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Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Tuesday 17 June 2025 Richmond Town Hall *Corrected by resolution on Tuesday 8 July 2025

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

"Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future."

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors:

- o Cr Stephen Jolly Mayor
- o Cr Sarah McKenzie Deputy Mayor
- Cr Evangeline Aston
- o Cr Andrew Davies
- o Cr Kenneth Gomez
- o Cr Sharon Harrison
- \circ Cr Meca Ho
- Cr Sophie Wade
- Absent
- o Cr Edward Crossland Parental Leave

Council staff:

Chief Executive Officer

o Sue Wilkinson

General Managers

- o Brooke Colbert Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
- Sam Hewett Infrastructure and Environment

Corporate Services

- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman
 City Sustainability and Strategy
- Lucy Roffey

Governance

- Phil De Losa
 Manager Governance and Integrity
- Patrick O'Gorman Ser
 - Senior Governance Coordinator
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

3. Announcements

The Mayor advised that the next Ordinary Council Meeting in July will be held at Fitzroy Town Hall. We will be alternating between both Fitzroy and Richmond Town Halls for our meetings. The Planning Decisions Committee Meeting in July will also be at Fitzroy Town Hall and also now streamed.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Cr Aston, Cr Davies, Cr Gomez, Cr Jolly, Cr Harrison, Cr Ho, Cr McKenzie, Cr Wade declared that they had familiarised themselves with the matters being presented to this meeting and that they do not have a conflict of interest.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez

Seconded: Councillor Harrison

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13 May and Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2025 be confirmed.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

6. Question Time

This record is provided from members of the public upon registration and also asked during Question Time and the responses provided is not a transcript of proceedings. A recording of the Council Meeting is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting.

The following questions were asked:

1. Phillip Connole

Question:

Will this council consider rescinding the previous Council's resolution of 9 April 2024 when it was decided to cease street cleaning, drain cleaning and hazard removal on State Government owned roads?

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided the following response:

From 1 July 2024 at the request of the Department of Transport and Planning, Council stopped street cleaning, open space maintenance, drain cleaning and hazard response service delivery on State Government-owned roads and we were advised that these services will be provided directly by the State.

Council's rate payers were meeting the cost of servicing these State Government assets to the tune of \$many hundreds of thousands per year and this cost shifting by the State to Yarra's rate payers was considered unacceptable. After much advocacy, the State is starting to meet its full obligations to maintain its assets (like mowing State-owned medians). If you believe the State is not meeting its obligations to a particular asset, you can let officers know and we'll pass on requests to the State.

There is no plan to rescind Council's previous decision.

2. Victoria Chipperfield:

As the question related to the budget agenda item, it was disallowed by the Chair under Rule 53.5.1 of the Governance Rules.

3. Glenn Morrison:

Question:

Does a Council road manager have the ability to refuse heavy vehicle usage of residential streets as per National Heavy Vehicle Law when there is a safe alternative route and I'd like a yes or no answer to this question. If they do have that ability then when will Council take action and get Piedimonte semi-trailers off BSN, Park Street and Birkenhead street.

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided the following response:

You've asked variations of this question at Council's meeting of March, April and May this year and we've also had a long conversation by phone on a similar issue. I would refer you to the answers I gave on those occasions. But in short, Council's main intervention to restrict heavy vehicle movements in local streets is via infrastructure it may build in those streets. If you have a practical and implementable intervention you think could work please let us know.

4. Nancy Molloy:

Question:

Why does Council make decisions in areas that will directly affect the disabled community without consulting with them first and, in particular, why has Council ignored concerns I have raised a number of times in writing and at Council meetings regarding the Empower Program.

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided the following response:

As I've explained previously (including in writing, in this chamber and when we met for coffee) Council's investment in the Empower program has increased over the past 5 years. The program is relatively popular and we think it is meeting community need.

We've gone from running 4 classes a week to 14. Currently, class occupancy is sitting at around 30%, so there's plenty of room for anyone who wants to get involved.

5. Dhammithalal Goonewardene:

Question:

We complained re removal and replanting the 9 trees existing in harmony with the environment, in front of 144 Brighton Street, Richmond for over 40 years, suddenly, without community consultation, without transparency in the decision-making process, reducing the tree canopy in the location in contravention of stated Council policy to the contrary.

We have provided all Councillors, evidence and information to support our request for a change to the number and size of the replacement trees.

When can we have their complete response, addressing the detailed evidence and information provided to the Councillors (Yarra reference 250613-000347)?

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided the following response:

Any decision to remove a tree is not made lightly and is only made on the recommendation of a qualified arborist. In this case, a qualified arborist determined that the root balls of the Jacaranda trees were coming up out of the ground and therefore compromising their structural integrity. This presented an unacceptable risk to property and human health of the local community. We acted swiftly to protect property and ensure community safety.

