



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday 21 July, 2026
6:30 PM**

**Council Chamber
Footscray Town Hall
61 Napier Street, Footscray**

MEMBERSHIP

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

To be confirmed at the Council Meeting
to be held on 18 August, 2026

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	6
6. Confirmation of Minutes.....	7
6.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 25 May 2026.....	7
6.2. Confirmation of Minutes - 2 June 2026.....	7
6.3. Confirmation of Minutes - 16 June 2026.....	8
7. Reports from Committees.....	8
8. Petitions.....	8
8.1. Petition: Planning Application TP178/2025 (17-19 Bloomfield Ave, Maribyrnong)	8
9. Planning Reports	9
10. Officer Reports.....	10
10.1. Barkly Street - Bike Lane and Road Renewal Project	10
10.3. Yarraville Level Crossing Removal - Council Planning Submission	10
10.4. Melbourne Airport Rail Stage 1 - Early Tottenham Station Designs	11
10.5. Creative West Concept Design	12
10.6. 2026-2029 Triennial Arts Partner Funding Recommendations.....	13
10.7. Live Music Advisory Panel Appointments.....	14
10.8. Special Rate and Charge Policy.....	14
10.9. Review of Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy.....	15
10.10. Instruments of Delegation – Annual Review.....	15
10.11. Governance Report - June 2026	17
10.12. Council Support and Expenses January to March 2026.....	17
11. Notices of Motion.....	18
11.1. Notice Of Motion: 2026/11 - Bicycle Network's "Gimme 5" Campaign	18
11.2. Notice Of Motion: 2026/12 - Little Angler Kits and Wildlife Protection	18

12. Councillor Question Time 19

13. Urgent Business 19

14. Confidential Business 20

14.1. Confidential Commercial Report..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

15. Meeting Closure 21

U N C O N F I R M E D M I N U T E S

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 6.29pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive Officer, Celia Haddock
Director Customer and Corporate Services, Lucas Gosling
Director Community Life, Maria Weiss
Director Infrastructure Services, Patrick Jess
Director Planning and Environment, Mike McIntosh
Manager Governance and Commercial Services, Phil McQue
Manager City Development, Rory MacDonald
Senior Project Manager - Major Projects, Melissa Best
Governance and Integrity Advisor, Michelle McCulloch
Governance Officer, Jessica Abela

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Council Resolution

A motion was moved by Cr Susan Yengi, seconded by Cr Lam, that Council suspend standing orders.

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

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

CARRIED

Council Resolution

A motion was moved by Cr Cuc Lam, seconded by Cr Yengi, that Council resume standing orders.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

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

CARRIED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time commenced at 6.37pm and 39 questions were received.

5.1. Public Question Time

ATTACHMENTS

1 Public Question Time - 21 July 2026

With the consent of Councillors, the Chair extended Public Question Time by 15 minutes at 6.52pm.

The Chair, Cr Mohamed Semra declared Public Question Time closed at 7.08pm.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 25 May 2026

To present the minutes of the Hearing of Budget Submissions Meeting held on 25 May 2026 for confirmation.

Council Resolution

That Council confirms the minutes of the Hearing of Budget Submissions Meeting, held on 25 May 2026.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

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

CARRIED

6.2. Confirmation of Minutes - 2 June 2026

To present the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 2 June 2026 for confirmation.

Council Resolution

That Council confirms the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 2 June 2026.

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

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

CARRIED

6.3. Confirmation of Minutes - 16 June 2026

To present the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 June 2026 for confirmation.

Council Resolution

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 June 2026.

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

8. PETITIONS

8.1. Petition: Planning Application TP178/2025 (17-19 Bloomfield Ave, Maribyrnong)

The purpose of this report is to table a petition received in relation to Planning Application TP178/2025 (17-19 Bloomfield Ave, Maribyrnong).

