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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4743 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 13 August 2024**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER) – LNP

The Chair of Council, Councillor Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge) – LNP

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| **LNP Councillors (and Wards)** | **ALP Councillors (and Wards)** |
| Krista ADAMS (Holland Park) (Deputy Mayor)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Lisa ATWOOD (Doboy)  Fiona CUNNINGHAM (Coorparoo)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Alex GIVNEY (Wynnum Manly)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor) (Deputy Chair  of Council)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Danita PARRY (Marchant)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera)  Penny WOLFF (Walter Taylor) | Lucy COLLIER (Morningside) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)  Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)  Emily KIM (Calamvale)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillors (and Wards)**  Seal CHONG WAH (Paddington)  Trina MASSEY (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair of Council (Chair) opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

Chair: I declare the meeting open.

Councillors, before we continue with the meeting I wish to advise that the *Amended Meetings Local Law 2024* was gazetted on 9 August 2024, and is now in effect. I recommend all Councillors familiarise themselves with the amended Meetings Local Law. A copy was emailed to all Councillors and is also available on the LG Hub.

## APOLOGIES:

Chair: Are there any apologies?

Councillor GIVNEY.

**21/2024-25**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Julia DIXON and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Alex GIVNEY, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN.

Chair: Are there any further apologies?

Councillor COLLIER.

**22/2024-25**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Jared CASSIDY (Leader of the Opposition) and he was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Lucy COLLIER, seconded by Councillor Emily KIM.

## MINUTES:

Chair: Confirmation of minutes please.

**23/2024-25**

The Minutes of the 4742 (Post Recess) meeting of Council held on 6 August 2024, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Alex GIVNEY, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair: I would like to call now on Mr Santiago Velasquez, who will address the Chamber on the Hailo app and improving public transport for persons with disabilities. Please proceed, Mr Velasquez.

Thank you, Mr Velasquez, when you’re comfortable, when you’re ready, you have five minutes.

**Mr Santiago Velasquez – Hailo app and improving public transport for persons with disabilities**

Mr Santiago Velasquez: Good afternoon, Councillors and LORD MAYOR. thank you very much for your time today. I’m here to talk about something that is in our everyday lives and it yet is oftentimes for granted when you are able to use it. I would like to take you to Adelaide Street and I would like for you to picture catching a bus with your eyes closed, or I would like for you to think of catching a bus with a wheelchair, or with a pram, or if you don’t speak the language. Now all of those scenarios are difficult at best, but what you guys may not know is that they are hell for people with disabilities.

For myself, I often get left behind by buses, whether it’s to catch up with friends, whether it is to go for job interviews, or whether it is to do an exam at university that if I don’t show up, I could fail. If it’s not because of all of that, it’s because public transport should work for all of us. You guys have a very difficult job as Councillors and as administrators of such a large city, that making sure that it does work for everybody isn’t an easy task. This is why I’m here, because I decided that being frustrated about it wasn’t good enough and I decided that using my lived experience as well as my technical experience as an electrical engineer would be a better solution.

I’m here to say that being left behind by buses because you can’t see them, being dropped off at the incorrect stop because you can’t see where to get off because the driver forgets to tell you shouldn’t be a thing. Through Hailo we have shown that this can be fixed in Sydney, in Queanbeyan, in Tweed Heads and most recently overseas. However, I’m here because my own city hasn’t afforded us the opportunity for us to fix an issue that thousands of Australians here face every day. It’s an issue that means you guys spend more money to subsidise taxis, you guys spend more money to make sure that I can leave the community and yet I’m still not using public transport and society at large loses the contribution from persons that are stuck at home.

Hailo works very simply and I’m looking for Brisbane to make sure that in 2032, we are a leader, not just for the general public and not just for those who are visiting, but for everybody. By enabling persons to show up to a bus stop, to select the vehicle that they want from the Hailo app and to alert the bus driver electronically that somebody wants to get on at a specific stop, we make sure that nobody is left behind. My guide dog doesn’t get his paws burnt in the summer and I don’t need to be left behind, stranded by vehicles on Adelaide Street, on the Cultural Centre, the new Cross River Rail, it does not matter where you are in the world, problems are the same. Brisbane should be a leader, Brisbane can be a leader and Brisbane is the city to do it and I’m here to say it’s too long, we need to fix it. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you, Mr Velasquez.

I’ll now call on Councillor MURPHY to respond please.

**Response by Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee**

Councillor MURPHY: Well, thank you for coming to speak with us today, Mr Velasquez and thank you for sharing your experience of catching public transport in Brisbane. I can say there’s no one that’s more disappointed than us on this side of the Chamber that you weren’t able to bring your guide dog today. We very much wanted to meet them, but unfortunately it was not to be. Our goal, Mr Velasquez, is to provide a world-class public transport network that is connected, reliable and most importantly, inclusive.

That is the Schrinner Council’s goal, we’re committed to making Brisbane an accessible city for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. That means providing equitable and dignified ways for people to move freely between and throughout public transport hubs, public spaces, entertainment precincts and key destinations. It’s a very big task and it’s one that we take incredibly seriously and we are tackling it from a number of angles, public transport infrastructure, our fleet itself and its onboard systems. We maintain a network of almost 6,000 bus stops across the city and we’ve been working through a significant pipeline of accessibility upgrades with those.

Thanks to our investment in that program from successive Lord Mayors, we now have over 90% of our passengers boarding from stops that are Disability Discrimination Act compliant. We’ve made significant progress in this space, much more than any other jurisdictions around the country and we’ll keep working on that. By far the biggest step though that we have made in relation to accessibility has been on the Brisbane Metro project. In 2019, we formed the Brisbane Metro Accessibility Working Group, that was a group that we brought together to co-design all elements of the project to create a class leading vehicle infrastructure works and customer experience.

Also, Mr Velasquez, it’s the most significant co-design process that this Council has ever undertaken and it will absolutely transform the future of public transport in this country. When members of the working group could see the changes that they asked for on the pilot Metro, many of them were moved to tears and they said that it was the first time that they felt confident to use public transport in our city. The vehicle co-design process resulted in over 35 major design changes to the Metro and that has now been—

Mr Santiago Velasquez: I know that this is probably not protocol, but I know that you’re reading something and—points. But can I just ask, last year I did a Churchill Fellowship looking at public transport accessibility across 11 different nations. We have Australian Standards at the Federal level, at the State level, at the local level for transport accessibility. We have working groups, we have so many things that are being done and yet so many people are stuck at home. Australia spends more than $1 billion annually on subsidies for me to catch buses—sorry, Ubers, or for me to catch taxis. Co-design is very important, 100% and I’m very glad that we are doing something about it.

But it’s very difficult to hear that because while I’m sure we are improving and we keep improving, the contrast on certain things keeps failing. The height on certain things keeps failing, hidden disabilities keep getting missed. I can keep going down the line in terms of driver training, it’s not their fault, it’s not your fault either. I’m just saying that it’s very difficult when we keep trying to do something as people with disabilities and we keep coming with solutions that the disability community has already asked for and has said yes, we’d like it. Because we tried it in Sydney, as I said, we tried it in Melbourne, we tried it somewhere else and yet again your response, as eloquent as it is, is very difficult to hear because it doesn’t tell me anything that I don’t already know.

Chair: Thank you, Mr Velasquez. Protocol of Meetings Local Law, I’m sorry, means that I have to let Councillor MURPHY finish speaking and without interruption, so thank you very much for your points.

Councillor MURPHY: No, thank you, Mr Velasquez, and I certainly appreciate what you’re saying. We know that there is no jurisdiction in the country that has got this right at the moment and that all of us are playing catch-up to try and create that equitable and accessible future that everybody deserves. There are a few barriers, however, that I wanted to touch on in the time that I’ve got left. We know that your work as a Churchill Fellow and the work that you’re doing in terms of transport accessibility with your app, Hailo, is incredibly important and that is all about leveraging technology to improve accessibility.

I wanted to reflect on Metro because our view on that is very much aligned, we believe in using technology to leverage accessibility. We have so much powerful technology available at our fingertips and often in transport we don’t use it or bring it to market quick enough to deliver those improvements to people that they deserve. Now you mentioned customer travel information, or the lack of information, as a barrier to using public transport and we would absolutely agree. We have started to roll out things like onboard displays and audio announcements on our CityGlider fleet.

We are rolling them out to more in the fleet over the next few years progressively. With Brisbane Metro we will bring together a number of disparate information systems, so things like the Translink and *go* card data, the depot data bus scheduling systems and our network control centre into one place to be able to use that information, to help deliver that information to the customer. That will not only enhance reliability, but it will also mean the next generation of accessible information for our commuters.

One of the big challenges that we have outside of Metro, with the rest of the bus fleet, is the level of technology on the buses themselves is not fit-for-purpose. Many of our drivers still use paper route cards, they don’t use intelligent systems like Consat and Headway Management systems. Those systems allow buses to effectively have a highly reliable GPS beacon which can then be used to integrate with other solutions like your Hailo app. Some of the enablers for the technological change that you’re talking about are not yet finished on our fleet and we are racing to catch up with where we need to be, so that your app and many other technology enablers can improve accessibility on our bus fleet into the future.

It’s something that we’re absolutely committed to do, we’re committed to working with Translink, the State authority for public transport on. We’ve provided some significant information and data to you to assist you in this process, I think, to this date. We are happy to continue working with you to bring your app to market here in Brisbane and to work with Translink to make sure that that is integrated across South East Queensland. Mr Velasquez, I can reassure you that all of us here at Brisbane City Council are committed to advocating for people with a disability to be able to access our transport on a level basis, thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Thank you very much, Mr Velasquez, for coming in today. Thank you very much.

Santiago Velasquez: Thank you very much, appreciate it.

Chair: Thank you.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: We now move to Question Time.

Are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or a Civic Cabinet Chair of any of the Standing Committees?

Councillor TOOMEY.

**Question 1**

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair of Infrastructure, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES, last week you provided an update on the restoration of the Story Bridge and Council’s plans to ensure this iconic bridge helps keep Brisbane moving for another 100 years. Could you please update the Chamber on the latest development since last week’s update?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Madam Chair, and can I thank Councillor TOOMEY for the question. I know that Councillor TOOMEY takes a keen interest in both the history of the city and also the Story Bridge, as one of the most significant parts of that history. Now as Councillors should know, Council has invested around $78 million already to restore the Story Bridge since 2019. However, the more work we did, the more work we found we needed to do. As is so often the case when dealing with heritage structures, there is a lot more to it than meets the eye. What started as a new layer of paint some years ago, with repairs that were initially estimated to be around 30% of the bridge, ended up being a full stripping of the paint, with significant structural repairs.

Those who pay close attention will note that Council, as part of that process, would create full airlock encapsulations of the work zones to protect both workers, residents and visitors, to create a safe environment. Because one of the most concerning elements was that some of the lead used—excuse me, some of the paint used in the earlier repainting of the Story Bridge was lead-based and did have a risk to residents, visitors and workers. The safety of the community is not negotiable and that meant the work was difficult, our workers had to be diligent and it was very time consuming. The extent of repairs revealed a raft of complexities that can only be addressed with a comprehensive restoration.

As we have done more work, the costs associated with the bridge restoration have grown well beyond the initial anticipated costs. So what is the plan forward? Council is seeking funds through the Federal Government’s Major Projects Business Case Fund (MPBCF) to deliver a detailed business case for full renewal of the Story Bridge. This will also determine a total proposed cost. We believe that a full restoration will expand the bridge’s serviceable lifespan by another 80 to 100 years. Noting that this will be an extensive restoration process, we’ve taken clear steps to ensure that we get the best outcome we can to secure the future of this icon of the Brisbane skyline. We’ve already written to the Federal infrastructure Minister, Catherine King, to seek support through that MPBCF to create a detailed business case and both the LORD MAYOR and I have raised it with her personally.

Following this, we’ve also sent letters to both the Prime Minister and the Premier, seeking their support. However, today I can advise the Council that we have also made another announcement. The landmark announcement today is that we have appointed Mr Nigel Chamier AM (Medal of the Order of Australia) to be the Chair of the Story Bridge restoration. He will be providing a roadmap to progress the Story Bridge’s restoration. Mr Chamier led the restoration of Brisbane City Hall, of the Anzac Square restoration, both of which were great successes. He is also involved in the BSA (Brisbane Sustainability Agency), Councillor DAVIS is Chair of that body, and he is well known to many in this Chamber and is recognised as a friend and contributor to our city. With decades of experience in major infrastructure projects and significant additional experiences as both a company director and chair, Mr Chamier brings a whole range of points of view to this project.

It’s important to also note that he is also the former Chair of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Corporation, which will also identify that the Story Bridge will play a key role in how we as a city present ourselves to the world in 2032. Mr Chamier will create a report that will include the state of the bridge and Council’s historical stewardship of the Story Bridge, global case studies of other historical bridge restoration projects and options to fund the Story Bridge’s renewal, including support from other levels of government. It is absolutely crucial that we get this right and I believe that Mr Chamier is the right person to lead that.

He has graciously accepted this position and has made himself available for questions from the media today, I understand. As one of the most important transport links in our city, as a national icon, we look forward to working with Mr Chamier to ensure that we get the restoration the Story Bridge deserves. As we know, more than 100,000—while we talk about the heritage elements, it’s also important to remember as we conclude that this bridge is a key transport link within our inner city, carrying more than 100,000 motor vehicles per day. It’s part of our history but also with all this work to come, part of our future as well.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor COLLIER.

**Question 2**

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the Chair of City Standards, Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

Chair, I was shocked and so upset to read the news last week, during Homelessness Week, that Council compliance officers threw out a person’s tent and belongings from Kurilpa Point Park and did not allow them to retrieve when they asked to do so. Chair, can you tell the Council how many tents and personal belongings has Council packed up and thrown away from people sleeping rough this year?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair, and I would like to thank Councillor COLLIER for the question. Can I say the statement that Councillor COLLIER has suggested, that our PSLO (Public Space Liaison Officers) officers and our City Standards officers are throwing out tents, is completely incorrect, so I do want to set the record straight.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Just one moment please, Councillor HUTTON.

All Councillors know that you are not to speak while another Councillor is speaking. Please show that courtesy. You have asked your question, now please hear the answer.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do want to put on the record just how the Labor State Government have left behind the people of this city. It is disgraceful.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Despite what Councillor HUTTON thinks, on relevance, the question is about how many tents and personal belongings—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor COLLIER: —have Council thrown out, so I ask that you bring the Chair back to the question.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, she has five minutes to answer the question.

Please proceed, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. I do want to acknowledge that Councillor COLLIER is asking about the removal of tents. Let me be very clear here that our Council’s public liaison officers regularly visit homeless people across our city and try and service them with accommodation via the State Government. The officers that you’re referring to last week had engaged with many of the homeless people at Kurilpa Point. Now I do want to acknowledge that when we do have the opportunity to engage with these people, the primary focus is to connect them with services and this is a really important point.

Our officers are faced with a really big challenge every single day and let me acknowledge that our City Council commits $4 million of its annual budget to supporting the issue of homelessness. Now it’s important to note that when we do acknowledge that a tent has been left behind there is a process involved with acknowledging that the tent has been abandoned and there is a significant sign that is placed there. It is—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, do not call out. That is one caution.

Councillor COLLIER, point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: Just on relevance, I’m reading from an ABC media article, it says the Council says the tent was taken—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, that—

Councillor COLLIER: —during a routine clean-up.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, that is not a point of order. Please—

Councillor COLLIER: So I ask that you—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, I’m ruling that that is not a point of order.

Councillor HUTTON: Correct.

Councillor COLLIER: I haven’t finished my point of order, Chair.

Chair: Let Councillor HUTTON—she’s answering the question, you’ve had one go at answering—

Councillor COLLIER: On relevance, Chair.

Chair: You’ve asked your question, it’s being answered. That is not a point of order.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair. Point of order.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Given the Council statements in the media, I believe that Councillor HUTTON has misled this Chamber—

Chair: Councillor COLLIER, it is not to be—

Councillor COLLIER: —and I ask you to reprimand her.

Chair: You’ve asked your question, it’s not to be debated. It is not a point of order, please resume your seat.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. Our Council works delicately here in order to help vulnerable people as best as we can, whilst managing the public’s expectation around public parks and spaces. The reporting we saw last week failed to understand the complexity of the issue and the role that Council has in preventing homelessness, while ensuring public parks are accessible or just in general—sorry, or just the general facts of what actually occurred. Instead, it seized the opportunity for a headline during Homelessness Week, which is very unfortunate for these vulnerable people.

Now I do want to be very clear that our PSLO officers, as well as our City Standards officers, really work sensitively around these spaces. They are very—it is very frustrating that we continue to see the Labor Opposition here slam us about homelessness when they could simply speak with their colleagues down the road about genuinely putting housing on the market for these vulnerable people. Instead, they come into his place, slamming our officers—

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Chair, on relevance, the question is about what Brisbane City Council is doing.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I ask that you bring the Chair back to the question—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: —and tell—and come clean and tell us how many tents have been taken by Council.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have a very—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillors, stop calling out across the Chamber.

Councillor HUTTON: As I said, Chair, we have a very clear and routine procedure that allows us to identify potentially abandoned tents. We leave notices on the tents so that people can let us know if they are in use and we also check with the Department of Housing to see if they are engaging with anyone living in this tent. Now it’s a sad state of affairs that the Opposition seem to think that housing and homelessness—

Chair: Councillor HUTTON, your time has expired.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor PARRY.

**Question 3**

Councillor PARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair for Transport, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY, can you update the Chamber on recent success in grant funding to deliver on the Schrinner Council’s plan to keep Brisbane moving?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Chair, and through you, thanks to Councillor PARRY for the question. Well the Schrinner Council is dedicated to keeping Brisbane moving and our goal is to encourage more residents to embrace active transport. We want to expand our network of pathways and bikeways to enable residents and visitors to move around our city easily and safely. As one of the nation’s fastest growing capital cities we are experiencing rapid growth, with around 275 residents arriving to this city each and every week. The State Government’s own projections show Brisbane will grow by 14,000 people each year to more than 1.5 million by 2041.

Growth is a big challenge for our city and keeping Brisbane moving—to keep Brisbane moving it’s critical that we invest in projects and infrastructure that can cater for future capacity. Growth also gives us a chance to plan and deliver projects that ensure people of all ages and abilities can move around our city. However, like many other constructors, we have faced rising costs and other market challenges in respect of delivering these projects. As a result, we have changed the way we approach delivery of active transport infrastructure, recognising the benefits of more collaborative approaches and funding strategies.

Following a record spend last year, Madam Chair, we’re now shifting our focus on to advancing the design of several projects over the next 12 months. Some of this design work will be conducted through the State Government’s Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program and I can advise, Madam Chair, we’ve had a lot of success in this round, with several key projects receiving funding for both design and construction. We are investing in new lighting in targeted locations across the Moreton Bay Cycleway and Kedron Brook Bikeway.

More than a kilometre of lighting will be constructed at Fig Tree Point Park in Lota and along Kedron Brook from South Pine Road to Bauhinia Avenue. Design work will also be undertaken for lighting in Curlew Park, Pfingst Road Park and along Seventeen Mile Rocks Bikeway. These projects will make it significantly easier for those wishing to ride after work to get home sooner and safer. That’s not all, Madam Chair, several crucial missing links also received design funding this year. We know that projects like Lambert Road, Witton Street and Sylvan Road are all highly sought after by the community.

I’m pleased to share that in addition to Council’s own funding, we have secured design funding for all of these projects. Sylvan Road is of particular interest to Council, which partly ties into our $45 million upgrade of the intersections of Croydon Street at Milton Road and Sylvan Road itself. This will not only help reduce congestion but will greatly increase the safety of the existing bike lanes along Sylvan Road. It’s only been made possible by the record investment in active transport by the Schrinner Council.

It’s disappointing but never surprising that the Greens have been very critical of Council, despite this investment. Councillor CHONG WAH was very excited weeks ago when she saw these projects had received funding in this year’s budget. She welcomed the funding and talked about how it was long overdue. She mentioned that the designs should be backed up by actual construction. But did the construction of the Sylvan Road bikeway appear in the Greens’ 101 election commitments? No, it didn’t. In fact there wasn’t even a commitment for any further design work. We know that the story unravels, because Greens never make firm commitments on bikeways. They welcome the bikeway, they say that it’s long overdue and then ultimately what they do is they campaign against it, Madam Chair.

That was my experience during Councillor Sri’s time with the Dornoch Terrace bikeway. He begged us to deliver the Dornoch Terrace bikeway in his community, he said the community needed it for safety. Come and build this bikeway, he cried. Then we went in good faith and we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars undertaking detailed design and community consultation and then Councillor Sri turned around and he was against the bikeway and to this day it has not been built. The Greens will always claim that they are the biggest supporters of active transport, nobody’s bigger than the Greens, they’ll say. But when it comes to Dornoch Terrace, they beat a very hasty retreat, Madam Chair.

When it comes to Sylvan Road, we know they didn’t commit to its design or its construction. Now they’re claiming credit for the fact that it’s on the list for design. But I’m confident that if the project gets controversial in the community, as these projects often do, they will do what they did with Dornoch Terrace. They will run a million miles from this project and they will say oh, we can’t support it because the Brisbane City Council stuffed it up. That is what they always do, Madam Chair. If they’re not claiming credit for our work, they are saying that we did it the wrong way and only if it was done the right way, then of course they could support it as the local Councillor. So we will wait with bated breath to see what Councillor CHONG WAH will do when it comes to the bikeway on Sylvan Road. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor MASSEY.

**Question 4**

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. My question is for Councillor HUTTON.

Last week a homeless rough sleeper’s tent was taken and removed by Brisbane City Council during Homelessness Week, leaving him without even the barest simple shelter, a tent. Public Space Liaison Officers of course do incredible work, however, it’s clear that a 48-hour notice and a sign this big, no bigger than a business card, is not sufficient notice to enable people who have nothing to stop their tents being removed. So today I am asking will you commit to increasing the notification period to rough sleepers across the city to at least 96 hours before their tents are removed and assumed abandoned, to ensure a situation like this never happens again?

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair, and I would like to thank Councillor MASSEY for the question. Now I would like to get the record very, very clear, there was a sign put up on to the tent in which she has described the individual. Then when the tent was removed, Micah Projects—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Last week, Madam Chairman, you made a ruling that you couldn’t say she, so is that ruling applied to me and Councillor HUTTON?

Councillor HUTTON: So relieved to get interrupted by that.

Chair: It’s not a point of order, but getting back to the question, the importance of the question.

Councillor HUTTON: Now Councillor MASSEY was referring—sorry, Chair.

Chair: Just before you go on, Councillor HUTTON, I am going to remind Councillors that you need to remain quiet and show suitable meeting conduct while another Councillor is on their feet speaking please.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. As I was saying, Councillor MASSEY was referring to an individual and when that individual returned to the place, to the park, there was Micah Projects there ready to connect them with housing solutions. Now our teams work really, really hard together with the Department of Housing to find suitable accommodation for these individuals. Now I will just run through again the state of practice.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Relevance. The question is an explanation of what PSLO officers do. It’s asking if you will extend the notification period.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MASSEY. Councillor HUTTON is answering the question, has several more minutes to do so.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. Now I do want to acknowledge that our PSLO officers connect each and every day with those sleeping rough and our ultimate aim is to get these people into housing. Now like those on the opposite side, they may be comfortable with people living in a tent, we on this side of the Chamber aim for more, we aim for more in this city. We want homeless people to have a house, to have a roof over their head, to have security. So to allow people to camp in a park, I think we can do better. This is why our—

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: We don’t need an explanation on this, like, come on.

Chair: Councillor MASSEY, this is not for you to debate.

Councillor MASSEY: Come on now, come on.

Chair: You have asked your question. Please let the Councillor answer it.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: It’s really interesting, Madam Chair, that those on the opposite side are comfortable with people living in tents and we are not. We are not comfortable and that’s why I’m really proud that our Administration is investing $4 million in housing and homelessness, to give the support that we can at this level of government. Now we might just go back a little while and I remember about this time last year our LORD MAYOR put on record our support for the Pinkenba facility. That was 500 beds that could give support to homeless people today.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: On relevance.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor COLLIER. Councillor HUTTON is answering the question.

Councillor COLLIER: This does not form any part of the question that Councillor MASSEY has asked.

Chair: I don’t uphold your point of order.

Councillor MASSEY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Who knows if I’m allowed to do this, but would Councillor HUTTON take a question?

Chair: No, Councillor MASSEY, you have asked your question.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Well you’re not answering this question—

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

Councillor MASSEY: —so would you answer one?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor WINES, I do have this.

Councillor MASSEY: Would you answer one?

Chair: I do not uphold your point of order, Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. It’s very interesting when we start to talk about the different approaches that people in this Chamber take towards homelessness, we start to get quite aggressive from across the other side. It’s very, very interesting and like I said, we aim for more. We want people in this city to have a roof over their head, but not everyone in this Chamber does. So I just really want to confirm that when our PSLO officers attend these sites, they engage with everyone there. They really try and connect them with support services, including the Department of Housing.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: I believe that Councillor MASSEY—on relevance, I believe that Councillor MASSEY has been referring to compliance officers, which is under the remit of Councillor HUTTON’s—

Chair: Councillor, Councillor COLLIER, you are not able to get up and start debating this. Thank you very much. So I do not uphold your point of order and you do know the procedure. I will start to caution you if you continue to do this.

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. Our officers leave a very clear note if they think a tent is being unused and they suggest that you contact Council within 48 hours. The notice is also emailed to any community organisation that they have their details on their tent, should they wish to recover any of the tents within the 24-hour period. Council also checks with the Department of Housing if they are currently engaged with anyone in the identified tent. Where the Department of Housing confirms they have no record of a person in the tent and Council receives no notification from any occupant or charity, the tent is presumed abandoned and in the interest of public safety and amenity, the tent is disposed of.

We keep the tents and we wait for them to be claimed. Now that is within a 48‑hour period. Due to biohazard risks, the tents that are not suitable for reusing or distribution are obviously disposed of. Where people are occupying tents, alternative living arrangements are provided by the Queensland Government as part of their daily site visits. I really want to put on record, Madam Chair, just the extraordinary efforts that our PSLO and our compliance officers undertake in these sites. They are very, very sensitive to the nature of these vulnerable people and they are doing their very, very best.

But like we have seen here, the coalition of chaos over there seem to think it’s okay for people to be living in tents. This side of the Chamber we expect more. We want to see these homeless and vulnerable people staying in accommodation, to have a roof over their head and I think that is a great—I think we should all be aspiring for more and I think we need to be very realistic that within our local government we are committing significant amounts of time, energy and funding towards homelessness. Now down the road, the State Labor Government have failed, they have failed these people. As the LORD MAYOR put on record some 12 months ago—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUTTON, your time has expired.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Are there further questions?

Councillor ATWOOD.

**Question 5**

Councillor ATWOOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is to the Civic Cabinet Chair for Infrastructure, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES, since 2010, we have partnered with the Federal Government to improve safety in some of Brisbane’s worst suburban crash corridors through the Black Spot Program. Can you please advise the Chamber on any barriers to this partnership, which is focused on keeping Brisbane moving?

