

FORWARDED MINUTES



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday 17 June, 2025
6:30 PM**

**Council Chamber
Level 1
Footscray Town Hall
61 Napier St, Footscray**

MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Pradeep Tiwari (Chair)
Councillor Cuc Lam
Councillor Samantha Meredith
Councillor Mohamed Semra
Councillor Bernadette Thomas
Councillor Elena Pereyra
Councillor Susan Yengi

To be confirmed at the Council Meeting
to be held on 22 July, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Commencement of Meeting and Welcome	5
2. Apologies	5
3. Leave of Absence	5
4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest.....	5
5. Public Question Time	7
6. Confirmation of Minutes.....	15
6.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 20 May 2025.....	15
6.2. Confirmation of Minutes - 26 May 2025.....	16
7. Reports from Committees.....	16
7.1. Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee - 11 March 2025.....	16
7.2. Footscray Park Advisory Committee - Update from Committee Chair, Councillor Semra.....	17
8. Petitions.....	19
8.1. Petition: Proposed changes to parking arrangements in Newell Street\.....	19
9. Officer Reports	20
9.1. Adoption of Annual Budget 2025/2026.....	20
9.2. Draft Council Plan 2025-2029	22
9.3. Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035.....	23
9.4. Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.....	23
9.5. Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035	24
9.6. Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029.....	24
9.7. Proposed Closure of Part of Market Street, West Footscray	25
9.8. Proposed Lease - 19 Hocking Street Footscray - Bulldogs Community Children's Centre.....	27
9.9. Bellairs Park Concept Plan 2025.....	29
9.10. Council Submission to Port of Melbourne Draft Port Development Strategy 2055	30
9.11. Community Recovery Committee.....	31
9.12. Heritage Advisory Committee Membership Appointment	31
9.13. Maribyrnong City Council - 2024 Local Government Election Report.....	32
9.14. Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2025 - Annual Progress Report	32
9.15. Community Grants Program - Acquittal Report 2023/24	33

9.16. Governance Report - May 2025	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10. Notices of Motion	33
11. Councillor Question Time	33
12. Urgent Business	33
13. Confidential Business	33
14. Meeting Closure	34

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 6:39pm.

The Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari made the following acknowledgement statement:

"Maribyrnong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays its respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging".

PRESENT

Councillor Pradeep Tiwari (Chair)
Councillor Cuc Lam
Councillor Samantha Meredith
Councillor Mohamed Semra
Councillor Bernadette Thomas
Councillor Elena Pereyra
Councillor Susan Yengi

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive Officer, Celia Haddock
Director Customer and Corporate Services, Lucas Gosling
Acting Director Community Life, Francesca O'Brien
Director Infrastructure Services, Patrick Jess
Director Planning and Environment, Mike McIntosh
Manager Governance and Commercial Services, Phil McQue
Coordinator Governance, Christopher Southavong
Governance Officer, Michelle McCulloch

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Mohamed Semra declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to agenda item 9.8, Proposed Lease - 19 Hocking Street Footscray - Bulldogs Community Children's Centre, with the material interest being his past and potential employment with Western Bulldogs Community Foundation.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC VOTING AND RECORDING

The Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari advised that Council is introducing electronic voting for its meetings.

Rather than voting by a show of hands, Councillors will be invited to cast their votes electronically, with Councillor votes being displayed on the screen.

Electronic voting will provide a clear record of the voting record for each item in Council's minutes.

This initiative is part of Council's ongoing commitment to best practice governance, integrity and transparency in our decision-making processes.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was moved by Cr Bernadette Thomas, seconded by Cr Cuc Lam, that Council suspend Standing Orders.

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

The Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari, acknowledged Ms Gaynor Morris, mother of Sarah Carter, who was present in the Chamber.

In March 2025, Council resolved to undertake a number of initiatives to commemorate former Mayor and Councillor, Sarah Carter. One of these initiatives was to display Sarah Carter's Mayoral Robes, which were generously donated to Council by her family.

Council has formally recognised the displaying of Sarah Carter's Mayoral Robes in the Council Chamber, to commemorate her 16 years of service to Maribyrnong Council, including three Mayoral Terms, in 2011, 2020 and 2023.

Ms Gaynor Morris acknowledged the displaying of Sarah Carter's Mayoral Robes.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was moved by Cr Bernadette Thomas, seconded by Cr Cuc Lam, that Council resume Standing Orders.

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time commenced at 6:50pm and 24 questions were received.