Our typical approach to informing locals about tree removal is to letterbox drop to the adjacent properties with 5 day's notice of the works. I am satisfied that this occurred on this occasion.

The trees that were previously at the front of your property were inappropriate for the space. The tree species was too large and too densely planted for a nature strip, particularly where there are overhead services. We have replaced them with species that are much more suitable for the growing spaces.

6. Sascha Jesaulenko-Ash:

Question:

Are council staff required to notify the CEO before performing their own investigation into fraudulent conduct?

The Mayor provided the following response:

If you suspect any fraud and corruption, you can report it to IBAC (Independent Broadbased Anti-corruption Commission).

7. Kate Drake:

Question:

Can you tell me if it was a one tender or multiple tender process for any tenders over \$30 million in the last 18 months with Council?

The General Manager Corporate Services provided the following response:

Within the last 18 months there have not been any tenders over the value of \$30 million.

8. Anthony Pertile:

Question:

My question relates to the Old Heidelberg Road proposal. What is the process for the current Yarra Councillors to re-exam, re-assess, amend and or cancel decisions made by past councillors?

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided the following response:

The Council has made a lawful decision in the previous few years and the decision relating to the removal of the gate over Old Heidelberg Road, a public road, the Council's decisions was that those gates should be removed. I intend to take those gates down unless there is a different decision. To create a different decision the council would need to instruct me to bring a vote before this chamber, take a different decision and instruct me to proceed in another way. So without a different decision we are intending to remove the gates in September this year.

The Mayor also added:

Councillors at any time can overturn a decision of the past council, they can move a motion, general business motion or notice of motion. I would like to say I am extremely comfortable with the decision made by the last council and I for one would definitely not be moving a change.

7. Council Business Reports

7.1. – Adoption of Council Plan 2025-29 and 2025/26 Action Plan

AuthorEmily Woodin – Coordinator Business Planning and PerformanceAuthoriserGeneral Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Service

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the 2025-29 Council Plan.
- 2. Adopts the 2025 Community Vision Reflection and Update.
- 3. Adopts the Strategic Indicator Performance Metrics.
- 4. Adopts the 2025/26 Council Plan Action Plan.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Aston

Seconded: Councillor Gomez

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the 2025-29 Council Plan.
- 2. Adopts the 2025 Community Vision Reflection and Update.
- 3. Adopts the Strategic Indicator Performance Metrics.
- 4. Adopts the 2025/26 Council Plan Action Plan.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor McKenzie

Seconded: Councillor Wade

- 1. Adopts the 2025-29 Council Plan, <u>with the addition of the following wording on page 13</u> to replace the words from "We'll deliver this future through existing plans and strategies" to the end of this section:
 - (a) We remain committed to tackling the climate emergency and reducing its continued impact on our city and community. We'll deliver this by embedding climate responses throughout all of Yarra's operations, and through our existing and future plans, strategies and policies, including:
 - (i) <u>Climate Emergency Plan; and</u>
 - (ii) <u>Transport Strategy and Action Plan.</u>

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- For: Councillor McKenzie and Councillor Wade
- Against: Councillor Jolly, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison and Councillor Ho

LOST

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Aston

Seconded: Councillor Gomez

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the 2025-29 Council Plan.
- 2. Adopts the 2025 Community Vision Reflection and Update.
- 3. Adopts the Strategic Indicator Performance Metrics.
- 4. Adopts the 2025/26 Council Plan Action Plan.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

7.2. 2025-26 Annual Budget

Author Dennis Bastas – Manager Financial Services

Authoriser General Manager Corporate Services

Officer Recommendation

- 1. Following a community engagement process conducted in accordance with its community engagement policy, notes that:
 - (a) the Budget and Financial Plan have been updated to reflect the March 2025 operating and capital forecasts;
 - (b) engagement activities for the Council Plan 2025-2029 and updated Yarra Vision 2036 were used to inform the Budget, Financial and Revenue and Rating Plan; and
 - (c) the following additional allocations have been made to the Annual Budget 2025-2026 following its community consultation process:
 - (i) \$50,000 for maternal and child health service improvements;
 - (ii) \$50,000 for new turf at Flockhart Reserve;
 - (iii) \$35,000 for improvements at North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House;
 - (iv) \$10,000 for the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund;
 - (v) \$10,000 contribution to the Richmond West Primary School anniversary murals project; and
 - (vi) \$10,000 contribution to the Yarra Primary School drinking troughs.
- 2. Notes that the budget also includes an allocation of up to \$200,0000 to the Collingwood Children's Farm for tree removal (subject to Council approval) and public toilet refurbishment, and in addition:
 - (a) Notes that the final total funding allocation will be determined by the CEO following receipt of formal quotations and agreement on scope of works but will not exceed \$200,000;
 - (b) Rescinds 11 March 2025 Council, Item 7.2 Strengthening the Community Grants Program, Recommendation 5. Part (b) relating to Young Farmer's Program decision (\$75,393); and
 - (c) Requests that officers conduct a review of the Young Farmer's Program and provide a further report to Council regarding its local community benefit and impact, before future funding commitments are made by Council.
- 3. Adopts the Annual Budget 2025-2026 (shown as **Attachment One**) to meet the legislative requirements of section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- 4. Adopts the Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 (shown as **Attachment Two).**