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Madam Chair, and can I thank Councillor ATWOOD for her question and her ongoing interest in ensuring that we have a safe and efficient transport network. Can I begin by providing the Chamber an orientation about what Black Spots are? Black Spots are a Federally funded program, where intersections and road upgrades can occur—can be delivered within 12 months, for a cost of less than $2 million. That is the nature of the program. It has been, as Councillor ATWOOD identifies, a longstanding project, longstanding program of the Federal Government. Now typically, this Council submits between three and five projects and has historically or typically received 100% of everything that we submit. This is for a range of regions, including our very high benefit-cost ratio in these and our well established ability to deliver the projects.

Last financial year, 2023-24, our Black Spot delivery program included Kittyhawk Avenue and Inala Avenue, Inala; Johnson Road in Forest Lake; Bay Terrace and Chestnut Street in Wynnum; and Bennetts Road, Macrossan Avenue and Crown Street in Norman Park. In financial year 2024-25 we received a letter—in anticipation of that financial year we received a letter from the Minister for infrastructure, the Honourable Catherine King. I will table this letter, but on it—in it, I should say—it was received by this Council on 22 May 2024 and in the letter it says, in addition to the RtoR (Roads to Recovery) funding commitment the Australian Government has increased funding to—I’ll just slow down here—has increased funding to the Black Spot Program and from 1 July 2021 will also have another program. Now the Black Spot Program increased from $110 million a year to $150 million a year. In response to that, we were encouraged to submit more projects to that program.

When we were advised which projects were successful, we received only two, Wynnum Road and Southgate Avenue in Cannon Hill, and Melton Road and Nellie Street in Nundah. Now why would that change be, when we’d be encouraged to submit more? Well part of the process is we must submit our proposals to the State Government and then the State Government makes an assessment of which ones are worthy. The State Government at that point gatekept many of our projects and did not forward them to the Federal Government for consideration. What happened there? Well, our communities lose out, so which projects did the State Government deem unworthy? The upgrade of Breakfast Creek Road and Edmondstone Road in Bowen Hills, which sees two crashes a year for the last five years. James Street, Doggett Street and Robertson Street, Fortitude Valley, that has again 11 crashes over five years, more than two crashes a year.

St Pauls Terrace, Gipps Terrace, Kennigo Street, Fortitude Valley, 13 crashes between 2018 and 2023. St Pauls Terrace again, Quarry Street, Warren Street and Gotha Street, eight crashes between 2018 and 2023. Wynnum Road and Beverley Street, Morningside, which sees—which has seen five crashes a year between 2018 and 2023. Kessels Road and Orange Grove Road, Salisbury, six crashes between 2018 and 2023. A total of 53 incidents have occurred at those six intersections between 2018 and 2023 and all six Black Spots were rejected, even though they met the Federal Government’s funding criteria, even though we’d been encouraged to submit them. Even though our understanding was that they would be supported, except our own Queensland Government did not propose them.

The State Government’s decision to reject these six Black Spot Projects once again comes despite the Federal Government’s record commitment and significant increase to the program. Now I’d like to take a moment to compare who did get the support of the State Government. As I say, Queensland—excuse me, Brisbane City of the whole national program received six per cent of the State-wide commitment or $1 million. To be precise, $1.84 million. In the previous five years we would typically get somewhere between $2.4 million and $6.2 million. However, our cousins to the south in the heavily Labor dominated and clearly an area of concern, Logan City Council, they got $5.97 million for Logan City alone, or the equivalent of 34% of all Queensland’s funding this financial year.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: You can read about it, well—

Chair: Councillors.

Councillor WINES: —that appears to be the electorates of a number of it must be endangered but senior State MPs.

Chair: Councillor WINES, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

**Question 6**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, my question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, your LNP team supported the demolition of the Tarragindi Bowls Club on land zoned sport and recreation, to allow the building of a six‑storey apartment building. There is a two-storey Council community hall in the bushland right next door to the new apartment building and I know Council officers were approached to remove the top storey of this building to create better views for the apartments. Before the 2024 Council election, I was informed by the chair of lifestyle that this would never happen. Yesterday I was informed by Council officers that Council is now demolishing the second floor of the community hall, which officers have informed me is structurally sound. LORD MAYOR, do you support the demolition of the top storey of this community hall rather than its restoration?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you for the question, Councillor GRIFFITHS. Look, I’m not—I haven’t been briefed on this particular issue, so happy to find out what’s happening there and provide a response.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor ADERMANN.

**Question 7**

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of Transport, Councillor MURPHY.

Since opening, the Breakfast Creek Bridge has seen patronage beyond even our most optimistic expectations. Can you please update the Chamber on our investment in keeping Brisbane moving and advise if you’re aware of any alternative approaches?

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Yes, thank you, Chair, and thanks to you, Councillor ADERMANN, for the question. I know how passionate Councillor ADERMANN is about active transport in his ward. He’s always supporting Kenmore South State School and the bigger and better things each and every year in the Active School Travel awards. It is fantastic, isn’t it, Councillor ADERMANN, that we have achieved so much with the Breakfast Creek/Yowoggera Green Bridge, the first of the green bridges delivered by the Schrinner Council, 700 metres of new active transport infrastructure for our city. This now forms part of a seamless two-kilometre link between Hamilton and Newstead. As I mentioned, this was the first bridge of the $550 million Bridges for Brisbane commitment and it is working to take more cars off the road and to provide more choice when it comes to travel.

It’s true, Councillor ADERMANN, that patronage has been beyond our wildest expectations. We’ve had over 3,000 pedestrians, cyclists and scooter users use the bridge each day, double what the business case forecast was of 1,300 trips. Just this month we passed over half a million trips taken on the bridge. In June we saw a maximum of 5,000 trips being taken in a single day, just 1,000 below the forecast of the Kangaroo Point Bridge. So it is absolutely unbelievable and we are now considering, reconsidering how we develop the business cases for these assets, because they seem to be wrong, Councillor ADERMANN, but in a very good way. We are of course required to use the State’s BSTM, the Brisbane Strategic Transport Model, but the BSTM is B-U-S-T-E-D, busted, at least when it comes to active transport.

It does not appropriately account for active transport-induced demand and there clearly needs to be a serious rethink on the model on which many private organisations, the State Government itself and Brisbane City Council are doing business cases for active transport infrastructure. Put simply, the numbers are undercooked, which means our future bridges will likely provide a much higher benefit cost ratio than what we have had looked at previously. This goes for Kangaroo Point as well. Council was expecting around 6,100 trips per day, taking 84,000 cars off the road every year. Going off the figures from Breakfast Creek, this could go up to 10,000 or even 15,000 trips per day, Madam Chair.

Statistics like that would put Kangaroo Point Bridge into the top five bikeways by daily trips in the world. According to Eco-Counter, the world’s chief authority on bikeway count data, the busiest bikeway is actually, funnily enough, the Sébastopol Boulevard. But it’s not in Crimea, Councillor ADAMS might be able to tell you, it is in Paris, France. It sees approximately 13,000 trips every day. If we beat our projections in the same way that we did with Breakfast Creek, we could soon have the most popular stretch of bikeway in the world. It will be the Schrinner Council that brings this vision to life when Kangaroo Point Bridge opens later this year.

We are continuing to invest in new bridges while we are refurbishing our old ones. Compare that to the State Government, which has no plans for any new river crossings in Brisbane. It doesn’t get any better for their Council colleagues either, Chair. We remember that three years ago former Councillor Cook wanted Council to investigate the Bulimba to Teneriffe green bridge, seriously. But what Councillor Cook failed to tell the Chamber was that the State Government had already completed a report commissioned in 2015. What did that report reveal? That the bridge would need 30 metres of clearance above the Brisbane River and would block out the sun.

By contrast, the Kurilpa Bridge is nine metres, the Captain Cook Bridge is 12 metres and the Goodwill Bridge is 13 metres. The only other inner city bridge with clearance that high is the Story Bridge. It would be more than half a kilometre long and require an aggressive five per cent grade, a flat surface every 15 metres on ramped areas to be DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant, hardly an accessible bridge for families, the elderly and those living with a disability.

The Greens aren’t much better, Chair, they’re still all over the shop on the Toowong to West End Bridge. We all remember when Councillor Sri and Amy McMahon campaigned against that bridge for the loss of green space on either side and we’ve heard from other Councillors here in this space who are not fans of buses on that bridge. I’ve said to the Chamber before, Madam Chair, during this year’s election the Greens had their opportunity to tell this Chamber, to tell the people of the City of Brisbane what green bridges they would build if they were elected. They said they would build nothing, they actually said they would build nothing. So not Toowong to West End—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY, your time has expired.

Councillor MURPHY: —not St Lucia to West End.

Chair: Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 8**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, my question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, due to your Council’s decision to close the Walter Taylor Bridge for 17 days, buses, including the 105, 108, 599 and 598, cannot cross the bridge to take residents to essential services, work and recreation. Instead, bus users will be dumped at a rail station with stairs and no universal access. Do you think it is accessible that the elderly, disabled and parents with prams do not have safe universal access to public transport due to your Council’s decision to shut the Walter Taylor Bridge?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: That’s an interesting question. What I heard there is that the rail station wasn’t DDA compliant. I also heard that Councillor JOHNSTON is against us performing maintenance on the bridge. Now we know in the past that—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: We know in the past that there has been trouble in paradise with the State Labor Member for the area wanting a new bridge, campaigning for a new bridge, but refusing to put a single cent towards a new bridge, making it someone else’s problem. But Councillor JOHNSTON is against the new bridge, she’s made that very clear, she is against a new bridge for Walter Taylor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON. Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Madam Chair, I’m not interested in the politics; I’m interested—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor, I’ve noted your point of misrepresentation, so it’s not for debate now.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m sorry, are you going to do something about that?

Chair: No, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, okay. All right, so Madam Chair, my point of order is my question is about residents who cannot access bus and public transport services because of the LORD MAYOR’s bridge closure.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s not about a new bridge.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON, the LORD MAYOR is answering the question.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: It’s extraordinary because as I was pointing out, some people have proposed a new bridge, including the Labor State Member, proposed it without any funding even though he was the Minister for Transport and has bridges in his portfolio. Councillor JOHNSTON has campaigned against a new bridge and so if you’re relying on the existing 80-year-old bridge, what do you have to do with it? You have to maintain it and that’s exactly what we’ve been doing for many, many years, that’s exactly what we plan to do in September, yet Councillor JOHNSTON is against that too. So you can’t build a new bridge, can’t maintain the existing one.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: What is it that she supports—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —Madam Chair?

Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Point of order. I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: It’s quite extraordinary that Councillor JOHNSTON continues to complain that nothing ever apparently happens in her ward, but she complains when anything ever happens in her ward. I think people are seeing through this. It is petty politics, it is opposition for opposition’s sake and the reality is this work needs to be done.

Now if Councillor JOHNSTON had questions about this particular project that appeared in the budget, this project appeared in the budget, she could well have asked those questions at the budget information session. She could have found out any information that she needed to know at that, but no. What it appears she wants to do now is to scare the community, to unnecessarily oppose essential maintenance and—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: To unnecessarily oppose essential maintenance which keeps—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair. Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I haven’t called you yet.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Oh.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: —which keeps the bridge operating, as it should. Now this is not something that has to happen every year, it’s not something that even has to happen every five years. The last closure of this scale that happened was 31 years ago. At that time, we replaced a wooden deck with a concrete deck on the bridge to give it extra life and we’re doing some substantial works on this bridge to give it that new life. So what we’re doing is removing the entire surface, we’re improving and upgrading the deck, we are dealing with the joints. We are doing a whole range of other maintenance works on the bridge and we’re doing this to give it the extra life that this bridge deserves. This is also something that cannot be done while traffic is using the bridge. This is something that I verified just today with one of our bridge experts, the manager of that section.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

LORD MAYOR: He was specifically asked—

Chair: Sorry, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, this question was about the decision of Brisbane City Council to dump bus residents and users at a train station with stairs and no universal access.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s a genuine question, it’s a serious question and I would ask the LORD MAYOR to address it.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON, the LORD MAYOR is answering the question.

LORD MAYOR: Well, Madam Chair, that’s a question that should be addressed to the State Government, who are responsible for DDA access at their rail stations. But what I can tell you is that the work on the Walter Taylor Bridge needs to be done and of all the different opportunities to do that work, during the September school holidays is the best opportunity. I acknowledge that this will cause a disruption to people, it will change travel patterns, there is no doubt about that. But the work has to be done and the work cannot be done while the bridge is open to traffic. So the opportunity just to keep one lane open and do the work on the other lane, it is not there, that is not possible. This kind of work cannot be done under those situations. So the bridge has to be closed, we’re closing it during a period that is the school holidays.

We’re closing it during a period where the weather conditions are more likely to be optimal for this kind of work and that’s not always the case. If it was at the Christmas period, the Christmas holiday period, we know the kind of weather we get there. Hot and wet, that would potentially cause the project to take even longer. This work has to be done and it would be nice to get Councillor JOHNSTON on board with essential maintenance work that will help keep an asset that serves her community alive for longer.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON, your points of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, on the first point of misrepresentation, Madam Chair, the LORD MAYOR stated that I was opposed to maintenance on the Walter Taylor Bridge. That is a demonstrably false statement. My public statements have been, “we all want a safe and reliable bridge and maintenance works to the bridge joints and resurfacing are critically important.” On number two, the LORD MAYOR dishonestly and falsely stated that I was opposed to essential maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: I appreciate that people are allowed to provide explanations, but this appears to be a whole speech. Could I seek a ruling on the brevity required for these types of comments that Councillor JOHNSTON’s making?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES. There were several points of misrepresentation.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. On point number two, the LORD MAYOR stated that I was opposed to maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. In all my public statements I have said that we want a safe and reliable bridge and maintenance works to the bridge joints and resurfacing are critically important.

With respect to the LORD MAYOR’s third dishonest and false statement about my public comments, the LORD MAYOR said that I was opposed to maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. In addition to positive public statements about the importance of the work, I have also stated that maintaining the bridge is important for—maintaining the bridge is important.

For the fourth comment, the LORD MAYOR said I was opposed to essential maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. This is a dishonest and false statement and my public statements have clearly, clearly and repeatedly said how important maintenance work on the Walter Taylor Bridge is and I think it demonstrates what a dishonest person the LORD MAYOR of Brisbane is.

Chair: Councillor, be very—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: I caution you not to use that language, thank you.

That now ends Question Time.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 5 August 2024.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The LORD MAYOR, Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 5 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Is there any debate?

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

**Seriatim *en bloc* for debate and voting - Clauses A and D**

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| Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON requested that Clause A, LEASE OF PREMISES FOR PUBLIC TOILETS IN BRUNSWICK STREET MALL, FORTITUDE VALLEY; and Clause D, AMENDMENTS TO URBAN UTILITIES POLICIES, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for debating and voting purposes. |

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, I’ll make some other comments and then we’ll go into A and D first, if that’s all right?

Chair: Yes.

LORD MAYOR: Then we can do B and C second. Well what we heard just now from Councillor JOHNSTON is classic Councillor JOHNSTON. It is the story of her entire political career, oppose things whenever they are proposed in her ward and then complain that nothing ever happens in her ward. We’ve seen it over and over and over and over again. It is really quite extraordinary and she’s been caught out this time and she doesn’t like being called out on this behaviour, but it is disingenuous of her to suggest she supports the maintenance when she has been leading the charge—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —against the maintenance occurring in the way that it needs to occur.

Chair: One moment please, LORD MAYOR.

Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: We’ve also seen in addition to the coalition of chaos that is formed to our right, there’s a new coalition that’s developed as well. That is the coalition between the Greens and Councillor JOHNSTON, where Councillor JOHNSTON is acting as their pseudo-leader and advisor on issues. We know why that is, because—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim.

LORD MAYOR: Okay, it’s not pseudo; it’s actually their advisor and leader. Because the Greens operate the same way that Councillor JOHNSTON does, they say they want everything to happen and then they oppose everything when a bridge is proposed. We’ve heard examples, Councillor MURPHY has called them out on this today. It is really quite disingenuous and quite disappointing, because it’s all about the politics. Everything they say is just to win a vote, never about an outcome, everything they say and Councillor JOHNSTON and the Greens should be ashamed of themselves for this kind of tactic.

Walter Taylor Bridge, these things are never easy when you’re doing iconic heritage bridge maintenance work like this and these are not new assets. This is a bridge that is well into its 80s and needs substantial work. The last time we did something of this scale was 31 years ago. There has been obviously ongoing maintenance work done to the bridge, there was a shorter closure in 2013. There have been other works ongoing, so we’ve always done the work that needs to be done. This work needs to be done. The expert bridge engineers and managers that plan and deliver these projects have confirmed that this work cannot be done while the bridge remains partially open, it cannot be done. So Councillor JOHNSTON is really quite causing some troubles here when she campaigns against the bridge maintenance work in the community, when she stirs up community angst—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chair.

LORD MAYOR: —about the bridge maintenance work that needs to happen.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So I would simply say to Councillor JOHNSTON, get on board with the program. This is an important asset for your residents, the people you represent too, Councillor JOHNSTON. This work needs to be done and it would be best if we do it in the September school holiday period, it is the optimum time that has been put forward. It would be great if Councillor JOHNSTON could get on board with this important maintenance work.

Madam Chair, as I always do, I wanted to talk about the lighting up of assets. We know that last night our assets were lit up green to celebrate the Ekka, which officially kicked off on Saturday and will run through until Sunday 18 August.

Tonight, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, Tropical Dome and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in red to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Australian Red Cross. Thank you to Councillor PARRY, to Councillor ADERMANN and also Councillor WOLFF, who came along to the civic reception that we had today for Red Cross. I know that they appreciated that and people came from near and far. Our local branches were well represented, but we also had some people that came up from the Gold Coast and even one dedicated volunteer who came down from Tully for the event. But they are very dedicated, it’s the reason why Australian Red Cross has been going strong for 110 years. They do fantastic work in our community for which we are grateful for.

On Wednesday our assets—or tomorrow night our assets will be lit up in green again for the Ekka. On Thursday the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in white, orange and green to recognise India’s Independence Day, commemorating 78 years of Indian self-government following the end of British rule in 1947. On Friday all of our assets will be lit up in purple to support the Bullying No Way: National week of action, which is Australia’s key bullying prevention initiative and connects schools and communities to find workable solutions to prevent bullying.

We’ve been very busy welcoming new citizens in recent times. Last Monday night we welcomed over 500 people in City Hall. On Saturday we had two ceremonies and welcomed around 1,200 new citizens in City Hall, last night another 500-plus people. Thank you, Madam Chair, for the role you do in being the MC (Master of Ceremonies) for those events. It was great to see those new citizens being inducted. It was particularly great to see the number of Kiwis that have decided to become Aussies, Councillor MARX. In the past there’s been free travel between Australia and New Zealand, Kiwis can stay here as long as they like. Many of them opted not to get citizenship and that’s changed recently and we’ve seen a great take-up of Australian citizenship. That’s a wonderful thing, so welcome to all of our new citizens and a special welcome to the Kiwis as well who have now become Aussies.

Another milestone we’ve had just recently is the QPAC (Queensland Performing Arts Centre) Melbourne Street Green has been completed as part of the Brisbane Metro project. Work there includes a new permanent stage, a lawned area, landscaping, upgrades to lighting and audio systems as well. This is something that we were doing as part of Brisbane Metro and the works around the Cultural Centre station as well.

Now on to items A and D, the first two that we’ll deal with. Item A deals with the lease of premises for public toilets in Brunswick Street Mall, Fortitude Valley. Obviously one of our key nighttime precincts and entertainment precincts. Public toilets are very important in this precinct and very well used and in great demand from the community. This particular item leases the premises so that we can create some new public toilets in Brunswick Street Mall. We’ve previously provided public toilets at 275 Brunswick Street, that lease expired in 2022. We were not able to renew the lease as the property was being sold.

In the interim we’ve provided public toilets via a modular solution in the middle of the mall. This option was always intended to be temporary and what we’re doing today is proposing a new facility that will give us some longevity. This lease is for an initial period of 10 years with a further five-year option.

Item D relates to the adoption of a new five-year Statement of Strategic Intent for Queensland Urban Utilities (UU) and updates to other policies. The previous Statement of Strategic Intent has recently expired and a new statement for the five‑year period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 has been prepared by Urban Utilities. This is required to be endorsed by the shareholding councils, of which we are one, we are one of five. The statement as set out in the papers includes UU’s operating objectives, purpose and vision, strategic priorities and risk forecast infrastructure investment and five-year financial forecasts, together with supporting key financial metrics.

As Councillors will be aware, Urban Utilities operates water and sewerage facilities in the five Local Government Areas, including Brisbane, Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley and Somerset, a region that services close to 1.6 million customers. The statement before us will provide safe and efficient water services every day, building trust and to help shape and grow our future as Urban Utilities critical strategic priorities. It also outlines a range of critical KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) in the areas of safety, public health, environment, experience and value. Urban Utilities publishes performance data across a range of metrics through its annual report and annual performance report, both of which are provided to their regulator, namely the State Government and they are also published as well.

With the new Statement of Strategic Intent being prepared for endorsement, UU along with representatives from the shareholding councils have also reviewed and proposed amendments to these policies, to ensure fair and predictable returns to residents. Urban Utilities is the custodian of our water and sewerage assets, the residents of Brisbane are their majority shareholders. They have a very important role and I wish the management and board well in continuing to fulfil this responsibility over the next five years and beyond. I also want to take the opportunity to thank the many dedicated crews and teams from Urban Utilities working hard on frontline services to deliver these critical and essential services and upgrades to the people of Brisbane every day.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Sorry, Councillor, your three misrepresentations.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, on the first point of misrepresentation, the LORD MAYOR stated that I was opposed to essential maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. In fact in all my public statements and private statements, I’ve just checked, I have indicated how important it is to undertake maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. The second point was the LORD MAYOR dishonestly stated that I was the leader of the Greens and an advisor to the Greens. I am in fact the Councillor for Tennyson Ward and an independent. I have been an independent now for 14 years and it is very disrespectful that the LORD MAYOR fails to recognise that. Thirdly, the LORD MAYOR again stated that I had opposed maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge. In my public statements and private statements I have repeatedly said it is important that the maintenance works are able to be undertaken. It is the impact of them that I am seeking to address—

Chair: Thank you, Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —a nuance he doesn’t seem to understand.

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I’ll just talk on Clause A and Clause D before us. We support both these items on the Establishment and Coordination Committee agenda today before us. It’s reasonable that Council are seeking to invest in a permanent bathroom facility or restroom facility in the Brunswick Street Mall. However, what baffles us on this side of the Chamber is why it’s taken two years to find an appropriate space. You only need to look at the temporary bathroom facilities to recognise that that structure was not intended to be there for two years. It was clearly a quick fix that stayed around for too long.

Those using the mall deserve better facilities, particularly when you look at the expense involved. The demountable structure was costing ratepayers $300 a day to maintain. That’s $270,000 flushed literally down the toilet over two years, so yes, it is time for a new permanent restroom facility. We know that the cost of the new site will be significant for ratepayers over the 10-year lease in rent alone. Our request is that we ask that Council are forthcoming with the costings of the fit-out and ongoing maintenance. Ultimately though we do agree it is necessary to offer higher-quality amenities to residents, businesses and the local community in this important hub for Brisbane.

On Clause D, the amendments to the Urban Utilities policies before us appear to be quite straightforward. They detail the ownership and decision-making process of Brisbane’s water supply. The Statement of Strategic Intent outlines the investment in infrastructure and policy required to ensure safe supply of drinking water and safe treatment of wastewater out to 2029. I think that this is probably something that is taken a little for granted by people as they go about by their daily business. It is a privilege to have the ability to turn on a tap and drink water safely and to flush a toilet and know that it goes somewhere and it gets treated.

But these things don’t just happen on their own and water security and climate change will have a big effect on the delivery of these services. I note that the report talks about public health extensively and says in the last year that there was a 26% reduction in uncontrolled wastewater overflows, compared to 2022-23. This is good news overall but it hasn’t been good news when it comes to issues on the northside with the Sandgate Wastewater Treatment Plant facility, I’m told, through no direct fault of their own, Urban Utilities have had several uncontrolled releases into Cabbage Tree Creek in the last few years. Usually due to sizeable rain events and most recently due to a power outage.

Councillor CASSIDY was told that while there are some backup generators on site, there isn’t one big enough to power the whole site. Which was needed after the power had been cut in the incident last month. This resulted in significant flows of untreated sewage discharge into the creek. I note that the report says $125 million will be paid as a dividend to councils this year, $120 million next year and then increasing amounts in the year ahead. Money paid to Council as part of profits generated by people to pay their water bills. The money that Urban Utilities generate has to pay for the ongoing supply of water, ongoing treatment of sewage and investment in upgraded infrastructure. It also has to pay a dividend that comes through shareholder councils.

On this side of the Chamber we really want to be sure that people know that their waste, their water and their sewage supply is put ahead of dividend payments. People who use Cabbage Tree Creek for fishing and recreation probably didn’t feel like that last month. I know that Councillor CASSIDY has continued to ask Urban Utilities questions about their infrastructure and what lessons are being learned.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you. I rise to speak on items A and items D. It is unbelievable that this Administration still has not organised a permanent public toilet facility for people using the Valley. We know it is a very busy nighttime precinct and it’s also busy during the day. Instead of investing the funds that the shop owners and property owners pay, into facilities that will support the type of activity that happens in this precinct, this Administration has let them down.

I mean I’ve been here 16 years and I’ve heard Councillor ADAMS and Councillor HOWARD stand up time and time again and say how great the Valley Mall is and how wonderful the facilities are. They’ve put in pods and they’ve put in shops and they’ve done all these things. They just haven’t put in toilets. So we already have a problem where young people don’t have anywhere to go to the toilet, which is leading to some antisocial behaviour. Unfortunately, this Council, instead of investing funds into what some people would consider an essential service, a public toilet, there is another—and this is a temporary solution still. Councillor ADAMS is shouting—is shaking her head, sorry.

I don’t think she understands what a lease is. A lease goes for a certain period of time and then it ends. That’s the problem that she’s had and why we didn’t have a toilet before. A permanent solution would be where Council builds something on its land and it is there in perpetuity. Like the toilets, for example, at Graceville Memorial Park, that are 70 years old and haven’t been touched by Council since then.

So I think—yes and Councillor ADAMS is very cranky about all of this now. But a lease is a temporary instrument and the lease is over a commercial premise in the Valley and it is a short-term solution. So if this Council can fund structures in the mall, shops in the mall, allow those kind of things. Then this Council should be doing more to have public facilities available for people using the Fortitude Valley area. They are critically needed.

So this is the only solution being put forward today. Obviously I’m not consulted on this. I don’t know whether any of the shopkeepers have been or the steering committee of the Valley Mall. I am worried that in a few years’ time we will have a problem again. Because there is no long-term solution for public toilets. It is incumbent upon Council to make sure there is a long-term solution. But a short‑term lease, at commercial rates, does not seem like a good idea.