Carlo Dellora asked the following questions:

1. The development on Hopkins Street has been less than ideal. I was wondering what the council is planning to do to rectify this. One option that appears plausible would be planting trees along the wide footpath of Hopkins Street where the new development has taken place, this would add much needed greenery in the area as well as diverting the wind (which is a particular problem)?
2. What is the Council doing to increase the number of trees in Footscray and surrounding areas?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising there have been a number of trees planted as a part of the Joseph Road redevelopment. As part of Council's urban forest strategy will be looking at further opportunities to increase tree canopy in the area.

3. The Footscray Plaza area remains a dangerous and threatening environment. What is the council doing to assist those who need help while making the area safer for residents?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising Council is aware of the issues raised and is working to address these with the police, local businesses, and other authorities, agencies and social support services who all play a role in creating a safe and welcoming environment for residents, workers and visitors.

The issues in Footscray are complex, and unfortunately there is no simple solution. The State Government is responsible for the provision of support services for people who are experiencing homelessness, the provision of policing for community safety and the provision of services to assist people with mental health needs.

For context, being homeless or gathering in a public place is not illegal in Victoria. However, Council works closely with Victoria Police and the department of Families, Fairness and Housing to address the complex issues around homelessness and broader community safety. We also work with community service organisations such as CoHealth and Unison Housing.

Council is working hard to improve safety and amenity for all, focussing our resources on the Footscray CBD. This includes footpath cleaning, waste and graffiti removal and public domain improvements like street furniture. Council also supports a wide range of community and commercial organisations that hold events and festivals to activate the Mall and encourage people to visit.

Pauline Ashton asked the following questions:

1. Are residents in the City of Maribyrnong permitted to add soil and/or other materials to raise the ground level of a property zoned LSIO in Maribyrnong, for example a garden or unimproved area, where that area is empty or without any built structures (works)?
2. If the answer to Question 1 is yes, does Council by itself or by referral to Melbourne Water, require a permit for these works?

Response:

The Director Planning and Environment responded by advising a planning permit is required for works within a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay including any change to the natural or existing condition of topography of the land. There may be exemptions for works related to gardening and we suggest you contact the City Planning Department with specific details for advice.

Jennifer Chemay asked the following questions:

1. Given that the June 10 2025, deadline for the removal of the Anglers Tavern car park containers has passed, can you provide a clear explanation for the significant delay in both enforcement and communication regarding this ongoing issue, including what specific enforcement actions is the Council currently taking?
2. What is the firm timeline for the complete removal of these containers from the Anglers Tavern car park?
3. What proactive measures will the Council implement to identify and address similar planning breaches in the future, reducing reliance on community complaints?

Response:

The Director Planning and Environment responded by noting work with the owners and operators of Anglers Tavern to have the shipping containers removed, is continuing.

As previously advised to the submitter, Council is unable to provide specific details regarding enforcement actions we have taken due to privacy reasons but the options open to us include fines, enforcement order applications to VCAT and/ prosecution via the Courts, or a combination of these.

The operators have advised that they need additional time to organise for removal of the containers and we have been assured that they will be removed by the end of July 2025. We will continue to monitor the site.

Lisa Quinsee asked the following questions:

1. How can you ensure that our private property, families, our community, and bridge infrastructure are insured against flood damage caused by illegal containers, unsecured kegs, and large commercial bins, especially considering that The Anglers Hotel and many residents along the river corridor, including myself, do not have flood insurance?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising generally speaking it is understood that the liability for damage caused by structures on, or moved from private property, lies with the property owner from which it came. Therefore it is in their interests to ensure that containers, kegs and bins are appropriately secured to avoid potential liability. Of course, this advice is of a general nature and should not be taken as legal advice. Specific legal advice to establish who is responsible is always recommended in determining liability if and when the particular circumstance occurs.

2. The Anglers Hotel is not sanctioned as a nightclub, however, it is advertised as one, promotional material/videos promote a nightclub and a dance party hosted in the sports bar Christmas Eve. It looks like a nightclub, operates as a nightclub - patrons drunk, passed out etc. Why it is allowed to operate as a pseudo nightclub?

Response:

The Director Planning and Environment responded by advising The Anglers Tavern in a longstanding hotel, originally established prior to the 1870s and as such it holds existing use rights as a hotel or bar. These uses allow for consumption of liquor and food, entertainment and dancing. This existing use right prevents Council from controlling the general use of the premises.

3. Can council advise why The Anglers Tavern not seek the correct authority/permit to open pits, connect commercial pumps when they recently put in large pipes and overflow into our river beds? Melbourne Water cannot explain this.