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Petition: Planning Application TP178/2025 (17-19 Bloomfield Ave, Maribyrnong); and*
- 2. Notes that the planning application will be considered at a future Council meeting.*

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

9. PLANNING REPORTS

Nil

10. OFFICER REPORTS

10.1. Barkly Street - Bike Lane and Road Renewal Project

To seek Council endorsement to release the draft concept design for Barkly Street Upgrade, Footscray for community feedback.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the concept design for the upgrade of Barkly Street, Footscray between Summerhill and Geelong Roads, shown at Attachment 2, to be released for community consultation;*
- 2. Note a report will be presented on the outcomes of the community consultation at a future meeting; and*
- 3. Note that officers will continue discussions with the Department of Transport and Planning regarding bus stop treatments and associated approvals.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

10.3. Yarraville Level Crossing Removal - Council Planning Submission

To seek endorsement of Council's submission to the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority's Anderson Street, Yarraville Level Crossing Removal Planning Consultation.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Cover Letter to the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority's (VIDA) Rail consultation on Anderson Street Yarraville, Level Crossing Removal Proposal shown at Attachment 1;*
- 2. Request that VIDA Rail pause further works on the Anderson Street Level Crossing Removal Proposal subject to:*
 - a) Releasing all concept design options assessments and supporting technical analysis to enable Council and the community to understand the constraints and impacts associated with the design*
 - b) Releasing all documentation relating to the proposal to Council and the community;*

- c) *Following the release of the documentation referred to in (b) above, undertaking a further transparent consultation and engagement process with Council and the community;*
- d) *Providing a comprehensive response outlining the basis for decisions made to remove the at-grade pedestrian crossing;*
- e) *Updating design options that include an at-grade pedestrian crossing and stairs underpass at Anderson Street;*
- f) *Releasing detailed designs that will enable Council and the community to provide informed responses to the proposal, and*
- g) *Providing an explanation on the Anderson Street Level Crossing Removal project not being declared a stand-alone project under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009, and*
- h) *Assessing the options and potential outcomes on extending the project design in conjunction with the Spotswood Project;*
- 3. *Endorse the Council Submission to the VIDA Rail consultation on Anderson Street Yarraville, Level Crossing Removal Proposal, shown at Attachment 2;*
- 4. *Request that the Mayor write to the Minister for Planning, Minister for Transport Infrastructure, and VIDA Director-General providing a copy of Council's submission to the VIDA Rail consultation on Anderson Street Yarraville, Level Crossing Removal Proposal Council's position; and*
- 5. *Invite representatives from VIDA Rail and LXRP to attend a Councillor Strategic Briefing to address Point 2 of this Council resolution.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
 Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

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

CARRIED

10.4. Melbourne Airport Rail Stage 1 - Early Tottenham Station Designs

To seek Council's endorsement of Maribyrnong City Council's submission to the Melbourne Airport Rail Stage 1 (MARS1) Project in relation to the proposed New Tottenham Station Early Designs.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Endorse Maribyrnong City Council's submission to the Melbourne Airport Rail Stage 1 (MARS1) Project in relation to the New Tottenham Station Early Designs, shown at Attachment 1;*
- 2. Advocate to the Victorian Government for the incorporation of Council's position into the detailed design and delivery of the New Tottenham Station, including the delivery of a high-quality, integrated station precinct that prioritises active and public transport, provides safe and connected walking and cycling infrastructure, supports effective multi-modal integration (including future bus services) and delivers strong urban design, place-making and environmentally sustainable outcomes;*
- 3. Advocates to the Victorian Government to incorporate into the design and deliver integrated bus and rail interchange facilities as part of the New Tottenham Station project, including provision for future north-south and east-west bus services and seamless bus-rail connectivity; and*
- 4. Notes that the submission at Attachment 1 includes a request for the MARS1 project to include the design and installation of a pedestrian operated signal on Sunshine Road at Aliwal Street in recognition of the challenges in providing bike infrastructure on Dempster Street and that a lower stress bike route along Aliwal Street is being explored as an alternative and this needs a safe crossing over Sunshine Road to access the Station.*

Moved: Cr Pradeep Tiwari

Seconded: Cr Cuc Lam

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

CARRIED

10.5. Creative West Concept Design

To seek Council endorsement for the public launch of the Creative West precinct to concept design for Creative West with the community.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Note community engagement between March 2026 and community co-design process during April and May 2026 that has informed the development of the Creative West Precinct Concept Design;*

2. *Acknowledge the contribution of the Wurundjeri Elders throughout the project and during the recent co-design process;*
3. *Acknowledge the contribution of the Community Voice group throughout the co-design process;*
4. *Endorse the public release of the Concept Design, shown at Attachment 1; and*
5. *Note the progression of the project to the schematic design phase.*

Cr Meredith left the meeting at 07:51 pm.