With respect to item 10, the Urban Utilities policies. I too, note that it does seem reasonably straightforward. But increasingly we are seeing the need for investment in sewerage services. There have been some in my ward, obviously where we have sewage flooding into residential streets. That happens, unfortunately, on a regular basis.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, it’s not good, it’s really not good. In Yeerongpilly it’s awful to watch water get into what should be a closed network and then have terrible things in your street which requires clean up. Now that happens in other parts of the city as well. But it is essential that UU invests in the necessary infrastructure to upgrade these facilities. As I said, they’ve done some work in Yeerongpilly. But the big problem we’ve got is that UU is 85%—for all the new Councillors—UU is 85% owned by Brisbane City Council. It is our creature. It has some representation from the other regional councils that are involved with UU. But this Council is the driving force behind UU.

It, unfortunately, has taken a hands-off approach. They appoint their mates on to the board there. I think that we need to be taking a more strategic look at what to do when it comes to our sewerage and water infrastructure. We’re definitely seeing an underinvestment and we can certainly use more.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, thank you, Madam Chair. Listen, I rise to speak on item D regards to the Urban Utilities policy. So I have looked over the documentation and I didn’t find what I was hoping to find and that was a policy—being that we are an 85% shareholder and do have representation on the board—that there would be some acknowledgement of new sewerage lines. I’m talking to a treatment plant. Now out my way in Ellen Grove which is one of the very few greenfield sites still within about 18 kilometres of Brisbane—has been suffering over the last, probably 20 years, well maybe 15 years. Because most of the sites, or the sites that are actually—could be developed in this greenfield area aren’t able to go ahead because of the sewage. The lack of sewerage trunk infrastructure.

I’ve had a number of developers, not a huge amount but I’ve had a few developers who bring this to my attention. That QUU (Queensland Urban Utilities), through Brisbane City Council being the 85% shareholder, have not kept up with infrastructure needed to develop this greenfield area. This greenfield area honestly would see hundreds and hundreds of houses that could be developed away from those biodiversity overlays that also impacts this area as well. We must respect that, of course.

So what’s happening currently is that the infrastructure, or the developments that are actually happening are actually—the houses being built in this area actually are having to have individual pumps in the houses. Now, I didn’t know that was a thing until a few years ago. But individual pumps in the houses to pump up the sewage, up to the trunk infrastructure into the Forest Lake development. Uphill. Every one of those homeowners—and I’ve said this before in previous debates—every one of those homeowners is responsible for that pump once they take possession of that house. I tell you what, it’s a thing, it has happened in other jurisdictions but not very often. So this is a problem, I think ongoing, for those homeowners.

But more importantly maybe we talk about more housing being needed across our city. Well here’s something that Brisbane City Council, with those representations on the board through QUU, could run a line from the Ellen Grove area through to Wacol Sewage Treatment Plant. That’s what’s needed, that’s the missing link. I know the previous Councillor Milton Dick had the same issue that arose in his time in this Chamber as well. So I just want to re-emphasise to the Infrastructure Chairman here and Planning Chairman and the LORD MAYOR, that, listen, if you want to see a lot more development in my ward—and I do, especially housing—there is an opportunity that is being missed because of the lack of a connection between Ellen Grove and Wacol. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Is there further debate?

Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item D. On behalf of our residents, Brisbane City Council is the 85% shareholder in Urban Utilities, as has been identified in this place. But other local government shareholders include Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley and Somerset. They’re responsible—this is UU—is responsible for delivering water and wastewater services to 1.6 million customers in these Local Government Areas. Supplying more than 137,000 megalitres of drinking water and removing and treating around 126,000 megalitres of wastewater every year.

This submission, Madam Chair, seeks Council’s support for a new Statement of Strategic Intent. To guide UU over the next five years until 2029. Across those five years, Urban Utilities forecasts over $2.5 billion in capital investment in our network. A network which is expected to grow to over 728,000 service dwellings in 2029. Which is 50,000 more than today. Despite this growth, much of the spend will be on the renewal and rehabilitation of existing assets. Urban Utilities list three strategic priorities in their statement, known as the critical few. The first is safe and efficient water services very day. This is obviously a key focus, with key outcomes and KPIs in the areas of safety, public health and value.

The second priority is to build trust. Focusing on customer engagement and experience, ensuring Urban Utilities remains the trusted custodian of water assets. The third is shape and grow our future. This includes planning for the future in terms of innovative solutions, futureproof services and ESG (environmental, social and governance) outcomes. Also included in the submission is confirmation of the Participation Returns Policy and Participation Agreement, which were reviewed an updated in line with the outcomes referenced in the new Statement of Strategic Intent.

Now, I’m happy to explain the Participation Return Policy and the financial outcomes set out in that Strategic Statement. Floor returns, Madam Chair, are agreed for the first two years, providing stable returns and mitigating risk to dividends during volatile economic periods. Returns are based on the real rate of return on equity, including indexation of UU’s regulatory asset base and weighted average cost of capital. But I’d like to further unpack the discussion about participation returns. Like all utilities, whether that be electricity generators, bulk water providers or water retailers, Urban Utilities generates dividends for its shareholders which represent a return on the capital, which was original provided by the community. The corporatisation of utilities was a result of 1990s economic reform and it’s designed to replicate competitive market outcomes, including providing returns to shareholders, just like other businesses.

This is not a choice of this Administration, Madam Chair. This is an economic reform which dates back to the 1990s. National competition policy and water pricing principles govern how UU operates in terms of the cost-reflective pricing and efficient capital structures. State-owned utilities pay dividends to the State. Unity Water pays dividends to the Moreton Bay Council, Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils. It’s the same with our relationship with Urban Utilities. Finally, I’d like to really commend the work of our officers in preparing this document and I commend it to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item A and am a little confused about the contributions we’ve heard from Councillor COLLIER and Councillor JOHNSTON. Because it seems to me that they may have been listening to Councillor HOWARD and I telling everybody what a wonderful nighttime economy we have down there in the Valley and how we are really trying to work the daytime economy as well.

But they obviously haven’t been down there any time recently. Because, surprisingly, ground floor vacant spaces for public toilets are not just hanging around on the Brunswick Street Mall or the Chinatown Mall waiting for Council to build toilets in. Now, again, I am sure it’s very lovely that there is toilets that have been built in Graceville Memorial Park.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: One moment please, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Sorry, Councillors, I’ve asked you already, please remain quiet while other Councillors are on their feet, having their turn.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I’m sure it was lovely that the Councillor for Tennyson could build toilets in Graceville Memorial Park when they were needed. We have toilets in Mott Park where they are needed and in Glindemann Park. But I’m not thinking off the top of my heart, the park in the middle of the Brunswick Street Mall, LORD MAYOR, that they would even support if we decided to build toilets in the Brunswick Street Mall. My guess is they argue that they’d rather see them built. But when we bought them in here to say they were built, the argument would be we should be leasing somewhere and helping the local economy.

Their arguments were absolutely nonsensical. The crazy giggle over there just actually supports that. The understanding of this is absolutely nil. We have been trying very hard for two years to find a permanent space for these amenities to be built for our burgeoning nighttime and daytime economy in this area. The temporary bathrooms went in two years ago when we were very close to a permanent solution in another ground floor area. But again, surprise, surprise, it is not actually greatly really seen as a benefit to have the Council toilets in your building. There is a lot of issues and management and security and, unfortunately, vandalism and damage, that happens. That’s been the main cost for our temporary toilets.

Which is why we’ve been eagerly trying to find a space and we’re extremely grateful to the lessee that has now come forward—the lessor, I should say—who has come forward and enabled us to build custom-made, designed community—thoroughly through community protection through environmental designed, custom-made toilets for a nighttime economy in the Valley at this site. For 15 years. Now, Councillor JOHNSTON says well it’s not permanent. Have we seen anybody else recently with a 10 to 15-year lease that is not there for ever? No. We are putting the money in to build them. We are putting the money in to maintain them. The maintenance—we don’t have a cost—through you, Madam Chair, to Councillor COLLIER. We don’t have an annual maintenance cost but that will be a question you can have in budget next year. Because they haven’t been built yes, we don’t know what the requirements are.

Our anticipation is a lot less than what we pay at the moment because the demountables are definitely not fit-for-purpose. We recognise that. They are damaged and they are vandalised and they have cost a lot to keep clean. So we’re hoping that—and we’re expecting—that the cost for the annual operations of the toilets will be a lot less. But that cost won’t be known until they’re built and they’re under operations and we see just exactly how much cleansing is required. But it’s been very carefully designed, so it is safe and there is the perception of safety as much as it is safe, for males and females to go into these toilets at nighttime as well. Again, as I said, the building owner has agreed to a fantastic rental incentive for us that you can see there under Commercial in Confidence within the papers before you, for the Councillors today.

It is a ten-plus-five lease. We are expecting that our option will be taken up. We will look after them, they will be fantastic for the local community, they will be fantastic for the local businesses and they’ll be fantastic for all those tourists and visitors that we’re expecting. Particularly as we expand that nighttime economy across the Valley region. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Is there further debate?

LORD MAYOR?

Okay. So we’ll now put A and D to the vote.

**Clauses A and D put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses A and D of the report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: We’ll now move to item B, oh and C, sorry.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I also, before I go on to B and C, just wanted to table a document in accordance with the requirements of the City of Brisbane Act. This is the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 for the City of Brisbane Investment Corporation (CBIC). So I’ll just table that document.

Okay, item B is new leases to the Brothers Rugby Club at Crosby Road, or Crosby Park, Albion. The Brothers Rugby Club has been a tenant of Crosby Park for more than 70 years and has become integrated with the northside neighbourhood and the wider Brisbane rugby community and certainly integrated with the local community around them as well. The current lease at Crosby Park commenced on 30 June 2016 and will expire on 29 June 2026. The lease includes a licence to use part of Crosby Park for training and warm up activities before games. Brothers Rugby has experienced significant growth in recent years, both in its sporting programs and, importantly, in female participation, with women now accounting for 40% of their playing membership.

This growth is reflective of the club’s success and the community value it holds for the inner-north residents and the wider rugby community. Despite the growth, the club’s facilities are ageing and need an upgrade. In response to this challenge, the club has redeveloped the Brothers Rugby Club Masterplan. The masterplan details the club’s intent to replace all ageing structures and facilities with modern, functional facilities to accommodate both male and female participation and all abilities access as well. To support its diverse and growing membership.

The masterplan also involves a commercial component to provide a sustainable income for the club’s capital and operational expenditure commitments. The masterplan has received town planning and development approval and it proposes five stages of growth. With Stage 1 complete. Council is proposing that an agreement for lease be entered into, obligating the club to complete Stages 2, 3 and 5.

Currently not all the stages of the masterplan are fully funded and by entering into an agreement for lease, the proposed leases will only come into effect on the completion of each respective stage. So it provides some surety that’s what’s been committed to will be done. Obviously, the completion of each stage then triggers the new lease.

Once the stages listed in the masterplan are completed, the Brothers Rugby Club will gain the full lease term to ensure they are able to reap the benefits of their investment and will be able to be provided with long term security for their continued operation of this valuable Committee club. As I said, which has already been in operation for more than 70 years at this location. Council is proud to support Brothers Rugby Club throughout this process and we look forward to seeing the club prosper and be upgraded as part of this proposal.

Item C relates to Queen’s Wharf, Brisbane Maintenance Deeds. Now, as we know the first stage of Queen’s Wharf is expected to open by the end of August. That’s in time for Riverfire and the start of the Brisbane Festival. Obviously it’s been a major project that has been underway for many years and it’s involved the creation of a number of new assets that will become public or Council assets as part of this integrated resort. These Maintenance Deeds deal with how those assets will be maintained and putting the responsibility on the integrated resort to perform the maintenance of the assets that they have created.

We’ll also see when the resort opens, the reopening go William Street between Elizabeth Street and Alice Street. This has been closed since 2017 and so a total of seven years of closure. We’ll see that street section reopened. This agreement will support the smooth transition of maintenance responsibilities and clear ownership for the public assets and ongoing care at the precinct. Councillors worked closely with Destination Brisbane Consortium to identify both standard and non-standard public assets within road-related areas. Ensuring all parties understand their respective roles and responsibilities.

The three separate Maintenance Deeds are designed to guarantee that all assets are maintained to the highest standards and outlines the responsibilities for maintaining various public assets. Such as roads, footpaths, drainage infrastructure, lighting, bus stops and street furniture. The deeds include detailed provisions of routine and emergency maintenance. Making sure the precinct remains not only safe and functional but also an attractive and welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

Council will retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities for standard assets in the road and in the road-related areas in particular and for existing Council stormwater infrastructure. So just to clarify. Where there have been assets created by Destination Brisbane and they are effectively for public use, they will maintain those assets. If it’s standard road and stormwater infrastructure, we will maintain those assets. So what this means, effectively is that the public embellishments that have been created as part of the precinct, together with the publicly accessible open space around the resort. The maintenance responsibility and cost will be on Destination Brisbane Consortium. Which is appropriate, I believe, given that they have a 99-year lease on that precinct. So it’s important they contribute to the maintenance of that precinct over that 99-year period.

This is a transformative project for Brisbane. It is a project that I’m proud to support, I know my team is proud to support. It’s certainly a project that will create many, many jobs and many, many tourism visitors to Brisbane as well. The entire business model for the Destination Brisbane integrated resort is not to have local people coming to have a gamble. It’s actually bringing in people from all around the world to benefit from, not just gambling activities, but a whole range of other activities that you can do in the integrated resort.

Fifty restaurants and bars, Brisbane’s biggest ballroom that can—I’m told will be geared up to be able to serve a main meal to over 1,500 people in 15 minutes, quite an extraordinary feat. You know a great tourist destination that will bring significant economic activity and benefit to our city. There will be thousands of local people employed in this resort, creating jobs in—not only in the precinct for the short term but for the long term. So there have been construction jobs created but there will be thousands of ongoing jobs created as well. But specifically about this particular document that’s coming through. It relates to the maintenance of assets in the public space and makes it very clear what our expectations are of Destination Brisbane Consortium.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor COLLIER,

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I’ll talk to Clause B and C. So on Clause B for the new leases to Brothers Rugby Club. Overall we believe that this is a positive, giving a community club long-term secure tenure. To enable them to make investments in their own facilities. This will allow the club to use the security of this tenure and then engage in elements to lightly commercialise parts of the site. Which give them an ongoing income stream. This, of course can be a good thing and this approach lessens their need to approach every level of government of large grants. It is similar to what has occurred a few years ago at Wests Rugby Club and that club is also thriving without the need for pokies on site. This model has been promoted and it’s likely that other clubs will seem to do the same. Implementing complementary facilities, sympathetic to the local community’s needs.

It does highlight a greater problem and that is the fact that clubs all over Brisbane are going to need to get creative in how they support themselves. Because Council has not offered enough guidance to them to become financially self-sufficient. Particularly without pokie machines and gambling revenue. Brothers have had this masterplan in place for a number of years, I understand and it’s been delayed somewhat by the ongoing debate around nearby Olympic infrastructure. This was compounded by a plan that was lobbed to the media with zero consultation with the State that was to see the club relocate on to the lower portion of the precinct, water harvesting and the removal of half of the Allan Border Field facility.

To top all that off, Council expected the State to fund their thought bubble. I had heard that preliminary estimates were in the hundreds of millions of dollars. So I know that not only were the State blindsided but so were the club. This confusion has caused delay in Brothers implementing their plan and this Council have their fingerprints all over it. We should be absolutely condemning the actions of the Administration for their lack of vision for grassroots sporting club in just about every other location in the city. There isn’t enough planning for growth. This Council does not properly invest in fields, in drainage, in clubhouses and in changerooms for the whole city.

They’re all but ignoring the explosion of female participation in sport. This Council is dropping the ball when it comes to the real legacy that we, as a Council, can leverage for the upcoming Olympics in Brisbane, the teams that will want to come and prepare, acclimatise and train in the months prior to the Games. Ignoring the leap in participation that everyone is predicting, prior to the Games. There are clubs right across Brisbane who have all been—who have been all but ignored by this Council for years. Forcing them into making bad decisions and harsh decisions about closing their doors, inviting gambling machines and gaming machines into their club. Or entering in alliances with larger clubs that don’t have their best interests at heart. All of this happens while politicians like Councillor ADAMS and Councillor HOWARD get sent to Paris on the ratepayers’ dollars.

On Clause C, regarding the maintenance for Queen’s Wharf, Brisbane. As the details in Clause C point out, this new precinct is going to require a great deal of maintenance, planning and infrastructure by Council. We accept that and we support that. So what we will do today though is take this opportunity to make a plea to the LORD MAYOR and the Administration, through you, Chair, to ensure that this work stays in house. Supporting Council’s fantastic workforce. If we are going to be the organisation paid to manage these ongoing works, we should have the ability to carry them out in house without having to engage subcontractors. This is a concerning trend by this LNP Council and something that we see happening far too often.

Chair: Is there further debate?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak in support of item B. As the LORD MAYOR outlined, item B is seeking Council’s approval to enter three new leases with options for further terms, with Brothers Rugby League. Sorry, with Brothers Rugby Club, can’t get the league bit. I’d be shot if I went over there and said that. This agreement for lease obligates the club to complete Stages 2, 3 and 5 of their masterplan, with each lease coming into effect upon the completion of each respective stage. By taking this approach, Council is able to ensure that we’re entering into a fair and sensible agreement for lease. As the owner of Crosby Park whilst also providing long-term security to the tenant, a trusted and successful sporting club.

Brothers Rugby Club has already demonstrated their commitment to the masterplan through the completion of Stage 1. These early works included upgrades to the playing surface, drainage and lighting across the Jack Ross and Des Hogan Ovals, with tiered seating and sun shelters also installed. Stage 2 works include the development of an aquatic centre and associated car park. These works prompt a purpose sublease to Brothers Rugby Limited and a sublease to—sorry, and a sub-sublease to Aquatic Achievers Operations, a commercial learn‑to‑swim provider.

Stage 3 works include the development of a new community sport clubhouse, car park works, a canteen café, a club gymnasium and the base structure for a future function room. The Stage 3 lease area includes sporting fields and Stage 4 works. It will also include the area where Stage 5 will be developed. Stage 4 continues the work of Stage 3 and includes the further fit out of the clubhouse and will be implemented when funding permits. It also includes the fit out of additional changerooms, the function room establishment and fit out and banked turf seating area. These Stage 4 works are contained within the Stage 3 lease area.

The final stage, Stage 5, includes a new building for healthcare services, an indoor gymnasium, a club bar and outdoor seating. It is proposed that a sublease will be provided to Brothers Rugby Limited and a sub-sublease to commercial businesses that complement the sport and recreation offerings on site. This is a lengthy agreement for lease, Madam Chair. It’s not abnormal by any means. However, it’s not something we bring to this Chamber on a weekly basis. It is a testament to the Brothers Rugby Club and how integrated they’ve become in their local community, whilst also remaining future focused and ensuring the longevity of their organisation.

It’s investments such as this into places like Crosby Park which will help prepare our city for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and ensure that they create a positive legacy for families now and beyond the games. The Schrinner Council is committed to ensuring that Brisbane is the lifestyle capital of Australia. This works starts in our suburbs in the places that we call home and at the community clubs that residents spend their weekends playing sport. On that note I’ll commend it to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there further debate?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. I just wanted to make a couple of comments just in regards to the Queen’s Wharf Maintenance Deed. So it was—can I recognise the efforts of the Asset Management branch in forming this deed. I just wanted to go over some details. Just so that Councillors appreciate what this means for Council and what it doesn’t mean for Council. So for Council it means that Council will retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities for standard assets. So what’s a standard asset? Things that you would ordinarily find with in the city, elsewhere within the city. Street signs, items within the roadway, the road surface, the road itself, the kerb and channel. Much of the drainage work that’s standardised. Improved drainage work is the responsibility of the consortia.

So I just wanted to make sure that Councillors understand the distinction. So standard assets will remain the responsibility of Council and our teams. But assets that go beyond our standard assets, whether they be improved lighting, whether they be improved public art or public—or gardens, for example. The maintenance of those is the responsibility of the consortia. There are elements within the deed that speak to what happens in emergencies or in emergencies and the importance of functionality. However, because the consortia would like, in some elements to be of a higher standard to what Council would ordinarily provide, that responsibility falls on them. The importance of this deed is that the—there is an agreement ahead of opening, an agreement ahead of these things being put in place—that ensures that the responsibilities are clearly set out—theirs and ours—in writing. We’re just asking today for the Council to consider and approve that.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor—DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on item B today. It’s very exciting to see that we finally have this lease signed. Thank you, Councillor HOWARD and the team for Brothers Rugby union. It has been a long time coming. It has been a long time coming but not for the nonsensical argument we heard from Councillor COLLIER around why it was a long time coming. I just thought as I was the Planning Chair that started when Brothers first approached on where they wanted to go with a masterplan. Particularly as that masterplan is—was going to require DAs (development applications). I thought I might just set the record straight. Brothers is well known as one of Australia’s most established and successful rugby clubs. As the patron of Easts, that was a little bit difficult for me to say. But it is.

I was going to say the biggest rugby tragic in the Chamber, but I know Councillor TOOMEY is giving me a run for my money. We are very, very proud of our rugby clubs and the work that they do in the community. As Councillor COLLIER mentioned—I agree with her, I have to say wholeheartedly—Wests have done a wonderful job at Wests and Chiefs and Easts and many of them are following in the footsteps, so many, many sporting clubs should look to these examples of how to make themselves economically viable and sustainable into the future.

I do note that the issue that Councillor COLLIER mentioned did, again, represent that Green-ALP coalition of chaos about no pokies, no pokies. I’m not sure Councillor STRUNK would be happy if the Richlands Lions pulled out all their pokies. Because I don’t know how they’d go after that. Or maybe Zillmere FC. I’m not quite sure, I think they have a few pokies in there as well. But the Leader’s away today, so Councillor COLLIER is having a play. But what we do know is that this is leading to financial sustainability for a club that has been around for over 100 years and are supplying the most amazing outcomes for not only male, but female players. For under sixes through to under 18s, for Little Bros, from four and five year olds to a Touch program to modified rugby for neurodivergent children. All of those things plus allied health and what they have planned is absolutely outstanding.

This has not been held up by anything that Council has done around the Olympics. Until the night before the Olympics candidature was put in, this is where the stadium was. It was the State Government that changed it at the 99th hour. That it was going to go to The Gabba. Then sat on their hands, sat on their hands about the indoor sports centre for three years. When we need a 12-court sports stadium, it went down to nine. It then went to 15 storeys on the racing club to pay for it and then it went out completely.

Absolutely nothing to do with the very balanced masterplan we put forward. But everything to do with the faffing around that we have had from the State Government and the international embarrassment we are currently on the Olympics. But I am glad to see that Brothers has been able to get ahead, get their masterplan sorted, get their lease organised. So now they can actually get out there and talk about financial security for the 25 years to come. As for the case of what we are going to need around the city for the countries that are going to visit and get acclimatised. Well, I’m glad to say, being on the ground meant I learnt so much that I would never had learnt from a simple debrief in six months’ time.

Chair: Any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on items B and C. Firstly, with respect to Queen’s Wharf and the extraordinarily complicated arrangements with respect to managing public space in the city. Look, LORD MAYOR, you can quote me on this. I don’t support another casino in Brisbane. Casinos have such detrimental impacts on our local communities and our most vulnerable people. I appreciate that this project has essentially been led by the State Government. Council, however, did approve the DA through here, many years ago now. But the big issue we’ve got now is that Council is engaging with a commercial developer regarding the management of public land, public space.

It should not be complicated as to who is responsible for maintaining public spaces. Public spaces should be managed by Brisbane City Council. They should be clear and delineated as to who is responsible for them. The gobbledegook attached to this report before us today is extraordinary. We will see, from this, massive problems with the management of public land around the casino. I only have to look, as a comparison, to a much smaller project at Tennyson. Where we have some Council responsibility, some body corporate responsibility, some Stadium Queensland responsibility, some developer responsibility. Do you know what happens? The spaces are not property maintained. Because nobody recognises or agrees where those boundaries are.

Now we have to hope out of this process, that the developer and the casino proprietors will actually invest in maintaining these spaces. But that shouldn’t be the case. Our public spaces and public access to the streets of Brisbane should not be for sale to the highest bidder. That is the culture that this Administration is entrenching in Brisbane City Council. I am certain Brisbane City Council will just go, thank god, we don’t have to do anything with this. We’ll hand it over to the developer and they’ll pay for maintenance. Well, let’s take another example of how well that works so far for Brisbane when it comes to scooters. Brisbane City Council refuse to address obstacles on the footpath caused by scooters in this city. Where they’re a trip hazard, they’re unsafe, people can’t get through on bikes or wheelchairs.

So this Council, however, has commercialised that footpath by saying no, go to Lime, Lime has to deal with that. That’s what this Council is continuing to do with public spaces. So, in addition to the anti-democratic principles that his Administration continues to push into this Council, they are also commercialising the streets of Brisbane. That is not a good outcome. We’ve seen them do it time and time again. Whether it’s scooters, whether it’s the high amount of billboards. Selling our streets is what this LNP is synonymous with.

With respect to item B, the new lease for Brothers Rugby Club. Look, I appreciate that Brothers is trying to do the right thing for its community here and look at their long-term economic sustainability as a club. They’re a really wonderful club, I don’t know how many school dances I went to at Brothers when I was much younger. But it was a lot. Look, they’re a wonderful community-minded organisation. I feel they’ve been let down by Brisbane City Council because of the complication associated with the onerous provisions in this lease. I feel that a community club being put under this kind of pressure to perform in an exacting way is going to lead to problems. I know that everyone’s doing this with the best intentions but I think Council’s letting the community down by making this so complicated and so complex. I wish that there were simpler terms and conditions attached to this lease that will ensure the viability of this sporting club.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **24/2024-25**  It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Alex GIVNEY, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors locked.  Council stood adjourned at 3.08pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Just starting my stopwatch. We only get five minutes now. Right, thank you, Madam Chair. Listen, I want to rise and speak in regards to item B, the Brothers Rugby League. I first want to make a little comment that, of course—I wasn’t going to get up and talk about this, but there’s a couple of things that have been happening, but then the DEPUTY MAYOR made some aspersions in regards to The Lion at Richlands, which is—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor STRUNK: —separate from the—

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: I note your claim of misrepresentation.

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, maybe the DEPUTY MAYOR should have let me finish my comment before she jumped up, but it’s to say, making aspersions in regards to pokies at the Lion at Richlands and what I think about the pokies. I don’t know. I haven’t had a chance to speak on that anytime in this Chamber.

Anyways, so I congratulate Brothers on their lease. I think it’s, what, 25 plus an extension of 15. I raise this because I know the Lions Soccer Club at Richlands is in negotiations with—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Relevance to Brothers Rugby? No mention of Richlands Lions in this report.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Madam Chair, thank you. I think the DEPUTY MAYOR raised the Richlands issue. Anyway, if I may continue on—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Councillor STRUNK: —I just congratulate the Brothers—

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor STRUNK: —and their—

Chair: One moment, Councillor STRUNK.

Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I ask your ruling on the fact that I discussed Richlands Lions, which I did not. I talked about pokies, which was discussed in relation to Brothers Rugby and other clubs—

Chair: Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —not about their lease.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Thank you. Councillor STRUNK, if you can stick to the report, please.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, and I’ll refer to the Lion as the DEPUTY MAYOR did in regards to pokies. Anyways, I congratulate Brothers on being able to get a long-term lease which is very important, especially to their financial backers, right, usually banks, of course, because the banks do look for those long-term leases. Of course, Brothers have a fantastic track record, as does the Richlands Lions soccer club, as well, who are in negotiations, I believe, with Council in regards to some land not far from their stadium. I just hope that no difference is given to the Richlands Lions soccer club in regards to a long-term lease, because I don’t know exactly what they’re looking for, they haven’t told me, I’m not part of negotiations—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK, please stick to the—

Councillor STRUNK: I just encourage that—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes?

Chair: Please stick to the report.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes.

Chair: We’re not going into somebody else’s lease.

Councillor STRUNK: I’m just speaking about contracts.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor STRUNK: I’m speaking about leases and I just hope we—

Chair: It’s not about contracts. It’s about one contract. Can you please stick to the report?

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, and that contract or that lease, right, is a very important one for Brothers, as it would be for any club who are seeking to do a major upgrade, of course, which Brothers is doing, of course, and over stages. I just hope that—but anyways, it’s about the Brothers Rugby Club. I would have thought that the DEPUTY MAYOR may have said something about the fantastic result that seven-a-side teams had over at the Olympics, being that she just was there, and to pay a compliment to those two men’s and women’s seven-a-side teams who did a fantastic job, because honestly, we haven’t had a—rugby hasn’t been part of the Olympics since 1924, so it’s a long time. So, I just would hope that the DEPUTY MAYOR would said something about that, but I’ll just finish my comments there. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR, misrepresentation.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. I made a comment that the ALP had mentioned that it was great there were no pokies, and all I said, that would be disastrous for Zillmere and Richlands.

Chair: Any further debate? No further debate.

We’ll now put items B and C to the vote.

**Clauses B and C put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses B and C of the report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Adrian Schrinner) (Chair); and Councillors Adam Allan, Fiona Cunningham, Tracy Davis, Vicki Howard, Sarah Hutton, Sandy Landers, Ryan Murphy and Andrew Wines.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Krista Adams).

#### A LEASE OF PREMISES FOR PUBLIC TOILETS IN BRUNSWICK STREET MALL, FORTITUDE VALLEY

**112/445/444/1541**

**25/2024-25**

1. The Divisional Manager, Organisational Services, provided the information below.

2. Council previously held a lease over premises at 275 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, which was used in conjunction with the Queensland Government for a Police Beat, Council offices and public toilets to service Brunswick Street Mall. The lease expired on 31 March 2022, and Council were not offered a renewal of the lease for commercial reasons.

3. As a result, the public toilets had to be closed and temporary modular public amenities were established in the middle of the mall. The temporary amenities have now reached their end of life, with many items and parts beyond repair. The cost to maintain the temporary amenities is approximately $135,000 per annum.

4. A suitable premises have been identified to re-establish more permanent public toilet facilities at Shop B, 281 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley (refer locality plan at Attachment D, submitted on file). The lessor has offered to enter into a 10‑year lease over the premises, with a further five-year option term.

5. The proposed commencing gross rent is $145,000 (excluding GST) per annum or $1,746.99 (excluding GST) per square metre. The annual gross rental will be increased by three percent per annum on each anniversary of the commencement date, with the exception of the sixth year of the term, which will have no increase. A market rent review will be applicable at the commencement of the option term and will not be underpinned.

6. [Commercial-in-Confidence]

7. The lessor’s offered gross rental [Commercial-in-Confidence] of $1,746.99 is within the range of rentals for this type of property, which range between $1,305.21 (excluding GST) per square metre to $1,764.89 (excluding GST) per square metre (refer comparative rentals at Attachment C, submitted on file).

8. By entering into a lease over these premises, Council will be able to provide higher quality public amenities in Fortitude Valley which will benefit residents, businesses and the local community.

9. The Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A LEASE OVER NEW PREMISES FOR PUBLIC TOILETS IN BRUNSWICK STREET MALL, LOCATED AT SHOP B, 281 BRUNSWICK STREET, FORTITUDE VALLEY**

As:

(i) Council has been investigating options for public toilets in Brunswick Street Mall to replace the current temporary facilities

(ii) suitable premises have been identified at Shop B, 281 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, to establish more permanent public toilets

(iii) the lessor has provided an offer for a 10-year lease of the premises

(iv) Council will incur annual rent for the lease which will extend beyond Council’s four‑year budget cycle

then Council:

(i) resolves to enter into a lease over new premises for public toilets in Brunswick Street Mall located at Shop B, 281 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, in accordance with the lease terms, as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file) and otherwise on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance.

**ADOPTED**

#### B NEW LEASES TO BROTHERS RUGBY CLUB INC.

**112/445/444/1469**

**26/2024-25**

11. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the information below.

12. Crosby Park is located at 103 Crosby Road, Albion, and extends east from Greg Chappell Street to Royal Terrace and north to Crosby Road. It is approximately 12.4 hectares and is classified as a local general recreation and outdoor sport, metropolitan specialised outdoor sports and district general outdoor sport park. The land is described as Lot 1 on RP33563, Lots 2 to 4 on RP33564, Lots 1 and 2 on RP33562, Lots 9, 10, 18 to 27 and 169 on RP33557 and Lot 140 on RP33558 (Attachment F, submitted on file). Approximately one third of the park is leased to Brothers Rugby Club Inc. (the Club).

13. The Club has been a tenant at Crosby Park for more than 70 years and its current lease, dealing number ‘718631451’, commenced on 30 June 2016 and will expire on 29 June 2026. The lease includes a licence to use part of Crosby Park for training and warm-up activities before games.

14. The Club has, in recent years, expanded its sporting programs with significant growth in female participation and has had a 45% increase of the player group across all sporting programs including rugby 7s and touch football. The Club is also the first to pilot the Modified Rugby Program for players with learning and perceptual disabilities, not only providing inclusive access to sport but also developing future leaders in the community through their signature Player Mentor program, which is supported by Rugby Australia and the Australian Government.

15. The Club’s facilities are ageing and no longer fit-for-purpose. Therefore, the Club has developed the Brothers Rugby Club Inc. Master Plan (the Master Plan) and intends to replace all ageing structures with modern and functional facilities to accommodate male and female participants of all abilities and provide better accessibility and functionality for its diverse and growing membership. There will be a commercial component to the buildings and tenure to provide sustainable income for the Club’s capital and operational expenditure commitments, which eliminates the need for reliance on gaming and poker machines income. An extract of the Master Plan appears at Attachment E (submitted on file).

16. The Master Plan proposes 5 stages of development and has received town planning development approval. Stage 1 was for the upgrade of the sporting fields and has already been completed. The Club is seeking long-term tenure at the completion of Stages 2, 3 and 5 to be able to secure necessary funding and long-term sub-tenants to support the development of these stages and provide future income for the Club.

17. It is proposed that an agreement for lease will be entered into, which will obligate the Club to complete development and construction of Stages 2, 3 and 5. Not all stages are currently fully funded and, by entering into an agreement for lease, it will ensure that the proposed leases will only come into effect on practical completion of each respective stage. The Club will gain the full lease term to realise the benefit of their investment and the grant of tenure will provide long-term security for the continued operation of this valuable community club. The proposed terms for the agreements for lease are detailed in Attachment B (submitted on file). The proposed plans of lease and licence areas are shown in Attachments C and D (submitted on file) respectively. The stages and tenure are summarised as follows.

Stage 1

- Sporting fields upgrade (completed).

- Stage 1 works are contained within the Stage 3 lease area.

Stage 2

- Development of a building for indoor sport and recreation (aquatic centre) and associated carpark.

- Proposed sublease to Brothers Rugby Limited (ACN 672 371 961) (BRL) and sub‑sublease to Aquatic Achievers Operations Pty Ltd (ABN 42 623 261 307), a commercial Learn to Swim provider.

- Lease proposed for a term of 25 years from the completion of Stage 2 works, with an option for a further 15-year lease term (total 40-year lease term).

Stage 3

- Development of a new community sport clubhouse (incorporating changeroom facilities).

- Carpark works.

- Canteen/café.

- Club gymnasium.

- Base structure for a future function room.

- Stage 3 lease area includes sporting fields and Stage 4 works. It will also include the area where Stage 5 will be developed. This area will be surrendered when Stage 5 is practically completed to enable registration of the new Stage 5 lease.

- Lease proposed for a term of 25 years from the completion of Stage 3 works, with an option for a further 15-year lease term (total 40-year lease term).

Stage 4

- This stage is a further embellishment of Stage 3 and will include further fit-out of the clubhouse (will be implemented when funding permits).

- Fit-out of additional change rooms.

- Function room establishment and fit-out.

- Banked turf seating area.

- Stage 4 works are contained within the Stage 3 lease area.

Stage 5

- New building for health care services and indoor sport and recreation (gymnasium).

- Club bar and outdoor seating.

- Proposal to sublease to BRL and sub-sublease to commercial businesses that complement the sport and recreation offerings onsite.

- Lease proposed for a term of 25 years from completion of the Stage 5 development works, with an option for a further 15-year lease term (total 40-year lease term).

18. The Club has registered a not-for-profit company, BRL, to operate the commercial buildings and separate the commercial operations and governance from the community football club operations. BRL’s objectives are to support the Club and its constitution provides that if the company is wound up, all property remaining is to be transferred to the Club. The Club also has the right to appoint one director to the board of BRL.

19. The Club has indicated they wish to obtain a separate lease at the completion of Stages 2, 3 and 5 and then wholly sublease the commercial facilities (Stages 2 and 5) to BRL. The lease of the sporting facilities (community sport clubhouse and fields) will remain with the Club.

20. The hours of operation of the clubhouse and fields will remain unchanged from their current lease. The hours of operation for stages 2 and 5 are in accordance with the development approval.

21. As the proposed leases are over parts of a lot and for a term greater than 10 years, the Club will be required to submit a development application for reconfiguring a lot (by agreement), pursuant to the *Planning Act 2016*. The proposed lease terms are shown in Attachment C (submitted on file).

22. The new facilities will mean that an aged community asset will be redeveloped to a modern, accessible standard and maintained by the establishment of a sinking fund. This proposal will provide Council with the highest rental return from a community lease site that does not have gaming machine operations. Financial return from this site will start at approximately $25,000 per annum and at the completion of all stages will reach up to $100,000 per annum in the first 11 years. The current rental return to Council is approximately $1,700 per annum.

23. Council has previously approved two similar commercial Learn to Swim facilities on community leased sites to enable those organisations to raise additional revenue to meet their ongoing operational costs. This facility will (from year two) return seven to 10 times the rental returns of these two comparable sites.

24. The Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

25. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE AS PER THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR LEASE AND LEASES WITH BROTHERS RUGBY CLUB INC. FOR PARTS OF CROSBY PARK, 103 CROSBY ROAD, ALBION**

As:

(i) Council is the registered proprietor of land described as Lot 1 on RP33563, Lots 2, 3 and 4 on RP33564 and Lot 1 on RP33562, 103 Crosby Road, Albion (the site)

(ii) the existing tenant, Brothers Rugby Club Inc. (the Club), has requested the grant of three separate leases being: Lease – Stage 2 for part of Lot 1 on RP33563 and part of Lot 2 on RP33564; Lease – Stage 3 for part of Lot 1 on RP33563, part of Lot 2 on RP33564, part of Lot 1 on RP33562 and the whole of Lots 3 and 4 on RP33564; and Lease – Stage 5 for part of Lot 1 on RP33562, situated at 103 Crosby Road, Albion

(iii) the Club has indicated to Council that it will enter into subleases with Brothers Rugby Limited (ACN 672 371 961) (BRL) for the ongoing management of the whole of Lease – Stage 2, the Indoor Sport and Recreation (aquatic centre) and Lease – Stage 5, Health Care Services and Indoor Sport and Recreation (gymnasium) and permit BRL to enter into commercial sub-subleases

(iv) section 226(2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) requires that Council decide by resolution that one or more of the exemptions set out in section 226(1) of the Regulation applies before disposing of a valuable non-current asset other than by way of tender or auction

then Council:

(i) resolves that the exemption set out in section 226(1)(b)(ii) of the Regulation apply to the disposal of the site by way of lease for:

1. Lease – Stage 2 over part of Lot 1 on RP33563 and part of Lot 2 on RP33564 - 25 years with an option for a further term of 15 years for the Indoor Sport and Recreation (aquatic centre)
2. Lease – Stage 3 over part of Lot 1 on RP33563, part of Lot 2 on RP33564, part of Lot 1 on RP33562 and the whole of Lots 3 and 4 on RP33564 – 25 years with an option for a further term of 15 years for the Outdoor Sport and Recreation (community sport clubhouse and fields)

(c) Lease – Stage 5 over part of Lot 1 on RP33562 - 25 years with an option for a further term of 15 years for the Health Care Services and Indoor Sport and Recreation (gymnasium) facility

(ii) approves entry into the following:

(a) an agreement for lease with the Club and leases in accordance with the terms for each lease set out in Attachment B (submitted on file) and otherwise on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance

(b) subject to the Club complying with its obligations under the agreement for lease in paragraph (a):

(i) a 25-year lease plus a further 15-year lease with the Club over that part of the land comprising Lease – Stage 2 Indoor Sport and Recreation (aquatic centre) shown as ‘Lease – Stage 2’ on the plan in Attachment C (subject to final survey, submitted on file)

(ii) a 25-year lease plus a further 15-year lease with the Club over that part of the land comprising Lease – Stage 3 Outdoor Sport and Recreation (community sport clubhouse and fields) shown as ‘Lease – Stage 3’, ‘Lease – Stage 5’ and the whole of Lots 3 and 4 on RP33564 on the plan in Attachment C (subject to final survey, submitted on file)

(iii) a 25-year lease plus a further 15-year lease with the Club over that part of the land comprising Lease - Stage 5, Health Care Services and Indoor Sport and Recreation (gymnasium) facility shown as ‘Lease – Stage 5’ on the plan in Attachment C (subject to final survey, submitted on file)

(iv) in accordance with the terms for each lease set out in Attachment B (submitted on file) and otherwise on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance.

(iii) approves the Club making an application for reconfiguring a lot by agreement pursuant to the *Planning Act 2016*

(iv) consents to the Club entering into an agreement for sublease and sublease with BRL over the:

1. whole of ‘Lease – Stage 2’, Indoor Sport and Recreation (aquatic centre) and

2. whole of ‘Lease – Stage 5’, Health Care Services and Indoor Sport and Recreation (gymnasium) facility

on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance

(v) consents to BRL entering into an agreement for sub-sublease and sub-sublease with Aquatic Achievers Operations Pty Ltd ABN 42 623 261 307 (Aquatic Achievers), over the whole of ‘Lease – Stage 2’, Indoor Sport and Recreation (aquatic centre) on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance

(vi) consents to the Club, BRL and Aquatic Achievers entering into a mortgage over their respective leases on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Property Services, Organisational Services, and the Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance.

(vii) approves the surrender of lease dealing number ‘718631451’ to precede the registration of the lease for Stage 3 in paragraph (ii)(b)(ii) (if required)

(viii) approves a partial surrender of that part of the Stage 3 lease in paragraph (ii)(b)(ii) generally in accordance with ‘Lease – Stage 5’ on the plan in Attachment C (submitted on file), to precede the registration of a new lease for Stage 5 as per paragraph (ii)(b)(iii).

**ADOPTED**

#### C QUEEN’S WHARF BRISBANE MAINTENANCE DEEDS – INTEGRATED RESORT DEVELOPMENT, TREASURY AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PRECINCTS AND DELEGATION

**112/45/750/5**

**27/2024-25**

26. The A/Divisional Manager, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the information below.

27. The Queen’s Wharf Brisbane (QWB) Priority Development Area (PDA) was declared by Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) on 28 November 2014 which included predominantly Queensland Government owned land in the CBD between Alice, George and Queen Streets and the Brisbane River with a river connection to the Goodwill Bridge. It was declared a PDA to facilitate the development of the site into an integrated resort and associated infrastructure. Being a PDA, EDQ are responsible for all planning and development approvals, rather than Council.

28. In November 2015, the Queensland Government entered into a contract with Destination Brisbane Consortium (DBC) to develop the QWB site including the Integrated Resort Development (IRD) Precinct. DBC submitted a Plan of Development (PoD) to EDQ for assessment for the whole site including the IRD, Treasury and Residential Development Precincts (the Precincts). The PoD was approved in May 2018 with a number of development conditions that required Council’s involvement, endorsement and/or input. Upon completion of each of the Precincts, those areas will become the subject of long-term leases issued by the Queensland Government. Construction commenced in 2017 and the IRD Precinct is scheduled to open on 29 August 2024.

29. EDQ condition 75 (Requirements for Public Asset(s) – Non-standard Treatment) states that where public assets are to be delivered to a standard other than the relevant Council standard, DBC are to submit evidence to EDQ of an appropriate arrangement being entered into with Council for the repair, maintenance and replacement of the public assets. Public assets may include street furniture, footpath and road pavement finish, advertising signs, traffic signal electrical boxes, traffic signal posts, roadway lighting, parking meters, regulatory traffic signs, bus stops and shelters.

30. Council officers have met with DBC representatives to identify standard and non‑standard public assets within the road and road-related areas, and to establish the roles and responsibilities of Council and the Precincts’ owners for maintenance, repair and replacement of those public assets. These responsibilities and roles have been negotiated, agreed in principle and documented in a Maintenance Deed between Council and the IRD Precinct owner (Attachment B, submitted on file), a Maintenance Deed between Council and the Treasury Precinct owner (Attachment C, submitted on file) and a Maintenance Deed between Council and the Residential Development Precinct owner (Attachment D, submitted on file) to satisfy the requirements of Condition 75 of the EDQ approval.

31. Each Maintenance Deed allocates responsibility to the respective Precinct owner for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of identified public assets, including non-Council standard public assets in the road and road-related areas of each Precinct for the 99-year term of the proposed long-term leases with the Queensland Government. Council retains ownership of, and maintenance responsibility for, Council’s standard assets in the road and in road-related areas and for existing Council stormwater infrastructure. Council’s entry into Maintenance Deeds for each of the Precincts for the terms set out in Attachments B, C and D (submitted on file) is recommended as the terms confirm Council’s existing maintenance obligations for its public assets and do not commit Council to incurring additional financial or resourcing costs for QWB.

32. Schedules within each Maintenance Deed reflects the agreed ownership of public assets and fixtures and include where relevant to the specific Precinct, those for stormwater, adjacent footpaths, Metro footpaths and the Council lift and surrounds at North Quay. Council and the Precinct owners recognise that as works are still underway for the Residential Development Precinct and yet to commence on the Treasury Precinct, one or more Schedules to a Maintenance Deed may require amendment by way of update to specific assets and fixtures to accurately reflect being the as-constructed in situ assets and fixtures.

33. As a result, approval is sought to delegate to the Establishment and Coordination Committee and the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 238 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the power to do anything necessary or convenient for performing Council’s local government responsibilities under section 242 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to manage the day‑to-day operations of the Maintenance Deeds with respect to each of the Precincts at QWB including to vary the Schedules of each Maintenance Deed as changes in specific assets and fixtures require it, so to ensure the Maintenance Deeds effectively and efficiently reflect the changing asset picture. Council’s delegation will be pursuant to the General Conditions of delegation in the table set out in Attachment A, hereunder.

34. The A/Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

35. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES AS PER THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENTRY INTO MAINTENANCE DEEDS FOR THE INTEGRATED RESORT DEVELOPMENT, TREASURY AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PRECINCTS AT QUEEN’S WHARF BRISBANE AND GRANT DELEGATION**

As Council:

(i) has maintenance, repair and replacement responsibilities for roads, public assets and fixtures in roads and road-related areas situated within the Priority Development Area (PDA) of Queen’s Wharf Brisbane (QWB)

(ii) is required to enter into an arrangement with Destination Brisbane Consortium for the maintenance, repair and replacement of public assets and fixtures in the PDA to be delivered to a standard other than the relevant Council standard

(iii) has negotiated a Maintenance Deed with each owner of the Integrated Resort Development Precinct, the Treasury Precinct and the Residential Development Precinct (the Precincts) to allocate maintenance, repair and replacement responsibilities for specified public assets and fixtures within the Precincts of QWB to the respective Precinct owners

then Council:

(i) resolves to approve to enter into a Maintenance Deed for each of the Precincts at QWB with the Precinct owners

(ii) resolves to delegate, pursuant to section 238 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010,* to the Establishment and Coordination Committee and the Chief Executive Officer, the power to do anything necessary or convenient for performing Council’s local government responsibilities under section 242 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to manage the day-to-day operations of the Maintenance Deeds with respect to the Precincts at QWB upon the General Conditions of delegation set out in the table below.

|  |
| --- |
| **General Conditions** |
| 1. Each of the functions and powers delegated includes—    1. doing any act and making any decision;    2. giving or causing to be given any notice, notification, statement of reasons;    3. issuing or causing to be issued, and endorsing, any certificate, permit or the instrument of authorisation, and any copy thereof,   if doing so is incidental to or entailed by the exercise of the functions and powers.   1. A reference to a law includes a reference to—    1. the law as originally made, and as amended from time to time since it was originally made;    2. if the law has been repealed and remade (with or without modification) since the reference was made---the law as remade, and as amended from time to time since it was remade;    3. if a provision of the law has been omitted and remade (with or without modification and whether in the law or another law) since the reference was made---the provision as remade;    4. the law as renumbered or amended from time to time. 2. In this Instrument of Delegation—   *“delegate”*, in relation to a position, means the person holding or acting in that position from time to time;  *“law”* includes a provision of a law;  *“position”* means the position as it appears or as subsequently renamed. |

**ADOPTED**

#### D AMENDMENTS TO URBAN UTILITIES POLICIES

**109/268/608/99**

**28/2024-25**

36. The Divisional Manager, Organisational Services, provided the information below.

37. Urban Utilities (UU) operates the water and sewerage facilities for five local governments, including Brisbane City Council (Council). These five local governments are shareholders of UU and are described in UU’s enabling legislation as being UU’s participants.

**Participant Return Policy (PRP) and Participation Agreement (PA)**

38. Section 20 of the *South-East Queensland Water* (*Distribution and Retail Restructuring)* *Act* *2009* requires participants to enter into a PA. The PA outlines the responsibilities and obligations of UU and its participating local governments.

39. The PRP is used by the UU Board to determine the participation return payable by UU to the participants under the PA. This is a strategic policy and applies to the participation return for each financial year.

40. Changes to principles within the PRP are required to clarify principles used as the foundation for participant returns. These changes are then reflected in the PA to ensure consistency and alignment.

**Urban Utilities new Statement of Strategic Intent (SoSI) for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029**

41. With the current SoSI having expired on 30 June 2024, UU has provided the proposed new SoSI for the next five years. The new SoSI must be endorsed by the special majority of participants under the PA.

42. The SoSI addresses the required strategic objectives of clause 15.1 of the PA, notably that it sets out:

- operating objectives

- purpose and vision

- strategic priorities, both financial and non-financial, and strategies to delivery, including how successful delivery will be measured

- forecast infrastructure investment

- five-year financial forecasts and supporting key financial metrics, including any key assumptions used to determine the financial forecasts

- strategic risks.

43. UU has provided proposed updated copies of the PA (refer Attachment B, submitted on file), the PRP (refer Attachment C, submitted on file) and a new SoSI (refer Attachment D, submitted on file) for Council’s approval. Council was consulted on the PA, PRP and new SoSI.

44. The Divisional Manager provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

45. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE AS PER THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A**

**Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE URBAN UTILITIES PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND PARTICIPATION RETURN POLICY AND APPROVE THE NEW STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT**

As:

(i) Council, as a participating local government under the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* (the Act), entered into a Participation Agreement with the Central SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority trading as Urban Utilities that determines the distribution of profits from Urban Utilities to the participants by way of a ‘Participation Return Policy’ and other related obligations of Urban Utilities to the participants, including the obligation to prepare a ‘Statement of Strategic Intent’ for participants about the future strategic direction of Urban Utilities covering a five year period

(ii) Council has received an amended Participation Agreement and Participation Return Policy, and the new Statement of Strategic Intent that presents the strategic direction of Urban Utilities for the next five years (financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29 inclusive)

(iii) under section 28 of the Act, Council may only agree to an amendment of the Participation Agreement by resolution

(iv) the:

(a) proposed amendments to the Participation Agreement require amendments to the Participation Return Policy; and

(b) Statement of Strategic Intent is being updated,

clause 8.1 of the proposed Participation Agreement provides that the Urban Utilities Board cannot approve a change to the Participation Return Policy or adopt an updated Statement of Strategic Intent without a Special Majority of the Participants signing a document stating that they are in favour of the change

then Council:

(i) resolves to approve the amendments to the Participation Agreement as set out in Attachment B (submitted on file)

(ii) resolves to approve the Participation Return Policy as set out in Attachment C (submitted on file)

(iii) resolves to approve the new Statement of Strategic Intent for financial years 2024-25 to 2028 29 as set out in Attachment D (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee report, please.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NIGHTTIME ECONOMY AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair, and before I go into the Committee report last week, I just want to remind people that the Business Hub has moved premises. We are now down in the WeWork building that faces onto Post Office Square, just off Adelaide Street there, but they are still well and truly open for business for workshops and events. Coming up on 20 August, we have Enhance Your Business Productivity with AI, presented by Optus and Samsung, and it is live examples of Galaxy AI features about bridging communication gaps with Live Translate and Chat Assist, revolutionising your search experience and enhancing visuals and messaging.

So, great for many, many different areas for small businesses to get that experience from Optus and Samsung totally free for two hours in the Business Hub on 20 August. It has also, as I said, moved premises with still a lot more space now for hotdesking, turning up, a concierge service. If you still need that mentoring or support, please encourage your businesses and even your small, maybe one person businesses to go down there and get the support they need.

Last week, we had the report on the economic update for the city, which I can say is thriving. We have had a fantastic winter with Dine BNE, the winter holidays and, of course, this week, it seems like the weather is not actually dampening the Ekka. It’s great to see that our economic stats are still going up in the right direction because, of course, where else would you want to be but Brisbane?

Chair: Is there any debate? No further debate.

We will now put it to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Economic Development, Nighttime Economy and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Sandy Landers (A/Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann and Jared Cassidy.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair) and Councillors Julia Dixon and Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE ECONOMIC UPDATE

**29/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Economic Development, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on Brisbane’s economy. He provided the information below.

2. The Committee was shown a graph detailing domestic migration for each capital city. The graph detailed that Greater Brisbane has experienced the highest domestic migration across all capital cities, with only Greater Brisbane and Greater Perth experiencing net positive growth. All other Australian capital cities experienced a net decrease in internal migration, with Greater Sydney experiencing a significant decrease.

3. As of June 2024, the number of job advertisements in Brisbane was approximately 29,600 in comparison to 29,685 jobseekers. Brisbane’s unemployment rate as of June 2024 was 4%, while the youth unemployment rate for job seekers aged between 15 and 24 years old was 8.6%. Brisbane unemployment is less than the Queensland average of 4.1%.

