

# Register of Interactions with Lobbyists, Developers and Submitters



Date/Time of interaction	Registered by (Councillors in attendance)	Name of any Council Officers Attending	Position/Title of External Person	Organisation/s	Format of the interaction	A summary of the discussions that took place including matters covered / key points discussed	A summary of the Councillor's response to the interaction / matters discussed.
23 January 2025	Cr Helen Davidson (Mayor)	N/A	Board Member	Nightingale Developments	Phone call	Caller spoke to the social benefits of the Shepperd Street development application, the affordable housing component and ESD.	I questioned the appropriateness of zero parking and the concern regarding life circumstances changing and people having cars regardless. Caller pointed to the different careers of the residents in his development.
2pm 6 February 2025	Cr Abboud	N/A	Lead Organisator	Yimby	In person Conversation	Very high-level generalised conversation about what Yimby is about.	-
2pm 7 February 2025	Cr Abboud	N/A	Representatives x2	Climate Action Merri-Bek	In person Conversation	Discussion regarding Shared E scooters.	-
10.30am 9 February 2025	Cr Abboud	N/A	Representative	SWARM	Public Meeting	Discussion (as part of meeting) regarding local traffic issues.	-

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9 February 2025	Cr Jay Iwasaki	N/A	Director & Resident; and a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Company Representative	BDH Property Group	In person meeting	<p>An email was received from a resident who is a Director BDH Property Group requesting assistance with a permitting issue relating to 348 Brunswick Rd, Brunswick. Extensive background on the situation was provided and an in-person meeting at the property to be developed was requested to assist with the situation.</p>	<p>I initially advised that I wouldn't be very helpful and not able to be involved in planning permitting matters, but the resident suggested there were some options that I would be able to assist with that would avoid theirs and councils time in VCAT, and I accepted the meeting invitation.</p> <p>I received a tour of the property and a rundown of what they would like to do with it. I was shown the details of correspondence with council and where they had found confusion and miscommunication with officers.</p> <p>They also suggested that councillors had the ability to intervene and they had that experience in the past in other council areas.</p> <p>I said I would be happy to look into trying to sort out the issue, and what limitations there were for each approach and would get back to them.</p> <p>I forwarded correspondence to the appropriate department with some questions regarding what</p>

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							had been discussed with the resident, as well as what the ethical requirements were for this type of situation. I met with the Group Manager, City Development on 17/2/2025 to discuss how to address the residents concerns with the planning process so far, what the pros and cons of "calling it in would be," and clarify what the ethical issues were. I emailed the resident that the planning department would work closely with them to resolve this situation, hopefully to avoid VCAT, and to try to use other avenues available prior to "calling it in."
12 February 2025	Cr Abboud	N/A	Board Member	Nightingale Housing	Phone call	Asked me to put him in contact with someone from Council executive.	-
4 September 2025	Cr Iwasaki Cr Svensson Cr Irvin	N/A	Company director; and 4 residents	Zen Architects	In person meeting at residents apartments. 490 Victoria Street	Zen Architects requested a meeting to discuss issues they faced with planning matters at Merri-bek City Council and how past successes and challenges could inform council policy to avoid future issues.	Cr Iwasaki had an initial meeting with the firm 4/7/2025 and a scheduled follow up to view the premises in question. After my initial meeting, I invited planning directors to speak directly about the specifics of those issues.

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							<p>At the follow up in person meeting, Councillor Svensson attended, as it is in Brunswick West, and Cr Irvin also attended as it pertains to interest in Brunswick developments.</p> <p>We were invited into the homes of 3 residents who all were part of the initial development process (who hired Zen Architects), and discussed how planning matters hindered matters relating to sustainable design and the development of the property.</p> <p>This meeting did not pertain to any development in progress or in any stage of planning application. Thus no officers were asked to attend.</p>