Response:

The Director Planning and Environment noted that Council is unable to explain whether the works were undertaken by Anglers Tavern or another entity and cannot explain why they didn't get permission, if it was required.

Thomas Foreman asked the following questions:

1. Can the CEO please confirm whether Council's decision to conclude that "Council is not proposing to take any further action in relation to this petition at this time" — without any direct communication with the petition lead — was appropriate and procedurally sufficient, given the scale and subject matter of the petition (that has received 966 signatures) and if not, what corrective actions will be taken to ensure transparency, notification, and petition lead engagement in future deliberations of this kind?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising Council did not consider it necessary to meet with the lead petitioner on this matter, nor is it a requirement for Council to do so. Council undertook its due diligence into the potential acquisition of this site. Council acknowledges the significance of this site, however it has concluded that it is required to take a balanced economic, social and sustainable City-wide approach towards both open space and Council's Open Space Reserve within the municipality.

Council also has several land holdings within the Footscray CBD, which could potentially be the subject of strategic redevelopment in future years, and therefore investment in the purchase of additional sites is not considered financially prudent at this time.

2. Can Council please clearly outline the procedural steps and criteria required for the potential acquisition of the subject site (63–67 Nicholson Street, Footscray) to be formally approved?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising that Council, in considering any strategic land acquisition, is bound by the Local Government Act 2020, Council's Property Sale, Transfer and Acquisition Policy and Council's Community Engagement Policy.

There are also numerous other matters to consider in any potential strategic land acquisition, inclusive of best practice and legislative requirements, transparency and community engagement requirements, certified market valuations, best value principles and the financing of any proposed acquisition.

Council is also guided by its Council Plan 2021- 2025, Annual Budget 2024/25 and 10 Year Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31 in considering strategic matters, such as land acquisitions.

Any strategic land acquisition would be subject to statutory community engagement.

3. Has Council undertaken any analysis of the long-term cost of inaction — including future land acquisition costs, public health, amenity, access inequity, and liveability impacts?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded that as previously advised in the May 2025 Governance Report, Council undertook due diligence on this matter and has determined not to take any further action on this matter.

Warren Penna asked the following three questions:

1. Why is the Footscray Park 2011 Masterplan Review Advisory Committee being asked by Council to consider reviewing the Quarry Park Master Plan when they are not mandated to make such a decision or to change the Terms of Reference?
2. Quarry Park was never mentioned within the scope and only mentioned in the background identified with surrounding parks. How is the process in line with the Council motion and the intent to build public trust in delivering a focused Footscray Park Masterplan?
3. The Quarry Park Master Plan 2016 is only 8 years into its lifetime. What is the agenda here and why is Quarry Park even being discussed at this advisory committee?

Response:

The Director Infrastructure Services responded by noting that at the 21 May 2024 Council Meeting, Council adopted the Footscray Park Master Plan Review Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

In the body of this report there is a section on Quarry Park and specifically notes "The integration of Quarry Park into the broader Footscray Park Masterplan recognises the symbiotic relationships between the parkland zones from a sporting, passive use, major event and management perspective, ensuring that the community experience of the site is at the forefront of planning"

Further at its 10 September 2024 meeting, Council appointed the Footscray Park Master Plan Review Advisory Committee Members. Again in the body of this report, review of the 2016 Quarry Park Master Plan is specifically mentioned as part of the scope.

With the consent of Councillors, the Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari extended Public Question Time by 15 minutes at 7:04pm.

Luke Atmey asked the following questions:

1. Could the Council please advise when the results of the community survey on additional Local Laws, conducted via the Your City Your Voice platform during March and April 2025, will be made publicly available?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising Council Officers are aiming to brief the Councillors on the first phase of community engagement and survey results and present a draft of proposed changes in July this year with a view to seek community comment on the proposed draft Local Law. The material available for the second phase of public consultation will include the results of the community survey undertaken earlier this year.

2. Given that over two months have passed since the survey closed, can the Council confirm whether the community feedback received will be published in full and what steps are being taken to ensure transparency in this consultation process?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising the results will be made available as part of the next phase of consultation on the draft local laws.

3. Will the Council commit to regularly updating the community on the progress and outcomes of public consultations regarding proposed Local Law changes, including how community input informs final decisions?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising the next phase of the review our Local Law will be to seek Council endorsement for public exhibition during the months of July and August. Feedback from this process will inform the final draft of the Local Law which will be reported publicly for Council to adopt in November this year.