4. The total number of businesses actively trading within the Brisbane Local Government Area has increased by 1.9% to 138,801 when compared to June 2022 and is predicted to continue to increase. Of these businesses, 97% were considered small businesses with less than 20 employees and 3% were considered medium to large businesses with more than 20 employees. The top five industries by number of businesses in Brisbane are:

- professional, scientific and technical services

- rental, hiring and real estate services

- construction

- health care and social assistance

- transport, postal and warehousing.

5. Domestic passenger numbers continue to grow, approaching pre-COVID-19 numbers and exceeding them in February 2024. Passenger numbers are still trending below pre-pandemic levels, however the total volume of domestic travellers entering Brisbane Airport are consistently higher than the previous three calendar years, currently more than 1.25 million visitors. The number of international visitors travelling through Brisbane Airport are also consistently higher than the past three years, with February and March 2024 seeing international passenger numbers at six-year highs, exceeding pre‑pandemic levels at approximately 490,000 travellers.

6. The number of domestic overnight visitors to Brisbane continues to rise towards pre-pandemic levels and is at 7.2 million as of March 2024, with the majority of visitors coming internally from Queensland, followed by 23.4% coming from New South Wales, 12% from Victoria and 2% from Western Australia. International visitation numbers are just short of the pre-pandemic levels of 1.5 million, coming in at 1.2 million, with the top five countries visiting Brisbane as follows:

- New Zealand with approximately 232,000 visitors

- the United Kingdom with approximately 135,600 visitors

- the United States of America with approximately 110,700 visitors

- China with approximately 87,200 visitors

- Korea with approximately 58,300 visitors.

7. Approximately $7.4 billion was spent by domestic visitors and $3.2 billion was spent by international visitors to Brisbane for the same period. As of 2024, the monthly hotel occupancy rate was 74.8% and has stabilised higher than the pre-pandemic benchmark.

8. Brisbane’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) has followed the overall Australian trend, peaking at 7.9% towards the end of 2022 and returned to 3.4% as of June 2024.

9. Since the pandemic, pedestrian volumes in the Queen Street Mall have steadily been increasing towards pre-pandemic levels, with an average of 81% of people visiting the Mall a week compared to pre‑pandemic numbers.

10. Following a question from the Committee, the A/Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager for his informative presentation.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Danita PARRY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order.

**S****eriatim - Clause B**

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| Councillor Lucy COLLIER requested that Clause B, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPROVE BUS SERVICES ON ROUTE 131, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week, in our first Transport Committee for this session, we had a presentation from City Projects Office (CPO) on Council’s road resurfacing bikeways program on trying to change the way that people move, Madam Chair, and we know that this requires a long and significant pipeline of investment to retrofit our existing road network. In Brisbane, we have a network of over 5,000 kilometres of footpath and bikeways and we’re always looking to expand those. Thus, the idea of road resurfacing bikeways was born. Last year, we began trialling this new method of designing and building separated bike lanes in the suburbs.

Junction Road in Morningside was chosen as the first pilot site, in conjunction with road resurfacing works on the street. Council also installed separated bike lanes with physical barriers. This new approach means that when eligible roads are resurfaced across the city, we can deliver active transport improvements efficiently and it means that we won’t be coming back to retrofit a bikeway design on a road that’s been resurfaced in the last few years, so it’s a more efficient approach for Council to do it this way. Roads that are eligible must be on the current year’s road resurfacing schedule and have enough width to allow for a bikeway on the road reserve.

Generally, these are district roads which are ideal for moving bicycles through suburbs easily, and generally, they’re on the primary or secondary active transport network plan, as well. We heard the community’s feedback about the need to enhance road space and upgrade existing bike lanes along Junction Road. This is perfectly positioned between two primary cycle routes. That is Lytton Road and Wynnum Road. Work commenced in April this year alongside road resurfacing schedule and works were recently completed.

Following the successful trial at Junction Road, Rainbow Street in Sandgate has been selected as the next location. Approximately 400 metres of existing bicycle lane along Rainbow Street will be upgraded as part of that project. We’ll paint new line markings. We’ll install low-profile separators between the traffic lane and the bike lane to enhance safety and amenity. Construction of this project commenced in June this year, with completion expected in the next few weeks. We will continue to look for relevant opportunities to install separated bikeways in the road resurfacing program, Madam Chair, and I look forward to updating the Chamber on our next opportunity in the suburbs.

We also had a good and broad-ranging discussion at the Committee about the success of Junction Road as the first site. It was acknowledged that there were some design changes from the original design that we consulted on with the community and the final design. This, of course, is a work in progress, this program. Nothing is perfect. We want to be able to deliver lower-cost improvements through the road resurfacing program, and it means that if we make every bikeway road resurfacing project a big CPO project with lots of design and lots of lead time and lots of consultation, then we wouldn’t be able to deliver the type of impact that we can deliver and the efficiency that we can deliver.

So, we did make design changes with this project to lower the cost and to keep it within budget. There was some controversy in the community about those designs, but I do know that the local residents, most of those are quite happy with the upgrade as it is at the moment. I’m sure some might have wanted a better and more expensive solution, but in the end, this program, this project was born out of the need to deliver some improvement sooner, rather than gold standard projects. We will, of course—and the Committee did discuss that and the officers who were present took that feedback onboard, and we will of course incorporate that into future projects and programs under this project.

The Committee also considered a petition for increased services on the 131 bus for residents in Formby Street in Algester. As Councillors are aware, we are in the last stages of finalising Brisbane’s New Bus Network before it’s implemented with full Metro services. As part of the new network, residents in Formby Street will benefit from increased frequency on route 131 during that AM peak. They’ll also have access to the new route 135 service which will stop nearby on Benhiam Street. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. Thanks, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on item B of the petition, about the bus petition increasing route services on 131. I do support the introduction of the new daytime services for the 135 on behalf of all residents who live out that way. However, sadly, I won’t be supporting the overall recommendation as residents have requested for more bus services along the 131 route throughout the daytime, which sadly won’t be accommodated for this time. I support the request of what the residents were asking on their petition this time. It is great news that, overall, there is a daytime service for residents who live—so, if we look at a map of Calamvale District Park, on the right-hand side of that one—so, I do thank the Council officers and I do understand, from having several conversations with them, as well, over the phone, that in this climate, it’s been pretty difficult to achieve a daytime service generally.

That’s really good news, except starting with Pallara in my area and now Calamvale, I believe the lack of access to daytime bus services is a regular topic of concern for residents who live in our outer ward, in the outer suburbs, like Charles, like Steve, as well. The problem is, I can’t support this motion as I believe not only that, but basically proportionately, as we get further out towards the outer suburbs, basic asks of everyday people in our area who just want to catch a bus to the city during the day. Most of the time, they’re for issues for things like hospital appointments, especially for people who have specifically requested for this bus route here. It’s a pretty basic ask and I think it’s something that Council should strongly consider again.

I think this will be a future ongoing issue, as well. The problem is that I personally wasn’t here for the previous bus review, which is also part of the decision as to why I won’t be supporting this motion here today. Also, the reality is that, for those who still live further away from the 131 route and also the new 135 service, as well, will still be required to walk basically the same distance that they’ve been complaining about that they have to walk to the current 130 line. Basically, unfortunately, there’ll still be a large proportion of residents who live down the 131 line who will still be having to walk the same distance, despite the new changes.

Chair, I would really love to support any further consultation, given I wasn’t here previously. I’m hoping to see that there is an increase with patronage on these services because of the State Government’s great job on 50 cent fares. There’s planning that can be done for residents who won’t benefit as much from these changes, as well, and for those who haven’t had their questions and answers concerned addressed within the current response being drafted up by City Council to the head petitioner.

While the response sent from the Brisbane City Council, LNP Administration, will be to head petitioner Ravi, I wanted to make it clear that I asked City Council if there could be more consultation that could be done, and also any extra information I can provide with them, as I agree with the head petitioner that there will be a need for more services over time, and particularly for those who live on the left side of Calamvale District Park, if you look at a map visually, and even after this response is sent. As a result of this, I’ve been coordinating pretty closely with our local State Member and Minister Leeanne Enoch, as well, so that ultimately, we can achieve the best outcome for all residents and get the most value out of our Council rates, something that residents kept on reiterating to me as I was out doorknocking them, who live around this area, especially during a cost-of-living crisis.

I also wanted to reiterate the concern of residents, which is that the nearest stop for route 130 is actually approximately 800 metres from the Algester Road at Formby Street bus stops used by route 131, and it’s challenging for passengers with children. While technically, it’s considered an acceptable distance to government standards, ultimately, I support the residents and believe we can do far better. I already know there is far better work being done the closer you get to the city. The streets that I’ve also been talking about, as well, which are close to these bus stops and residents who have been asking for more services, are actually the same streets where, last week, the LNP Council decided to pull off the motion from the table and effectively say they won’t do anything to improve them, as well. Sadly, I feel like residents who live out this way are getting less and less from the current Council. Personally, I believe that your postcode shouldn’t dictate whether you get access to basic services.

I wish this process of voting, in all honesty, didn’t have to be black and white, especially in times like this, given that the daytime service for 135 is still a win for residents who live in this area of Calamvale. So, I do commend this and I also congratulate Ravi and the more than 50 petitioners who canvassed really hard to bring more local services to this side of our area. I think we’ve gotten something, but I still think there’s a lot more work to do and I’ll be there every step of the way. I’ll make sure that I’ll be conveying this to Ravi, as well, throughout the whole process and however long this will take.

Within the review, Council didn’t propose to increase bus services to the level requested for residents of Algester Road at Formby Street, which is basically what the head petitioner was asking for. For as long as that’s the case, I’ll be working alongside residents to make sure that they get a say in this Chamber, and surely this won’t be the end of the discussion for that one. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I’ll rise to speak on the presentation with resurfacing and the separate bike lanes created on both Junction and Rainbow. Firstly, I think it would be—I really want to thank Councillor MURPHY for acknowledging that the shift was actually because of lowering costs. Previously, when conversation had come up about and debate had come up about Junction Road, and in correspondence delivered to people interested about why Junction Road had shifted, the correspondence stated that the shift from kerbside bike lanes to separated bike lanes as they are—and I’ll explain this a little bit later—was because of safety. It’s good to hear that Council and the LNP Administration has come up here and said it wasn’t that, it was actually lowering costs.

Road resurfacing and bus lane enhancements are really important. We know that Rainbow Street and Junction Roads are both secondary bicycleways. We also know that Junction Road—sorry, Rainbow is also a local bicycle route. The thing about the design, of course, on Junction, was the idea of the kerbside bikeway. What that means is basically have a pedestrian footpath, a verge, then you have the bicycleway, then you have the car parking, and then the road. So, really, what it’s showing is complete protection for cyclists. This is assumed as best practice. Now, we know that we will reduce costs as a priority, which is a shame because, of course, the priority of this Council should be keeping people safe, the safety of people not only riding their bikes across the city, but specifically in these areas, and the safety of people riding scooters, also, because we know that that is increasing, people using personal or hired scooters to travel longer distances.

We’ll start using these, what we need to do, which is of course protected, not separated but protected bikeways is really important. It also, of course, keeps pedestrians safe because we get them off the pedestrian route. I think it’s important to just state these things. These cycleways, as Councillor MURPHY—through you, Chair—stated, they’re done. They’ve been a part of road resurfacing. Council won’t be coming back to them, but it’s important to state that the priority of Council, when it is looking at these secondary bike routes, at these primary bike routes, shouldn’t be about lowering cost. It should be, of course, protecting and helping enhance the feeling of safety for scooter and bike users across the city.

We know that a lot of the routes that have missing links now are going to be challenging. They’re going to be a little bit more difficult. They might become a little bit more expensive. I think it’s also really important to note that, when we are talking about cost, the recommendation, I believe from memory, from the UN (United Union), was that 20% of all transportation costs—well, budgets of governments is actually contributed to active travel, and that includes not just green bridges like Kangaroo Point, but also, of course, cycleways, scooterways and footpaths. We’re a long way from that, maybe. We’ll see. I mean, the green bridge is costing a lot of money, but looking into future years, it’s really important that we invest that 20% because we want to make sure that this city is active, and not only active, we want to make sure that that transition is happening now.

Of course, beyond active and that transitioning happening, number one is we want to make sure people are safe. So, while it’s good that Council has moved forward to do bike lane enhancements as a part of road resurfacing, I’ve got to continue advocating for more safety to make sure they’re not just separated bike lanes, but they are protected bike lanes. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I just want to speak briefly on Clause A. From the outset, I want to state that the outcome of the bike lanes and road resurfacing project on Junction Road in Morningside is a much-improved outcome from what was there previously, and that’s a good thing. I’m genuinely grateful to see that this Council has made some investment in that important corridor, but there is much more work to be done. I want to acknowledge the fact that Junction Road was actually, from my understanding, listed for resurfacing, I think, in 2020. It was only after a petition from local bicycle user groups for cycling infrastructure to be considered did that project get pulled offline, reconsidered, and then has been delivered, albeit in a kind of roundabout way, I guess.

Councillor MURPHY was very happy to post, in the midst of an election, an artist’s impression that promised the community that they were getting properly protected cycling lanes, and a decision was made at some point to renege on that promise. I can appreciate that these are complex projects that require technical engineering, community consultation, but what I take issue with is that the community was promised one option and they were expected to decipher a works notice, a sneaky works notice that actually completely changed the project just to separated cycling lanes.

I’ve given that feedback—through you, Chair—to Councillor MURPHY and my genuine wish is that when us, as a Council, are considering moving forward, how we can deliver this program—I think it’s a good thing. I think it’s good that, if we’re taking a holistic approach to planning, road resurfacing, and looking for opportunities to program in additional active transport infrastructure, that’s a good thing, but bring communities along the way with you.

Chair: Is there further debate?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I just want to thank all Councillors for their contribution to the debate on this item. I thought this was exactly how the debates in this Chamber should go, based on the policy. Some good comments, some criticisms made, all done very respectfully, and there should be more of it. Of course, as I said at the start, Madam Chair, it was not a perfect rollout of this project in Junction Road. We are still tweaking it. If we go too hard on making it a big sort of CPO project, high impact, high cost, we will not achieve the objectives that we set out to achieve, which was lower cost, smaller improvements, incremental improvements so it can be done in line with the road resurfacing program. I’m honestly surprised, but hopefully, this is the first time but not the last. Tremendous debate from all Councillors on this item. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

We will now put item A to the vote.

**Clause A put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause A of the report of the Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: We will now put item B to the vote.

**Clause B put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause B of the report of the Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Lucy COLLIER and Charles STRUNK called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 7 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Danita Parry (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann and Lucy Collier.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillors Julia Dixon and Emily Kim.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – ROAD RESURFACING AND BIKE LANE ENHANCEMENTS UPDATE

**30/2024-25**

1. The A/General Manager, Project Management, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on road resurfacing and bike lane enhancements. He provided the information below.

2. Council’s road resurfacing and bike lane enhancement projects provide a number of key benefits for Brisbane including:

- enhanced, separated and more visible active transport infrastructure

- improved safety for all road users

- the encouragement of more active travel in Brisbane

- expanded opportunities for safe active travel

- assistance in meeting the needs of our growing city

- value-for-money improvements and delivery.

3. The Committee was shown the project overview and before and after images of the resurfacing and bike lane enhancements at Junction Road between Barwon and Baringa Streets, Morningside. Construction commenced in March, with practical completion in July 2024.

4. Rainbow Street, Sandgate, was also presented to the Committee with road resurfacing and bike lane enhancements between Curlew Street and Palm Avenue, which commenced in June this year. Practical completion is expected by mid-August 2024.

5. Council’s Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, is currently assessing the resurfacing program in detail to identify locations and future opportunities and to enable the efficient and cost-effective delivery of projects.

6. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the A/General Manager for his informative presentation.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL IMPROVE BUS SERVICES ON ROUTE 131

**137/220/594/274**

**31/2024-25**

8. A petition requesting Council provide improved route 131 bus services from Algester Road at Formby Street, Algester, was received during the Summer Recess 2023-24.

9. The Divisional Manager, Transport for Brisbane, provided the following information.

10. The petition contains 53 signatures. Of the petitioners, 51 live in Calamvale Ward and two in other wards in the City of Brisbane.

11. Council operates its bus services under a contract with Translink, a division of the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads. Translink is responsible for the delivery of public transport services and infrastructure for South East Queensland.

12. Council works in conjunction with Translink to ensure the residents and visitors of Brisbane have access to a reliable and accessible public transport network, with Translink having the overall responsibility for approving and funding any new bus services or changes to services. In determining any bus network expansion, Council works with Translink to ensure that services will be well utilised and meet customer demand.

13. The route 131 service is a peak hour rocket service operating Monday to Friday between Parkinson and the City. The service is designed to support the route 130 Bus Upgrade Zone (BUZ) service by providing additional coverage during peak hours.

14. As part of Brisbane’s New Bus Network (BNBN) review, Council invited community feedback over a period of five months through a two-phase engagement program. A citywide online survey about current travel preferences was conducted in Phase 1 and community consultation was invited on the proposed network changes in Phase 2. The feedback collected has been considered and a proposal on reshaping the network has received conditional approval from Translink.

15. Within the review, Council did not propose to increase bus services to the level requested for residents of Algester Road at Formby Street. However, it is proposed that route 131 will operate between 5.55am and 8.50am, operating at five-minute intervals from 6.50am until 7.20am. Route 131 will also operate between 3.10pm and 6.10pm, operating at 10-minute intervals from 4.10pm until 5.40pm. The route 135 as part of BNBN is proposed to stop at Holyrood Street near Benhiam Street, Calamvale. This will provide a new day-time service.

16. Council, in partnership with Translink, will continue to keep the community informed about the final network ahead of BNBN implementation.

17. While Translink oversees all public transport delivery in South East Queensland and has the authority to support or initiate changes to bus services, including the responsibility for funding growth services, Council will write to Translink to make them aware of the petitioners’ request.

Consultation

18. Councillor Emily Kim, Councillor for Calamvale Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

19. The submission will respond to the petitioners concerns.

20. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Lucy Collier dissenting.

21. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/274

Thank you for your petition requesting Council provide improved route 131 bus services from Algester Road at Formby Street, Algester.

Council operates its bus services under a contract with Translink, a division of the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads. Translink is responsible for the delivery of public transport services and infrastructure for South East Queensland.

Council works in conjunction with Translink to ensure the residents and visitors of Brisbane have access to a reliable and accessible public transport network, with Translink having the overall responsibility for approving and funding any new bus services or changes to services. In determining any bus network expansion, Council works with Translink to ensure that services will be well utilised and meet customer demand.

The route 131 service is a peak hour rocket service operating Monday to Friday between Parkinson and the City. The service is designed to support the route 130 Bus Upgrade Zone (BUZ) service by providing additional coverage during peak hours.

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Within the review, Council did not propose to increase bus services to the level requested for residents of Algester Road at Formby Street. However, it is proposed that route 131 will operate between 5.55am and 8.50am, operating at five-minute intervals from 6.50am until 7.20am. Route 131 will also operate between 3.10pm and 6.10pm, operating at 10-minute intervals from 4.10pm until 5.40pm. The route 135 as part of BNBN is proposed to stop at Holyrood St near Benhiam St, Calamvale. This will provide a new day-time service.

Council, in partnership with Translink, will continue to keep the community informed about the final network ahead of BNBN implementation.

While Translink oversees all public transport delivery in South East Queensland and has the authority to support or initiate changes to bus services, including the responsibility for funding growth services, Council will write to Translink to make them aware of your request.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Selena Beaverson, Executive Assistant, Transport for Brisbane, on 3407 2216.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor WINES, Infrastructure Committee.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven TOOMEY, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thanks, Madam Chair. The Committee heard a report last week. I always like to bring through reports where, when you read them written down, they sound like they might be strange or uninteresting, but when they happen, you learn something from them. This week, we heard misunderstood road rules. Can I ask all Councillors, if there are any road rules they’d like clarification on, please ask for the presentation? What are you meant to—can you cross a single, continuous centre line? What is the difference between—what can you do in bus stops? What’s the nature of give way rules? What’s the difference between no stopping and no parking, for example?

All of these things are things that we would normally do in our day-to-day lives as Councillors or normally have questions about from residents. Please take a moment. Mr Paul Burden, who was our presenter last week, provided a lot of that information. He can provide you more information on that. So please, take a minute, read the report, ask for the PowerPoint that was at the presentation so that you can familiarise yourself, because they are easy things to make mistakes with. Residents do ask you about them often, so please take advantage of this opportunity.

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Listen, I rise to speak in regards to the presentation, and maybe I should take something that Councillor MURPHY said in regards to that challenge you put out to us over here, that we’re being respectful. It was—Paul Burden did an excellent presentation. I had a number of questions which he was able to answer, but there was one that—there was an issue in my ward along Blunder Road in regards to some very long reticulated vehicles that were parking in front of a residential area. He’s asked me to contact compliance and book a job, which we’ll do, but I think most of those road rules that were covered, of course, are some—we probably know, but some that we didn’t really—probably haven’t thought about in a number of years, if they were even part of the test that we did back when we got our licences, all those years ago for some of us, anyways.

I do appreciate these sort of presentations because they’re helpful in learning a little bit more about what those compliance issues are when it comes to road rules, as the Chair was saying, that a number of our constituents ask those questions. Probably the one that I get asked the most is in regards to doing U-turns. I appreciate the presentations and there should be more of them. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Any further debate?

No.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Can I just say, I just appreciate the contribution of Councillor STRUNK. Just as a response to the Question on Notice that was presented at this week’s Committee from the question last week, it was determined from the information provided by Councillor STRUNK that, on balance, it was likely that there was a compliance matter, and we have asked him to log that through to the Compliance and Regulatory Services branch.

I also recall Councillor STRUNK—and while I’m here, we’ll talk about this. Councillor STRUNK asked a question about vehicles parked in their own driveway, but part of the vehicle was in the footpath. Yes, that is a rule. We have a rule in this place where we try our best to make sure that the footpath is available for use at all times and that’s disability access, whether you’re in a wheelchair or a mother with a pram or a person who’s got bad knees or ankles, we try not to push you out onto the road and come back again. So, to do that, any vehicles who are protruding from the driveway into the footpath are in breach of our rules. I appreciate why, in some instances and with some lot sizes, that’s hard, but we do bias towards the need to maintain that footpath thoroughfare.

So, as I say to all Councillors, please take the time to have a look at these things, familiarise yourself, because it’s not always super obvious what the actual answer is. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

We’ll now put the report to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Infrastructure Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steven Huang, Nicole Johnston, Kim Marx and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD ROAD RULES

**32/2024-25**

1. The A/Manager, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an overview of commonly misunderstood road rules. He provided the information below.

2. Motorists can cross a single continuous centre line to enter or leave a road, including entering or leaving a property and to safely pass bicycle riders as well as drive over a painted traffic island surrounded by a single continuous line for up to 50 m to either enter or leave the road or enter a turning lane that begins immediately after the island. However, motorists cannot cross a single continuous centre line to overtake or make a U-turn or cross a double continuous centre line except to safely pass a bicycle rider.

3. Motorists must give way to buses indicating when leaving a bus stop or changing lanes and cannot stop within 20 m before and 10 m after a bus stop, unless signed otherwise.

4. A driver must give way to pedestrians, cyclists and personal mobility devices (PMD) on or entering a pedestrian crossing. Children’s crossings are typically located surround schools and operate only when red flags are displayed. The crossings are designed to help children cross the road safely near schools. A driver must also stop and give way until the pedestrian is clear of the road. However, pedestrians must give way to vehicles at refuge islands.

5. A slip lane is an area of road for vehicles turning left that is separated from other parts of the road. If the slip lane is un-signalised, the motorist must always give way to a pedestrian crossing a slip lane, even if there is no zebra crossing.

6. The Committee was provided the following information for where parking is and is not allowed.

- Narrow Streets – motorists must leave at least 3 m of clear roadway between their vehicle and other parked vehicles or dividing strips, traffic islands or unbroken dividing lines.

- Footpaths, verges and traffic islands – motorists must not park their vehicle across footways, footpaths, verges or traffic islands, unless signed otherwise.  Parking on the verge or footpath to allow cars to pass is illegal and motorists may be issued with a warning or fine.

- Post boxes – motorists must not stop within 3 m of a post box, unless dropping off mail, passengers or signed otherwise.

- Intersections – motorists must not stop or park within 20 m of a signalised intersection or 10 m of a non-signalised intersection, unless signed otherwise.

- Driveways – motorists must not park on or across a driveway or prevent access to a property. This includes parking in their own driveway outside of the property boundary.

- Bins – motorists may park in front of wheelie bins unless signed otherwise. Council’s waste services contractor will exit their vehicle if needed to empty a bin.

- Kerb ramps – motorists must not obstruct a ramp leading to a footpath or bicycle path unless stopped within a parking bay or signed otherwise.

7. The Committee was provided information on the following signage.

- No Parking – motorists can stop for up to two minutes and must not leave the vehicle unattended. This is the default restriction applying to driveways.

- No stopping – motorists must not stop. A continuous yellow edge line has the same restriction.

- Clearway – motorists must not stop and their vehicle may be towed if not moved.

8. Motorists must maintain a minimum passing distance and stay wide of bicycle and PMD riders by providing 1 m when passing a rider in a 60 km/h or less speed zone or 1.5 m where the speed limit is more than 60 km/h. Cyclists may take any position on a multi lane road, including the primary position in the middle of a lane. Additionally, it is legal for two bicycle or PMD riders to ride side-by-side on a road, when not more than 1.5 m apart. If it is not safe to pass a bicycle or PMD rider, motorists must wait until it is safe. Drivers are also required to give way to pedestrians, bicycle and PMD riders crossing the road a driver is entering. This applies when turning left or right into a road.

9. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the A/Manager for his informative presentation.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor ALLAN, City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Penny WOLFF, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before I move on to the Committee report, I wanted to provide the Chamber with an update from our Development Services team. For the month of July, 332 development applications were completed, including 36 applications approved for a material change of use for a residential purpose. This has resulted in approval of a net increase of approximately 308 dwellings. For the calendar year to date, in the seven-month period, 2,157 development applications have been completed, including 272 applications approved for a material change of use for a residential purpose, resulting in an approval of a net increase of approximately 3,855 dwellings. So, some useful stats there.

Madam Chair, turning to the report, item A was a Committee presentation on 855 to 859 Beams Road at Bridgeman Downs. This property was previously zoned rural. However, under the Bridgeman Downs neighbourhood plan released in September 2023, the site area is now zoned low density residential. The development application proposed to reconfigure two existing lots into 26 lots. Through the application, the developer will provide a significant contribution to structure planning in the area, including three new road connections to the north, east and west, and upstream drainage connections to three of the surrounding allotments.

An application has also been received by the developer to facilitate a new sewer pump station at 915 Beams Road to deliver the necessary sewerage infrastructure to service the area. This development application is a great example of not only providing detached housing, but also providing the area with necessary infrastructure such as new road connections, streetscape improvements, and sewer upgrades. I will leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

No further debate.