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

Cr Meredith returned to the meeting at 07:54 pm.

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

CARRIED

10.6. 2026-2029 Triennial Arts Partner Funding Recommendations

To seek Council endorsement of the 2026-2029 Triennial Arts Partner Program Funding Recommendations.

Council Resolution

That Council endorse the recommendations of the Peer Assessment Panel, shown in Table 1, for Triennial Arts Partner funding from 1 July 2026 to June 2029.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

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

CARRIED

10.7. Live Music Advisory Panel Appointments

To seek Council endorsement of appointments to the Live Music Advisory Panel.

Council Resolution

That Council appoint the following promoters, programmers, venue owners, musicians, peak bodies, residents and music industry professionals to the Maribyrnong Live Music Advisory Panel, effective from 22 July 2026 to 30 June 2028:

- ☐ *Fiona Duncan*
- ☐ *Cherie Warwick*
- ☐ *Cody Quinton*
- ☐ *Justin Ferwick*
- ☐ *Jerry Poon*
- ☐ *Joshua Hodson-Smith*
- ☐ *Martin John Zakharov*
- ☐ *Georgia Maddern*
- ☐ *Nico Faust*
- ☐ *Marcus Brooke-Smith*
- ☐ *Jude Fotiou*
- ☐ *Howard Nicklas*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

10.8. Special Rate and Charge Policy

To seek Council endorsement of the Special Rate and Charge Policy.

Council Resolution

That Council adopt the Special Rate and Charge Policy, shown at Attachment 1.

Moved: Cr Samantha Meredith

Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas

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

CARRIED

10.9. Review of Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy

To present a review of the Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy.

Council Resolution

That Council adopt the Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy, shown at Attachment 1.

Moved: Cr Samantha Meredith

Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

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

CARRIED

10.10. Instruments of Delegation – Annual Review

The present Council an annual review of its current Instruments of Delegation.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. *In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), and other legislation referred to in the S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer, shown at Attachment 1, resolves that:*
 - a. *There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the position referred to in the attached Draft S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 upon the common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument;*
 - c. *On the coming into force of the Instrument, all previous delegations to 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.*
2. *In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the S6 Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff, as shown at Attachment 2, resolves that:*
 - 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 Draft S6 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 Instruments come into force immediately upon the Common Seal of*

- Council being 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 Instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.*
3. *In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 437(2) of the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, as shown at Attachment 3, resolves that:*
- 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 S18 Draft Instrument of Sub-Delegation under the Environment Protection Act 2017, 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 upon the common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument; and*
 - c. 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.*
4. *In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), and other legislation referred to in the s6 Instrument of Delegation, shown at Attachment 4, resolves that:*
- a. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the position referred to in the attached Draft s6 Instrument of Delegation to Members of 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 upon the common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument;*
 - c. On the coming into force of the Instrument, all previous delegations to 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.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

10.11. Governance Report - June 2026

The June 2026 Governance Report is a monthly report providing a single reporting platform for a range of statutory and governance related matters.

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. *Note the June 2026 Governance Report;*
2. *Endorse the extension of the Footscray Park Masterplan Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, shown at Attachment 1 until 28 February 2027, to align with the conclusion of the Footscray Park Masterplan Project; and*
3. *Endorse the extension of the following Committee Members to the Footscray Park Advisory Committee until 28 February 2027, to align with the conclusion of the Footscray Park Masterplan Project:*
 - ☐ *Jonathan Baker*
 - ☐ *Lloyd O'Hanlon*
 - ☐ *Marika Gengler*
 - ☐ *Joyce Watts*
 - ☐ *Anna Matasic*

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

10.12. Council Support and Expenses January to March 2026

To present the Councillor Support and Expenses for January to March 2026.