Jacqui Tol asked the following questions:

1. In relation to the change to the lease agreement for Bulldogs Childcare, how does Council intend to ensure best value for the community when the profit will be leaving the community and going to a commercial entity?

Response:

The Director Customer and Corporate Services responded by noting Council has not determined this matter and is listed for tonight's agenda.

Maribyrnong City Council has a Lease and Licensing Policy which has been developed to meet a number of objectives as outlined on page 3 of the Policy. Under this policy, Council can enter into occupancy agreements for one or more principles as outlined on page 7 of the Policy, one of which includes making its properties available for commercial or private purposes, for activation or financial community benefit. A copy of this policy is available on Council's website. No determination has yet been made in regards to a provider.

2. Additionally, when there's increased public awareness of the issues inherent in a commercial/for-profit provider, Why do Council think it's appropriate to allow the community to risk the same issues and lack of quality, no matter the imaginary guarantee identified by the Western Bulldogs?

Response:

The Director Customer and Corporate Services responded by advising that as with any leasing arrangement, not for profit or commercial, due diligence is required as part of the process. Council is only determining whether to enter into a leasing arrangement with the Western Bulldogs and the specific conditions associated with the lease as attached to tonight's agenda.

Winston Payne submitted three questions

The Chair advised that the third question was considered a statement rather than a question and in accordance with Council's Governance Rules had not been accepted and will not be read out at the meeting.

1. On Sunday morning, a man wearing ankle bracelet stabbed and stomped on the head of an older man in Nicholson Street Mall, Footscray. I read in the newspaper the man was a freed immigration detainee. The victim is 60 years old man and maybe won't survive. This is very scary for me and my family. Footscray already has too much social housing and many violent crimes before. What is Council doing to make the streets safer for everyone?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer responded by advising Maribyrnong Council is actively addressing safety concerns in the Footscray CBD through several initiatives:

1. *Community Safety and Wellbeing Action Plan: The council is developing a comprehensive action plan to enhance community safety. This plan involves collaboration with police, community groups, and state and federal governments.*
2. *Increased Outreach Services: The council is lobbying the state government for more outreach services to address issues related to drug use, homelessness, and mental health.*

3. *Enhanced Policing and Crime Prevention: There is a focus on improving policing and crime prevention measures in the area. This includes working closely with local police to ensure a safer environment.*
4. *Community Engagement: The council is engaging with the community to understand their concerns and gather feedback. This helps in tailoring safety measures to meet the specific needs of Footscray residents.*
5. *Maintenance and Cleanliness: Efforts are being made to improve the maintenance and cleanliness of the Footscray CBD, which includes better footpath maintenance, road repairs, and cleaning public spaces.*

These are just some of the steps which are part of a broader strategy to create a safer and more welcoming environment in Footscray.

2. I have sent many emails to politician Katie Hall and elected councillors but never get reply. I worry maybe something wrong with the email system. Can IT department please check if councillors are really getting emails from the community?

Response:

Councillor Susan Yengi and Councillor Samantha Meredith responded by noting whilst they have not received any correspondence from the submitter, they welcomed Mr Payne and any other member of the community to contact Councillors via their contact details on the Council website, to discuss any matters of concern.

The Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari declared Public Question Time closed at 7:11pm.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

As provided for under Clause 19 and Clause 22.8 of Council's Governance Rules, the Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari sought the consent of the meeting to amend the order of business to move Item 9.16 - Governance Report - May 2025 forward to be considered before Item 6 – Confirmation of Minutes.

The Council consented to this amendment to the Order of Business.

9.16. Governance Report - May 2025

Maribyrnong City Council's Governance Report is a monthly standing report which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Note the May 2025 Governance Report; and*
- 2. Endorses the naming of the Town Hall Meeting Room G.4 as the Les Twentyman Room, in response to Council's Notice of Motion 2025/04.*

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Mohamed Semra

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 20 May 2025

To present the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025 for confirmation.

Council Resolution

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025.

Moved: Cr Samantha Meredith
Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

6.2. Confirmation of Minutes - 26 May 2025

To present the minutes of the Hearing of Budget Submissions held on 26 May 2025 for confirmation.

Council Resolution

That Council confirms the minutes of the Hearing of Budget Submissions held on 26 May 2025.

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.1. Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee - 11 March 2025

To present for noting the confirmed minutes of the 11 March 2025 Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the confirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 March 2025.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

7.2. Footscray Park Advisory Committee - Update from Committee Chair, Councillor Semra

As Chair of the Footscray Park Master Plan Advisory Committee, I'm pleased to provide an update on our ongoing review of the 2011 Master Plan. I'm joined in this work by Cr Samantha Meredith, who serves as the committee's substitute representative. Alongside local stakeholders and passionate community members, we're working together to ensure the plan reflects the current needs and aspirations of our community while preserving the park's character for generations to come.