We will now put the item to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Penny Wolff (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Seal Chong Wah, Steven Huang and Sandy Landers.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – 855-859 BEAMS ROAD, BRIDGEMAN DOWNS (A006379521)

**33/2024-25**

1. The A/General Manager, Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on 855-859 Beams Road, Bridgeman Downs (the site). She provided the information below.

2. The site has an area of 21,010 m2, which will be reconfigured into 26 lots which:

- are between 500 m2 to 41,352 m2

- have widths between 12.9 m to 19 m

- provide for a wide range of housing typologies and construction methods.

All lots include minimum rectangular dimensions in accordance with the Subdivision code. The Committee was shown examples of a variety of housing typologies with varying lot sizes and widths.

3. Located between Bridgeman and Ridley Roads, the site was formally a Rural zone in accordance with *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. Due to amendments to the Bridgeman Downs Neighbourhood Plan in September 2023, the site area is now zoned Low density residential. Council has recently approved three sites with a further three under assessment within the surrounding area for both subdivisions and unit developments.

4. The site will make a significant contribution to structure planning in the area including three new road connections to the north, east and west; and upstream drainage connections to three of the surrounding allotments. An application has also been received by the site’s developer to facilitate a new sewer pump station at 915 Beams Road to deliver the necessary sewerage infrastructure to service the area. Approval includes construction of four new roads and the development provides for future road reserve widening of Beams Road.

5. The site’s streetscape upgrades include:

- 1.2-metre-wide concrete paths for pedestrians for each new road

- turf and street trees on new public roads

- improved local connectivity.

6. The site provides the following community benefits.

- Provides additional lots for new housing, housing diversity with a mix of lot sizes and housing supply in an area with access to public transport, active transport and recreation.

- Infrastructure upgrades including new public road connections and streetscape improvements.

- Unlocks development of the surrounding area with road connections, upstream drainage connections and sewer infrastructure.

- Improved connectivity in the locality for pedestrians and vehicles.

7. The development was approved for the following reasons.

- Provides additional dwelling supply to accommodate a growing South East Queensland population and Bridgeman Downs area.

- The proposed subdivision is consistent with the new Bridgeman Downs Neighbourhood Plan.

- Provides infrastructure and services which comply with the standards for planned infrastructure to service the site.

- The proposal provides new road connections in accordance with a structure plan for the area.

- Development is consistent with and does not compromise the road hierarchy in its use, function, flow or capacity by buses, pedestrians and cyclists.

- The layout of the development is functional and serviceable by refuse and emergency vehicles.

8. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the A/General Manager for her informative presentation.

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor DAVIS, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Kim MARX, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Councillor COLLIER: Point of order, Chair.

**Seriatim *en bloc* - Clauses D and E**

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| --- |
| Councillor Lucy COLLIER requested that Clause D, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL A SKATE PARK IN CARINA; and Clause E, PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL PURCHASE 16 DUNCAN STREET, WEST END, AND TURN IT INTO GREENSPACE, be taken seriatim *en bloc* for voting purposes. |

Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Last week’s Committee presentation was an introduction to City Parklands Services (CPS) and it was really great to have the CEO, Sean Madigan, providing the overview. City Parklands Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of Brisbane City Council and was established back in 2013, initially to manage South Bank Parklands and Roma Street Parklands on behalf of Council through a management framework that was established by the Queensland Government. Since then, CPS has grown in capacity and is now responsible for the holistic management of several premier parkland precincts across Brisbane, including Victoria Park, Anzac Square and Post Office Square, and now Newstead House.

We heard how CPS are currently engaged with a number of entities via commercial contracts and funding agreements, including Council, but also the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works, South Bank Corporation, the Board of Trustees of Newstead House, South Bank Corporation, Queensland Veterans’ Council, as well as Destination Brisbane Consortium with Queen’s Wharf. CPS specialise in precinct management and deliver a range of services across the city. Their remit includes asset and contract management, parkland operations and maintenance, horticulture, electrical and water services, project management, corporate services, events, marketing, 24‑hour incident response and CCTV installation, and management and maintenance.

As I said, Madam Chair, CPS produce and host some of Brisbane’s biggest events throughout the year, events which attract thousands of visitors, both locally and from abroad. These include the New Year’s Eve celebrations which bring in over 80,000 people to South Bank Parklands, the Enchanted Garden which saw more than 110,000 people visit Roma Street Parklands over four weeks last year, and Brisbane’s biggest Easter egg hunt weekend at Victoria Park. They also provide event planning and assistance for hosted events, including the upcoming Cold Chisel 50th Anniversary Tour and Ability Fest, which both will be held at Victoria Park.

It was a very, very comprehensive presentation by Sean—talked about things that we’ll be doing in the future and a couple of case studies that he talked to us about. Everybody was, I think, quite engaged in the presentation that Sean provided us, and I look forward to City Parklands Services doing more exciting things across our city in the coming years. We also considered four petitions, and I’ll leave further debate on those to the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thanks, Chair. I will rise to speak briefly on items A, C and E. Firstly, I just want to talk about the great presentation that was given about City Parklands, very informative, very, very, very informative. City Parklands seems to be going through a time of expansion and change, so I’m looking forward to see how that proceeds. I did want to also just note very quickly something that has recently come up that a constituent has come to me—could be an issue in the future. Of course, City Parklands is still doing maintenance for South Bank, but South Bank Corporation has taken over events. Last year, there was an amazing—for the first year, the Pongal Festival which happened at the South Bank Piazza. This year, unfortunately, they won’t be able to continue it because South Bank Corporation have said that date is booked for another event that South Bank Corporation is doing.

There are some concerns from community groups that have come to me that have said, “is there going to be an increase in price? Are we going to have access?” I thought I’d just plant that there, just as something to consider in the future when we are thinking—the Piazza at South Bank has great public transport—has really great accessibility to one of the key destinations in Brisbane. I’m very happy to have it in The Gabba Ward. So, I just wanted to place that there because there has been a bit of conversation, completely external from this presentation, that have come to me just very recently last week.

Next, I’d like to talk about item C which is the response to the petition for the skatepark. Here, I just want to acknowledge the work that The Gabba Ward Office has done in collaborating with local skateboard community, Skateboarding Queensland, and also the local skate shops. While the petition was calling for an upgrade, I’m pleased to inform that there is an upcoming SEF (Suburban Enhancement Fund) upgrade through The Gabba Ward. We’ve been able to deliver what will be an upgrade, working with those communities—skateboarding is a really important sport. As the demographics are shifting in The Gabba Ward, where we’re having a much youthful demographic, it’s important to provide opportunities for play and enjoyment and to build community, including a skateboarding community.

So, I do want to thank the work and the engagement that we have had from Skateboarding Queensland, local skateboarders, and also the local skate shop where Ahmet’s used to be, if anyone is familiar with Ahmet’s in West End.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MASSEY: Sorry? I know, very missed. So, I just want to add a thank you there.

Lastly, I will speak on petition E which is about greenspace. This petition was on 24 Duncan Street and signed by many residents in West End that are looking for a buyback. I think it’s important to note that West End is incredibly underserviced in parkland, it has less parkland than a New York resident. It has much less parkland than what Brisbane City Council recommends that is needed for a resident, and I support these petitioners who have taken this in their hands to try to get some parkland back. I recognise the response, which was that the land was not for sale, even though the neighbouring land, 15 Duncan, from memory, was, and while I have rejected the petition response and this petition—because I still want to continue to fight for greenspace in West End, we need it—I do want to recognise that I appreciate that, in this petition, the response included that Council does have a plan to buy back land so that South Brisbane, West End, the Kurilpa area will get more greenspace. I recognise that and I appreciate that because it is important that Council knows that that must be a priority for the Kurilpa region.

I think I’ll finish my comments there. Thank you so much, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further debate? No further debate.

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and can I thank Councillor MASSEY for her remarks. It was a good presentation from CPS, and I think for the newer Councillors to understand the role that CPS plays as a subsidiary of Council was important, and to give some insights into the many things that they do—it’s quite diverse. It was quite enlightening for some. I also acknowledge Councillor MASSEY’s understanding that we are still looking at areas in West End that may be appropriate for purchase for parkland. There are many challenges in West End that Councillor MASSEY is aware of, and we just will keep looking for appropriate locations that fall within the remit of what the City Plan speaks to. Thank you very much.

We’ll now put item A, B and C to the vote.

**Clauses A, B and C put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses A, B and C of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: We will now put D and E to the vote.

**Clauses D and E put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses D and E of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Trina MASSEY and Lucy COLLIER called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 16 - The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

NOES: 3 - Councillors Seal CHONG WAH, Trina MASSEY and Nicole JOHNSTON.

ABSTENTIONS: 4 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM and Charles STRUNK.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Kim Marx (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Alex Givney, Trina Massey and Steven Toomey.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Steve Griffiths.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CITY PARKLANDS SERVICES OVERVIEW

**34/2024-25**

1. The Chief Executive Officer, City Parklands Services (City Parklands), attended the meeting to provide an overview of City Parklands. He provided the information below.

2. City Parklands is a subsidiary of Council and was established in 2013. City Parklands was initially tasked with managing South Bank and Roma Street Parklands however, the service has grown in capacity and is now responsible for the holistic management of several premier parklands, precincts and spaces throughout Brisbane including:

- Victoria Park / Barrambin

- Newstead House

- Anzac Square

- Post Office Square.

3. City Parklands is currently engaged with a number of entities via commercial contracts and funding agreements, including:

- Council

- Queensland Government Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

- South Bank Corporation

- Board of Trustees of Newstead House

- Queensland Veterans’ Council

- Destination Brisbane Consortium.

4. City Parklands specialises in precinct management and delivers a range of services across Brisbane including asset and contract management, parkland operations and maintenance, horticulture, electrical and water services, project management, corporate services, events and marketing, 24/7 incident response and CCTV installation and maintenance.

5. City Parklands produces events attracting thousands of visitors throughout the year. These events include:

- New Year’s Eve celebrations held at South Bank Parklands

- The Enchanted Garden and Providore Park held at Roma Street Parkland

- Brisbane’s Biggest Easter Weekend held at Victoria Park / Barrambin.

6. City Parklands were engaged by the Queensland Veterans’ Council in October 2023 to enhance various aspects of Anzac Square. To achieve this, City Parklands improved the visual amenity and cleanliness of the park by reinstating preventative maintenance programs, implementing daily cleaning and security services and replacing 400 square metres of turf. As part of City Parklands’ efforts to improve the space, a comprehensive asset management plan was also developed. Significant improvements were made to the site in time for Anzac Day commemorations held at the square in April 2024.

7. Roma Street Parkland consists of 16 hectares of gardens and is located within the heart of Brisbane’s city. As part of their asset management plan, City Parklands maintains more than 700 trees and aims to plant at least 30,000 flowers per year across the park. For nine consecutive years, the parkland received the Green Flag Award, an internationally recognised accreditation that identifies and rewards well‑managed parks and greenspaces.

8. South Bank Parklands attracts approximately 14 million visitors each year and consists of 17 hectares of greenspace, riverfront parklands and landscaped areas, as well as the popular swimming lagoon, Streets Beach. As part of a green waste recycling program, approximately 5,200 cubic metres of green waste from the precinct is recycled each year. To assist in maintaining the Epicurious Garden, an ornamental and productive garden within South Bank Parklands, City Parklands also established a volunteer gardening program.

9. Newstead House is the oldest remaining European dwelling in Brisbane and has undergone significant restoration over the past three years. City Parklands were engaged by the Board of Trustees of Newstead House to manage the site. Working with the Museum of Brisbane, City Parklands developed an interpretation strategy and re-established the house as a living museum, which was officially opened in July 2024.

10. Following a question from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Chief Executive Officer for his informative presentation.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE WEED MANAGEMENT, PRIORITISE TREATMENT AREAS AND IMPLEMENT REGENERATION ACROSS ALL WETLAND AREAS IN DEAGON, SANDGATE AND BRIGHTON

**137/220/594/259 and 137/220/594/261**

**35/2024-25**

12. Two petitions requesting Council establish effective weed management, prioritise treatment areas and implement regeneration across all wetland areas in Deagon, Sandgate and Brighton, were presented to the meetings of Council held on 17 October 2023, by Councillor Lucy Collier on behalf of Jared Cassidy, and 24 October 2023, by Councillor Jared Cassidy, and received.

13. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

14. The petitions contain 387 signatures and of the petitioners, most live within Deagon Ward.

15. Council has investigated the matters raised by the petitioners. Council is currently implementing weed management and restoration activities at Pimelea Reserve, Bald Hills Creek Park, Deagon Wetlands, Sandgate Third Lagoon Reserve, Goodenia Reserve, Kedron Brook Wetlands, Boondall Wetlands and Tinchi Tamba Wetlands. These activities are part of ongoing weed management in this area. Council’s weed management activities are programmed over sequential years, recognising that seasonal factors such as rainfall can significantly influence weed incursion.

16. The reserves within Deagon, Brighton and Sandgate are affected by the ‘edge effect’ which influences the exposure of small reserves to external impacts, particularly from weeds and human activity. These reserves are largely wetland habitats that are located in the lower parts of the catchment, where runoff provides ideal conditions for ongoing weed incursion and proliferation. These areas will always be subject to weed incursion. The majority of the reserves in this area are rated as being in moderate to good condition, with some smaller, edge-affected locations within the reserves rated as being in a degraded condition.

17. Council currently supports three Habitat Brisbane volunteer groups in the area, who assist Council officers with weed management activities. Prospective members can contact the Council’s Contact Centre to enquire about joining a local Habitat Brisbane group such as:

* Brighton Wetlands Bushcare Group (Goodenia Reserve)

- Dowse Lagoon Bushcare (Sandgate Second Lagoon Reserve)

- Small Bird Reserve Bushcare Project (Curlew Park).

18. Council has listed projects to undertake ongoing weed management activity for consideration in a future budget. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against the overall needs of the city.

Consultation

19. Councillor Jared Cassidy, Councillor for Deagon Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

20. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

21. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee unanimously agreed.

22. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/259 and 137/220/594/261

Thank you for your petitions requesting Council establish effective weed management, prioritise treatment areas and implement regeneration across all wetland areas in Deagon, Sandgate and Brighton.

Council has completed an investigation and considered your request.

Council currently undertakes weed management and restoration activities across Pimelea Reserve, Bald Hills Creek Park, Deagon Wetlands, Sandgate Third Lagoon Reserve, Goodenia Reserve, Kedron Brook Wetlands, Boondall Wetlands and Tinchi Tamba Wetlands. This work is undertaken across multiple years and is prioritised according to seasonal conditions, prevalent weed species, vegetation condition, impact of other activities and projected effectiveness of weed management strategies for a given area. Weed management and restoration of degraded areas is balanced between the need to maintain areas in good condition and the investment required to restore areas in poor condition.

Council has listed several weed management projects in the Deagon, Sandgate and Brighton areas for consideration in a future budget. Each June, all listed projects are prioritised and assessed against the overall needs of the city.

You may also be interested to know that Council works with the community to maintain, protect and restore natural areas through Habitat Brisbane. Should you wish to find out more about how to get involved with your local Habitat Brisbane group, please contact Council’s Contact Centre on 3403 8888.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Clare Rogers, A/Planning Manager Natural Environment, Greenspace Planning, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3407 0840.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL EXTEND THE SKATE PARK AT DAVIES PARK, 277 MONTAGUE ROAD, WEST END, AND PROVIDE MORE PUBLIC SKATE PARK FACILITIES IN THE GABBA WARD

**137/220/594/276**

**36/2024-25**

23. A petition requesting Council extend the skate park at Davies Park, 277 Montague Road, West End, and provide more public skate park facilities in The Gabba Ward, was received during the Summer Recess 2023-24.

24. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

25. The petition contains nine signatures. Of the petitioners, three live in The Gabba Ward, and six live in other wards within the City of Brisbane.

26. The petitioners have raised concerns about the lack of skate facilities in the area and requested an in‑person meeting with Council to progress the issue.

27. Davies Park is a metropolitan access/recreation corridor and multi-functional district, metropolitan and local park, which includes areas for specialised outdoor sport, general outdoor sport and general recreation. The park features a bikeway, community garden, cultural heritage site (the Gas Stripping Tower), multi-use games space with skateable elements, multi-use hard court for basketball and pickleball, picnic facilities, public toilets, car parking and several leased areas.

28. At its meeting held on 21 November 2023, the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee granted approval for Councillor Trina Massey, Councillor for The Gabba Ward, to expend $150,000 from The Gabba Ward Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF) to modify the multi-use games space with skateable elements at Davies Park. The scope of the expansion was developed in consultation with local skate park users and is intended to allow for more users. Currently, the layout safely allows use for three to four people at a time, however, the new layout is expected to allow for 10 or more people at a time. Works for this expansion are expected to commence early in the 2024–25 financial year.

29. With nearly 200 suburbs across Brisbane, Council aims to provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities to meet a wide variety of recreation pursuits. This means that, in some cases, people need to travel to access infrastructure such as skate parks. Currently, there are over 30 skate parks distributed across the city. Nearby parks with skateable elements include Neal Macrossan Playground Park in Paddington, Raymond Park in Kangaroo Point, J. F. O’Grady Memorial Park in Fairfield, and The Common Park in Coorparoo.

30. In response to the petitioners’ request, Council acknowledges the proposed enhancement of the existing skate facility at Davies Parks, funded through The Gabba Ward SEF, and advises that there may be opportunities for skateable elements to be planned in future park upgrades and new parks.

Consultation

31. Councillor Trina Massey, Councillor for The Gabba Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

32. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

33. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee unanimously agreed.

34. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/276

Thank you for your petition requesting Council extend the skate park at Davies Park, 277 Montague Road, West End, and provide more public skate park facilities in The Gabba Ward.

Council plans for a diverse park network that caters to the recreation needs of current and future residents and visitors.

With nearly 200 suburbs across Brisbane, Council aims to provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities to meet a wide variety of recreation pursuits. This means that, in some cases, people need to travel to access infrastructure such as skate parks. Currently, there are over 30 skate parks distributed across the city. Nearby parks with skateable elements include Neal Macrossan Playground Park in Paddington, Raymond Park in Kangaroo Point, J. F.  O’Grady Memorial Park in Fairfield, and The Common Park in Coorparoo. Information about the location of skate parks across Council’s park network can be found on Council’s website at brisbane.qld.gov.au and searching ‘skate parks’.

In the 2024–25 financial year, $15.1 million has been distributed evenly between each ward to build new footpaths and make local park improvements as part of the ward’s Suburban Enhancement Fund (SEF). You may be interested to know that the local Councillor plays a role in determining which footpath and park improvement projects are funded from their SEF.

As your request for park facilities meets the requirements of the SEF, your request has been referred to Councillor Trina Massey, Councillor for The Gabba Ward, for her consideration.

You may also be interested to know that $150,000 has been allocated from The Gabba Ward’s SEF to modify the multi-use games space with skateable elements at Davies Park. The scope of the expansion was developed in consultation with local skate park users and is intended to allow for more users. Currently, the layout safely allows use for three to four people at a time, however, the new layout is expected to allow for 10 or more people at a time. Works for this expansion are expected to commence early in the 2024–25 financial year.

If you would like to discuss your request directly with Councillor Massey, please contact The Gabba Ward Office on 3403 2165.

The above information will be forwarded to other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Meaghan Rowe, Senior Program Officer, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, on 3178 5013.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL A SKATE PARK IN CARINA

**137/220/594/292**

**37/2024-25**

35. A petition requesting Council install a skate park in Carina, was received during the Election Recess 2024.

36. The Executive General Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

37. The petition contains 24 signatures and of the petitioners, eight live in Carina, 14 live in other suburbs within the City of Brisbane and two live outside of the City of Brisbane.

38. Council has completed an onsite investigation at Carina. The petitioners have suggested Billan Street Park, Carina, as a potential site for a skate park and it was noted that the park is small and in close proximity to residents and, as such, this changed usage type may cause potential conflict and not considered a suitable location for skate facilities.

39. In accordance with Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, a district skateboarding facility may be provided within three to five kilometres of most residents.

40. Council has provided skate facilities to cater for the Carina catchment at Preston Road Park, Carina; Perth Street Park, Camp Hill; Murarrie Recreation Reserve, Murarrie; and a district level skate facility at The Common Park, Coorparoo. Attachment B (submitted on file) highlights the proximity of these parks in relation to Billan Street Park.

41. Council’s future planning for skate facilities involves provision of larger skate facilities for district parks and destination parks, rather than providing individual small skate facilities. At this stage, Carina has not been identified for a future district skate park.

Consultation

42. Councillor Lisa Atwood, Councillor for Doboy Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

43. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

44. The Executive General Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Trina Massey abstaining.

45. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/292

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install a skate park in Carina.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Council’s future planning for skate facilities involve provision of larger skate facilities for district level parks and destination parks rather than providing individual small skate facilities. At this stage, Carina has not been identified for a future district skate park.

Council notes your suggestion of Billan Street Park, Carina, as a potential site for a skate park. In accordance with Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, Billan Street Park is not considered a suitable location for a skate facility and existing skate facilities are provided at Preston Road Park, Carina, Perth Street Park, Camp Hill, Murarrie Recreation Reserve, Murarrie and a district level skate facility at The Common Park, Coorparoo. Additional information regarding the location of these facilities can be viewed on Council’s website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and searching ‘skate parks’.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Paul Fanani, A/Parks Planning Coordinator, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on 3178 7554.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### E PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL PURCHASE 16 DUNCAN STREET, WEST END, AND TURN IT INTO GREENSPACE

**137/220/594/310**

**38/2024-25**

46. A petition requesting Council purchase 16 Duncan Street, West End (the site), for recreational greenspace, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 14 May 2024, by Councillor Trina Massey, and received.

47. The Divisional Manager, City Planning and Sustainability, provided the following information.

48. The petition contains 140 signatures.

49. The petitioners request that a park is developed on the site, including a playground, barbecue, picnic facilities, community tennis court, shade trees, open grassed areas and additional on‑street car parking.

50. The site does not currently appear to be for sale on the open market, however, the adjoining property at 24 Duncan Street, which is very similar in size and shape to the site, sold for approximately $14 million in late 2023. Both properties are zoned as high density residential (up to 8 storeys) in *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) and have similar flooding constraints as mapped in the City Plan flood overlay.

51. Council’s park network planning aims to ensure residents are within a 750-metre walk of their nearest recreation park, an aim which is met for residents in the vicinity of the site.

52. West End Riverside Lands Park is approximately 100 metres away from the site and provides picnic facilities, a barbecue, fitness equipment, a basketball half court, a bikeway/shared pathway and car parking facilities. Additionally, there are two other large parks within walking distance of the site. Davies Park is approximately 500 metres away and provides nature play facilities, skate facilities, a multi-use sports court, open grassed areas with shade trees and car parking. Orleigh Park is approximately 450 metres away from the site and provides a dog off leash area, playgrounds, fitness equipment, picnic facilities, barbecues, a public toilet, a table tennis facility, pathways, ample open grassed areas and shade trees.

53. In response to the petitioners’ request and in consideration of the above information, it is advised that Council does not currently intend to purchase the site for parkland. However, while Council will not seek to purchase the site at this time, there is still an intention to provide additional parkland for the West End community that is generally in accordance with the intent expressed in City Plan when an appropriate opportunity arises.

Consultation

54. Councillor Trina Massey, Councillor for The Gabba Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

55. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ request.

56. The Divisional Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Trina Massey dissenting.

57. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/310

Thank you for your petition requesting Council purchase 16 Duncan Street, West End (the site), and turn it into greenspace.

The site does not currently appear to be for sale on the open market. The site is zoned as high density residential (up to 8 storeys) in *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan) and has significant flooding constraints as mapped in the City Plan flood overlay.

Council’s park network planning aims to ensure residents are within a 750-metre walk of their nearest recreation park, an aim which is met for residents in the vicinity of the site.

West End Riverside Lands Park is approximately 100 metres away from the site and provides picnic facilities, a barbecue, fitness equipment, a basketball half court, a bikeway/shared pathway and car parking facilities. Additionally, there are two other large parks within walking distance of the site. Davies Park is approximately 500 metres away and provides nature play facilities, skate facilities, a multi-use sports court, open grassed areas with shade trees and car parking. Orleigh Park is approximately 450 metres away from the site and provides a dog off‑leash area, playgrounds, fitness equipment, picnic facilities, barbecues, a public toilet, a table tennis facility, pathways, ample open grassed areas and shade trees.

In response to your request and in consideration of the above information, it is advised that Council does not currently intend to purchase the site for parkland. However, while Council will not seek to purchase the site at this time, there is still an intention to provide additional parkland for the West End community that is generally in accordance with the intent expressed in City Plan when an appropriate opportunity arises.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Shey Gornitsky, Program Officer, Parks Policy and Planning, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, on 3178 5616.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HUTTON, City Standards Committee.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Sarah HUTTON, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Greg ADERMANN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Chair. Our first presentation this session was from our Program Planning and Integration team on Council’s bushfire preparedness and planning. While we can’t prevent natural disasters here in Brisbane, we certainly can be prepared. Preparation for the upcoming bushfire season is well underway. Our recent wet summer saw ideal conditions for grass and vegetation growth, and Council is making sure our suburbs stay safe through our planned burn program. By conducting these burns now, our officers are reducing the amount of fire fuel available, thereby mitigating potential bushfire risks and protecting homes and habitat.

Council manages more than 10,000 hectares of bushland and natural areas across Brisbane. Council’s investment in bushfire preparedness includes construction of fire trails, developing fire management plans, managing vegetation, and maintaining over 700 kilometres of fire access tracks. We also establish water points in remote areas and manually reduce fuel loads through various means. Council also has 20 four-wheel-drive light attack firefighting units and currently employs more than 100 active trained firefighters for planned burns and to assist relevant agencies if a bushfire occurs.

Collaboration is key, and Council works closely with the fire department and neighbouring agencies, like Seqwater, to respond effectively to bushfires. The Committee was also updated on the various research projects Council is supporting, such as the National Health and Medical Research Council and the University of Queensland’s EMBER (Environmental Measures of Bushfire smoke Exposure and Respiratory health) study. The study investigates short-term health effects of bushfire smoke on firefighters and the community. Chair, the Schrinner Council is committed to preserving our precious bushland and making sure our fantastic outdoor lifestyle can continue for years to come. I leave further debate to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any further debate? No further debate.

We’ll now put it to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Standards Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Sarah Hutton (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Greg Adermann (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Nicole Johnston, Emily Kim and Steven Toomey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BUSHFIRE PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

**39/2024-25**

1. The Manager, Program and Planning Greenspace, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on bushfire planning and preparedness. He provided the information below.

2. Council’s planned burn program protects wildlife and our communities by:

- using cooler, less intense and slower burns than uncontrolled bushfires

- excluding sensitive wildlife habitat from planned burn areas

- implementing burns in a mosaic pattern

- including protection for important habitat features before burns

- providing safe movement corridors for wildlife if they need to move out of the area temporarily

- assisting the community to become smoke ready during bushfire season.

3. Council has more than 10,600 hectares of bushfire-prone, Council-controlled land, which is split into 750 management units (fire blocks). In accordance with the Queensland Government’s *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, Council requires a Permit to Light Fire before conducting any planned burns within Brisbane. There are conditions set on the permit that must be complied with. The Committee was shown an example of a Permit to Light Fire.