Council Resolution

That Council note the Councillor Support and Expenses Report for the period January 2026 to March 2026, shown at Attachment 1, to be made available via Council's website for the term of Council.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

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

CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1. Notice Of Motion: 2026/11 - Bicycle Network's "Gimme 5" Campaign

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. *Support the Bicycle Network's "Gimme 5" Victorian State election campaign, that calls on the State Government to allocate 5% of its transport budget to be invested in safer, connected cycling infrastructure for 10 years;*
2. *Note that the Metropolitan Transport Forum unanimously endorsed the "Gimme 5" campaign at its June 2026 Committee meeting, and*
3. *Request that the Mayor write to the Bicycle Network to advise of the following:*
 - a. *Maribyrnong Council's support of the 'Gimme 5' campaign; and*
 - b. *MAV Consolidated Motion C13 – Active Transport - 29 May 2026 which requests recurring and predictable funding for active transport infrastructure building on the congestion levy reinvestment precedent towards 20% of transport infrastructure funding.*

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Cr Elena Pereyra

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

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

CARRIED

11.2. Notice Of Motion: 2026/12 - Little Angler Kits and Wildlife Protection

Council Resolution

That Council:

1. *Note community concern regarding fishing-related harm to wildlife, including injuries caused by discarded fishing line, hooks and tackle along waterways;*
2. *Note that Wildlife Victoria has reported a 158% increase in wildlife cases involving discarded fishing line and hooks between 2023 and 2025, coinciding with the launch of the Victorian Government's Little Angler Program;*
3. *Note that the Victorian Government is scheduled to distribute a further 82,500 Little Angler Kits to Grade 5 students in August 2026;*

4. *Write to the Minister for Environment and Minister for Outdoor Recreation, the Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC; the Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing MP; and the Victorian Fisheries Authority and the Department of Energy, Environment, Climate Action requesting that the Victorian Government suspend the rollout of Little Angler Kits in 2026 pending completion of the actions outlined below;*
- a. *The Victorian Fisheries Authority undertaking a review of the wildlife, waterway, wetland and biodiversity impacts associated with the Little Angler Program; and*
 - b. *Require wildlife-safe fishing education to be a mandatory component of the Little Angler Program, including in any future fishing youth education program.*

Moved: Cr Samantha Meredith
Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi

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

CARRIED

12. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Councillor Question Time commenced at 8.39pm.

12.1. Councillor Question Time

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Councillor Question Time - 21 August 2026

The Chair, Cr Mohamed Semra declared Councillor Question Time closed at 8.43pm.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

14. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

14.1. Confidential Commercial Report

Council Resolution

That Council resolve to close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020 to discuss Confidential Agenda Item 14.1 - Confidential Commercial Report.

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed to members of the public at 8.43pm for consideration of confidential Agenda Item 14.1, Confidential Commercial Report.

Council Resolution

That Council resolve to open the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020 to discuss Confidential Agenda Item 14.1 - Confidential Commercial Report.

Moved: Cr Susan Yengi
Seconded: Cr Samantha Meredith

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

CARRIED

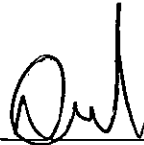
REOPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8.47pm.

The Chair advised that in accordance with the confidential resolution there were no items for release to the public.

15. MEETING CLOSURE

The Chair, Cr Mohamed Semra, declared the meeting closed at 8.48pm.



To be confirmed at the Council Meeting
to be held on 18 August, 2026.