- 5. Adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan (shown as **Attachment 3**).
- 6. Notes the financial impact of both waste charges (Public and Household) charges being capped at the rate cap for 2025-26.
- 7. Authorises transfers (subject to available funds at 30 June 2025) \$2.5 million to each of the following reserves from operating surplus (in line with Council's Financial Sustainability Strategy):
 - (a) Risk Mitigation Reserve; and
 - (b) Strategic Growth Reserve.
- 8. That Council declares the rates and charges, as per section 4.1 of the attached budget document (**Attachment One**), of \$145,986 million as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:

Table 1. 2025-26 Rates and Charges

Category	\$000
General Rates	\$121, 917
Public Waste Charge	\$6,906
Household Waste Charge	\$15,671
Service rates and charges	\$115
Special rates and charges	\$223
Supplementary Rates and rate adjustments	\$1,000
Interest on rates and charges	\$600
Revenue in lieu of rates	-
Council Pension Rebate	(\$425)
Cultural & Recreational Lands and EPU's	(\$21)
Total Rates and Charges	\$145,986

- 9. That Council advises in respect to General Rates:
 - (a) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2025-26 financial year;
 - (b) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
 - (c) a percentage of 0.035499471 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as 0.035499471 cents in the NAV dollar;
 - (d) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$215.91 for 2025-26.
- 10. That Council:
 - (a) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2025-26 financial year, and
 - (b) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the Annual Budget 2025-26, Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2025-34 and Revenue and Rating Plan if required.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Ho

- 1. Following a community engagement process conducted in accordance with its community engagement policy, notes that:
 - (a) the Budget and Financial Plan have been updated to reflect the March 2025 operating and capital forecasts;
 - (b) engagement activities for the Council Plan 2025-2029 and updated Yarra Vision 2036 were used to inform the Budget, Financial and Revenue and Rating Plan; and
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- 2. Notes that the budget also includes an allocation of up to \$200,0000 to the Collingwood Children's Farm for tree removal (subject to Council approval) and public toilet refurbishment, and in addition:
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- 6. Notes the financial impact of both waste charges (Public and Household) charges being capped at the rate cap for 2025-26.
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Revenue in lieu of rates	-
Council Pension Rebate	(\$425)
Cultural & Recreational Lands and EPU's	(\$21)
Total Rates and Charges	\$145,986

- 9. That Council advises in respect to General Rates:
 - (a) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2025-26 financial year;
 - (b) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
 - (c) a percentage of 0.035499471 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as 0.035499471 cents in the NAV dollar;
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- 10. That Council:
 - (a) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2025-26 financial year, and
 - (b) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the Annual Budget 2025-26, Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2025-34 and Revenue and Rating Plan if required.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor McKenzie

Add in a new clause 4:

Further to adopting the 2025-26 Annual Budget, Council commit to making a once-off \$10,000 contribution to the Heidelberg SES unit from its operational budget within the 2025-26 financial year, with the CEO to provide an update in Council's first quarterly community report of the 2025-26 financial year outlining how this additional cost was funded from operational savings.

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and incorporated into the motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Ho