4. Council works in collaboration with the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) and neighbouring agencies, such as Seqwater in responding to bushfires. The Committee was shown a map detailing locations of completed burns and planned burns within Council reserves.

5. When a planned burn needs to occur, the following factors are considered.

- Notification – through a variety of channels, such as the new Brisbane Severe Weather Alert Service, Council’s webpage, reserve signage, letterbox drops, emails, phone calls and social media.

- Planning – site assessments, predicted fire behaviour, ignition patterns, resourcing requirements, expected duration, communications, contingencies, maps and post-burn assessments.

- Prescription – temperature, wind direction, wind speed, relative humidity, dew point, drought index and rain.

- Site preparation – fire access tracks, tree protection, exclusion areas, water points, asset protection, fuel moisture and fuel load.

6. During planned burns, Council continually:

- checks for fauna

- liaises with QFD

- monitors temperature, wind direction, wind speed, relative humidity, dew point, fuel moisture, fire behaviour, ignition, available resources and smoke

- ensures adequate signage, communications and water points are available

- monitors live edges, dangerous trees and signage.

7. Council manages fire risk by:

- maintaining more than 700 kilometres of fire access tracks

- establishing and maintaining water points in remote locations

- manually reducing chemical and/or mechanical fuel loads

- implementing standby and escalation processes

- conducting active patrols of known hotspots in partnership with the Queensland Police Service

- vegetation management activities contributing to reduction of fuel loads.

8. Council participates in various research projects to contribute to the broader knowledge of fire management in Australia. Current projects include:

- the EMBER Study with the National Health and Medical Research Council and the University of Queensland, which includes investigating the short-term health effects of bushfire smoke on firefighters and the community

- evaluating the spatial and temporal accuracy of the Sentinel-2 Satellite for monitoring live fuel moisture content with the Australian National University and Bushfire Research Centre of Excellence, including conducting ground fuel collection to validate outputs from satellite observations

- undertaking field surveys and data validation for vegetation structure for State mapping with QFD.

9. Council’s current resources include:

- more than 100 bushfire-trained staff

- 20 four-wheel-drive light attack vehicles with 500-litre capacity

- four medium attack vehicles with 1,200-litre capacity

- four incident management trailers

- seven forward-control and logistics vehicles

- 32 remote area water tanks

- UHF radio communications which is compatible with QFD

- maps and local knowledge of areas.

10. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager for his informative presentation.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, Community and the Arts Committee.

### COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community and the Arts Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa ATWOOD, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just before moving to the report, I want to touch on a question raised by Councillor GRIFFITHS in Question Time relating to the old Jugglers Art’s building. With the greatest respect to Councillor GRIFFITHS, the future of this facility has been a topic that our officers and I have been keeping him up to date with after it was vacated by the Jugglers Art’s group. On 6 September and 12 October, Councillor GRIFFITHS and Scouts Queensland were both present at onsite meetings. We all know that when this facility was vacated by Jugglers Art, it was handed back to Council in very poor condition.

We recognise, however, that the best outcome for the local community would be for this facility to be made available for community use as quickly as possible. Investigations into what would be required for this to take place has included an assessment of the building’s current condition, which has so far revealed that the top floor of the building is in significantly worse condition than the bottom floor. The floor contains significant contamination on the building frame and would require the internal and external wall sheeting needing to be removed. Based on the defects and the associated risks, our officers have proposed the best option to activate the vacant facility and extend its lifespan is to remove the top storey of the building and install a new roof over the lower level.

The relevant officers for this project have been working very hard to keep Councillor GRIFFITHS up to date on these works, along with updating Councillor GRIFFITHS on the ongoing lease negotiations with Queensland Scouts, who would like to activate this facility. On Friday, Councillor GRIFFITHS was informed by a Council officer that Council was partnering with Scouts Queensland to activate this building, which will include the removal of the noncompliant upper level of the facility. I recognise that Councillor GRIFFITHS may be unhappy with the decision due to somehow thinking that there is a conspiracy relating to nearby apartments, which of course is quite bizarre. This is despite, of course—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HOWARD: —that Councillor GRIFFITHS has—

Chair: One moment, please, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, you will not call out across the Chamber—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: —and I give you your first caution. When people—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS. That is your second caution. You will not speak while another Councillor is on their feet. Do not call across the Chamber.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: That’s your third caution.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Madam Chair, this is despite, of course, that Councillor GRIFFITHS has been involved throughout the entire—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: One moment, please, Councillor HOWARD. Councillor GRIFFITHS would like to grandstand, so we’ll just—

Councillor HOWARD: Correct.

Chair: —give him one moment, please.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and, in accordance with section 21(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, I hereby request you to stop calling out across the Chamber while another Councillor is on their feet.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, Scouts Queensland do not want the upper level, given that they are facilitating activities with children and don’t want them accessing stairs. I just wanted to put that on the record.

Moving now to the Committee presentation, which was, of course, about the fantastic Brisbane Festival which will be happening right across Brisbane from 30 August to 29 September. We had a wonderful presentation about this diverse program of performances from the arts, theatre, dance, music and comedy, and the annual Riverfire event will open the festival with a fireworks display on barges, bridges and building rooftops along the Brisbane River. There is just so much to see and do with this year’s wonderful festival, and I encourage all of our Councillors to support some of the activity that will be happening in the different wards. We have made an undertaking that we will let all Councillors know what is happening in these wards, and I recommend it to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak in regards to the Brisbane Festival and I congratulate the Brisbane City Council and, of course, the other foundation partner—that’s the Queensland Government. Thank you to the Miles Government for continuing to support this fantastic festival that goes back for a number of years now. I wasn’t able to be in the Chamber or in the Committee room. I had to go through Teams because I was a bit ill last week. So, I just got my copy of the Brisbane Festival here. Now, this isn’t a complete program, I’m waiting to receive that information, so I know what’s actually going to be happening in my ward.

I believe there is some work being done with at least one community group in my ward in regards to that, but looking through this, of course, I’m really jealous of Councillor GRIFFITHS, of course, because he’s got a whole page dedicated to the Moorooka Block Party.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Yeah, what do I do to have to get a page? I’ve got a lovely stage, you know, and a lake, and a beautiful amphitheatre and a lake, so I do have some venues, I’ll just put it out there—but the other thing that really stood out, of course, is Trent Dalton’s *Love* *Stories*. I’m thinking, well, that’s a bit of a departure from the last thing that I watched with *Boy Swallows Universe*, which was definitely not—well, I suppose it was a bit of a love story in the end, but anyways, listen, big name. I’m sure he’ll be a big draw card, but if you just have a look through it, it’s got something for everyone, I think. I do appreciate the Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council for continuing to invest in the Brisbane Festival. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor MASSEY.

Councillor MASSEY: Thank you, Chair. I’ll stand to speak briefly on Brisbane Festival, which is an incredibly important event in Brisbane. I congratulate Brisbane City Council for supporting this event because it is an important event to support. Also, even though it is early, but I do want to congratulate both the artistic director, Lou, and also the CEO, Charlie, for the work that they have done on the Brisbane Festival. It’s not always easy to put festivals on, especially in this time. I think the Brisbane Festival, since Lou has been the artist director, has done some really fascinating and interesting things that have moved not only in the delivery of new work, but also in bringing arts to the suburbs, like the Street Time Serenades, like the Moorooka Block Party.

This shift of how arts can be on our streets is really important for us to recognise the importance of arts, not just in media institutional areas like at GOMA (Gallery of Modern Art), like at QPAC at the Powerhouse, but also important art, music can play in our local residential streets. For that shift, I really want to acknowledge Brisbane Festival for highlighting that and also highlight the work that both Lou and Charlie do, not only in support of local artists, of course—I will always say we can do more of that, but Brisbane Festival is doing a really incredible job of not only helping the promotion of new work, hiring local producers so they can upskill their skills, but also ensuring that local artists are paid, and that’s from artists that are performing, theatre shows, musical shows, et cetera, all the way to artists DJing the Art Boat, which I have done previously myself, and that was really fun.

So, I just wanted to rise briefly and talk to that. I’m looking forward to Brisbane Festival. I know that it is a wonderful time in our city and I again commend all the supports that can be delivered to the Brisbane Festival, whether it’s a Federal, State or local level, and ask that we continue the support and, where possible—well, you know what I’m going to say—more support for the arts. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Further debate?

No further debate.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Just very briefly, Madam Chair, I just want to thank those who contributed to the debate and, of course, the Serenades program was funded by our very own LORD MAYOR, Adrian SCHRINNER, in its very first year. It was one of his ideas that we take things to the suburbs, and so I just want to thank everyone for their comments. All of us are looking forward to a fantastic festival. Thank you.

Chair: We’ll now put it to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community and Arts Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Lisa Atwood (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Seal Chong Wah, Alex Givney, Charles Strunk and Penny Wolff.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – BRISBANE FESTIVAL

**40/2024-25**

1. The Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director, Brisbane Festival, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the 2024 Brisbane Festival (the Festival). They provided the information below.

2. The Festival will be held from 30 August to 29 September and will include a diverse program of performances from the arts, theatre, dance, music and comedy. The annual Riverfire event will open the Festival with a fireworks display on barges, bridges and building rooftops along the Brisbane River.

3. Jean Paul Gaultier’sFashion Freak Show will run from 30 August to 15 September and is set to be a centrepiece of the Festival. Combining music, fashion and theatre, the production represents the life of Jean Paul Gaultier and his generation’s most defining political and cultural changes. As part of the event, Jean Paul Gaultier has designed hundreds of new outfits that will be exclusively featured on the Brisbane runway.

4. Grace Lillian Lee is a multicultural artist known for her contemporary interpretation of traditional weaving practices and collaborations with Indigenous communities. *The Dream Weaver: Guardians of Grace* exhibition is set to run from 30 August to 21 September at the Brisbane Powerhouse and will celebrate cultural heritage by featuring various shields and armours that represent Grace’s Indigenous totem, the Koysemer (moth).

5. In 2021, Australian author and journalist Trent Dalton published a book titled *Love Stories* after spending two months in Brisbane’s CBD gathering tales from members of the public. The Festival will feature the world premiere stage adaptation of *Love Stories* from 10 to 29 September at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

6. Set within the Festival Garden at South Bank, *ChronoHARP* is an immersive art display which invites audience participation. As the audience interacts with the installation, the lights change colour and music plays.

7. The Art Boat is a unique experience that features a performance program as part of a cruise along the Brisbane River. The Art Boat will be chartered and curated by the Briefs Factory, an Australian creative group inspired by circus, comedy and burlesque.

8. The internationally acclaimed multi-sensory experience *Lightscape* is a nightly event at the City Botanic Gardens. *Lightscape* takes the audience on a journey of the senses through light, colour and sounds. A special feature of this year’s *Lightscape* will be two sculptural installations created by Queensland First Nations artists Paul Bong (Bindur Bullin) and Michelle Yeatman.

9. Write Your Heart Out, inspired by Trent Dalton’s *Love Stories*, is a pop-up writing experience based within the Museum of Brisbane. It invites the audience to share their own experiences and become immersed in the stories of others.

10. *Skylore – The Rainbow Serpent*, is a three-dimensional multicolour drone show and a highlight of the Festival. As part of the show, 400 drones will fly over Brisbane’s skyline with a spectacular storytelling of *The Rainbow Serpent* by Traditional Custodian, Shannon Ruska, and original sound composition by Guy Webster.

11. The Spectrum of Happiness is an interactive swing set based at Portside Wharf that invites audience participation. The LED ball above each swing is activated by movement and collaborative music can be made when the swing set has multiple users.

12. The Brisbane Serenades program will return this year with five outdoor concerts across Brisbane greenspaces, gardens, parks and rivers. The program combines music, dance and connection and celebrates a range of talents showcased across traditional and modern genres.

13. Voices of Victoria Park will feature performances by:

- the Crunchy Chickpea Salad quartet

- House of Soul

- Angel Strings quartet

- Brisbane Excelsior Band

- Canticum Chamber Choir

- Katie Stenzel

- Alex Raineri.

14. *Pasifika Made* is a show that celebrates and amplifies the voices of Polynesian, Melanesian, Micronesian, Māori and Indigenous artists and includes live performances and demonstrations, alongside a marketplace with handmade items and traditional island cuisine.

15. Following a question from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director for their informative update.

16. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM, Finance and City Governance Committee.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Steven HUANG, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 6 August 2024, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor CUNNINGHAM.

Councillor CUNNINGHAM: Thanks, Madam Chair. The Finance Committee presentation last week was the quarterly net borrowings report, which included an economic update from Council’s corporate treasurer. The presenter noted the small uptick in global growth forecast, but noted the ongoing risks presented by escalating geopolitical tensions which, from an economic point of view, impacts energy and commodity markets. Inflation also remains more persistent globally, but particularly so in Australia with inflation increasing to 3.8% in the June quarter. The latest RBA (Reserve Bank of Australia) Statement on Monetary Policy states that the lowering of the cash rate is expected to begin from around the turn of the year, and to continue gradually through 2025. I’ll leave further debate and comments to the Chamber.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just very briefly with respect to Council’s financial position. I note, certainly earlier today, the LORD MAYOR tabled the CBIC report. Unfortunately, that’s not going to contribute to a positive cash position in Council. The CBIC has suffered a massive operational loss of $17 million and the ever-shrinking returns are down from $20 million to 11.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The LORD MAYOR did table that report, but it’s not in the report for the Finance Committee.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, and I draw the DEPUTY MAYOR to paragraph two. Paragraph one and paragraph two, but certainly, the report provided a market and economic review, and I quote, “a summary of the following issues in relation to Council’s investments.” Now, the CBIC is a Council investment, to my knowledge. Not a good one, but an investment.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

No further debate.

We’ll now put it to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Finance and City Governance Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lucy Collier, Trina Massey and Danita Parry.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Councillor Julia Dixon.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND REPORT – NET BORROWINGS – CASH, INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING – JUNE 2024

**41/2024-25**

1. The Corporate Treasurer, Financial Analysis and Treasury Management, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to present a report to the Committee on Council’s net borrowings for the June 2024 quarter. The report details the corporate cash holdings invested and the status of Council’s funding activities.

2. The report provided a market and economic review, and a summary of the following issues in

relation to Council’s investments, including:

- cash position

- review of cash activity

- earnings on investments

- funding capability

- borrowings

- facility performance

- leases.

3. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Corporate Treasurer for her informative presentation.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Chair: Petitions. Councillors, are there any petitions?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: I have a petition on behalf of Councillor DIXON.

Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Madam Chair, I have a petition requesting Council improve or widen the road at the bend that joins Hayden Street and Weyers Road, Nudgee.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Madam Chair, I have two petitions requesting Council ensure the redevelopment of 17 Skyring Terrace, Teneriffe, provides a compliant riverwalk and bikeway.

Chair: Councillor GIVNEY, may I have a motion for the receipt of the—one moment, please—oh, sorry. Yes, good—for the petitions. Thank you.

**42/2024-25**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Alex GIVNEY, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK, that the petitions as presented be received and referred to the Committee concerned for consideration and report.

The petitions were summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/336 | Alex Givney on behalf of Julia Dixon | Requesting Council take measures to improve the safety of cyclists on Nudgee Road between the Kedron Brook Bikeway and Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton. |
| 137/220/594/332 | Adam Allan | Requesting Council improve/widen the road at the bend that joins Hayden Street and Weyers Road, Nudgee. |
| 137/220/594/333 and 137/220/594/334 | Vicki Howard | Requesting Council ensure the redevelopment of 17 Skyring Terrace, Teneriffe, provides a compliant riverwalk and bikeway. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chair: Councillors, are there any statements required as a result of an Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee order?

Is there any General Business (GB)?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am very happy to stand and give the first part, because there will be many parts with the five-minute General Business, on findings from Paris and the Olympics. It was an amazing experience and I can honestly say—and you can ask the other mayors and the other officers that were there—that we learnt so much on the ground that would never, ever have been possible to get from a brief in six months’ time from Paris. That is not to say that Paris haven’t done a fantastic job of hosting us, and the city has truly shared their experiences as a Host City, not necessarily the OCOG (Organising Committees for the Olympic Games), and what they needed to do.

It’s been absolutely wonderful to share that on the ground and actually be able to talk to them about what those opportunities have been for them and how they managed to make sure that everything came together in quite a hectic fashion, I think, in the long run. They had eight years like we did. However, that eight years was severely shortened by the COVID years and the planning that they had and the amount of time they had to actually be personally together with the many levels of government and organisations to get it planned. So, even with the best planning, I think Paris, too, was a little bit rushed in the last 12 months to make sure that they truly, truly got everything together.

The wonderful thing that we did have around the on-the-ground work was that the City of Paris did their own Observers Programme for other cities to join. So, besides just the OCOG presentations that were done by the IOC (International Olympic Committee), which our Council officers duly attended, as was their case, because they got the Observers Panel. We also had the opportunity, myself, Mayor Natoli, Mayor Tate—Salt Lake City, who are the new Winter Olympic recipients for 2030 joined us in a lot of these, as well. Milan, obviously, as well, as the 2026 Winter Olympics, about what actually happened on the ground in Paris, as well.

So, some of the topics or all of the topics that were actually held that were attended by somebody from either Brisbane City Council, myself or BEDA (Brisbane Economic Development Agency), included water and cleanliness, venue approaches, accessibility, city services, communication, tourism and economic development, dressing and signage, ecofriendly Games, equipment and infrastructure, festivities in the city, international relations, legacy programs, marketing, mobility and transports, Olympic lanes, opening ceremonies, the Paris Media Centre, Paris Operations Centre, and security, safety, health—oh, still going—social ticketing, which was a very interesting program that they ran, the torch relay, and the volunteer program.

Now, that list that I just read out—and I’m a bit sad that Councillor CASSIDY isn’t here today to hear that list. Hopefully, he will read it in Hansard. I’m sure he will diligently—that list is a list of the things that the City of Paris needed to organise separate from OCOG. It is enormous. The level of work that the city is going to have to put in as the Host City, separate from what OCOG does as actually running the event. We have said it often and I’ll say it again. It is more than just four weeks of Olympic events. It is so much more.

I have to say, the highlight for me for the learnings was the transport, something you could only learn if you’re on the ground. Obviously, their transport system is spectacular. They’ve had it for 100 years or more. However, they did really need to tailor their buses, tailor their Olympic lanes around the city, but also their Metro. Now, I’ve been to Paris a few times. I have to say, it was sparkling clean, cleanliness above anything I’ve ever seen in Paris, maybe nearly as clean as Brisbane. They have done an amazing job, but particularly in their transport area, to make sure that the signage, the dressing of the Metros, everybody knew exactly where they needed to get off to Olympic venues, and when they did get off, it was clearly signed.

Now, some people have said some of our venues are difficult because it’s a kilometre from a railway station. Well, the Stade de France was a kilometre from the railway station. Nobody blinked, but there was very, very clear signage, lots of signage, and something that we really will need to look at right across the city and particularly around our venues, as well, the interconnections of those transports and, of course, the volunteers. The volunteers are something that I will be talking a lot more about in future GBs, because the volunteers, there are 45,000 of them for the IOC, but 5,500 of them were from the council that they organised.

So, what BEDA has done in the concierge programs and the Welcomes You programs that we’ve spoken about in Committee are going to be vitally important to make sure that our Host City volunteers are very, very much up to scratch to make sure our visitors have the absolute best visit when they’re here in 2032.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor, can you put your microphone on?

Councillor STRUNK: There you go. The little green light is coming. Yes, thank you, Chair. It’s sad that we’ve only got five minutes now to talk in GB, really sad for our communities that we’d like to speak about. I’ll just kick off to say that the Indian Day Fair, of course, is happening this weekend at the Roma Street Parklands. It’s a big event for the Indian community, of course, a massive event, really, and it cost them a lot of money to put this together. Of course, it’s funded by GOPIO (Global Organization of People of Indian Origin) and a number of GOPIO fundraisers that they hold throughout the year.

I’d just like to make comment that Arpit Singh, who’s the President of GOPIO this year, and Umesh Chandra who’s Vice President, they work tirelessly to fundraise for this event. Roma Street Parklands, when you have to hire it, of course, isn’t cheap, I’ll tell you, but it’s a fantastic venue where we’ll see a lot of vibrant dancing and singing, unbelievable food. I just hope the weather behaves itself. It’s supposed to be sunny on Saturday, so we’ll just cross fingers there because we have been at the event over the years and sometimes the weather hasn’t cooperated, but it’s just an incredible event.

It’s a who’s who ends up going, of course. We’ve had Premiers, we’ve had Speakers of the House. Of course, Milton Dick, he’s often there, along with the Treasurer. Who knows, maybe we’ll get a Prime Minister? Who knows? They really pull a big crowd and I just can’t say enough of this, the GOPIO executive and the huge amount of work they do to pull this thing together. I congratulate them prior to the event, because I know the event is going to be fantastic.

Another event, a little local event, of course, that happens is in my ward is the Music of the Lake. They are starting their third year and the numbers keep growing, actually. Slowly, but the numbers will keep growing and they’re changing the genre, as well, their music a little bit to remain fresh to the people that go on a semi-regular basis. It’s held every fortnight, and I just pay tribute to the band who’s, again, completed two years and they’re heading into their third year.

The Forest Lake markets happened last Friday. It was a bit cool, but it was one that a lot of residents came out to support and the food trucks, of course, were fantastic. There were about 10 or 12 food trucks there, so a lot of people even just stopping to pick up some takeaway and take it back home, but there was a good turnout at the markets. The Wasps rugby club, which is the facilitator, have been doing a terrific job. It’s been going now well over 12 months and I think it’s here to stay for as long as they want to do it, and I think the Forest Lake community and surrounding communities are continuing to support it, as well.

Fantastic stalls, even stuff that I like to buy. I mean, it tends to be focused more for ladies and what ladies like to buy, not so much for the guys, but there is plenty of stuff there for the guys now, which I—especially our Men’s Shed, who were down there in numbers with their stall. I bought a couple of paintings last week. I have told them last month and I told them this month, sorry, I’ve run out of walls, I can’t buy any more, but they have other stuff, as well.

So, with those few comments, because again, we’re under the pump here, only five minutes, I’ll finish my comments there, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor HUANG.

**Procedural motion –Motion be taken off the table**

**43/2024-25**

Councillor Steven HUANG moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, that the notified motion submitted by Councillor Jared CASSIDY at the meeting on 21 May 2024, be taken off the table.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion was declared **carried** on the voices.

Chair: The motion from 21 May 2024 has been taken off the table. I will restate the motion for the Chamber while it is being redistributed to Councillors.

The motion was originally moved by Councillor CASSIDY and seconded by Councillor COLLIER, that this Council calls on the LORD MAYOR to fully fund the Einbunpin Lagoon Rehabilitation Plan, developed by Council in July 2020 in the 2024-25 Council Budget.

Councillors who have already spoken are Councillors CASSIDY and GIVNEY. Debate now resumes from where it left off on 21 May 2024.

Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Madam Chair. I note that this is a project which Councillor CASSIDY and his Lord Mayoral candidate, Pat Condren, promised in the 2020 Council election. This Administration has undertaken work to ensure that options to address the lagoon’s algae issues have been investigated and options considered.

As a result, we have invested in regular works to test and maintain the condition of the lagoon as outlined in the management plan, including aeration of the water body to increase dissolved oxygen content, as well as regular maintenance of the system, treatment with a chemical agent to fix and modify available phosphorous, treatment with a biotic agent to remove nitrates from the water body, regular litter collection and removal, and regular water quality monitoring.

Councillor CASSIDY frequently forgets to mention this significant work, as well as the fact that there are areas where vegetation embedded within the structure has been cut back, but roots remain, and there is an estimated 75% likelihood that any desilting works could result in part or full structural failure of the wall of the lagoon. The lagoon is practically a closed system, and the inflows into the lagoon are largely from the local stormwater network with stormwater runoff being the main source of sediment deposition.

So due to the nature of the system, it is highly unlikely that the renaturalisation works proposed by Councillor CASSIDY would prevent algal blooming. Further, desilting only part of the lagoon would not resolve the occurrence of blue green algae. So, based on this advice from hydrological and water quality experts, Council does not intend to proceed with desilting works at Einbunpin Lagoon. We will, of course, continue to monitor the health of the lagoon and undertake maintenance.

It’s also worth noting that in recent times, the frequency of the blue/green algal blooms has been less than in the past, which is encouraging. A survey by City Standards in mid-February 2023, showed 95% open water, with very little aquatic vegetation or weeds. There were no measurement of the lagoon’s sedimentation levels, however, the lagoon water was observed to be very clear. For these reasons, we will not be supporting this motion tonight. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Councillor COLLIER.

Councillor COLLIER: Thanks very much, Chair. I think that it’s pretty despicable, but not entirely surprising that the LNP have chosen today, when the elected local representative who represents the community in which the Einbunpin Lagoon exists, is not here to engage in a meaningful debate. I don’t know when Councillor HUANG last visited the Einbunpin Lagoon, but I’m sure that whoever drafted up that little speech for him has half a clue. I’m not really sure. Anyways, irregardless, this motion is about delivering fully funding the Einbunpin Lagoon management plan to remediate and ensure the long-term health of what is a beloved and iconic local space for northsiders. I know I’ve been there.

There’s the Einbunpin Festival, which was only—was it last weekend or the weekend before? Very recently. Thousands of people flocked to this iconic spot. It is a space that we should be proud of showing off to the community and Council should be investing in it as the custodians of what is an extremely important local space, whether that’s hosting local events, the cultural significance of it, there are too many benefits of it to mention.

In summing up, not really surprised, a little bit disappointed that—through you, Chair—Councillor HUANG had to be the one who drew the short straw to stand up in this place and read that pre-prepared speech. This is not a good outcome for the residents in Sandgate and in the Deagon Ward, and certainly, it doesn’t set a good precedence for basic maintenance projects for important local spaces to get the funding that they deserve.

Chair: Further debate?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, Madam Chair. Thank you. I rise to speak in regards to the rehabilitation of this iconic lagoon, and I know Councillor CASSIDY has been talking about this lagoon for a number of years. I have some experience in regards to a body of water and what happens when that body of water isn’t maintained by this Council. It’s only a few short years ago that the Forest Lake lake itself was in probably worse condition, or the same if not worse condition. That was basically because we didn’t follow a maintenance plan that was set down in 2000 by the developer before they exited the development itself. This is probably what is happening over at the lagoon, that the maintenance plan that was set down some years ago to maintain this lagoon isn’t being followed or they need a new plan.

That’s what happened at the lake at Forest Lake. We needed a new plan and we worked with the Griffith University to put that plan together, along with Council officers. The plan they came up with was not much different than the plan that we originally had, but what was different, of course, is how we maintained the body of water. That’s, in my case, the lake itself, and in Councillor CASSIDY’s, of course, it would be the lagoon. We had to desilt. That was the number one thing. You’ve got to desilt because that’s where your nutrients are buried, at the bottom of the lake, and you’re never going to get good water quality unless you get rid of the silt first.