Chair, Cr Mohamed Semra

COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 21 July, 2026
6:30 PM**

**Council Chamber
Footscray Town Hall
61 Napier Street, Footscray**

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Table of Contents

5.1 Public Question Time

Attachment 1 Public Question Time - 21 July 2026.....2

12.1 Councillor Question Time

Attachment 1 Councillor Question Time - 21 July 20267

Public Question Time

21/07/2026 - 39 QUESTIONS		
Submitter	Question	Response
Julie Nguyen	1 In the plans for the proposed 12-townhouse development at 17 & 19 Bloomfield Avenue, the retaining wall is included in the deep soil calculations. A retaining wall is an engineered structure requiring footings and excavation, limiting soil depth and root growth. How can trees achieve their intended mature canopy if the retaining wall restricts root development?	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environmental Services: <i>Newly planted trees have dynamic root systems that are capable of adapting to their surrounding environment during the establishment phase. As trees mature, their root systems naturally exploit soil conditions, growing into areas that provide suitable moisture, oxygen, and soil volume. Healthy root development is linked to healthy canopy growth and long term tree performance.</i> <i>While the proposed retaining wall and its foundations may influence circumferential root development in some areas, it is not expected to prevent trees from establishing a functional and sustainable root system. Where physical constraints are encountered, roots will typically redirect their growth into adjacent areas that offer more favourable growing conditions.</i>
	2 In the plans the western boundary runs to Unit 3 garage wall; however, there is an existing 20mm here. The drawings also indicate a two metre fence, whereas the existing fence varies from 800-1600mm. Where is the boundary line and is the fence existing?	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environmental Services: <i>The 2 metre high fence on the boundary is proposed - this is not a reference to existing conditions.</i>
	3 In the State Government's Recycling Victoria Policy, there is a provision for glass recycling and dedicated hard waste management (2 x 3m x 2) by 2027. The plan claims there are dedicated bin storage areas but this space has not been indicated. Where is it?	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environmental Services: <i>There are two communal bin storage area within the front setback - Council's Waste Team is satisfied with the waste management arrangements</i>
Warren Penna	1 Why is Council not addressing the entirety of Barkly Street, bike lanes, traffic and parking. The bigger problem is the other end Summerhill Road to Ashley Street where bike lanes are marked and doubles for car parking, making them tokenistic.	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>The report tabled at tonight's Council meeting addresses the section of Barkly Street in Footscray between Summerhill Rd and Geelong Road. This section was identified as part of Council's capital works program due to the deteriorating road pavement and the need to resheet the road. This also presents the opportunity to consider other safety and amenity improvements such as bike and pedestrian safety and streetscape improvements.</i> <i>In regards to other sections of Barkly Street, the width and local context differs greatly along its length. For instance, the cross-section is 14m in the village, but ranges between 20-30m in width between Summerhill Road and Geelong Road. This means that the traffic volumes and traffic speeds differ along the route, so the most appropriate bike infrastructure treatment differs accordingly.</i> <i>In addition to this particular project, a separate piece of work is currently being undertaken on the section of Barkly Street between Argyle Street and Summerhill Rd. Some public consultation on this section has already occurred and detailed designs are currently being finalised. These projects help to build a network of safe infrastructure for all road users, and we will continue to work on other sections as we improve the network.</i>

Public Question Time

Submitter	Question	Response
Edward Merrifield	1 Can Council provide the total spent or committed to date on the Barkly Street Bike Lane and Road Renewal Project, including 2025/26 and 2026/27 costs, itemised by repairs, surveys, traffic studies, consultants, design and other expenses?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: As mentioned in the previous response, this section of Barkly Street was identified as part of Council's capital works program due to the deteriorating road pavement and the need to resheet the road. Officers have taken the opportunity to include bike, pedestrian and streetscape improvements as part of the design. This work has largely been undertaken in house at a cost of approximately \$50,000 to date. The report tabled at tonight's meeting is seeking Council's approval to engage the community on the draft concept design. Pending approval, Officers will be reporting back to Council with a recommended final design following consultation. The pre-investigative work bares no impact on the final decision.
	2 Before consultation, were any roadworks, repairs, designs, contracts or other works linked to the proposed concept undertaken or committed? If so, why?	
	3 Could this spending pre-empt or limit Council's final decision after consultation?	
Margaret Urch	1 Is there consultation with emergency services (ie Fire brigade/Ambulance) as to the impact of the proposed closure of Coronation St and their ability to attend an emergency in a timely manner, knowing minutes can be the difference between a good outcome rather than tragedy?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: Council commissioned an independent traffic assessment which concluded that the proposed road closure would not have an adverse impact on traffic conditions within the surrounding road network. As part of the statutory road closure process, a further assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. As a part of this assessment, emergency services agencies are notified and asked for their comment and input to the process. This secondary assessment forms part of Council's due diligence process and is intended to verify and confirm the findings of the initial traffic assessment before any final decision is made regarding the road closure.
Ken Betts	1 Burndap Ward - What parking occupancy and traffic studies were completed before proposing the loss of about 34 spaces?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: Two parking occupancy surveys have been undertaken on Barkly Street in June 2022 and July 2025 to understand the current usage of the on-street parking bays. An additional parking occupancy survey is currently being undertaken on the surrounding streets to understand impacts to nearby parking if some parking is removed on Barkly Street as part of this project.
	2 Will Council manage spillover and impacts on residents, businesses, schools, disabled access, public transport and emergency services?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: Through this engagement we will work with impacted community members to understand and where possible address their needs for access and on-street parking through design refinement and parking signage changes.
	3 Five per cent versus 20 per cent - Why endorse Bicycle Network's 5% funding campaign when Council has previously advocated through the MAV for active transport funding to move towards 20%?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: Earlier this year, Council resolved on a motion that was supported by the Municipal Association of Victoria to seek a long term, stable, and ongoing funding program of 20% of the transport budget, to active transport. Active transport includes walking infrastructure, bike riding infrastructure, and also infrastructure that is used by both pedestrians and bike riders. The Gimme 5 campaign that the Bicycle Network is leading is seeking a State Government commitment of 5% of the transport budget to be allocated to construct the Strategic Cycling Corridor network. These corridors are a segment of the bike network dedicated to commuter trips to work or education. The SCC network links up important destinations such as Melbourne CBD, employment and activity centres. These advocacy efforts are considered complementary.
Joseph Kalkoul	1 The forum on 1 July was triggered as there was more than 10 (35 in fact) formal objections submitted. Please advise the date on which the planning officer's report and recommendation for application TP178/2025 (17-19 Bloomfield Avenue) was finalised and submitted to Council.	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environmental Services: The officer's report and recommendation was finalised for inclusion in the Council meeting agenda on 14 July 2026.

Public Question Time

Submitter	Question	Response
	2 We understand there's no legal requirement to individually notify objectors of the decision date. But given overwhelming 35 people objected (10 is the minimum), and several weren't aware this was being decided upon today, does Council consider that adequate communication?	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environmental Services: <i>In preparing for the Council meeting, it has come to our attention that letters were not issued to each of the 35 objectors advising them that the planning application would be considered at tonight's meeting.</i> <i>Whilst there is no legal obligation to individually notify objectors, this is a standard practice which has not occurred due to an administrative oversight. Council takes participation and transparency in decision-making very seriously. In order to ensure all objectors have the opportunity to observe the meeting, submit questions or make a verbal submission, a decision on the planning application will be deferred to the next Council meeting on 18 August.</i> <i>The Planning Team has called and emailed every objector and the permit applicant earlier today advising them of this rescheduling of the item.</i>
Aurora Balderas	1 How does Council justify approving TP178/2025(1) at 17-19 Bloomfield Ave given that it has a statutory duty under Section 26 of the Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) to prevent disease and environmental health risks?	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environmental Services: <i>Council's decision-making duties and obligations for planning applications are governed by the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and any relevant environmental or health risks identified in planning policy.</i> <i>Whilst we acknowledge the concerns raised in the correspondence to the Mayor, the impacts identified are not matters which can be considered in Council's decision in this planning application. Section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 does not have the effect of bringing all matters relating to disease and public health into a statutory planning decision-making context.</i>
Chris Li	1 Noting that Council's tender for the demolition of this site closed in mid-April, has a contractor been officially appointed, and what is the exact date that physical demolition works will begin?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Demolition works will commence mid-August.</i>
	2 Given the repeated incidents involving squatters and trespassers at the site, and the multiple attendances by Victoria Police and Fire Rescue, what actions has Council taken to improve the site's security and public safety?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council will undertake periodic evening security patrols until the building is demolished.</i>
	3 Once the demolition is finally complete and the site is cleared, what is Council's long-term plan or intended use for this land, and how will the Yarraville community be consulted? When should we expect the Community Needs Analysis published for consultation?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council is currently undertaking the Yarraville Community Infrastructure Feasibility Study which is focussing on a number of community facilities within the Yarraville precinct. It is anticipated this will be completed early in the new year. As part of this project consultation opportunities will occur with stakeholders and residents and users of a variety of services to assist. We will advertise these opportunities through our usual consultation channels as well as targeting specific groups and interested parties. Noting your interest, we pass along your details to the officers managing the project to keep you informed.</i>
Brian Sanderson	1 At the last Council meeting, the Mayor moved a motion regarding public lighting and community safety. Given Council had only just adopted its FY2026/27 budget a week earlier, why did the Mayor not put this project through the budget process to allow ratepayers to comment?	Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer: <i>Council's Governance Rules enable Councillors to submit and move Notices of Motion on matters they wish Council to consider at any time provided they meet the relevant criteria. Notices of Motion are an established mechanism for raising issues of emerging community interest, and can generally be used for seeking further information, or requesting a report from the Chief Executive Officer. In most circumstances, Notices of Motion do not commit Council to future expenditure. In this instance, the motion did not amend the adopted Budget, allocate funding, or commit Council to undertake any expenditure.</i> <i>Rather, it requested that officers prepare a report for Council's future consideration regarding public lighting and security. The motion itself did request the officers to prepare a report and any future proposal arising from that report that involves expenditure needs to go to Council and be considered by Council. The motion was able to be considered independently of the budget process because it sought further investigation and reporting only and did not itself commit Council to spending funds or undertaking specific works.</i>

Public Question Time

Submitter	Question	Response
	2 Does the CEO believe that Notices of Motions such as these have a negative impact on the organisation delivery on set budget priorities and initiatives outlined in the Council Plan?	Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer: <i>No these Notices of Motions do not have a negative impact on the organisation. The Notice of Motion in question satisfied all the criteria of Council's Governance Rules and was therefore accepted for consideration at the June 2026 Council Meeting.</i>
	3 Given ongoing anti-social behaviours in the Footscray CBD, including at least two homicides this calendar year, why is there not a monthly report provided regarding progress against the Footscray CBD Place Plan 2025-26?	Response provided by the Director Planning and Environment Services: <i>The Footscray CBD Place Plan does not require monthly reporting to Council. The Plan provides for actions to be tracked and monitored throughout the year, with regular progress reports to Council and a comprehensive annual report to be presented at the conclusion of the 12 month implementation period. The reporting framework was intentionally designed to focus resources on delivery rather than the preparation of monthly reports. Importantly, while recent serious incidents in the Footscray CBD are deeply concerning, many of the factors contributing to crime, public safety and anti-social behaviour involve agencies beyond Council, including Victoria Police, health services and State Government agencies. Council's role through the Place Plan is to improve amenity, activation, place management, partnerships and community wellbeing as part of a broader revitalisation effort, rather than act as the lead law enforcement agency.</i> <i>That said, Council already undertakes ongoing monitoring of Place Plan initiatives, and progress is reported through existing governance and corporate reporting processes.</i>
Steve Khoury	1 We are Banbury Village homeowners facing structural damage linked to moisture changes and tree roots. Council holds a development geotechnical report warning against planting large trees close to homes. What action will Council take to prevent further damage?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>An independent Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) assessment commissioned by Council found no evidence of tree roots extending into the affected properties or into the area where the observed building damage has occurred. The report concluded that there is no compelling evidence that the Council trees are the primary cause of the damage. The assessment found the damage pattern is inconsistent with tree-related subsidence and is more likely associated with site-specific soil and foundation conditions.</i>
	2 Will Council immediately suspend planting the same or similar tree species near homes in Banbury Village until an independent review assesses the risks identified in the FMG Engineering report?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>No tree planting is planned for this area at this stage.</i>
	3 Council officers have all been copied into emails and are aware of the FMG report yet calls and emails remain unanswered. Will council provide a clear plan to address existing trees and prevent future damage?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council officers have responded to the resident on this matter.</i>
Fred Maddern	1 Regarding Beevers and Bell Reserve Upgrades - Council has since confirmed further traffic and pedestrian safety work still remains outstanding. What specific matters remain outstanding today that were not completed before Council voted in April?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council will, as part of the formal road closure process under the Local Government Act, undertake a further assessment of the proposal to determine whether the road should be permanently closed. This process ensures a robust and transparent decision-making framework is applied. It also provides an opportunity for public submissions, with all submitters afforded the right to be heard by Council before any final decision is made.</i>
	2 Since councillors acknowledged on 16 June that they had not appreciated aspects of the traffic evidence before voting in April, what additional traffic or pedestrian safety information has since been presented to councillors?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>No additional information has been provided</i>
	3 Can a councillor help residents understand the sequence of events? Council voted in April, later acknowledged it had not appreciated aspects of the traffic evidence, has confirmed further work remains, yet the project continues. How should residents understand that sequence?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>There is no funding for construction in the current budget for road closure or the public toilet projects. Planning has continued but there is no physical works. Chief executive officer confirmed all Councillors have received information related to this project.</i>