Footscray Park is fondly known as "the People's Park" and rightly so. It's one of the largest and most intact examples of Edwardian-era park design in Australia. With its sweeping views of the Maribyrnong River, heritage-listed arbours, ornamental ponds, and expansive lawns, Footscray Park holds immense historical, cultural, and environmental value. It's a rare and treasured green space in the inner west.

Open space like this is essential to our wellbeing, particularly in a rapidly growing and changing municipality. Footscray Park is a place where people come together, to walk, play, celebrate, rest, and connect with nature. Our responsibility as custodians of this space is to protect and preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Since 2004, my family and I have enjoyed everything this park has to offer. I've witnessed my own family members taking their wedding photos beside the ponds, shared countless BBQs, and gone on endless walks through the gardens. For so many of us, Footscray Park isn't just a park, it's part of our personal story.

I'd like to also provide an update on some key recent developments that reflect the progress being made:

- Western Lawn Redevelopment – A major \$8.1 million investment has turned what was effectively a salt plain into a vibrant, accessible community lawn. This aligns with the 2011 Master Plan's intent to create an active use precinct and provides much-needed open space for recreation.
- Henry Turner South Pavilion – Officially opened in 2023, this \$8 million facility has significantly enhanced the precinct. It's multipurpose, female-friendly, and built with inclusivity and flexibility in mind — serving a range of sporting and community needs.
- Footscray Ponds Restoration – Stage one is now complete. Works have included irrigation upgrades, garden bed reinstatement, and installation of safety barriers, all guided by the findings of a recent safety audit. Restoration of the historic arbours and improvements to water treatment will begin in the new financial year.
- Quarry Park – Capping works are currently underway, further strengthening our commitment to environmental management and public safety at an approximate cost of \$2.8M.

Footscray Park continues to be a major events destination. The New Year's Eve celebration held here was a standout moment for the community, drawing thousands of locals and visitors to celebrate in this iconic space.

In closing, the current review of the master plan is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Footscray Park as a shared space — one that's welcoming, accessible, and protected for all. I look forward to continuing this important work with the advisory committee and our broader community to ensure Footscray Park remains the People's Park — today and into the future.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the update provided by Councillor Semra, Chair of Footscray Park Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

8. PETITIONS

8.1. Petition: Proposed changes to parking arrangements in Newell Street

The purpose of this report was to table a petition received in relation to a request changes to parking arrangements in Newell Street, between Nicholson & Moore Street.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Petition: Proposed changes to parking arrangements in Newell Street (between Nicholson Street and Moore Street); and*
- 2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to consider the petition and determine the appropriate response.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1. Adoption of Annual Budget 2025/2026

For Council to adopt the 2025/2026 Annual Budget and Striking of the Rate.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1.
 - a) *Notes the Proposed Budget 2025/2026 Submissions, shown at Attachment 3;*
 - b) *Having considered the submissions received and those heard at the Budget Submission Hearing on 26 May 2025, resolves to include the following items to receive funding for the 2025/2026 financial year:*
 - *\$20,000 for Maribyrnong River & Waterways Association (to expand community outreach and strengthen strategic alignment);*
 - *Increase the annual Neighbourhood houses allocation by \$10,000 each;*
 - *Angliss Neighbourhood House;*
 - *Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House;*
 - *Duke Street Community House;*
 - *West Footscray Neighbourhood House and*
 - *Yarraville Community Centre*
 - c) *Thank all submitters and requests the Chief Executive Officer to advise submitters in writing of the outcome of the Proposed Budget 2025/2026 submission process.*
2. *Adopts the Annual Budget 2025/2026 and the subsequent three years, as shown in Attachment 1;*
3. *Declares \$120,100,399 as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates and charges.*
 - a. *The general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.*
 - b. *The following differential rate amounts for the rating period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026:*
 - *Residential properties (100%) – 0.00267150*
 - *Commercial properties (135%) – 0.00360700*
 - *Industrial properties (160%) – 0.00427400*
 - *Vacant land – residential (200%) – 0.00534300*
 - *Vacant land - commercial (300%) – 0.00801500*
 - *Vacant land - industrial (300%) – 0.00801500*
 - *Cultural and recreational properties (100%) – 0.00267150*