- 1. Following a community engagement process conducted in accordance with its community engagement policy, notes that:
 - (a) the Budget and Financial Plan have been updated to reflect the March 2025 operating and capital forecasts;
 - (b) engagement activities for the Council Plan 2025-2029 and updated Yarra Vision 2036 were used to inform the Budget, Financial and Revenue and Rating Plan; and
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- 2. Notes that the budget also includes an allocation of up to \$200,0000 to the Collingwood Children's Farm for tree removal (subject to Council approval) and public toilet refurbishment, and in addition:
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- (c) Requests that officers conduct a review of the Young Farmer's Program and provide a further report to Council regarding its local community benefit and impact, before future funding commitments are made by Council.
- 3. Adopts the Annual Budget 2025-2026 (shown as **Attachment One**) to meet the legislative requirements of section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- 4. Further to adopting the 2025-26 Annual Budget, Council commit to making a once-off \$10,000 contribution to the Heidelberg SES unit from its operational budget within the 2025-26 financial year, with the CEO to provide an update in Council's first quarterly community report of the 2025-26 financial year outlining how this additional cost was funded from operational savings.
- 5. Adopts the Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 (shown as Attachment Two).
- 6. Adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan (shown as **Attachment 3**).
- 7. Notes the financial impact of both waste charges (Public and Household) charges being capped at the rate cap for 2025-26.
- 8. Authorises transfers (subject to available funds at 30 June 2025) \$2.5 million to each of the following reserves from operating surplus (in line with Council's Financial Sustainability Strategy):
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Revenue in lieu of rates	-
Council Pension Rebate	(\$425)
Cultural & Recreational Lands and EPU's	(\$21)
Total Rates and Charges	\$145,986

- 10. That Council advises in respect to General Rates:
 - (a) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2025-26 financial year;
 - (b) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
 - (c) a percentage of 0.035499471 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as 0.035499471 cents in the NAV dollar; and

(d) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$215.91 for 2025-26.

11. That Council:

- (a) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2025-26 financial year, and
- (b) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the Annual Budget 2025-26, Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2025-34 and Revenue and Rating Plan if required.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison and Councillor Ho
- Against: Councillor Wade

CARRIED

7.3. Linear Parklands Master Plan Development

Author Brett Grambau – Manager City Works

Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Linear Parklands Masterplan to proceed to community consultation in collaboration with Merri-bek Council.

Public Submission

Diana Coutney addressed Council on the matter.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez Seconded: Councillor Jolly

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Linear Parklands Masterplan to proceed to community consultation in collaboration with Merri-bek Council.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor Wade Seconded: Councillor McKenzie

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the draft Linear Parklands Masterplan to proceed to community consultation in collaboration with Merri-bek Council.
- 2. <u>Include an optional question in the consultation asking community members whether</u> <u>they would like, as part of the Linear Park Masterplan, to see the park expanded through</u> <u>closure of local roads to cover:</u>
 - (a) <u>both Brunswick St North and Rae St;</u>
 - (b) Brunswick Street North only;
 - (c) <u>Rae St only; and</u>
 - (d) <u>neither Brunswick St North nor Rae St.</u>

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- For: Councillor McKenzie and Councillor Wade
- Against: Councillor Jolly, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison and Councillor Ho

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor Wade

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the draft Linear Parklands Masterplan to proceed to community consultation in collaboration with Merri-bek Council.
- 2. <u>Include an optional question in the consultation asking community members whether</u> <u>they would like, as part of the Linear Park Masterplan, to see the park expanded through</u> <u>closure of local roads to cover:</u>
 - (a) both Brunswick St North and Rae St; and
 - (b) <u>neither Brunswick St North nor Rae St.</u>

LAPSED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez

Seconded: Councillor Jolly

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Linear Parklands Masterplan to proceed to community consultation in collaboration with Merri-bek Council.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

LOST

7.4. Fairfield Park Playground		
Author	Aimee Pilven – Senior Landscape Architect and Open Space Planner	
Authoriser	General Manager Infrastructure and Environment	

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives the feedback in relation to the draft Fairfield Park concept plan and thanks the community for their involvement.
- 2. Endorses the final concept plan for the upgrade and expansion of Fairfield Park playground.
- 3. Authorises officers to complete the design, tender and construct the project subject to seeking the relevant approvals and the adoption of the 2025/26 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor McKenzie

Seconded: Councillor Aston

That Council:

- 1. Receives the feedback in relation to the draft Fairfield Park concept plan and thanks the community for their involvement.
- 2. Endorses the final concept plan for the upgrade and expansion of Fairfield Park playground.
- 3. Authorises officers to complete the design, tender and construct the project subject to seeking the relevant approvals and the adoption of the 2025/26 budget.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

7.5. Quarries Park Dog Off-leash Area Upgrade

AuthorAimee Pilven – Senior Landscape Architect and Open Space PlannerAuthoriserGeneral Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives the feedback in relation to the draft Quarries Park dog off-leash area concept plan and thanks the community for its involvement.
- 2. Endorses the final concept plan for the upgrade of Quarries Park dog off-leash area.
- 3. Authorises officers to complete the design, tender and construct the project in 2025/26, subject to the adoption of the budget.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Mary Guiney on behalf of Suzana Bozic; and

Matthew Crisfield.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)

Moved:	Councillor Harrison	Seconded:	Councillor Davies
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That the item be deferred to the July 2025 Ordinary Council meeting.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- For: Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez and Councillor Harrison
- Against: Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Wade

LOST

- 1. Receives the feedback in relation to the draft Quarries Park dog off-leash area concept plan and thanks the community for its involvement.
- 2. Endorses the final concept plan for the upgrade of Quarries Park dog off-leash area.
- 3. Authorises officers to complete the design, tender and construct the project in 2025/26, subject to the adoption of the budget.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor McKenzie

Add in a new clause 4:

<u>Calls for a report by February 2026 on progress of the delivery of the recent road safety</u> <u>improvements in Clifton Hill and Alphington and outlines any suggested future safety</u> <u>interventions that Council might consider.</u>

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and incorporated into the motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly Seconded: Councillor Wade

That Council:

- 1. Receives the feedback in relation to the draft Quarries Park dog off-leash area concept plan and thanks the community for its involvement.
- 2. Endorses the final concept plan for the upgrade of Quarries Park dog off-leash area.
- 3. Authorises officers to complete the design, tender and construct the project in 2025/26, subject to the adoption of the budget.
- <u>4.</u> Calls for a report by February 2026 on progress of the delivery of the recent road safety improvements in Clifton Hill and Alphington and outlines any suggested future safety interventions that Council might consider.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- For: Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Councillor Davies and Councillor Harrison

CARRIED

7.6. Road Management Plan Review		
Author	Ashleigh Tomkins – Coordinator Strategic Asset Management	
Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment		

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes the draft Road Management Plan and review report.
- 2. Endorses the draft Road Management Plan for community consultation from 23 June to 21 July 2025.
- 3. Receives an updated and final Road Management Plan for consideration and adoption prior to 31 October 2025.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez

Seconded: Councillor Harrison

That Council:

- 1. Notes the draft Road Management Plan and review report.
- 2. Endorses the draft Road Management Plan for community consultation from 23 June to 21 July 2025.
- 3. Receives an updated and final Road Management Plan for consideration and adoption prior to 31 October 2025.

Councillor McKenzie left the meeting at 8.47pm

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8.49pm

The meeting resumed at 8.55pm

Councillor McKenzie returned at 8.55pm

7.7. Amendment to the Alphington Paper Mill Development Plan

Author Amy Hodgen – Senior Coordinator Statutory Planning

Authoriser General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

 Approves the amendment to the Building Staging Plans within the Alphington Paper Mills Development Plan received by Council on 29 August 2024 re-categorising the land at Nos. 3-7 Latrobe Avenue, Alphington (previously 1 Latrobe Avenue, Alphington) from Building Stage B to Building Stage C.

Public Submission

Simon Gilbertson addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor McKenzie

Seconded: Councillor Aston

That Council:

 Approves the amendment to the Building Staging Plans within the Alphington Paper Mills Development Plan received by Council on 29 August 2024 re-categorising the land at Nos. 3-7 Latrobe Avenue, Alphington (previously 1 Latrobe Avenue, Alphington) from Building Stage B to Building Stage C.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade

Against: Nil

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Author Kirti Madan – Property Project Officer

Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the commencement of a public Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the lease of Burnley Cottage, consistent with the preferred use and assessment criteria co-developed with the Burnley Cottage Advisory Committee, as detailed in this report.
- 2. Requests officers to provide a further report to Council upon the conclusion of the EOI process, outlining the recommended tenant and lease terms for Council's consideration and endorsement.
- 3. Thanks those community members who previously made submissions on the possible future uses of the Burnley Cottage and thanks those people who were members of the Burnley Cottage Advisory Committee and who have assisted the Council with its decision making.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Harrison

Seconded: Councillor Davies

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the commencement of a public Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the lease of Burnley Cottage, consistent with the preferred use and assessment criteria codeveloped with the Burnley Cottage Advisory Committee, as detailed in this report.
- 2. Requests officers to provide a further report to Council upon the conclusion of the EOI process, outlining the recommended tenant and lease terms for Council's consideration and endorsement.
- 3. Thanks those community members who previously made submissions on the possible future uses of the Burnley Cottage and thanks those people who were members of the Burnley Cottage Advisory Committee and who have assisted the Council with its decision making.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade

Against: Nil

7.9. Transitioning Major Festivals from Community Grants to Funding and Service Agreements

Author Penny Kyprianou – Festival and Events Officer

Authoriser General Manager Community Strengthening

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the proposal to establish the new funding and service agreements from FY26 through a limited Expression of Interest (EOI) by invitation to current event organisers responsible for the delivery of Victoria Street Lunar Festival, Johnston Street Fiesta, Gertrude Street Projection Festival and Victoria's Pride.
- 2. Authorises the CEO, on behalf of Council, to finalise funding and service agreements with successful applicants, subject to their application and demonstration of meeting the key performance outcomes as detailed in this report, as follows:
 - (a) Victoria Street Lunar Festival two-year agreement:
 - (i) FY26 funding of \$36,050 and in-kind support valued at \$127,983;
 - (ii) FY27 funding of \$37,131 and in-kind support valued at \$130,443;
 - (b) Johnston Street Fiesta two-year agreement:
 - (i) FY26 funding \$36,050 and in-kind support valued at \$154,745;
 - (ii) FY27 funding of \$37,131 and in-kind support valued at \$157,854;
 - (c) Gertrude Street Projection Festival based on the alternative model proposed one year agreement for FY26 – funding of \$36,050 and in-kind support valued at \$30,000; and
 - (d) Victoria's Pride one year agreement FY26 in-kind support valued at \$34,000.

Public Submission

Ha Nguyen addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Aston

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the proposal to establish the new funding and service agreements from FY26 through a limited Expression of Interest (EOI) by invitation to current event organisers responsible for the delivery of Victoria Street Lunar Festival, Johnston Street Fiesta, Gertrude Street Projection Festival and Victoria's Pride.
- 2. Authorises the CEO, on behalf of Council, to finalise funding and service agreements with successful applicants, subject to their application and demonstration of meeting the key performance outcomes as detailed in this report, as follows:
 - (a) Victoria Street Lunar Festival two-year agreement:
 - (i) FY26 funding of \$36,050 and in-kind support valued at \$127,983;
 - (ii) FY27 funding of \$37,131 and in-kind support valued at \$130,443;
 - (b) Johnston Street Fiesta two-year agreement:
 - (i) FY26 funding \$36,050 and in-kind support valued at \$154,745;
 - (ii) FY27 funding of \$37,131 and in-kind support valued at \$157,854;
 - (c) Gertrude Street Projection Festival based on the alternative model proposed one year agreement for FY26 – funding of \$36,050 and in-kind support valued at \$30,000; and
 - (d) Victoria's Pride one year agreement FY26 in-kind support valued at \$34,000.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

7.10. Proposed Discontinuance of Road abutting 99 - 101 Bridge Road Richmond

Author Kirti Madan – Property Project Officer

Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Officer Recommendation

- 1. Acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act) and having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act:
 - (a) resolves, considering that the road abutting 99 101 Bridge Road, Richmond, being part of the land contained in certificate of title volume 6083 folio 496 and shown on the title plan attached as Attachment 2 (road) is not reasonably required for public use for the reasons set out in this report, to discontinue the road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
 - directs that, once discontinued, the road be transferred to the owner 99 101 Bridge Road, Richmond (applicant) for market value (plus GST) and which will be placed into Council's strategic reserves;
 - (d) authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Environment to sign any transfer or transfers of the road and any other documents required to give effect to this resolution;
 - (e) directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the road by any authority and not be affected by the discontinuance of the road; and
 - (f) directs that the applicant be required to consolidate the title to the discontinued road with the land contained in the certificates of title to the surrounding land, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued road.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Harrison

Seconded: Councillor Davies

That Council:

- 1. Acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act) and having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act:
 - (a) resolves, considering that the road abutting 99 101 Bridge Road, Richmond, being part of the land contained in certificate of title volume 6083 folio 496 and shown on the title plan attached as Attachment 2 (road) is not reasonably required for public use for the reasons set out in this report, to discontinue the road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
 - directs that, once discontinued, the road be transferred to the owner 99 101 Bridge Road, Richmond (applicant) for market value (plus GST) and which will be placed into Council's strategic reserves;
 - (d) authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Environment to sign any transfer or transfers of the road and any other documents required to give effect to this resolution;
 - (e) directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the road by any authority and not be affected by the discontinuance of the road; and
 - (f) directs that the applicant be required to consolidate the title to the discontinued road with the land contained in the certificates of title to the surrounding land, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued road.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

7.11. – Contract Award - C1805 Bushland Maintenance Services

Author Lisa Coffa – Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation

Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Officer Recommendation

- 1. Awards contract C1805 Bushland Maintenance Services to ______ for:
 - (a) A lump sum annual fee in 2025/26 of \$_____ (excluding GST) and subject to annual CPI increases for bushland maintenance services;
 - (b) Additional operational and capital works and rewilding services to be charged at the tendered schedule of rates (subject to CPI increases), noting that the value of any additional works and services will be subject to Council's annual budget allocation;
 - (c) A principal contract term of four years with two x two-year options (for a maximum contract term of eight years); and
 - (d) A maximum contract expenditure sum over the 8 years of the contract not exceeding \$17,000,000.
- 2. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure & Environment to sign the contract documentation on behalf of Council.
- 3. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure & Environment to exercise the contract extensions, when they fall due and where satisfactory performance has been demonstrated.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Harrison

Seconded: Councillor Davies

That Council:

- 1. Awards contract C1805 Bushland Maintenance Services to <u>Felix Botanica Pty Ltd</u> for:
 - (a) A lump sum annual fee in 2025/26 of <u>\$770,000</u> (excluding GST) and subject to annual CPI increases for bushland maintenance services;
 - (b) Additional operational and capital works and rewilding services to be charged at the tendered schedule of rates (subject to CPI increases), noting that the value of any additional works and services will be subject to Council's annual budget allocation;
 - (c) A principal contract term of four years with two x two-year options (for a maximum contract term of eight years); and
 - (d) A maximum contract expenditure sum over the 8 years of the contract not exceeding \$17,000,000.
- 2. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure & Environment to sign the contract documentation on behalf of Council.
- 3. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure & Environment to exercise the contract extensions, when they fall due and where satisfactory performance has been demonstrated.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

7.12. Governance Report - June 2025

Author Patrick O'Gorman – Senior Governance Coordinator

Authoriser General Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Service

Officer Recommendation

- 1. In accordance with the resolution of Council from the 26 November 2024 Council meeting, the location of Ordinary Council meetings be rotated between Fitzroy Town Hall and Richmond Town Hall in 2025 for the following dates:
 - (a) Fitzroy Town Hall:
 - (i) Tuesday 8 July, Tuesday 9 September and Tuesday 11 November; and
 - (b) Richmond Town Hall:
 - (i) Tuesday 12 August, Tuesday 14 October, Tuesday 16 December
- 2. Hold the scheduled 22 July 2025 Planning Decisions Committee at Fitzroy Town Hall.
- 3. Commence the livestreaming of Planning Decisions Committee meetings from July onwards.
- 4. That in the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the instrument of delegation at Attachment One, Council resolves:
 - (a) there be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument;
 - (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked; and
 - (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 5. That in the exercise of the power conferred by s11(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 Council resolves:
 - (a) there be delegated to the members of the Planning Decisions Committee the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation to Members of the Planning Decisions Committee at Attachment Three, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument;

- (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of the Planning Decisions Committee are revoked; and
- (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 6. Adopt the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols) incorporating the changes set out in Attachment Three.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez Seconded: Councillor Harrison

- 1. In accordance with the resolution of Council from the 26 November 2024 Council meeting, the location of Ordinary Council meetings be rotated between Fitzroy Town Hall and Richmond Town Hall in 2025 for the following dates:
 - (a) Fitzroy Town Hall:
 - (i) Tuesday 8 July, Tuesday 9 September and Tuesday 11 November; and
 - (b) Richmond Town Hall:
 - (i) Tuesday 12 August, Tuesday 14 October, Tuesday 16 December
- 2. Hold the scheduled 22 July 2025 Planning Decisions Committee at Fitzroy Town Hall.
- 3. Commence the livestreaming of Planning Decisions Committee meetings from July onwards.
- 4. That in the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the instrument of delegation at Attachment One, Council resolves:
 - (a) there be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
 - (b) the instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument;
 - (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked; and
 - (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 5. That in the exercise of the power conferred by s11(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 Council resolves:
 - (a) there be delegated to the members of the Planning Decisions Committee the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation to Members of the Planning Decisions Committee at Attachment Three, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;

- (b) the instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument;
- (c) on the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of the Planning Decisions Committee are revoked; and
- (d) the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 6. Adopt the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols) incorporating the changes set out in Attachment Three.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

8. Notices of Motion

8.1. – Notice of Motion No.7 of 2025 - Opposition to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Author

Councillor Jolly

Motion

- 1. Authorises the Mayor to write to the State government expressing Council's opposition to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), especially as it's to be increasingly used for non-core activities such as the salaries of top executives like the Secretary of Department of Justice and Community Safety, the Secretary of VicForests and the CEO of Emergency Management, all currently paid from consolidated revenue.
- 2. Includes a message with the rates notices clearly indicating that the ESVF is a State government levy that they are forcing Councils to collect for them and that Council totally opposes the ESVF and is campaigning to end it.
- 3. Seeks legal advice from a firm not connected to the State government as to whether we can refuse to collect the ESVF, the possibility of a legal challenge to the instruction to collect the ESVF, and any other options.
- 4. Reaches out to other Councils and interested groups to collectively advocate against this levy.
- 5. Receives an officer report on the estimated amount to be collected across municipality and the financial risk to Council if significant numbers of property owners refuse to pay the levy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Davies

That Council:

- 1. Authorises the Mayor to write to the State government expressing Council's opposition to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), especially as it's to be increasingly used for non-core activities such as the salaries of top executives like the Secretary of Department of Justice and Community Safety, the Secretary of VicForests and the CEO of Emergency Management, all currently paid from consolidated revenue.
- 2. Includes a message with the rates notices clearly indicating that the ESVF is a State government levy that they are forcing Councils to collect for them and that Council totally opposes the ESVF and is campaigning to end it.
- 3. Seeks legal advice from a firm not connected to the State government as to whether we can refuse to collect the ESVF, the possibility of a legal challenge to the instruction to collect the ESVF, and any other options.
- 4. Reaches out to other Councils and interested groups to collectively advocate against this levy.
- 5. Receives an officer report on the estimated amount to be collected across municipality and the financial risk to Council if significant numbers of property owners refuse to pay the levy.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison and Councillor Ho
- Against: Councillor McKenzie and Councillor Wade

CARRIED

8.2. – Notice of Motion No.8 of 2025 - Built to Rent Exemption from Public Open Space Contributions

Author

Councillor Jolly

Motion

That:

1. The Mayor write to the Premier and the Minister for Planning outlining Councils strong opposition to the current exemption from public open space contributions enjoyed by Built to Rent developments and to request immediate review of the State Planning controls to ensure all developments contribute to open space.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Wade

That:

1. The Mayor write to the Premier and the Minister for Planning outlining Councils strong opposition to the current exemption from public open space contributions enjoyed by Built to Rent developments and to request immediate review of the State Planning controls to ensure all developments contribute to open space.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

9. Petitions and Joint Letters

9.1 Petition – Brunswick Street North

Reference: D25/200412

A petition containing 94 signatures from residents are requesting that Council reconsider any plans to close Rae Street as part of the Linear Parkland Masterplan as it would impact on traffic congestion on Brunswick Street North.

We request the following actions:

- <u>Do not close Rae Street at Linear Park, or</u>
- <u>implement identical treatments to Rae Street and Brunswick Street North. We</u> <u>request that if Rae Street is closed, that same be done to Brunswick Street North to</u> <u>improve liveability and safety of pedestrians, residents and cyclists.</u>

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez Seconded: Councillor Wade

That the petition be accepted, noted and referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Davies left the meeting at 10.03pm.

10. Questions without Notice

10.1 – Councillor Wade – Yarra Planning Scheme

Question:

Noting the resolution of Council from the 11 February 2025 Council meeting that a further report be provided to Council in August 2025 outlining potential changes to the Yarra Planning Scheme aimed at reducing planning permit triggers for businesses, will this report also consider licensing and planning provisions that may impact the establishment of LGBTIQA+ venues in the municipality?

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided the following response:

The report that is coming to Council in August is going to look at how we can cut the red tape for local businesses and that will of course also benefit LGBTIQA+ businesses within the municipality.

Councillor Davies returned to the meeting at 10.04pm.

11. Delegates Reports

Nil.

12. General Business

Nil.

13. Urgent Business

Nil.

14. Confidential Business Reports

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)

Moved: Councillor Gomez Seconded: Councillor Aston

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to allow consideration of the following confidential items:

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

14.1. Contract Extensions (C1510, C1511 and C1613) Capital Works Delivery and Maintenance Services

Author	Danny Millican – Senior Coordinator Traffic Engineering
Authoriser	General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez Seconded: Councillor Aston

That Council:

- 1. Approves the extension of panel contracts C1510 (6 contractors), C1511 (6 contractors) and C1613 (5 contractors) for a period of two years to support the continued delivery of the Capital Works Program.
- 2. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Environment to execute the contract extensions, sign the necessary contract documentation and exercise any remaining extension options, subject to satisfactory contractor performance.
- 3. Makes Council's decision public.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Davies, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Nil

14.2. C1681 ERP SaaS ERP Platform - Commercial in Confidence

Author	Ivan Cubela – ERP Program Director
Authoriser	General Manager Corporate Services

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gomez Seconded: Councillor Harrison

That Council:

- 1. Awards contract C1681 to Technology One software licensing to: TechnologyOne Limited ABN84 010 487 180.
- 4. Makes public the name of the contractor Technology One as the successful provider of the ERP SaaS solution but all other information related to the contract is to remain commercial in confidence.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

- **For:** Councillor Jolly, Councillor McKenzie, Councillor Aston, Councillor Gomez, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Ho and Councillor Wade
- Against: Councillor Davies

CARRIED

Following consideration of Confidential Business, the meeting resumed in open session.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded a 10:17pm.

Confirmed on Tuesday 8 July 2025

Mayor