Public Question Time

Submitter	Question	Response
Cheryl Nicholls	1 Regarding Beever & Bell Reserve petition to Chief Executive Officer- 16th of June. Since then its grown, yet after one full council cycle, residents are still waiting for a substantial response, despite follow-up requests. What can residents understand that referral to mean?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Confirmed officers are very confident in the engagement process council have undertaken and the due diligence that's being followed. As mentioned earlier there is no budget for construction of these works that are mentioned in these questions, in this current financial year.</i>
	2 On the same evening the Council referred the petition, it adopted a Community Engagement Policy, committing to listening to residents and closing the loop. What specific actions has Council taken since then in relation to the petition?	
	3 If the Beever & Bell Reserves petition reflects 'the Voice' of a portion of dissatisfied residents in the community - doesn't Council have a duty to residents, to offer an opportunity for them to meet with the relevant Council departments to discuss their matters of concern?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council are very confident with the engagement undertaken. At this point in time there is no need to meet with the residents as there is no project to implement. Only once Council adopts a project for construction would it then be required to re-engage with the community.</i>
Kirsty Elliot	1 Re Beevers Bell Reserves, proposed closure Coronation St: Council has confirmed further traffic work is still required. Specifically what traffic-related matters not previously assessed before Council's April vote will that work examine?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council have undertaken traffic impact assessments. The results indicated the impact would be very minimal if any. As we progress through detailed design in future budgets we will be undertaking further traffic impact assessments as part of due diligence.</i>
Stephen Kilpady	1 On Agenda item 10.1 Report indicates that new equipment be required to clean proposed bike lanes. Can Council advise purchase costs of equipment and the estimated annual cleaning & maintenance costs, to ensure that Maribyrnong ratepayers understand the ongoing expense?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Unable to provide those details tonight. That would be a matter that is subject to procurement once the project progresses.</i>
	2 Agenda item 10.1: Given the 1.49M budget for this project, has Council assessed if any discretionary funding could instead support community safety, social cohesion or preventative services that benefit the wider community?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>This is an adopted budget in the project and officers will be undertaking it in accordance with Council following tonight's decision and awarded when officers return with a further report.</i>
	3 Agenda item 10.1: If consultation shows limited community support for the proposed design, will Council reconsider its scope and costs and report on whether any savings could be directed to broader community priorities?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Hesitant to predict what may occur following a consultation. Many variables could come from that so we are hesitant to answer that directly.</i>
Alison Boast	1 Re: the proposed Beevers Reserve toilet, we live directly opposite the site and participated in consultation as we believed our feedback could influence whether a toilet was built opposite our home. What feedback resulted in Council retaining the toilet in this location?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>As we have previously answered in public question time and reports, there was mixed 50/50 feedback with the proposal of a toilet in this concept design. The community engagement is only one part of Council's decision making process with open space planning principles and other factors coming into it. A concept on the design has been approved however the actual construction of the project has not yet been approved and is subject to further budget deliberations.</i>
	2 As the residents who will live directly opposite this facility every day, how were the concerns raised by nearby households reflected in the recommendation presented to councillors?	Response provided by the Director Infrastructure Services: <i>Council were made aware through the report there were mixed views through the consultation process. Some for and some against and on balance made it's decision.</i>

Councillor Question Time

Tuesday, 21 July 2026			
Submitter		Question	Response
Cr Bernadette Thomas	1	Regarding the article in The Age which mentions the trucks moving through streets of Kensington: Has MCC has contacted the City of Melbourne about advocacy support?	Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer <i>Officers are not aware of any formal engagement between Maribyrnong City Council and the City of Melbourne regarding advocacy support in relation to this matter. Council has not identified any specific advocacy undertaken jointly with the City of Melbourne on this issue.</i>
	2	Was MCC promised any trees that haven't been delivered as part of the Westgate Tunnel Project?	Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer <i>No. Council has been advised that the West Gate Tunnel Project delivered all tree planting commitments required within the City of Maribyrnong and is not aware of any outstanding tree planting obligations within the municipality. Council understands that while the project experienced challenges identifying suitable planting locations within the City of Melbourne, resulting in some additional plantings being undertaken in Hobsons Bay, this did not affect the delivery of the required tree planting outcomes within Maribyrnong.</i>