside Fleming Park in Albert Street and Victoria Street, Brunswick East including new road pavement, alterations to kerb alignment, footpath, ramps, drainage and new landscaping area (**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 \$732,293.57 excluding GST, comprising of fixed lumpsum of \$648,580.22 (excl. GST) and provisional amount of \$83,713.35 (excl. GST).
  - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
    - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
    - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
  - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract; and
  - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

## Resolution

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

That Council:

1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a) **Make a formal offer to Etheredge Mintern Pty Ltd ACN 006 521 151 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2025-13 for the Permanent Shared Zone Installation alongside Fleming Park in Albert Street and Victoria Street, Brunswick East including new road pavement, alterations to kerb alignment, footpath, ramps, drainage and new landscaping area (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 \$732,293.57 excluding GST, comprising of fixed lumpsum of \$648,580.22 (excl. GST) and provisional amount of \$83,713.35 (excl. GST).**

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

**Carried**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

*The order of business was altered to bring forward item 8.1 - Sister City with Bharatpur Metropolitan City of Nepal to be the fifth report considered at the meeting.*

### **8.2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT BONWICK STREET AND JUKES ROAD INTERSECTION**

#### **Motion**

That Council investigates urgent solutions to ensure pedestrian safety from car accidents where cars can mount the curb on the southwest corner of Bonwick Street and Jukes Road intersection in Fawkner such as bollards or planter boxes.

#### **Resolution**

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

**That Council investigates urgent solutions to ensure pedestrian safety from car accidents where cars can mount the curb on the southwest corner of Bonwick Street and Jukes Road intersection in Fawkner such as bollards or planter boxes.**

**Carried**

*The order of business was altered to bring forward item 8.3 Honouring the Life and Legacy of Joe Sam Luppino to be the third report considered at the meeting.*

### **8.4 COBURG CITY OVAL**

#### **Motion**

That Council:

- 1. Ensures the two public access gates at City Oval are opened from 6 am and closed by 10 pm daily and that:
  - a) Dogs must remain on-lead at all times during open hours and are prohibited from accessing the oval.
  - b) No public access is permitted on match days or during club use, as outlined in the Council's agreement with Coburg FC.

- c) Coburg FC reserves the right to deny access on match days in line with operational and safety needs.
- 2. Installs improved signage around the venue to inform the public of access times, dog policies, and usage rules.
- 3. Notes that while the club supports community access for health and fitness, the venue's poor lighting and limited passive surveillance make it unsuitable for unsupervised evening use and that clear communication are necessary for public safety.

## **Resolution**

**Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Miles seconded -**

**That Council:**

1. **Ensures the two public access gates at City Oval are opened from 6am and closed by 10pm daily and notes that:**
  - a) **Dogs must remain on-lead at all times during open hours and are prohibited within 15m of a game or training.**
  - b) **No public access is permitted on match days or during club use, as outlined in the Council's agreement with Coburg FC.**
  - c) **Coburg FC reserves the right to deny access on match days in line with operational and safety needs.**
2. **Installs improved signage around the venue to inform the public of access times, dog policies, and usage rules.**
3. **Notes that while the club supports community access for health and fitness, the venue's poor lighting and limited passive surveillance make it unsuitable for unsupervised evening use and that clear communication are necessary for public safety.**

## **Meeting Adjournment**

### **Resolution**

**Cr Abboud moved, Cr Davidson seconded -**

**That Council resolves the meeting be adjourned at 9.08 pm for three minutes.**

**Carried**

*The meeting resumed at 9.15 pm.*

*The Motion for item 8.4 was put to vote.*

**Carried unanimously**

## **8.5 MARKETING MATERIALS AND GIFTS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS, VISITORS AND DIGNITARIES**

### **Motion**

That Council reinstates the provision of providing corporate/official gifts ensuring appropriate options for such gifts and marketing materials are available, including items suitable for school students, visitors, community groups, and dignitaries, as well as materials that can be provided to Councillors for official visits.



## Time Extension

### Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Pulford seconded -

That the Council meeting be extended by 30 minutes at 9.30 pm.

Carried

### Resolution

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Theodosius seconded -

That Council:

1. Reinstates the provision of providing corporate/official gifts ensuring appropriate options for such gifts and marketing materials are available, including items suitable for school students, visitors, community groups, and dignitaries, as well as materials that can be provided to Councillors for official visits.
2. Procures sustainable, non-plastic, and prioritises locally made gifts.

9.21 pm Cr Pulford returned to the meeting during the debate.

Cr Yildiz called for a division.

#### For

Cr Davidson

Cr Yildiz

Cr Miles

Cr Politis

Cr Abboud

Cr Theodosius

**Total For (6)**

#### Against

Cr Pulford

Cr Svensson

Cr Irvin

**Total Against (3)**

#### Abstain

Cr Bolton

Cr Iwasaki

**Total Abstain (2)**

Carried

## NOTICE OF RESCISSION

Nil.

## FORESHADOWED ITEMS

Nil.

## URGENT BUSINESS REPORTS

Nil.

9.38 pm Cr Miles left the meeting.

9.38 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting.

## CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

### Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Politis seconded –

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

- 12.1 Central Coburg Program scenario modelling update (D25/175277) because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
- 12.2 Coburg Library and Piazza Location (D25/230932) because it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values.
- 12.3 Brunswick Early Years Hub - Project Update (D25/223840) because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Carried

The Council meeting closed to the public at 9.39 pm.

9.39 pm      *Cr Miles returned to the meeting.*

## OPENING THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Bolton seconded –

That the Council meeting be open to the public.

Carried

The meeting opened to the public at 10.29 pm.

### Meeting adjournment

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to 6 pm on Thursday 15 May 2025.

### Meeting resumption

The meeting resumed at 6 pm on 15 May 2025.

The meeting closed at 6.18 pm on Thursday 15 May 2025.

Confirmed

Cr Helen Davidson  
**MAYOR**