4. *Declare a Municipal Charge of \$20.00 for each rateable property for the rating period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026;*
5. *Declare a waste management service charge for waste collection and disposal on each rateable property and non-rateable properties, where the service is provided for the period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026.*
 - a) *Waste Management charge 1 – 2 services \$292.30*
 - b) *Waste Management charge 2 – 3 services \$352.30*
6. *Grants a rebate to a maximum of \$230.00 to all City of Maribyrnong residents eligible to receive a concession through the State Government Municipal Rates Concession Scheme;*
7. *Each owner of rateable land who meets the eligibility criteria a rebate of 50% on residential vacant land whose current differential is 200% to residential ratepayers (noting this rebate does not apply for the State Government Fire Service Levy) where:*
 - a) *a Certificate of Occupancy Permit has been issued within 18 months of the completed building demolition; or*
 - b) *the development has been impacted by a construction company being placed into administration and a Certificate of Occupancy Permit has been issued within 48 months of the completed building demolition ; and*
8. *Notes that interest on unpaid rates will be charged in accordance the Local Government Act (currently 10%).*

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

Cr Meredith left the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Cr Meredith returned to the meeting at 7:41 pm.

9.2. Draft Council Plan 2025-2029

To seek Council endorsement to commence community engagement on the draft Council Plan 2025-2029, in conjunction with the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Asset Plan and Financial Plan.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft Council Plan 2025-2029, shown at Attachment 3, for the purpose of community engagement; and*
- 2. Notes that following the community engagement process, a final report will be presented to Council in August 2025 to adopt the Council Plan 2025-2029.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Cr Mohamed Semra

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

Cr Thomas left the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Cr Thomas returned to the meeting at 7:50 pm.

9.3. Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035

To seek Council endorsement to commence community engagement on the Draft Financial Plan, in conjunction with the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Asset Plan and Council Plan.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft Financial Plan 2025 - 2035, shown at Attachment 1, for the purpose of community engagement; and*
- 2. Notes that following the community engagement process, a final report will be presented to Council to adopt the Financial Plan 2025 - 2035.*

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.4. Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029

To seek Council endorsement to commence community engagement on the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, in conjunction with the Draft Financial Plan, Plan, Asset Plan and Council Plan.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 - 2029, shown at Attachment 1, for the purpose of community engagement;*
- 2. Notes that following the community engagement process, a final report will be presented to Council to adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 - 2029; and*
- 3. Notes the Community Wellbeing Snapshot 2025 will be completed prior to the Plan adoption.*

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.5. Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035

To seek Council endorsement to commence community engagement on the draft Asset Plan 2024/25 - 2034/35, in conjunction with the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Financial Plan and Council Plan.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035, shown at Attachment 1, for the purpose of community engagement; and*
- 2. Notes that following the community engagement process, a final report will be presented to Council to adopt the Asset Plan 2025-2035.*

Moved: Cr Mohamed Semra
Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.6. Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029

To present the reviewed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 for consideration by Council for endorsement.

Council Resolution

That Council endorse the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029, as shown in Attachment 1.

Moved: Cr Samantha Meredith
Seconded: Cr Mohamed Semra

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.7. Proposed Closure of Part of Market Street, West Footscray

Following consideration of written and verbal submissions pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ("Act"), this report recommends that Council proceed with its proposal ("Proposal") to close part of Market Street, West Footscray to vehicular traffic, between Shorten and Barrett Reserves.

Motion

That Council:

1. *Notes the community's feedback on the proposal to permanently close Market street between Graham and Essex streets, including the overwhelming number of objections submitted through the public consultation process.*
2. *Acknowledges the rapid development occurring in the surrounding precinct, including significant residential and commercial projects at Barkly street, Essex street, and Ashley street, Summerhill Road which will impact traffic flow and access requirements in the area.*
3. *Recognises that an updated local area traffic management plan (LATMP) should be developed to guide infrastructure decisions, including potential street closures.*
4. *Resolves not to proceed with a permanent closure of Market Street*
5. *Requests that officers:*
 - a) *undertake a comprehensive review and update of the local area traffic management plan (LATMP) for the West Footscray precinct*
 - b) *explore alternative public realm improvement options for Market Street, including shared space models, time-based or seasonal closures, and temporary activation pilots, that maintain access while enhancing safety and amenity*
 - c) *engage further with local residents, traders, and other local organisations to ensure proposed changes reflect the needs of all stakeholders*
 - d) *receives a report with updated LATMP data and revised design options for market street for further consideration*

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari and Cuc Lam voted **FOR** the motion.

Councillors Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **AGAINST** the motion.