Then, the other thing you’re going to have to do in this lagoon that happened at the lake is you’re going to have to take out those water body plants that should not be in there. They should be replanted with water body plants that actually will absorb nutrients, and at the same time, not become so overgrown that you can’t actually use the lagoon itself. This is what they did out at Forest Lake. They built most of the—a lot of the water plants were around the edge of the lake. They took out the whole stuff and the papyrus, which is probably the worst thing you can ever put in. They took that out. Once they started to do that, of course, things started to improve.

Now, blue-green algae, which of course they have at the lagoon, we’ve got it. We still have it, and sometimes you can’t really do much to reduce that other than to keep your water quality up as best you can, but sometimes that strategy works and sometimes they don’t. Really, optically, if you look at the lake now, as I’m sure the lagoon would look if you would spend the money on it, optically, that looks clean, tidy and healthy. The water quality is healthy at the moment and that’s what can happen out at the lagoon, as well, but unless you invest the money, you’re just not going to get the results that the ratepayers deserved to be able to use this beautiful lagoon, especially during their festival. It must be one of those issues that I’m sure residents bring up to Councillor CASSIDY all the time. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Is there further debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly, just out of respect for Councillor CASSIDY who is unwell today, is my understanding from his colleagues, I think that this is a disrespectful action by the LNP. I don’t believe that it is in the spirit of the code of conduct. I do not believe that Councillor HUANG thought this up on his own. He is the mere vessel of the LNP brains trust that have decided that when a Councillor is sick, they will be petty and try and move a motion that, obviously, that local Councillor cares about. Now, I’ve been the subject of this, as well. I’ll just say that this is another step in the antidemocratic actions of the LNP and, to coin Councillor CASSIDY, it shows the regime is alive and well.

Chair: Any further debate?

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I won’t thank the opposite for their contribution because none of them actually even spoke about Einbunpin Lagoon. They spoke about Councillor CASSIDY and Forest Lake, but the reality is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor COLLIER. I caution you about calling out. I’ve warned you enough today about calling out while another speaker is on their feet.

DEPUTY MAYOR: The reality is, Councillor CASSIDY has spoken already on this motion, and this motion actually now stands as an incompetent motion that we have allowed full debate on, and the local Councillor has already spoken. So, the vitriolic personal attacks by those opposite, who love a good bully, it’s just false.

Chair: Any—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you, Councillors.

Councillors. Is there any further debate?

As there is no further debate, we’ll now put the motion to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Lucy COLLIER and Charles STRUNK called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost.**

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 6 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Ryan MURPHY, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GIVNEY.

Councillor GIVNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise today to highlight the remarkable tradition of the Ekka and the support of medical research through the sale of its strawberry sundaes. As the winds picked up in recent weeks, it was clear that Ekka was drawing near. This beloved event, officially known as the Exhibition, has been a cornerstone of Queensland’s cultural calendar since 1876. Originally established to promote agriculture and celebrate rural achievements, the Ekka has evolved into a vibrant showcase of Queensland’s culture, community and innovation. It now features a range of attractions including amusement rides, live entertainment, diverse food stalls and, crucially, agricultural displays. Notably, fireworks were introduced in 1894, adding to the festival’s night entertainment.

Despite only pausing on four occasions in its history, during the influenza outbreak in 1919, World War II in 1942, and COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the spirit of the Ekka continues. Last year, the event set a record with 300,000 tickets sold. It’s unfortunate that the State Government did not prioritise the reopening of the Ekka train station in time for this year’s event, which may impact numbers this year due to the accessibility for patrons. Since the 1950s, the Ekka’s strawberry sundaes have become an annual icon, featuring locally grown strawberries and Lick Ice Cream, proudly a Brisbane business. For over 35 years, the proceeds of these sales have supported The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation through The Common Good. These funds are crucial for medical research, and many of the 2,000 volunteers involved have personal connections to the medical teams at the Prince Charles.

This year, Councillor WOLFF and I have had the pleasure of volunteering at the sundae stalls and Councillor PARRY is scheduled for later this week. On Sunday evening, my shift supervisor, Marie, informed me that the stalls scoop about 11,000 ice creams a day. Our stall was perfectly positioned next to the spectacular fireworks, and the after-show rush was intense, but efficient procedures ensured the lines moved quickly.

I want to extend my gratitude to the hardworking volunteers who make this annual tradition possible. Looking ahead, the Ekka is set to celebrate its 150th year in 2027. I am confident that it’ll be the most epic celebration yet. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CHONG WAH.

Councillor CHONG WAH: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak about congestion and public transport in Brisbane. During the Chamber’s recess, two important reports were released about congestion and public transport, with both reports highlighting deep, structural failings in Brisbane’s transport strategy and management of our transport system. While it might be uncomfortable for this Council Administration, these reports should be acknowledged and reflected on in these Chambers. An international report, the INRIX Global Traffic Scorecard for 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 was released, analysing traffic congestion data from more than 900 cities around the world.

Commute times were based around major employment centres in metropolitan areas like the Brisbane CBD. This report calculates total congestion relative to the population size of each city. Of 900 cities around the world, this study found Brisbane to be the 12th most congested city in the world. The report also calculated average delays per driver. The lost hours per driver places Brisbane not 12th, but actually 10th worst in the world, with 74 hours lost per commuter per year. What is perhaps most concerning is that the congestion is getting worse, not better, with the latest Brisbane result being 10% worse than the year before.

It is clear that the LNP Administration’s strategy for the last 20 years of actively encouraging people to commute in their private motor vehicles is not working. This Council has been spending billions upon billions of ratepayers’ dollars on continuously expanding roads, while other cities around the world have been focusing on public and active transport to provide viable, cheaper and more efficient ways to commute to work, but this wasn’t the only transport report released over the Chamber’s recess.

The Australian Climate Council also released a major public transport report in July. This study found that of all the major Australian cities, Brisbane has the worst access to all-day frequent public transport services. Only 33% of Brisbane residents live within an 800-metre walk of frequent public transport service. The report found that access to good public transport services in Brisbane ends about eight kilometres from the CBD. For some context, the Brisbane City Council area runs approximately 19 kilometres south from the CBD, more than 18 kilometres north of the CBD, and over 15 kilometres to the east. So, this Administration cannot just blame this report’s data on Logan City Council or Moreton Bay City or Redlands.

As the Climate Council says, “more shared and active transport is a win-win for millions of people who live in our biggest cities, that slashes climate pollution from transport, cuts the cost of living, makes our streets safer and less congested, and cleans up our air.” So, it’s no surprise that our State Government wants to take control of Brisbane’s buses. Brisbane’s transport system is one of the worst in the world. Why? The reason is absolutely because we have had an LNP Administration in power in Brisbane City for the last 20 years. This tired and outdated politics of the LNP have completely failed in their management of this city’s transport system.

Let’s be honest. After 20 years of failure, the Metro is too little, too late. With the State Government’s 50 cent public transport trial, it is crucial that the opportunity is taken to increase capacity through adding additional bus services and bus lines. We have already seen an increase of 10% patronage in the first days of the trial. Now is the time to take action.

The Council Administration must get busy submitting business cases to the State Government for more high-frequency bus services and to create interconnected networks by adding a combination of radial, intersuburban and internodal connections. Our Greens vision is for a total of 43 high-frequency routes, up from 21 currently, allowing residents to get nearly anywhere by bus. We could create 15 new high-frequency routes and upgrade 10 high-frequency routes to double the existing high-frequency network. If this LNP Administration does not utilise this opportunity to increase capacity, then they do not deserve to manage Brisbane’s bus service and we’d be better off managed by the State Government.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak about two things, the first thing is about the new local laws and the second thing is to respond to Councillor HOWARD in relation to the Jugglers Art Space at Tarragindi.

The first thing I’d like to say is, obviously, I’ve been in this Chamber a long time, 21 years, so I’ve seen it all. I’ve seen the behaviour of Campbell Newman. I’ve seen his rantings and ravings. I’ve seen pathetic behaviour in terms of Councillors in this place. I’ve seen bullying. I’ve seen a lot of really unimpressive behaviour, and certainly been on the receiving end of some of it, too. I just want to put on the record that these rules that the LNP have pushed through are totally undemocratic. They’re not good for the city. They’re not good for debate. I understand you want to control things, but it’s actually not good for our democracy. It’s not good for our city. It’s not good for ideas. I suppose one of the things that worries me the most, and I deal with many officers, is people watch this.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Will Councillor GRIFFITHS take a question?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, I won’t take a question.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, will you take a question?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think that’s—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Just to—no?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Oh, sorry.

Chair: I think that’s a no.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I just want to say that Council staff watch this, residents watch this and they are offended by this behaviour, but the behaviour that’s going on here sets a tone through the organisation that employees and executives think are or is acceptable, and it’s not acceptable. There’s a secrecy that is in this Chamber that employees think is acceptable. So, I just want to put that on the record because I have real concerns about what’s happening here now.

Now, I want to get back to—speaking of unacceptable. I just want to talk about deceit and dishonesty. I had a meeting with the Lifestyle Chair, several meetings before the election in relation to the Jugglers Art Space, and we were both on the same page. We have been working together on this, and I noted that she said I was informed about this on Friday. I wasn’t. I had a phone call from a group on Friday saying did you know Council are doing this. Council are reneging on what they told you and what they told us. I wasn’t actually informed by a Council officer until yesterday, after I wrote to them. So, talk about deceitful and dishonest. This is a very serious thing.

The fact that we are looking at removing the top storey of a very intact building—and I’ve been in that building with Scouts Queensland—because it has some asbestos and has a leaking roof is very concerning, but it does deliver what the developer wants of giving clear views for a number of units through to the bushland. So, it does do that, but this is wrong for the community. We should be restoring and looking after our community spaces. We shouldn’t be cutting them in half. I am disgusted by the way I’ve been played with this. I actually thought you had a bit more integrity, Councillor HOWARD.

I am disgusted by what has gone on here, and there is a lot more to this story and it shall come out. I look forward to being at a public meeting where Councillor ADAMS and Councillor HOWARD and the LORD MAYOR can explain what they’re doing with this building. I look forward to hearing about their roles in what has gone on with this development onsite, and then what is going on with this building, because we shouldn’t be losing community infrastructure. We shouldn’t be losing community infrastructure. We shouldn’t be selling off community infrastructure. We should be keeping it and growing it and improving it as a Council.

If you, as LNP Councillors, think you’re working for developers and not for the residents of Brisbane, then I have a real problem with that and I’m going to speak out. I’m going to get that spotlight out and I’m going to shine it in the little crevices and all the places where you guys are doing disreputable things. There are so many things in Council at the moment that are really rotten. I’m really disgusted by this and I’m disgusted by the way this has been handled.

Chair: Any further speakers?

Councillor KIM.

Councillor KIM: Thank you, Chair. I rise to speak about the bequest left by the late and former local State Member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, who donated to the Brisbane First Chinese Scouts. The Chinese Scouts are one of two around town, with one club tailoring to Mandarin-speaking families and the Brisbane First group tailoring towards those who speak Cantonese. They invited me last Saturday to take a look at the tents they bought using half the bequest, and created a certificate of appreciation for me to deliver to Duncan’s parents and also his brothers. It’s great to know these tents will be used by the kids who come from local families, and although the Scouts are actually located in Councillor Steven HUANG’s ward, many of the families who attend the hut are also from Councillor Kim MARX’s and my ward.

I wanted to recognise the work of the Scouts and sincerely thank them for remembering Duncan’s contribution and his legacy. Duncan had also left bequests for many other community groups in my local area that he’d worked with over his terms, which he presented after his passing. Over the time of his terminal diagnosis, in my opinion, it was his love for community groups, his passion for working with legends like Gary, Sam and Winnie, meeting awesome people every day that kept him going for much longer than originally informed. He met people in his office right up until the end.

So thank you, Brisbane First, Chinese Scouts for a pretty beautiful weekend, and I look forward to seeing you again and generally for the community groups we all have in our local area, we’re lucky to have so many volunteers to do thankless jobs and love giving back. I know that’s the case for the Wong family who run the Scouts and have a history doing Scouts in Hong Kong before doing the same over here. Earlier on this year, I also attended their annual presentation, a showcase of their great work and accomplishments. I also said that I look forward to continuing on Duncan’s and James Martin’s strong support they had for the Scouts, as well as local Members, Peter Russo and Graham Perrett. We’re all with you.

So, I look forward to joining the Scouts for their anniversary dinner at Landmark in October this year, and know all of the Council will continue to show strong support for them from all sides of the Chamber. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, just briefly, I rise to speak on Council’s commitment to zero waste and, in particular, compost caddies. Earlier today, I asked Councillor HUTTON a question in the City Standards Committee about the status of compost caddies, and I just thought I’d add to her knowledge of this issue where she didn’t believe me this morning. So, I have an email here from Waste dated Thursday 13 June—that’s two months ago today—and it says, unfortunately, there are no available stock for kitchen caddies for community composting hubs, as we have had a sudden rush on the caddies. We are in the process of obtaining more stock. However, the date of arrival is currently unknown. They note my request and we’ll be notified. That is exactly eight weeks ago today.

Now, my staff have also followed up and there is still no timeframe for the composting caddies. So, when Councillor HUTTON stands up in this place and says this Council is committed to zero waste, the evidence of that is contrary to what she says in that it has cut the FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) program and can’t be bothered to supply kitchen caddies for the only composting program that Council does offer for households. Two months on, we still have no idea when myself and other Councillors will be restocked. So, eight weeks today and I’m sure it’s going to be much longer. I look forward to your response next week.

Chair: Further speakers?

As there are no further speakers, we’ll now move to the notice of motion and item eight on the agenda.

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION:

*(Notified motions are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

### WALTER TAYLOR BRIDGE VEHICLE ACCESS

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, would you please move the motion?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Just a point of order before we commence, Madam Chair.

Chair: Yes, what’s your point of order?

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you. Could you confirm I have 10 minutes to introduce the motion?

Chair: No, it’s five. Thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Could you please point me to the rule in the Meetings Local Law so I’m aware of what that is, please?

Chair: Yes, I can do that. Just one moment.

Okay, so 48, Time limits, “a Councillor shall speak for no more than five minutes unless the Council otherwise resolves.”

Councillor JOHNSTON: Apologies, I just couldn’t hear. Section?

Chair: That’s all right. I’ll get the—what page number is it? It’s on page 33 and it’s 48(1) under Division 9. It’ll have the time limit there, Councillor.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you very much. Thank you. It’s just—okay, thank you.

**44/2024-25**

Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON moved, seconded by Councillor Seal CHONG WAH—

*That Brisbane City Council maintains access for vehicles during proposed maintenance works on the Walter Taylor Bridge in September.*

Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor JOHNSTON: I rise on this important issue today because of the LNP’s failure to properly communicate with the residents of Brisbane. There are significant issues with what was provided to me on Friday, and it is now important that Council addresses the concerns that I have and the community has about the unexpected full closure of the Walter Taylor Bridge from 13-30 September. Now, we all heard the LORD MAYOR’s dishonest comments here earlier today. Instead of engaging on the practical issues to impact on—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I believe that that adjective is an opinion and is imputing motive and should be withdrawn.

Chair: It has been used quite a bit throughout the debate and I did caution earlier that it wasn’t necessarily the best language to use, so I will ask if you could consider rephrasing, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: The LORD MAYOR certainly engaged in dishonest commentary today, false commentary today that does not aid in the important issues that we need to address.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Madam Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: That is still imputing motive. Just because Councillor JOHNSTON doesn’t agree with the LORD MAYOR does not make him dishonest.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

It is insinuating—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: It is insinuating and imputing motive, Councillor JOHNSTON, so I think—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I think that you need to—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Are you making a—

Chair: I think you need to be careful about making accusations like that because it is actually your opinion, okay? Councillor JOHNSTON, I think you want to get to your reason for your motion—

Councillor JOHNSTON: I do, and I understand the LNP don’t want me—

Chair: —but I would ask you to refrain from making those assumptions.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Thank you for taking up my time, and that’s what Councillor ADAMS is doing. I completely understand what’s happening here, and she continues to interject repeatedly through this, and Councillor HUTTON’s laughing. It’s her residents that are going to cop the abuse of what happens in September, and it’s Councillor WOLFF who thinks that this is a short and unproblematic bridge closure in her posts.

I want to put on record my concerns, and these are in writing to the CEO of Council. Firstly, I’m suggesting that Brisbane City Council investigate whether or not the maintenance works can be moved to January, approximately 5-18 January, as it’s a much quieter time of year with limited sport, university and school events. (2) consider making Legacy Way free to provide alternative city access in recognition of the lengthy detour accessing the city and to prevent further pressure being added to the already highly congested South Brisbane and Annerley access to the expressway.

(3) urgently investigate with Cook Street and Oxley Road whether Cook Street and Oxley Road can cope with the expected traffic volumes and consider temporary traffic lights or other traffic management measures to ensure this local east-west connection remains safe and accessible. (4) urgently investigate temporary local traffic calming through the back streets of Corinda and Oxley.

(5) immediately clarify and provide a map outlining the route of the detour at Honour Avenue, Chelmer, and the impact of local streets in Chelmer. (6) immediately clarify for residents in Chelmer with driveways north of Bridge Street, inside the proposed road closure area, what their access is. (7) immediately improve pedestrian and bike access to the Jack Pesch Bridge which currently is serviced by a staircase. Immediately provide cycling and pedestrian detour plans for southside residents to safely access the Jack Pesch Bridge. Urgently confirm whether ambulances will be able to use the Jack Pesch Bridge for emergency access, given they are wider than two metres.

Immediately come clean with Brisbane residents about the future lifespan of the Walter Taylor Bridge, because Councillor Andrew WINES on ABC Radio told Brisbane residents the lifespan of the Walter Taylor Bridge was 15 years. You want to talk about a major stuff-up and misinformation? The Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee does not know what the lifespan of the Walter Taylor Bridge is.

Further, note and deal with the fact that elderly, disabled residents will have no access to public transport as Sherwood rail station does not have a lift and there is no universal access, plus there is a long, uphill walk from Indooroopilly rail station to meet disability standards. Putting pedestrians and cyclists on the Jack Pesch Bridge with cars will put them at risk. Closing the bridge will cause critical health and hospital services in the western suburbs to be severed from residents. Note that the detours proposed via congested roads that are subject to major construction, including the existing Centenary Motorway upgrade and the Moggill Road upgrade.

Note that there is no right turn from Honour Avenue to Bridge Street, the actual proposed detour by Brisbane City Council, and no clear or safe plans for diversions other than through the narrow residential streets of Chelmer, putting residents’ safety at risk. Clarify what emergency services can use the Jack Pesch Bridge. Clarify whether the Taylor Bridge playground and park will remain open to the public. Provide a construction management plan so we know what to expect, and make sure there’s better notification to residents. These are the issues this Council needs to address and they’re ignoring.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman, and I rise to speak on this motion. Madam Chairman, in this Chamber, we’d normally receive a number of motions, those being competent, those being incompetent. I think this is a first. This would be technically impractical motion, and for reasons why the LORD MAYOR stated earlier today. What we do have to remember is that the Walter Taylor Bridge concrete decking is a replacement of a timber decking. It is basically custom engineered concrete to replace the old timber decking. So, when you look at the construction of the bridge, the fixing points are at either end and in the centre of the road. If you are working on the joints in the centre of the road, you cannot maintain access for the bridge. You have to close it. You have to maintain a safe workspace. This is why the bridge needs to be closed.

Additionally, Madam Chairman, the sealant that is used, as per the briefing note, has a very, very long curing time. Now, the reason why you don’t want any vehicles travelling over the deck while the sealant is curing is because, what does vibration do to a liquid? It aerates it. What is the job of a sealant? To keep air and water out. So, for this reason, having vibration on the bridge while the sealant is going through the curing phase is impractical. It’s not possible. It’s important that we do seal the bridge because one thing that we know from concrete is that, if the moisture gets into the concrete, concrete suffers from concrete cancer, correct.

Additionally, putting down the sealant underneath the new surface needs to be sealed so the water doesn’t enter the concrete decking platforms. Additionally, as well, having concrete beams replacing the timber, concrete expands at a completely different rate than timber. We are talking about a bridge that was designed with timber decking and it was engineered, re-engineered back in 1993 with concrete decking. So, the expansion rates between the concrete and the timber are different. Therefore, maintaining those joints is highly, highly important.

One thing I do know, Madam Chairman, is with the number of bridges that have been replaced in my ward—and some of them have taken a few years and some of them have taken up to six months—the important thing is that the lifespan of the bridge is maintained and sometimes extended by regular maintenance. This is regular maintenance to ensure that a valuable piece of Council infrastructure is going to keep Brisbane moving for the next 30, 40, 50, 60 years. This is important because, as we know, that western corridor that runs through that area not only feeds people from the north to the south, but also cyclists such as myself, we use the River Loop. It’s an important connector. We love doing that on a Sunday morning.

This is why all of this is important and this is why, Madam Chairman, this motion is technically impractical. The bridge must close so the work can be done. It’s important that this work is done because we are keeping Brisbane moving. We made a commitment as a team to keep Brisbane moving, and that is what we will continue to do, Madam Chairman. Thank you.

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thanks, Madam Chair. It was interesting to hear Councillor TOOMEY speak then. I’m rising to speak in support of the motion before us, to say that it is likely that this work will work for the next 40, 50 or 60 years. Can you please show us the reports? Can you please table the reports so that we can actually judge that for ourselves? Can you actually show us a report that says, this has to happen in the school holidays in September? This is urgent. Where is the urgency? Where are the reports? What have you been doing for the last 20 years if you haven’t been maintaining this bridge? This motion makes perfect sense to me. If I was the Councillor for that area, I would be wanting to know why I wasn’t consulted.

It seems standard practice now in the bureaucracy that Councillors aren’t consulted. Well, certainly Opposition Councillors aren’t consulted. LNP Councillors are consulted, and then it goes out for consultation before you’ve even seen it, Councillor JOHNSTON. How bad is that? Oh no, that’s standard practice under these hillbillies. So, there’s no consultation with local Councillors. They’re not listening to the suggestions and the needs of the local community, and we are seeing wrong and bad decisions made. This is a major river crossing point for my residents, for your residents and for residents on the other side. Do we hear anything from the Councillor over there? Crickets.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That’s why she’s an LNP Councillor, because she doesn’t question anything. You just go along with the crew, with your fellow hillbillies. This is shocking. This shouldn’t be done at this time of year. This should be done at Christmas when it’s quiet, when residents have the opportunity to make plans when our roads aren’t used and congested. This is just such a poor decision. It’s a decision that this Council is going to really regret and it’s going to be something that, certainly, Councillor JOHNSTON and Mark Bailey, the local MP (Member of Parliament), will take up. They’ll get the community involved and they will show the hicksville thinking of this Administration. They will show it up because it’s just getting worse and worse.

God only knows what it’s going to be like if the LNP return to State Parliament. We saw what happened last time the LNP were in State Parliament. That went well for you. I can only see really bad governance happening if we see another group of hillbillies in the State Chamber. I support what Councillor JOHNSTON is doing. I support this motion. We need to be using our common sense and look at rescheduling this to January when it’s quieter, when residents have more time to plan, when we have more time to close the road and prepare for this work that needs to be done. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Further speakers? No further speakers.

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you to both Councillors who contributed to the debate. I thank Councillor GRIFFITHS for reminding us of some of the key issues here. The timing is not immediate. We haven’t been told that the bridge is at imminent collapse. We haven’t been told there’s a problem with the bridge, other than these are—and to quote Councillor TOOMEY and Councillor WINES—routine maintenance works. So, the decision has been made to do this work in September, providing residents who still don’t even have a flyer or any information about this in their letterboxes—less than a month’s notice, closing an arterial road that carries up to 35,000 vehicles a day.

Now, it’s a bit rich from Councillor TOOMEY to stand up in here and say, I’ve been through bridge closures. I recall the Gresham Street Bridge, there was a temporary bridge built to maintain access for the few hundred residents who live in St John’s Wood, and his residents got a temporary bridge so that they could go across. Now, there’s not even any kind of consideration being given to residents in Tennyson Ward to provide them with a bus service that provides universal access. This is what we’re talking about.

So, I will say the following, Councillor Andrew WINES is hiding on this issue, and I understand why he’s sent Councillor TOOMEY out there after his disastrous ABC Radio interviews. He cannot get his facts and figures right. He has scared the bejesus out of everybody by saying there’s only a 15-year lifespan left in the Walter Taylor Bridge. I don’t know what Councillor TOOMEY’s quoting from. The last time there were major bridge repairs, we were told it would extend the life of the bridge for 80 years. So, is it 15 or is it 80? I don’t know.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, table the documents, but here are the big issues that need to be addressed by this Council. It is not good enough. It is not good enough that the LORD MAYOR stands up and simply attacks me for raising critically important issues for the community that I represent. He is the LORD MAYOR. He couldn’t even be bothered to be here. The timing of the bridge was a Council decision. It is clearly supported by the LORD MAYOR and the LNP. It does not address the needs of our local community, and strong consideration should be given to looking at an alternate date.

The reason that that should happen is because of all the issues that I have outlined today around how this road closure for the Walter Taylor Bridge for 17 days will adversely impact on our local community. Elderly people will not have access to public transport, because there are stairs at the train station they’re going to be dumped at. There is no actual detour at the detour point. So, I look forward to telling all the Chelmer residents on the high side of Chelmer that their street, in addition to being an everyday rat run, they’re not even going to get the benefit of the bridge being closed because all the detoured traffic on Honour Avenue is going to have to turn left into Hanlan and into Victoria or Laurel Avenue. They’re going to love that.

This Administration has simply failed to look at how the traffic will impact on the existing road network. Cook Street and Oxley Road is a car park at the best of times. All of this traffic—and it might not be 35,000, it might be 20,000 vehicles a day. Let’s say half of them go up Cook Street. How on earth is Seventeen Mile Rocks Road going to cope with another 10,000 vehicles a day, or Cook Street? It is just insane. It’s bad planning, and the problem with this Council is they did this in secrecy. They did this in secrecy. If there had been engagement with me, with Councillor WOLFF—and perhaps there was. She’s silent on this issue. Perhaps she knew all about it, because I know there was money in the Council budget for roadworks on the bridge, and yes, we did ask questions and get information, but guess what? Council knew then that they were going to close the bridge for three months and they did not tell a soul.

It is clear to me that this has been in the planning for many months. There are serious, serious deficiencies with what is planned, and I urge Council to take a step back and make sure that this does not hurt residents. I don’t want anyone to die because they cannot get to hospital, because it will take 20 minutes to get an ambulance. We don’t have an ambulance depot close by. I do not want to see cyclists or children left at train stations or stuck.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s not good enough.

Chair: We’ll now put the motion to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Seal CHONG WAH called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost.**

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 6 - Councillors Lucy COLLIER, Steve GRIFFITHS, Emily KIM, Charles STRUNK, Seal CHONG WAH and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 15 - The DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Lisa ATWOOD, Fiona CUNNINGHAM, Tracy DAVIS, Alex GIVNEY, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sandy LANDERS, Kim MARX, Danita PARRY, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES and Penny WOLFF.

Chair: As there is no further business, I declare the meeting closed.

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 5.38pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Senior Council and Committee Officer)

Ethan Van Roo Douglas (Policy Advisor)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer)