

# Council Meeting Minutes

12 March 2024

Council Chamber  
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre  
115 Civic Parade, Altona

COUNCIL CHAMBER

HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL



## OUR MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

## OUR VALUES

Respectful  
Community driven and focused  
Trusted and reliable  
Efficient and responsible  
Bold and innovative  
Accountable and transparent  
Recognised

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

## CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of Hobsons Bay City Council are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Governance/Governance-Rules>

Members of the public attending Council meetings must abide by the standards of behaviour set out in section 13.3 of the Governance Rules. Any person engaging in disruptive or disorderly behaviour may be required by the Chairperson to leave the meeting in accordance with the Governance Rules.

### Chairperson:

Cr Matt Tyler (Mayor) Wetlands Ward

### Councillors:

Cr Antoinette Briffa JP	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Diana Grima	Wetlands Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Daria Kellander	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud (Deputy Mayor)	Strand Ward

Aaron van Egmond  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hobsons Bay City Council

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## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 March 2024 at 7.03pm.**

### **Present**

#### **Chairperson**

Cr Matt Tyler (Mayor) Wetlands Ward

#### **Councillors**

Cr Antoinette Briffa JP Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Diana Grima Wetlands Ward

Cr Daria Kellander Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Peter Hemphill Strand Ward

Cr Jonathon Marsden Strand Ward

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud (Deputy Mayor) Strand Ward

#### **Officers**

Mr Aaron van Egmond Chief Executive Officer

Mr Andrew McLeod Director Corporate Services

Mr Rachel Lunn Director Sustainable Communities

Ms Jake Trevaskis Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services

Ms Diane Eyckens Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel

Ms Jessica Maunder Minute Secretary

## **1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement**

The Chairperson welcomed members of the public and acknowledged the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways.

## **2 Apologies**

The Chairperson called for apologies received from Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

All Councillors were present.

## **3 Disclosure of Interest**

In accordance with sections 127 and 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose a general or material conflict of interest. A conflict of interest must be disclosed in accordance with rule 15.3 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

No interests were disclosed at this point in relation to items on the agenda. During Councillor Questions section, questions were asked regarding the ongoing matter of Techno Park Drive. At that point, Cr Diana Grima announced a potential conflict of interest due to a family member being employed to do maintenance at the site.

Cr Grima left the Chamber while the matter was in discussion.

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 February 2024 (copy previously circulated).

### Motions

Cr Hemphill proposed an amendment to the minutes followed by Cr Kellander proposing additional amendments to the minutes in relation to Item 9.2.1 "Internal Arbitration Decisions".

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:**

**That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 February 2024 except for Item 9.2.1 Internal Arbitration Decisions, to be replaced with the following text:**

#### 9.2.1 Internal Arbitration Decisions

Cr Hemphill said Cr Briffa had two previous misconduct findings. This was the third. He said the State Government was looking to improve council conduct and it should introduce a rule of "three strikes and you're out".

#### Point of Order 1

Cr Briffa called a point of order under Governance Rule 8.18.3. She stated that Cr Hemphill's comments were "irrelevant and vexatious, equally improper and obscene and they're incorrect".

Cr Kellander then made some comments and the Mayor said she was out of order.

The Mayor did not rule on Cr Briffa's Point of Order, just asked Cr Hemphill to remain relevant to the item.

Cr Hemphill then asked whether Cr Briffa's Point of Order was dismissed, and the Mayor replied he was upholding the Point of Order.

Cr Hemphill then asked whether the Mayor was saying I was vexatious and he replied "no", adding that prior Code of Conduct matters were not relevant to the item before Council.

#### Point of Order 2

Cr Kellander called a point of order referring to Governance Rule 8.18.5, then asking for her and Cr Hemphill's objection to the ruling on Cr Briffa's Point of Order be recorded in the minutes. The Mayor then said that would be done.

**Point of Order 3**

Cr Briffa spoke to the previous conduct hearings relating to herself. Cr Hemphill called a point of order that Cr Briffa's comments about him and Cr Briffa's version of the previous conduct panels were "just false". No determination was made on this point of order.

**Point of Order 4<sup>1</sup>**

Cr Briffa made remarks in relation to the previous publication of the arbiter's decision in the media.

Cr Kellander called a point of order in relation to these remarks, stating that the allegations were "vexatious, frivolous, false, garbage." Following the word "garbage, Cr Briffa responded "yup, that's where we found you, in the garbage".

No ruling was made on this point of order.

**Formal Apology**

Cr Kellander said that she would be posting her written apology to the Chief Executive Officer (required by the arbiter's ruling) on her social media page the following day.

**Division**

**For:** Cr Hemphill, Cr Kellander, Cr Sutton-Legaud

**Against:** Cr Briffa, Cr Grima, Cr Tyler

**Abstained:** Cr Marsden

The motion failed due to the Chairperson's casting vote.

**Lost**

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<sup>1</sup> \*\* Addition to Cr Hemphill's suggested amendment: Cr Kellander expressed comfort to Cr Hemphill's suggested amendments but also submitted an amendment of her own. Mayor Tyler asked Cr Hemphill if he was happy to accept Cr Kellander's amendments. Cr Hemphill acknowledged Cr Kellander's proposed amendment as an addition to the amendment as follows.

Once the Cr Hemphill's motion had been lost, Cr Briffa moved an alternate motion to confirm the minutes as previously circulated.

**Motion**

**Moved Cr Briffa, seconded Cr Grima:**

**That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 February 2024 as previously circulated.**

**Division**

**For:** Cr Briffa, Cr Grima, Cr Marsden, Cr Tyler

**Against:** Cr Hemphill, Cr Kellander

**Abstained:** Cr Sutton-Legaud

**Carried**



## 5 Councillor Questions

### The Nappy Collective

**Cr Daria Kellander outlined the work of the charitable organisation called The Nappy Collective, which collects and distributes nappies to vulnerable families. She stated that the organisation had recently contacted her seeking an opportunity to establish drop-off points in Hobsons Bay.**

**Cr Kellander asked whether the Council had made any progress in supporting this cause.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, confirmed “with a lot of pleasure” that the Council will be joining the initiative, and that Council could make a unique contribution to the charity’s cause by providing access points across the municipality.

Mr McLeod also added that there would be more information available in the next couple of weeks regarding what the initiative would look like and how Council will be promoting it.

**Cr Kellander said that she was pleased to hear it and will look forward to seeing those promotions.**

### Ross Road, Altona North upgrade works

**Cr Daria Kellander brought to attention last week’s media release from the Premier which announced that as an air quality improvement initiative, sections of Ross Road in Altona North would be upgraded, including the addition of on-road parking bays for the soccer club and a new shared path for pedestrians and cyclists linking Blenheim Road and Mill Street.**

**Cr Kellander asked when the work was planned to begin and whether Council was making any financial contribution or input into the plans. She also noted that the path could potentially feel isolated and unsafe, and asked whether street lighting would be included for this.**

Mr Jake Trevaskis, Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services confirmed that the upgrade of Ross Road would include parking bays at both the Mill Street and Blenheim Road ends and a shared trail along this alignment which will be associated with the dividing fence along the railway line, and that lighting would be installed.

Regarding Council’s involvement, Mr Trevaskis said that Council is the project manager and would be contributing \$200,000 to the project, and that there was a federal government funding for the project as well.

Mr Trevaskis added that the Council was currently looking to finalise the works, which would be starting over the coming weeks and would take about three months to complete.

## **Pet desexing program**

**Cr Daria Kellander asked whether the Council offered any discounts or rebates on the desexing of dogs or cats, and if so, any details about these programs.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, said that Council has a comprehensive desexing program for cats. He added that the Council will be partnering with the Lost Dogs Home to run a number of events in coming months to provide free desexing for cats and discounted desexing for dogs.

## **Waste Charges**

**Cr Daria Kellander noted that a recent survey by Local Government Finance Professionals (FinPro) had revealed that at least 43 councils were charging for activities that should not be included in the waste service fee, and asked whether Hobsons Bay has reviewed its waste service fee and confirmed that it is currently not overcharging residents.**

Ms Rachel Lunn, Director Sustainable Communities, said that Hobsons Bay City Council is not particularly affected by this issue since it was already largely following the guidance in relation to the issue. She stated that the Council will be releasing some social media and news updates next week informing the people that there will not be much impact on Hobsons Bay compared to some other councils.

## **Techno Park**

**Note:** Cr Daria Kellander announced that she intended to ask some questions relating to Techno Park, and that she understood that there was a conflict-of-interest declaration relating to this. Cr Diana Grima confirmed that she had a potential conflict-of-interest in this matter and left the Chamber from 7:27 pm till 7:29 pm while the issue on Techno Park was discussed due to a potential conflict of interest in the matter as a family member does maintenance work there.

**Cr Daria Kellander stated that *The Age* had reported a planning scheme change to existing land use rights which she said had been hailed in the media as a lifeline for the residents of Techno Park, and asked how the change would impact the current eviction of residents at Techno Park drive and whether Council still expected them to leave by May 2024.**

Ms Rachel Lunn, Director Sustainable Communities, said that Council was aware of the changes made to the Victorian planning scheme regarding existing use rights that were enacted by the Minister herself in February 2024, and that Council was currently seeking more information from the Victorian Government regarding the impacts.

Ms Lunn said that the Council was “unable to provide commentary” in relation to the second part of Cr Kellander’s question and “that Council’s position remains the same” but was seeking more information about the very recent change.

**Cr Kellander asked if there is an estimated timeframe for a response from the Council in relation to the petition received in November 2023 requesting that the Council**

**recognise the Techno Park residential community in Council's Industrial Land Management Strategy.**

Ms Lunn said that Governance procedures and process were being followed for handling the petition, and that due to the recent changes to the planning scheme, Council was in the process of seeking more information and would respond to the petition as soon as Council's position is clear.

**Note:** There were no further Counsellor Questions on this matter. Cr Grima returned to the Chamber at 7:29pm and explained that her potential conflict of interest was due to a family member who does maintenance work at Techno Park Drive.

**Summer Heat Program**

**Cr Diana Grima asked whether there had been feedback on the initiative to open Hobsons Bay libraries for extended hours during recent heatwaves.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, said that this initiative was called the Summer Heat Program and was designed to provide safe cool spaces during extreme heat conditions upon receiving forecasts from BOM on those events. He added that this was put in practice last week by opening libraries for an additional five hours in the evenings on days of extreme heat.

Mr McLeod said that during this period, several hundred people made use of the facilities where they could keep cool and had drinks and fresh fruit available.

**Cr Grima asked whether the initiative would be ongoing.**

Mr McLeod noted that the initiative fitted in with the Council's strategy of finding different reasons for people to make use of the assets, such as air conditioning for the buildings, and said that he thought the program was "very well worthwhile".

**Community advisory groups**

**Cr Antoinette Briffa noted that Council has previously had a number of community advisory groups for various subjects and asked for an update on a review of our community advisory groups, including what groups the Council will have in the future, the terms of reference for each group, and when the groups are likely to commence.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, said that advisory groups had ceased mainly due to COVID, but also partly because it was a challenge to ensure that the outcomes achieved were purposeful and that people's contributions translated into operational outcomes.

Mr McLeod added that Council was running specific interest groups to work on very specific projects and that these were receiving a positive response from the community because it was something tangible that they could contribute to. He also noted that the Director Sustainable Communities was in the process of reviewing what those specialised consultation forums would look like and that this would be discussed with Council in future.

## **Integrated Transport Plan 2017-30**

**Cr Antoinette Briffa noted that Council's Integrated Transport Plan 2017-30 included a number of key actions with timeframes, many of which had to be achieved within five years. Noting that COVID had caused a delay, Cr Briffa asked for an update on the key actions and how they were tracking with the dates.**

Mr Jake Trevaskis, Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services, noted that this was the mid-point of the plan and said that Council officers had recently commenced a review of the actions.

Mr Trevaskis said that a number of actions had been implemented through the Local Area Movement Plans (LAMPs) and Better Places programs, but also that some actions had not commenced for "obvious reasons".

Mr Trevaskis repeated that officers were working on a mid-term report and that this would be brought to Council in the coming months.

## **Mechanics Institute and the cottage**

**Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud asked whether there had been a public advisory group or other community group set up in relation to the planning for the Mechanics Institute and the cottage, and also asked for an update on the signage that would go on the outside the front of the building.**

Mr Jake Trevaskis, Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that Council officers were in the early project planning phase with the master plan improvements for the Mechanics Institute, and that there is likely to be that targeted consultation with the community and community groups, although the details of that were yet to be finalised. However, once they are drafted, the details will be shared for the Councillors to review.

Regarding onsite signage, Mr Trevaskis said that proofs had been prepared and it was expected that the signs would be installed over the coming week or two.

**Cr Sutton-Legaud clarified that she didn't mean broader community consultation but a smaller group, similar to a previous cottage restoration project, as there were several community members who were active in advocating, particularly around the cottage. As such, she wanted to know if there would be any formal or informal community group to advise on that.**

Mr Jake Trevaskis, Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that the details have yet to be worked through, but Council was aware of those interest groups and was looking to go through a targeted consultation process with those groups and people, and noted that those groups have been shown to provide good value to similar projects.

### **Overgrown vegetation**

**Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud said that community members had raised the issue of overgrown vegetation and grass around the municipality, and asked for an update on the situation in regard to changing weather and past equipment issues.**

Mr Jake Trevaskis, Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that mowing regimes had been getting back on track over the past week or two and that additionally the recent warm weather had caused the grass to brown off and die in some areas.

Regarding weed growth, Mr Trevaskis said that there was a program in place to keep weeds in a neat, tidy and respectable condition, although it was let go when it was “all hands on deck” to get the mowing regime under control.

## 6 Public Question Time

The Chairperson stated at the beginning of the public question time that the Council had received a number of questions regarding techno-park drive, which unfortunately the Council could not answer due to legal matters regarding the issue.

**Kia Brusa**

**Q In HBCC's Better Places Guide for Seabrook and Altona Meadows, HBCC identifies that "the biggest, and probably the most strongly supported idea from a community viewpoint was the desire to have a high school built in the local area - with this being seen as one of the most important issues and priorities for the future of the local community." (p37) Guiding Principle 2.4 in the Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows Guide (p37) states that Council will "Continue to share the community's sentiment for the delivery of a local high school and advocate with relevant elected officials to help generate attention and momentum."**

**How is HBCC planning to advocate with elected officials, and generate attention and momentum for the delivery of a local high school for Altona Meadows?**

A The responsibility for planning and provisions of schools sits with the Victorian State Government. Council regularly meets with the State Member for Point Cook Mat Hilakari MP to discuss a range of community priorities including the need for a High School in Altona Meadows. The local member has been advocating for the needs of the Altona Meadows community in delivering improved access to a high school for the local community.

The Chairperson added that Cr Grima and himself, as the ward counsellors, along with Cr Marsden wrote to the Administrator at that time in October 2021 and recently.

**Q In relation to the strong desire for a local high school in Altona Meadows, the Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows Report states that "In 2021, Hobsons Bay Councillors Cr Matthew Tyler and Cr Dianna Grima reached out to the State Government to express these concerns with a request for a detailed review and response to the community request for a new school to be considered."**

**Has there been a 'detailed review and response to the community', as requested by Cr Tyler and Cr Grima, since 2021? If not, has there been any follow up communication or advocacy from HBCC that can be shared with local residents?**

A In 2021, the State Government, through Minister for Education James Merlino responded to Council's advocacy, stating current analysis and population forecasts showed the capacity of existing schools could meet demand in the Altona Meadows area. In further advocacy, in September 2023, Council wrote to State Member for Point Cook, Mat Hilakari MP, reiterating the community's aspiration for a high school in Altona Meadows.

**Q In the 'Next Steps' section of the Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows Report, it states that: "The community felt that the absence of a local high school is a key public infrastructure gap, and in some instances, is forcing people to move away from the area." (p77) Whilst acknowledging that the planning and provision of education services is a state government responsibility, HBCC has a unique role to play in harnessing public sentiment and advocating on behalf of local residents for issues that are important to them.**

**Note:** The second half of this question was missed by the Chairperson due to it being cut-off from the hard copy version available to him. The Chairperson highlighted this at minute 59:03 of the Council Meeting Webcast when discussing Item number 9.1.1. The question read as follows;

**The report states that: “any of Council’s assessments on the level of demand or feasibility, will be shared with state Government representative to help assist the ongoing advocacy efforts” (p52).**

**Question: Given that a HBCC commissioned report published in late 2023 states that a local high school for Altona Meadows is “the biggest, and the most strongly supported idea from a community viewpoint” (p37), will HBCC show it has heard the community and allocate resources in the 2024/2025 budget towards “assessment of the level of demand or feasibility” regarding a local high school for Altona Meadows?**

- A Council has shared the key themes received as part of the Better Places consultation process with the State Member for Point Cook, Mat Hilakari MP and will continue to share relevant information with him as it becomes available in the future.

**Kaylene O’Shea**

**Q When will Hobsons Bay Council clean the Pier Street footpaths using a high-pressure washer? The footpaths are stained and dirty and have not been cleaned for years.**

- A Footpath sweeping and scrubbing on both sides of Pier Street within the shopping precinct occurs early each morning from Monday to Friday. Spot cleaning/pressure washing occurs where spillages occur in isolated areas, and a deep clean is scheduled to occur at the end of the upcoming summer period.

**Julie White**

**Q Council officers answered in response to a question at the February 2024 Council meeting that aquatic facilities in Hobsons Bay must comply with the Royal Life Saving Society Australia Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations and Council policies.**

**How often are risk and safety audits conducted at Bayfit Leisure Centre, does Council obtain copies of these audits and what other measures does Council take to monitor performance/compliance with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations and Council policies?**

- A Comprehensive Safety and Risk audits are conducted twice per year, facilitated by the operator’s National Safety and Compliance Officer. The operator has a management system in place which includes safety checks and facility assessments, completed every four hours. Council meets monthly with the operator of the facility to discuss a range of reporting requirements, which includes addressing outstanding actions from the safety audits, and ensuring compliance with the operator’s occupancy agreement.

**Q Does Council obtain data on casual visitor numbers to the swimming pools at Bayfit Leisure Centre and, if not, how does Council ensure that pool operations align with Council policies relating to aquatic recreation, health, and inclusion?**

A A range of visitation data is collected and incorporated into a monthly reporting to Council. Council meets monthly with the operator of the facility to discuss a range of reporting requirements, ensuring compliance with the operator's occupancy agreement.

**Q Does Council require minimum daily and/or weekly opening hours for the swimming pools at Bayfit Leisure Centre and is this a requirement in the lease?**

A Yes, minimum trading hours are specified as part of the lease agreement between Council and the operator at Bayfit Leisure Centre.

**Kristen Rowan**

**Q This month, workers at the South Crude Tank Farm told members of the public that they have begun the process of pulling down the tanks. This is consistent with plans shared by senior Mobil staff at a community information session in October 2023.**

**Can Council please outline the timeline for these works, as well as the safety measures in place to protect the community who use the adjacent sports ground and walking track?**

A Council understands from informal discussions with Mobil that the Altona Tank Farm tanks are currently being inspected and maintained. Public consultation was held on the future of Industrial Land in Hobsons Bay in 2023. Information is on Council's website. Council has not had notice of any changes to the future use of the land from Mobil since this consultation.

**Q What does Council know about the future plans for the South Crude Tank Farm site? Mobil's website says it will not be used for fuel storage.**

A Council understands from informal discussions with Mobil that the Altona Tank Farm tanks are currently being inspected and maintained. Public consultation was held on the future of Industrial Land in Hobsons Bay in 2023. Information is on Council's website. Council has not had notice of any changes to the future use of the land from Mobil since this consultation.

Note: Cr Sutton-Legaud was out of view from 7:39pm to 7:41pm.



## **7 Documents to be Tabled.**

### **7.1 Internal Arbitration Decision IAP 2023-20**

#### **Purpose**

To table an internal arbitration decision in accordance with section 147(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

#### **Summary**

An internal arbitration process has been carried out and Council is required to table the arbiter's decision and statement of reasons.

The arbiter's decision and statement of reasons is provided as Attachment 1 for this report.

A resolution is not required for this item.

#### **Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk**

Section 147(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that, subject to subsection (5) which requires confidential information to be redacted from the documents, "a copy of the arbiter's decision and statement of reasons must be tabled at the next Council meeting after the Council received the copy of the arbiter's decision and statement of reasons and recorded in the minutes of the meeting."

## **8 Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **8.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received**

No petitions or joint letters were received.

## 9 Business

### 9.1 Office of the Chief Executive

#### 9.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations - February 2024

<b>Directorate:</b>	Office of the Chief Executive
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Attachments:</b>	CEO Report on Operations - February 2024 [9.1.1.1 - 54 pages]

#### Purpose

To present the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Report on Operations for February 2024.

#### Recommendation

**That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations, including details of recent issues and initiatives undertaken by the organisation.**

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Diana Grima:**

**That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations, including details of recent issues and initiatives undertaken by the organisation.**

**Carried unanimously**

Note: The Chairperson returned briefly to public question time to read the remaining part of Kia Brusa's third question that was missed out earlier due to it being cut-off from the hard copy document available to the Chairperson. This is also mentioned in Section 6. Public Question Time.

## **9.2 Infrastructure and City Services**

### **9.2.1 Level Crossing Removals: Project Update and Specific Site Principles**

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Strategic Projects Specialist
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Specific Hobsons Bay Grade separation principles Champion Road [9.2.1.1 - 2 pages]

#### **Purpose**

To provide an update on the proposed level crossing removals for the Werribee line, meetings of the Newport and Spotswood Level Crossing Removal Community Interest Groups, and to endorse the site-specific grade separation principles for the removal of the level crossings at Champion Road and Maddox Road, Newport.

#### **Recommendation**

##### **That Council:**

- 1. Does not support the proposed closure of Champion Road as the solution for the removal of the level crossing at Champion Road.**
- 2. Notes the update on the proposed level crossing removal projects and the commencement of the Newport and Spotswood Level Crossing Removal Community Interest Groups meetings.**
- 3. Endorses the site-specific grade separation principles for the removal of the level crossings at Champion Road and Maddox Road. Refer Attachment 1.**
- 4. Notes that letters have been sent to the Premier and Treasurer of Victoria requesting a temporary pause on the Champion Road project to consider alternative options aimed at achieving the best possible outcome for the community.**

## **Motion**

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Does not support the proposed closure of Champion Road as the solution for the removal of the level crossing at Champion Road.**
- 2. Notes the update on the proposed level crossing removal projects and the commencement of the Newport and Spotswood Level Crossing Removal Community Interest Groups meetings.**
- 3. Endorses the site-specific grade separation principles for the removal of the level crossings at Champion Road and Maddox Road. Refer Attachment 1.**
- 4. Notes that letters have been sent to the Premier and Treasurer of Victoria requesting a temporary pause on the Champion Road project to consider alternative options aimed at achieving the best possible outcome for the community.**

**Carried unanimously**

## **9.2.2 West Gate Tunnel Project Update - February 2024**

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Strategic Projects Specialist  
**Reviewer:** Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

### **Purpose**

To provide a quarterly update report on the West Gate Tunnel Project (the Project) and associated initiatives, projects and advocacy activities.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council receives and notes this update on the status of the West Gate Tunnel Project and Council's advocacy on aspects of the Project.**

### **Motion**

**Moved Cr Antoinette Briffa, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill:**

**That Council receives and notes this update on the status of the West Gate Tunnel Project and Council's advocacy on aspects of the Project.**

**Carried unanimously**

### 9.2.3 Contract 2023.48 Arboriculture Panel

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Manager Parks  
**Reviewer:** Director Infrastructure and City Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### Purpose

To seek Council endorsement for the awarding of Contract 2023.48 Arboriculture Panel.

#### Recommendation

That Council awards Contract 2023.48 Arboriculture Panel to the following panel of suppliers for a total estimated value of \$3,400,000 (three million, four hundred thousand dollars) excluding GST, based on the tendered pricing schedules for an initial term of three years with an option for 2 x one-year extensions.

- Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd
- Fleming's Landscapes Pty Ltd
- Sevron Environmental Contractors
- Urban Treescapes Pty Ltd

#### Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council awards Contract 2023.48 Arboriculture Panel to the following panel of suppliers for a total estimated value of \$3,400,000 (three million, four hundred thousand dollars) excluding GST, based on the tendered pricing schedules for an initial term of three years with an option for 2 x one-year extensions.

- Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd
- Fleming's Landscapes Pty Ltd
- Sevron Environmental Contractors
- Urban Treescapes Pty Ltd

Carried unanimously

## 10 Notices of Motion

### 10.1 Notice of Motion No. 1249: Condolence - The Late William (Bill) Henry Sommers OAM JP

Cr Antoinette Briffa and Cr Peter Hemphill have given notice of the following motion:

**That Council acknowledges the recent passing of former mayor William (Bill) Henry Sommers OAM JP and sends a letter of condolence written under the signature of the Mayor or to his family.**

Note: Cr Antoinette Briffa suggested to include the official name of the former mayor Bill Sommers. The official name has been included accordingly.

#### **Motion**

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Antoinette Briffa:**

**That Council acknowledges the recent passing of former mayor William (Bill) Henry Sommers OAM JP and sends a letter of condolence written under the signature of the Mayor to his family.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 11 Urgent Business

Nil

## 12 Supplementary Public Question Time

**Craig Wilson**

**Q In relation to the public question raised by Kia regarding any allocated budget or feasibility study by the Council, has any funds been allocated to support a high school in Altona Meadows?**

**A No, only officer time associated with advocacy.**

## 13 In Camera Business

### Recommendation

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it relates to personal information:

#### 13.1 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal 2022-23

#### Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it relates to personal information:

#### 13.1 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal 2022-23

Carried unanimously

Council considered the report and discussed the matter in camera.

## 14 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.



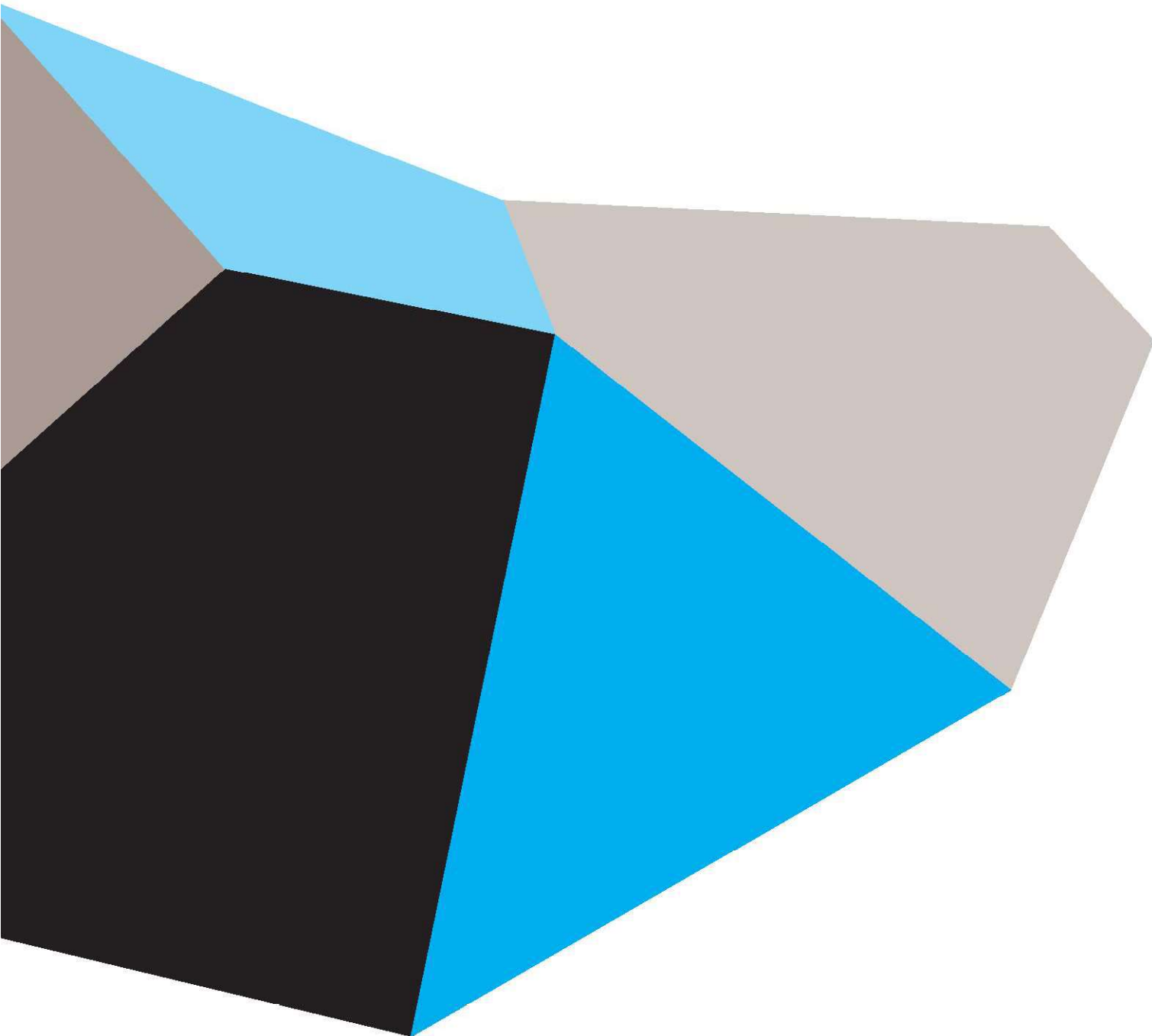
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Chairperson – Cr Matt Tyler

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

9 April 2024





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**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

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