LOST

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. *Note and consider the following in relation to a proposal ("Proposal") to close part of Market Street, West Footscray to vehicular traffic, between Shorten and Barrett Reserves, allowing access to vehicles through the south section of Market Street for access to the Shorten Reserve car park and to construct the closed road into an open space reserve allowing access to bikes and pedestrians, under clause 9 of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1989:*
 - a. *Attachments 1 – 4 to this Report, being copies of all written submissions;*
 - b. *Attachment 5 to this Report, being the minutes from the Hearing of Submissions Meeting, 26 May 2025;*
 - c. *Attachment 6, being the 2020 Transport Impact Assessment;*
 - d. *Attachment 7, being the 2025 Traffic Impact Assessment;*
 - e. *Attachment 8 to this Report, being a report from the Department of Transport and Planning,*
2. *Note and consider Attachment 9 to this Report, which is a summary of all submissions received;*
3. *Following the consideration of all written submissions and verbal presentations, resolves to proceed with the Proposal for the reasons set out in this Report; and*
4. *Requests the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to notify all persons who made submissions on the Proposal of Council's decision and the reasons for it.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

Councillors Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari and Cuc Lam voted **AGAINST** the motion.

CARRIED

The Chair noted at 8:25pm that the meeting livestream had stopped due to a technical issue, however the recording would be placed online as soon as possible.

Having declared a Conflict of Interest with Agenda Item 9.8, Cr Semra left the meeting at 8:31pm before consideration of Item 9.8.

9.8. Proposed Lease - 19 Hocking Street Footscray - Bulldogs Community Children's Centre

To present the proposal by the Western Bulldogs Football Club for the lease between Maribyrnong City Council and the Western Bulldogs Football Club for the Bulldogs Community Children's Centre, 19 Hocking Street, Footscray.

Motion

That Council:

Pursuant to section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act):

- 1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to commence the required statutory procedures to consider entering into the Lease;*
- 2. Authorise the commencement of the community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, pursuant to section 115 of the Act, involving a public notice of the proposed lease uploaded on Council's website and sent to surrounding properties.*
- 3. Note that the proposed lease terms are as set out below:*
 - i. Tenant: Footscray Football Club;*
 - ii. Premises: part of 19 Hocking Street, Footscray;*
 - iii. Term: 5 years;*
 - iv. Rent: \$2,000 per annum plus GST, indexed to CPI;*
 - v. Maintenance: Tenant to be responsible for all maintenance (excluding ESM which will be Council responsibility);*
 - vi. Removal of the right of first refusal clause in the new lease arrangement, and*
 - vii. any other such terms as determined to be reasonably necessary by Council's Chief Executive Officer or delegate to conclude negotiations with the Tenant on the proposed lease.*
- 4. Note that public notice is for a minimum period of 28 days and provides the option for submitters to request as part of their written submission to be heard by a committee consisting of the whole of Council, on a date to be confirmed if required.*
- 5. Note that once all submissions forming part of the community engagement process pursuant to section 115 of the Act have been considered, a further report will be presented to Council to decide whether or not to enter into the proposed lease.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

Councillors Samantha Meredith, Bernadette Thomas and Elena Pereyra voted **FOR** the motion.

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam and Susan Yengi voted **AGAINST** the motion.

In accordance with Clause 58.1 of Council's Governance Rules, the Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari, exercised the casting vote and voted **AGAINST** the motion.

LOST

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. Pursuant to section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act):
 - a. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to commence the required statutory procedures to consider entering into the Lease;
 - b. Authorise the commencement of the community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, pursuant to section 115 of the Act, involving a public notice of the proposed lease uploaded on Council's website and sent to surrounding properties.
 - c. Note that the proposed lease terms are as set out below:
 - i. Tenant: Footscray Football Club;
 - ii. Premises: part of 19 Hocking Street, Footscray;
 - iii. Term: 10 years;
 - iv. Rent: \$2,000 per annum plus GST (for ESM - essential safety measures);
 - v. Capital Works: requirement for the Tenant to deliver a capital contribution to the development of the building;
 - vi. Maintenance: Tenant to be responsible for all maintenance (excluding ESM which will be Council responsibility);
 - vii. Removal of the requirement for a 'not for profit' provider; and
 - viii. The right of first refusal clause not being included in the new lease arrangement.and other such terms as determined to be reasonably necessary by Council's Chief Executive Officer or delegate to conclude negotiations with the Tenant on the proposed lease.
 - d. Note that public notice is for a minimum period of 28 days and provides the option for submitters to request as part of their written submission to be heard by a committee consisting of the whole of Council, on a date to be confirmed if required.
 - e. Note that once all submissions forming part of the community engagement process pursuant to section 115 of the Act have been considered, a further report will be presented to Council to decide whether or not to enter into the proposed lease.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

Councillors Samantha Meredith, Bernadette Thomas and Elena Pereyra voted **AGAINST** the motion.

In accordance with Clause 58.1 of Council's Governance Rules, the Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari, exercised the casting vote and voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

Cr Semra returned to the meeting at 8:48 pm.

9.9. Bellairs Park Concept Plan 2025

To seek Council endorsement of the Bellairs Park Concept Plan 2025 following community consultation on the draft Concept Plan.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Notes the community feedback on the draft Bellairs Park Concept Plan, shown at Attachment 1;*
- 2. Endorse the Final Bellairs Park Concept Plan 2025, shown at Attachment 3; and*
- 3. Note the commencement of the implementation of the Concept Plan, with the budget allocated for that purpose in Financial Year 2025/26.*

Moved: Cr Samantha Meredith
Seconded: Cr Mohamed Semra

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.10. Council Submission to Port of Melbourne Draft Port Development Strategy 2055

To seek endorsement of a submission to the Port of Melbourne on the draft 2055 Port Development Strategy.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the submission, as shown in Attachment 1, to the draft 2055 Port Development Strategy;*
- 2. Noting the wide ranging issues expressed in Council's submission, request that the Mayor write to the Premier of Victoria, Minister for Planning, Minister for Ports and Freight, Minister for Environment, Minister for Climate Action and Minister for Health seeking a meeting to discuss matters raised in Council's submission;*
- 3. Request that the Chief Executive Officer write to the Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Melbourne acknowledging the close working relationship between the two organisations and extending an invitation for the Port to brief Council on their long term development strategy; and*
- 4. Request that the Mayor write to their counterparts at the Cities of Melbourne, Hobsons Bay and Port Phillip attaching a copy of Council's submission and seeking a meeting to discuss how advocacy regarding the Port's impact on local communities can best be coordinated.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.11. Community Recovery Committee

To seek Council endorsement of the revised Terms of Reference for the Maribyrnong Community Recovery Committee and to note an extension to the Maribyrnong Community Recovery Committee and the reopening of member and Chair Expressions of Interest based on Committee members' feedback.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the revised Community Recovery Committee Terms of Reference, shown at Attachment 1;*
- 2. Notes the extension of the Community Recovery Committee tenure to 31 December 2025; and*
- 3. Notes the Expression of Interest process will open for new members and the Independent Chair position.*

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.12. Heritage Advisory Committee Membership Appointment

To seek endorsement of the community representative nominations to the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC).

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Appoint Natashia Radford, Olympia Koziaris, and Julia Beckingsale as the Community Members on the Heritage Advisory Committee;*
- 2. Appoint the professional membership nominations from the historical and museum related entities to the Heritage Advisory Committee; and*
- 3. Note that the Director Planning and Environment will write to the seven community member nominees thanking them for their interest in the committee and advise them of the appointment of the three representatives.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Mohamed Semra

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.13. Maribyrnong City Council - 2024 Local Government Election Report

To present to Council the Victorian Electoral Commission's report on the conduct of the 2024 Local Government General Election for Maribyrnong City Council.

Council Resolution

That Council receive the Victorian Electoral Commission Report on the 2024 Maribyrnong City Council General Election, shown at Attachment 1.

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.14. Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2025 - Annual Progress Report

To provide a progress report against the Climate Emergency Strategy 2020 - 2025.

Council Resolution

That Council note Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2025 Annual Progress Report and the progress of Council Plan 2021-2025 Actions 1.1.1 – 1.1.4, in the 2024/25 financial year.

Moved: Cr Mohamed Semra
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

9.15. Community Grants Program - Acquittal Report 2023/24

To inform Council of the outcome and impact of the Community Grants Program 2023/24.

Council Resolution

That Council note the Community Grants Program 2023/2024 and the outcome and impact of the Community Grants Program 2023-2024.

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Councillors Pradeep Tiwari, Cuc Lam, Samantha Meredith, Mohamed Semra, Bernadette Thomas, Elena Pereyra and Susan Yengi voted **FOR** the motion.

CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Nil.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

14. MEETING CLOSURE

The Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari, declared the meeting closed at 9:22pm.



To be confirmed at the Council Meeting
to be held on 22 July, 2025.

Chair, Cr Pradeep Tiwari